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*Summer vacation will be here before we know it, and in this issue we've some suggestions for keeping kids happy and busy, and just possibly learning something. Holly Thomas-Mowery sent us an article describing summer camps her son has attended, and we've also gathered some suggestions for kids staying closer to home.*

*It's also not too early to think about coming to the Idaho Hands & Voices second annual Family Camp!*

## Family Camp "Save the Date"

by Alyssa Frahm

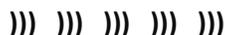
We are extremely excited to announce that our 2nd Family Camp is scheduled for September 5-7, 2014. Last year's camp was a great success! We had a wonderful time meeting and connecting with other families from all over the state, learned new information from our speakers and enjoyed family play time on the lake. If you did not get the opportunity to join us last year I encourage you to make it a priority this year. The camp is on a gorgeous setting at Payette Lake near McCall with so many great activities to do while at camp. Check out the camp's website, <http://www.paradise.episcopalidaho.org/>. Here is a list of just a few things we will do, to get you excited: beach swimming with life guards on duty, canoeing, kayaking, WIBIT (a water obstacle course), archery, ceramics, high and low ropes course, campfires, and more. Your family will stay in a private cabin with shared showers. You will be served 6 meals that will make you feel like you are at home and not at a camp. I promise you that you will get your money's worth and make priceless lifetime connections with other families. Registration information will be out soon!

## Camp Fundraising Activities

**Idaho Gives** is a state-wide online 24-hour fundraising "party" (with prizes) sponsored by the Idaho Nonprofit Center. We'll be participating this year; go to [www.idahogives.org](http://www.idahogives.org) to learn more about the event. You can schedule a donation in advance or join the fun on May 1. We're working on our page for this and it should go up soon; we hope to raise funds so that we can offer even more camp scholarships for families.

**Idaho Hands & Voices Cook Book:** We'd like both recipes and pictures from families around the state! Please help us make this happen by sending stuff to our post office box or email address (at the head of this newsletter.) We haven't had much response yet, so if you're considering sending something, do it soon or let us know that you plan to.

**Golf Scramble:** This has been our biggest and best source of funds, and we've scheduled this year's scramble for September 20 at the Boise Ranch Golf Club. More information will be coming, but if you know someone who'd be interested, or know of a business or organization that would like to sponsor it (sponsorships are available at all levels, including raffle item donations), spread the word. Proceeds from this will go towards family camp and other activities for 2015!



## New Free Online Resource

*Raising and Educating Deaf Children: Foundations for Policy, Practice, and Outcomes* is a new website featuring free quarterly online bulletins covering the policy and practice of raising and educating deaf children. Presented in association with the *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, and with the website [www.raisingdeafchildren.org](http://www.raisingdeafchildren.org), with the generous support of the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund and the CVS Caremark Charitable Trust, the first set of eBulletins is now live at [www.raisingandeducatingdeafchildren.org](http://www.raisingandeducatingdeafchildren.org).

"For more than 200 years, the raising and educating of deaf youth frequently has been governed by what people think should be true rather than what the evidence indicates leads to optimal outcomes. But we now know that there is no 'one-size-that-fits-all.' This site is aimed at providing objective, evidence-based information to help parents, practitioners, and policymakers with decision-making and thus offer deaf children the greatest opportunities for personal, social, and academic success."

– Dr. Marc Marschark and Dr. Louis Abbate, editors

*Raising and Educating Deaf Children* is intended to provide timely and useful information for anyone concerned with the care and education of deaf children. In addition to quarterly eBulletins, the site provides a recommended reading list and links to useful resources. By making information freely accessible, the site is meant to provide stakeholders with the tools they need to work toward optimizing opportunities – and futures – for deaf children.

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## Upcoming Events

*A couple of items here are coming up next week! Because we only publish the newsletter every other month, we can't get all events to you well in advance. What we do try to do is post anything we find out about on our Facebook page-- this is far faster and easier than trying to get events onto the calendar on our webpage. So, if you use Facebook, "like" us to get breaking news.*

**Magic Valley Hands & Voices** is having another "gardening party" Saturday, March 15 at the Jerome Library, 100 1st Avenue East, Jerome. Plus we've invited Paula Mason (IESDB Outreach Director and former Transition Specialist at CSI for IESDB) to come talk to us about transition services—what's available, and how you can help your child NOW to prepare for a successful life after high school, no matter what his or her current age! We're doing this "open house" style, so drop by between 1:00 and 4:00 pm for crafts, games, refreshments, and a chance to visit with Paula. If you can help us plan by letting us know you're coming, please contact Lorna at 324-7544 or niwir2@msn.com.

**Idaho Parents Unlimited Webinars** will be offered the 4th Tuesday of each month, at three different times of the day. You can just listen in, or join the discussion and ask questions, all from your home computer. The March 25th topic is "From IFSP to IEP: Early Childhood Transition" Prepare for transition from an Individualized Family Service Plan to an Individualized Education Plan at age three and learn the differences between the two plans. Pick the time that works best for you and click on the link to register:

10:00 - 11:00 am <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/341343190>

1:00 - 2:00 pm <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/753675518>

6:00 - 7:00 pm <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/763219766>

**Parent Education Series:** Elks Hearing & Balance Center monthly workshops for parents, teachers and care providers of children with hearing loss are held on Tuesday evenings, 6:30-7:30. Please RSVP to 489-4999; interpreters available on request. Topics for March and April:

March 11, Elks Rehab Hospital, Caribou Conference Room, 4th Floor, "Genetics of Hearing Loss: Syndromic vs. Non-syndromic" A professional perspective from Brittney Lynn Knyszek, certified genetic counselor, and a personal perspective from Andrea Amestoy, mother of two children with hearing loss.

April 22, St Luke's Meridian Medical Center, Paiute Room, Lower Level, "Vocabulary Development in Children with Hearing Loss: Bridging the Gap" presented by Janna Dunagan, preschool teacher at IESDB's Listening and spoken Language program at River Valley Elementary in Meridian, and Susie Jones, a speech-language pathologist who specializes in aural rehabilitation and communication delays related to hearing loss.

**Literacy and Evidence-Based Practices in Deaf Education: What We Know and We Suspect** --IESDB is hosting this webinar (supported by the Idaho Training Clearinghouse) March 13, 2014; 3:00-4:00 PST / 4:00-5:00 MST. The webinar, presented by Jessica Trussel, a doctoral candidate in Deaf education at Georgia State University, will review the key predictors of reading success, the evidence-based practices in literacy instruction and the current standing of DHH readers. Also, this presentation will provide educators with a strategy to aid them in determining the efficacy of an instructional practice in the absence of existing evidence. More information is available at <http://www.idahotc.com/iesdb/TrainingsWebinars.aspx>; the link to attend is <http://uicdhd.adobeconnect.com/metis1>.

**Easter Egg Hunt** with a special visit from the signing Easter Bunny, sponsored by Deaf Center of Idaho--free for the whole family, Saturday, April 19 at 10:30 am, at Storey Park, 205 E. Franklin Rd, Meridian. If you would like to volunteer or donate to this event, contact Tara Adams at [aslexpressions@yahoo.com](mailto:aslexpressions@yahoo.com).

**Sawtooth Deaf Camp** sponsored by IESDB June 20-22, near Stanley, Idaho. This is Idaho's only camp specifically for children with hearing loss, open to middle school age kids (and an occasional very mature upper elementary age child.) Contact Charles Hunter at [charles.hunter@iesdb.org](mailto:charles.hunter@iesdb.org) to learn more.

**Broadway's *Wicked*** - Want to attend *Wicked* at the Morrison Center and have access to select seating for people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing? There are still seats available in the Deaf/Hard of Hearing reserved section on April 26th for the 2:00 pm matinee. This performance will be interpreted into ASL, and even if your family isn't a signing family, these seats are optimal for best viewing and understandability of the dialogue. The surrounding seats are selling to the general public for \$160 each. If you contact Debbie Eidson at [deborahaidson@boisestate.edu](mailto:deborahaidson@boisestate.edu) and ask to seat your party in the DHH section, the seats are only \$90 each. All 18 DHH reserved seats at the 4/19 show sold out, so the Morrison Center added the 4/26 date for additional access. Yippee! This show is family friendly, and is mind-blowingly amazing.

**Idaho Shakespeare Festival** - Excited about Signing Shakespeare again this year? Call the box office at 208-336-9221 and request seats in the Deaf/Hard of Hearing section on nights below for great seats at a huge discounts for your party! These particular performances are interpreted into American Sign Language. Whether you are a signing family or not, these are optimal seats for up-close understandability of dialogue. While Signing Shakespeare started out as a "signing" set of annual events, it has been embraced by a wider Deaf/Hard of Hearing audience, and welcomes families with cochlear implants, and families who communicate orally.

*As You Like It* - Wednesday, June 11th (for all ages)

*Death Trap* - Tuesday, July 16th (for all ages)

*Les Miserables* - Tuesday, August 5th (for all ages)

*Merry Wives of Windsor* - Tuesday, August 19th (for all ages)

*Steel Magnolias* - Wednesday, September 10th (for ages 14 and up)

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Two months ago, we asked about summer activities for kids. How do you keep a child physically, socially and academically active over the summer? One answer is "send him to camp"--there are several camps and summer programs specifically for children with hearing loss around the country. Some are traditional summer camps, some focus on a sport, the arts, or other special interests. Some welcome kids who communicate in various ways, others may focus on a particular communication modality or use of hearing technology. Some are for kids only, some are for the entire family. All give kids a chance to meet new friends, and possibly learn things. Holly-Thomas Mowery sent us the following article:

### **Jordan's Camp Experiences**

by Holly Thomas-Mowery

My son has been attending Camp Taloali in Stayton, Oregon most summers since he was five. He's now 12, and is excited as ever to go this year. Camp Taloali is unique in that Deaf or Hard of Hearing kids AND their siblings AND kids with Deaf parents attend together. Cost of camp is \$400 per child, with the family paying or fundraising \$300 of that amount (the remaining \$100 is donated I believe through the Lions Club). The website is [www.taloali.org](http://www.taloali.org). Another nifty piece of this camp is that kids from Idaho can fly to and from Camp Taloali via the volunteer pilots' association, Angel Flight West. This has been one of my boys' favorite parts of camp - flying over and back in a pilot's personal plane. This camp supports kids who are fluent signers and those who are new to signing. As an aside, Jordan both speaks and signs, and this camp supports kids who using their speaking voices, too.

Camp Mark Seven in Old Forge, New York is Jordan's other favorite camp. Located upstate in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains, this camp is an absolutely amazing experience. Jordan has attended the Deaf Children's camp as he's not yet old enough to attend one of their specialty camps. Their website is [www.campmark7.org](http://www.campmark7.org). Deaf Film Camp is highlighted in this great OneRepublic video at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K\\_VMq6vTPzo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_VMq6vTPzo), which was produced at Camp Mark 7 Film Camp for 13-18 year olds. Jordan plans to attend film camp next year. Jordan flies as an unaccompanied minor to this camp, and we pay the additional fee for airline staff to escort him gate to gate.

Sawtooth Deaf Camp is run by the Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind, and this summer the dates have just been confirmed (see events calendar above.) Jordan attended this camp once and had a great time. Last year it was canceled due to funding.

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### Just The Ticket

by Lorna Irwin

Sometimes, the right summer program at the right time can change your child's life. Eighteen years ago, a professional at ISDB told us about a five-week math and science program for deaf and hard of hearing teens at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Nebraska. Actually, it was four weeks of math and science plus a week of drama workshop, meaning it was practically designed for our daughter Mavis. Lately I've been thinking back to the change we saw in her when she came home, full of confidence in her ability to pursue a career in the sciences and ready to tackle (with enthusiasm!) the challenges that lay ahead. She's just now completing her PhD in Physiology, and I have to hand Boys Town a good share of the credit, and thank the person who told us about the program, because we might never have known about it otherwise.

Unfortunately, that particular program was funded by a research grant and had a limited run. However, new programs crop up all the time; if you have a child with a particular passion, the INTERNET is now available to help you search for just the right "fit" to encourage and inspire! There seems to be no one site that lists ALL the programs available (and some listings may be out of date or inaccurate), but here are a few to check out:

[http://www.gallaudet.edu/clerc\\_center/information\\_and\\_resources/info\\_to\\_go/resources/summer\\_camps.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/clerc_center/information_and_resources/info_to_go/resources/summer_camps.html)

<http://www.listeningandspokenlanguage.org/SummerCampsListing/>

<http://raisingdeafkids.org/growingup/camp.php> (a list of places to search)

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There are many, many other opportunities closer to home. The same extra activities that can make life stressful during the school year can be more than welcome during the summer. Here are a few possibilities to check out in your area: Youth groups such as scouts and 4-H; summer classes and other activities offered by a local college or museum; community recreation district activities (think T-ball, softball, baseball, swim lessons and swim team, the best way to turn your swim lesson graduate into a *real* swimmer.) Almost every library has a summer reading program for kids. Your church may offer a summer program. For an older child, a summer job or volunteer position can help him learn valuable skills (and get him out of bed before noon.) You may need to educate, advocate or even arrange for accessibility, depending on your child's communication needs, the activity, and the sponsoring organization.

We'll be listing dates for play groups and other activities in our May issue, and encourage you to send in information about any summer opportunities you know of in your area! Please send material about summer programs and activities or anything else (we welcome book and product reviews, helpful hints, personal stories, amusing anecdotes, links to resources, etc.) to Lorna Irwin at [niwri2@msn.com](mailto:niwri2@msn.com). She can't do this newsletter without you!

*Thanks to everyone who sent in a membership renewal. If you haven't, and want to make sure you don't miss the Spring "Communicator," send it in soon. Check your "Communicator" label if you're unsure when your membership expires--if it reads 2014 or later, your membership is still active.*

Editor's note: One more short article is coming, a report on the recent tubing activity in the Treasure Valley. I've decided to go ahead and send the snail mail edition now, so it has a fighting chance of arriving at your house before all the three events scheduled for next week are history. Most of you also get the email edition, or should, so the article may be there.