



What's Happening

WOW What a Year!!!

Oh my goodness I can't believe the summer is half over with already. Last school year was a whirlwind of events and this one promises to be even better.

Summary of last school year:

- MRP student participants grew by a minimum of three students in each age category. This is exciting.
- 22 students went on the Close Up Washington DC Experience

(10th-12th grade).

- The Dance was held in Lincoln.
- Storytelling was "for the birds".
- Arts Festival was full of stories.

What is in the works for THIS school year? TONS see for yourself:

- The Dance (7th -12th grades) will be in November.
- Arts Festival will be hosted by MRP this year—I'm busy getting

people contacted and making plans.

- Growing the Advisory Committee
- CCDHH will be in Omaha this year.
- Fall Family Picnic & hopefully a Hay Rack Ride—details coming very soon!!!
- Cosmosphere Space Camp in Hutchinson, KS (7-9th grade)
- Spring Fling will be in early May.
- And so MUCH more...

A newsletter of the Metro Regional Program who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Summer 2011

What's inside?

- EIPA Testing dates
- Share YOUR ideas
- Storytelling Festival
- Cosmosphere Space Camp

MRP Advisory Committee wants YOU!!

DON'T FORGET TO RSVP FOR ALL ACTIVITIES!

The MRP Advisory Committee has been a small dwindling (albeit a committed) group over the past three years. One goal MRP has for this school year is to make our advisory committee stronger and more active. To accomplish this goal WE NEED YOU—Parents, Teachers, Interpreters, Service Providers and Special Education Directors — on our

committee.

Here are my goals for the meetings:

- To make sure everyone is updated on: (1)how MRP is spending money, (2) professional and student activities.
- I also want to hear how YOU want MRP to grow. What is important to you? What do



To be a member of the MRP Advisory Committee

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EIPA Testing

Do you need to take the EIPA???

Test dates are:

- * November 19-20, 2012 (Olathe, KS)
- * January 14-15, 2012 (Aurora, NE)
- * March 24-25, 2012 (Council Bluffs, IA)
- * April 14-15, 2012 (Omaha, NE)

For more information or to register check out their website:

<http://www.taese.org>

Have you checked out...

Here are some of Natasha's favorite things to do during the summer months—some are indoors, some are out. Some are free, some are not:

- * The Omaha Children's Museum is having World Fest June 30—August 4th. Go experience what children do for fun in Japan, China, Mexico, Germany, Lithuania and Ireland. Go to www.OCM.org to learn more
- * The many Farmers Markets around town. Eat fresh local produce and have fun people watching
- * Your local swimming pool?
- * What about the Zoo or Lauritzen Gardens?
- * Walked over the pedestrian bridge connecting Omaha to Council Bluffs? This is always a fun FREE activity. Spend the time with your family talking about the historic flood.

What is YOUR favorite thing to do in Omaha over the summer?

Tired of being BORED??? Check out these ideas

As a parent, all too often I hear... "MOM I'm BORED!" I'm sure many of you are in the same boat. My normal answers include... Go play with your friends. Go ride your bike. You COULD clean your room. What about reading a book? AND as a last ditch—I guess you could watch a movie or some TV.

WELL—I found some new ideas that DON'T include watching TV!!! From the book *501 TV-free Activities for Kids* by Di Hodges here are a few I will be trying over the next few weeks: 'Insect Hunt' (p. 329) - Go on a bug hunt (can be done as a family), collect different insects (for a short while) and see what they eat or do... Combine this with p.

367 the 'Let's Find Out' by asking all sorts of questions—What does it eat? What does it look like? Where does it live? How does it move? Does it have...?

I like this one too—as my son keeps asking me for money. Pretend to give your child some money (10.00—100.00) (use some monopoly money or make some family bucks) and then go catalog shopping or walk around the store seeing how much their wanted items cost—OR have them look at totally re-doing their room (paint, furniture, carpet, pictures) and THEY have to see if they have enough \$\$\$\$ for what THEY want.

Do you want to???

What are some of your goals for this upcoming school year? Do you want to read a new book? Learn a different language? Compete in a "Dance-Dance Revolution" or "Guitar Hero's" competition? What about participating in a fitness day or trying a new obstacle course? Do you like biking? Do you like gardening? What about building things?

Natasha is busy planning and finalizing many of the fun activities that will be done this school year—but she NEEDS and WANTS input from YOU!!

Do YOU want to TEACH Natasha (or your friends) something? Maybe you have built a backyard obstacle course and want to share how to do that with us? I would LOVE to hear what ideas

YOU have for MRP to participate with/in and do. New experiences and ideas are always welcome



Technology & Dance (grades 7–12)



How do Technology and The Dance go together? Come and find out!! Come learn about internet safety from Nebraska's very own Melinda Brown and Maureen Mann. After the Technology seminar is over we will have time to change into our dancing shoes (and clothes), have a great dinner and an evening of dancing. The DJ will stick around till 11pm then students will have an opportunity to socialize, watch movies, sleep, chat with friends etc.

When: November 18–19, 2011

Where: Ashland, NE

Registrations/Invitations will go home through school and be available online!

The Nebraska Regional Program permission forms have changed. For the first time ever forms will be available electronically. You can even fill them out and email them back to me!!!

Paper copies will still be available for those who do not have internet access.



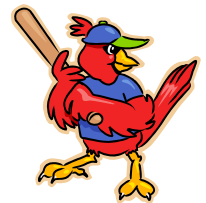
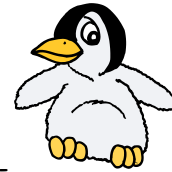
Storytelling Festival (grades 3–6)

The focus of Storytelling Festival this year will be

CARTOONING!

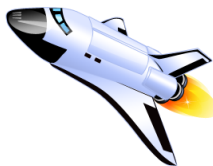
This year the festival will be hosted by the Southeast Nebraska Regional Programs (SNRP). Cartoons are MORE than television shows and Disney/Pixar movies— it is an art form of creating a story using comics/graphic novels.

Much more information will come as soon as school starts, BUT save the date: September 24th & 25th for some great cartooning fun!



Cosmosphere Space Camp: October 9–15, 2011

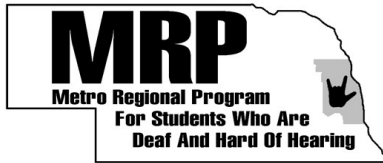
Attention 7th–9th graders: Do you love space adventure and challenges? If so, register now for Space Camp! This week-long camp held at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center teaches students about NASA's space program and life as an astronaut. All four regions participate in this statewide activity and students must be in good academic and behavior standing in



school AND with the Regional Programs in order to participate. A packet will be mailed home to individuals who qualify at the beginning of the school year. The packet will include the essay requirements (if you want to start on the essay NOW you may!). No late registrations will be accepted. More details will be sent to those who register. This activity does have a

\$100.00 deposit required (MRP will pay the remaining balance of the trip). If you would like to request a confidential scholarship please call or email Natasha 402-597-4975 or nkraft@esu3.org.

Visit Cosmosphere's website at www.cosmo.org to learn more about this exciting opportunity.



Metro Regional Program for Children who
are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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www.NebraskaMRP.com

MRP Advisory Committee wants YOU!! Continued from Page 1

you want for training, for student activities?

- To keep the meetings to under two (2) hours (we all have more important things to do than sitting in a meeting).
- To make sure our meetings stay on track, on topic and to make sure everyone is heard.
- To make sure we are meeting the needs of ALL the students in the MRP region.

Here are the meeting dates. We would really like you to attend. Please email, call or fax your RSVP to Natasha. If you require an interpreter (ASL, SEE, Spanish....) please make sure I have at least two-weeks notice.

- ⇒ September 17, 2011: a short informative meeting right before eating at the Family Picnic and Hay Rack Ride (I'm still working on the location and time. This will be finalized soon and information will be e-mailed and sent to school.)
- ⇒ November 3, 2011: 4:30—6:30p.m. Location—TBA
- ⇒ February 9 or 16, 2012: 4:30—6:30pm Location—TBA
- ⇒ April 28, 2012: a short informative meeting right before eating at the Family Picnic. Location: Omaha Hearing School. Time: TBA (Thank you OHS for permitting our picnic to be at your school).