Spring/Summer 2019 Volume 56 Issue 2

SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Pioneer

Foundation News	2
Dinner in the Dark	3
Congratulations Graduate!	4
Our Staff	5
Donations	6
Students of the Month	7
Year-End Awards Program	8
Special Olympics Torch Run	9
Folk Song Fun!	10
A Summer of Fun and Learning	12
Transition Week	12-19
Save the Date - Reunion	20

* Civil Service Employee of the Year
* BADIE Contest Winner
* Retiring and Educator of the Year
* Years of Service
* Arts & Special Activities
* Students Say Thank You
* The Art of Public Speaking
* Special Olympics
* Family Support

Like us on Facebook: SD School for Blind and Visually Impaired

A Summer of Fun & Learning

We want to THANK everyone who helped make our 2019 ESY Summer Program a HUGE success. We are extremely lucky to have been able to offer a Summer Program with emphasis on the "Expanded Core Curriculum" for the last 19 years, thanks in part to a very dedicated staff and the support from our administration and governing Board!

New Building Progress Report By Superintendent **Dr. Marjorie Kaiser**

The construction of the new South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired is on schedule for completion in November. Students will go home on November 26 for Thanksgiving break and remain at home until classes resume on January 13. To make up the time required by the Department of Education, each school day will run about 15 minutes longer. We have toured the building several times and we will plan several more visits for students, staff, and alumni this fall. It is a rare opportunity for the students to actually be on a construction site and learn about how a building is built. We are very grateful to Journey Construction for being willing to work with us to make these tours happen. We want the students to feel like they are moving into a familiar place.

The exterior walls are getting their final brickwork or siding; the floors have been poured; stairs are in place and the roof is complete. Soon we will have the windows in place. The stud walls are being erected to divide rooms throughout the building. The plan is to also complete the exterior landscaping and playground this fall. As you can imagine there is a lot of activity both on the new site and here in the current building as we sort through what will go along and start packing. We are planning a reunion for alumni and former staff in our current building October 4-5 and, of course, will have an community open house after we are settled in the new building.

Board Officers
President: Doris Stusiak
Vice President: Renae Rausch
Treasurer: Roland Pond
Secretary: Lonald L. Gellhaus
Members
Dawn Brush
Bob Christensen
Carol Ginsbach
Carmen Meyer
Jane Ann Rayman
Curt Wischmeier
Marjorie Kaiser: Ex-Officio

Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired News

The Foundation is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1978 with the purpose of expanding social, recreational, and educational opportunities for students who are blind or visually impaired. The Foundation has an existing endowment that generates income to allow contributions to be given year after year. You can support students who are blind or visually impaired by making an immediate impact on the opportunities and enrichment activities in the following ways.

- **Contributions:** The easiest, most common way to support the Foundation is with a gift of cash. All donations are tax deductible.
- **Bequest/Memorial:** Remember your loved ones and/or friends with a memorial.
- **Devise of Assets**: Share your real estate and/or investments.

For more information, contact the South Dakota Foundation for the Blind & Visually Impaired, 423 17th Avenue SE, Aberdeen SD 57401; toll free at 1-888-275-3814.

Contributions (3/12/19– 8/17/19)
Sherron Grote, Aberdeen SD
Renee Rausch, Aberdeen SD
Aberdeen Lioness Club, Aberdeen SD
Brenda Lanphere, Aberdeen SD
Noah Salem, Aberdeen SD
NSU Aware Wolves, Aberdeen SD
SDSBVI Arts & Activities, Aberdeen SD
SDSBVI Student Council, Aberdeen SD
Memorial for Donald Prouty
Marcia Goodwin, Rapid City SD

Memorial for Alice Rentz
Jim Rentz, Aberdeen SD
Memorial for Sharon Williams Wood
Craig and Jilda Danielson, Oregon City OR
Memorial for Sue Birrenkott
Justin and Amy Scepaniak, Aberdeen SD
Steve and Marje Kaiser, Aberdeen SD
Tom and Diane Agnitsch,, Aberdeen SD

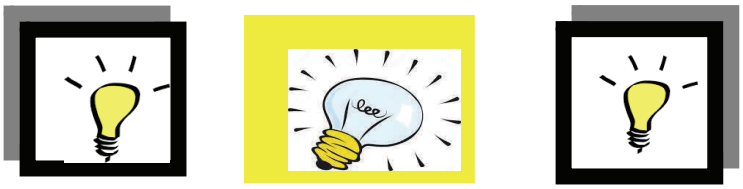
The Foundation sends out a BIG Thank You to **Sherron Grote** for the years she has given to the SDFBVI!

"Play It Safe"

With funding from the SD Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired and planning and inspiration from our Outreach Vision Consultants, the 10th Annual Family Weekend was held on June 8-9. Six families (25 children) from around South Dakota attended the activities held at the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired campus in Aberdeen with families staying at the Quality Inn. **Indira Dillon**, **Susan Egging**, **Amy Scepaniak**, **Julie VanDover**, and **Darla Atsma** & **Aimee Ullrich** (Secretaries) all members of the Outreach Department have worked very hard over the last 10 years to provide this opportunity for families to gain information on areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum. It also provided a wonderful opportunity for families to network with others plus enjoy a weekend in Aberdeen. The students also had a great time learning about kitchen safety when making their snacks, bike safety, emergency preparedness, and outdoor safety.

Special thanks go out to: **Jody Gillaspie**: Director of the Consumer Protection Division, who presented on "Internet & Technology Safety; **Paul Olson**: Superintendent, ND Vision Services/School for the Blind, who presented on "Self-Protection"; **Lt. Trent Anderson** and his crew from the Aberdeen Fire Department, who presented on "Emergency Preparedness" and showed everyone a fire truck; **Josh Easter**: Equipment and Audio Production Manager and **Lynda Lowin**: Adult Programs Coordinator, Braille and Talking Book Library, who presented on the Summer Reading Program "A Universe of Stories"; **Marjorie Kaiser**, SDSBVI Superintendent, who presented on "The New School"; **Rose Moehring**: Director, DeafBlind Program, who presented on "Self-Directed IEPs".

Also thanks to **Shane Cross**, **Colton Dillon**, **Harlan Dillon**, **Josh Easter**, **Tevan Fischbach**, **Dan Grebner**, **Karen Herman**, **Kayleen Herman**, **Marjorie Kaiser**, **Lynda Lowin**, **Jane Mundschenk**, **Nichole Nelson**, **Sara Scepaniak**, and **Michelle Zarr** for donating their time.



Dinner in the Dark

"Dark Can Be Enlightening"

"⠙⠁⠗⠅ ⠉⠁⠝ ⠃⠑ ⠑⠝⠇⠊⠛⠓⠞⠑⠝⠊⠝⠛"

The South Dakota Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired hosted its 4th Annual "Dinner in the Dark" on the campus of Northern State University in April. This event was very well attended with over 175 enthusiastic participants enjoying a wonderful meal at this unique fundraiser. All proceeds will be used to provide social, cultural, and educational opportunities for students who are blind or visually impaired.

Thank you to the following for making the "Dinner in the Dark" a HUGE success!

- **Courageous and Fun-Loving Participants**
- **Foundation and Planning Committee Members**: many volunteer hours
- **Northern State University**: Dr. Tim Downs for donating the use of the facility; Kami Spieker for her event planning assistance; Chelsea Speck and Aramark staff for the wonderful buffet and hospitality
- **Beautiful Music**: Phyllis Heier and the SDSBVI music contest students
- **Table Decorations**: Marva Gellhaus, Gayle Anderson, Gellhaus & Gellhaus Attorneys at Law
- **Table Hosts**: Taylor Achterberg, Jodi Carlsgaard, Bob Christensen, Hilary Filler, Tevan Fischbach, Tim Fleming, Pat Geditz, Marva Gellhaus, Dan Grebner, Sherron Grote, Phyllis Heier, Christy Hulscher, Janel Ludwig, Jane Mundschenk, Nichole Nelson, Lorri Peterson, Jane Ann Rayman, Renae Rausch, Amy Scepaniak, Nicolette Schmidt, Doris Stusiak, and Julie VanDover
- **Table Sponsors**: Bob Schatz, Ophthalmology Associates, Dacotah Bank, Gellhaus & Gellhaus Attorneys at Law, Insurance Plus, Jane Ann Rayman, Steve and Marjorie Kaiser, Schwan Financial Group, Sherron Grote, Grebner Family, Journey Construction, One-Legged Pheasant/Presentation College Department of Nursing, Geffdog, TSP Architects, Avera St. Luke's Hospital, Avera St. Luke's Foundation, Kessler's, Don Meyer Enterprises, Bob Christensen, Vandy's Ag and Fencing, and Amy Blackstone
- **Silent Auction Items**: SDSBVI Outreach Consultants; Nancy Meyer; Einstein Bros. Bagels; Maverick's Steak & Cocktails; NSU Wolf Shoppe; NSU Athletics; Plains Edge Chiropractic; Avera Foundation; Kessler's; Mike Salem/Geffdog; Fred Ludwig Trucking; My Place Hotel; Dave and Erin Giovannini; Aberdeen American News; SDSBVI Staff; Ken's Super Fair Foods; Dr. Marje Kaiser; Millstone Family Restaurant; Heiser's Jewelry; Glenna Fouberg; Hitch 'N Post; Brentwood Colony; Penny Krogstrand; Shoe Science; Lori Goldade; 3M; The Brass Kettle; NSU Admissions; Lang's Audio, TV & Appliance; Bur-Mar's Clothing, Shoes, Accessories; Holiday Inn Express; Palm Garden Chocolate Shoppe; Liebelt Homes; Cooper Animal Clinic; Bath & Body Works; Riddles Jewelry; Red Rooster Coffee Shop; Northern Plains Animal Clinic; Aberdeen Chrysler Center; Leeroy & Thelma Wollman/Grassland Colony; Lagers Inn; Hutterville Colony; NSU Foundation; TownePlace Suites by Marriott Aberdeen; and Janel Ludwig

Congratulations Graduate!

We were proud to present a diploma to one student during the ceremony held on May 23. Commencement speaker was graduate **Jordan Houseman** who shared his thoughts on how much the school has changed his life and **David Mickelson** represented the SD Board of Regents to confer the diploma.

(l-r) Principal **Jodi Carlsgaard**; Graduate: **Jordan Houseman**, Lake Andes SD; Superintendent **Dr. Marjorie Kaiser**, and Regent **David Mickelson** ;

Class Motto
"You can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets"
Arnold Schwarzenegger

Class Flowers
Yellow Rose and Blue Carnation

Jordan shared the following thoughts of his time at SDSBVI:
Most Memorable Staff: Lela Holcomb
Someone You're Proud of: My Mom
Favorite Food: pizza
Plans for the Future: coming back for the SDSBVI Transition Program and getting a job
Something You're Proud of: working at my job at Kessler's Grocery Store and Graduating
Favorite Hobbies: listening to music and spending time with friends
Extracurricular Activities: Student Council; NCASB: track & field, swimming, and forensics; Special Olympics: swimming, bowling, track & field
Memories of School: so many things like Ski for Light, Region IV Music Contest, NCASB trips, Special Olympics trips, dorm activities, swimming, and summer activities

The North Central Association of Schools for the Blind NCASB

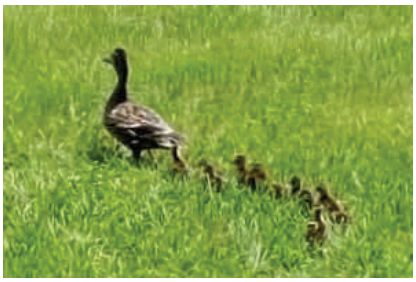
In May students **Schelbie DeHaai**, **Violet Petersen, Blaine Jemming,** and **Jordan Houseman** traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB) Forensics & Swim Meet where they competed against other schools for the blind. Teams from Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. SDSBVI's Athletic Director/Coach **Christy Hulscher**, Assistant Coach **Dan Grebner**, and Forensics Coach **Nichole Nelson** accompanied the students. The experience was funded in part by the SDSBVI and the South Dakota Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Swim Meet results included: **Schelbie DeHaai** 16 of 25 in 50Yd Free (1:07.85), 3 of 3 in Mixed 200 Yd. Freestyle Relay (4:48.44), 17 of 23 in 100 Yd. Back (3:16.40); **Violet Petersen**: 17 of 25 in 50Yd Free (1:08.17), 3 of 3 in Mixed 200 Yd. Freestyle Relay (4:48.44); **Blaine Jemming**: 20 of 22 in 50Yd Free (1:15.71), 3 of 3 in Mixed 200 Yd. Freestyle Relay (4:48.44); **Jordan Houseman**: 21 of 22 50Yd Free (0:44.10); 7 of 27 100Yd Free (1:42.78), 3 of 3 in Mixed 200 Yd. Freestyle Relay (4:48.44), 8 of 17 in Boys 100 Yd. Back (2:03.00).

Forensic Meet results included: **Schelbie DeHaai** and **Violet Petersen** reading their duo, "*The Boy Book*". **Schelbie** also competed in the extemporaneous category. **Blaine Jemming** read "*John F. Kennedy's Moon Speech*" in the great speech category. **Jordan Houseman** competed in the open category of song lyrics, reading "*Everybody's Free to Wear Sunscreen*" by Baz Luhrman. The Pioneers had a great time and worked very hard this last season.

We See You

We have a beautiful campus and over the years students and staff have had the opportunity to watch Mother Nature up close when mother ducks have chosen our campus to build their nests. This year a mamma duck tried to pull off a "covert operation" but thanks to **Eileen Anderson's** keen eye we caught her helping her babies to travel across our lawn to their "forever home" at the Moccasin Creek.



Our Staff

We are pleased to announce that **Ben Bohlander** has been chosen as our new Facility Manager after spending the last 7 years in the Maintenance Department as a Sr. Building Maintenance Worker.

Civil Service Employee of the Year

No school, especially a residential school, can run effectively without the efforts of Civil Service Employees. Our Civil Service Employees are often the people behind the scenes, but what they do affects each of us every day. They keep the building and grounds clean and in good repair; they plan, cook and serve nutritious meals; they watch over our health; they answer phones and keep our school documents organized; they provide tours and organize evaluations and admissions; they spend evenings and weekends teaching personal, social, and recreational skills. This year's winner **Danielle Vincent** has worked as a Residential Child Care Staff member for the last 6 years. She received several nominations and was recognized for her nurturing and caring personality with both students and staff; the way she encourages students to become independent and to try new things; always putting the students first, and for being very dependable.

The following individuals were also nominated this year.
Residential Program: **Barb Kelly**, **Janet Moser**, and **Rebecca Schabot**
Nursing: **Tessa Riggs**
Secretarial: **Kandi Sampson** and **Aimee Ullrich**
Maintenance: **Greg Anglin**
Kitchen: **Connie Bonen**

(l-r) **Rebecca Schabot**, Dorm Supervisor, **Danielle**, **Janel Ludwig**, Student Services Director/Counselor, and **Dr. Marjorie Kaiser**, Superintendent

Retiring and Educator of the Year

Dr. Marva Gellhaus, Low Vision Specialist, is pictured receiving recognition from **Jodi Carlsgaard**, Principal, during the Awards Program for her retirement after devoting 45 years to the State of South Dakota. **Marva** also received the **Educator of the Year** award for her commitment and professionalism toward students and staff, her passion for education and literacy, and her expertise in the field of Low Vision.

Congratulations!

Amy J. **Scepaniak**, Outreach Vision Consultant, recently became the 1st Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) in South Dakota, 1 of 130 in the United States, to receive the "Perkins-Roman CVI Range© Endorsement" in the area of Cortical Vision Impairments (CVI). In order to receive this endorsement Amy completed the "Neurological Visual Assessment" course from Salus University and the "Perkins Assessment of Students with CVI: Reliable Scoring of the CVI Range" course. In addition to attending several other workshops, she will soon be participating in a week-long training in Maryland with Dr. Christin Roman-Lantzy. Amy has worked at the SDSBVI for the last 25 years, has her Masters degree in Low Vision Rehabilitation from Salus University (formally Pennsylvania College of Optometry), and is also a certified Orientation and Mobility Instructor®

Years of Service with the State

Several employees were honored for continuous years of service with the State of South Dakota. They include: Photo #1: (back row l-r) **Amy Scepaniak**, Outreach Vision Consultant, 25 years and **Greg Anglin**, Building Maintenance Worker, 5 years; (front row l-r) **Lorri Peterson**, Teacher, 30 years and **Marva Gellhaus**, Low Vision Specialist, 45 years. Photo #2: **Phyllis Heier**, Teacher, 21 years.

Donations

SDSBVI thanks the following individuals and businesses for their recent contributions.

Monetary Donations

Sioux Empire Lions Club, Sioux Falls SD
Sioux Falls Downtown Lions Club, Sioux Falls SD
Rosebud WELCA, Lemmon SD
Ipswich Lions Club, Ipswich SD
SD Foundation for the Blind & Visually Impaired (NCASB) Forensics & Swim Meet and Family Weekend)

Miscellaneous Donations

SD State Library, Pierre SD (NASA Kit Adapted for Visually Impaired)
Todd and Lynette Busch, Alcester SD (Resonance Board for the Lilli's Little Room)
Grassland Hutterite Colony (Garden Vegetables)
Amanda Ludwig-Mauerman, WI (Funky Donut inner-tubes for students)
Family of Sue Birrenkott, Aberdeen SD (Flowers)
Leanne & Judith Wurtz, Brentwood Colony (Homemade Easter treats for students)
Max Blaschke, Sioux Falls SD (Braille Books)
Granary Rural Cultural Center, Groton SD (Student Tour)
Parkview Nursery, Aberdeen SD (Student Tour)
Beadle Floral & Landscaping, Aberdeen SD (Student Tour)
Aberdeen Water Treatment Plant, Aberdeen SD (Student Tour)
National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD (Student Tour)

25 basketballs were donated to our students by the "Upward Basketball" program at the Aberdeen First United Methodist

Arts & Special Activities Committee

This committee is the school's version of a PTA and Booster Club all rolled up in one. Throughout the year members work on a variety of projects to support the school and our students.

- coordinates the "Artist in Residence" Program
- sponsors Staff Christmas Party
- sponsors students in "Strikes for Special Olympics"
- sponsors students in "Hoops for Heart"
- sponsors Quilt Raffle Fundraiser (quilts made by Jayne Reuer and others)
- sponsors Student Projects
- provides school t-shirt, water bottle, and bag for each new student
- sponsors the Veteran's Day Program (Quilts of Valor)

You can help the committee by collecting and sending the following to the SDSBVI.

- Kessler's Grocery Store and Ken's Superfair Receipts
- Loaves 4 Learning from Country Hearth Bread
- Tyson Project A+ labels
- Pennies for Pioneers
- "Box Tops for Education" coupons

New SDSBVI Gear Store

Twice a year (March & October) our supporters will have the opportunity to purchase new SDSBVI gear at dssia.com/sdsbvi. We send out a big "Thank You" to DSS Image Apparel in Aberdeen for all their hard work to set up this website.

Get your Spirit Gear!!

The Committee sells: **Water Bottle** ($2), **Centennial Plate** ($2), **Lanyard** ($6), **Winter Hat** ($15), **Cinch Mesh Bag** ($12), **Recycle Tote** ($5), **Cotton Short Sleeve Shirt** (Youth & Adult $12), **Sport Tek Short Sleeve Shirt** (Youth $15), **Cotton Long Sleeve Shirt** (Youth & Adult $18), **Sport Tek Long Sleeve Shirt** (Youth $22), **Crew Neck Sweatshirt** (Youth & Adult $20), **Hooded Sweatshirt** (Youth & Adult $25). For more information, contact **Jodi Carlsgaard** at 605-626-2580 or 1-888-275-3814, or email at jodi.carlsgaard@sdsbvi.northern.edu.

Student of the Month (SDSBVI enjoys recognizing students for a job well done!)

Brennon Peters, Britton SD for May. **Brennon**, a preschool student, was recognized for becoming more independent when using his walker which he loves to use to investigate all the different areas of the school, for making progress in learning new daily living skills, for his love of learning in both his classroom and also during music class where he participates either by clapping, stomping his feet, following the directions of the songs, and by always having fun with every song. Congratulations to **Brennon** who always brightens up our day with his big smile.

The Art of Public Speaking

For many people, speaking in front of a group of people can be a difficult skill to learn but not members of our Forensics Team; they embraced the challenge. The team coached by **Nichole Nelson** hosted a Forensics and Goalball Tournament with our friends from North Dakota. The **Forensics Team** is pictured (back from left) includes **Schelbie DeHaai** and **Violet Petersen** (*The Boy Book* by John C. Havens), **Blaine Jemming** (*Television* & *Little Red Riding Hood by* Roald Dahl), **Violet**, **Jordan Houseman** (*Sunscreen by* Mary Schmich), **Kelsey Wollman** (*Smart Phone by* Rick Cotton), **Marcus La Criox** (*The Giving Tree by* Shel Silverstein and *The Pig by* Roald Dahl) and **Coach Nelson.** Seated: **Yamileth Lopez-Garcia** (*Coloring an Easter egg, author unknown)* and **Saylr Moncur** (*My Missing Spectacles by* H.L. Pemberton and *My mom is so embarrassing, author unknown).*

Making Your Own Music

Jami Lynn Olson, Spearfish folk musician, spent a weeklong residency at our school. Students explored South Dakota history through local folksong, games, storytelling, Cowboy ballads, and mining songs from western South Dakota, and lumbering tunes and frontier songs. She encouraged hands-on participation through singing, dancing, and playing folk instruments such as guitars and banjo. **Jami Lynn's** residency was sponsored by the South Dakota Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired with support from the South Dakota Arts Council.

Birthday Balloons

For the past several years, the Aberdeen Lions Club has given our students a Birthday balloon and treat on their special day. Pictured are several students with birthdays in May and over the summer receiving their birthday balloons. Thank you to the Aberdeen Lions Club for their continued support of our students!

Real Life Experiences for Future Teachers

NSU students in the "Intro to Orientation and Mobility for the Visually Impaired" taught by **Jane Mundschenk**, SDSBVI Orientation & Mobility Specialist/NSU Adjunct Instructor ate supper at Ruby Tuesday. They spent 2 ½ hours under the blindfold navigating around the restaurant using a white cane and with the occasional assistance from their instructor. One student commented that "the experience gave her more respect for the students they work with who are blind or visually impaired and that eating pasta while being blindfolded is a lot harder than one would think".

Year-End Student Awards

The School gave awards to the following students at the annual Awards Program

J'King Attikai: Participation Certificates (Special Olympics: Bowling, Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Mileage Club), Classroom Award: "Breakfast Program" (for trying food from a variety of food groups, using his picture communication system); **Caden Chavez**: Participation Certificates (Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Mileage Club), Classroom Award: "Language Arts**"; Schelbie DeHaai**: Participation Certificates (Region IV Music Contest: Solo, Large Group, and Girls Ensemble, Mileage Club, ACB's Audio Description in Education (BADIE) Program, Forensics, Goalball, Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Project Skills, Hoops for Heart, Special Olympics: Bowling, Swimming, and Track & Field), Letter (Music, Special Olympics and Goalball); **Larissa Enget**: Participation Certificates (Mileage Club, Special Olympics: Track & Field, Hoops for Heart, and Student Growth On-Campus Jobs); **Lydia Enget**: Participation Certificates (Student Growth On-Campus Job, Mileage Club, Hoops for Heart, Special Olympics: Track & Field); **Hailey Heintzman**: Participation Certificates (Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Mileage Club, Student of Month: November, Perfect Attendance: 1st Quarter, Hoops for Heart, Special Olympics: Bowling, Swimming, and Track & Field); **Jordan Houseman** Participation Certificates (Region IV Music Contest: Solo, Large Group, and Boys Ensemble, Mileage Club, Forensics, Project Skills, Goalball, Hoops for Heart, Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Special Olympics: Bowling, Swimming, and Track & Field), Herseth Dorm "MVP", Transition Student of the Year, Outstanding Male Track Athlete at NCASB, Letter (Music, Goalball & Special Olympics); **Blaine Jemming**: Participation Certificates (Forensics, Goalball, Hoops for Heart, Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Mileage Club, Special Olympics: Bowling, Swimming, and Track & Field, Region IV Music Contest: Large Group and Boys Ensemble, Most Improved High School Music Vocalist, Classroom Award: 8th Grade Socials Studies**,** Letters (Goalball and Special Olympics (1st Year); **Carter Johnson**: Classroom Award: ("Making Others Lives Pure Joy") Student of Month: February; **Henry Johnson**: Participation Certificates (Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Braille & Talking Book Library Reading Program, Mileage Club, Hoops for Heart, Special Olympics: Bowling), Classroom Award: "Most Caring Award"; **Jazontae Johnson**: Participation Certificates (Region IV: Solo and Vocal Ensemble, Mileage Club, Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Hoops for Heart, Project Skills, Outstanding Female Vocalist, Perfect Attendance: 2nd Quarter); **Bree Fiebelkorn**: Classroom Award: "Skittles" a wonderful new star has burst on the scene, Graduation of Kindergarten Certificate); **Marcus LaCroix**: Participation Certificates (Perfect Attendance: 4th Quarter, Forensics, Goalball, Mileage Club, Hoops for Heart, Special Olympics: Bowling, Swimming, and Track & Field, Student Growth On-Campus Jobs), Classroom Award: 7th Grade Math; **Yamileth Lopez-Garcia**: Participation Certificates (Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Mileage Club, Forensics, Special Olympics: Bowling and Track & Field, Hoops for Heart), Spicer Dorm "Most Improved"; **Jada Madsen**: Participation Certificates (Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Mileage Club, Hoops for Heart), Social Skills Award, Classroom Awards: "Spunky Spirit" and "Coffee Cake Connoisseur"; **Saylr Moncur**: Participation Certificates (Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Swimming and Track & Field, Forensics, Mileage Club, Goalball), Classroom Award: Life Science; **Brennon Peters**: Classroom Award: "Reese's Pieces" (for always having a piece of everyone's heart), Perfect Attendance: 4th Quarter, Student of Month: May; **Violet Peterson**: Participation Certificates: (Hoops for Heart, Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Region IV: Vocal Ensemble and Large Group, ACB's Audio Description in Education (BADIE) Program, Mileage Club, Project Skills, Forensics, Goalball, Special Olympics: Bowling, Swimming, and Track & Field), Letter (Music, Goalball, Special Olympics); **Ch'oshgai Roanhorse**: Participation Certificates (ACB's Audio Description in Education (BADIE) Program, Mileage Club, Goalball, Hoops for Heart, Student Growth On-Campus Jobs) Student of Month: October; **Quinn Ossanna**: Participation Certificates (Mileage Club, Hoops for Heart -Top Boy Fundraiser, Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Special Olympics: Bowling and Track & Field), Classroom Award: "Mr. Manners" and "Most improved Middle School" student); **Vincent Stuwe**: Participation Certificates (Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Special Olympics: Bowling and Track & Field, Braille & Talking Book Library Reading Program) Classroom Award: "Independence in the Breakfast Program", Student of Month: November); **Madison Spotted Bear**: Participation Certificates (Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Special Olympics: Bowling), Classroom Award: "Whopper" (always having a whopper of a good time); **Trey Tate**: Participation Certificates (Hoops for Heart, ACB's Audio Description in Education (BADIE) Program, Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Mileage Club, Goalball, Special Olympics: Bowling and Track & Field, Transition Student of the Year, Herseth Dorm "Most Improved", Student of Month: October; **Calla Waldner**: Classroom Award: "Box of Cracker Jacks" (for always cracking everyone up with her beautiful smile); **Joslynn White Crane**: Classroom Award: ("Starburst" a wonderful new star that has burst on the scene), Graduation of Kindergarten Certificate; **Michael Wingen**: Participation Certificates (Region IV Music Contest: Large Group and Boys Ensemble, Project Skills, Most Improved Male Vocalist, Hoops for Heart, Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Mileage Club, Perfect Attendance: 1st and 4th Quarters), Classroom Award: "Mr. History", Letter (Music); **Kelsey Wollman**: Participation Certificates (ACB's Audio Description in Education (BADIE) Program, Forensics, Student Growth On-Campus Jobs, Mileage Club, Hoops for Heart - Top Girl Fundraiser), Spicer Dorm "MVP"

Torch Run

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® is an event in which officers and athletes walk or run the "Flame of Hope" to an Opening Ceremony at a Special Olympics competition. The Run also raises funds for and increases awareness of Special Olympics. Coaches and athletes from SDSBVI and the Aberdeen area had a GREAT time walking the route with law enforcement officers and supporters from around Aberdeen.

Special Olympics

Thanks to everyone who supported our athletes exemplify the Olympian Oath "Let Me Win, But If I Can Not Win, Let Me Be Brave in the Attempt" at the NE Area Special Olympics Aquatics and Track & Field Meets. Results included: **Schelbie DeHaai**: 1st 100 M Backstroke, 4th 100 M Freestyle, 5th 50 M Freestyle, 1st 4x50 M Relay; **Larissa Enget**: 1st 25 M Assisted Walk, 1st 50 M Walk, 1st Softball Throw; **Lydia Enget**: 1st 25 M Assisted Walk, 1st 50 M Walk, 3rd Softball Throw; **Hailey Heintzman**: 2nd 25 M Flotation, 1st 15 M Freestyle, 1st 50 M Run, 1st 100 M Run, 1st Softball Throw; **Jordan Houseman**: 1st 100 M Backstroke, 1st 50 M Freestyle, 1st 100 M Freestyle, 1st 4x50 M Relay; **Blaine Jemming**: 3rd 50 M Freestyle, 1st 4x50 M Relay; **Marcus LaCroix**: 1st 15 M Freestyle, 1st 25 M Freestyle; **Yamileth Lopez-Garcia**: 1st 15 M Walk, 2nd 15 M Flotation, 4th 50 M Run, 3rd 100 M Run, 1st Softball Throw; **Saylr Moncur**: 1st 50 M Run, 3rd 100 M Run, 1st Softball Throw; **Quinn Ossanna**: 2nd 50 M Run,1st 100 M Run, 2nd Softball Throw; **Violet Petersen**: 1st 100 M Freestyle, 1st 50 M Freestyle, 1st 4x50 M Relay; **Ch'oshgai Roanhorse**: 1st 15 M Flotation, 1st 25 M Flotation; 1st 50 M Run, 5th 100 M Run,1st Shot Put; **Vincent Stuwe**: 1st 50 M Run, 1st 100 M Run,1st Softball Throw; **Trey Tate**: 1st 100 M Run, 2nd 200 M Run, 3rd Shot Put. The results from the State Track & Field and Swim Meet in Vermillion included: **Schelbie DeHaai**:1st 50M Freestyle,1st100M Run,1st 100M Backstroke, 1st Shot Put, 2nd 4x50 Relay, 2nd Long Jump, 5th 100M Freestyle, 3rd 4x100 Relay; **Hailey Heintzman**: 1st 15M Swim, 1st 100M Run, 1st 25M Swim, 2nd 50M Run, 1st 4x25 Relay, 4th Softball; **Jordan Houseman**: 2nd 100M Freestyle, 1st 200M Run, 2nd 100M Backstroke, 1st 400M Run, 2nd 4x50 Relay, 3rd Shot Put, 5th 50M Relay; Blaine Jemming: 2nd 50M Freestyle, 2nd 50M Run, 2nd 4x50 Relay 2nd 100M Run, 2nd Softball; **Marcus La Croix**: 1st 25M Freestyle, 3rd Softball, 2nd 15M Freestyle, 4th 50M Run, 2nd 4x25 Relay, 5th 100M Run; **Yamileth Lopez-Garcia**: 1st 15M Walk, 2nd 50M Run, 1st 15M Flotation, 2nd Softball, 3rd 100M Run; **Ch'oshgai Roanhorse**: 3rd 15M Flotation, 1st Shot Put, 3rd 25M Flotation, 5th 50M Run, 7th 100M Run; **Violet Petersen**: 1st 50M Freestyle, 1st Long Jump, 2nd 100M Freestyle, 1st Shot Put, 2nd 4x50M Relay, 4th 100M Run. All the athletes put in many hours of practice time and it showed in their competition! **Coach Fischbach** sends out a very special thank you to **Tim Fleming**, **Jane Mundschenk**, and **Lorri Peterson** for volunteering to help and travel with the team. Great work Pioneers!

World Bird Day

Several students in **Beth Lopes'** class enjoyed spending time at the Aberdeen Runnings store in recognition of "World Bird Day" to learn more about different types of baby chicks. Their faces show just how much they enjoyed holding the chicks.

Healthy Smiles

Several Health & Physical Education students took a class trip to the Family Dental Care to learn more about the tools used during a dental visit and how to keep teeth heathy. **Dr. Jason Grebner** and his Dental Assistant's **Hope Kline** talked with the students about what is used to clean teeth and care for cavities. Picture: (l-r) Instructional Assistant **Dan Grebner**, **Caden**, **Yamileth**, **Blaine**, **Vincent**, Instructional Assistant **Mallory Bingham**, **Hope**, and **Quinn**.

Folk Song Fun

A Spring Concert, under the direction of our Music Instructor **Phyllis Heier**, was held for parents and friends showcasing our talented students.

Around the World

Student **Schelbie DeHaai** is pictured with the 12-inch tactile and visual table globe she received after her name was drawn at the conclusion of the 3rd Annual Winter Reading Program sponsored by the South Dakota Braille and Talking Book Library. The theme of this year's Reading Program was "A World of Stories". **Schelbie** was one of 36 readers who participated by reading in a format of either braille or digital audio.

BADIE Contest Winner

Michael Gast was the first award winner in the senior category of the 2019 Benefits of Audio Description in Education (BADIE) program. **Michael** chose to review the described film, *Sister Act 2*, as an assignment in Pat Geditz's English class, and he won a $100 iTunes gift card for his efforts. Other students who entered and reviewed descriptive movies for the BADIE contest were **Schelbie DeHaai**, **Violet Petersen**, **Trey Tate**, **Kelsey Wollman**, and **Ch'oshgai Roanhorse**.

Reading Award

"A Universe of Stories" was the theme of the 2019 South Dakota Braille and Talking Book Library Summer Reading Program from June 9 to July 20 and was open to all youth registered with the Braille and Talking Book Library ages birth to 19. Participants followed the 20/24/7 reading initiative by reading a minimum of 20 minutes each day, 7 days a week and kept track with the provided reading chart. 23 readers returned their reading charts and were entered into the end of program drawing. Amazon gift card prizes were provided by the Evening Star Lions Club of Rapid City, and the Android tablet was purchased with donations from users of the South Dakota Braille and Talking Book Library. The winners of the drawings for the four $50 Amazon Gift Cards were **Cierra Waldner**, **Dael Gutierrez**, **Kaylee Waldner**, and **Amanda Heldt**. The grand prize winner of the Android tablet was **Phoenyx Bartscher**. You can see a video of the live drawing on the library's Facebook page www.facebook.com/LibrarySDBTBL.

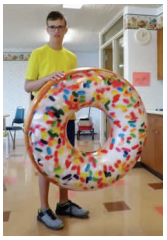
Stamp Out Hunger

Pictured with the nonperishable food items collected at our school for the National Association of Letter Carriers "Stamp out Hunger Food Drive" are several members of Student Council (l-r) **Larissa**, **Jazontae**, **Ch'oshgai**, **Michael**, **Schelbie**, and **Lydia**. Thank you to everyone who brought food to help with the drive. The Student Council's mission is to support our student body, school, and community through giving, serving, and offering opportunities to their members.

End of the Year Overnighter

Student Council members and residential staff enjoyed an evening at the Holiday Inn Express for the "end of the year overnighter". Everyone had a great time swimming, eating pizza, playing games, and only a small amount of "sleep".

Funky Donuts



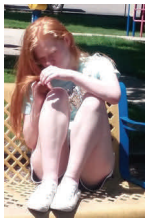
After working a summer in our residential program **Amanda Ludwig-Mauerman** remembered how much the students loved swimming and floating down the lazy river at the Aquatic Center so she chose to donate "funky donut" inner-tubes. Winning students included: **Michael Wingen**, **Preston Brue**, **Caramia Estes**, **Ramsey Stanga**, **Dylan Uehling**, **Marcus La Croix,** and **Yamileth Lopez-Garcia**.

NASA Kit Adapted for Visually Impaired

The South Dakota State Library is a NASA@My Library Partner which aims to engage diverse communities in STEM learning; as part of this the Library is promoting and circulating multiple copies of NASA@MyLibrary earth and space science kits to public libraries. SDSBVI was chosen to receive a kit that has been adapted for use by students who are blind and visually impaired and includes books in braille, twin vision, and audio formats and the APH Sense of Science Astronomy kit. The materials in this kit can help support accessible learning activities. More information on the Kit 2: Adapted for Visually Impaired: http://libguides.library.sd.gov/services/NASA. SD Braille and Talking Book Library staff members **Lynda Lowin** and **Josh Easter** are pictured presenting a NASA kit to Superintendent **Dr. Marjorie Kaiser** during SDSBVI Family Weekend.

Our "Well Loved" Playground

Our school will be moving to a new building this fall and our "Well Loved" playground will also be changing so we wanted to show off the last 16 years (groundbreaking was in 2003) of a few of our students and staff enjoying our accessible playground swinging, going down the slides, playing in the sand, and spending time exploring everything the playground has had to offer. We have appreciated all the years we have been able to play on our "Well Loved" playground and our students look forward to the possibilities in what a new playground will offer them.



A SUMMER OF FUN & LEARNING

During the months of June and July, students took part in an exciting Summer Program at the SDSBVI. The emphasis of the program was to provide opportunities for students to prevent regression of skills during the long summer break and focus on learning the necessary skills of blindness.

- Assistive Technology
- Career Education and Transition
- Compensatory Academic Skills
- Independent Living Skills
- Orientation and Mobility
- Recreation and Leisure Skills
- Self-Determination Skills
- Sensory Efficiency Skills
- Social Interaction Skills

Students spent time learning and participating in activities they would not normally have the opportunity to accomplish. When a student is blind or visually impaired, special emphasis is placed on giving as many hands-on experiences as possible to help them develop a solid base of knowledge.

Transition Week By **Nichole Nelson**, SDSBVI Transition Specialist and **Kellie Hauglid**, SBVI Program Specialist

(Expanded Core Curriculum: Career Education, Transition and Self-Determination Skills)

Once a year the South Dakota Rehabilitation Center for the Blind (SDRC) in Sioux Falls, SD hosts high school students from across the State to learn more about preparing for employment, gaining independence, and advocating for themselves. This year, 11 students attended Transition Week from June 16-20. The students experienced dorm life by staying at Augustana University. The days were packed full of activities that followed the mandated guidelines of Pre-Employment Transition Services.

Due to rain, we switched around a few evening activities. Nevertheless, we all ended up having a fun time and had a successful week. The diverse group of students this year bonded very well with each other and new friendships were made. The week in summary: they learned about Skills of Blindness, Employment Skills Training, practiced mock interviews, and created small projects in the wood shop and creative arts class. They also learned how to start up a conversations and build self-confidence with Val Pugsley-Tischler from **PUSH**, how to dress for an interview and different types of employment with a team from **Dress for Success** and **Men's Wearhouse**, and toured the **Sanford Business Center** and met with a couple of their Talent Acquisition Agents. Other skills learned were managing your money for food, adaptive bicycling, and using public transportation. After working hard during the day, the students were able to wind down with fun evening activities, such as a movie with Descriptive Narrative as an option, Wild Water West, and adaptive bicycling. We wrapped up our Transition Week with a fantastic guest speaker, **Keith Bundy**. Keith shared his experiences going to college, traveling, and struggles in employment with being blind. The students really enjoyed the demonstration of his dog guide "Aira". Watch for next year's "Save the Date" this winter!

School Expectations & Rules

"Be Kind, Be Respectful,
Be Responsible,
Be Caring, Be Safe"

Tour of Buffalo Ridge Resort

The theme for this year's Extended School Year (ESY) Summer Program is "Preparing students to step forward with confidence and a vision of lifetime success Past, Present, and Future"! The students and staff took a trip to the old School for the Blind in Gary, SD now called the "Buffalo Ridge Resort". Everyone admired the wonderfully renovated campus and the students learned about what it was like to attend school in the early years (1900-1961) and explored the campus, including the buildings, tunnels, barn, and Lake Elsie.

More History

With the theme for this year's ESY Summer Program being "*Preparing students to step forward with confidence and a vision of lifetime success, Past, Present, and Future*" students and staff welcomed former students Mark Krogstrand (Student 1960-1965 & Principal 1996 to 2013) and Dawn Brush (Student 1959-1970 & Houseparent 1995-2003 & Substitute 2013-present) to share their stories about what it was like to attend school in both Gary and Aberdeen, how the building has changed on both campuses, and what it was like working here after being a former student.

Mindfulness Classes

This summer, all classes used the *Inner Explorer Program* to learn mindful awareness skills. These skills increase relaxation of breathing, thoughts, senses, and emotions and help children learn self-control, compassion, empathy, and have a clearer understanding of what is happening right now. With this knowledge, students become "ready to learn", leading to less anxiety and stress, better performance in school, and improved interactions with people. PLUS – it makes a person feel good!! SDSBVI's license for *Inner Explorer* also allows students to continue their practice at home. If interested, parents should contact the SDSBVI School Counselor, Janel Ludwig at 626-3189 or at janel.ludwig@sdsbvi.northern.edu.

Self-Determination Classes

The Self-Determination section of the "Expanded Core Curriculum" (ECC) highlights the importance of developing confidence. Self-determination is a person's ability to control his or her life, reach personal goals, and participate in the world to the fullest extent possible. The middle school students learned about self-esteem, including their personal strengths, needs, and goals. They also reviewed how to effectively communicate, problem-solve, and deal with peer pressure. The High School students' lessons addressed positive thinking, self-image, commitment, decision-making, and accepting responsibility.

"Awesome Explorers"

In addition to spending time learning skills in the areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC), students in the "Awesome Explorers" group under leaders **Lorri Peterson** and **Candice Mohn** and with **Gayle Anderson** and **Megan Howard** as helpers enjoyed weeks filled with many fun activities.

- utilized theme units: Monday (movement, music, games); Tuesday (texture, taste); Wednesday (water); Thursday (sensory), and Friday (fun)
- explored careers by having students doing different work tasks
- enjoyed leisure skills: board games, cards, PE activities, and art projects to go with the week's theme and recess
- learned to sing new songs with **Phyllis Heier**, our wonderful Music Teacher
- prepared snacks (cold, microwave, and cooked) and cleaned up the kitchen
- explored different restaurants while practicing manners, dining & social skills, and O&M
- explored playgrounds around Aberdeen
- shopped for groceries and art supplies
- explored our playground at recess
- enjoyed swimming at the YMCA
- explored riding the train and the Zoo at Storybook Land
- learned about the weather, calendar, and schedule for each day
- explored work skills: by cleaning door knobs, gym equipment, and furniture; crushing cans; and shredding paper

"A Million Dreams"

Several students showed off their talents at the "End-of-Summer Talent" show where **Hailey** did a magic trick, **Michael**, **Dominick**, **Kelsey**, & **Jordan** sang as a group, **Madi** & **Carter**, **Yamileth**, **Sarah**, **Serenity**, **Ramsey** all chose to sing a song. A large group of students sang "A Million Dreams". Everyone did a GREAT job!

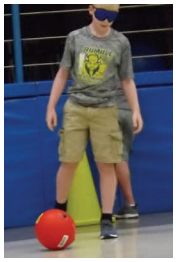
Family Support Network

This group met in June at the Aberdeen Aquatic Center for an afternoon of swimming, treats, and networking with others.

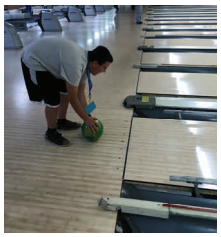
"The Socialites"

In addition to spending time learning skills in the areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC), students of the "The Socialites" under leaders **Tim Fleming** and **Laryn Warkenthein** as group leaders and **Mallory Bingham**, **Tevan Fischbach**, and **Julie VanDover** (Braille classroom) filled the weeks with fun activities.

- Assistive Technology: included training with **Hillary Filler** on most appropriate devices and guest speakers on apps. like "Be My Eyes", "Aira", and "Seeing AI" and Microsoft "Ease of Access" and other technology
- Class Activities: included reading, journaling, writing thank-you cards, and exploring textures, sounds, colors, shapes, and smells
- On Campus Jobs & Careers: included learning about career clusters, shredding paper, and crushing cans
- Independent Daily Living: learned cleaning techniques, home safety procedures, and how to prepare food using the stove, microwave, and oven
- Community Based Instruction: included Wylie Park & Storybook Land, Aberdeen Water Treatment Plant, Colorful Creations, Village Bowl, Avera St. Luke's, Project Search, and Beadle Floral

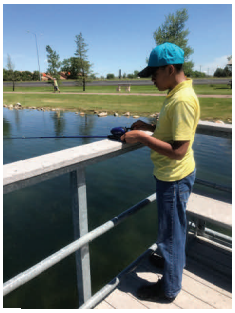


- Homeroom Activities: included reading, spelling, math, calendar, vocabulary, and school news
- Social Skills: included practicing social skills on outings to McDonalds, Twist Cone, Wendy's, Dairy Queen, Pizza Ranch, and Thatzza Pizza,
- Creative Music: learning new songs with **Phyllis Heier**, our wonderful Music Teacher
- School Expectations & Rules: "Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Caring, Be Safe"
- Leisure Sports: included participation in goalball, Frisbee, board and card games, bocce ball, corn-hole, beep baseball and kickball, riding bicycles, Legos, reading, playground time, and watching movies
- Self-Determination: discussed strengths, needs & goals, peer pressure, assertiveness and "I" statements,
- Speakers: listened to several presentations and learned information about the past and present of our school and toured the new school to observe the progress being made
- Art/Creative Expression: included painting shelves, drawing, coloring, and making an "All About Me Poster"



ECC: Recreation & Leisure - "Love of Nature"

Students in "The Socialites" group appreciated the beautiful day spent at the Fred & Janel Ludwig home where they ate a sack lunch, riding around in their golf cart spending time "loving on" the Ludwig's 4-legged friend, a soft and loveable husky named Bud. Later that same day, thanks to fishing enthusiasts Dave Scepaniak and Amy Scepaniak, the students learned all about fishing and tried really hard to catch one at Wylie Lake but better luck will be with them next time. A great day was had by all!



"Artistic 10!"

In addition to spending time learning skills in the areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC), students in the "Artistic 10!" group, under leaders **Pat Geditz** and **Hilary Filler**, and with **Sharon Jones**, **Diane Svacina**, and **Sonya Tesky** as interpreters, enjoyed weeks filled with many fun activities. They included the following:

- Learned about verbal/nonverbal communication, listening vs. hearing, sharing and cooperating, accepting differences, showing empathy, controlling emotions, and group problem solving
- Completed art projects including painting flower pots, making yarn art, painting canvases, and creating t-shirts using sharpies
- Learned about career exploration
- Enjoyed bicycling, Frisbee, bocce ball, and beep kickball
- Learned about nature by visiting Parkview Nursery and planting their own flowers
- Purchased and planted flowers for the school patio flower pot
- Wrote thank you notes
- Shopped for groceries and art supplies
- Cooked their own breakfast on Tuesday mornings
- Attended music classes
- Learned about the past, present, and future of SDSBVI
- Learned about the newspaper from a field trip to the *American News*
- Enjoyed learning about and playing with therapy dogs
- Created journals detailing their weeks at SDSBVI
- Took a field trip to the Aberdeen Weather Station
- Enjoyed dance classes taught by volunteer **Katie Magera**
- Took a field trip to The Granary
- Got the opportunity to visit and tour the new School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Enjoyed several meals and treats out in the community
- Used their artistic talents to create a tile at Colorful Creations Ceramics
- Enjoyed social skills games
- Took part in a school talent program and showcased their talents

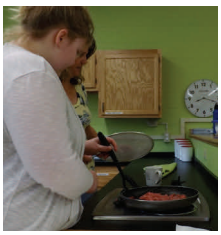
Recreation & Leisure:

dance class with Katie Magera

"Super Novas"

In addition to spending time learning skills in the areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC), students in the "Super Novas" group under leaders **Lela Holcomb** and **Dan Grebner** along with help from **Jodi Carlsgaard** and **Phyllis Heier** enjoyed weeks filled with many fun activities.

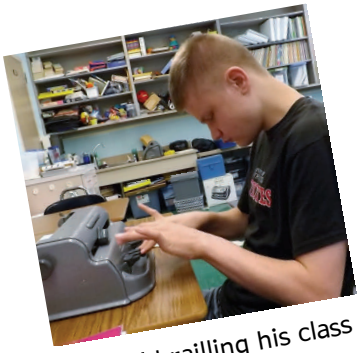
- learned about nutrition and healthy habits while cooking a variety of meals, snacks, baked goods and picnic items
- reviewed good grooming and hygiene habits
- practiced safe sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, dusting, and wiping tables in a kitchen and cleaned a bathroom
- learned about careers of adults with visual impairments, wrote resumes, and practiced job interviews
- learned a variety of arts and crafts
- researched different University programs
- researched individual eye conditions
- practiced self-advocacy techniques
- studied severe weather preparedness
- visited the National Weather Service, the Granary, Wylie Park, Melgaard Park, Colorful Creations, and Parkview Nursery
- learned about ways to manage stress
- shopped for groceries and supplies, compared prices, used a self-check-out, and payed for items in stores
- ordered and paid for meals at restaurants
- explored journaling



Life Long Lessons on Culture and Art

The Granary Rural Cultural Center was a great time for the students in the "Artistic 10" and "Super Novas" groups to spend an afternoon. The Granary is a unique way to celebrate the culture and art of the Northern Plains.

Expanded Core Curriculum
Compensatory Academic & Sensory Efficiency Skills



Michael brailling his class assignment

Carter reading a print/braille book

Expanded Core Curriculum
Assistive Technology

Serenity painting her nails using a video magnification system

Phoebe and **Pat** cooking sausage

Yamileth and **Hilary** using the stove

Expanded Core Curriculum
Independent Living Skills

Dominick and **Jaela** washing dishes

Gent cracking eggs

Grace making pancakes with **Lela**

Lincoln learning how to stir his eggs for breakfast

Michael cooking sausage with **Phyllis**

Expanded Core Curriculum
Orientation & Mobility

Dominick practicing street crossings

Sarah practicing her cane skills with **Indira**

Saylr traveling with **Indira**

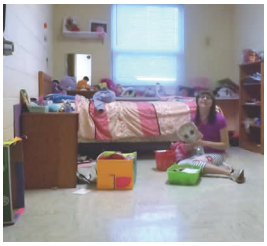
Caramia going for a walk with **Amy**

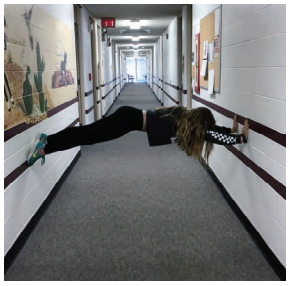
ESY Summer Program - Expanded Core Curriculum Areas:

Recreation & Leisure, Social Interaction Skills, and Independent Living Skills

In addition to spending time on learning skills in the areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC), students in the Residential Program with **Deb Bretsch**, **April Doxtader**, **Lynette Gisi**, **Luella Janis**, **Barb Kelly**, **Janet Moser**, and **Danielle Vincent**, kept the summer weeks busy with day-to-day activities, room cleaning, bathing, laundry, work skills, and fun activities. We welcomed substitutes **Edann Cloos**, **Daphne Elkins,** and **Mariah Graff** to help the fun filled days run smoothly.

- hosted a dorm talent show
- interacted with beautiful therapy dogs
- played youth trivia
- attended the Art and Music Festival at the Granary
- enjoyed trips to Twist Cone and Dairy Queen
- played at the Aquatic Center
- enjoyed cookouts with music provided by students
- loved going to Thunder Road for go-karts & bumper boats
- played at Wylie Park and Storybook Land
- loved pizza and birthday parties
- played on the school's fabulous playground
- enjoyed concerts at Melgaard Park
- appreciated the "Loving Care" from our Nurse **Tessa Riggs**
- enjoyed all of the GREAT food provided by the kitchen staff: **Michelle Becker**, **Niki Gellhaus,** and **Kassidy Richter**





Four legged-furry friends

Students and staff welcomed **Becca Aston** and her dogs Kuma & Ella and **Annie Perrion** and her dog Huckleberry to spend time with us. Kuma is a Certified Therapy Dog and Ella & Huckleberry are both Certified Therapy Dogs "in-training". All of the dogs are used to provide comfort to children and adults.

Big Thank You

We don't want to leave anyone out so we send out a **Big Thank You** to ALL of the staff members who helped make our Extended School Year (ESY) Summer Program a **HUGH SUCCESS** like the following, who may not have been mentioned elsewhere in this issue, Business Manager **Claudean Hluchy**; Human Resource Director **Shelia Hanson**, Liaison for Services **Dawn LaMee**; Educational Secretary **Kandi Sampson**; Technology Specialist **Sue Snaza**; Maintenance staff **Greg Anglin**, **Ben Bohlander**, and **Doug Quiram** and substitutes **Diane Agnitsch** and **Karen Fleming**

SD School for the Blind
and Visually Impaired

423 17th Avenue SE
Aberdeen SD 57401-7699

Change Service Requested

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 17

Follow us!

Website: https://sdsbvi.org
Pinterest: http://pinterest.com/sdsbvi
Facebook: SD School for Blind and Visually Impaired

Pass it on after you are done reading it!

The Pioneer: Spring/Summer 2019 Volume 56 Issue 2 The Pioneer is published twice a year with printing costs donated by the South Dakota Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Photos taken by staff members. Pioneer Editor is Dawn LaMee at South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 423 17th Avenue SE, Aberdeen SD 57401-7699, e-mail: dawn.lamee@sdsbvi.northern.edu, phone # 605-626-2580 or Toll Free 1-888-275-3814

SAVE THE DATE
All School Reunion
SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
October 4-5, 2019

All activities will take place at the school.

Opening the Time Capsule (buried in 2000)

A block of rooms at the Best Western Ramkota is available at $89 a night. You need to make your reservation (605-229-4040) before September 1st and mention the "SDSBVI Reunion" to get this rate.

For more information, contact Dawn LaMee

Phone: 605-626-2580 or 1-888-275-3814 or by Email: dawn.lamee@sdsbvi.northern.edu