

Tidbits

NDSD/Resource Center

March 19th, 2024 Volume 7-Issue 3



March From Donna's Desk

The first quarter of the calendar year is almost over. Most people have forgotten their New Year's Resolutions, we are in full panic about taxes, and while we don't want to think about it, the end of the school year is almost here. But WAIT! We still have 2 months of school and A LOT can and should happen. We will be focused on continued teaching and learning.

I recently shared our Big Hairy Audacious Goals and our Strategic Plans with the Governor and his team. They were appreciative and impressed with our work across the state and committed to continued support to help us do our work.

We have a new Residential Student Life Director starting April 1, 2024. While I will continue to provide support, Scott Henry will be joining us. Scott is a Deaf adult and is relocating to North Dakota from Washington State. He has worked in Residential Programs before, he has been a Teacher and an Outreach Consultant in other states. He also worked and supervised in various businesses. We look forward to welcoming him and his wife Wendy, who will be working part-time as a Paraeducator in our Education Program.

As of this writing, we have one week of school and then Spring Break. We will see you all again on April 1st for Residential Students and April 2nd for Campus students. Here's to a great final 2 months of learning!



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NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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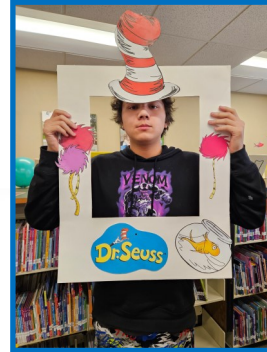
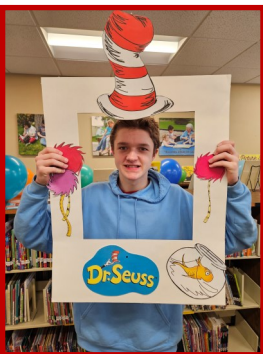
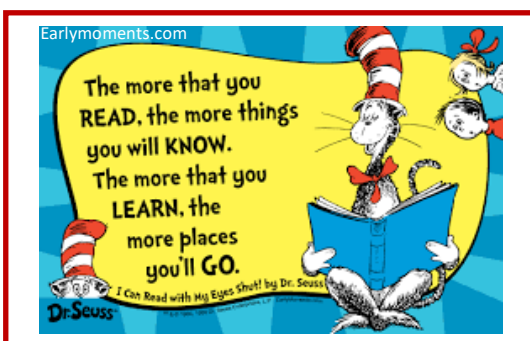
We are on the web:
www.ndsd.nd.gov/
Email: ndsd.school@k12.nd.us



Dr. Seuss Birthday



Pinterest



Dorm Happenings



Cheering on our state champion Firebirds!



Burning off energy.



Movie night in dining room, also enjoyed some pizza and popcorn.



Keeping the sidewalk clean.



Learning shapes.



Birthday fun!



Intense matches going on.



Showing off painting skills.





Safety Tips Playing Online Games

Almost everyone has played or will play an online game at one time or another. But while you're enjoying the thrills of that game are you letting your cybersecurity defenses down.



<https://www.clipartbest.com>

There are some dangers that you may not be aware of. Having fun playing that game could be infecting your computer with a virus or malware, compromising your identity, adding spyware to your device to monitor your activities, possibly adding a phishing email or link that is unknowingly being shared during the game through a chat waiting for you to click on it, and even cyberbullying can take place.

There are a few things you can do to help keep yourself safe and enjoy the game.

- Protect your personal information. Don't give out more than you need to; especially identifying information. Never use your first or last name as your username. If they ask for a photo, use an avatar and never use your actual photo; they don't need to see you!
- Choose reputable gaming platforms and websites. Check out the game from legitimate sources before you download any game.
- Make sure your privacy and security settings are setup.
- Use strong passwords and if possible, use a multi-factor authentication.
- Keep your devices software up to date; set up automatic updates to get the updates as soon as they are released.
- Watch out for hidden charges and if you do have a charge use a credit card over a debt card and always watch for possible potential scams.
- Use a virtual private network (VPN) which gives your computer an untraceable connection.
- If you are bullied, report it.
- Most people don't think of this BUT dispose your gaming devices safely, meaning delete your account details, if you can transfer your games to your new devices and then wipe them out completely.



<https://www.freepik.com/>

Protecting yourself will only add to the enjoyment of playing the online game.

Enjoy and have fun!



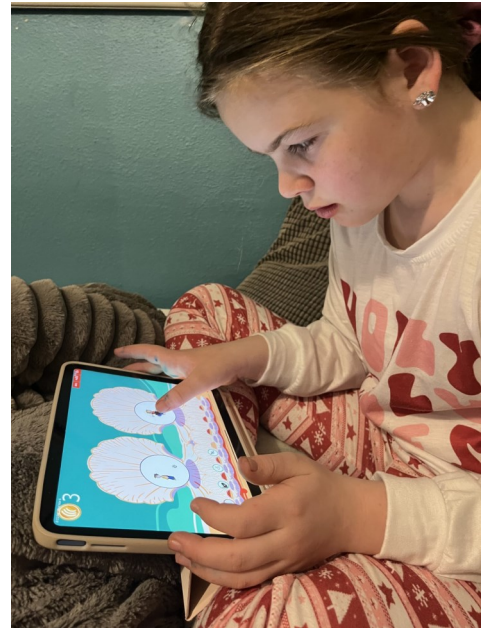
Parent-Infant Program/ School-Age Outreach Specialists (Statewide Services)

Amptify Program offered to school-age students in a pilot program

The North Dakota School for the Deaf School-Age Outreach Department is participating in a 12 week pilot program with Amptify, a digital aural rehabilitation on-line program. Amptify’s program utilizes interactive video games designed to teach strong listening and cognitive skills. They are the world’s first digital therapeutic for hearing loss. North Dakota School for the Deaf has a total of ten school-age participants at NDSD and around the state trying this auditory training program. Each participant does the program for a total of one hour a week working on a variety of auditory skills such as auditory memory, speech perception and listening in noise.

The program was specifically offered through audiology offices and geared towards adults. The Outreach Department contacted the company, asking if this program could be offered to school-age children. Amptify agreed to do a pilot program with North Dakota and quickly adapted some of their programming to better meet the needs of school-age children.

The program offers guidance from a hearing health coach, who is a certified audiologist, trained to support and engage participants. The curriculum contains twelve weeks of motivational quizzes, strategies, real life practice and hearing loss education crafted to improve participants skills. It has video games designed to teach strong listening and cognitive skills through fun, interactive auditory training modules. It also has a managed peer-to-peer environment for participants to interact, receive support, and offer guidance.



“It is super fun and lots of fun games to help you learn how to do things, says Kinleigh Klefstad.

Haley Klefstad, a parent, said that her daughter loves using Amptify! “The games are engaging and target specific receptive skills her audiologist and speech and language pathologist have set as goals for her. Some of her favorite activities focus on hearing/recalling sequences of words and another has her deciphering words with lots of background noise.”

The program started at the end of February and will go through mid-May. After completion, the Outreach team will evaluate the effectiveness of this program with the student-age population.



Upcoming Events:

**Extended Learning Calls
Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. CT**

April 4, 11, 18, 25, and May 9.
Ask Outreach Specialist
for details.

**Family
Understanding & Networking
F.U.N.**
Devils Lake
May 2 & 3, 2023



NDSD Summer Camp

Garrison, ND
June 10-14, 2023



For more information, contact Nicole Swartwout at (701) 857-8681 or nicole.swartwout@k12.nd.us

Do you have a hearing loss and are considering Over the Counter (OTC) Hearing Aids? The Hearing Loss Association of America has created a checklist to help you when selecting an OTC hearing aid.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Hearing Aid Shopping Checklist

✓ **Look for “OTC” on the label**

This new class of products must adhere to new FDA standards.

✓ **Make sure there’s a money back return policy**

It can take 3-4 weeks to adjust to a hearing aid in various settings, to determine if it will work for you.

✓ **Understand the product’s capability and functionality**

**Is it likely to help with the common situations where I have Trouble hearing?
Is the battery rechargeable, and how long will it last?
Does it have Bluetooth or Telecoil connectivity?**

✓ **Know what equipment is needed to operate or adjust the product**

Is a smartphone or computer needed, and am I comfortable doing that?

✓ **Make sure the hearing aid fits comfortably in your ear**

It shouldn’t cause pain, or fall out of your ear

OTC hearing aids are intended for adults with “perceived” mild to moderate hearing loss. Visit hearingloss.org/OTC for more information before you purchase an OTC hearing aid.

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Freeepik.com

Nurses Corner



Covid-19. Four years ago, this was a frequent word throughout all our conversations. Now we occasionally still hear and talk about it but are back to living mostly active, social lives. In March of 2024, the CDC updated COVID-19 guidelines and North Dakota Childcare and School Infectious Disease Exclusion Guidance was updated as well. Isolation period will now remain in effect until the positive individual is fever free for 24 hours and symptoms are mostly improved. If you are feeling sick it is always best practice to stay home. In the past few years the state of ND provided covid-19 tests for use in school and to provide to our staff. However, tests will no longer be available. If testing is needed or if the thought of testing should be completed staff and students will need to look at purchasing or visiting their primary care provider. For more information check out

www.cdc.gov <<http://www.cdc.gov>>

~ Nurse Tracy



What's Happening?

North Dakota School for the Deaf
Summer Camp
June 10-14, 2024
at the Triangle YMCA Camp near Garrison
Look for registration brochure for more details
in the near future.
Any questions, contact Linda Ehlers at Linda.Ehlers@k12.nd.us

NDSD Summer Camp

~ June 10th-14th, 2024

No School
March 25th-April 1st 2024
READY, SET...
SPRING BREAK!

