

The response to our request for articles for this newsletter has been wonderful! That plus a FULL calendar of events for this summer means we won't get it all stuffed into this issue. If you sent in an article and it's not here, be assured it will appear in our next issue, in early July. We'll begin with some great pointers for parents of preschoolers--happy summer reading!

EVERY CHILD READY TO READ

by Andrea Amestoy

I grew up around books. My own mom reads voraciously and has belonged to a Great Books book club for 32 years. My grandmother was also an avid reader, so genetically it runs in the family. This explains why I get excited every time we go to the library! Like the ubiquitous exclamation mark that punctuates the end of the library in Boise, when I pull up in the library parking lot I exclaim out to the kids with enthusiasm, we're at the library! My kids all pull out their cloth bags, eager with anticipation to fill them up with fresh reads. Much like an empty trick or treat bucket just waiting to brim with treats, but much easier on the teeth. We walk through the doors and the prospect of new adventures and fabled stories beckon us.

Ryder and I recently attended a wonderful 5 part series at the Boise Public Library entitled "Every Child Ready to Read". I attended this with my now 7 year old Wyatt and had the pleasure of taking Ryder to it as well. Ryder was born with a hearing loss and will be entering kindergarten this year. A love of language, books and literacy has always been paramount to me. I want to make sure I impart this to my children.

The topics covered in the class were print motivation, print awareness, phonological awareness, vocabulary and narrative skills. Now, every child ready to read is more about helping children to get ready to read before they start school and not pushing kids to read before they are developmentally ready. No need to update one's Facebook status with "my 6 year old just finished War and Peace."

Children who develop these essential pre-reading skills before kindergarten will have an advantage of being able to focus on learning to read versus having to learn essential pre-reading skills. This ensures a strong foundation on which to build throughout their school years.

The following is a summary of what was covered in Every Child Ready to Read series:

1. Print motivation is the enjoyment of books and reading. Being familiar with printed language helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful. Things to try at home include making book sharing fun, letting your child see you reading (haven't mastered this one yet as my 19 month old would rip it out of my hands), letting your child pick out books and visiting your library for lots of fun books!
2. Print awareness is being familiar with printed language. This helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful. Things to try at home include pointing to words, letting your child write notes, lists, etc., letting your child hold books and turn pages and pointing out signs in the environment.
3. Phonological awareness is the ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words, like hearing rhyming words and being able to clap syllables or parts of words. Researchers know this is an important skill when children start to sound out words. Things to try at home include clapping syllables of words, singing songs, playing rhyming word games and saying nursery rhymes.
4. Vocabulary is knowing the names of things. The more words children hear and understand, the more ready they will be to read on their own. Books offer vocabulary that conversation, television, and computer games do not. Things to try at home include talking to your child, using big words, reading to your child every day and explaining new words.

5. Narrative skills are the expressive part of language, being able to describe things, to tell what happened, to retell stories. This skill helps children later understand what they read. Things to try at home include retelling stories, asking questions, talking about things and being a patient listener.

So...get excited about books! Let your enthusiasm about learning, knowledge, reading and the library pour out on your children! Take your kids to the library in your home town or even when on vacation. I can proudly say my children and I popped into a story time at the Baker City, Oregon library when we were there for Spring break (long story) and also the McCall library. It is exciting to check out libraries in various locales. Each has their own flavor and ambience.

Ed. Note: The Every Child Ready to Read program is a national project of the American Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children, and is supported by the Idaho Commission for Libraries. Chances are that a library near you will be offering this--ask! Also see www.everychildreadytoread.org.

SAWTOOTH CAMP IS BACK!

The IESDB Summer Camp for students who are deaf or hard of hearing has been brought back to life by the *generous donation given by the Olive Osmond Perpetual Hearing Fund*. (see M. A. D. Marathon in the Events Calendar) Hosted by the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind, Sawtooth Camp is recreational in nature and offers a unique opportunity for deaf and hard of hearing children to share adventures while developing lifetime friendships. This camp provides quality experiences for personal growth in areas of responsibility, leadership, and independence, while boosting self-esteem and confidence. The campers will participate in a variety of experiences like hiking, white water rafting, canoeing, and many other activities that will create life long memories and friendships. Sawtooth Camp will be held June 20th to June 23rd in Stanley Idaho. For more information, contact Paula Mason at 208-934-4457 or paula.mason@iesdb.org.

IESDB would like to thank the Osmond Family and the Olive Osmond Perpetual Hearing Fund for bringing this camp experience back to its students throughout the state of Idaho.

IESDB FOUNDATION NEWS

Scholarship recipient: The Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind Foundation proudly presents Ariel Martinez as the 2012 IESDB Foundation Scholarship. Ariel was awarded a \$500 scholarship that he will use at the College of Southern Idaho this fall. Ariel is a senior at Teton High School in Victor, Idaho. He plans to attend the College of Southern Idaho to earn his associates degree in Engineering. Once he earns his degree from CSI he plans to transfer to a university to earn a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Pay It Forward: Months ago, Chelsea Newberry, 2005 graduate of Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind, took a step out of her comfort zone and entered a competition. She soon found herself representing the state of Idaho as Miss Deaf Idaho and on her way to a national competition at National Association of the Deaf (NAD) in Louisville, Kentucky with twenty some other young women. The first week of July, she will take the stage in an event that could change her path for the next two years.

Chelsea Newberry's competition platform is, "*Successes and Failures: ReDo*," a topic that reveals her post-secondary experiences with failures that blossomed into successes, because she chose to "redo." Her talent is "*Magical Qualities*," a performance that will demonstrate the different characteristics of the four Houses in the Harry Potter book series which are courage (Gryffindor), patience (Hufflepuff), wisdom (Ravenclaw), and ambition (Slytherin). These characteristics represent the feelings a person goes through with successes and failures: courage to try again; patience to keep on chugging when things do not go as planned; wisdom to not to make the same error; and ambition to finish what they started.

To send a representative from Idaho, the Miss Deaf Idaho organization needed support from the community. Chelsea decided to approach the Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind (IESDB) Foundation with a proposal. The Foundation was impressed with her ideas and the board stepped up, providing a "Pay It Forward" scholarship to support alumni to 'pay it forward' to the current student body at IESDB. IESDB Foundation awarded our Miss Deaf Idaho \$500 to support Chelsea's efforts to make the

Idaho's representation a reality at NAD conference. In exchange, she will "pay it forward" in partnership with the IESDB Transition Program. Creating and posting a blog of her "ReDo" experiences and her experiences at Gallaudet University, Chelsea will share directly with other deaf and hard of hearing youth her experiences at college and in the community at large and do face-to-face workshops with the student body at IESDB related to transition when she is back home.

IESDB and Miss Deaf Idaho will pay it forward together. We welcome others who would like to be part of this partnership. Would you like to pay it forward to enhance the lives of Idahoans who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing? Contact Katie Avery, IESDB Foundation Developmental Director at 208-861-6430 or donation@foundation.iesdb.org.

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UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

(detailed information about many of these events can be found on the calendar on our webpage; also check the calendar for events that may not be publicized yet.)

National Hands & Voices Leadership Conference June 22-24, Hood River, Oregon. We plan to carpool to this very valuable conference. Details are available at www.handsandvoices.org; if you want to come, let us know ASAP!

M. A. D. (Making A Difference) Marathon July 28 in Idaho Falls, to benefit the Olive Osmond Perpetual Hearing Fund (OOPHF) and the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind. There are races of several different lengths, and fun runs for kids. Go to www.madrunseries.com/idahofalls to sign up to run (a couple of our board members already have!), to volunteer, or just send in a donation, and to learn more about the OOPHF. *Shannon Garlitz recently announced the formation of the unofficial Idaho Hands & Voices Running Club. She and Diana Collins are the first members, having both signed up for this event. Anyone want to join them? No dues, goals, or mission statement... maybe T-shirts?*

Idaho Hands & Voices Second Annual Golf Scramble October 6 in Boise, at the Boise Ranch Golf course. More information is on our web site. Don't play golf? We can use your help anyway! Find a sponsor, donate a raffle item, come spend a morning in person at the registration or raffle table. We're hoping for a repeat of our very successful 2011 Scramble, in order to fund still more programs of interest to our membership.

College of Southern Idaho "College Transitions for Students and Parents of Students with Disabilities" class, Wednesdays 6:00 - 8:00 pm, May 9, 16, 23 and 30, at the CSI Community Education Center in Twin Falls. Course fee \$45. Call 732-6442 for more information, or go to www.csi.edu "Community Education."

ISU Language Preschools at the Idaho State University Speech and Hearing Clinic in Meridian, Idaho. Summer Communication Preschool (ages 3 yrs-5 yrs with communication as a focus) or Summer TELL Group (ages 18 months to 3 years with hearing impairment or cochlear implant) July 9 to August 1. Read Andrea Amestoy's article about TELL ("Go TELL it on the Mountain") on our website or in your January newsletter. For more information call Cally Stone 373-1723, ISU Clinic Coordinator.

Keys to Accessing the Power of Work, an all-day FREE seminar hosted by Idaho Parents Unlimited, Disability Rights Idaho and the State Independent Living Council, May 12 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, lunch provided. For youth transitioning to adulthood and their parents, and individuals with disabilities looking for information about employment and how it affects cash and health benefits. At the IPUL offices, 500 South 8th Street, Boise. More information and registration forms can be accessed at www.ipulidaho.org. Also check this page for information about IPUL's monthly support group meetings, the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at their Boise offices.

Elks Hearing & Balance Center Parent Education Series held at their Boise clinic at 510 N 2nd Street, Suite 201, 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Please RSVP to 489-4999. Interpreters will be provided upon request.

Tuesday, May 15 Clocks, Alarms and Phones, Oh My! This workshop will feature a hands-on demonstration of devices to help make your home safe for your child with hearing loss. Presented by: Steven Snow, Executive Director of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Tuesday, June 19 Remote Control of your CI with the N5 system This workshop will provide hands-on instruction in how to use the Cochlear Remote Assistant to troubleshoot your child's cochlear implant. Presented by: Karrie Pargman, Au.D.

Treasure Valley DHH Summer Play Group For more information, contact: Jill Muir 914-3728/jill.muir@iesdb.org or Esther Brune 284-2912(text) or ruthbrune05@gmail.com.

Wednesday, June 6: Zoo Boise 9:45am-12:00pm. Meet at the front entrance at 9:45. School discount is \$2.50, ages 4 and up. (3 and under free) If you want the discount please be there by 10:00 and bring exact change. We must pay and enter as a group!

Wednesday June 20: Settler's Park, 10:00-12:00, 245 N. Meridian Rd., Meridian. Splash park, playground and bring your own picnic!

Tuesday July 3: MK Nature Center & Municipal Park, 10:00 am-12:00pm, 600 S. Walnut, Boise. Meet at the entrance to the Nature Center building at 10:00. We'll see the animals inside, then do the nature walk outside. After we're done we can picnic and play in Municipal Park.

Wednesday July 25: Discovery Center, 10:00am-12:00pm, 131 Myrtle St. Boise. We will receive the group discount, \$3.00 for ages 4-17, adults and kids under 4 free. Tell them you are with the DHH play group.

Wednesday Aug. 8: Jabbers, 10:00am-12:00pm, 1210 N. Galleria Dr. Nampa. Play center at Nampa Gateway shopping center. Owner Linda Rutledge worked at ISDB. We can get a group discount of \$5.00 for ages 4 and up, \$4.00 ages 3 and under, adults free.

Idaho Shakespeare Festival Interpreted Performances Call the box office at 208-336-9221 for tickets and let them know that you will have a person who is deaf or hard of hearing in your party. The amphitheater is at 5657 Warm Springs Avenue in Boise. Performances begin at 8:00, with a Greenshow starting at 7:30 June-August; the September performances start at 7:30 with no Greenshow. For more information about the individual plays, go to www.idahoshakespeare.org. Videos with ASL synopses of the plays and more are also available; look under "Education." Interpreted performances are: Romeo and Juliet, June 26; The Mousetrap, July 17; The Imaginary Invalid, July 25; The Winter's Tale, August 14; Noises Off, September 12.

Family Days in the Park with Idaho Hands & Voices (Treasure Valley.) Bring the kids, visit with other parents while they play. Starbuck's coffee provided! 10:00 am until noon on Saturdays: May 12, Elm Grove Park at 23rd and Irene, Boise; June 9, Guerber Park (splash park), 2200 East Hill Rd, Eagle; July 14: The new splash park in Meridian, at Fairview and Eagle Rd; August 11, location TBA.

Magic Valley Hands & Voices has a few activities planned. Please RSVP to Beth at 961-1782!

Friday & Saturday June 8-9, family camp-out at Magic Reservoir, weather permitting. We envision an informal gathering, possible meal-sharing and canoeing/kayaking/fishing/marshmallow roasting. Bring your tent/RV and camping gear. Further arrangements pending--RSVPs important for this one, though they can come at the last minute.

Saturday July 14 at Nat Soo Pah hot springs east of Hollister. We've reserved a picnic shelter for 11:00 am and will subsidize swimming passes for members of H&V (your cost \$2 for children ages 1-5, \$3 for older children and adults.) Bring your own picnic and a goody to share; there is also food available for purchase at the resort.

Saturday August 25, our traditional potluck supper at Story Book Park in Burley. We'll supply the chicken and beverage and table service, you bring a side dish or dessert.

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That was different! We still have two articles left over for July. But don't feel shy about sending in more! Also remember to send in your membership renewal, whether paid or scholarship, to insure that you continue to receive the national newsletter.