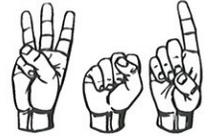




Between Us...



...a monthly communication newsletter with and for our parents.

June 4, 2010 Vol. 28, No. 07

Dates Of Special Interest

June

- 4 Student departure day
- 6 Students return PM
- 10 **9:00 AM Elementary awards**
1:00 PM High School Awards
Senior Picnic
- 11 **9:00 AM Middle School Graduation**
1:00 PM High School Graduation
End of 4th quarter
Student departure day



August

- 31 Registration day for the 2010-2011 school year

September

- 1 First day of school for the 2010-2011 school year



Message from the Director

Alex H. Slappey



Success or Failure? Thoughts on Language

For me personally, I think the ability to use language fluently has been the greatest single factor in my life. I do not believe that any other single factor gave me more capability to succeed than the acquisition of my language.

“Language shapes the way we think, and determines what we can think about.”

Benjamin Lee Whorf

I realize that in having the fortune to learn my language naturally as a child I acquired a strong foundation. Despite the onset of my hearing loss at 6 years old, this foundation allowed me to continue building my fluency in the language.

Despite the fact that I was an indifferent student at best in elementary and high school my ability to use language, especially my ability to read, kept me afloat academically although just barely.

The one single factor that makes deafness a significant condition is that fact that it interferes with spoken language acquisition. English, a spoken language, is intended to be learned via one’s hearing.

ASL is intended to be learned via one’s sight. Pretty much anyone who can see can learn ASL, just like pretty much anyone who can hear can learn English.

The age old arguments about the best way for deaf or hard of hearing children to learn language often bypasses these simple facts. Hearing children are biologically capable of learning spoken English while many deaf children are not.

This is not to say that some deaf and hard of hearing children don't benefit from exposure to spoken language. In many forms they can and do...but they, like every other visually capable child, can also acquire a strong ASL fluency.

The issue which has raged for over 200 years revolves around the question of whether or not they can learn English fluently via their residual hearing. This is obviously an individual question. Some hard of hearing children can learn fluent English aurally with few or no additional supports. Some deaf or hard of hearing children can acquire a certain level of fluency with supports, but perhaps never acquire the level of fluency needed to master English.

Then there are those who cannot learn fluent English aurally. These children require...not need, but require...ASL in order to acquire a language base with which they can learn the skills and knowledge, including the ability to read and write English, needed to be successful.

Yet, since 1880 there has been a camp of people that would have you think the only way for a child to have a chance to learn English requires we ban the acquisition of ASL. None of their arguments really hold up. Study after study has shown the value of ASL for children, yet these well meaning people would have you believe that ASL is the worse thing you can expose your child to.

"To have another language is
to possess a second soul."

Charlemagne

This thinking is driven by the idea that by exposing a young child to ASL will ruin any chance of learning English. If a child starts to use ASL he or she will drop English because ASL is so much easier. Research has long shown the fallacy of this concept, yet it continues to be used as a rationale for barring ASL. These folks use other rationale of course, but like exposure to ASL, these other rationales have no solid foundation and most are based on fear.

These folks are gambling with children's futures. What often happens is that these children spend their formative years struggling with a language they cannot acquire in a fluent manner. They also struggle to develop in all other areas such as social emotional development and academics because they do not have the language foundation needed.

With ASL they would have the potential to develop appropriately in all these areas and to acquire a strong level of English fluency as well. But to achieve this the child must be exposed to ASL from the very earliest. Waiting until the child is in middle school will not do it. Neither will giving limited or no exposure to ASL, while focusing primarily on an oral approach.

The one thing I cannot understand is why would they not give the child both, ASL and English? Why gamble on English alone when by providing both you cover all bets? It's kind of like locking only the back door and expecting that no one will get in. A smart fellow would lock both front and back, thus providing the best chance for success. Why shouldn't we do the same for our deaf and hard of hearing children?

"Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out of which they grow."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

WSD Birthdays



July

- 1 Dakota Bishop
- 3 Shane Tisa
- 9 Gared Gannon
Teagen Laack-Johnson
- 12 Laela Chapin
- 13 Lance Jacoby, Jr.
- 16 Cody Gannon
- 18 Angelica Aslani
- 21 Daniel Orizaba
- 22 Bethany Miles
Kayla Waters
- 24 Genna Menting
- 29 Patrick Jennison
- 30 Leneta Meyers

August

- 3 Katelyn Miller
- 4 Donavin Sweeney
- 7 Chloe Goetsch
- 14 Thomas Benish
- 18 Cayden Rawlings
- 19 Charles Moritz
Dakota Steinmetz
- 28 Cindy Martinez
- 30 Anthony Boles



WIAA - Deerfield Regional (5/24) and Princeton Sectional (5/27)

We attended the WIAA – Deerfield Regional last Monday, May 24. Our athletes performed outstanding and competed in 14 events in the Princeton Sectional despite 99 degree temperatures! Top 4 finishers qualify to the sectionals. It was a good, challenging experience for our athletes. One of our athletes, Senior Patrick Jennison, makes it to the State on June 4-5, 2010. You can find detailed information through www.wiaawi.org.

Deerfield Regional Results:

Sectional Qualifiers:

Lori Eldred (100 Dash, 300 LH, Long Jump)

Ashley Wagner (Discus)

Merrick Frei (100 Dash)

Taylor Koss (400 Dash, 800 Run)

Drymalski, Laux, Morrissey, & Frei (4x100 Relay)

Drymalski, Laux, Castillo, & Koss (4x400 Relay)

Patrick Jennison & Tony Davis (Shotput & Discus)

Jose Castillo (Triple Jump)

2 new school records during the Regional meet:

Lori Eldred - 52.12 (300 LH)

Taylor Koss - 52.94 (400 M Dash)

Princeton Sectional Results:

Patrick Jennsion will go to the State!

1st place - Shotput - 49' 5 1/2"

2nd place - Discus - 145' 0"

New School Records during the Sectional meet:

Lori Eldred 5th place - Long Jump - 15' 8 1/4"

8th place - 300 LH - 51.05

Top 8 finishers earned sectional points:

Taylor Koss 7th place - 400 M Dash - 52.98

7th place - 800 M Run - 2:04.42

Tony Davis 7th place - Discus - 132' 4'

Almost broke school record. Missed by .3 second:

Drymalski, Laux, Castillo, & Koss - 9th place - 4x400 Relay - 3:43.47

(school record - 3:43.17)

Middle School Track

The Middle School Firebird track team completed the track season with numerous school records. The competition was pretty close and lots of fun!

Special Olympics Track

We took a team of 13 athletes to compete at the Southeastern Area Meet at Case High School in Racine. We had a total of 6 - 1st place ribbons, 7 - 2nd place ribbons, and 5 - 3rd place ribbons. The athletes did a great job and displayed good sportsmanship.

Six members of the team qualified to advance to the State Summer Games in Stevens Point on June 10 - 12th. They are: *Anthony Bole, Alvin Horton, Kadedra Jackson, Anthony Jacoby, Nick Johnson, and Chas Moritz.*

We had a very nice surprise at our Special Olympic Area meet last Saturday. Our very own Alvin Horton was selected and honored as the "**Southeastern Area's Male Athlete of the Year**".

He had the honor of being the torch bearer. He carried the torch in the opening ceremony and lit the caldron to officially start to the 2010 Southeastern Area Meet.

-Submitted by Coach Ron Corrigan

**Varsity Football, Volleyball, and Cheer Training Camps
(mid-August 2010)**

Parents, please mark your calendar as the football players report to WSD at 6:00 pm on Sunday, August 15 while volleyball players report at 6:00 pm on Sunday, August 22. Cheerleaders will report on Tuesday, August 31, 2010. You will receive the updated information and forms in the mail later in June. Have a nice summer break with your kid(s).

To All WSD Senior Athletes,

We want to thank you all for giving your athletic skills, leadership, and commitments to the WSD Athletic Department. Without you, we wouldn't have an athletic program. Again, we wish you best of luck in the future.

- WSD Athletic Department

**WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
2010
FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

Monday	August 16	Practice Begins (Boys Report on August 15)		
Friday	August 27	DDHS Scrimmage	Home	2:00
Thursday	September 2	Minnesota Deaf	Away	11:00
Saturday	September 11	Georgia Deaf @ Ohio	Away	11:00
Thursday	September 16	Michigan Deaf	Home	11:00
Saturday	September 25	Mississippi Deaf	Away	2:00
Saturday	October 2	Iowa Deaf	Away	1:45
Thursday	October 7	Ohio Deaf	Home	11:00
Saturday	October 16	Kansas Deaf	Homecoming	2:00
Thursday	October 21	Oklahoma Deaf	Home	1:00

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Monday	August 23	Practice Begins (Girls report on August 22)		
Thursday	August 26	MBA JV (scrimmage)	Away	2:00
Wednesday	September 1	Minnesota Deaf	Away	7:00
Thursday	September 9	Rock County Christian	Away	4:30
Friday	September 10	Ohio Deaf	Away	7:00
		Georgia Deaf	Sat am	9:00
Tuesday	September 14	Waukesha Christian	Away	4:30
Wednesday	September 15	Michigan Deaf	Home	7:00
Thursday	September 16	Mountain Top	Home	4:30
Monday	September 20	Mountain Top	Away	4:30
Thursday	September 23	Union Grove Christian	Home	4:30
Saturday	September 25	Mississippi Deaf	Away	9:00
Tuesday	September 28	Abundant Life	Home	4:30
Saturday	October 2	Iowa Deaf	Away	9:00
Tuesday	October 5	Waukesha Christian	Home	4:30
Fri-Sat	October 8-9	GPSD	Missouri	TBA
Tuesday	October 12	Union Grove Christian	Away	4:30
Thursday	October 14	Abundant Life	Away	4:30
Saturday	October 16	Kansas Deaf	Homecoming	9:00
Tuesday	October 19	Rock County Christian	Home	4:30

**WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOYS' & GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE
2010-2011**

Monday	November 15	Practice Begins		
Thursday	November 18	Norris	Scrimmage	B – 4:00 pm
Tuesday	November 30	Abundant Life	Away	G – 4:30 pm B – 6:00 pm
Thursday	December 2	Union Grove Christian	Home	G – 4:30 pm B – 6:00 pm
Fri-Sat	December 3-4	Neesam Classic	Minnesota	TBA
Thursday	December 9	Kenosha Reuther Norris	Away Away	G – 4:30 pm B – 4:00 pm
Tuesday	December 14	Grace Christian	Home	G – 4:30 pm B – 6:00 pm
Tuesday	January 4	Abundant Life	Home	G – 4:30 pm B – 6:00 pm
Thursday	January 6	Rock County Christian	Away	G – 4:30 pm B – 6:00 pm
Tuesday	January 11	Trinity Academy (Staff Appreciation Night)	Home	G – 4:30 pm B – 6:00 pm
Thursday	January 20	Union Grove Christian	Away	G – 4:30 pm B – 6:00 pm
Tuesday	January 25	Kenosha Reuther Norris	Home Home	G – 4:30 pm B – 6:00 pm
Thurs-Sat	January 27-29	CSSD	Michigan	TBA
Thursday	February 3	Grace Christian	Away	G – 6:00 pm B – 7:30 pm
Tuesday	February 8	Rock County Christian (Senior Night)	Home	G – 4:30 pm B – 6:00 pm
Thurs-Sat	February 10-12	GPSD	Kansas	TBA
Tuesday	February 15	Trinity Academy	Away	G – 4:30 pm B – 6:00 pm

For details, contact Steven Fuerst, Athletic Director at steven.fuerst@wsd.k12.wi.us

**WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
2011
BOYS AND GIRLS
VARSITY TRACK SCHEDULE**

Monday	March 7	Practice begins		
		Spring Break (March 21-25)		
Tuesday	March 29	Clinton	Away	4:30 pm
Tuesday	April 5	Elkhorn Triangular	Away	4:00 pm
Thursday	April 7	Cambridge Invitational	Away	4:00 pm
Saturday	April 9	Wisconsin Indoor Championship	UW -Whitewater	
Tuesday	April 12	DDHS	Away	3:30 pm
Fri-Sat	April 15-16	Berg-Seeger Classic	Minnesota	
Monday	April 18	Deerfield Invitational	Away	4:30 pm
		Monday, April 25 – No school		
Saturday	April 30	GPSD	Oklahoma	
Tuesday	May 3	ITC Track Meet @ DDHS	Home	4:00 pm
Friday	May 13	Borg Invitational	Away	4:00 pm
Tuesday	May 17	WSD Invitational	Home	3:30 pm
Monday	May 23	WIAA – Deerfield Regional	Away	TBA
Thursday	May 26	WIAA – Princeton Sectional	Away	TBA
Fri/Sat	June 3/4	WIAA – State @ La Crosse	Away	TBA

For details, contact Steven Fuerst, Athletic Director at steven.fuerst@wsd.k12.wi.us

What Teens Worry About by: Kate Kelly

Everyone has their stress points, and teens are no exception. Here's what they report makes them worry:

- *What people think of them.* Teens are very concerned that they “select” the right identity. They don't want to be viewed in a negative light (as a “dork,” for example). Unfortunately, dorkhood may encompass many qualities you admire—like making good grades or playing the viola in the school orchestra.

They may also seek peer approval by taking up habits like smoking or drinking.

The stronger a teen's self-esteem, the less prone she will be to tailoring her image to what she thinks her peers want her to be.

- *Grades.* Believe it or not, most teens—even the cut-up who rides along with the C-average—worry about grades. Good grades are a sign of well-being and achievement, and even though teacher approval may not be as cool as peer approval, it does count.

At heart, kids know that a good grade or some type of honorable recognition buys them the legitimacy they so very much want to have. However, the longer they are discounted as possible achievers, the harder it becomes to get them back on track.

Your child may not be a math genius or an authority on the complete works of Dickens, but if he can find a subject or hobby at which he excels, chances are good he'll start doing well elsewhere, too.

- *Lack of time.* Teens, like you and I, are strapped for time. They represent the first of the “over-programmed” generation. (That's what you get for enrolling your kid in dance at age two and karate at age four.) If you didn't teach your kids time management when they were younger, you might want to start now.

Talk to your teen about learning to set priorities and to balance her time. (Maybe you need to conduct a “reality check” on your own schedule, too.) Life holds so many options, but she (and you) can only concentrate on a few at a time.

- *Family difficulties.* Most teens have perfected the art of acting indifferent to their families, but this nonchalant veneer belies how they really feel. If there's trouble at home (whether it's emotional or financial) your teen is keenly aware of it. Take the time to explain and to reassure as much as possible.
- *The future.* From getting into college to finding a job, teens are well aware of the need to make a place for themselves in the world and the competition that they'll meet in trying to get there.

Keep reminding your teen of the things she is good at and how her qualities (intelligence, sensitivity, patience, sociability) and skills (being great with kids, well-organized, or a computer wizard) are of value to the world. Assure your teen that there will be a place for her, though what it is and where it is may be a surprise. Encourage your teen to be open to many possibilities; sometimes the path to the future may not be predictable, but it can still be filled with wonderful opportunities.

<http://life.familyeducation.com/teen/parenting/48429.html?detoured=1>

Excerpted from *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Parenting a Teenager* © 1996 by Kate Kelly. All rights reserved including the right of reproduction in whole or in part in any form. Used by arrangement with **Alpha Books**, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc. To order this book visit [Amazon's](#) web site or call 1-800-253-6476.

Bottle Bomb Warning

Recently it has been reported that teens have been putting a mixture of ordinary household chemicals in plastic soda bottles and leaving them on lawns and such. When disturbed the chemical mixture is agitated and the bottles blow up in about 30 seconds.

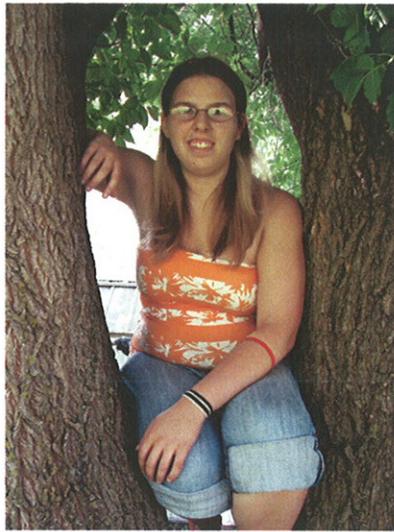
These bombs can cause serious injury. The resulting liquid is scalding hot and the sharp plastic fragments can cause serious harm.

You can verify this at: <http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/bottlebomb.asp>

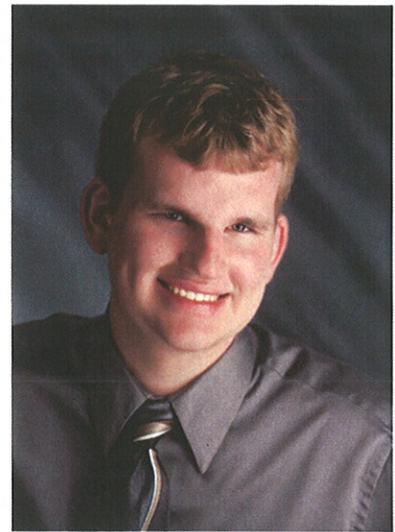
Be alert and have a safe summer.



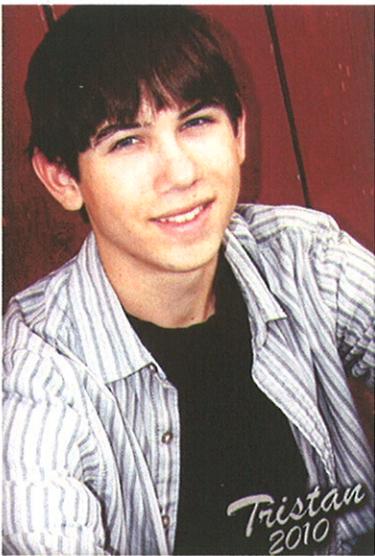
Taylor Banta



Tiffany Besaw-Benz



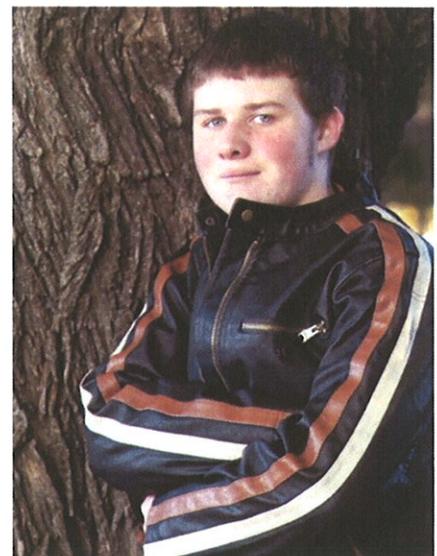
Eli Breaker



Tristan Bolling



Marizol Bravo



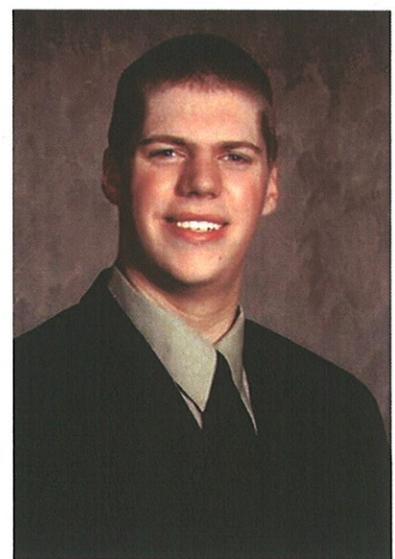
Brandon Edquist



R. Guadalupe Jacuinde-Gaspar



Amber Gammeter



Patrick Jennison



Bethany Miles



Ashley Wagner

Not pictured are:

Paul Drymalski

Shaniquia Felton

Donavan Sweeney

**Congratulations
to the Class of
2010**