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IDAHO HANDS & VOICES November 2011

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Idaho Hands & Voices Hosts the First Annual Golf Scramble

by Laura Bainbridge

Margaret Mead, an American cultural anthropologist, once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Recently, Idaho's Chapter of Hands & Voices may have adjusted that statement to read, "Never doubt that a small group of committed parents, a devoted grandmother, and 52 golf enthusiasts can change Idaho Hands & Voices. Indeed it has."

When loving grandmother Jo Mysinger offered to help raise money for Hands and Voices in support of her four year old grandson Oliver who has progressive hearing loss, she piqued the interest of Board Members. Jo, a passionate golfer, suggested Hands & Voices host a golf scramble as a fund raiser. Tara Pichette, mother of Oliver and Idaho Hands & Voices Treasurer, had the skills required to put together a golf scramble as she has organized similar events for her company over the years. But assemble a fund raiser before the weather turns cold and the ground freezes? That gave Idaho Hands & Voices Board Members and participants a little over two months to prepare!

However, never doubt the power of commitment. Jo set to work securing a date for the event (which, of course, did not conflict with the game schedule of the popular Boise State football team), and the ball was rolling! Board members began petitioning family members, friends, and local organizations for financial support. Jo spread the word to her golf buddies to ask for their participation. Raffle items were gathered for an exciting drawing at the end of the scramble. Within two months time, the group had secured sponsorships for all 18 holes as well as several larger donations to make t-shirts for the players. 13 teams committed to playing golf on a beautiful October morning for a fabulous cause. And behind the scenes, friends of Hands & Voices made donations via our website to raise an outstanding profit of \$4500! For several years Idaho Hands & Voices has had a yearly budget of three figures, not four, so this single fund-raiser is going to greatly expand our options for supporting Idaho families.

The scramble was also a success in introducing our community to Hands & Voices. We were able to discuss Hands & Voices on a popular local radio station in promotion of the event. And the 52 golfers who participated in the scramble were enlightened about the support Hands & Voices provides to families around the state. They saw the power of Hands & Voices in action as the kids drew winning tickets for our raffle. Beyond that, it was a day of fun and celebration of what our children have accomplished in their lives. Golfers enjoyed a day of sunshine playing on a great course while the kids cruised around on golf carts to cheer on the players and pose for pictures. Players enjoyed lunch, the winning team received prizes, and many others won an array of raffle items. The 22 donated raffle prizes included everything from a pasta and wine basket to a free one-day rental of a Harley Davidson motorcycle. Two tickets to see Miranda Lambert were among the top cherished raffle prizes as well.

Our first official fund raiser in several years has turned out to be such a success that we already have plans for another scramble next year. After all, our small group of committed parents, grandparents, board members, golfers, and families would not have it any other way.

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Behavior Management for Children with Hearing Loss

by Andrea Amestoy

I was fortunate enough to attend the 3rd Tuesday of the month sessions presented by The Elks this past October. This particular session covered behavior management in children with hearing loss and was presented by a wonderful social worker. As a parent, there can never be too many tools in your tool chest when it comes to raising children.

Numerous nuggets of wisdom were taught throughout the hour long class. One of the take-home pieces that I am going to implement is the "grab bag". First fill a bag with dollar store items. Look at the specific behavior you are trying to modify or eradicate in your child i.e. hitting, potty talk, etc. At bedtime if your child has met that daily goal and has not had potty talk, they get to pick a surprise from the grab bag. Brag about the grab bag and make a big deal out of your child earning this treat and what they grabbed. No looking! The sheer joy of surprise and getting recognized for a job well done will encourage better behavior in the days to come.

Look for upcoming parent education seminars at the Elks Hearing and Balance Center on a wide variety of topics. They are always offered the 3rd Tuesday of every month and vary being held between the Boise or Meridian offices. *See the events calendar for November's Parent Education Seminar--ed.*

UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

(detailed information about many of these events can be found on the calendar on our webpage.)

Deaf Center of Idaho Holiday Bazaar. We plan to be there, Saturday November 5, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, at Rocky Mountain High School, 5450 N Linder Rd, Meridian. We are looking for any homemade arts, crafts, food, etc. our members can donate. Please contact Lorna at (208) 324-7544 or niwri2@msn.com if you have anything (no matter how small) to donate, or can come help work our booth on November 5th. We've recruited Kyle Irwin to do face painting, so bring the kids!

Mini Conference sponsored by Idaho Parents UnLimited November 15 & 16, at the Herrett Center, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls. Tuesday, November 15, 2-6 pm, Advocacy Training for Parents; Wednesday, November 16, 9 am to 3 pm, various topics: Special Education, Dispute Resolution, Transition to adulthood for Youth with Special Health Care Needs, plus interactive roundtable discussions. Free to families, plus a limited number of scholarships to cover travel and lodging are available. Register for one day or both on line at www.ipulidaho.org, email parents@ipulidaho.org, or call 1-800-242-IPUL.

Plus these upcoming IPUL Workshops:

November 9 Monthly Support Group 6 – 8 pm "Working for Change – The Power of a Personal Story" at the Boise Office, 500 South 8th Street

November 18 "Success with an IEP" 4:30-6:30 pm, Panhandle Autism Society, 1323 E. Sherman Ave. Suite E, Coeur d'Alene

November 20 "Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports" 2:00-4:00 pm, DS Connections, 3839 W. Prairie Ave, Hayden

Sign Classes for parents will be offered by IESDB throughout the coming school year, in each region of the state. Contact Paula Mason at Paula.mason@iesdb.org or (208)731-8940 if you are interested.

Starting soon in Region 2: Sign classes will be held on Mondays, from 6 to 7:30 pm at the Lewiston Community Center on the following dates: November 14, 21 and 28; December 5 and 12. Any interested persons or families need to contact Emily Donaldson at 661-9120 or Emily.donaldson@iesdb.org by November 7th.

Elks Parent Education Seminar is on November 15, 6:30 - 7:30 pm at Elks Hearing & Balance Center - downtown, 510 N. 2nd Street. The topic is "Stories for Me!" A hands-on workshop to make personalized experience for teaching language.

Disability Advocacy Day workshops sponsored by Medicaid Matters in Idaho (a grassroots coalition to coordinate statewide advocacy to protect Medicaid services for persons with disabilities) and the Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities are scheduled for various locations around the state on the following Saturdays, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Morning sessions cover basic information about how Medicaid works and the Medicaid Matters campaign; afternoon sessions focus on legislative processes and advocacy. For more information and to register (the workshops are free but seating may be limited) go to www.medicaidmattersinidaho.com, or contact Richelle Tierney at richelle.tierney@mycpid.com or 1-800-850-7511.

Idaho Falls, November 12: Eastern Idaho Technical College, 1600 S 25th, Building #6, Health Care Room 6163 & 6164

Coeur d'Alene, November 19: Harding Center, 411 N 15th St.

Twin Falls, December 3: Herrett Center, College of Southern Idaho.

Boise, December 10: Idaho State Capitol Building, 700 W Jefferson St.

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The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) at the United States Department of Education is coming to Idaho in December to examine the delivery of special education services in our state. Idaho Parents Unlimited is responsible for providing feedback to OSEP from parents in Idaho who have children ages 3-21 who receive preschool services or school age special education services and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) (Part B) **or** from parents who have children under the age of three who receive Infant & Toddler Early Intervention Services and have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) (Part C). IPUL is surveying parents in order to gather feedback about the services their children are receiving; go to their website to access the survey (www.ipulidaho.org), or contact them by phone (1-800-242-IPUL.) November 18 is the last day to participate in the survey.

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Book Review

***Wonderstuck* by Brian Selznick**

The stories of two children unfold in parallel, though separated by fifty years. In 1927, Rose is searching for her mother; in 1977, Ben is searching for the father he never knew. Rose's story is told in pictures; her situation emerges as you study the details in the pictures and read books, articles and written notes along with her. Gradually you realize that Rose is deaf, and communicates by writing to those around her. Ben's story is told in words. He has recently lost his mother, the only parent he's ever known. Deaf in one ear, he suddenly loses the hearing in his other during a thunderstorm.

Both children run away to New York City in their quest; both find their way to the Museum of Natural History, for their stories are intertwined in ways hinted at in the earlier sections of the book, and which become clear at the end, as their stories merge. Neither finds exactly what they set out to find in the beginning, but both find a new place to belong.

Brian Selznick is an illustrator/author who began to experiment with telling a story with both words and pictures with *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, which won the Caldecott medal and is coming out as a movie this fall. *Wonderstruck*, with its two narratives, is a different way of using pictures. The near-absence of words in Rose's story allows you to experience the world as she does, visually.

All those illustrations add up to a hefty tome (more than 600 pages.) However, it is a children's book--or is it? As you read and re-read it, layers of complexity emerge, making it one of those children's books that can be thoroughly enjoyed by an adult reader. For today's children who are deaf or hard of hearing, it's a glimpse into history. For the child who loves museums, drawing, or building things, there's even more.

))))))))) **The Book Nook**)))))))))

A new feature for "Wavelengths"--send us short descriptions of good kids' books for signing, read-aloud, acting out, etc. Which books do your kids like? This issue's selections are from Andrea Amestoy, mother to 4-year-old Ryder.

City Dog, Country Frog by Mo Willems and Jon J Muth: This soul stirring book is a stunning tribute to the endurance of friendship between two unlikely animals and the inevitable facet of change. An exquisite book for children and adults alike that is sure to elicit a tear or two and serves as an ideal starting point for a conversation on loss and change. May we all have remember-ing games in our lives and know that "those were the days, but so are these."

Spoon by Amy Krouse Rosenthal: If the green-eyed monster of jealousy has ever visited your young ones (or yourself), this is a perfect book to read. Spoon is jealous of all the other utensils until he realizes what makes him unique. A book that explores valuing and being thankful for the attributes we each possess.

Drummer Hoff by Barbara Emberly: Bright bold woodcut pictures and rhythmic cadence make this book a standout favorite. This book juxtaposes the concepts of war and peace that adults and an intuitive child will pick up on.

It's Snowing by Olivier Dunrea: With sublime pictures and text that engages all the senses, this book will enthrall every youngster with the enticement of that first snowfall. This book is a curl up by the hearth with a warm mug of cocoa and blanket type of read. Perfect as the days of winter culminate towards the winter solstice.

Slop Goes the Soup: A Noisy Warthog Word Book by Pamela Duncan Edwards: Got onomatopoeia? You will after reading this delightful book! Slither, slop and crash with these nutty warthogs as you build your child's vocabulary with words that imitate the sounds related with the objects and actions they refer to. A great book for acting out with not-so-hot pretend soup. Be inspired and challenged to work with your child to come up with your own list of onomatopoetic words.

Lickety-Split by Robert Heidbreder: This book elevates the merriment of a child's imagination as a young boy describes his adventures to a young girl in this amusing book. Great to read or sign with lots of expression!

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The next issue of *Wavelengths* will appear sometime in mid-January. Please send in stories, book reviews, helpful hints, whatever you have to share. To contact Lorna Irwin (editor) for any reason: niwri2@msn.com or (208) 324-7544. We're still looking for contributions to our series "Fun Stuff to Do with Your Kids."

HELP! Mailing problems... we thought we had the postage, proper folding, etc. all figured out for "The Communicator." This last time a few were delivered or returned with postage due, but not a consistent amount of postage due. We're not sure how extensive the problem was, so let us know if you had to cough up some change in order to get your newsletter. We'll work on the problem.