Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) is proud to share the news that three BCPS teachers working with DHH students have received awards honoring their success, dedication and innovation in education.

Ashley Brashears, regional teacher of students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, has been named the 2016 Graduate Arts and Science Program Award winner at St. Joseph University, Philadelphia. The award is designed to recognize one graduate student for outstanding academic achievement, scholarship, leadership, and contribution to their academic discipline. Ashley was nominated by Saint Joseph’s University Graduate Program Director, Dr. Samuel Slike. She has completed her Master of Science in the Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at Saint Joseph’s University. According to Dr. Slike, “As a person with a hearing loss, Ashley has experienced the challenges that accompany everyday life in a “hearing” world and she has served as an exemplary role model for the deaf and hard of hearing students in her student teaching placement in Baltimore, Maryland.” Ashley was a student in the BCPS regional program for the deaf and hard of hearing (elementary and middle), before graduating from Kenwood High School.

Stephen Durst Jr., teacher of students who are deaf and hard of hearing has received the 2016 Rookie Teacher Recognition Award by the Teachers Association of Baltimore County. This award is presented to “rookie” teachers who are successfully developing as professional educators and who are going the extra mile in providing quality education for students and a positive image of education and educators. Recipients demonstrate creativity in the classroom, implementation of successful plans and projects, and have completed admirable work. Stephen worked as an educational sign language interpreter for BCPS for five years, prior to becoming a teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing. He graduated with his Master of Science in the Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from Saint Joseph’s University, in 2015.

Erin Richmond, special educator at Villa Cresta Elementary School was one of three people awarded a fellowship at the Center for Innovation and Leadership in Special Education beginning July 1, 2016. The Center for Innovation and Leadership in Special Education at Kennedy Krieger Institute is a new fellowship program designed to train future leaders in the fields of special education and neurodevelopmental disabilities. In order to become leaders, fellows receive specific training in management, ethics, methods of scientific inquiry, and the political processes in the fields of special education and neurodevelopmental disabilities. Erin was a student in the BCPS regional program for the deaf and hard of hearing (elementary and middle), and graduated from Chesapeake High. She has been a special education teacher for 7 years with BCPS. In December 2014, she graduated from Towson University with a master’s degree in Teacher as Leader in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Her ultimate goal is to ensure that the knowledge acquired through the fellowship is put into practice in the very community that supported her through her own journey as a student receiving DHH/special education services.
Upcoming Events

--AG Bell Convention. This is a convention that focuses on listening and spoken language skills. This is a great place for parents to meet other parents that have a child with a hearing loss. This convention also provides classes and resources that you can use to help your child improve his listening and spoken language skills. Vendors are also on the site that have the latest up-to-date technology for people with a hearing loss.

The convention occurs every two years. This year it takes place from June 30 to July 3rd in Denver, CO (which is a great place for vacationing as well).

Please go online at http://agbellconvention.com/home for more information and registration.

--Deaf Awareness Day at Six Flags Saturday June 18th 2016
10:30am-9:00pm

Enjoy All The Great Rides and attractions Six Flags America
Offers to guest of all ages.

Tickets: $35 when purchased in advanced
FOR TICKETS CONTACT:
Dorian Fletcher: Dorian4002000@yahoo.com

Summer Camps for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Summer will finally arrive at some point and parents may be planning summer activities. It’s a good time to start looking into summer camps. There are many camps across the country that are specifically for children with a hearing loss. Some camps are for children who sign only, some are for children who use spoken language, and some have all ranges of communication modes and hearing loss.

Camps for children with a hearing loss is a great way for your child to interact with other peers that have similar experiences. Often times, students with a hearing loss have a difficult time finding other peers that have a hearing loss. Camps are a great opportunity to show that your child is not alone dealing with the challenges of hearing loss.

Various camps provide educational activities such as Camp HERO, in Pennsylvania, which has language-based activities that are designed to help campers work on their reading and writing skills while doing camp activities. Camps also provide outdoor activities such as swimming, hiking, zip-lining, and other fun activities that can provide an exciting experience and feel like a vacation.

The following list of camps are key information such as dates and location of camp, website to find registration information, and category of camp (camp for signing campers only or oral or both).

1. Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Arts Summer Program
The Office of Therapeutic Recreation Services provides a wide variety of recreation opportunities and services for individuals with disabilities countywide. Activities include dancing, aquatics, yoga, acting, martial arts, and more. You can request an interpreter and get more information at this website: http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/recreation/programdivision/therapeutic/index.html

2. Gallaudet University: Summer Youth Programs—Washington DC
http://www.gallaudet.edu/summer_programs/youth_programs.html

Discover Your Future Camp is for 9th to 11th grade college-bound students that are deaf/hard of hearing. Camp runs from June 25–July 3. Fee is $750, register online.

3. National Association for the Deaf: Youth Leadership Camp—Washington DC
http://nad.org/youthleadershipcamp

The NAD Youth Leadership Camp (YLC) is a 4 week summer camp program that provides leaders the ability to develop their scholarship, leadership, and citizenship (SLC) qualities in nature environment. Dates are July 22nd to Aug 18th. Must be fluent in ASL and going to be a Junior or Senior. Register online.

4. Camp HERO (Here Everyone Really is One)—Bloomsburg, PA (3 hour drive from Baltimore)
http://www.gocamphero.org

This camp welcomes all children (age 6-17) with a hearing loss regardless of signing or speaking abilities. It’s an inclusive camp that runs from July 31-Aug 5. The camp provides language-based activities and outdoor activities such as zip-line and swimming. Registration form is on the website. Financial assistance available upon request.

5. Camp Loud and Clear—Appomattox, VA
https://holidaylake4h.com/camploud.php

This camp accepts any children with a hearing loss regardless of their communication modes. July 22-24. Registration form online.

https://www.rit.edu/ntid/techboyz/ OR https://www.rit.edu/ntid/techgirlz/

TechGirlZ and TechBoyZ is a camp for incoming 7th, 8th, and 9th graders who are interested in science, technology, engineering, and math. July 23-July 28. Registration online.

**A more complete list of summer deaf camps can be found on this website: http://www.listeningandspokenlanguage.org/summercampslisting/**
INNOVATIONS IN DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING EDUCATION
JUNE 17, 2016

COOL INFORMATION!!

Signed Stories from ITV

Signed Stories from ITV is an app that you can download for your child that shows different children stories in sign language! Great interpreters and complete with words and visuals. Great learning tool for parents and teachers.

HOPE Words app from Cochlear

HOPE Words app is a tool for improving listening and spoken language skills of children with a hearing loss. It also features tips for both parents and professionals on how to use the app to improve a child’s listening and spoken language skills. It includes interactive flashcards for all speech sounds. Children have to listen to a word and match it to the word’s speech production. You can get a free trial app. To get the full app, it costs only $1.99.

Experience Books

The best thing about experience books is that anyone can make one and it’s individualized for the child. An experience book is a great way to help a child develop reading skills and building language comprehension. An example would be to take pictures of the child doing various activities and taping it to a notebook or create your own binder. Underneath each picture, write a sentence describing the picture such as “Dan is walking” or “Jane is eating breakfast.” It can be about anything that you want the child to learn. You can create an experience book about hearing aids or a trip to the zoo.

Class Manager app

This app is free! It helps with organizing your classes, get homework help, know what is due today, and manage your tasks. Great resource for high school students.

Brainscape-Smart Flashcards app

This app is free! You can find, create, and share SMART FLASHCARDS on any device.

Ask Dena Corner

Summer is here! Parents or guardians tend to tell me they wish they knew of more “things to do” during the summer. Here is a list of suggested ideas and places to look to help keep your kids interacted and engaged in a fun way. For children with hearing loss and most other children, they learn the most from having real life experiences which are visual and interactive.

The Baltimore County Public Library hosts a free reading program for children during the summer in which they can earn rewards for reading a certain number of books during the summer. In addition, they hold many events throughout the summer such as movie nights, Lego activities, or story time. Check out your local branch to find the summer events. www.bcpl.org

These two websites I have found are specifically geared towards family friendly events during the summer and all year long. The calendars will let you know which events are free or have small cost to attend throughout the county. Check Baltimore Child magazine and/or website at www.baltimorechildrens.com or the Family days Out: Baltimore edition. http://www.familydaysout.com/kids-things-to-do-usa/baltimore/md

Towards the end of the summer, many of the local farms will have picking seasons. Visit a local farm to get a farm to table experience with your children. Just type in your local zip code and this should provide the closest farm to your area. http://www.localharvest.org

Check out local farmers markets. There is a variety of farmers markets around the state which typically have free admissions. http://baltimore.org/article/baltimore-farmers-markets

Summer also has festivals that are held throughout Baltimore area. Check out this website to help find local festivals. Some are free and some may have admission cost. Be sure to check out the family section! http://baltimore.org/ultimate-guide/festivals-baltimore

Baltimore is also home to a variety of museums. Look at the website for a complete listing of museums in the area. Most museums will have reduce admission prices on special days of the week. Check out the website to each of the museums to see what kind of special events or reduce admission days they will have. Top children’s museums are: Port Discovery Children’s museum, The Science Center, Baltimore Aquarium, The Baltimore Zoo, and B &O railroad. http://baltimore.org/see-do/museums

I hope everyone has a great summer! If you are having difficulty figuring out some of these websites or still looking for something else, please email me your request and I will try to guide you in the right direction.

Dena M. Shuster LCSW-C
Dshuster2@bcps.org