NORTHWEST SCHOOL
for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children
P.O. BOX 33666
SHORELINE, WA 98133

SPRING 2025

LEARNING IN ACTION



FAMILY CONVERSATIONS' SPOTLIGHT: MEET BOHAN

Meet Bohan, who recently turned three and graduated from the Family Conversations (FC) program! Bohan's mom, Yuning, is so grateful for the support she received from FC over the years. "We learned so many strategies regarding how to communicate/play with our kid and how to support him better." She said the best part of being in the FC program was the continual support through each phase of Bohan's life and development. "We never felt like being left alone," she said. "Concerns are heard, frustrations are seen. Whenever needed, support and resources will be available. As a part of Family Conversations we feel we don't have to fight for our kid alone all by ourselves." In addition to support, the family found value in building connections with other parents of Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing children. "We got to know families in similar situations via Family Conversations, which really empowered us," noted Yuning. "We feel so lucky to be part of Family Conversations. I really appreciated the value it brings to the community of families with a kid who has hearing loss." When asked what hopes she has for Bohan's future, Yuning reflected, "I hope hearing loss is just a feature of him but never an obstacle in his life."

BECOME A SUPPORTER!



NWSDHH relies on the generosity of our community to enable us to deliver high quality education and programs for Western Washington's deaf and hard-of-hearing (D/HH) children. With your support, we can provide a safe and caring learning environment with the tools and expertise to help D/HH kids and their families succeed. Because of you, the children we serve are given the opportunity to reach their full potential!

Help us serve more children today! Donate using the QR code or visit:
www.northwestschool.com/donate/

STAY IN TOUCH

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A LOYAL FRIEND TO NWSDHH: THE ALDARRA FOUNDATION



June A. Boeing and William E. Boeing Jr., Founders of the Aldarra Foundation



Kabian Rendel (NWSDHH's Head of School), Brad Barnard and Tammy Miller (The Aldarra Foundation), and Sara Reyerson (NWSDHH's Chief Operating Officer)

One of the truly special things that allows Northwest School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children (NWSDHH) to flourish is the love and partnerships of our caring, generous philanthropic community. Today, we are honored to lift up our years-long partnership with The Aldarra Foundation.

The Aldarra Foundation came to life out of the legacy and passion of William E. Boeing Jr. and June A. Boeing. In addition to their leadership and deep investment in aviation, William E. Boeing Jr. and June A. Boeing lived their lives directing attention, resources and support to a range of non-profit organizations in the areas of health and human services, animal welfare, environmental stewardship, and education.

NWSDHH was fortunate to come to know the Aldarra Foundation and share the power of our unique mission with them. Just before the pandemic, our partnership deepened, opening the door to transformative work. The Aldarra Foundation has been a pivotal partner, helping us envision our dreams and what it will take to reach them.

With the support of Aldarra, NWSDHH has accomplished many things. Together, we moved courageously through a historic pandemic. Aldarra helped us inspire other local philanthropists to support the strategic plans of NWSDHH; including transformative gifts for our birth-to-three program, which allowed us to reach historic numbers of families and add a Spanish-speaking Communication Coach. Because of Aldarra's fierce commitment to nurturing and supporting the staff who deliver critical missions, they helped NWSDHH elevate our structures around compensation, training, and professional development. And last but certainly not least, the support from Aldarra helped us secure matching funds to complete a comprehensive campus renovation.

The work of the Aldarra Foundation culminated over the last year, with the foundation awarding their final grants. NWSDHH was proud to receive one of these grants and will steward this gift with great care. It has been our great joy and privilege to be part of the beautiful generosity of William E. Boeing Jr. and June A. Boeing. Their love for community will live on in the children and families we serve!

TURNING THE PAGE: NWSDHH'S NEW & IMPROVED LIBRARY

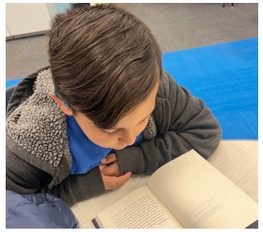








"I want Deaf students to have access to all the things hearing students have access to."



Thanks to the generous support of our giving community and a fabulous volunteer, we were able to completely revamp and update our school library! We now have over 600 new titles, and a new check out system that allows our students to bring the books home. Previously, the selection of books was limited, and students would only read or look at library books while at school. This overhaul is thanks to the tireless work of our volunteer Evan Scheps, a King County Library System Youth Librarian who shared his professional knowledge and talents to get us set up with a high-quality book selection. "I used my experience at the public library to select books that I know are always checked out," said Evan. "One difference between a public library and a school library is that at a public library, parents are often choosing the books with their children. So, I tried my best to select books that kids will select on their own. There are award winners in there too, but my philosophy was to choose what kids will want to read, not what adults think they should read."

Evan also ensured that the collection included books with a special focus on Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing characters and authors. "NWSDHH has a diverse student population, and every student deserves to see themselves represented in their library," reflected Evan. "I did my best to choose books that reflect a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. With Deaf representation in particular, my first choice is always a d/Deaf or hard-of-hearing author. If it's a hearing author writing about a Deaf person, I review the book carefully to make sure that the representation feels authentic. I am also always on the lookout for 'incidental representation' – books featuring Deaf characters where the whole story isn't just about them being Deaf. Beyond access to books, as a parent of a Deaf child, I want Deaf students to have access to all the things hearing students have access to."

We cannot wait to see how this beautifully updated library fosters our students' love of reading. Thank you to everyone who made it happen!

DID YOU KNOW?
LISTENING FATIGUE

Listening fatigue happens when a child works extra hard to hear, process, and understand spoken language throughout the day. For children with hearing differences, even with hearing aids or cochlear implants, listening takes more effort. Studies show that students with hearing differences may expend up to 3–5 times more energy during listening tasks than their hearing peers!

Signs of Listening Fatigue:

- Saying "What?" or asking for repetition more often
- Headaches, rubbing ears, or eye fatigue
- Withdrawing from conversations
- Irritability or meltdowns after school
- Avoiding group discussions or noisy settings
- Lower energy or difficulty focusing by the afternoon

Accommodations that help prevent listening fatigue:

- Avoiding high-demand activities after school when kids are mentally drained
- Using Visual Supports
- Preferential seating (close to the teacher)
- Use of FM/DM systems in class
- Reduced background noise when possible
- Extra time to process or respond to oral directions
- Listening breaks during long or loud parts of the day
- Normalizing listening fatigue
- Teaching self-advocacy skills, like asking for repetition or a break when needed

A GIVING STORY:
DOUBLE YOUR DONATION, DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

Did you know that some companies offer donation matching programs that can double or even triple your donation? After you've made a contribution to Northwest School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children, reach out to your employer to see if they have a donation matching program. It's an easy way for you to further your impact and increase your donation to the causes you care about...like us!

Make a gift to NWSDHH today:
www.northwestschool.com/donate