



NEWSLETTER  
SPRING / SUMMER 2004

INDEPENDENTLY MERGING  
PARENT ASSOCIATIONS  
OF CALIFORNIA

*Together for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Kids*

**1-877-322-7299**

Toll-free number sponsored by DCARA

**WWW.DEAFKIDS.ORG**

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IMPACT Newsletter  
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Jason Gillespie, Editor  
626 N. Arbona Circle  
Sonora, CA 95370  
(209) 544-5314

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## **BUILDING BRIDGES: CONFERENCE '04**



*Parent Links Coordinator Bonnie Burlison presents a workshop on siblings at this year's conference.*

Santa Clara, CA – The 2004 Cal-Ed / IMPACT Conference, *Creating the Bridge Between Ability and Achievement*, rolled into the heart of Silicon Valley a few short weeks ago. Families, teachers, administrators, interpreters, and many others -- all dedicated to improving the quality of Deaf Education in our state -- were on hand for the festivities.

The theme of this year's conference: building a bridge to span the distance between a child's ability and his/her achievement. Strongly emphasized was

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# IMPACT BOARD

## Southern California

John Allmann ( <i>2nd V.P.</i> )	Irvine	(949) 653-5770	john_all@msn.com
Jayne Bustamante	Walnut	(800) 644-9963	jbustamante@cldr.cde.ca.gov
David Cruise	Irvine	(949) 887-1994	johndavidcruise@yahoo.com
Jon Levy ( <i>Advisory</i> )	Irvine	(949) 854-4785	jlevy@iusd.org
Terrylene Sacchetti	Santa Monica	(310) 264-9246	PahTL@aol.com
Lori Steed	Grover Beach	(805) 481-5694	lori_steed@yahoo.com
George Walker	Ranchos P.V.	(310) 541-0366	george@walker-g.com

## Central California

Pauline Marshall	Fresno	(559) 229-2000 x107	pmarshall@exceptionalparents.org
Darla Schwehr	Tulare	(559) 625-0384	schwehr@attbi.com
Richard & Stephanie Simpson	Big Pine	(559) 280-5908	simpsoninterp@aol.com

## Northern California

Brenda Call	Fremont	(not listed)	Bcall@cddf-cde.ca.gov
Nancy Eddy ( <i>President</i> )	Fremont	(510) 438-0170	eddygking@earthlink.net
Nancy Grosz-Sager ( <i>Advisory - Legislative Info</i> )	Yuba City	(530) 673-3523	nsager@cde.ca.gov
Sandy Harvey ( <i>Advisory</i> )	Folsom	(916) 989-6933	sharvey@norcalcenter.org
Chris Howden	Mountain View	(not listed)	Howdch2@hotmail.com
Greg King ( <i>Treasurer</i> )	Fremont	(510) 438-0170	eddygking@earthlink.net
Ginny Malzkuhn	Fremont	(510) 490-0708 TTY	gmalzkuhn@cddf.cde.ca.gov
Bambi and Raul Meorado	Fremont	(510) 790-0629	meorado@comcast.net
Alice McGill ( <i>Advisory</i> )	Sacramento	(916) 349-7500	aemcgill@aol.com
Anita Sharma	Sacramento	(916) 383-7944	(not listed)
Denise Spaeth ( <i>Membership</i> )	Sacramento	(916) 395-1425	spaethbcnu@aol.com
Elaine Thomas-Blogh ( <i>Secretary</i> )	San Jose	(408) 960-6528	cheffeta@yahoo.com

### ***What is IMPACT?***

IMPACT is an organization of parents, teachers and professionals serving deaf and hard of hearing children. Our organization was established in 1986 with 12 parents and has a current membership of over 400. We are supported and encouraged by a host of organizations serving the deaf community. IMPACT's purpose is to meet the needs of the parents we serve.

### ***IMPACT Mission Statement***

We as parents, members and professionals of the deaf and hard of hearing community are rising up as a single voice. Regardless of communication modalities, we stand united in the task of getting the very best for our children. We will take no less than quality education for our children, support and early intervention for our families, information and education for our parents.

### ***Support IMPACT***

IMPACT needs your support to continue advocating on behalf of you and your deaf or hard of hearing child. We currently offer four levels of membership. For as little as \$30 a year, you can support our efforts and qualify for a registration discount at our annual Cal-Ed/IMPACT conference. All members of IMPACT also receive a copy of the IMPACT newsletter mailed directly to their homes.



## CONFERENCE '04 (CONT.)

the notion that each girder, each cable of the bridge must be strong in order for the bridge to exist and function. Likewise, the care with which the bridge is assembled is crucial. Without strong parts and careful planning, the bridge is unable to carry the child on his/her journey.

There was something for everyone at this year's conference: an array of excellent workshops, ranging from sibling support to reading strategies; from supporting children with cochlear implants to using ASL as a bridge to the California Language Arts Standards. The Friday night keynote actually consisted of a "panel" describing their roles in creating and supporting a bridge for children, and Saturday morning's presentation by Dr. Ellen Schneiderman focused on tying kids' abilities to their achievement using the California Language Arts Standards as a framework.

In this year's newsletter, we wanted to offer you some different perspectives on both the conference itself and on some of the "behind-the-scenes" action we experienced this year. And as always, we encourage you to step up and become an active part of our organization. IMPACT, much like a bridge, is only as strong as the sum of all its individual parts.

- Jason Gillespie, Newsletter Editor



*We had a positive experience at this year's Cal-Ed / IMPACT conference. We appreciated having the opportunity to learn from teachers and parents, people who have both hands-on and hearts-on experience with deaf and hard of hearing children. We also enjoyed meeting other parents, both hearing and deaf, and learning about their approaches to child rearing and their creative ways of problem-solving.*

*On another note...*

*I think that there are opportunities to improve the Cal-Ed / IMPACT conferences. Some of my suggestions are:*

*1. Improved childcare situations, especially for the little ones, with a comfy place for napping (dimmed lights, cribs or floor beds), healthy snacks, developmentally appropriate toys and activities.*

*2. More and better entertainment. I've seen magicians now at just about every deaf event I've been to and it seems like there*

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## LIVELY MEETINGS!

*By Nancy Eddy  
IMPACT President*

The general meeting of IMPACT members is held annually at the conference. It is at this meeting where the Board reviews the activities of the previous year and both new and old Board members are elected. It is usually a struggle to get people out of bed in time to attend the meeting.

This year was different! One of the primary actions taken by the Board in the past year was the opposition to the admission criteria for the residential schools. Working at the November 2003 Board meeting and later through email, the Board decided that IMPACT should take a stand in opposition to the regulations proposed by the Department of Education putting admission criteria into written form. With the help of an attorney, a letter of opposition was written and presented at a hearing in Sacramento on the issue. It was also sent to a variety of public figures and published in the January 2004 edition of this newsletter.

Once it appeared in the newsletter, a quiet storm began to brew. It was apparently not as quiet at the California School for the Deaf, Fremont, where IMPACT members did not feel their opinions had been considered. The disagreement was brought to the Board's attention at the general meeting in March. A very lively and emotional discussion followed among a variety of IMPACT members and Board members about the merits of the issue as well as the decision-making guidelines/by-laws of IMPACT. The discussion carried on into the Board Meeting later in the day.

There are two avenues we are continuing to pursue. One revolves around the issue itself. The issue is limits to admission of deaf children who have additional handicapping conditions to the Schools for the Deaf. A review of the issue can be found by looking at the January 2004 issue of the newsletter (available at [www.deafkids.org](http://www.deafkids.org)). A second set of regulations is due to be published in the near future and the Board will discuss how to respond at its May 2004 meeting.

The second avenue is to clarify the decision making process for the members of IMPACT. The bylaws (also at the web site) state that the Board will be elected by the general membership to be the decision-making authority of the organization. The importance of electing a well-rounded group of Board Members should never be ignored.

The Board may vote on issues by mail (extended to mean email as well), phone or in person. A majority of the Board present and voting will be the deciding factor. That policy was followed in the original decision. At the May 2004 meeting of the Board, the bylaws will be reviewed to see if that is still the policy we wish to follow. A database that permits a mass email to all members will be set up as well.

Minutes of the general meeting and the March Board meeting will be available on the web site soon. If you have any questions, please contact any of the Board members listed in this newsletter.

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*could be a lot more in terms of generating enthusiasm and getting people really excited about being both part of the community and at the conference. In California especially we are surrounded by celebrities and talented entertainers who are able to generate both interest and enthusiasm for the deaf and hard of hearing community. How about a dance troupe? A very famous person who may not be deaf, but wants to support the community? A fashion show? Screening short films? An indoor light show?*

*3. More classes for parents.*

*4. Also, offer classes for children and parents together. For example, a bookmaking class for kids and their parents in which the goal is to make an experience book – in the end, the parents have learned about the importance of experience books, the children feel included and proud of their hand-made book, and the parents and kids can spend that time together.*

*5. Evening catered dinner or cocktail hour with great entertainment. Childcare provided at this time. This way everyone can come with or without their kids and can take time to meet families, network, etc.*

*6. Better sponsors. How about Target? Disney? Film industry? They might provide really fantastic gift bags and giveaways.*

*These are just a few thoughts. David and I will probably be around next year and would like to help out with the next conference. Let me know what we can do.*

*Sincerely,*

*Johanna Brandvik  
Parent*

*To the IMPACT Membership:*

*First I want to say thank you to IMPACT for allowing me to participate in their conference closing meetings. Second, I would like to introduce myself as the father of a deaf 10 year old son and as Executive Director of the Tripod organization.*

*At the conference many of us saw and experienced the sharp disagreements and hurt feelings around the position paper published by the IMPACT Board in response to potential regulations around admission criteria. Much of what was expressed was a feeling of betrayal, a misrepresentation of membership.*

*For the record, I wanted to share what I myself experienced in the conference closing board meeting around this topic. There was a lot of emotion in the discussion, as there should be, because the paper and the process that lead to it hit a wide variety of nerves. What was so exciting about the meeting is that the IMPACT Board listened to each other and, though they did what they thought was best for everyone when writing the paper, the results showed that the process was flawed. The different board members began to develop ideas that will lead to better communication with membership. In addition they were addressing possible ways of building a stronger organization by getting feedback from families on what kind of an organization IMPACT needs to be to best represent their constituency.*

*In short, what I witnessed was an IMPACT that wanted to be responsive and representative of their members.*

*As a member, I have pledged my support to IMPACT as they do this hard, time consuming work. My hope is that others will join the effort, because I think IMPACT ultimately represents something very positive in a world where there is so much conflict.*

*Sincerely,*

*Chris Opie  
Executive Director, Tripod*

## IMPACT AWARDS 2004

### **Public Service Award**

Robert I. Roth  
Chief Executive Officer, DCARA

### **Teacher of the Year**

Valerie Malangko  
Teacher / Interpreter, Santa Barbara County Office of Ed.

### **Outstanding Contributor**

Cora May Johnson  
Interpreter, Orange County Office of Education

### **Administrator of the Year**

Pat Dimond  
SELPA Director, Stanislaus County Office of Education

### **Professional of the Year**

Jane Newkirk  
Teacher, CSD Fremont

### **George Attletweed Award**

Jason Gillespie  
Teacher, Stanislaus County Office of Education

# GRIEVING

By Sandy Harvey

Parent Links Program Consultant, Advisory Board, Parent

*“You know more of a road by having traveled it than by all of the conjectures and descriptions in the world” - William Hazlitt*

As a parent, you may experience a variety of emotional responses as you are struggling with issues related to raising your deaf or hard of hearing child. Our journey is not easy. It is widely accepted that grief is a natural response to loss or separation. In the case of parenting a deaf or hard of hearing child, we are grieving the loss of a dream: the perception of what our child should have been. At the time the hearing loss is identified, and throughout the various stages of your child’s development, you will be confronted with issues of loss and will respond with various emotions (guilt, anger, denial, anxiety, and depression). The experience is natural, painful and healthy.

**This process is natural.** Feelings and emotions are human responses. They are not right or wrong; they just are. The identification of hearing loss triggers emotions in parents that are natural given the new, uncharted situation. Prior to the identification of hearing loss, each parent subconsciously holds a “road map” of life for their children – and themselves – in their mind. At the time of diagnosis and at various points along the way, they find themselves traveling a road not listed on their map, with no way to turn back. When this happens, it is natural to feel anxiety about choices that need to be made, anger at the map maker, guilt for possibly taking a wrong turn, fear of the unknown, and possibly denial that this could even be happening. To respond otherwise would be unnatural.

**This process can be painful.** A parent may feel out of control, unable to deal with this new set of circumstances, or overwhelmed with sadness or anger. The intensity of emotions may be uncomfortable for those who are interacting with a grieving parent. There is a tendency for others to want to alleviate the pain or at least diminish the intensity. To do so is to deny the parent their search for a new path.

**This process is healthy.** Through the grief experience, parents may reevaluate life. They often create new road maps for their children — and for themselves — by redefining their destination, asking directions, and finding new roads. Through the process they develop strengths and skills, discovering values that were previously unknown to them. Through the pain comes growth and purpose. Parents no longer find themselves in a cul-de-sac with no place to turn, but rather at a crossroads with a revised map and new roads to travel. The roads are not better or worse, just different.

Not only is the grief process natural, painful and healthy but it is also an individual process. Each person experiences grief in his or her own way and time. No one can or should do it for you, but Parent Links can walk with you as you begin your journey.

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*The feeling of being connected or linked may be one of life’s sweetest moments – when someone understands you, really understands you, because they have “been there”.*

*If you would like to be a volunteer Link (resource, friend, seasoned parent) for a family just finding out that their baby is deaf or hard of hearing, please fill out the attached form and return it to :*

**PARENTLINKS**  
**4708 Roseville Rd. Suite 112**  
**North Highlands, CA 95660**

*Additional information about Key Parent Links will be sent to you.*

*Name:*

*Address:*

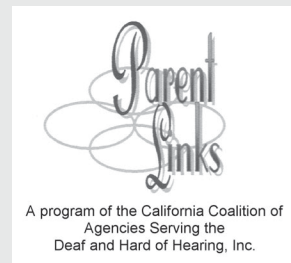
*Phone:*

*E-Mail:*

*Age of your deaf/hard of hearing child:*

*School/Program your child attends:*

*Program funded by The California Endowment*



## UNI HIGH SCORES BIG AT DAB 2004

Irvine, CA - The Orange County Department of Education's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at University High School came home from the National Deaf Academic Bowl with a third place victory this year. The top ten teams in the country competed at Gallaudet University from April 24-26th. The team consisted of Joshua Allmann, Kyle Slade and Clay Stearns (left to right, below) who fought hard beating Florida School for the Deaf to secure third place. Coaches Alan Davary and Poh Gaik Teh kept their team in a winning mode, leading them to victory in their last 7 games straight.

First place went to Colorado School for the Deaf and Second Place went to Hersey High School from Illinois. The students had a wonderful experience, made fast friends and learned a lot about Gallaudet University. According to the principal, Jon Levy, "The academic bowl reinforces that it is cool to be smart! It's a great program and we hope that more schools participate in the future." Congratulations UNI!!!!



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Mapping out the destination is an ongoing task, but each detour is accomplished with a little less struggle than the first. Grieving never ends, only the intensity changes. Remind yourself of the skills, strengths and values you have found in yourself since you first stood at the crossroads. Grab the road map of life and take time to enjoy your wondrous child.

*The ideas and theories of Kenneth Moses are the basis for this Essential Link on Grief.*

*Parent Links Consultants are located throughout California. The program is generously funded by The California Endowment. The program provides services, programs, information and parent-to-parent support for families with infants and toddlers, birth to age three. For further information, call toll-free at (877) 322-7299 and press option 4#.*



## SUMMER CAMPS 2004

### **John Tracy Clinic Summer Programs** *John Tracy Clinic*

Deaf preschoolers age 2-5, sibs 6-10  
No charge  
Contact: Ms. Martindale  
806 West Adams Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
(800) 522-4582 voice/TDD

### **Family Camp** *House Ear Institute* Santa Monica Mtns., (near Malibu)

May 21 - 23, 2004  
For the entire family  
\$75 per camper; assistance available  
Children under 1 free  
Contact: Marilee Potthoff or Kathie Arms, House Ear Institute  
2100 West 3rd Street, 5th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90057  
(213) 483-4431 voice  
(213) 483-0112 TDD

### **Bothin Camps** *San Francisco Bay Girl Scout Council* Various locations

Various dates  
Deaf and hearing girls  
P.O. Box 2249 Oakland, CA 94621  
(510) 562-8470 V/T  
(800) 447-4475 V/T (Northern CA)  
(510) 633-7925 FAX

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## SUMMER CAMPS 2004 (CONTINUED)

### **Camp Grizzly** **NorCal Center on Deafness** **(Portola, CA - north of Truckee)**

July 11-17, 2004  
Ages 7-17, CODAs and sibs OK  
\$350 *before* 6/11/04  
Assistance available  
Register early - limited space!  
Contact: Dawn Ovesen  
4708 Roseville Rd., Suite 111  
North Highlands, CA 95660  
(916) 349-7500 TTY?Voice  
campgrizzly@norcalcenter.org  
www.norcalcenter.org

### **Camp Pacifica** **California Lions Camp** **(near Yosemite)**

Session 1: July 25-31  
Session 2: August 1-8  
\$300; scholarships available.

Register early!  
Angel Flight provides air  
transportation - deadline 6/15/04  
Contact: California Lions Camp  
PO Box 577663  
Modesto, CA 95357  
pbdiamond@sbcglobal.net  
hollyld@iwon.com  
www.californialionscamp.org

### **Camp Teresita Pines** **Lion's Wilderness Camp** **(Wrightwood, CA)**

### **Clovis RLC Camp** **Lion's Wilderness Camp** **(Near Sonora, CA)**

**July 18-24 (Camp Teresita Pines)**  
**August 1-7 (Clovis RLC Camp)**  
**Ages 6-15**  
Lions Wilderness Camp  
P.O. Box 61

Mt. Eden, CA 94557  
(877) 896-1598 voice/TTY  
campdirector@lionswildcamp.org  
info@lionswildcamp.org  
www.lionswildcamp.org

### **Deaf Kid's Kamp** **Sproul Ranch, Inc.** **(Valyermo - south of Bakersfield)**

**August 1-6, 2004**  
**Ages 6-17; deaf children only**  
**\$30 registration fee; camp free!**  
45446 7th Street East, Suite 21  
Lancaster, CA 93535  
(702) 247-6905  
(800) 346-6444 (voice/TDD)  
www.deafkidskamp.com

*Please check [www.deafkids.org](http://www.deafkids.org)  
frequently for updates or  
additions to our camp list.*

14181 CHAGALL AVE.  
IRVINE, CA 92606  
WWW.DEAFKIDS.ORG



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