Connie’s Celebrations

We are already a few weeks into the New Year and decade. What do we want to accomplish in 2020? Here at NDSD we are completing a strategic review of our programs and services. Some of the questions we have been asking ourselves are:

- Where do we want to go as an agency?
- What would be the ideal way for NDSD’s services and programs to be delivered and managed in the future?
- How do we get there?
- What is holding us back from achieving our vision?

NDSD as an agency is continuing to grow and provide services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals across North Dakota. Highly qualified staff teach, lead, and advocate for services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Technology is essential for assisting staff in sharing information, and assistive technology supports clients’ access to communication. Ongoing Professional Development enables staff to provide current, researched based services in a professional and caring manner. NDSD offers trainings/workshops for other Professionals who work with deaf or hard of hearing individuals statewide. We are excited to look to the future and discover innovative ways to meet the needs of all deaf or hard of hearing North Dakotans.
Students enjoyed a special surprise from Santa on their last day before Christmas break. Look at all those smiles!

Christmas isn’t just about projects, prizes & presents; it’s about spreading love & showing how much we care for those around us. We love giving back to our community!
Deaf and Hard of Hearing students at Devils Lake High School participate in a variety of activities.

Shane - member of the DLHS Firebirds football team.

Collin participates in gym activities.

Jaylee making a holiday greenery bouquet.

Briana making puppy chow in a *Breaking Ranks* activity.

Hailey participating in an art activity—mug painting.

Collin participates in gym activities.

**NDSD Novel Group** read *Charlotte’s Web*

The theme, **true friendship**, was a relatable topic that lead to good discussions.
ADULT OUTREACH HEARING

HEARING DOGS for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

A hearing dog is a type of assistance dog specifically selected and trained to help people who are deaf or hard of hearing. They alert their handlers to important sounds, such as doorbells, smoke alarms, ringing telephones, or alarm clocks. They may also work outside the home, alerting to sounds such as sirens, forklifts, or a person calling the handler's name.

5 Powerful Benefits of Having a Hearing Dog

1. Safety and Security - Dogs alert their owners to a variety of sounds and to people calling their names.
2. Confidence - A hearing dog enhances its owner’s independence and mobility.
3. Companionship - The bond between the owner and hearing dog is as strong as any relationship.
4. Social Integration - Hearing dogs act as social facilitators, enabling contact with other people, therefore enhancing the likelihood of social interactions.
5. Improved Emotional and Physical Wellbeing - Having the support of a service dog helps alleviate anxiety. Another benefit of a hearing dog is that it needs a daily walk, compelling the owner to also get some exercise.

There are many organizations that train hearing dogs in the United States. Each organization has their own eligibility requirements and application process. International Hearing Dog, Inc. [https://www.hearingdog.org/](https://www.hearingdog.org/) is one of many organizations that train hearing dogs.
LET’S TALK, READ AND SING ABOUT DANCE & MOVEMENT!
BOOK AND VIDEO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

**BOOKS**

**Tap-Dance Fever**
By Pat Brisson
Annabelle can’t stop tap dancing at home, at school, and all over town. The townspeople try to stop her. However, her cheerfulness and staying true to herself eventually win them over.

**How Can You Dance**
By Rick Walton and Ana Lopez-Escriga
This is a great movement book to read and act out with children. Playful illustrations are paired with short rhyming verses that hop, skip and jump. Kids will want to get up and move with this book!

**Giraffes Can’t Dance**
By Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees
The other animals think Gerald the Giraffe can’t dance because of his long neck and skinny legs, but children will cheer as Gerald finds his groove after following the advice of a wise cricket. “We all can dance when we find music that we love.”

**Drumbeat in our Feet**
By Patricia A. Keeler
All ages will enjoy this book about the history of African dance. It’s a hand-clapping, foot-stomping, drum-beating experience full of culture.

**Dancing Feet**
By Lindsey Craig and Marc Brown
This is a fun rhythmic picture book where a variety of animals dance in all kinds of ways from “stompy” to “slappity.” Children will love having this read aloud to them and acting out the movements!

**MUSIC**

**Let’s Dance!**
The right music makes everyone, you and your child, want to move and dance! That’s why we’ve partnered with Spotify to create fun music playlists for everyday family moments. Pick a Spotify channel, and have fun dancing with your child to the songs!

Enjoy these tunes by visiting [www.talkingisteaching.org/spotify](http://www.talkingisteaching.org/spotify).

For more tips and information, please visit: [www.talkingisteaching.org](http://www.talkingisteaching.org)

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**Upcoming events that we are excited about:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Family Ice Fishing Event</td>
<td>March 7th, 2020</td>
<td>7:00am-1:30pm</td>
<td>Watertown, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Winnie the Pooh Day</td>
<td>January 18th, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications Contest for Deaf &amp; Hard of Hearing</td>
<td>May 2nd, 2020</td>
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<td>Watertown, SD</td>
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<td>Essay Contest Sponsored by Optimist International</td>
<td>Early February</td>
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