Connie’s Celebrations

This has been one of the most unique school years that I have ever been involved in. The students and teachers are finalizing plans for the end of the year and we have found that students technology skills have grown at a greater rate than any of us expected at the beginning of the year. I am so proud of the parents/guardians and students who have continued to complete their lessons and increase their skills while participating in distance learning. It is so exciting to hear about the fun and educational activities students are participating in using the different virtual formats. We miss the face to face time with students but are enjoying the remote face to face with the aid of computers and phones.

The outreach programs are using a variety of methods to provide services to their clients. The families have been wonderful to work with and are expressing their gratitude for the extent that NDSD staff are going to so they can provide the services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families.

We are beginning to develop a restart process and guidance for what we will need to have in place to begin providing more direct services. This will have many components including school settings, home settings, state facilities, training sites and Head Start. The plan will require an increase in a variety of technologies.

NDSD Resource Center continues to stay open and provide services for all our clients. Staff are being creative in finding ways to meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals across the state.
NDSD Reading Challenge

NDSD middle school library students had the option to contract special reading challenges this school year. Students chose their own personal challenges, such as reading books that are seasonal, award winning, of a particular genre, or by their favorite authors.

Some students had completed their challenges prior to COVID-19 and distance learning, while others finished from home.

Pictured above are Ally, Kinley, and Landon, who recently received their prizes: special reading tents. Landon quickly converted his into his own private library.

Congratulations to all of the 2019-2020 Reading Challenge students for their hard work and love of reading.

Dorm Staff Remain in Contact with Students During Distant Learning.

"Students partaking in Zoom can be a little shy or even silly when we chat, nothing replaces good old face to face conversations with them. We miss them!"
At the ND School for the Deaf, we have a flag squad that daily attends to the raising of our American flag at sunrise and lowering of the flag at sunset. There is a small platform on the Old Main School roof, near the tower, where the squad of boys stand and salute the flag while one raises it at sunup and another lowers it at sundown.

Our deaf students attended an American Day parade where more than 1200 school children participated. One of our boys, Rolf Harmsen, took part in the footraces and won 1st place in the 100 yd. dash and 1st place in the 440 yd. dash. Rolf received a baseball glove and 2 lbs. of candy for his wins! Note: Rolf went on to become one of NDSD’s most decorated athletic standouts. His picture and short bio of his track feats may be seen hanging in the Athletic Hall of Fame in Heritage Hall at NDSD.

Flashback from the Banner 100 Years Ago! May, 1920

Teleworking – What is it?

With the sudden, unexpected COVID-19 Pandemic, many people are required to telework/telecommunicate. What is teleworking?

Teleworking means working from home or remotely, using modern technology and telecommunications to remain in touch with employers, clients, coworkers and students. Important factors for successful teleworking include effective communication and access to the proper tools/equipment, such as computers, software, phone, reliable high-speed Internet and one universal video conferencing platform. Schools developed Distance Learning methods in order to continue teaching students. Will teleworking continue? For many, this trend is now a reality and will continue, but for some jobs, teleworking is simply not possible.

Due to continued concerns with the Corona Virus, the North Dakota School for the Deaf, 130th Anniversary Celebration which was scheduled for next month, June 2020, has been postponed until next June, 2021.
Staying Busy While At Home

All of us have been at home isolating and limiting our interactions with others due to the Corona Virus. Finding ways to keep busy during this time is important for our overall well-being. Below are a few suggestions to help alleviate boredom.

Keep in touch with family and friends, it will keep you engaged with others even when you can’t be together.

Puzzles can provide hours of entertainment and solving puzzles improves our spatial, visual, and cognitive abilities, using the entire brain to find solutions.

Get outside if possible, it will help with those feelings of being cooped up.

Take a walk

Plant some flowers

Create a scrapbook or photo collage.

Organize family photo albums, it is a great way to reminisce.

Create a family recipe book, it is a fun way to share your secret family recipes. If you are not computer savvy, now might be the time!

Take an on-line computer training class

Zoom Parties have become popular

Consider virtual tours - The Smithsonian, National Museum of Natural History virtual tours allow visitors to take self-guided, room-by-room tours of select exhibits and areas within the museum. [https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour](https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour)

Some Zoos and aquariums are offering live webcam viewings.

State and National Parks have virtual tours.

YouTube has videos on a variety of topics.

Submitted By: Dawn Sauvageau
NDSD/RCDHH Adult Outreach
Care tips for your child’s hearing devices

Clean your child’s hearing device daily.

Clean the housing with a lint-free cloth or use a small brush such as soft-bristled toothbrush. On no account should harsh detergents or alcohol be used for cleaning. Cleaning using mild soap and water only is recommended for the earmolds when they are disconnected from the hearing device.

Don’t let your child swim or shower with the hearing device.

Behind the ear hearing aids, bone anchored hearing aids and cochlear Implant processors, unless otherwise specified, are not made to use in the water or to get wet. If, by accident, a hearing device does get damp or wet, proceed as follows:

- Retrieve it immediately! Remove the battery pack or batteries. Shake as much moisture off as possible.

- Wipe it dry. Put it in a dri-aid kit and leave it over night. Check the next morning. If there is no sound or a deterioration in quality, send in for repair. There is no guarantee that it will be possible to repair it.

If you haven’t got a dri-aid

- Remove the batteries and leave it to dry out (with battery compartment open) at room temperature for a few hours. It may be fine after this.

NEVER use a hairdryer, microwave oven or other equipment to attempt to speed up the drying process as this may cause further damage!

When applying hair spray, the hearing devices should be removed.

This is especially useful tip for teenagers. Spray and other cosmetic items can damage the devices, so they should always be removed before use.

Keep batteries and devices out of reach from babies, toddler and pets.

Smaller children and dogs are very curious and quite often tiny batteries and the hearing devices end up in their mouths and hands. In fact, one of the most common accidents with a hearing device is a pet thinking it is lunch. Therefore, it’s important that hearing instruments and their batteries are always stored in a safe place.

Avoid dropping the hearing devices.

Hearing devices can get damaged if they hit hard surfaces. When cleaning or changing batteries, hold the hearing device over a soft surface. Explain to your child the importance of taking good care of their devices.

Protect the hearing devices against extremely low and high temperatures.

Extreme temperatures can damage the internal components of a hearing device. Therefore avoid longer exposure to colder weather and to sources of heat, such as hair dryers, the stove, heaters, open flames, hot cars and even direct sunlight.