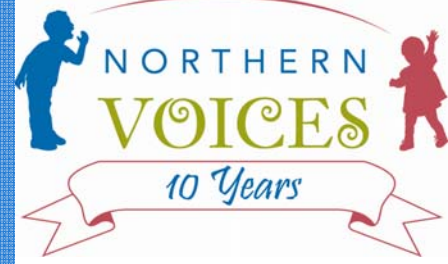


Possibilities

A Northern Voices Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2009

Volume 1, Issue 2



Northern Voices' Vision:

By the year 2013, Northern Voices will be known as an option for every family as a nationally-recognized, self-sustaining Center of Excellence redefining outcomes for children with hearing loss and their families.

As a school that focuses so much on language, you should know that we choose our words carefully. Some of you may wonder, what do we mean by "Center of Excellence"? To us, this means that we are continuously striving to become better. There are many ways in which we are working to be a Center of Excellence and I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of them with you. First, as a staff, we believe that learning about hearing loss and intervention is an ongoing process. Through continuing education such as journal reading groups and inservices we are working to constantly improve ourselves to provide state-of-the-art intervention services for our families and children. This includes the addition of the position of Lead Teacher. In January, Amanda Tocko will be taking on this very important role. Amanda has been working with Northern Voices since 2003. This summer, she took a very competitive examination for certification as a Listening and Spoken Language Specialist. Amanda will be spending time with me and with the teaching staff as a mentor and collaborator, helping us to focus on our strengths and weaknesses as an educational team.

Another way that we are working to become a Center of Excellence is by developing ways to monitor children's progress. We have seen throughout the years that kids with hearing loss, when they receive the best intervention services, can develop speech and

Continued on page 3

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



- ◆ We hosted a **Thanksgiving feast** for over 100 students, siblings, parents, grandparents and friends on Tuesday, November 25.
- ◆ Grandparents and friends helped students build **ginger-bread houses** on December 9.
- ◆ Thanks to all who baked, donated, and purchased goodies at our **Bake Sale** on December 9 & 10. Over \$400 was raised for the school.
- ◆ **Santa and Mrs. Claus** came to Northern Voices on Thursday, December 18!

Special Events

Women of Northern Voices Spa Night

Friday, January 23rd
7-10pm

Location to be announced



All Northern Voices women are invited to attend this fun, relaxed social event in association with the NVHM group.

Spa services include chair massage, hand massage with paraffin dips, and Arbonne facials. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

All services are provided for free by practitioners volunteering their time. A \$5 suggested donation will help defray food & beverage costs.

RSVP by January 19 to
leisamagee@comcast.net

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NEW STUDENTS

Norah Malloy. Welcome to Norah Malloy, a three-year-old girl, entering our Preschool Program. Norah loves robots and to accessorize (so we know she'll fit right in at NV!). While Norah is not a big fan of the cold weather (she says she prefers the beach), she does like to visit the parks with her family (mom, Sheridan; dad, Rory; big sister, Monica; and baby brother, Henry). The family lives in Stillwater with their dog, Lucky. We are so happy to have Norah and her family joining us, please say hello to them as you see them in the halls!



Nick Whitcomb. Nick is 4 ½ years old and lives in White Bear Lake with his parents, Ryan and Steph and his little brother, Devin. In his spare time, (what 4 year old doesn't have spare time) Nick loves to play pirates and "Deer Camp", hunting for pretend animals with Devin. He also likes to watch movies, his favorite is E.T. He also spends a lot of time at the golf dome and driving range with his grandpa... move over Tiger Woods, here comes Nick Whitcomb.



STAFF NEWS



Erika Hoyt, Speech Language Pathologist, is celebrating her first anniversary at Northern Voices. She graduated with her master's degree from the University of Minnesota last January. Erika works with the Toddler Program and Preschool Program and has done a fabulous job coordinating the assessment efforts as well as being the technology-whiz at the school. Erika lives in Minneapolis with her (new-as-of-December) fiancé, Ian, and their dog, Boomer. Erika enjoys time outdoors especially walking her dog. Her favorite thing about working at NV is the sense of community.

DODGE NATURE CENTER FIELD TRIPS

Monday, January 20

9:30-11:00

Theme: Stars!

Tuesday, February 17

9:30-11:00

Theme: Frozen Ponds (dress warm!)

Tuesday, March 10

9:30-11:00

Theme: Maple Syrup

SPECIAL DAYS

BREAKFAST WITH DAD

Friday, January 23

For more info email

melissak@northernvoices.org

VALENTINE'S PARTY

Friday, February 13

For more info email

sarahk@northernvoices.org



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Tuesday, March 17



NO SCHOOL ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

January 1, 2 & 5

February 16

March 6 & 9

A special thank you to the following businesses and foundations for supporting us with grants since the start of the school year:

- ◆ A.G. Bell Foundation (MN)
- ◆ Bailey Foundation
- ◆ Dollar General
- ◆ Dorsey & Whitney Foundation
- ◆ First Children's Finance
- ◆ Lamm Family Foundation
- ◆ NE Metro 916

- ◆ The Oberkotter Foundation
- ◆ The Shared Fund
- ◆ Target Stores
- ◆ Vos Family Foundation
- ◆ Wal Mart Foundation
- ◆ Warren Foundation

THANK YOU



Northern Voices' Vision *continued from page 1*

language skills equal to (or greater than) their age-matched, hearing peers. We wanted to look further into this, and make sure that, while children are doing well on these assessments, are there any gaps that continue to exist? Erika Hoyt and I are working on an item analysis of these assessments to determine if there are gaps, and, if there are, what can we do to eliminate them.

As we enter a new year at Northern Voices, the one marking our Ten Year Anniversary, we celebrate what we have become. But more than that, we celebrate what we **can** become. We believe that a Center of Excellence continuously strives to improve and to serve to the best of its ability. In 2009 we will continue to work to redefine expectations of children with hearing loss because we believe the possibilities are endless.

*Kristina Blaiser, MA, CCC-SLP
Executive Director*

Moving on Up

Blake Ripley ==> to Toddlers
Sanjay Pignato ==> to Preschool
Esther Olakunle ==> to Preschool
Jameson Williams ==> to Preschool

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS

RSVP to director@northernvoices.org if you plan on attending

Advanced Bionics

Thursday, February 12

5:30pm-7:30pm

Northern Voices

Learn more about Cochlear implants, educational opportunities, and assistive learning devices.

Mainstream Panel

Monday, March 16

5:30pm-7:30pm

Northern Voices

This is an opportunity for current parents to learn about transition to mainstream settings.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Dennis LaRoque



Dennis LaRoque has been a board member since 2005. Dennis offers NV a great amount of expertise and experience as a speech-language pathologist and previous Special Education Director from Bloomington School District. Dennis became involved with

Northern Voices in 2003 when his granddaughter, Emily, attended the school. Dennis and his wife, Arleen, enjoy spending their summers at their cabin in Rose Lake, MN. Dennis' favorite thing about Northern Voices is being able to assist and carry-on with the services that were provided to his granddaughter. We are very fortunate to have Dennis on our board!

NEW! Northern Voices logo items now available online! 10% of all sales help the school. Check the home page of our website for the link to the store.

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Business card size costs only \$50 and helps to cover costs to produce this publication.

Call 651.639.2534 or email development@northernvoices.org



Come help us celebrate our
10th Anniversary!

**Saturday, February 7th
6pm-12pm**

**Oak Marsh Golf Course
Oakdale, MN**

Dinner, raffles, music and games

Tickets

\$75 (dinner)

\$100 (dinner & \$2,000 in casino money)

\$125 (dinner & \$4,000 in casino money)

Sponsorships available from \$100-\$5,000

Space is limited so call 651.639.2534 for reservations or more information or email christiner@northernvoices.org

**You could win this
1/4ct diamond
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from JC Penney!**



Northern Voices is proud to announce receiving the highest accreditation rating from the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI). The quality assurance review held this past October and our high rating verified Northern Voices is operating with institutional integrity, and that we are fulfilling our vision and mission for our students.



Hear the possibilities...

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