

South Dakota School for the Deaf

South Dakota Board of Regents

Informational Items

June 28 – 30, 2016



A Partnership with Families

Submitted by Carol Johnson

In our new series, we ask families about SDSD Outreach services. Kay Kaup, a parent of an SDSD client, shares her family's experience.

How did you learn about SDSD Outreach?

We learned about SDSD through our son's audiologist, Julia Jones.



How has SDSD Outreach's involvement benefited your child?

SDSD Outreach's involvement has greatly benefited our son and his school. His consultant, Carol Johnson, has come to our son's school each year to meet with him, his new teachers, and the Superintendent. She is very thorough and explains to the teachers what our son deals with on a day to day basis. She gives them ideas of how to communicate effectively and make sure that he is not falling behind. She answers all the teachers' questions that they may have and also sits one-on-one with our son to make sure everything is going well with him personally. SDSD has helped us out more than we can possibly explain and we are so thankful to have a partnership with them. We are still on a learning process through our son's impairment but SDSD makes it a whole lot easier to get through the hurdles that we face.

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What would you say to other families who are considering SDSD services?

I would definitely encourage other families to take advantage of what SDSD can offer for your child. Not everyone understands what these children go through and SDSD is here to make sure that their path in life goes as smoothly as any other child.

SDSD Staff Spotlight : Nina Ringstmeyer

What got you interested in working with children who are deaf/hard of hearing?

Growing up, my grandmother had a moderate to severe hearing loss and always wore hearing aids. I would attend Self Help for Hard of Hearing (SHHH) meetings with her and we would practice sign language together. When I was in college, she decided to get a cochlear implant so that she could hear her grandchildren. Since this career path was always in the back of my mind (and in my heart), I jumped at an opportunity that crossed my desk during my third year of teaching. The University of Minnesota was offering a master's degree in Deaf Education through a federal grant program. After finishing my degree, I continued to teach Special Education in Hot Springs, SD until an Outreach Consultant position opened on the western side of the state. The rest, they say, is history!



What do you like most about SDSD?

I love the direction that SDSD is currently headed through our Outreach Services. We have worked very hard to expand services to deaf and hard of hearing children on the western side of the state and we are growing every day! I also get the luxury of traveling a vast area, meeting and seeing all of the amazing schools, educators, administrators, staff and students, and witnessing all of the positive opportunities our South Dakota children are receiving! Can I also add that the staff at SDSD that I get to work with are so knowledgeable that I feel empowered by them on a daily basis?!

If you could share only one piece of advice about deaf/hard of hearing children, what would it be?

Remember, our deaf and hard of hearing students do not know what they are missing. Many times our students go about their day not realizing the amount of information they have missed through happenings in their environment. My famous phrase for this is "you don't know what you don't know!"

Annual Picnic

Submitted by **Laura Scholten**



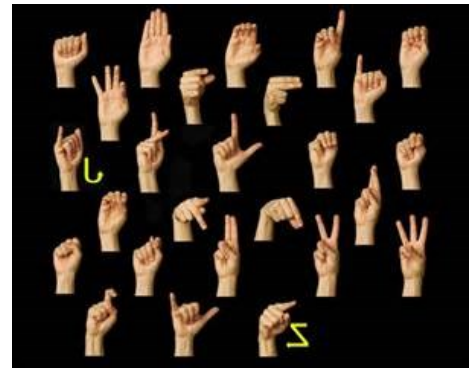
On May 24, SDSD hosted its Fourth Annual Community Picnic in Sioux Falls on the main SDSD Campus. Over 140 SDSD clients and their families as well as members of the Deaf community and SDSD Foundation Board attended. For many of our new SDSD families, this was their first time attending an event with Deaf community members. It was also an opportunity to meet other families who have deaf/hard of hearing children. The children, who are often the only deaf/hard of hearing student in their school, had an opportunity to interact and play with their peers. Each year, it is like a family reunion with more and more "family members" joining the fun.



Yankton Sign Language Class

Submitted by Kami Van Sickle

This spring, Outreach Consultant, Kami Van Sickle, taught a monthly sign language class for outreach families and professionals that work with outreach clients in the Yankton area. Each month the class had a different theme paired with fun activities that reinforced the vocabulary. The group met in the Yankton Library over the lunch hour. This class was a great opportunity for families and professionals to connect with each other, while learning functional sign language.



Family Day

Submitted by Nina Ringstmeyer & Kerry Ruth

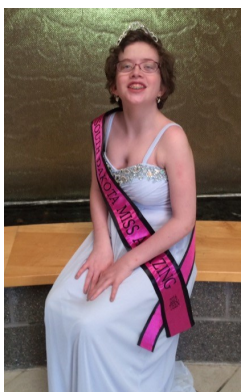


On May 7, South Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach Consultants, Nina Ringstmeyer and Kerry Ruth, hosted the Fourth Annual Spring Family Day event for west river clients and their families. The event was held at the Game, Fish, and Parks Outdoor Campus – West in Rapid City. Over twenty children and their families attended this event! SDSD clients and their families had the opportunity to fish with the Outdoor Campus staff, climb the 40 foot rock wall, hike around the campus, and create fishing art projects. Families enjoyed pizza for lunch, courtesy of the SDSD Foundation.



Miss Amazing Pageant

Submitted by Julie Luke



Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD hosted the Miss Amazing Pageant. Miss Amazing Pageant is an organization that holds pageants for girls and young women with disabilities. It started in Omaha in 2007 and has grown to 37 states. On April 9, the Second Annual Pageant was held in South Dakota. The participants had to prepare and give an introduction about themselves to the audience, go through an interview process with each of the judges, and then participate in the evening wear portion of the event.



Two SDSD clients participated in the pageant. Dylan, a fifth grader in the preteen division, and Catherine, an eleventh grader in the teen division. They both won their age division and will participate in the national pageant in Chicago this summer! Congratulations to both of them!

SOAR Conference

Submitted by Nina Ringstmeyer & Kerry Ruth



On April 30, South Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach Consultants, Nina Ringstmeyer and Kerry Ruth, were asked to present at the annual SOAR Conference in Rapid City, SD. The SOAR Conference is hosted by the Family Childcare Professionals of South Dakota. The topic presented by the consultants was “Using Sign to Promote Language Growth.” Thirty attendees learned about the different types of sign language, the research on using sign with hearing children, resources for learning sign, and how to integrate sign into their daily routines.

SDSD Bowls in Mitchell

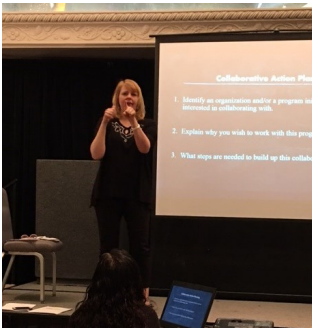
Submitted by Jodi Schnider

On April 23, seven families got together to set some fire to the lanes. The kids teamed up and bowled for two hours and enjoyed some pizza, provided by the SDSD Foundation, and fun conversation! The parents were busy making plans for the group to meet this summer and also brainstorming ideas for the fall get together. This is an awesome group of families that have bonded and found support in each other. The kids have made lifelong friends, and with technology, they will be able to chat more often than twice a year!



Connecting with Other Schools & Programs for the Deaf

By Kim Wadsworth



On April 7-10, Marje Kaiser and Kim Wadsworth attended the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD) in Kansas City. Presentation topics included recruitment, hiring, and retention of Teachers of the Deaf, fostering proficient bilinguals and critical thinkers, keeping community and stakeholder relationships strong, social media best practices and strategies, and newest information in Federal education policy.

Kim Wadsworth attended the National Outreach Conference (NOC) in Kansas City, following the CEASD. Participants enjoyed a nice tour of the Kansas School for the Deaf and their Deaf Cultural Museum. NOC topics included collaboration of Part B and Part C services, strategic planning for success, and outreach program updates from across the United States. Kim also shared a ten minute presentation about the outreach services available in South Dakota.

In-service Update



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu

Consultant In-services 2015–2016

160
In-services

2,479
South Dakotans
Educated

In-services and guest lectures are provided by members of the SDSD Outreach team as an extension of support for children with varied hearing status. These in-services relate to varied hearing status and its educational impact, technical assistance and orientation with hearing aids, cochlear implants, FM systems, sound field systems, and/or interpreters, or educational strategies and materials that may benefit SDSD clients.

Audiology Department News

Submitted by Greg King

The following report details audiological services provided to South Dakota children from July 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016 on SDSD's campus and via the mobile lab .

Total Screened	13,382
Total Evaluated	2,008
*SNHL Found	268
*CHL Found	535
Mobile Sites	150



www.sdsd.sdbor.edu/audiology.htm

SNHL—sensorineural hearing loss
CHL— conductive hearing loss