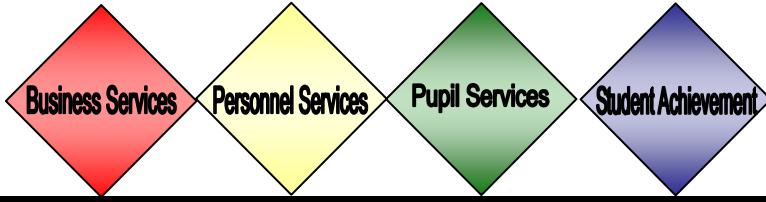




School District of New London

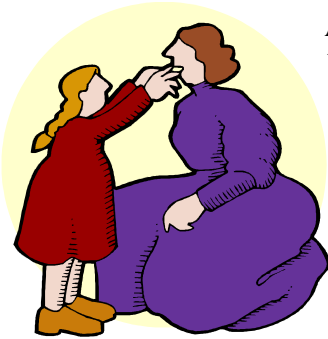
DIVISION



MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Ann Christopherson
Division: Pupil Services
Date: October 2010

Deafblind Trainer Series 2010-2011



A Deafblind Trainer is a trained professional who works one-on-one with a child who is deafblind to provide critical connections to other people and the environment. The trainer opens channels of communication between the child and others,

provides access to information, and facilitates opportunities for learning and the development of independence, often hard to achieve with the deafblind population.

Deafblindness creates very unique and complex challenges caused by the combined effect of both vision and hearing loss. These challenges are mainly in the area of communication, concept development and social and emotional development. A Deafblind Trainer responds to these challenges by serving as a bridge to the world for the child who is deafblind.

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Deafblind Technical Assistance Project (WDBTAP), Danielle Kamba, Jill Spencer, and Lisa Griffin have committed to six weekends of training for the Deafblind in October, November, January, February, March, and April. Our two teachers and one paraeducator will travel to Lake Elmo, MN for the National training in Deafblindness Education. The Friday – Saturday trainings include professionals known internationally for their work in Deafblindness and assisting youth with such a challenging disability, the opportunity to develop greater independence through learning. Training costs, such as: meals, private transportation, lodging, materials, and the costs of Friday substitutes will be covered through WDBTAP. We applied during the summer of 2009 and were placed on a waiting list for consideration.

Each team must consist of a teacher and a paraeducator. Because of our strong teacher interest and an opportunity to have K-12 staff trained within one school district, they have allowed New London to have a team of three. To have three staff members involved is an amazing opportunity for the individuals involved, as well as, for our school district!

We have four students, (3 visually impaired, 1 on the deafblind registry), in our schools today, who will benefit from the skills this training opportunity will bring into our school setting.

Junta Latina

On October 4th, our Latino families celebrated the start to the school year in the New London High School commons for our annual, Junta Latina. Again, we drew a large crowd of people to see a showcase of student work from the beginning of the school year and to visit bilingual and other staff members in our schools. Each year we become a bit more diverse with additional people coming in to experience foods, fun and culture within the New London schools.



While there was food and fun, teachers also had an opportunity to complete reviews of their Student Record Plans with parents and get signatures on permission slips for program involvement for this new school year.

Emergency Health Plans in Action!



....Twice in one week, we had to follow emergency health plans for a student who transitions between the Intermediate School and our Elementary Functional Skills Program at the High School. Seizure activity for this student required some swift action and a follow through with our emergency health plan for our student. Both building staff had been trained/inserviced in what to do and plans had been reviewed in advance.

The actions of so many people keep school safe – one child at a time. Recognition goes out to these individuals who helped in many different ways to keep everything running smoothly in a cool and calm fashion: Deb Stoeger, Shirl Volz, Joanne Gorges, Sherry Yandre, Michelle, Kiesow, Leslie Paul, Pam Dent, Susan Resch, Denise Fischer, Connie Lathrop, Joe Green, Terry Wetzel, Joe Pomrening, Scott Eggart, Jennifer Bruce, Danielle Kamba, Jill Spencer, and Chris Dey.

It truly takes a village!