What’s **taping** so long?

**From a parent**

Every student at Iowa School for the Deaf benefits with individual attention from faculty and staff. A student’s mother recently shared how much that attention means to her son:

In the few months he has been there (at ISD), he has blossomed into a new child. He is learning and catching up on all that he has missed in many years of always being behind. I’ve never seen my son happy like he is now.

– Shawna Claussen

**$4,500 earned in contest**

What began as a class assignment yielded a big payout for some ISD middle and high school students.

Language arts classes were assigned the essay topic, “Healing the World with Optimism,” a theme chosen by Optimist International for this year’s oratorical competition.

From the assignments, 10 student essays were chosen from 7th, 8th and 9th grades (division I) and 10 were chosen from 10th, 11th and 12th grades (division II). These 20 students were invited to compete at the next level.

Division 1 winners

• Austin Luther, first place, $250 scholarship. Austin is a freshman from Elkhorn, Neb.

• Hope Murapa, second place

Hope is an eighth grader from Orange City. (continued, next page)

**Check these flicks**

Click the links below to see new overview videos of our campus spaces! Or visit ISD’s YouTube Channel: Iowa School for the Deaf.

1. Preschool
2. Elementary
3. Middle & High School
4. 4PLUS transition

Junior Greg Musinde-Kazeba from Cedar Rapids packs up textbooks in the high school book room. Everything and everyone housed in Iowa School for the Deaf’s middle school and high school building (Long Hall) must move out to accommodate extensive renovations, estimated to last 13 months. Students will use temporary classrooms throughout campus during school year 2021-2022. The project includes new windows, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, fire sprinkler system, visual-audio alerts and security doors.
Remembering Henry

SD students and staff will always remember senior Henry Zlando of Muscatine who died March 13 in an Omaha hospital.

Henry was active in Bobcat sports and especially loved basketball. He was known for his soft-hearted personality and enjoyment of a good joke, or pulling a harmless prank. Henry’s gentle spirit led him to become the loving, funny and caring person we knew him to be.

Henry Zlando
April 23, 2003 – March 13, 2021

$4,500 continued

• Eric Yepez-Morales, third place. Eric is an eighth grader from Council Bluffs.

Division II winners
• Kalista Nipper, first place: $2,500 scholarship. Kali is a sophomore from Council Bluffs.

• Britany Adame, second place; $1,000 scholarship. Britany is a sophomore from Council Bluffs.

ISD speech language pathologists Abigail Bradley and Tiana Dixon coordinated the campus contest. Abigail recognizes additional staff and judges for their help: Kate Kasal, preliminary judge; Kristen Newton, Shannan Cyboron and Laura Vitera (finalist judges); and Leonard Wright, the Council Bluffs Optimist Club representative.

Picking up the pieces

Fourth grader Neil Metteer and fellow students learned many hands make quick work at the campus-wide clean-up on Earth Day. In one hour, a heaping pile of trash was collected from around the grounds. Thanks to Chris Nipper, work experience coordinator, and transition staff for coordinating the activity.
Two-in-one accreditation

ISD has been accredited by AdvancED for several decades under the standards for special schools. Because ISD is not a school district nor a nonpublic school, accreditation is voluntary and complies with Iowa code.

ISD is again pursuing voluntary accreditation. However, Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired and ISD are undergoing the process jointly. Together, the two agencies known as Iowa Education for Deaf and Blind will experience the accreditation process, using the Education Service Agency model.

AdvancED (now Cognia) is the independent agency which offers accreditation. The process begins with self-study. This spring, ISD and IESBVI are surveying parents, students, staff and external stakeholders to gather perspective on strengths and areas of need. One of the last aspects of accreditation is a site visit conducted by the Cognia team.

The review process is expected to conclude the spring of 2022.
ISD physical education teacher Cody Kerekes knows how to get all the students moving!

Cody uses the parachute in classes for building coordination, perceptual and motor skills. It also is a good team building and turn taking activity.

The high school track team took an important pit stop on the way to the CB Relays this spring as they held an emergency bus evacuation drill.

Students helped others out of the bus, drivers gave direction, and according to Liz Gates, transportation manager, the team was back on the bus and on their way to the meet with time to spare.

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With close adherence to COVID-19 school protocols, prom was held for ISD students in early April. The dinner and dance was at Sparks Barn in Nebraska and post-prom was at the Hub, a local trampoline (and more) gym.

Taking a fast break from their masks are prom royalty and seniors Sterlyn Aragon of Sergeant Bluff and Damien Holste of Underwood.