

FSC adds assistant to staff

By Melissa McNamer

I'd like to introduce myself as the newest addition to the staff of the Family Support Connection at Lifetrack Resources.

My name is Melissa McNamer, and I've joined the Family Support Connection as an Administrative Assistant. My family includes my husband, Mark, two children (Kaleigh, 4, and Connor, 2) and our 90-pound, four-legged family member, Baxter.

Connor was diagnosed through newborn hearing screening with a moderate hearing loss bilaterally and wears hearing aids. Speech is the main method of communication, however, some signs have been incorporated to "get our point across" at times.

I look forward to working with all of you!



Melissa McNamer is the new Assistant at the Family Support Connection.

MDS students give insiders' views of life at summer camp

Summer camp can help kids gain confidence, learn self-reliance and practice team-building skills. But for these students from Metro Deaf School (MDS), the main reason for going to camp is to have FUN!

"I like to go to camp because camp is always fun!" explained Isabelle.

"I really love camp," said Jessica Oldfather. She goes to camp every year and has been to many in Minnesota and other states. Jessica's such an experienced camper that, as she tells it, camp is "wild, crazy, fun, and I'm not even homesick."

Most of the kids agreed that the first time going to a new camp makes them feel nervous, but they soon get over it.

"I was thrilled when I got accepted for National Leadership and Literacy Camp," said Erika Linstaedt. But, she admitted she was nervous, too, especially on the four-hour drive to camp.

"I had the most butterflies in my stomach in my life, because I didn't know what it would be like to go camping out of my home state," she explained. It helped at first that several other MDS students were at the same camp, Erika said. But she was put in a group where she didn't know anyone except one boy from school — "and we are not even close," she added. She soon found that the other kids in her group were feeling just as nervous and shy, but the team-building activities helped them get to know each other. Her classmate, Isabelle, said she took a while to warm up to the other campers, too.

"The first day I did not meet many new friends because I'm shy to meet new people," Isabelle said. "After a few days, I got used to it." Isabelle found other things at camp also took time to feel comfortable.

"I didn't like my bed in NLLC because it was hard," she explained. "The first night I couldn't sleep! I was not comfortable! But, after a few days I got used to it."

Isabelle had lots of time to warm up to the camp — the National Leadership

and Literacy Camp (NLLC) runs for two weeks each summer and includes a trip to Mount Rushmore and the Black Hills. Another MDS student, Elli Halverson,

said the days were packed with activities. "During the two weeks, we always had team-building activities, recreation activities, word class, literacy, special speakers, debating with other teams, and going to other places such as Mount Rushmore," Elli said. "I had a blast there."

Cindy Siebert recalled all she learned from the special speakers.

"They explained to us how to be a leader, about the ADA, our rights as a deaf person, and more," Cindy said. "We had to interview the people who were our speakers and then make a newspaper called 'The Real Word.' We wrote about the speakers, events, stories, Camper of the Day, and more."

Jared Treichel remembered weathering a bad storm while at NLLC.

"One afternoon, it rained and hailed so hard, you couldn't even tell the hail from golf balls! The storm nearly flooded the bath house," he explained. When the sun broke through, the campers had a "super soaker" fun day with water races, water balloon volleyball, and water balloon fights.

"But my favorite day of all was Olympics day, where we voted for our team leader and played games almost like the Olympics, but it was a little silly like making toilet paper mummies out of staff leaders," Jared said.

In true summer camp fashion, every day at NLLC started with morning exercises.

"Every morning before breakfast, we always exercised to have good day," Jared added.

Exercises also started the day for the MDS students who went to Courage North near Itasca State Park last summer. These students also found plenty of time for fun.

"Being at Courage North was a good experience and a fun place to be!" said Travis Lauderbaugh. "You can learn how



See Page 5 for details on all the summer camps.

What's Happening Around Town

Saturday,
March 11

Minnesota North Star Academy hosts Deaf/Hard of Hearing Teen Night for kids ages 12- 18. The night includes open gym, games and movies from 6 to 11 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 N. Arcade St. in St. Paul (use the south entrance with green doors). Cost is \$2.

Monday,
March 13

Enjoy **"Multilingual Storytime"** (stories in English/American Sign Language/Vietnamese/Spanish/French) for kids ages 2+ from 6:15-7:30 p.m. at Augsburg Park Library, 7100 Nicollet Ave., Richfield, 952-847-5300.

Saturday,
March 14

"Working Towards a Noble Prize: Effective Parent and Professional Partnerships" is a free workshop presented by PACER from 7 to 9 p.m. at Metro Deaf School. Details on Page 6.

Tuesday,
March 21

"Cue Clutch" meets at Java Jacks, 46th & Bryant in Minneapolis from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For information, contact Katherine Burns-Christenson at 952-929-3965 or e-mail kbc29@aol.com.

Friday,
March 24

The ASL-interpreted **Family Concert Series** continues with "Indonesian Gamelan," dance music on gongs, mellophones and drums. The concert is at 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. in St. Paul. Advance tickets are \$5; call 651-645-5699. Tickets at the event are \$6.

Friday,
March 24

The **12th Annual Spaghetti Dinner to support Metro Deaf School** runs from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 N. Arcade St. in St. Paul. Tickets are \$7 for 12 and older, \$4 for kids and free for babies age 2 and under.

Saturday,
April 1

The **St. Paul Public Library presents Deaf Storytime** at 10:30 a.m. at the Merriam Park Branch Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. For details, call 651-642-0385 (v) or 651-298-4184 (tty).

Saturday,
April 1

Family Game Night with cueing and dinner starts at 4 p.m. at the Stadelmans, 3307 W 134th St. in Burnsville. All cuers welcome. Bring a dish to share. RSVP to 952.894.0469.

Sunday,
April 2

The tour **"Dancing with the Divine: Arts of India, Tibet, and Southeast Asia"** at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts is ASL-interpreted beginning at 2 p.m. at the round bench in the museum lobby. For more information, call Visitor and Member Services at 612-870-3131 (v) or 612-870-3132 (tty).

Monday, April 3
Tuesday, April 4

The **Minnesota Summit: A Multi-Disciplinary Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference** at the Minneapolis Convention Center offers information about hearing loss, early interventions, new technology and newborn screening. Fees are \$20 for Monday evening's reception only or \$75 for the reception and conference. A special rate of \$25 is available for students. See www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fh/mch/unhs/summit.

Friday,
April 7

Folksinger and storyteller John McCutcheon performs at 7:30 p.m. with Patty McCutcheon interpreting in the Chautauqua Fine Arts Center in Mahtomedi. Tickets reduced to \$9. Contact Jane at strauman@comcast.net.

April 20 & 21

Advanced Bionics hosts "SuperSize your Cochlear Implant Knowledge and Skills" for parents and professionals at Embassy Suites in Bloomington from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fee for both days is \$139, or \$49 for Day 1 and \$99 for Day 2. Register by April 6 at www.bionicear.com/professionals/events.asp.



ASL-Interpreted Performances

Snapsbots: Life in the City

Sunday, April 2, 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$15; 651-292-4323
Great American History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St., St. Paul; www.historytheatre.com

Golda's Balcony

Friday, March 24, 8 p.m.
Ordway Center, St. Paul; 651-224-4222(v), 651-282-3100(tty); www.ordway.org

Esperanza Rising

Wednesday, March 29, 10:30 a.m.;
Friday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.
Reduced tickets: 612-874-0400
Children's Theatre Co., 2400 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis; www.childrenstheatre.org

Hamlet

Saturday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.;
Friday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: Reduced to \$16: 612-377-2224(v), 612-377-6626(tty)
Guthrie Theater, 725 Vineland, Minneapolis; www.guthrietheater.org

Anon(ymous)

Wednesday, April 19, 10:30 a.m.;
Friday, April 21, 8:00 p.m.
Reduced tickets: 612-874-0400
Children's Theatre Co., 2400 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis; www.childrenstheatre.org

Agatha Christie's A Murder Is Announced

Friday, April 21, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$12, \$10 senior/student; 952-563-8587
Bloomington Center for the Arts Black Box Theater, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd.; www.bloomingtonartcenter.com

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Our mission is to build better lives for children who are deaf or hard of hearing by providing parent-to-parent support.

Newsletter Editor: Audrey Alwell

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In Your Corner

By Candace Lindow-Davies, Family Support Coordinator

Wishing you all have had a good start to March. March means Spring cannot be too far away, and the coldest part of Winter should be behind us. I know I am looking forward to warmer temperatures, sunny skies, and digging around in the garden.

Spring at the Family Support Connection is also bringing wonderful changes. We have hired a new Administrative Assistant, Melissa McNamer. She is the first of our staff to have learned about her child's hearing loss through newborn hearing screening. We will benefit greatly from having her perspective, and look forward to introducing her to all of you.

I have also completed all the interviews for the Regional Parent Mentor positions, and we will be announcing those new staff in our April newsletter. Suffice it to say, we have had so many truly qualified individuals express their interest. I have never had such a difficult time selecting only one person from each region. In fact, I hope this program grows quickly so I have the opportunity to go back and hire the rest of the candidates to add to our other bright, energetic, and passionate group.

I encourage all of you to attend the 2006 Deaf/Hard of Hearing Legislative Day at the Capitol on March 22. Please seize the opportunity to participate in the training that occurs earlier in the day, to attend the rally, but also to meet with your own legislators to make these issues known to your state representatives. (See the "Annual Legislative Day" story to the right of this column.) This is a wonderful opportunity to bring older kids to let them see democracy in action.

One final note: I encourage each of you to try to attend the upcoming Minnesota Summit on Newborn Hearing Screening on April 3 and 4. It really is a rare opportunity to have so many top national, state, and local presenters at one single event. Parents will benefit greatly, as will professionals. If you do come, please stop by our booth. We'd love to see you and show you some of our new materials.

Hope to see you at these events!

Publisher provides college scholarship

DawnSignPress is offering a \$2,000 scholarship to a deaf or hard of hearing student entering a four-year university in the Fall in one of the following fields: Communications, Creative Writing, Deaf Education, Deaf Studies, English, Film-making, History, Linguistics, or Multimedia.

The winner will be announced in June. This is the third year the scholarship has been offered by the deaf-owned company, best known for its Signing Naturally series.

The application deadline is May 1. For details and the required forms, go to www.dawnsign.com/about/dsp scholarship.html.

Annual Legislative Day features advocacy training, meetings with legislators

The Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People (MCDHH) is sponsoring the annual Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind Legislative Day March 22 at the Minnesota Judicial Center (across from the State Capitol).

The day begins with a training session to learn about the issues in the Legislature that affect people who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind. This year's issues include funding for MCDHH, special education funding, and interpreter legislation. The advocacy training session runs from 8:30 to 11 a.m. in Room 230 of the Judicial Center.

MCDHH can help arrange appointments for individuals to meet with legislators in the afternoon to discuss these issues and how they impact their lives.

To register to attend Legislative Day, contact Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services at 651-297-7305(V/TTY) or e-mail dhhs.metro@state.mn.us. Interpreters will be provided for the day and captioning services for the training. Let them know if you require tactile interpreting, an FM, loop or infrared system.

While you're at the Capitol, you can tour this historic facility if you arrange it in advance. For tours, call 651-296-2881 or e-mail statecapitol@mnhs.org and let them know if you need an interpreter.

For directions to the Judicial Center, see www.courts.state.mn.us/page/Default.aspx?pageID=152. Metered street parking is available along the south side of the Judicial Center. Metered parking is also available in the Orange Level of the Centennial Ramp, directly south of the Judicial Center. \$4 parking passes also are available through State Plant Management. Call 651-201-2307.

Group hopes to form D/HH Scout troop

Parents interested in forming a Scouting group for boys who are deaf or hard of hearing or whose parents are deaf or hard of hearing are meeting from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 11 at the Northern Star Council BSA, 393 Marshall Ave. in St Paul. For more information contact Tim Hammelman at 763-593-1880 or e-mail tjhammelman@comcast.net, or Sara Amberg at 763-231-7244 or samberg@northernstarbsa.org.

State seeks members for advisory panel

The State is seeking parents and professionals to serve on the Special Education State Advisory Panel.

The panel is a federally mandated advisory group that assists the state in developing policies and plans for special education programs. Members are expected to participate in 4-6 sets of two-day meetings held in the metro area during each fiscal year.

There currently are six openings. Two of the positions are for a one year term from July 1 to June 30, 2007. Four are for four-year terms beginning July 1. Applicants should be knowledgeable on issues, laws and policies pertaining to special education. Applications are due by April 28. For application forms e-mail open.appointments@sos.state.mn.us, call 651-297-5845, or visit www.sos.state.mn.us. For answers to questions about the panel, contact Mary McDevitt Kraljic at 651-582-8589 or mary.mcdevitt-kraljic@state.mn.us.

Inside Camp...continued from Page 1

to set up a tent, set up fishing line for your fishing pole, make a dream catcher and many other things. I had lots of fun.”

Travis said one of his favorite activities was playing “Capture the Flag.”

“It was so awesome,” he said. “People were divided into two groups and a color was painted

I learned so many new things there.

—Rachel Novella

on their faces to show their group color. Both teams would hide their flag in their ‘secret location.’ Each team’s objective was to get to the other side and try to steal the flag. If you go into the opponent’s side, and someone tags you, you go to their jail.”

That was Linzie Fuechtmann’s favorite game, too. She also was impressed with the facilities at Courage North.

“When I first arrived at Courage North, Lake George, Bemidji, I was delighted to find the woods and cool fresh air,” Linzie said. “The whole camp had a museum, six cabins, counselor cabins with a doctor, head counselor’s house, a Dining Hall, a King Building, a waterfront and tons of grass!”

But the meals really captured her heart.

“The Dining Hall had outdoor dining, indoor dining and a hot chocolate machine! The hot chocolate was so delicious, warm and chocolatey! Lunch and

I had an awesome time!

—Jared Treichel

dinner at the Dining Hall were so great because they had dessert and delicious food!” she said.

Linzie didn’t even mind washing dishes at camp, which campers took turns doing. She and her cabin mates won the award for the

cleanest cabin twice. Svetlana Anderson also wanted the award.

“We wanted to win by having a cabin that was clean and nice,” Svetlana explained. She remembered writing her parents about all the things she did.

“There were many activities like sports, swimming, walking, biking, and boating with tubing,” she said. In fact

I can’t wait to go again!

—Travis Lauderbaugh

Svetlana was busy having so much fun, she complained she didn’t get enough sleep at camp.

Nathan Peterson who has been to Courage North for the past eight years loves all the activities.

“You can do almost everything there, but they don’t have TV,” he said. “If you want to learn how to do something, they will teach you how. My most favorite things to do there are biking and riding the speedboat. If you go there you can make a lot of new friends to socialize with. And, they have a very nice and warm

cabin for you to sleep in,” he added.

Megan Krech went to Camp Sertoma near Brainerd last summer.

“It is a really beautiful place,” she said. “I will never forget Camp Sertoma and all my friends I met there,” Megan added. “I can hardly wait to see what happens this summer!”

JessieLee Muenker traveled all the way to Oregon to go to camp last summer. Her favorite activity was horse-back riding.

“I enjoyed it because there are lots of friends I had met before, and I made new friends,” she said. Nearly all the kids mentioned meeting new friends as the highlight of

going to camp. Rachel Novella, who went to NLLC, summed it up:

“When it was time to go home, we didn’t want to leave our new friends,” Rachel said. “We got in touch by e-mail, AOL Instant Messenger, or writing letters. We all hope to see our new friends again next year and see new faces.”

Rachel also had a message for other kids who are deaf or hard of hearing.

“Now, what do you want to for your summer?” Rachel asked. “Are you sure you want to stay home and watch TV? If you don’t want to stay home and be bored, come to NLLC! We will love to see you!”

Free camp hopes to excite girls’ interest in science

Girls who have a disability and are interested in science or technology can apply for a free day-camp sponsored by IBM and PACER.

EXITE (EXploring Interests in Technology and Engineering) Camp meets at PACER Center in Minneapolis the evening of July 20 and during the day on July 24, 26, 28, Aug. 1, and 3. Activities include hands-on work such as building a circuit board, tearing down a computer, designing a web page, and programming Lego® robots. Participants also will meet professionals who have disabilities, get an IBM mentor and tour the IBM facility in Rochester. Interpreters or transliterators can be requested for participants who have hearing loss.

Participants must be entering grades 6-9 for the 2006-07 school year. Applications are available at www.pacer.org/stc/exite.htm. For more information, contact Amelia Hansa at amelia.hansa@pacer.org or 952-838-9000.

2007 Deaflympics promises spectacular show

Tickets to the opening gala and athletic events at the 16th Winter Deaflympics, to be held in Salt Lake City Feb. 1-10, 2007, are now on sale through the official website: www.2007Deaflympics.com. The website also has information about hotel accommodations and volunteer opportunities.

The Deaflympics was founded in 1924 to provide fair competition to athletes who have hearing loss. The 2007 Games will feature world-class athletic competition plus an international winter sports and cultural arts festival. Some of the same venues used in the 2002 Winter Olympics will be used for this Deaflympics.

Gallaudet hosts athletic games

Trials for the 2006 Deaf Youth Sports Festival (Youth PanAmDes) will be held at the University of Louisville July 23-29. The Games will be at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, July 30-Aug. 6.

Games are open to athletes ages 10 to 15 (in August) who have at least 55dB hearing loss in the better ear. Events include basketball and track and field.

For details about the trials, see www.teammdo.org. For more on the 2006 Youth Pan-AmDes, see www.usdeafsports.org/2006youth/.

FOCUS is adding advertising space — call us for rates/details!

2006 Summer Camps

Ready to ship your child off to summer camp? These camps offer programs specifically geared to kids who are deaf or hard of hearing. Most are offered in voice and sign unless noted. For summer camps/workshops for families or parents, see Page 6. If you don't see what you want here, check <http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/InfoToGo/142.html>. Their list includes some of these camps plus others run by religious or social service groups around the country that serve kids who have hearing loss.

Nearby Camps

Camp Sertoma

Brainerd Lakes Area
Activities include archery, climbing, nature programs, fishing and boating.
Grades 1-6: July 9-14
Grades 7-10: July 16-21
Cost is \$50/camper.
Register at www.campsertoma.com.

Courage North

Lake George
Activities include sailing, water skiing, nature programs and overnight camping in Itasca State Park.
Teens (13-17): July 25-Aug. 8
Youth (7-12): Aug. 11-19
Sliding fee scale. Contact Courage Center, 763-588-0811(v), 763-520-0245(tty), or www.couragecamps.org.

Wisconsin Lions Camp

Rosholt, Wisconsin
Activities include swimming, boating, nature programs, sports and overnight camping. Free for Wisconsin residents. Non-residents can attend with minimal fee if space allows.
Ages 6-12: June 25-30
Ages 10-17: July 2-7
See www.wisconsinlionscamp.com.



National Leadership and Literacy Camp (ASL)

Camp Lakodia, South Dakota
Includes all the regular camp activities plus a leadership-building program to spur intellectual and personal growth. Also field trips to Mount Rushmore and the Black Hills. Cost is \$400.
Grades 5-8: July 2-16
Grades 9-12: July 23-Aug. 5
See www.nllcamp.com.



Sports Camps

Ronda Jo Miller Basketball Camp (ASL)
Dakota State University, South Dakota
Grades 5-12: July 16-23
Ronda Jo Miller is the first deaf person to become a professional basketball player. Campers will learn game skills and have access to summer camp activities. Campers stay at nearby Camp Lakodia. Cost is \$250.
See www.rondajobasketball.com.

Stan Mikita Hockey School for the Hearing Impaired

Chicago, Illinois
Ages 5-24: June 10-17
A FREE camp for deaf and hard of hearing hockey players run by former Chicago Blackhawks player and NHL hall of famer Stan Mikita. Attendees must provide their own hockey equipment and pay for their own hotel room. Contact info@ahiha.org, 312-226-5880(v), or see www.ahiha.org.

Gallaudet University Sports Camp (ASL)

Washington, DC
Elite Boys Basketball Camp: July 9-14
Girls Volleyball Camp: July 16-21
Girls Basketball Camp: July 23-28
Girls Volleyball Camp at New Mexico School for the Deaf: June 25-30
Ages 10-18. Cost is \$200 each. Contact Lynn Boren at lynnboren@gallaudet.edu, 202-651-5603 or see <http://athletics.gallaudet.edu/camps.php>.

Summer Tennis Program

St. Paul Academy & Summit School
June 19-July 28
Affordable lessons offered in ASL or English for toddlers through adults of all skill levels.
Contact Melanie Spewock at mspewock@sapa.edu or 651-696-1355(v).

ASL Camps

The Clerc Center Honors Program Summit 2006: Learn. Lead. Achieve.
Gallaudet University, Washington, DC
Grades 9-11: June 19-30
Advanced Placement (AP) preview classes, leadership-building and sight-seeing in Washington, D.C. Cost is \$150. Contact Daniel.Dukes@gallaudet.edu or 202-448-7161(v) or see clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/Honors/summit-2006.html.

NAD's Youth Leadership Camp

Camp Taloali, Oregon
Grades 10-11: July 19-Aug. 15
National Association of the Deaf's camp for motivated high school students. Cost is \$1,325. See www.nad.org/YLC.

NTID Explore Your Future

National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester, New York
Entering Grade 12: July 15-20 or 22-27
Explore careers in information technology, computers, engineering, business, science and art while sampling college life. Cost is \$650; scholarships available. Contact Jean Bondi-Wolcott at 585-475-6705 or see www.rit.edu/NTID/EYF.

Aspen Camp School for the Deaf

Rocky Mountains, Colorado
www.acsd.org



Camp Isola Bella

Berkshire Mountains, Conn.
www.asd-1817.org

Camp Taloali

Cascade Mountains, Ore.
www.taloali.org

Cue Camps

For details about family learning vacations in nine states (the nearest one is listed below), call the National Cued Speech Association at 800-459-3559 or see www.cuedspeech.org under "Events."

Camp ChiCueGo

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
June 29 - July 2
Conference Point Center has swimming, volleyball, softball, tennis, basketball and a playground. Camp includes classes and activities for kids through adults. Credits available for transliterators.
Contact Any Ruberl at 301-718-8717 or e-mail amycues@aol.com.



Off the Shelf

By Robin Coninx, FSC Specialist

It's that time of year again. Time to plan our summers to stuff in as much fun in the sun as we can. I'm looking forward to that Minnesota sun and warmth. But, like you perhaps, I'm wondering how to choose a summer camp for my kids and how to give them the best send off possible.

I asked my librarian group for resources to help all of us get information regarding camp. The group suggested a website, www.summercamps.com, plus Hennepin County Library's resource at www.hclib.org/pub/search/SubjectGuides.cfm?Topic=Parenting:SummerCampTips. There's also this from the Lions Club: www.lionswildcamp.org/survival-guide.html.

While researching this month's camp issue, we also found a great book we'll be adding to our library: "The Summer Camp Book," by Christopher Thunder, PhD. and Jon Malinowski. The authors share first-hand experience working at overnight camps. The book provides camping wisdom to help children and parents enhance the camp experience. You can purchase it directly at amazon.com.

The resources listed here have been selected by the staff of the Family Support Connection, but are not affiliated with us in any way. Please review them carefully as we can not be responsible for their contents or claims.

Remember for your other library needs go to www.family-supportconnection.org to view the contents of our library. Or call 651-265-2373 or 866-DHOHKID (toll free) to see if we have resources that might interest you.

Happy Camping !!

Summer workshops aimed at parents, educators

The 2006 Summer Institute at Gallaudet University offers workshops for parents and professionals who work with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Topics include storytelling, writing, visual phonics, optimizing learning for kids with cochlear implants, and teaching robotics. Workshops vary in length from two days to two weeks between June 19-July 9. Fees range from \$50 to \$250 and do not include housing. Workshop descriptions, fees and registration information are online at clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/tpd/summer-institute/.

Family camp caters to kids with cochlear implants

Colorado Neurological Institute's Center for Hearing offers a 4-day camp in the Rocky Mountains near Estes Park with recreation and education for children with cochlear implants and their families.

CNI Cochlear Kids Camp offers two sessions June 15-18 and Aug. 17-20. Activities are presented in English with interpreters when requested. Cost per session is \$250 for a family of 4. For registration information, see www.thecni.org/hearing/kidscamp2006.htm.

The annual 2006 Parent Child Institute will run June 16-18 at Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf in Faribault. The institute features information and activities for families with young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Details will be in the April issue of FOCUS.

Students perform play in ASL

Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD) presents "New Clothes for the Emperor" at 7 p.m. April 20-22 at MSAD in Faribault and April 26 at St. Cloud Tech High School. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

Deaf History Month is March 13-April 15. To learn more about Deaf History, see www.nad.org.

Working Towards a Noble Prize: Effective Parent and Professional Partnerships

**Tuesday, March 14, 7 – 9 p.m.
Metro Deaf School**

265 West Lafayette Road S., St. Paul

This interactive workshop will offer ideas for parents to use when communicating with school staff. The workshop will include:

- Ø Communication skills
- Ø Meeting planning
- Ø Written communication
- Ø Partnership skills
- Ø Options for resolving differences

This free workshop is open to **all** parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Funding is provided by a Minnesota Department of Education Parent and Family Training Grant. This workshop will be presented by Carolyn Anderson, Parent Advocate at PACER Center and parent of a deaf adult son.

Please pre-register with the Metro Deaf School by calling 651-222-3995 V or 651-222-0984 TTY or kbroberg@metrodeafschool.org.