

FEBRUARY 2023

# NDVS/SB OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

*NDVS/SB provides individualized services and resources to infants, children, and adults with visual impairment to empower them in achieving their goals.*



## Goalball GameDay!

NDVS/SB held its annual goalball tournament on Saturday, February 4. Students who had attended the middle school and high school short-term programs that week at the school participated, as well as students from the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.



THE CENTER ON  
THE PINK TEAM  
ROLLS THE BALL TO  
THE LEFT WING.



MEMBERS OF OTHER  
TEAMS CHEERED ON  
THEIR FRIENDS FROM  
THE BLEACHERS.



A LINE JUDGE HANDS  
THE BALL TO THE  
RED TEAM'S CENTER.

*Want to learn more about goalball? Watch our [Golden Guide](#) or check out the [USABA website!](#)*



TWO MEMBERS OF  
THE YELLOW TEAM  
WORK TOGETHER  
TO BLOCK A GOAL.



THE TEAM FROM  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
PREPARE TO BLOCK  
A GOAL.



COACH/REF RYAN FLIPS A  
COIN TO DETERMINE  
WHICH TEAM GETS THE  
GOALBALL FIRST.

# The Lowdown on STP

*Are you wondering if your child should attend short-term programs at NDVS/SB? We asked Coordinator of Student Programs Cindy Williams some of the common questions that parents ask before sending their child to Grand Forks for a week of STP. For more information, reach out to Cindy at [ckwillia@nd.gov](mailto:ckwillia@nd.gov) or 701-795-2704.*

## Why should a student attend STP?

Attending our STPs gives students the opportunity to relate to and meet peers who are going through something similar to them. Many times a student will be the only child with a visual impairment at their school. I've seen their faces light up when they learn someone has the same eye condition as them or they read braille or use the same type of technology to complete school assignments. This connection is something they don't get in their regular school and that connection resonates with the students.

## What do you say to students (or parents!) who are worried about being homesick?

Sometimes a student or parent will be nervous about staying away from home. When this happens, I talk to them about things they will get to experience, about friends they will meet, and how they will learn new things. I also say

mom and/or dad are only a phone call away and sometimes finding a simple connection is the key. It's amazing how once they settle in, they are happy to be here and their worry goes away. If a student has a particular routine at home, such as reading a book at bedtime or taking a bath, we try to incorporate that as well.

## What is a typical day like for a student attending STP?

Students are scheduled in expanded core classes generally with a one-on-one instructor. This includes technology, daily living skills, orientation and mobility, study skills, and braille. Students also have group classes including social skills, goalball or recess, financial literacy or money exploration, and sometimes a special class to fit the theme of our program. In the evening, students partake in activities such as swimming, an outing, Delta Gamma coming in to do a special event, playing games, or watching a movie.

**The short-term program calendar can be found [here](#). Contact Cindy if you are not receiving invites to the programs for your child's age group.**

## Spotlight on our favorite books for

# *I Love to Read Month*

**Melissa Snyder**  
Region 5

***Gone With the Wind***  
by Margaret Mitchell

**Cindy Williams**  
Student Program  
Coordinator  
***Where the  
Crawdads Sing***  
by Delia Owens

**Lanna Slaby**  
Region 6  
***The Elephant  
Company***  
by Vicki  
Constantine  
Croke

**Kathy Grzadzielewski**  
Region 3  
***Love You Forever***  
by Robert  
Munsch