

North Dakota School For the Deaf Resource Center

A School Without Walls

BANNER



Superintendent Donna Sorensen

Lilia Bakken

*Looking back with pride;
Looking forward with confidence.*

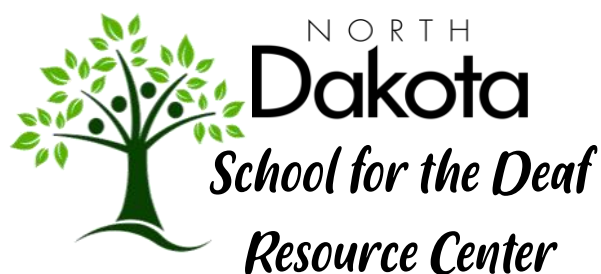
2022-2023

Volume 133



The North Dakota School for the Deaf is a division of
The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction,
Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent.

Our Beliefs:



All students are **ABLE**:

Acquire and learn language and communication in English and in ASL.

Become lifelong learners through hands-on experiences using all senses.

Lead and advocate for themselves and others.

Express their identity as learners who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind.

Purpose: To serve as a statewide education and resource center to provide advocacy, leadership, and expertise in the field of Deaf Education and those with hearing loss.

Mission: To educate and serve all individuals with hearing differences from birth through senior citizenship.

Vision: To support individuals with hearing differences in achieving their dreams.

The 2022-2023 school year began with Paul Olson, the Superintendent at the North Dakota Vision Services (NDVS) as the Interim Superintendent. He and the staff here set the stage for me to arrive in early September. Everyone helped me learn about the staff and students. One day, I saw a student with their adult in Walmart and introduced myself only to find out she, in fact, works here and I tell her ‘good morning’ every day. In my defense, she looked totally different with her hair down and out of context. We had a great laugh!



This year, the legislature was in session, so I quickly learned about the political systems and processes in North Dakota. I learned more about how our budget works and about the funding for special projects we had requested. I felt fortunate to have had experience presenting to legislative committees in another state and North Dakota’s process was similar. Our budget was passed with almost everything for which we asked and we are grateful for the legislative support and the support from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Due to staffing shortages and additional younger students enrolling, I spent a lot of time in the dorm. So much learning and growing happens there. I am humbled when parents allow us to tuck their children into bed every night and keep them safe and healthy. Our Residential Program is the backbone to our on-campus Education Program!

Our student population grew from 18 when I started in September. Our highest number of students on campus was 23 and we ended the year with 22 students total. We had lots of visitors – some potential students and their families and/or school teams and some interested groups like ASL students.

We continued to serve students and families through our PIP/K-12 Outreach Program and adults through our Adult Outreach program. These services are critical to our vision, our mission, and the foundation of our purpose. Through our PIP/K-12 Outreach Program, students and families as well as school teams learn about our campus Education and Residential Programs. Through our Adult Outreach Program, individuals who have lost their hearing learn how to be safe and continue to be independent so they can remain in their homes as they grow older.

Over this year, we had lots and lots of happy times, a few sad times, and so many learning times. We said goodbye to some staff members and hello to new or returning staff members. This Banner hopes to capture all those hellos, goodbyes, and many of the moments in-between.

We hope you enjoy this edition. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Come and visit us in Devils Lake and learn more about the services we provide here on campus and across the state.

Peace Always & Wishing You Well

Donna E Sorensen, NDSD/RC Superintendent

2022-2023 NDSD/RC Employees

Donna Sorensen, Superintendent

Education

Wendy Palmer*
Shayla Ebertz, para
Kristi Hogness, para
Linda Koth
Carrie Moen, para
Nicole Parker
Susan Schwab-Kjelland
Kim Shereck
Kale Smith

Communications

Lilia Bakken*
Donna Sorensen
Renae Bitner
Jeanne Johnson
Turi Leiphon
Cindy Mays
Kayla Perez
Lindsey Solberg-Herbel

Residential

Sabrina Schmitz*
Donna Sorensen
Patty Cote
Stephanie Crowell-Goeser
Corene Dockter
Allison Hoff
Suzanne Legacie
Collin Rude, sub
Jayde Van Fleet, sub

Business Office

Michael Loff*
Diane Frelich
Shelly Laverdure

Adult Outreach

Kristen Vetter*
Kathy Frelich
Dawn Sauvageau
Karen Zinke

Health Services

Tracy Vilandre*
Niki Slater, sub

Technology

Kerry Olson-Rysavy*

Facilities/Custodial

Chris Eckes*
Jerry Allery
Erik Hoeltl
Cindy Lee
Brian Morken
Cindy Schneider
Timber Schwab

Food Service

Chris Eckes*
Tate Cichos, Supervisor
Emily Anderson
Karen Maloney
Katrina Wickware

Outreach

Nicole Swartwout*
Linda Ehlers
Jennifer Hopper
Tami Iszler
Denise Marback
Ashley Martin
Lana Zimbelman

Lifeguards

Darwin Brokke
Caroline Belleque

Transportation

Barney Bischoff
Arvin Carlson
David Geer
Amber Gray
Patty Grohs
Alistair Stiven
Annalise Jaehnre

**Department Leader*

Back to School



2022-2023



NDSD/RC Welcomes Donna Sorensen as new Superintendent



Donna E Sorensen came to North Dakota in September 2022 to serve as the Superintendent here at the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center. She holds a Bachelor degree in Deaf Education from the University of Montevallo in Alabama, a Master degree in Parent-Infant Education from Gallaudet University in Washington DC, a Principal Certificate from Washington State University, and a Superintendent Certificate from the University of Montana. She was a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT), Exceptional Needs Specialist: Deaf and Hard of Hearing for 20 years certifying in 2002 and recertifying in 2012. She is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) teaching deaf students in Kenya from 2003-2005. She completed many courses in Teaching Students with Visual Impairments at Texas Tech University.

Donna taught students who were Deaf and Hard of Hearing for twelve years in the PreK-12 setting: nine years in a mainstream program, two years overseas, and two years at a residential school. She served as a Distance Learning Coordinator, an Elementary Principal, and an Outreach Director in residential schools for one year each. She has served as a Superintendent for 7 years at two different residential schools. For one year, she also worked in one state's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program and organized the annual statewide EDHI virtual conference. She also worked closely with that state's Early Intervention Program.

Donna loves to learn and she loves to travel. She has presented at conferences and workshops in the United States, Kenya, Jamaica, and Russia. Topics have included American Sign Language, Kenyan Sign Language, Deaf Culture, HIV/AIDS, visual language, poverty, and literacy and reading with students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Donna is interested in equity, equality, access to information, and access to the environment. Her interests include cultural studies and experiences when people from two or more cultures must interact. Her published article "The American Way" in the April 2006 edition of *VIEWES*, a publication from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, focused on cultural perspectives and interacting within other cultures.

Some of her unique experiences include volunteering at a therapeutic horseback riding center and learning about hippotherapy, competing in a camel race across a desert, scuba diving in the Indian Ocean, whitewater rafting the Nile River, interpreting and providing support services for Deafblind individuals, attending Deaflympic events in Rome (Italy), and 10+ years of volunteering at Deaf Teen Leadership (DTL) camp in Washington State.

In her free time, she loves volleyball, scrapbooking, yoga, camping, and hanging out with her 2 adorable puppies, age 9 and 10. Her favorite place in Devils Lake is the White Horse Hill Game Reserve where she can smell the forest and listen to the birds sing.

She is thrilled to have completed her first year here in ND and looks forward to continued learning and growing with everyone here.



Students
MEET
and
GREET
New Superintendent



Welcome New Staff



Carrie Moen

Hello, my name is Carrie Moen. I have spent the school year with our youngest group in the preschool room. I am learning right along with them, and it has been fun!

I was born and raised in the Devils Lake area, graduated from DLHS and from LRSC, with an AAS in Early Childhood Education. Prior to coming to NDSD, I worked for 14 years at Heartland/Eventide Childcare Center, and then a year at Early HeadStart.

I married Matt Moen in 2018, and we are raising our kiddos on a farm outside of Devils Lake. We have 6 children together along with many animals including cows, horses, pigs, pigeons, a rabbit, cats and dogs.

When we have free time we enjoy family trips. Each year since we met in 2017, we have taken our children somewhere different to experience new places. I have enjoyed Florida, Arizona, and Washington the most. I also love to play volleyball with friends during the winter and spend time at the lake near our home in the summer.

I am learning so much with the children here. It is truly amazing to be able to speak with ones hands! I look forward to many more years at NDSD.

Hi, my name is Patty Grohs. I currently work as a paraprofessional in the NDSD Pre-School classroom.

My work history includes 30 years in the Developmental Disabilities field, with positions at REM and Lake Region Corporation in Devils Lake. Although I have worked in a classroom this year, it is not my first experience at NDSD. Many years ago, I was on Dormitory Night Watch with Penny Keck and I have also been a transportation driver for years.



Patty Grohs

I was born and raised in Devils Lake. I have one son Christopher, who lives in Jamestown. I have four grandchildren: Hayden, the oldest, is nineteen and started college last fall. Gracie is next in line at sixteen, Bently is eleven and Paxton is nine years old.

I raised and showed Arabian horses for many years. I still live on the family farmstead, in the original farm house and have the original deed from the US government, dated 1897. My happy place is on my porch, listening to the rain on the steel roof.

I enjoy my job at NDSD, my co-workers and the students I work with.

Welcome New Staff



Shayla Ebertz

Hi, my name is Shayla Ebertz, I was born and raised in Devils Lake, ND. I have a younger brother, Dominic Jr., who is 18 years old. In my spare time I like to soak up the sun. I also enjoy cooking with my family. My favorite food to eat and cook is any type of pasta. Every Sunday I enjoy watching football. My favorite team is the Kansas City Chiefs, I have been a fan since I could understand the sport.

I graduated from Devils Lake High School in 2019. While I was in school, I was employed at Eventide nursing home in the kitchen.

Following that, I worked at Prairie View Elementary as a special education professional for three years. I worked with children that were nonverbal and autistic. My love for working with kids grows each and every year. I started at NDSD in February 2023, working as a paraprofessional in the preschool room. Just recently, I accepted the Administrative Assistant position so now I am the first face you will see when you enter the school. So very excited to start my new adventure at NDSD.

Hello, my name is Karen Zinke. I am so happy to be a part of the School for the Deaf/Adult Hearing Outreach Specialist Team.

I am from Mercer, ND; grew up in southwestern North Dakota. My background is in elementary education and social work. I have a Bachelor of Social Work degree. I worked for Ward County Social Services for 2 years and that is where I did social work placement also. I worked for Head Start for 2 years as a Home-Based Coordinator. I am currently serving as a volunteer on the Domestic Violence Crisis line for McLean Family Resource Center of Washburn and have been with them for about 20 years. I also served on the McLean Family Resource Center Board of Directors for 9 years as a secretary. I have worked in the public as a server for many years and enjoyed working with the people of the community. It is a wonderful way to get to know people in the community. I was also a Qualified Dental Assistant for 5 years before I came to work for NDSD.



Karen Zinke

I am married and have 3 children. My oldest is Lane who is 30, Logan who is 29 and Haley who is 27. I have one grandson who is 2 ½ years old and the light of our life.

My favorite hobbies are family history, traveling (which I want to start doing more of), and spending time with friends and family. Our family also enjoys rodeo. We put on a rodeo at Brush Lake, ND. Our 17th Annual Bull Riding along with Ranch Bronc Riding will be held on Saturday September 2, 2023, of Labor Day Weekend. Other events will be Jr. Bull Riding, Steer Riding and Mutton Bustin. For more information see our Facebook page "Mercer-Turtle Lake Rodeo Club".

2023 RETIREES

Michael Loff was born in Langdon, ND. He lived on a small family farm and attended early grade school at Osnabrock, ND. He attended grade schools at Hungry Horse and Coram, Montana; middle school and most of high school in Columbia Falls, Montana. Michael graduated high school from Edmore Public School in Edmore, ND, and later from Mayville State College majoring in Business Administration.

Michael is the oldest of eight children, one girl and seven boys. His father, after farming, owned multiple businesses and was an auctioneer. His mother, graduate of Minot State, was a teacher who became a full-time mom. Michael and his wife, Beverly, have four adult children, one boy and three girls. They have six grandchildren, all under 10 years of age.



Michael Loff



Michael worked with his father in family owned businesses and in Edmore during summers while attending college. He began his professional career as Business Manager at Towner County Memorial Hospital in Cando, North Dakota from 1976 to 1987 and at Mercy Hospital in Devils Lake. His NDSB tenure began on August 11, 2008, and he has testified before the ND Legislative Assembly eight times.

“All of the superintendents who have worked here over my tenure have been committed to the students, school, and NDSB’s state wide mission,” notes Michael.



Susan Schwab-Kjelland

Susan was born and raised in the Crary, ND area. She graduated from Crary High School and attended Valley City State University, graduating with a Composite Music Major and a minor in Library Science.

After teaching for a few years, an opportunity for self employment arose. She was an owner/operator of two SuperAmerica convenience stores for many years, one in Devils Lake and the other in Valley City. From there, Susan worked as a family visitor at Early Head Start and later as Head Start Education Coordinator. In 2011, when the librarian position opened up at NDSB, she jumped at the chance.

Susan has three grown children, who are her pride and joy: Leonard, a semi-retired teacher from Grand Forks; Ben, manager of the Brothers III convenience store in Valley City; and Katelyn, an FS2 DNA Analyst on the Dover Air Force Base in Dover, DE.

It is with a heavy heart that Susan leaves NDSB. Future plans include a move to Nevada, where there is no snow.



Lilia Bakken Retires after 43 Years at NDSD

Lilia (Horner) Bakken graduated from Mary College (University of Mary) in 1973 with a degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences. Upon graduation, Lilia began her search for a job and shortly thereafter, was hired at the North Dakota School for the Deaf. Lilia assumed that her job there would be temporary and never imagined that, more than 40 years later, she would be retiring from what had become a permanent career at NDSD.



In the fall of 1973, when Lilia was newly hired, she worked as NDSD's school secretary. Not knowing sign language and captivated by the hands that moved around her, it became her mission to learn sign language. With guidance from several patient deaf teachers, she gradually learned to communicate with them. A year later, Lilia was asked to be the assistant in the Reading Lab. Two years after that, she became Coordinator of the federally-funded Dormitory Language Project.



In 1976, Lilia married Rodney Bakken. The Bakkens had two children (Kelly and Annie) and while the kids were still very young, Lilia left her job at NDSD to be a full-time mom. When their kids became school-age, Superintendent Holman called to recruit Lilia back to NDSD to teach sign language and to interpret and tutor students who attended the Vocational-Tech Center. Lilia was happy to return to NDSD and she continued to work there until her retirement in December, 2022.





Some of Lilia’s favorite past memories at NDSU include skits with students, pool parties, basketball games, field trips, scavenger hunts, ITV sign classes, picnics, special occasion meals in the dining room, school reunions, Novel Groups and the completion of the **NDSU Picture Preserve Project**.

Through the years, Lilia’s career at NDSU provided her with an array of job experiences.

She held various titles that included: Secretary, Tutor, Note-Taker, Certified Interpreter, Teacher, Lab Assistant, Language Project Coordinator, Captioning Coordinator, Communications Coordinator, Acting Superintendent, Historian, Tour Guide, Mentor and Supervisor. How many



people can say they have held so many different job titles all with the same agency? Lilia said, “NDSU has always been supportive of its employees and is a great place to work!” Each position Lilia held came



with its own challenges and opportunities to learn but she admits, the best bonus of her years at NDSU was not the various jobs she held, but rather, it was the chance to meet so many fantastic people and to make life-long friends that she will cherish forever!

Lilia’s knowledge of and love for NDSU is known to all and she is sorely missed. We wish her and Rod many healthy and joyful years in retirement.



Deaf Awareness Week
2022

North Dakota
School for the Deaf



Building Inclusive Communities

NDSD students and staff celebrated *Deaf Awareness Week*, September 18-24.

There were games, stories and activities in every classroom. Students from Sweetwater Elementary School came for a tour of our campus and facilities.



campus tour



Dorm Staff



Outreach PIP Team

The Haunted Library

Students and staff had a **screaming** good time in the Haunted Library this Halloween. New NDSD Superintendent, Donna Sorensen, dressed in costume and signed a scary story using words they would later find in the Halloween activity centers. The students were very intrigued with her story and with the ghost that apparently followed her.



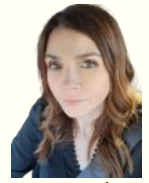


THE ARTS WITH CINDY AND TURI



Cindy Mays

The language facilitators at NDSB are always willing to take on extra assignments and responsibilities, above and beyond their job descriptions. Cindy Mays and Turi Leiphon are prime examples.

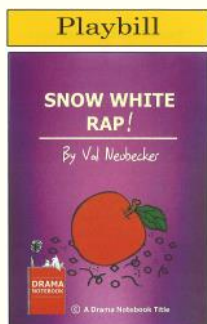


Turi Leiphon

Cindy Mays enjoys crafts of all kinds so when she was asked about teaching art class, she naturally accepted. She especially enjoys encouraging the students to think outside the box, to be creative with whatever materials are available.



When middle school students needed an Electives Class, Turi stepped up to the plate, offering to teach a drama class. What started out as a nine week project, blossomed into a full semester venture, from casting, to costume design and set building. The students performed the play, **Snow White Rap**, at the end-of-the-year Recognition Day.





This year's holiday theme and decorations were inspired by the movie *ELF*. Superintendent Donna Sorensen created an elaborate scavenger hunt for gifts, which mischievous elves had hidden. The students deciphered clues that lead them all around campus in order to retrieve the packages, only to find that the names were written in braille! Fortunately, one student at NDSD is able to read braille.





Library Lines

Susan



A library should not shush; it should roar!"

- Catherynne M. Valente, author



The **Novel Group** finished 2 books this year: **Island of the Blue Dolphins**, a historical fiction story by Scott O'Dell, and **The Fantastic Mr. Fox**, a fantasy by famed children's author, Roald Dahl.

(Below) LRSC teacher, Lisa Ginther, brought some of her ASL students to visit our library. NDS students signed stories for our guests. Later, we were invited to Lisa's classroom on the college campus for some fun ASL games and activities.



When it comes to science, we are NOT afraid to get our hands dirty.

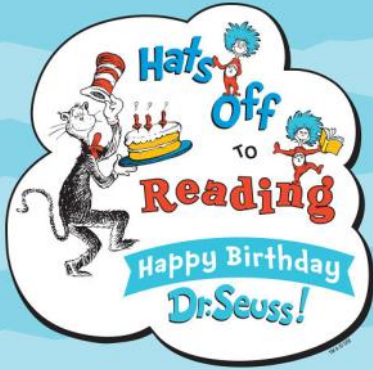
"Blessed are the curious, for they shall have adventures." Lovelle Drachman



Growing an Amaryllis plant has become a winter tradition in the NDS Library. The only thing more interesting than planting the flower and watching it grow, is dissecting it.



"Marlee" 12-19-22

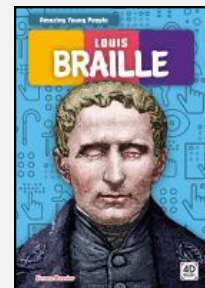


NDSD students celebrated **Read Captions Across America Day** and **Dr. Seuss' birthday** in Seussville (the NDSD library). Each student was required to have read 5 Dr. Seuss books to fill their passports to be admitted to the party. There was even a security officer on scene to screen the passports. Students participated in a number of games of skill, a tattoo parlor, art activities, a Cat Cake Walk, and Seuss Snacks.





January 4th is Louis Braille's birthday. Tristan, a 4th grade student at NDSD, used this special day to share information about Louis Braille's life and his invention of the braille method of reading and writing. Tristan demonstrated his Visiobook, braille, and read a poem in braille. Tristan receives services from ND Vision Services, and Nancy Trottier is his NDSD on-campus assistant.



The end of the school year is a time to reflect. One thing that stood out this year is Superintendent Sorensen asked us to create a mission statement for our departments. After some thought and consideration, the health services mission statement was established: "To foster the growth, development and educational achievement of all students by promoting health and wellness, in a safe and supportive environment". Browsing pictures taken throughout the school year, it does appear health services is heading in the right direction to nurture that mission statement. I thoroughly enjoy being in the classroom presenting health topics with the hopes for students to acquire and build the knowledge and skills to manage their own health. I look forward to the upcoming school year with renewed energy to continue our mission.

With gratitude,
Nurse Tracy



PRE SCHOOL



GYM CLASS



HALLOWEEN



MRS. KOTH'S CLASSROOM ~ 2022-23

Look who's in
OUR CLASS!



Izabelle



Grace



Honey



Mrs. Shereck's 4th Grade ROCKS



Former teacher,
David Zimmerman

David's team from Minot State won the 2023 ACHA Men's DI National Tournament.



Donna takes time to listen to our reports

National Popcorn Day — We learned,
We popped,
We ate!



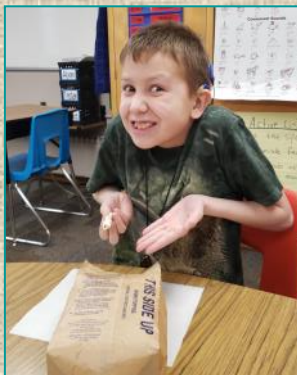
Earth Day bird feeders



My 4th graders studied the 5 classes of vertebrates. They wrote many reports!

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF DEAF

They gave their fish reports today!



Library field trip!
We love books!

Middle School

with Mrs. Palmer and Kale Smith

August



September



October



November

Monthly activities kept us busy; walks in the fall, dressing-up for Halloween, beading Native American earrings, CMS FACs cooking class and a Christmas Scavenger Hunt through the tunnels, skating, 100th Day of school, St. Patrick's Day, a snowy April, with Sunshine to end the year!



December



January



February



March



April



May



Adult Outreach

The Adult Outreach team has been busy serving clients in their homes and communities as well as our ongoing education of Law Enforcement, collaboration and training with agencies that serve older adults, networking and making referrals to interstate organizations such as Vocational Rehabilitation and the Independent Living Centers, to name a few. As of May, most of our Hearing Loss Resource Groups are up and running again! As always, we continually strive to spread the word about the available services for North Dakota residents that are Deaf & Hard of Hearing.



We are excited to announce the newest addition to our team. Karen Zinke, from Mercer, ND, joined our team in February. Karen has a diverse background in working with older adults including experience and education in the field of Social Work. We look forward to the opportunity to further expand our services to the western part of the state.

A big congratulations this year goes out to Kathy Frelich. Kathy was elected ND District 15 House of Representatives and served during her first session at ND Legislation. We couldn't be prouder to have her on our team!



Thank you to our entire team for continuing to provide amazing service to adults with hearing loss in our state! Feel free to reach out to any of us:

Grand Forks

Fargo



Kristen Vetter
Adult Outreach Coordinator
701-230-8701
kristen.vetter@k12.nd.us

Dawn Sauvageau
Adult Outreach Specialist
701-239-7380
dawn.sauvageau@k12.nd.us



Devils Lake

Turtle Lake

Kathy Frelich
Adult Outreach Specialist
701-665-4416
kathy.frelich@k12.nd.us

Karen Zinke
Adult Outreach Specialist
701-516-2464
karen.zinke@k12.nd.us

Parent-Infant and School-Age

The North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center Parent-Infant and School-Age Outreach Department continues to provide services to families and schools with children impacted by hearing loss. Consultations to schools around the state were offered along with the completion of several assessments. The Outreach Department is involved in the Outcomes & Developmental Data Assistance Center for Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Programs (ODDACE), which is a national data base that assesses children with hearing loss 0-5 years. This year, they implemented the utilization of the LENA program which delivers reliable feedback on how much caregivers are using spoken language with infants, toddlers, and preschool students. It samples the types of conversations families are having with their child with a hearing loss and offers suggestions to increase conversational turns.

The Outreach Department also sponsored their regular yearly events such as the Regional Pumpkin Patch Family Days, Virtual Santa, and Family Engagement events.

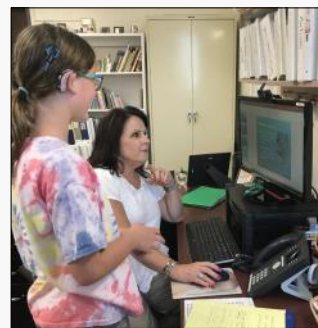
After a four-year hiatus, North Dakota School for the Deaf is proud to co-sponsor, with South Dakota Services for the Deaf and Gallaudet University Midwest region, the Midwest Conference on Deaf Education in Sioux Falls, SD, held in June.

The Outreach Department continues to expand services offering two on-line support groups. One is for families who have children with Microtia and/or Atresia. It started on November 9th celebrating National Microtia/Atresia Awareness Day. The other group is "Growing Up Deaf," featuring deaf adults sharing what it was like for them as a person with a hearing loss. Both of these support groups are held every other month.

The department also hosted a table at several conferences and events throughout the year. A variety of sign classes are offered to meet needs around the state. Two NDSO staff members were trained as Deaf Mentors and mentoring has begun with a couple of families. Our hope is to expand this in the future.



Regional Family Pumpkin Patch gatherings held in Williston, Minot, Grand Forks, Fargo, Bismarck and Dickinson

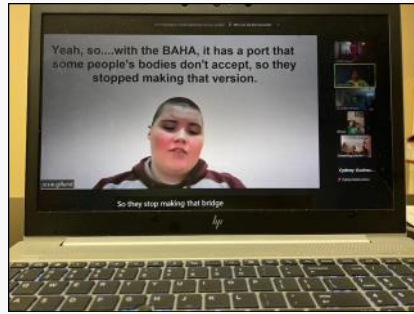


Presenting about hearing loss and participating in conferences are part of Outreach's services. We also assist students with hearing loss to present what it's like to have a hearing loss to their teachers, classmates, or IEP team members.

Outreach Department



Before winter break, North Dakota School for the Deaf Outreach Team hosted a virtual visit to Santa who has cochlear implants and can communicate using voice or sign language. Visits were held while children are at school or at home.



The PIP/School-Age Outreach Department expanded services offering two on-line support groups. One is for families who have children with Microtia and/or Atresia. and the other one is "Growing Up Deaf," featuring deaf adults sharing what it was like for them as a person with a hearing loss.



The PIP/School-Age Outreach Department continually works to keep up on current best practice for children with differentiated hearing. Ashley Martin, second person from the right, completed her Bachelors Degree in Speech and Language Pathology this year from Utah State University. This is her 2nd Bachelors Degree.

Congratulations!



The Family Engagement work was held at NDSU campus with a host of local specialists presenting on May 5, 2023. Left, Dr. Kelli Odden, a national speaker, shares her uplifting story of her struggles of being a parent of a child with special needs. At right, Jerrica Maxson, audiologist, discussed all things related to an audiology appointment and answered questions from the audience.



We are so proud and excited for our amazing Parent-Infant and School-Age Outreach specialist, Lana Zimbelman. We feel lucky to have such a wonderful team of Teachers of the Deaf. Lana Zimbelman was honored by receiving

the 9th Annual High 5 Award from North Dakota Hands & Voices. The person who nominated her said, "Lana's understanding of the unique educational needs of children with hearing loss is exceptional. She helped our family feel more confident and knowledgeable about how to provide the extra supports (our children) need." Congratulations!



North Dakota School for the Deaf co-sponsored the Midwest Conference on Deaf Education in Sioux Falls, SD. NDSU helped sponsor ND Teachers of the Deaf and Interpreters to attend the bi-annual conference. They also hosted a popcorn party meet and greet for those attending. This is done in conjunction with South Dakota Services for the Deaf and Gallaudet University Midwest Region.

Banner Flashback

Drexel Lawson

Submitted by Allison Hoff, Residential Counselor

Drexel Madison Lawson, 66, passed away at his Vacaville, CA home on February 5th 2023. He was born in Oak Hill, West Virginia, on December 12th 1956 to Josephine (Agee) and Joe Lawson, the eldest of seven children, all boys. Drexel spent his formative childhood years in West Virginia before his father relocated the Lawson family to Minot AFB in 1967, resulting in Drexel becoming enrolled at NDSB in the fall of that same year.

It did not take Drexel long to get himself enrolled into NDSB athletics and prove his prowess on the basketball court as one of the top scorers and on the field as a top-notch sprinter and hurdler. Drexel started out joining the Baby Bulldogs basketball team during the 1968-69 school year, and quickly became a top scorer and helped land many wins during the few years that he played for the middle school Bulldogs team. When Drexel got to be old enough to play on the high school team, he proved himself to be a tremendous asset alongside basketball superstar Steven Blehm (NDSB '73). He finished out his high school basketball career with 1,000 career points.

Drexel joined the NDSB track & field team in 1970, showing his track coach Dwight Rafferty that he had strong potential on the field. The 1972 season was when Drexel really began to blossom, consistently placing in the various low hurdle and yard dash events. Aided by Steve Blehm for a while, their consistent placements plus setting record after record at the meets cinched a place for them at state between 1972 to 1976. While Drexel did well for his first time at state in 1972, he did not place. But once again, Coach Rafferty knew Drexel had the potential to succeed at meets in the future. When his team went on to attend the Deaf American Mythical Track & Field meet in 1972, Drexel's 5th place in the 220-yard dash and 5th place in the long jump helped the NDSB team place 11th overall. When Drexel's team competed in the State Class B High School Track meet in the spring of 1975, he became the second sprinter ever in the history of North Dakotan high school track to cinch 1st-place wins in four events (the 100-, 220- and 440-yard dashes as well as the 180-yard low hurdles). The "Deaf American" publication listed Drexel as a top athlete in five events nation-wide for 1975.

By Drexel's senior year 1975-1976, he had already established himself as a superstar athlete. He got the opportunity to compete in the very first Pan-American Games of the Deaf in Venezuela in November of 1975, on a boys' track team that comprised of 10 of the best deaf athletes with Coach Rafferty as head coach of that team. What a wonderful honor for them both! Drexel was involved in a motorcycle crash, but in no way did that prevent him from continuing his track career at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls and ultimately participating in the 13th World Games for the Deaf in Bucharest, Romania, in 1977, in which he snagged a gold medal in the 400 hurdles.

Drexel found much happiness and success in all areas of his life, after college he moved to California. He met and fell in love with Renee Trosin, and they were united in marriage on February 14, 1992. From that marriage became four children: Laura, Elijah, Faith and Joshua. Drexel also held employment at Chardonnay Golf Club, Eagle Vines Golf Club and then Nick's Custom Golf Cars before finally retiring in 2022. One of Drexel's proudest moments in his life was when he and wife Renee became first-time grandparents to Isla.



Being presented with the 1975 Athlete of the Year award at his honor banquet on January 8, 1976. It is the highest honor a North Dakota high school athlete can receive.



Check out that amazing form!



Officially graduating from NDSD, May 21, 1976.



Drexel and Renee as a young couple.



Drexel's family. Front row L-R: daughter Laura (27), mother Josephine (83) and wife Renee (60). Back row L-R: daughter Faith (23), son Elijah (25), Joshua (21) holding his daughter Isla (1). Picture taken after Drexel's funeral service, February '23.



1974 State B track meet. Pictured L-R are NDSD teammates Bobby Balzer, David Keller, Drexel Lawson, Gary Sagstuen and Michael Braun.

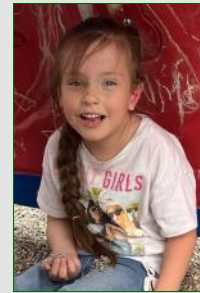


White Horse Hill

Student



Making some noise!



Historic Webster School



We love to read.



Golden birthday celebration!
Twins turned 5 years old on the 5th.



Helping a new preschooler
get the hang of swimming.



We learned plenty about fire safety from Sparky during Fire Safety Week.



Video calls home to loved ones during the week.



Life



Lakeside fun



Roundhouse Park



Sisters video calling their loved ones at home.



We attended the DLHS drama club production of "Elf Jr." at LRSC.



Wang farm near
Graham's Island State Park



Burning off some energy.



Baking lessons



END OF YEAR AWARDS





Patty Cote-3 yrs.



ND Hands & Voices Award Presented to Lana Zimbleman



Cindy Mays-5 yrs.



Timber Schwab, Lindsey Solberg-Herbel & Eric Hoeltl-10 yrs.



Chris Eckes, Michael Loff & Tami Iszler-15 yrs.



Shelly Laverdure -20 yrs.

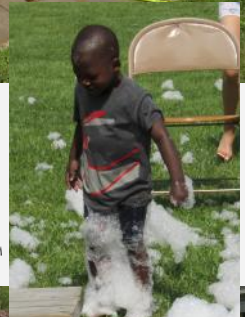


Cindy Schneider & Nancy Trottier-40 yrs.

End of year SHENANIGANS



"Creativity is intelligence having fun."
-Albert Einstein



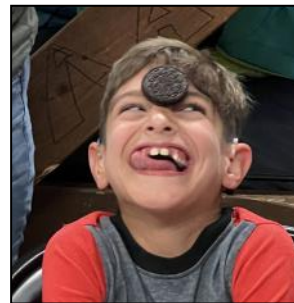
Escape to Camp

The annual summer camp sponsored by the North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center was held this year, June 19-23, 2023, at the Triangle YMCA Camp near Garrison, ND. Experienced and new campers connected with peers with different hearing levels and made friendships that could last a lifetime.

The theme this year was “**Escape to Camp.**” Campers, age 7 years to graduation, spent some of their time solving puzzles to get clues to unlock cases that contained prizes. Campers also enjoyed a variety of typical recreational events such as watersports, climbing the 50 foot tower, target sports, a dance, s’mores and arts and crafts. They also spent an afternoon at the Raging Rivers Waterpark in Mandan.



Back Row: Linda Ehlers (Director), Cindy Mays (counselor), Cody Bice (counselor), Emily Anderson (counselor), Payton Peltier, Jonathan Red Fox, Jake Wilson, Kodee Klefstad, **Middle row:** Paul Cortez, Jr., Blake Zimmerman, Aiyon Thomas, Drayton Bauste, Sophia Schoeder, Bailee Rude, Landon Zimmerman, Hailey Kelfstad (counselor), **Front row:** Theo Turner, Grace Weed, Bailey Hafner, Hunter Landreville, Mila Stockie, Kinleigh Klefstad, Kinley LaFloe, Elizabeth Hoffer and Ashley Martin (counselor).



From the North Dakota State Library NDSD Collection

A few years ago, the [State Library](#) (NDSL) formed a digital collection partnership with its sister agency, the [School for the Deaf](#) (NDSD). The [Digital Initiatives Department](#) at NDSL focused on digitizing the school's newsletters and making them publicly available on Digital Horizons. The *Banner*, the official newsletter of NDSD, was first published in 1891, and it is still published today. This digital collection was called the 'North Dakota School for the Deaf Banner.'

NDSL and NDSD decided to expand their collection partnership. The school has such a rich history, dating back to the 1890s, that it seemed appropriate to include more than just newsletters.

Several updates have been made. First and foremost, the name of the collection was changed. 'Banner' was dropped from the title to reflect a broader name: the 'North Dakota School for the Deaf' collection.

The *Banner* newsletters are still a core part of the collection. All issues of the *Banner* have been uploaded and are text searchable. Other documents, such as the school's trustee minutes and biennial reports, have also been added. Currently, the collection has biennial reports from 1890 to 2019. The collection also has registration ledgers from 1890 to 1933 that include information on the first 600 students who attended the school.

Images make up a large portion of the collection. These images include buildings, classrooms, sports, graduating classes, superintendents, and many more themes relating to the school.

The collection includes newsletters, biennial reports, photographs, videos, objects, and documents relating to NDSD since its inception in the 1890s to the present. Consult the [collection's finding aid](#) to learn more about it and the school, or start exploring the collection by going directly to [Digital Horizons](#).



To view *The North Dakota School for the Deaf Collection*, go to:

<http://digitalhorizonsonline.org/digital/collection/p16921coll12>

North Dakota School for the Deaf

Resource Center

Superintendent	701-665-4410
Information/Adm. Support Services	701-665-4400
Fax	701-665-4409
Adult Outreach Services (call or text)	701-230-8701
Parent-Infant Outreach Services	701-858-3357
Communications/Interpreters	701-665-4400
Library/Resource Center	701-665-4433



<http://www.nd.gov/ndsd/>

If you would like to receive the **Banner** by e-mail, please contact:

Shelly Laverdure

NDSD/RC

1401 College Drive N

Devils Lake, ND 58301

shelly.laverdure@k12.nd.us

1-800-887-2980 or 701-665-4405



Thank you for your help.

**The NDSD Banner
NDSD/RC**

1401 College Drive North
Devils Lake, ND 58301-1596

Phone: 701-665-4400

Fax: 701-665-4409

<http://www.nd.gov/ndsd/>

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