

# Possibilities

A Northern Voices Parent Newsletter

Fall, 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1



## Welcome to the 2008 School Year!

This year marks a very special year for Northern Voices as it is our ten year anniversary. The school year is off to a great start. We are excited to share with you our new Web site [www.northernvoices.org](http://www.northernvoices.org). Many of the ideas for this Web site have come out of meetings with parents as well as community suggestions for improving communication. The Web site now includes: a calendar of school events and holidays, staff pictures, and our newest feature, staff blogs. We believe that communication with families is the best way to maximize outcomes for young children with hearing loss. These blogs will be updated weekly and will share activities, vocabulary, and pictures of the children during the school day. As with any new technology, there will be an expected learning period, but we think that in the long run, this will be a very successful communication tool. To view these blogs, you simply need to go to "About Us", then go to "Staff", then click on the staff's name.

### NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

This issue is sponsored in part by the **Magee Family**. Reserve your spot for the Winter/Spring issue today. Advertise your business or submit a personal sponsorship in honor of a Northern Voices Student for just \$50. E-mail [christener@northernvoices.org](mailto:christener@northernvoices.org) if you are interested.



### Communication Scavenger Hunt

To increase your awareness of the school's communication tools, we have devised a Communication Scavenger Hunt. Here's how it works. First, you will need to answer the questions below by looking at the Web site, the bulletin board, and in your child's mailbox/bin. Then, the first three people to hand in the correct answers to all three questions will receive \$10 Target Gift Cards.

#### Web site Questions:

When looking at the calendar on the school's Web site:

- What is the theme for the week of November 3rd?
- What was Erika Hoyt's BA major?

#### Bulletin Board Questions:

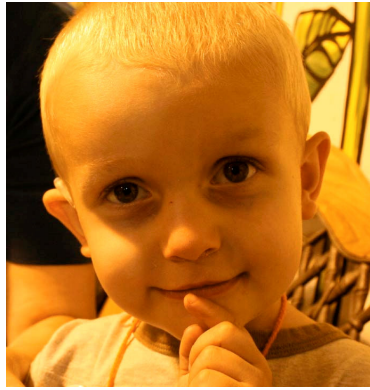
- How much does a Northern Voices T-shirt cost?
- Who is the staff liaison for the Breakfast with Dad Event?

#### Bin Question:

- Where are the Preschool Bins located? OR Where are the Toddler Room mailboxes located?
- Are the bins in alphabetical order?
- Where is your child's bin located? (Top, bottom, middle, etc)

## NEW FAMILY

**Henry Corneliussen** started this Fall in the Preschool Program. Henry's family includes his mom, Jackie; his dad, Brett, and his brother, Spencer. Henry is three years old and has a cochlear implant. Henry likes to watch Spencer play hockey and loves to look at I Spy books with his family. Henry just received his second cochlear implant in the end of September. Henry brightens the day here with his "Hello, how are you?" Welcome to Henry and his family!!



## NEW STAFF

**Jackie Willman**, a Speech Language Pathologist, has recently joined us from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. Jackie is working with the Preschool Program. Jackie lives in Hudson, WI. Jackie's favorite things to do include watching the Packers, camping and enjoying sunny days outside. Jackie volunteered here in the Summer of 2006. We are very fortunate to have Jackie join the NV team!



## VOLUNTEER UPDATE

**Melissa Kraus**, the Teaching Assistant for the Discovery Room, has been doubling as our Student Volunteer Coordinator. She has done an AMAZING job. We have 10 volunteers from the Speech-Language and Hearing Sciences and Educational Psychology Programs at the University of Minnesota. We are very fortunate to have such high caliber help. Thank you, Melissa and a very special thank you to our fabulous volunteers!

## MENTORING PROGRAM

As a result of the collaboration with Leadership Saint Paul, Northern Voices now has a Mentoring Program. This program offers families with the ability to connect with another family. We have created a database of families willing to participate in this program which helps us to connect families based on specific criteria (such as age of child, home location, school district funding, etc.) If you are interested in participating in this program, please let Kristi know at [director@northernvoices.org](mailto:director@northernvoices.org).

## HALLOWEEN PARADE

OCTOBER 31, 11:30 AM

Look for fliers in your bins/mailboxes with more details.

Amanda is the staff liaison for this event, so please contact her at [amandat@northernvoices.org](mailto:amandat@northernvoices.org) with any questions.



## THANK YOU

A huge thank you goes out to the outstanding members of the Leadership Saint Paul team (Tom Basquill, Wendy Brekken, Don Emery, Cindy Haarstad, Don Ochs, Sarah Ruzek and Dana Snell) in the creation of our Parent Association. We are very thankful for all of their work in helping us to create the Mentor Program, this newsletter, Advocacy Materials, and assistance in organizing a platform for coordinating our events. In addition they have helped us to create a database, consulted for our technology needs, examined our communication process and volunteered at our golf tournament. They have been an absolute pleasure to work with and have added so much to our organization in their skills, time and interest.



## 10th Anniversary Champagne & Diamonds Gala

Saturday February 7, 2009 at  
Oak Marsh Golf Course in  
Oakdale. See Web site for  
more details and early  
registration incentives!



## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Mindee Kastelic



I had the privilege of being introduced to Northern Voices when our Chamber honored them with a 'Celebrate Business Success' award in recognition of their business leadership and best practices in the Saint Paul/East

Metro area. As part of the membership team at the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, I have the opportunity to interact with amazing business and community leaders every day. I was very impressed by Kristi Blaiser and her team and immediately wanted to learn more about their mission. When I toured the school, I was welcomed with open arms and realized what a unique educational opportunity the school provides to deaf and hard of hearing children whose choice is to participate in a true auditory-oral program. I am truly honored to serve on the board of such an amazing organization with unlimited potential; as we prepare to celebrate ten years of making a difference in children's lives, the future is looking brighter than ever!

WOMEN OF NORTHERN VOICES...  
COMING IN JANUARY...  
LOOK FOR DETAILS SOON!

## STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Kristi is completing her dissertation!! She will be conducting a study this year with children with hearing loss and their hearing peers focused on word learning and the factors that impact success in noise conditions. Children will be exposed to new vocabulary words over a 6-8 week period. There are no known risks to the study. Look soon for information in your mailbox or bin. Please see Kristi or email her at [director@northernvoices.org](mailto:director@northernvoices.org) with any questions.



Hear the possibilities...

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