

# Student Services Newsletter

School District #8

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Spring

## Update from Vision Support Services

**April:** Jessica Rideout and Courtland Northcott, two SD 8 students with visual impairments (VI), are flying out to Brantford, Ontario for the Junior Provincial Goal-ball Tournament.

Jessica and Courtland have been training for the Provincials since September. They play at Hume School every Friday evening with other VI and Non-VI students.

**May:** SD 8 is once again hosting the Children's Low Vision Clinic of BC. This clinic, which is made up of a paediatric ophthalmologist, optometrist, low vision specialist, O&M instructor and vision technology specialist, travels around BC to assess and provide students and their school teams with information and resources, including low vision devices. The clinic will be held on May 13th and 14th at the Nelson School Board Office. Students and teams from Grand Forks to Fernie will be attending. The clinic welcomes school staff and trustees to check out it.



**June:** Project Adventure, developed by SD 8 students with visual impairments, is planning a camping trip in June. Students from all over the Kootenay area are invited to join in.



**Courtland Northcott**

## Asthma Workshop in Nelson

Jessica DeMars will be holding an asthma workshop at the NDCC Multipurpose Room. It will be a two part workshop running on Thursdays from 3 - 4 PM, May 5th and 12th.

This workshop is for parents and kids aged

7-10 diagnosed with asthma. Topics will include asthma triggers/allergens, medication use, breathing exercises, using an asthma diary, postural stretching and managing exercise. It will be interactive - kids will have activities to do and

parents will come away with useful information.

The cost is \$20 per family. Please call Jessica DeMars at 250-352-1722 for more information and to register.



# Attachment Theory by Deanna Britton Rumohr

Attachment theory has been a current topic of interest of many parents I talk to. Attachment theory was developed in the 1950's by John Bowlby and Mary D. Salter Ainsworth. Erick H. Erickson also developed a theory of attachment. Attachment theory is the study of early social relationships. Early social relationships create a working model of how relationships "work" for the infant/child. The quality of parent/infant attachment is predictive of future behavioural patterns the child will engage in and those could be adaptive or maladaptive behaviours. This is dependent on

the working model the infant has been exposed to. For example, Broderick & Blewitt (2010) describe early attachment quality has been found to predict later psychosocial functioning in school, including dependency, self confidence and social skills. If children have secure attachments with both parents, their functioning is predictably more positive than if they have a secure attachment with only one parent. It is unclear, however, whether the early attachment quality is the cause of psychosocial adjustment (adaptive or maladaptive) or whether the ongoing quality of the parents' caregiv-

ing is the key predictor. The primary influence of early infant attachments may be the tendency to perpetuate themselves. That is, once a pattern is established, it tends to be repeated. As Broderick & Blewitt (2010) conclude though, relationship patterns can be changed and if they are, the child's working model of relationships, of self and of others can also change and be modified.

Broderick, P. C., & Blewitt, P. (2010). *The life span: Human development for helping professionals* (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

## BC Wins Gold in Goalball

April, 2011

Congratulations to the BC women's junior Goalball team, in their successful gold medal win at the Junior National Goalball Tournament that took place in Brantford Ontario on April 15, 16 and 17. Two of the newest Team BC athletes, Courtland Northcott from LVR and Jessica Rideout, from Crawford Bay Elementary-Secondary School, participated in the tournament with impressive outcomes. While 17 year-old Northcott scored the most goals in the game against New Brunswick, 12 year-old Rideout played a strong defence successfully blocking several difficult shots. Both girls worked hard to get to the Nationals and they are excited about training at a higher level in order to compete for medal standing next year.



**Jessica Rideout**

Goalball is a fast-paced, highly competitive Paralympic team sport that is played by visually impaired athletes. A goalball team consists of three players, two wingers and one centre. All team members wear eye shades which prohibits the use of their vision. The game is played with a basketball-sized ball with bells inserted in it. Players have to depend on their hearing and tactile senses to position and orient their bodies to the court and to judge the direction and speed of the ball. With only the use of hearing and touch, the athletes have to dive and use their body to block the ball from getting into the net.

For a You Tube video demonstration of goalball, go to the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6fEkRfO3os>

## Cosmic Bowling



Amber Kearns and her students attended a Cosmic bowling and pizza night at the Savoy Bowling Lanes in Nelson on Friday, April 1. It was a great opportunity for all students in the district who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to get to know each other and build friendships. Everyone had a great time.