

# CONSULTANTS'

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SD School for the Blind  
and Visually Impaired

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

National White Cane Awareness Day  
October 15, 2020



Dakotas AER Virtual Conference  
20/20-Focusing on our Future  
October 28-30, 2020 Aberdeen,  
SD

Black Hills Ski for Light  
January 2021 Lead, SD  
<http://www.bhsfl.org>



SD SPED Virtual Conference  
March 17-18, 2021

SDSBVI Summer Program  
June 6-25 / July 11-30, 2021  
Aberdeen, SD



Falling down is an  
accident. Staying down  
is a choice.



## Welcome back to the school year By Dan Trefz



Last year was challenging and we look forward to having students back in our new building and meeting with students face to face. We would like to thank you for your cooperation and considerations during the 2019-2020 spring session and our 2020 summer sessions. It has been a challenge to provide educational service in this COVID-19 landscape. However difficult that was, we know that it was for the benefit of our students and families. At the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired we will be implementing many physical and personal safeguards to make our campus ready for school this fall. We have utilized direction from the CDC, the Board of Regents, local health professionals, and the SD Dept. of Education and formulated a plan to keep our students, our staff, and our families safe. Our outreach services will follow the necessary procedures to keep staff, students, and parents safe. Protocols may change but our focus is on keeping people safe and providing the services that we can.

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired held a ceremony to dedicate the new school building and provide an opportunity to celebrate the monumental accomplishment of so many people. The task of planning and building the new building was a joint effort between the Board of Regents and Northern State University. We are incredibly thankful for the many donors and volunteers that helped make this project happen. There has always been a very strong relationship with NSU and SDSBVI, but the building project has renewed that commitment and will have lasting effects on both organizations.

As the new Superintendent at SDSBVI, I am looking forward to meeting everyone and getting this school year started. School just doesn't feel like school when students aren't in the building. For those of you who don't know me, I have been in education for 20 years with 8 of those serving the role as Superintendent. I am originally from the Tolstoy/Onaka area, where I grew up on a dairy farm. I am a graduate of Hoven High School and I have degrees from SDSU, NSU, and USF. My wife Nicole (SPED and Elementary Teacher) and I have a daughter (Evelyn-13) and a son (Cade-9) who will be transitioning to new schools this fall as well. We are all glad to be here and do appreciate the warm welcoming we have received along the way.

## Did You Know.....



Not all the events in the Little House on the Prairie TV series are true? Most of us do know this, but do you know the real story of Mary Ingalls? Mary was the oldest child of Charles and Caroline Ingalls and older sister to Laura, Carrie, Grace, and Charles, who died in infancy. In 1879, at the age of 14, Mary became very ill. Common belief is that Mary contracted scarlet fever, which was the cause of her blindness. Now, some in the medical profession believe that viral meningoencephalitis was the real culprit. It was in this same year that the family moved to De Smet, SD. The Dakota Territories did not have a school for the blind but they did support the residents who were blind at the Iowa College for the Blind. The Kingsbury County superintendent petitioned for Mary to attend school at this institution.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

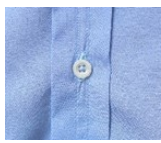
## DRESS FOR SUCCESS: CLOTHING FASTENERS

Take a look at your clothing you are wearing. How many different kinds of fasteners are involved in getting dressed? You likely had a couple of fasteners to manipulate while getting dressed: zipper and shoelaces, buttons and belt buckle, the list varies with each type of clothing.

Give your child an opportunity to practice these fasteners on his/her clothing before being expected to be proficient and independent with them. And remember, it is better to practice while actually wearing the clothing, since hand positioning is different as compared to it setting on a table or on a doll.

Have your child practice all of these fasteners.

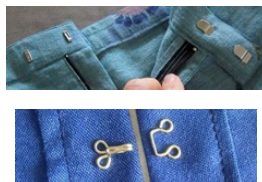
Buttons



Snaps



Hooks



Buckle



Shoelaces



Velcro



Zipper (Engaged)



Zipper (not engaged)



## Takin' It To The Streets

### White Cane Safety Day

In February of 1978 a young blind lady said, "I encounter people all of the time who bless me, extol my independence, call me brave and courageous, and thoroughly miss the boat as to what the real significance of the white cane is." White Cane Safety Day is a national observance in the United States, celebrated on October 15 of each year since 1964. The date is set aside to celebrate the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired and the important symbol of blindness and tool of independence, the white cane. On October 6, 1964, a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress, H.R. 753, was signed into law. This resolution authorized the President of the United States to proclaim October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day".



(Continued on Page 9)

## Transfer of Rights

As your child begins transition planning, it's necessary to think about guardianship. One year prior to your child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday is not too soon to start thinking and planning about their transfer of rights. At age 18, a student is considered an adult, and all rights are transferred to him or her. These transfer of rights will occur regardless of that child's disability, and/or level of need.

It's important to let your child keep as many rights as possible, and there are many different options to consider. These options include: Limited Guardianship, Representative Payee, Supported Decision-Making, Power of Attorney, and Conservatorship. If your child will be in need of assistance with making decisions--whether this is in regard to finances, their living situation, or healthcare, it will require filing a petition in court. The next step is getting approval from the appropriate judge, typically after a hearing and other evaluation to determine if transferring guardianship is in the child's best interest. For families in need of financial assistance with legal costs, the SD Establishment Program can assist with up to \$500 associated with establishing a guardianship and/or conservatorship appointment.

Each child's situation is unique to their own needs, and if you believe your child's disability prevents them from making decisions to keep them safe and healthy, you will need to make sure these plans are in place by the time he or she turns 18. Here are several resources available to help assist with this decision-making process:

SD Guardianship Program: (605) 224-9647

SD Parent Connection: (800) 640-4553

Disability Rights SD: (800) 658-4782

## Braille and Talking Book Library

Now is the time to make sure students have the Braille and large print textbooks and novels that they need for classes this year (where ever they are learning from!) Please contact Lynda with your educational materials requests and questions.

Lynda Lowin

Reader Advisor/Educational Materials Coordinator

SD Braille & Talking Book Library

Phone: 605.773.4914

1.800.423.6665x1,1 (605 area code only)

[lynda.lowin@state.sd.us](mailto:lynda.lowin@state.sd.us)



### Books On Demand (BOD)

The Braille and Talking Book library is changing the way it provides talking book cartridges to patrons. Instead of getting multiple cases with one book in each, we are able to put multiple books on each cartridge. Patrons may keep them until they have finished the stories on the cartridge. When they return it, they will get another to replace it. This will include the books that were previously DOWNLOAD ONLY! BARD has not changed.



## EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS - AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND (APH)

Tactile Doodle is a sturdy drawing platform with a non-skid underside. It can be used to make tactile, raised-line graphics for science, math, geography and more. Students might want to practice handwriting, play interactive games with a partner or use it to make a map. Use a ball point pen or the included stylus to write in white on the back pad of the Tactile Doodle.



Code Jumper is an educational tool that opens the world of computer coding to ALL students. Students can create block computer codes to tell stories, jokes, create music, and more. Code Jumper makes this possible by using the brightly colored plastic pods with oversized buttons and knobs connected by “jumper cables” placed on the table in front of the student. Visit <https://www.codejumper.com> to learn more.

Feel the beat. The ability to “play music by ear” is wonderful, but only one part of playing music. As part of braille literacy, teachers and parents realize braille readers should be introduced to braille music at the same time that their sighted peers begin reading music in print (usually around third or fourth grade). Feel the Beat is an incredible resource to help in this process



APH products can be borrowed from your area Outreach Vision Consultant if available in their loan library. Due to COVID-19, outgoing product shipments from APH have been delayed at this time. Information on these products or other APH products can be found on the APH website at <http://www.aph.org> or by contacting your Outreach Vision Consultant.

### Did you know.....(Continued from Page 2)

*“A statement received from [the] County Superintendent certifying that Mary A Ingalls is entitled to the benefits of the Territorial Blind Asylum and the same was forwarded to the Governor with the certificate of the Commissioner attesting to the truth of the recitals therein.”*

As recorded in Kingsbury County. In November of 1881, Mary was enrolled. Her program was a 7 year program that taught academics, arts, industrial courses, and home management/self sufficiency.

To learn more about Mary Ingalls you can read the Little House Series written by Laura Ingalls Wilder, checking out the following links and by touring the home homestead in DeSmet SD.

<https://sites.aph.org/museum/programs/mary-ingalls/script/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Ingalls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Ingalls)

<http://laurasprairiehouse.com/family-friends/mary-amelia-ingalls-biography/>

## BOOKS WITH CHARACTERS WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Seven Blind Mice by Edward Young

Seven blind mice explore and discover different parts of an elephant.  
Grades K-3



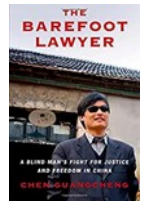
Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements

When 15-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new friend, Alicia, who is blind, try to find out what caused his condition and reverse it.  
Grades 5-9



The Barefoot Lawyer: A Blind Man's Fight for Justice and Freedom in China  
by Chen Guangcheng

This is a true-life story of Chen, a man blind since infancy, who stood up to the cruelty and repression of a communist government. As a self-taught lawyer, Chen was a voice for basic human rights. He suffered mock-trials, house arrest, and prison. He escaped to America and today, he continues to fight for the freedom of the people living in China.



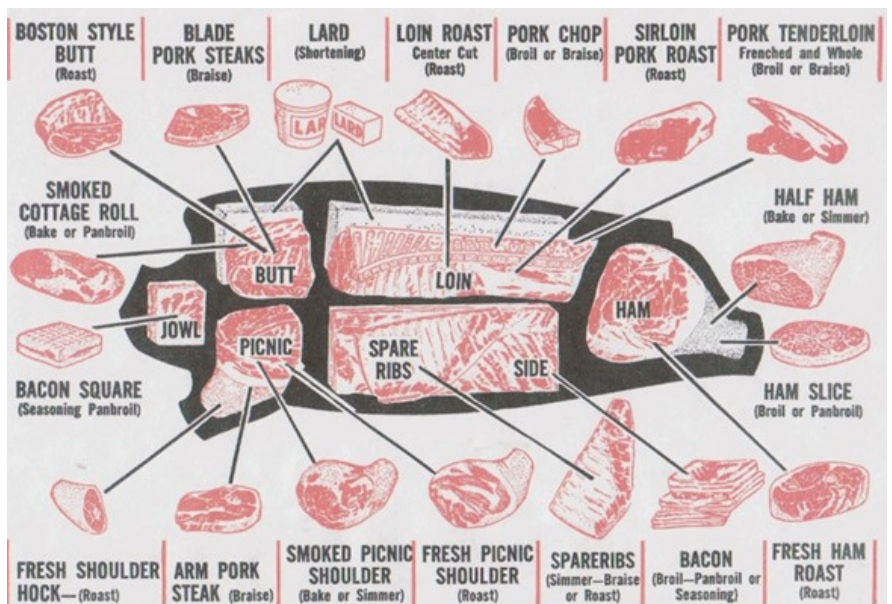
Grades 9-12 and Adult

## LEARNING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX: MEAT, PORK

Incidental learning is learning that takes place without any structure, objective, or intent to learn, and is usually done by visually observing. This method of learning is very difficult for children who are blind or visually impaired, and concepts need to be taught through hands-on learning experiences.

How many of your children know that “pork” comes from a pig? Now is BLT season, leading into a great discussion about where the bacon comes from. Which can also, then, lead into what the other cuts of meat are on a pig.

First, if you are able to allow your child to see and feel a live pig, start with that. Then, tour a butcher shop to check out the equipment used to cut and package the pork. And lastly, eat various kinds of pork and talk about their differences. Use the chart to identify what part of the pig's body each cut of meat comes from.



## EASY HOMEMADE BEEF STEW

There is nothing better than a hearty bowl of soup or stew on a cold winter's night. Here is an easy recipe that even little ones can help make.



### Ingredients:

2 lbs Precut Stew Meat

1 Bay Leaf

1 Carrot, Large

4 Garlic Cloves

2 tsp Thyme, Fresh Leaves

½ Yellow Onion, Large

2 Yukon Gold Potatoes

2 Tbsp Olive Oil

1 tsp Kosher Salt

2 Tbsp Gluten-Free All-Purpose Flour

½ tsp Black Pepper, Coarsely Ground

1 Tbsp Worcestershire Sauce

¼ Cup Tomato Paste

### Directions

1. Prepare beef by seasoning the beef chunks on all sides with salt and pepper. Sprinkle the flour over and toss the seasoned beef to coat it on all sides.
2. In a large pot heat the olive oil over medium heat. Partially cook beef browning the beef in batches, on all sides, for 3-4 minutes per batch. Transfer to a large bowl and set aside.
3. Add the onions, garlic, and carrots to the large pot and cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, for 3-4 minutes, or until slightly browned. Add the potatoes, beef broth, tomato paste, bay leaf, thyme, and Worcestershire sauce. Use a wooden spoon to scrape the browned bits from the bottom of the pot.
4. Bring the mixture to a simmer, stir, and return the beef to the pot.
5. Cover the pot and let it simmer for 60-90 minutes on medium to low heat. Check it occasionally to see if the beef is tender using a fork and add some broth or water if the sauce starts to dry out.

### HOW TO MAKE BEEF STEW IN A CROCKPOT OR SLOW COOKER

1. Turn on the crockpot or slow cooker.
2. Add the beef, veggies, broth, spices, and all the ingredients at once.
3. Give it a nice mix.
4. Cook on low for 9-10 hours, medium 7-8 hours, and high 6-7 hours.
5. To thicken the stew, 30 minutes before serving, remove about ½ cup of the liquid/sauce, mix it with about 2 teaspoons to 1 tablespoon of cornstarch. Pour it back in and allow to cook and thicken. Remove bay leaf, serve and enjoy.

## Desktop Video Magnification Devices: How to Choose?

By Amy J Scepaniak, CLVT®/COMS®



Electronic Video Magnifying Systems come in a variety of styles and sizes, depending upon the task or activity you want to do. All have a camera system that displays a magnified image on a monitor. They can also be very helpful in the workplace. All of these magnifying systems have their own unique capabilities and advantages and disadvantages. There are many different manufacturers, brands, and helpful features available: Your choice will depend upon your eye condition and your needs. The following is a list of features available:

- Enlarge or magnify print, pictures, artwork, or whatever else is placed under the camera
- Adjustable magnification up to 70x
- Auto focus
- Enhance the contrast
- Brighten the image
- Viewing black letters on a white background or white letters on a black background (and other color options), called reverse polarity
- Camera rotation ability can allow you to view items at a distance (such as a white board or PowerPoint presentation in a classroom), or watch yourself apply makeup or do other personal grooming tasks
- Optical character recognition (OCR), along with speech output, in addition to magnifying text or images and showing it on the monitor
- Movable tray (called an XY table) to hold, support, and move the reading or writing materials or your other work
- Capture image or freeze frame
- Adjustable reading lines and object locator
- Computer compatible
- Ability to use high magnification, yet sit at a comfortable working distance
- Ability to use both eyes, even with high magnification
- Allows you to read faster and with less strain and fatigue. When you read faster, you often have better comprehension of what you have read
- Allows you to have a wide field of view—much wider than with a magnifier or other devices
- Better posture and ergonomics than when using no magnification or a strong magnifier, which may require that you bend over and get very close to the lens
- More expensive than most all other options for reading and writing
- Some are not very portable and require that you remain in one place (such as sitting at a desk or table) to read, write, or to use this device
- Monitor sizes can range from 13" to 24"
- Available with a high-definition (HD) camera and monitor

*(Continued on Page 9)*



### **Desktop Video Magnification Devices: How to Choose?** *(Cont. from Page 8)*

- Some are portable, screen size of 3.5 inches to 13 inches, can be used anywhere in the home, and can also be taken out to a restaurant, store, church, or symphony
- Rechargeable
- More expensive than most optical devices, including magnifiers, strong magnifying reading glasses, and loupes
- Can have some distortion on the edges, or the image may fade out in the “false color” mode

Before purchasing a Video Magnification Device, it is recommended that a low vision examination is completed and discuss various options for reading and writing. Work with your local Outreach Vision Consultant to see if a device can be loaned for a short time to try out before buying. Dakota Link sells new and used devices so check that out before purchasing.

It can take a little while to learn how to use an electronic desktop magnifier successfully, especially if you purchase one with several buttons or controls. Some units may be easier to use than others. Take your time and check the particular features that work best for you.

The Jupiter from APH is a portable magnifier that is easy to use. With its different camera modes, reading, distance-viewing, and self-viewing can be utilized with one device. This makes it great for school, work, and home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-T1Ziud8As>



Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations.

### **Takin' It To The Streets** *(Continued from Page 3)*

*President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the first White Cane Safety Day proclamation within hours of the passage of the joint resolution. He recognized the importance of the white cane as a staff of independence for blind people. The Presidential proclamation said: “The white cane in our society has become one of the symbols of a blind person's ability to come and go on his own. Its use has promoted courtesy and special consideration to the blind on our streets and highways. To make our people more fully aware of the meaning of the white cane and of the need for motorists to exercise special care for the blind persons who carry it Congress, by a joint resolution approved as of October 6, 1964, has authorized the President to proclaim October 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day. Now, therefore, I, Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States of America do hereby proclaim October 15, 1964 as White Cane Safety Day.”*



*(Continued on Page 12)*

## Faux Stained Glass Windows

Children love to share the things they create, whether it is a macaroni necklace or a masterfully crafted sculpture. These faux stained glass candleholders are a great addition to any holiday affair and the best part is that they are quick and easy to make and children of all ages can participate in creating a glowing atmosphere for the special occasion.



### Materials

- Tissue paper in your desired colors
- Mod Podge (matte finish)
- Paintbrush
- Scissors
- Glass votive or wine tumblers holder to fit your candle
- Paper punches in various shapes or you can tear the tissue paper
- Q-tips, optional

### Directions

Step 1: Figure out what colors of tissue paper you'd like to use and what paper punch shapes you want to try out. You can go monochromatic, or choose a wide variety of colors for a playful confetti-style look. Punch out a nice little pile of paper shapes (you can always punch more if needed!) and set them aside.

Step 2: Scoop out a bit of Mod Podge with your paintbrush and water it down a bit so the texture is thinner. You don't want it super drippy and you can mix it right in the Mod podge lid

Step 3: Brush a thin coating of Mod Podge onto the glass first, then start affixing the paper shapes to the glass using your wet paintbrush to pick up the pieces. Brush over the shapes afterward to fully saturate them with Mod Podge. Wet tissue paper can rip easily, so take your time and brush gently, attaching more and more shapes, overlapping them however you prefer. Once your glass is fully covered, set it aside to dry.

Step 4: Once your votive is dry, areas you have brushed with Mod Podge that aren't covered in tissue paper will have a frosted look.

Step 5: Once everything is dry, plunk in a votive candle, light the wick and enjoy!

These make lovely seasonal or holiday themed candle holders and are great gift ideas for holidays. Happy creating!!



## WHAT IS IT?

This is a kit of 100 cards made by American Printing House for the Blind (APH). It is a communication game as well as a guessing game. It encourages students to think about and learn descriptive terminology related to common items and then be able to categorize them. Included below are a few examples. See if you know what it is! This kit can be loaned out from your Outreach Vision Consultant, just ask if you would like to borrow it.

1. It may be found on a bed.  
I use it to cover up with when I am cold.  
It is very soft.  
I can take it with me in the car.
  2. A letter can be mailed in it.  
Some are small and some are large.  
A stamp can be placed on it.  
I can write on it.
  3. This is a place that I like to go.  
It has swings and slides and big things to play on.  
Some people like to sit on benches here and listen to birds.
  4. It has a large smooth surface.  
Most have at least four long legs.  
We use chairs to eat dinner or play games at it.
- (Answers on Page 7)*

## Consultants' Contact Information

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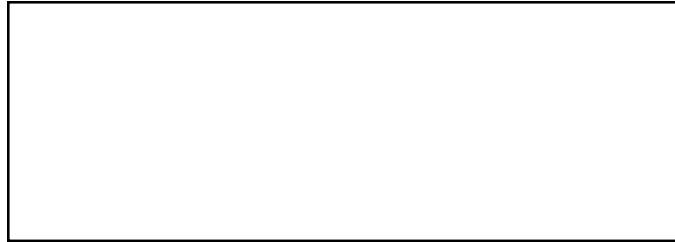


SD School for the Blind  
and Visually Impaired  
605 14TH AVENUE SE  
ABERDEEN SD 57401-7699

**Pass it  
on  
after you are done  
reading it!**

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 17

Change Service Requested



## **Takin' It To The Streets** *(Continued from Page 9)*

In 1963, a comparatively small number of blind people had achieved sufficient independence to travel alone on the busy highways of our nation. In 1978 that number had not simply increased but multiplied a hundredfold. There was a time when it was unusual to see a blind person on the street, to find a blind person working in an office, or to see a blind person operating machinery in a factory. This is still all too uncommon, but it happens more often and the symbol of this independence is the white cane. The blind are able to go, to move, to be, and to compete with all others in society. That is what White Cane Safety Day is all about. In 2011, White Cane Safety Day was also named **Blind Americans Equality Day** by President Barack Obama. "Today, let us recommit to forging ahead with the work of ensuring we remain a Nation where all our people, including those living with disabilities, have every opportunity to achieve their dreams. *"Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2011, as Blind Americans Equality Day. I call upon public officials, business and community leaders, educators, librarians, and Americans across the country to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs."* **BARACK OBAMA**



To access previous issues of the **Consultants' Corner Newsletter** go to our website:  
<http://sdsbvi.northern.edu>→Click on Programs→Outreach→Consultants' Corner Newsletter

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