Connie’s Celebrations

We have had an exciting year at the NDSD/Resource Center. I am very proud of the Newsletter that we have been publishing monthly. We will have an NDSD Staff and Student Recognition Program May 24th. For this newsletter I am going to focus on the staff that have been here 10 years or longer. I congratulate each of our staff for their dedication in serving individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing across the state.

I especially want to recognize:

10 Years
Michelle Halpain (Dorm and Teacher)
Nicole Parker (Teacher at our Model School)
Karen Maloney (Kitchen)

20 Years
Linda Koth
(Teacher at our Model School)

25 Years
Renae Bitner (Interpreter)
Jeanith Johnson (Interpreter)
Pat Vilandre (Food Service Director)

25 Years
Denise Marback
(Teacher and Parent Infant Program)

NDSD/Resource Center would not be the great center it is without the consistent high quality of services of these staff over time. I want to publicly thank them for their time and service.
With the 2019-2020 school year coming to a close, the Model School would like to **recognize** and **congratulate** three 8th grade students who will be moving up to High School next school year. Jordaine Whitetail and Briana Meier began attending NDSD at the age of 3, while Jaylee Anderson started at age 5. Both Briana and Jaylee live in Devils Lake, while Jordaine is a residential student from Fort Totten. These students have worked hard to overcome communication barriers to get to where they are now. We are excited for them as they face new adventures, new schools, new friends, and new teachers! We are sad to see them go, but excited to see what their future holds. **Best of luck!**

**May Firebird of the Month-Finalist**

Congratulations to Shane Felix, NDSD residential dorm student, who is currently a sophomore at Devils Lake High School (DLHS). Shane was recently selected as one of the finalists for **DLHS Firebird ‘Student of the Month’** for May. **Principal Ryan Hanson** read the following comments about Shane upon his nomination:

“This third nominee goes above and beyond! This student is kind and respectful to peers and staff. He has a great work ethic and makes good use of his time in the classroom. This student is upbeat and works at all times. This sophomore is Shane Felix.”

Shane received a Firebird school bag for being a finalist for **Firebird of the Month. Congratulations Shane!**
May 1st is National Interpreter Appreciation Day! That makes May the perfect month to express gratitude to interpreters who skillfully share their sign language talents with those who rely on visual language in order to understand the communication that happens around them. A special thank you and congratulations go out to longtime NDSD interpreters, Renae Bitner and Jeanne Johnson. During the school’s end-of-the-year award ceremony on May 25th, these two interpreters will be recognized for twenty-five years of dedication and service to the students and staff of the ND School for the Deaf/Resource Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing. In appreciation, each will receive a gift certificate and our heartfelt gratitude for their commitment and dedication to the students they serve.
The **Adult Outreach Team** would like to **recognize** the generous donation made by the **ND Friends of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Foundation**. Through their funding, we were able to have **Visor Cards** produced. These cards have been distributed across the State to individuals, as well as various law enforcement agencies. The **Visor Cards** offer us an opportunity to provide education regarding Police interactions with people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. The presentation is about 2 hours long and has been accepted for Continuing Education Credits by the **POST Board** (Peace Officer Standards and Training). We have presented this information over 30 times across the State and it has been well received. Our hope is to avoid any unfortunate matters due to miscommunication. If you would like more information, please contact Pam Smith, Adult Outreach Coordinator at 665-4401.

**Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Spring**

Pam, Kathy, Kristen, Dawn
An accomplishment is “something that has been achieved successfully; an activity that a person can do well.” It comes in all sizes and shapes.

Thinking about this year, we have seen all kinds of things being accomplished! Congratulations to the PIP/School Age Outreach staff; together they have just completed 132 years of service to the field of Deaf Education at NDSD.

A huge Congratulations to Denise Marback celebrating her 40th year.

Congratulations to parents, families, teachers, staff, individuals who have and continue to have high expectations for their child(ren). Your work and dedication are most important.

With summer right around the corner, we encourage you to continue full time communication, full time use of amplification, read to your child daily, provide new experiences, present 10 new words a week, through signing, talking, and/or both. Have back and forth conversations with your child. You are growing your child’s brain.

Research, starting in 2009, found that “adult-child conversations were SIX times as powerful at aiding language development…”

WHY?

Possibly…..the back and forth of conversation:

- Practice makes perfect
- Parents can provide language that is understandable but a bit challenging
- The conversations allow the adults to correct/model the language mistakes naturally

So, whether you sign, talk, both, or combinations of communication; “conversational turn-taking adds an extra boost.”

Upcoming events that we are excited about:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Co-Sponsor of Midwest Conference for Deaf Educators</th>
<th>Summer Camp</th>
<th>Deaf Awareness Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 10-11 in Sioux Falls, SD mwdeafconference.org/</td>
<td>At Triangle YMCA Camp In Garrison June 17-21, 2019 &quot;Soar High&quot;</td>
<td>September 22-28, 2019 Activities TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, contact Carol Lybeck at (701) 665-4400 or Carol.Lybeck@k12.nd.us