

IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOBCAT news

December, 2011/January, 2012

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Nothing is too small

There is no such thing as a donation that is too small. If every American donated \$5 a year to charity, more than \$1.5 billion would be generated for charitable organizations!

The Iowa School for the Deaf Foundation knows little donations add up. See how in this issue!



ISD's Parent/Teacher/Student/Staff Association is enjoying having more families in its membership this school year. The group provided food for the GPSD hospitality room and snacks for the high school NWEA testing. **WANTED: ideas for new PTSSA activities!** E-mail LeeAnn Bradley at lbradley@iowaschoolforthe deaf.org.

Upcoming events

- Dec. 9: Bookstore orders due to ship by Dec. 12
- Dec. 21: Homegoing @ 11:30 a.m. Winter break begins
- Dec. 23: ISD holiday; offices closed
- Dec. 26: ISD holiday; offices closed
- Dec. 30: ISD holiday; offices closed
- Jan. 2: ISD holiday; offices closed
- Jan. 2: Travel day
- Jan. 3: School in session
- Jan. 26: Homegoing @ 11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 27: No school/Snow day
- Jan. 30: Travel day/faculty inservice

Prickett to lead Florida School – Early in November, the Board of Trustees for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in Augustine, Fla. announced Dr. Jeanne Glidden Prickett, will become that school's 17th president. It is anticipated Dr. Prickett will begin her new appointment after the conclusion of ISD's school year.

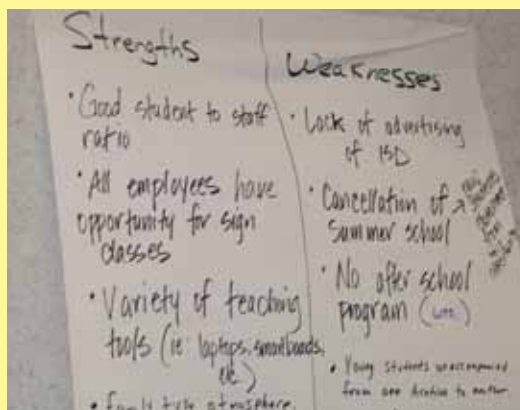
Her future role will enable her to combine nearly 40 years of experience and research in the field of education for children who are deaf/hard of hearing and blind/visually impaired.

"I wish I could take all of you with me," she said when she made the announcement to the Iowa School for the Deaf student body.

When this issue went to press, the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, had not issued a statement regarding the future supervision of Iowa School for the Deaf.



Jeanne Prickett, Ed.D., was ISD's first female superintendent when she started in June, 2003. She will be FSDB's first female president, as well.



What does ISD do well now? What are its opportunities? Non-academic staff broke into teams to discuss and determine ISD's strongest and weakest areas.

outreach and every department of student life. John Cool and Jolene Froehle (student life) organized a morning of interaction and introspect among the school's non-academic staff. Groups rotated to various stations, discussing indicators of three standards for the CEASD accreditation.

The good, the bad and the best

Preparation for re-accreditation is underway at ISD. This spring, every school department will be evaluated by the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and programs for the Deaf, which occurs every five years. This rigorous process, set to occur in spring, 2012, is voluntary and detailed. Whereas the AdvancED team reviewed only ISD's academic program, CEASD will look at grounds, CEASD will look at grounds,

Power to the Paw!

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| Dec. 5 | East Mills, Malvern | 6 p.m. |
| Dec. 9 | Kansas @ MSD | 6 p.m. |
| Dec. 10 | Missouri @ MSD | 6 p.m. |
| Dec. 13 | Nishna JV, here | 6 p.m. |
| Dec. 15 | Heartland, here | 6 p.m. |
| Dec. 19 | Villisca JV, MOVED TO 1/6 | |
| Jan. 5 | Kansas, here | 4 p.m. |
| Jan. 6 | Villisca JV, away | 6 p.m. |
| Jan. 12 | Sidney JV, here | 6 p.m. |
| Jan. 16 | LC Frosh, there | 6 p.m. |
| Jan. 17 | Boystown, here | 6 p.m. |
| Jan. 19 | Underwood, here | 6 p.m. |
| Jan. 23 | TJ Frosh, here | 6 p.m. |
| Jan. 24 | NCL JV, here | 6 p.m. |
| Feb. 2 | Clar. Acad, here | 6 p.m. |
| Feb. 9-11 | GPSD @ Minnesota | |



Honored Students

The Optimists Clubs of Council Bluffs honored middle school youth from around the Council Bluffs Nov. 21 at the annual Youth Appreciation night at Wilson Middle School. The previous week, individual awards had been given out at middle schools. ISD middle school students receiving honors were Elizabeth Van Camp, Austin Gaines, Jamee Keen and Dalton Rosch. All four were also named as outstanding students Nov. 21.

Bending: Gaines; left to right: Keen, Van Camp and Rosch.

Nothing is too small, cont'd.

They add up for big things, like the Lied Multipurpose Complex and the science center. They add up for smaller things, like books for the Accelerated Reader program and college scholarships for seniors.

Regardless of the size of your gift, it will be appreciated and used with your specifications. Donors can designate their gifts through several funds. (ISD employees can give through payroll deduction. Five dollars for each of the 26 pay periods a year would provide \$130 of donations to the ISD Foundation.)

For more information on making a donation in the 2011 tax year, please contact Cindie Angeroth at cangeroth@iowaschoolforthe deaf.org. Thank you for your consideration.



Current ISD Foundation funds include scholarship, museum, Accelerated Reader, science center, Hall of Fame and the general fund.

What's in store for basketball?

It's a brand new court (new installed floor after its destruction by rain this summer), a brand new assistant coach and a brand new season for the boys' and girls' basketball teams. Head coaches Jolene Froehle and Nyle Smith, along with assistant coaches Frank Froehle and newcomer Katrina Landolt, were prepping their athletes weeks in advance of the state's first official practice date. A professional trainer worked with the students on plyometrics and speed drills to beef up their agility and endurance on the court.

The girls' team features Lauren Wellman as the only senior; juniors Cassandra Contreras, Auna Ferguson, Annette Hough, Gabby Humlicek, Marianne Mohr, Johanna Scherling; and freshman Kalynn Coulter. "The communication occurring in practice shows so much growth in their understanding of the game," said Jolene Froehle, in an interview with *The Daily Nonpareil*. "Confidence in their game will be evident this season."

The boys' lineup includes juniors John Isaacson, Brendan Booth, Jacob Bradley, Okola Esbeck and Demarcus Thomas; sophomores Curtis Dobias, DJ Meyer, Elias Perez, Trey Rocco, Kory Wattier; and freshman Cole Gwinn and Marcos Ibarra. *The Daily Nonpareil* article stated most of last year's offense graduated and this is a rebuilding year for the 'Cats. "They're trying real hard and they have a good attitude about things... It's going to be a couple games before we really get rolling and get things together," said Smith.



DJ Meyer (left) and Demarcus Thomas clap after push ups in pre-season agility training.

What is our school culture? *Strategic Plan*



Editor's note: The 2012-2016 Iowa School for the Deaf Strategic Plan was approved by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, this fall. Its contents will be separated into Bobcat issues. The entire plan may be found at iowaschoolforthe deaf.org (click on) About ISD (click on) ISD Strategic Plan.

ISD believes in effective stewardship of resources.

Nine elements define Iowa School for the Deaf's culture (its customs and practices). Five were listed in last month's issue; the other four are:

- Effective communication that informs ISD's constituents of the role, value, and impact of Iowa School for the Deaf for students who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Effective, accountable service to the public through strategic planning and program implementation for Iowa's students who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Effective stewardship of resources
- Recruitment, retention and development of outstanding faculty and staff.

Q: Who donates and how much do they give?*

A: Most Americans, and a generous amount!

- 76% of donations to nonprofits are given by individuals
- 70% of all US households make a charitable donation to an organization
- Median amount contributed per household is \$1,300 to \$2,000 annually
- Education and religion account for nearly 50% of charitable giving
- Households bringing in less than \$60,000 annually are 85% of the donors

Thank you, staff, families, friends and organizations who are already regular donors to the ISD Foundation!

* From www.aafrc.org
Giving USA



What \$20 can do

\$20 (can be broken into four pay periods) will buy two books in Iowa School for the Deaf's Accelerated Reader program. The program is often incentive-based and encourages students to practice reading skills.

Science action



After assembling a remote control clown fish and shark, middle school and high school science students learned about neutral buoyancy, air currents, temperature's effects on gas and the meaning of the words pitch, yaw and roll.

The air swimming fish and shark raced in the hall to put the lessons into practice. High school students "swam" the fish to all the high school classes. Elementary classes used the models to learn how fish move.



Trey Rocco looks at 100 praying mantas that hatched Dec. 1.

Preppin' for Thanksgiving



Preschool students had a hands-on lesson in Thanksgiving food prep. The meal included rolls, green bean casserole and real potatoes. "We liked the taste of the potatoe before it ws cooked and mashed," said preschool teacher Sara Planck. Students also enjoyed using a blender. Clockwise, students are Joshua Lewis, September Eisenauer and Izabelle Schon.



Staff News

Dee Willer (health center) and her husband, Jerry, welcomed their sixth grandchild on Nov. 8. Landon Ahrens Willer was born to Jeremy and Megan Willer weighing 9 pounds and 2 ounces. His big brothers are Jackson and Beckham.

We express our condolences to Keith Miller (housekeeping) whose sister died in late November.

Al Walgenbach (facilities) retired after 15 years at ISD. His last day at ISD was Nov. 30.

Scott Mauch is the new ISD facilities manager. His first day was Dec. 5.

At the Miss Amazing Nebraska pageant held last month, Juli Knoebel (daughter of Geri Knoebel, residential life) won third runner up in her division for talent and was crowned a princess in overall division competition.



Al and Sheryl (spouse) Walgenbach plan to celebrate Al's retirement from ISD with a trip to Hawaii this winter. "Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with my reception," he said. "I appreciated it!"

Native ASL users model through reading

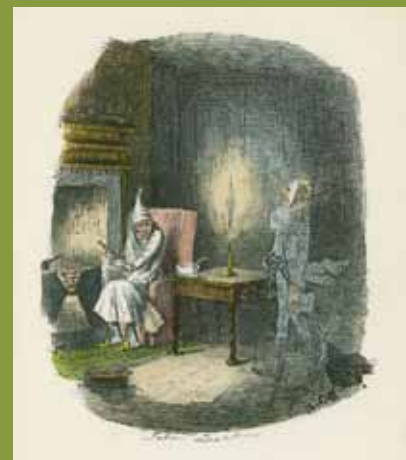
"Students will be amazed and thrilled to see (ASL) modeling used outside of the class, by skilled ASL users," said Rhonda Matthew, ISD middle school teacher, regarding an initiative by the ISD elementary school.

ISD teacher assistants will lend their ASL expertise during one Accelerated Reader session each week.

The experience will demonstrate multiple meaning words as well as use bridging techniques using the Fairview Program. Matthew believes it will reinforce class learning in a real-life setting.

"Another objective of the class is to emphasize the difference in signing levels and different signing styles of the story tellers (readers)," said Matthew.

Before Christmas, Matthew's students will learn *A Christmas Carol* in ASL.



Metals tech update



Lesson in 'lectricity

Metals technology students gained basic wiring experience when they recycled lights from the facilities garage.

Old wiring was removed, and lamp cord was used for re-wiring. Students had hands-on learning with pliers, cutting pliers, Phillips and flat screwdrivers, lamp cord, wire nuts, wire clamps, cleaning product, installing wires and installing bulbs into a fluorescent fixture. "We rehabbed 12 lights and had a 100 percent success rate," said Bob Schulze, ISD metals technology instructor. Hiller electrician Cliff Bradley provided some supplies and explained about ground wires.

It's a car. It's a frog. It's a 'project', anyway DJ Meyer made a frog paperweight from used Chevrolet motor parts. According to

Schulze, Meyer used valves, rocker arms and valve spring retainers for the project.



A book starring me

Jeanette Watson's high school English students are creating some real characters. Unlike characters created in many novels, however, any similarities or likenesses resembling real people is entirely intentional.



Her class paired up with ISD elementary students, learned their interests, and wrote stories featuring the elementary students as the main characters. Watson said this is a great way to apply many concepts about writing—

sentence structure, plots, narratives and other aspects of creative writing.

The elementary students had an assignment, too. They were to draw a picture for the book, ideally of themselves. Dec. 8, the high school and elementary students will meet to present the books for all to see. The elementary students get to keep the book.

ISD youth stack up

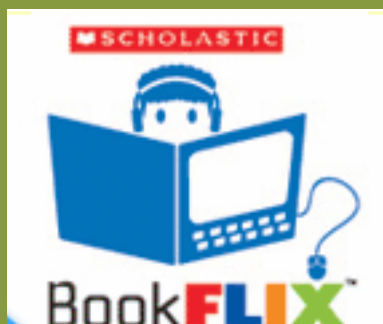
ISD elementary physical education classes again participated in the international Day of Stacking (Nov. 17) in the LMC. Stacking incorporates coordination, speed and crossing the midline. Students timed themselves in an effort to win prizes.

Results: ISD students were part of the 412,000 Speed Stackers who set a new Guinness World Record, "Most People Sport Stacking at Multiple Locations in One Day." And one student was impressed enough to ask his parent to buy him a stacking set.



Teacher Karen Lechner believes ISD was the only participating school for the deaf.

Other phys ed news— Lechner has begun her Bobcat Boot Camp for second through sixth grade students. Seventh and 8th graders are focusing on fitness, weight training and cardio work. She reports her students are anxious for the LMC gym to re-open with the new floor. The classes have voted; dodge ball will be the first game played.



Watch, read and

learn— Scholastic BookFlix is an online literacy resource. It links fact to fiction and reinforces early reading skills. ISD elementary will be using BookFLIX@iowaonline as much as possible to pull in technology and keep the written story in front of the students.



Gory Story

Some nine rooms from the Administration Building's third floor, east wing were decorated with different scary themes this fall. The process took about two weeks, and the haunted house was opened to students living in the dorm on Nov. 1. Staff and students alike put their creative creepiness skills into place to transform an empty wing into a hall of horror!

\$16,000 for Space

ISD teachers Vicki Prigeon and Kristen Newton are on a new mission.

Eight ISD students are determined to attend Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala. this May. They each realize it is a chance of a lifetime. And, they know it does not come without a hefty price tag.



A record eight ISD students will be in orbit if they reach their fundraising goal.

Prigeon and Newton are accustomed to helping two students raise the camp tuition and airline money each year, but with four times as many students going, they are finding it a challenging mission to reach the needed \$16,252, although they have over \$6,000 now. "If we don't have some funds come in during the next couple of weeks, three students likely will not be able to go," said Prigeon.

Money comes from families, student jobs, donations, selling Younkers tickets and working odd events. The group is working to scrape together the down payment for camp as well as purchase airline tickets, both which must be paid for in January.

Can you help send a student to Space Camp? Do you have ideas for fundraisers? If so, contact Prigeon: vprigeon@iowaschoolforthe deaf.org.

Space camp benefits:

- promotes application of math, science and technology skills
- teaches teamwork, decision making and leadership
- camp alumni eventually end up taking more science, chemistry and math classes and are more likely to pursue science careers.

All kinds of donations— Our community cares for us! Several unsolicited donations have recently been generously given to Iowa School for the Deaf:

- Lorimor, Iowa American Legion Auxiliary donated boxed food and toiletries to the girls' dorm.
- University of Nebraska at Omaha's sign language club donated money to the high school drama class for a Flip camera.
- Billy Walker of Louisville, Texas is donating photos of the ISD Class of 1906 he found inside of a trunk near a dumpster.
- Des Moines audiologist Dr. Sandra Hobson is donating 100 cases of hearing aid batteries to the health center.
- The Mary Abbie Siders Allen family (former ISD teacher and alumni Jerry Siders' aunt and alumnae Judith Siders' aunt) donated two \$500 scholarships.

Weather

ISD's severe weather policy follows the lead of Council Bluffs School District. If CBSD closes for inclement weather, all ISD classes will be cancelled. If CBSD has a two-hour delay due to inclement weather, ISD will also pick up local students two hours later.

Early dismissal, however, will be decided on a case-by-case basis and will not necessarily follow what CBSD decides.

On days school is cancelled, dormitory students stay in the dormitory with staff. There will be no instruction that day. No ISD bus routes (local) will run on days school is cancelled.

Classes will be made up.

Where to find school announcements: Call Gayle Ridgway at 712.366.3241 during the work day or tune in to: (television) KETV, KMTV, KPTM, WOWT, KFAB; (radio) 1110 AM, WOW radio, either 590 AM or 94.1 FM.

In January, elementary students will be reading to their peers during Accelerated Reader time. They will read books, lead choral readings and short skits that will involve them taking the printed word and making the necessary changes to tell it in ASL.

It is planned for the readings to be shared with other students in the building.

10 Tips for better family communication this holiday

From families and students at Iowa School for the Deaf

1. Be aware that hearing aids amplify many sounds. Cars, telephones, motors of household appliances are all loud. Eliminate as much background noise as possible.

2. Avoid sitting in front of mirrors or windows. It's harder to read lips and facial expressions.

3. Get the person's attention before you begin communicating. People with hearing loss work hard at understanding and tire easily.

4. Alert the person when you are changing the conversation topic.

5. Conduct only one conversation at a time if in a group.

6. Use close captioning on the television.

7. Keep your hands away from your face. Don't chew while talking.

8. Speak at a normal rate of speed; don't shout. Some frequencies are just amplified by the louder sounds- not clarified.

9. If the person is wearing an aid, try raising the pitch of your voice slightly. If they aren't wearing an aid, try lowering the pitch of your voice slightly.

10. Never say, "It wasn't important," or "I'll tell you later." It may be interpreted as though you don't feel the person is important enough to repeat the conversation.



While hearing people tend to easily talk over each other in a group, those who use sign language are often better at taking turns at conversation.

Congratulations to the ISD Special Olympics team! Ali Janendo placed 3rd; Mike Fick placed 2nd, Steven Johnson placed 5th and Erin Eyer placed 7th.

Remember the new mailbox featured in last month's *Bobcat*? Annette Hough's prototype will stay in the metals shop as an inspiration for others. Students Alyssa Helm and Curtis Dobias have already started their own pieces.

