

Expectations

Volume 7, Issue 1

Autumn 2005



Providing initiatives that strengthen the potential of youth who are deaf or hard of hearing

Expectations: Deaf Initiatives' newest initiative

An effective advocate is an educated advocate. With this in mind, we are excited to premier our newest initiative titled *Expectations*. More than just an FYI of upcoming events, *Expectations* will allow us to help parents become better prepared when speaking with professionals regarding their deaf or hard of hearing child. This biannual publication will be an informative resource for families, as each issue will feature an article from a seasoned professional working in the fields of education, audiology, communication, Deaf culture, literacy, and many more. We want to help parents become better prepared when talking to professionals about their child's hearing loss. This first *Expectations*, highlighting Ohio Department of Education's Wendy Stoica, will provide resources and advice regarding Ohio's Achievement Tests, formally called Proficiency Tests. Please read on for more information and be sure to check back in the Spring for our next *Expectations*.

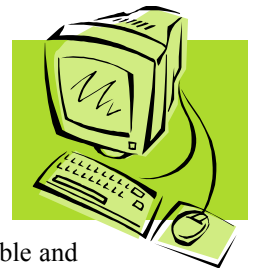
Calendar of Events

- **March 18, 2006**
Navigating Your Child's Future
- **September 22-24, 2006**
Making a Difference with Your Future
- **September 23, 2006**
D.E.A.F. Awards
- **April 2007**
On the Road to Your Future

Deaf Initiatives unveils new website!

This fall, Deaf Initiatives established a new website: www.deafinitiatives.org. Deaf Initiatives' original website, www.tshirtquilts.com is still available but will focus solely on the sale of our Keepsake Theme Quilts.

Detailed information regarding upcoming events and conferences is available and will be updated regularly. Online registration will also be available for all upcoming events, including "Navigating Your Child's Future", "Making a Difference with Your Future" and "On the Road to Your Future." Past newsletters are available for you to read more about our initiatives to date. Please bookmark www.deafinitiatives.org and visit often for updates on our exciting initiatives!



Support Deaf Initiatives

Consider donating your time: would you like to learn more about Deaf Initiatives? Do you share an interest in youth, education, deafness or small business operation? Contact Deaf Initiatives today to schedule a tour of our facility and to meet our staff.

Consider making a contribution: your generous monetary donation is tax deductible, as we are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please mail your donation, payable to Deaf Initiatives, to 563 S. Dawson Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43209. Thank you so much for your support!

2005 Key Contributors include:

Advocates for Kids
The Columbus Foundation
Crane Plastics
Deloitte & Touche
Harry C. Moores Foundation
Ingram White-Castle Foundation
Ludwick Family Foundation
Paul G. Duke Foundation

Deaf Initiatives Board of Directors

Deaf Initiatives is excited to welcome several new faces to our board of directors. Current members include:

Board Chair: Claudia Bergquist - <i>Columbus State Community College</i>	Bruce Greenfield - <i>Capital University</i>
Janelle Adler - <i>Ohio School for the Deaf, retired</i>	Sally Larrimer - <i>Community Representative</i>
Meredith Crane - <i>Deaf Initiatives</i>	Bonnie Sandy - <i>Community Representative</i>
Heather Drebenstedt - <i>Nationwide Financial</i>	Susan Scott - <i>Worthington Industries</i>
	Mark Zangara - <i>St. Vincent Family Centers</i>

The staff and board of Deaf Initiatives would like to express our sympathy to the family of William C. Klenk. Bill was a valued board member at Deaf Initiatives for 4 years, before he passed away in July. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bill's wife and children.

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www.deafinitiatives.org
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Expectations for Your Child's Education Taking a Proactive Approach to your Child's Academic Success



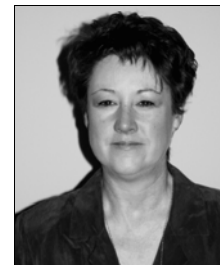
Now that the new school year has begun, how's it going? Have you noticed that the focus of learning has changed significantly in recent years? Is your child's school day different than your school day in 19...? In the 2005-06 school year, students may be taking achievement tests rather than proficiency tests. If you want your child to pass the Ohio Graduation Test in 10th grade, do you know what you can do now in kindergarten, or third grade, or seventh grade to help chart their course for success?

Ohio has a standards-based education system, which means that education in Ohio is based on academic content standards. Academic content standards describe what all students should know and be able to do. They help families, students and educators know what to expect students to be learning at each grade level. The Ohio Department of Education has developed a web-site <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/families/> to offer comprehensive information, resources, and links to programs and opportunities for families to get involved in your child's education including Parent Academies, Community Forums and OhioReads.

Research shows there is a relationship between family involvement and benefits for students, including improved academic achievement. This relationship holds across families of all economic, racial/ethnic and educational backgrounds and for students at all ages.

The benefits for students include higher grade point averages and scores on standardized tests; better attendance; more classes passed and credits earned; improved behavior at home and at school; and better social skills.

The new statewide tests test students on the academic content standards, so they are tested on the standards that all teachers in the state are teaching. Go to <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/families/> and click on the **Ohio's Education System, Statewide Testing** link to access the online **Student Test Report**. The results of these tests along with other elements make up the report cards Ohio distributes to school districts and school buildings.



Wendy Stoica,
*Ohio Department
of Education*

Statistics show that only 25% of deaf and hard of hearing adults read above a 5th grade level...

"Research shows there is a relationship between family involvement and benefits for students, including improved academic achievement."

Visit <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/families/> and click on **Resources** to view the following helpful pages:



The **School Information** section includes links on early childhood education, transportation, kindergarten, advanced placement program and graduation requirements.

For example: Make reading a part of your daily routine. Read to and with your child each day for at least 20 minutes.

The **Tips** section provides you with tips on a variety of topics to help you as you work with your children at home.

This page also has information about Individualized Education Plans (IEP).

The **Learning and Growing Together** section includes a series of fun and practical online resources for families, including information about your child's development, guides on preparing for school, ways to enhance early learning, and more.

The Department has offices that focus on children that have **Diverse Learning** needs. These learning needs include children who are gifted, limited English proficient (LEP) and disabled, including children with hearing impairments. Through the web-site information and links provided we want to address the opportunities and challenges that families with hearing impaired children face in working towards a successful educational experience. It is critical that you as parents are fully informed participants in your child's educational program.

We also encourage you to contact your child's teacher to see what opportunities there are to get involved in your local school district. We want your child and all children in Ohio to have a successful school year that supports, reinforces and challenges them to become life-long learners!

Featured Family

Maggie Kopp, a 5th grader at Huy Elementary School, achieved a "perfect score" on the Reading portion of the Ohio Achievement Test last year. Maggie was one of only a handful of students to receive such high honors and she was the only deaf student in central Ohio. Maggie, whose father and younger sister are also deaf, is mainstreamed all day with an interpreter and is included with deaf and hearing peers for art, gym, music, recess and lunch. When asked how Maggie was able to score so well, parents, Dan and Debbie, responded,



Maggie Kopp, the oldest of three, enjoys making crafts, biking, camping and vacationing at the beach with her family

"That's the 64 thousand dollar question! Honestly, we don't know. Maggie is profoundly deaf. American Sign Language (ASL) is Maggie's native language, the primary language used in the home. We have always had books at her disposal. We did read (in ASL) often to her when she was younger. Maggie learned to read like most children, through exposure. She started preschool at age 3. By then, she had already acquired a strong language (ASL) foundation and was ready to begin learning a second language (English). At home and at school she was exposed to more and more words in print. We would pair the written word with a sign according to its meaning. And many words have more than one possible sign translation and vice versa. Explaining different word meanings and choices became an opportunity to expand her vocabulary and knowledge of both languages. Fingerspelling (spelling each letter of a word) is still one of her favorite things to do! When she was 3 and 4 years old, she would spell words that would amaze us."

Last year, in fourth grade, Maggie competed in the fourth and fifth grade spelling bee. She spent weeks studying the spelling of English words. In addition, because she is deaf and uses ASL, she had to also study the sign translation and remember which signs meant which English words. Sometimes she had to rely on her lip reading ability to decipher between two words that had the same sign. She won first place at her school and went on to compete at the citywide spelling bee and won 2nd place! She was the only deaf student to compete.

"We honestly believe that we simply provided the tools (a native language, exposure, opportunity, encouragement, modeling) that Maggie needed in order to become a "reader". She has a real love of reading - and we don't think that's necessarily something one can learn or be taught. She often chooses to read a book over other activities. Closed captioning has become another tool for expanding her English proficiency. She often picks up new words from reading the captioning, and if a television show is not closed captioned, she'll switch the channel and find one that is!"

Dan and Debbie Kopp have attended every Navigating Your Child's Future workshop since 2002. Debbie is a volunteer with Deaf Initiatives and a former board member of the organization.

Navigating Your Child's Future

Save the Date! MARCH 18, 2006



Deaf Initiatives will host the fourth Navigating Your Child's Future workshop on Saturday, **March 18, 2006**. This exciting workshop series is open to all parents, grandparents and adult extended family members of children with a hearing loss ages birth through 8th grade. **"Family Dynamics...Beyond Communication"** is the topic for this informative one-day workshop. Keynote presenter Rudy Gawlik is a

licensed clinical social worker with more than twenty-five years experience working in the deaf community. He has been licensed to provide therapy to individuals, couples and families since 1984 and currently works as a social worker in a Maryland State psychiatric hospital. Rudy has been an interpreter, a school counselor, graduate school professor of counseling, director of mental health services, advocate for persons with disabilities and has maintained a private counseling practice since 1984. He has also presented a number of workshops on family dynamics to parent infant programs as well as to family education programs, child development programs and parent organizations. Rudy will be talking about family boundaries, rules and structure and how deafness is just one factor in how families function.

This workshop is a wonderful way to meet with families from all over Ohio who are experiencing similar situations. Extended family members are encouraged to attend! The registration fee is only \$10 per person, which will include lunch and resources.

Daycare is available for an additional charge. Navigating Your Child's Future will be held at Ashland, Inc. in northwest Columbus. Registration will be available online at www.deafinitiatives.org beginning next month. For more information, or to be placed on our mailing list, please call Deaf Initiatives at (800) 985-3323 V/TTY or email TheDEAFund@aol.com.

Navigating Your Child's Future is sponsored by:



THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION



Eager parents participating in last year's Navigating workshop



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**Providing initiatives that strengthen the potential
of youth who are deaf or hard of hearing**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.DEAFINITIATIVES.ORG



Keepsake Theme Quilts is the social purpose business of Deaf Initiatives. Since its inception in 1999, more than 1,000 quilts have been made and sold around the country! Net proceeds from quilt sales are used to support Deaf Initiatives' programs and services. The Keepsake Theme

Quilts workroom consists of several experienced seamstresses, all of whom are deaf. The communication barrier-free work environment is very important to our employees. Keepsake Theme Quilts welcomed two new employees in 2005: [Susan Cunningham](#) and [Bonita Woodward](#). Both Susan and Bonita bring their creativity and skills to our workroom.

During the summer and fall months, we have been advertising our quilts at various events around Ohio, including marathons, soccer tournaments and Women's Expos. Our recent participation in the NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo landed us an appearance on the NBC4 Midday News! Kathy Nunley, the workroom supervisor, was showcased on the afternoon news

program on October 19. This is wonderful exposure for Keepsake Theme Quilts and

for Deaf Initiatives! For more information about our quilts, visit www.tshirtquilts.com.

Job Opening

- 6 week, paid internship
- Open to high school student (or recent graduate) who is deaf or hard of hearing
- Learn key job skills
- Work in an environment where everyone uses Sign Language
- For more information, email TheDEAFund@aol.com



The staff at Keepsake Theme Quilts is hard at work! Pictured from left: Meredith Crane, Judy Bryant, Teresa Caldwell, Susan Cunningham and Kathy Nunley. Not Pictured: Bonita Woodward



Deaf Initiatives' Board Chair, Claudia Bergquist, proudly showing her brand new walking shoes. Claudia and Meredith Crane worked at the Chicago Marathon in October.