



WYOMING FAMILIES FOR HANDS & VOICES

"What works for your child is what makes the choice right."™

Volume 13

Issue 4

Fall 2020



*Be kind
Be thoughtful
Be genuine
But most of all
Be thankful*

BE THANKFUL!

The year of 2020 has been a crazy one- Covid 19, fires, earthquakes and political unrest to name a few. Each day take time to find things to be thankful for!

HANDS & VOICES UPDATE

Here at Hands & Voices we hope that this newsletter finds all of you doing well. Mandy Bangerter has stepped down as our Assistant Director, but will stay on as a board member. In this newsletter you can read about Jo Otterholt and her time at the D/HH Outreach Library. Jo worked with countless numbers of families during her time at the library. Justin Hovde graduated from Casper College this summer. Justin is the son of Deb Hovde, who helped start Hands & Voices in Wyoming in 2006. We love hearing about children with hearing loss in the state, especially about the activities they are involved in, awards they have earned, things they like to do, etc. We would love for you to share their stories with us. Also, please contact us if you have topics that you would like to see in the newsletter or on our website.

We are so excited to be hosting an Advocacy Support Training (ASTra) put on by instructors from Hands & Voices Headquarters. We wish that we could hold the training in person and get to see everyone, but that is just not how things are at this time. It is typically a nine hour training, but because it is now virtual it is broken into two 4.5 hour sessions. We hope that you can join us. This training is full of amazing information. Registration is FREE and it is open to parents and professionals!! There is more information on page 4 and the agenda is included as the insert. Don't miss out.

In this Issue

HANDS & VOICES
UPDATE

Page 1

JO OTTERHOLT
RETIRES

Page 2

CASPER COLLEGE
GRADUATE

Page 2

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Page 2

BULLYING
PREVENTION TIPS

Page 3

HELPFUL TAGS

Page 3

ASTRA TRAINING

Page 4

CONTACT INFO

Page 4

ASTRA AGENDA

Insert

JO OTTERHOLT RETIRES

By Jo Otterholt

Jo Otterholt worked for the Wyoming Department of Education from August 1989 until retiring in June 2020. She started working with students of the School for the Deaf as a teacher aide, tutor, and interpreter until the school closed in May 2000. Then she worked for Natrona County School District as an interpreter from August 2000 till June 2004, when she rejoined WDE and Outreach for the Deaf as Resource Specialist of Outreach Library Services.

Coronavirus pandemic and working from home, made it easy to transition from work to retirement with husband, Dan, who had retired 4 years earlier. Thus far in 5 months of retirement, Jo has focused her attention on family members, reading, boating-fishing, knitting, and sewing over 125 face masks for family members, friends, and neighbors. Traveling plans have been postponed until the pandemic is over.

READ Plus program director, Susan Fischer, invited Jo to join her team to read and sign storybooks for families and share her personal story and journey of being profoundly deaf since birth. She wore hearing aids for over 60 years. Nearly 3 years ago, she received bilateral cochlear implants, and has been excited to hear several new sounds never heard before... hummingbirds whir, not hum; a rattlesnake warning sounds much like a baby rattle, not a silent shaking tail; I now hear mosquitos, bees, flies, and fish jumping on the lake, and loons calling. With my husband's help, I have been learning to identify bird songs and calls. Still on my bucket list of sounds to hear is the crow of a rooster pheasant. Most of all, I enjoy hearing voices and visiting with my many friends and acquaintances. Please stay safe and healthy.

Jo, Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices appreciates everything you have done for the children in our state. We have appreciated your many contributions to our organization. We wish you nothing but the best! Enjoy your much deserved retirement!



CASPER COLLEGE GRADUATE JUSTIN HOVDE



Casper College officials have released names of the summer and fall 2019 semester graduates and the spring 2020 semester graduates.

Included in the list was Justin Eugene Hovde of Roberston, WY. Hovde earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Engineering Technology and Design. Justin, Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices is so proud of you!!

FALL CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

2. The seed of an oak tree.
4. A team game played with a brown oval ball.
6. The parts of a tree that change colors in autumn.
8. A large bird that is cooked for dinner on Thanksgiving.
9. A common round red or green fruit that is made into pie or cider.
12. The first day of fall when the sun crosses the celestial equator.
13. A ride in a wagon carrying hay.
14. A very large yellow flower that can grow over 6 feet tall.

Down

1. A figure set up in a crop field to scare away birds.
3. An outer layer of clothing worn to keep warm on a chilly day.
5. A colorful fall tree that is grown for its sap that is made into syrup.
7. A large round fruit that is carved with faces for Halloween.
10. A grain plant that yields kernels set in rows on a cob.
11. A yard tool used to gather and pile leaves.

BULLYING PREVENTION IN KIDS WITH HEARING LOSS

@ListenWithLindsay



Practice answering
"What are those?"



Read books about kids
with hearing loss



Discuss Differences



Do a Show and Tell
for the Class



Inservice the
class peers



Find friends and
mentors with
hearing loss

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- **Practice answering "What are those?"** - People are curious and will ask. This practice will start with the parents so keep that in mind when you answer in front of your child.
- **Read books about kids with hearing loss to your child.** Share them with their teachers who can share them with the class. Check out listenwithlindsay.com/books for an extensive list.
- **Discuss differences.** Everyone is different. Normal does not exist. What makes us different makes us special. What challenges us makes us strong and resilient. I especially suggest this to parents of older kids who are rejecting their devices. Share an experience with them of a challenge in your life and how you overcame it.
- **Do a Show and Tell for the class about hearing loss, hearing devices and communication tips.** This is great to do at the beginning of the school year. Have time for the student's to ask questions. Once you take away the unknown of the mysterious devices it's no longer interesting or a topic of conversation.
- **In-service the class peers.** Your DHH teacher can discuss hearing and being a good listener with the whole class. This benefits everyone!
- **Find friends and mentors with hearing loss.** Make sure your child knows other kids with hearing loss that wear devices like them! If there's no kids in your child's school ask your audiologist to connect you to another family.

* Tips and graphic is provided by Lindsay Cockburn who is a licensed pediatric audiologist in Los Angeles, CA. <https://listenwithlindsay.com/welcome-to-listen-with-lindsay/>

A WOMAN CREATED HELPFUL TAGS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF AND CAN'T LIP-READ THROUGH MASKS

By Olivia Nazarewich

20 Aug 2020

When public health officials and news outlets spoke about "the new normal" back in the early days of the pandemic, no one could have fully predicted what that would entail.

Over five months later, we now know that part of the new normal is wearing face masks pretty much anywhere we publicly go. While it's a great and simple way to prevent the spread of the very contagious COVID-19 infection, it has presented its challenges for those who often rely on lip-reading to communicate and interact with others out in the community.

To try and solve the issue, people have created masks with clear plastic windows that show the movement of the mouth, but they present their own challenges. That's exactly why one woman came up with an even more clever way to help the hard of hearing and Deaf communities. For hearing folks, we don't necessarily think about how masks affect those who have a hard time hearing or can't hear at all. So, Naomi took it upon herself to create badges for folks who are hard of hearing or Deaf that make communicating out in public a whole lot easier. "To communicate with me, please be patient and use your mobile phone or pen and paper."

Naomi started out giving the cards to people for free as a gift, and has now created free templates for anyone to print off themselves. With an outpouring of support, Naomi has even created an online request form to keep up with the demand. For the complete story and to access the form, go to <https://living.diply.com/140252/a-woman-created-helpful-tags-for-people-who-are-deaf-and-cant-li>.



Above: Naomi Grace, creator of the deaf tag



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Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

WYOMING FAMILIES FOR HANDS & VOICES IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE WE WILL BE HOSTING A VIRTUAL:

ADVOCACY SUPPORT & TRAINING (ASTRA)



Add to your IEP and 504 knowledge for your child or student. Training topics will include the following:

- Introduction to Special Education, IDEA and ADA
- Eligibility Considerations
- Procedural Safeguards, Assessments & Evaluation
- Positive meeting tools and strategies
- Must attend all sessions to receive completion certificate
- Each session builds upon content from previous session

QUESTIONS:

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The #1 predictor of success in children who are deaf or hard of hearing is parent engagement.



MOELLER (2000)



WHO: PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND PROFESSIONALS

WHERE: VIRTUAL

WHEN: JANUARY 15TH & 16TH, 2020 @ 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM MST

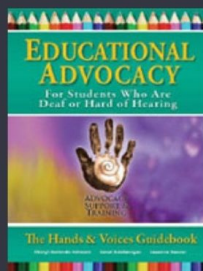
REGISTER AT: WWW.WYHANDSANDVOICES.ORG

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

PTSB AND STARS CREDIT WILL BE AVAILABLE. MUST ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS TO RECEIVE CREDIT.

BOOK:

FIRST 20 PARENTS WHO REGISTER AND ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS WILL RECEIVE A FREE COPY OF THE EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY GUIDEBOOK VALUED AT \$39.90



Free to Register

No matter how stressed you are, remember how Blessed you are.



#1 holiday hack:

When you buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

amazonsmile