



# connect.

CONNECTING VANCOUVER ISLAND & THE GULF ISLANDS



INTERNATIONAL WEEK  
OF THE DEAF

The International Week of the Deaf is an initiative of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and was first launched in 1958 in Rome, Italy. It is celebrated through various activities by Deaf Communities all around the world. In 2017, the United Nations recognized September 23rd as the International Day of Sign Languages (RESOLUTION A/RES/72/161).

The Rights of Deaf individuals and access to communication in sign language is still being fought today. With over 70 million Deaf individuals worldwide and over 300 sign languages globally it is important that steps continue to be taken to work towards equality for all.



**Join us for a very informative workshop hosted by Nigel Howard about the importance of sign languages. See page 2 for more info.**

## UPCOMING IDHHC EVENTS

**SEPT 23:** Int'l Day of Sign Languages Workshop

**SEPT 30 & OCT 3:** Canada VRS Workshop

**OCT 21 & 24:** Hallowe'en Fun for Kids

**NOV 25 & 28:** Holidays Fun for Kids

SEE PAGE 2 & 3 FOR MORE INFO

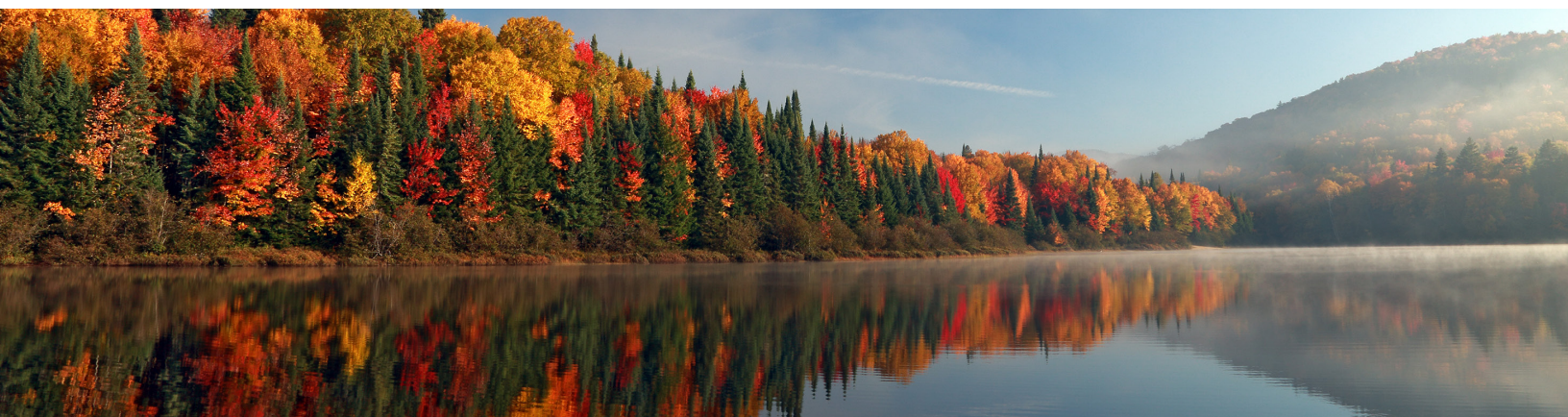
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# INSIDE IDHHC

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR CENTRES

## WORKSHOPS

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES

WED, SEPTEMBER 23, 6:30 - 8:30PM

Presenter: Nigel Howard



INTERNATIONAL DAY  
OF SIGN LANGUAGES

This workshop will focus on the importance of sign languages amongst Deaf populations, especially Deaf children and youth in their formative years, the history of sign language and the rights of Deaf individuals to communicate in a visual language.

Nigel teaches ASL as an Adjunct Professor at UBC



and Instructor at UVic through the Department of Linguistics at both institutions. He has been an interpreter for over 25 years and is one of 30 Accredited International Sign Language Interpreters providing services for the UN and international conferences. This accreditation is recognized by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI). He currently holds the Treasurer position with the WASLI.

Join us via Zoom for this informative workshop

ZOOM LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/93366002290>

### CANADA VRS INFORMATION WORKSHOP

WED, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, 2 - 3:30PM

or SAT, OCTOBER 3, 2020, 1 - 2:30PM

Presenters: Bree Sproule and  
Diane Unterschultz



IDHHC is hosting a workshop with SRV Canada VRS. Learn more about Canada Video Relay Services and how it works with your laptop or mobile phone. Ask questions & discuss at the end too!

To register, contact [idhhc@idhhc.ca](mailto:idhhc@idhhc.ca) or text 250.818.5738. Zoom link will be forwarded to participants. Maximum of 20 people per session.



## ZOOM BINGO

Looking for some online social fun? Join us for some virtual Bingo!  
We play every Tuesday from 2 - 4 PM between September 15 - December 8.

Please contact Susanne who can provide you with more information and the Zoom link.

E: [susanne@idhhc.ca](mailto:susanne@idhhc.ca) TXT: 250.818.5738  
FT: [susanne@idhhc.ca](mailto:susanne@idhhc.ca) VRS: 778.817.0437



IDHHC's Family & Community Services  
is offering online sessions  
for families with school-aged  
children and youth!



## ASL for Families & Parents

### Family ASL

Your family can request up to six ASL classes that address your family's unique communication needs.

### Introduction to ASL Grammar, Part 1

6 one-hour sessions that introduce parents to ASL grammar fundamentals. Classes will run on Tuesday and Thursdays at 6:30PM: from October 6 - 22.  
*Group classes - space is limited.*

### Introduction to ASL Grammar, Part 2

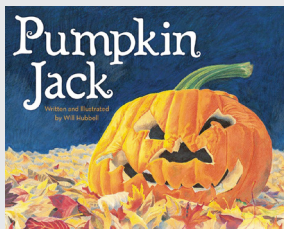
6 one-hour sessions that build on what parents learned in Part 1 to further develop their skills. Classes will run on Tuesday and Thursdays at 6:30PM: from November 10 - 26.  
*Group classes - space is limited.*

## ZOOM FUN FOR KIDS!

### HALLOWE'EN

#### ASL Story Time & Craft Time

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 @ 4:30PM**



The first pumpkin Tim ever carved was fierce and funny, and he named it Jack. When Hallowe'en was over, the pumpkin began to rot. Come spring, a plant began to grow! Will Hubbell's gentle story and beautifully detailed illustrations give an intimate look at the cycle of life.

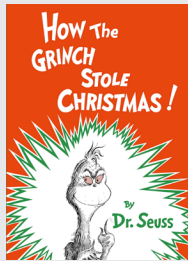
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 @ 11AM**

Make fun monster masks with us! Supplies will be mailed out. Please register by September 30.

### THE HOLIDAYS

#### ASL Story Time & Craft Time

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 @ 4:30PM**



Every Who down in Who-ville liked Christmas a lot... but the Grinch, who lived just north of Who-ville, did NOT! This heartwarming story about the effects of the Christmas spirit will grow even the coldest and smallest of hearts. The Grinch is a mainstay of the holidays, and his story is the perfect gift for readers young and old.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28 @ 11AM**

Bake Grinch cookies with us! Recipe list will be provided.

Space is limited. Parents must register for their children and be available at home for support if needed. *Recommended ages: 5 - 11.*

To register and for further information, please contact Alex Walker by  
EMAIL: alex@idhhc.ca VOICE: 250-753-0999 TEXT: 250-668-4235



# AURAL REHABILITATION

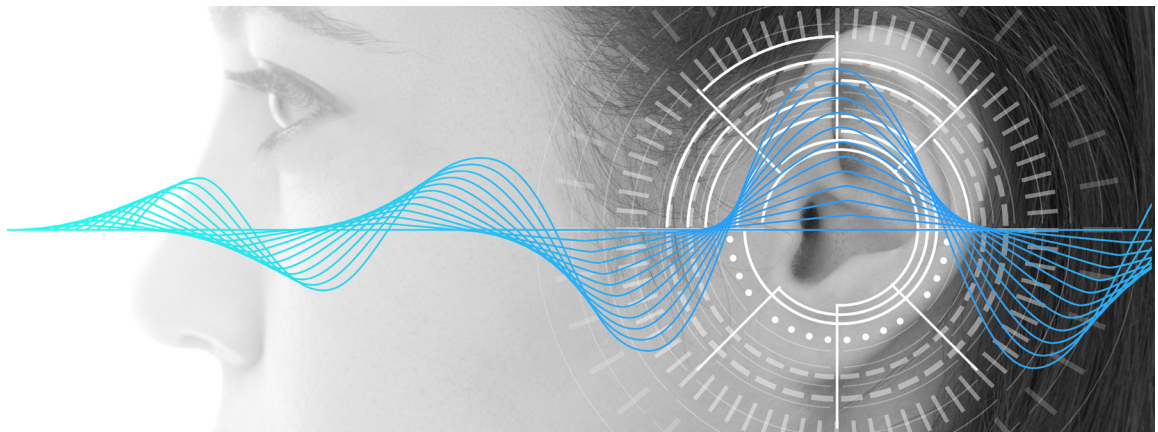
Hearing loss can significantly impact quality of life. Difficulties with communication can affect our relationships with our partners, family members, friends and colleagues. Although hearing aids help to improve the quality of life for people with hearing loss, residual difficulties can often remain. At its core, aural rehabilitation focuses on those communication challenges that result from deprivation of sound over time, such as:

- + Decreased auditory-processing ability
- + Reduced participation or withdrawal in activities
- + Stress, fatigue, and difficulty focusing
- + Diminished ability or stamina in relation to listening

The primary goal of an aural rehabilitation program is to help individuals re-integrate into a world full of sound which includes assisting them in developing skills to hear their best and more confidently navigate various listening situations. Research has shown completing an aural rehabilitation program provides significant benefit in reducing perception of hearing difficulties, improves quality of life, helps individuals become more effective users of hearing technology and communication strategies, and improves personal adjustment to living with hearing loss (Montano 2014; Boothroyd 2007; Ross 1997).

Adult aural rehabilitation can be offered in individual or group settings and encompasses these main points:

- + Improving communication skills for greater engagement and participation
- + Learning to effectively self-advocate in various situations
- + Learning how to cope with the social and emotional aspects of hearing loss



IDHHC is excited to announce an **Aural Rehabilitation** pilot program via Zoom available to IDHHC members. The 5-session program will be Tuesday mornings at 10:30 - 11:30AM from September 29 to October 27. IDHHC audiologists Edward Storzer and Stephanie Renaas will facilitate the sessions.

***ASL Interpreting and captioning services will be provided.***

*SPACE IS LIMITED – Please contact [idhhc@idhhc.ca](mailto:idhhc@idhhc.ca) or call 250.592.8144 to register.*

Not yet an IDHHC Member? Arrange for your \$25/yr membership today and get signed up for this FREE program.



# SUMMER CELEBRATION

Due to COVID-19 we are unable to celebrate together so we look forward to seeing everyone in 2021.

## IDHHC AGM UPDATE

Following the IDHHC AGM on July 29th, the slate of Board of Directors for the 2020-2021 term was elected.

*Chris Beresford*  
*Linda Bradford*  
*Michael Colussi*  
*Mark Dunn*  
*Michael Hayes*

*Suzanne Lang*  
*Anne Minnings*  
*Southard Quint*  
*Janice Todd*

The 2020 - 2021 executive will be determined during the September board meeting and announced shortly thereafter.

## BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

- + Are you looking to give back to the community and care about people?
- + Are you enthusiastic about working towards goals and reducing barriers?
- + Are you motivated by opportunities that empower others?
- + Are you committed to finding solutions towards accessible and inclusive communities?

**Then we want you!!!! Board and Committee members needed. Please reach out to [communication@idhhc.ca](mailto:communication@idhhc.ca) for more information.**

To learn more about becoming a board or committee member, check out our brochure by clicking below!



## SPEECHREADING INSTRUCTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Interested in teaching speechreading to adults with a hearing loss?  
Contract opportunities available in Victoria and Nanaimo to teach speechreading classes.

The Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre is offering a 5-day Level 1 Instructor Training Program from Nov 7 - 11, 2020, 9 am - 4 pm each day in Victoria. Cost is \$600 (subsidies available).

Contact [leslee@idhhc.ca](mailto:leslee@idhhc.ca) for more information.





## WELCOMING NEW STAFF



IDHHC is delighted to welcome back former employee **Kim Dillon**. Kim is IDHHC's South Island WorkBC Employment Case Manager. She has been in the employment services field for twenty years, serving Job

Seekers in the Capital Region as a Case Manager, Job Developer, Workshop Facilitator, and Customized Employment Developer.

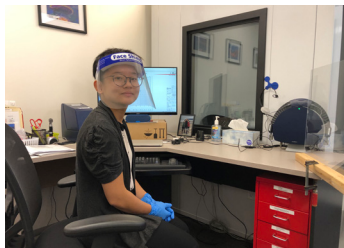
Kim worked at IDHHC in 2014/2015 as the Hearing Loss Resource Assistant. She is excited to be back working with IDHHC supporting individuals with their job search. She is committed to empowering

job seekers to feel valued in the workplace while helping employers understand the benefits of a diverse workforce. Kim's education includes the Community Support Worker Program, Business courses at Camosun and Royal Roads University, SpeechReading Instructor Training through the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association and the Career Development Practitioner Program at Douglas College. In her spare time, Kim enjoys hiking, stand up paddle boarding, baking, gardening, and is passionate about food security and social justice. She is a proud soccer and roller derby Mom.

If you are looking for employment, please reach out to Kim at [kim@idhhc.ca](mailto:kim@idhhc.ca) or via text at 250-818-4331 to arrange an appointment.

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## HEARING HEALTH SERVICES



Some of our Hearing Health Service and Sound of Change clients have had the chance to meet Charlotte Tai, who has been participating in one of her clinical externships as part of her Audiology degree. She is a student in the School of Audiology and Speech Sciences at the University of British Columbia. IDHHC is proud to provide a clinical externship setting for students as an integral part of their ongoing education. It is an opportunity for future audiologists to develop hands-on skills working directly with clients, with supervision and collaboration from a clinical educator.

Charlotte has been enjoying her time at IDHHC under Edward's guidance. The diverse clientele and the opportunity for her to engage in hands-on practice with hearing assessments, amplification, and counselling has been a valuable component of her externship.

Edward has been a clinical educator for UBC students for the past 17 years. He personally finds it to be a valuable experience to collaborate with the bright minds of students who are immersed in the latest research and clinical procedures in audiology.

IDHHC clients have benefited from discussing their hearing, the assessment and treatment of their hearing with Charlotte's fresh and valuable perspective in the field.

In the future, Charlotte would like to work with the pediatric population. She is interested in applying her knowledge and experience as a musician towards hearing protection awareness and rehabilitation work for musicians.



## EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



Odessa was referred to an IDHHC Employment Case Manager a few months ago. She is 21 years old, experiencing challenges including unemployment, lack of stable housing and financial insecurity. She was let go from her

last job because the employer did not take her challenges with hearing loss seriously.

During intake Odessa explained that art was her passion and she wanted to work toward being an artist. Her desire was to find art-related work and eventually get into art school. After staff provide support strategies, resume updates and job search tips she began to seriously look for work at local galleries and art supply stores. Not surprising during COVID-19 she found that most were closed or working with minimal staff.

The case manager became aware of a job opportunity with a well-established Nanaimo-based artist whose business was growing. They

were in search of a young person with artistic talent and aspirations with the intent to mentor them as an Artist Assistant to grow with the company. After asking Odessa if she would be willing to relocate to Nanaimo the case manager contacted the employer and suggested a meeting. In a video call and interview Odessa's maturity and charm quickly won the artist over! And the work of the case manager began in earnest: getting Odessa accepted into a Wage Subsidy program; facilitating workplace accommodations; setting her up with a bus pass and connecting her with local Youth Outreach workers to assist with long-term housing. Odessa also has appointments with an Audiologist and ENT to address her hearing loss.

Odessa has started her full-time dream job as an Artist's Assistant where she will develop her drawing, painting and design skills with ceramics and wood. She will also learn about the commerce side of the art business.

IDHHC, WorkBC, and the Island Ops Initiative will continue to support her on a successful career journey.





# OUT THERE

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CANADA & THE WORLD



**INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF**

**MONDAY  
SEPTEMBER 21**

Sign  
Languages

**TUESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 22**

Inclusive Sign  
Language  
Environments

**WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 23**

International  
Day of Sign  
Languages

**THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 24**

The Legal  
Recognition  
of National  
Sign Languages

**FRIDAY  
SEPTEMBER 25**

Equal  
Opportunities  
for All Deaf  
People

**SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 26**

Deaf  
Leadership

**SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 27**

I Sign for  
Human  
Rights!

[WWW.WFDEAF.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/WFD-EVENTS/  
INTERNATIONAL-WEEK-DEAF/INTERNATIONALWEEKOFTHEDeAF/](http://WWW.WFDEAF.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/WFD-EVENTS/INTERNATIONAL-WEEK-DEAF/INTERNATIONALWEEKOFTHEDeAF/)



## Statement on Accessible Communication for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People during COVID-19 Pandemic

31 August 2020 | [Click here for International Sign version](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about important public health officials from many countries making unprecedented decisions which have had significant impacts on people's lives. The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH), International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP), The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and its youth section, the World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section (WFDYS) welcome measures taken to ensure public safety. Facial coverings and social distancing are two common protection strategies that pose barriers for deaf and hard of hearing people.

In addition to linguistic input, deaf and hard of hearing people rely heavily on facial expressions, speechreading and other visual input to support our understanding of conversation partners. Most hard of hearing persons communicate by oral means whereas most deaf persons communicate using national sign languages; however, visual cues from the person communicating are important for both groups. Face-covering masks and not using visual means of communication alongside linguistic input greatly impedes communication.



Cooperation between all parties in a conversation is necessary in order to ensure accessible communication for everyone.

Hard of hearing persons define accessibility as a practice that will ensure equal access for all hard of hearing persons in all forms of communication. Accessibility may be technological (e.g. assistive listening devices, hearing loops, speech-to-text services, or apps) or non-technological (e.g. pen and paper, clear view of speaker's face to allow speechreading). We believe that the current means of personal protections can be adapted to create an accessible environment which allows for clear communication with hard of hearing persons.

Full accessibility for deaf people is reached when all aurally transmitted information and communications are provided in national sign languages. The use of the national sign languages will ease the implementation of safe distancing measures as its use does not require any physical proximity. In addition to making public information available in national sign languages, information should be communicated via visual means as outlined throughout this statement.

We request government officials, private businesses, non-governmental organizations, cultural, educational, public and social service institutions consider the following recommendations in their responses to COVID-19:

- Mandate the use of clear, transparent face masks and shields for all workers who communicate frequently with the public (a working document on the Global Inventory of Clear & Transparent Face Masks/Shields can be found on the link [here](#)). A stock of transparent masks should be available in every hospital to be used when deaf and hard of hearing people come in, and deaf people must be given access to national sign language interpreters upon request in advance of a visit. Alternatively, some hard of hearing persons may instead require access to a captionist.
- Provide essential information in text format in public spaces, particularly in medical settings (e.g., a list of frequently asked questions at the reception). To ensure maximum access for all, this information should be supplemented with visual aids. It is also recommended that printed information contain a QR code to access this information in national sign languages, or via the provision of remote sign languages interpretation services.
- Use speech-to-text apps to facilitate communication for one-on-one conversations. Reduce background noise (e.g., music) at restaurants and shops so deaf and hard of hearing people can more accurately use automated speech apps to follow one-to-one conversation.
- Adopt a positive attitude towards communicating with deaf and hard of hearing people with visual language practices. These include using national sign languages, gesture-based communication, writing with pen and paper, using speech-to-text apps, and making sure the face is clear and visible.

It is worth noting that other members of our communities can benefit from these recommendations, such as those who are seniors, those with auditory processing challenges, those who communicate in different languages, and those who have other sensory needs. The use of clear face masks benefits everyone, as does providing visual information, because doing so reduces the overall potential for misunderstandings.

Accessibility is an integral part of the efforts that must be made to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Our organizations issue this joint statement for everyone to continue to promote



accessible communication through the recommendations outlined above. Clear communication and clear language use require creativity and good will from everyone. Let us navigate these challenging times together!

Dr. Ruth Warick  
President  
International Federation of Hard of Hearing  
[president@ifhoh.org](mailto:president@ifhoh.org)

Dr. Joseph J Murray  
President  
World Federation of the Deaf

Mr. Bowen Tang  
President  
International Federation of Hard of Hearing  
Young People  
[president@ifhohyp.org](mailto:president@ifhohyp.org)

Mr. Mark Berry  
President  
World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section



## 8-YEAR-OLD GIRL SURPRISES DELIVERY MAN, WHO IS DEAF, WITH SIGN LANGUAGE GREETING



**BY MEGHAN WRAY, GLOBAL NEWS**

[www.globalnews.ca/news/7154040/girl-surprises-deaf-mailman-sign-language/](http://www.globalnews.ca/news/7154040/girl-surprises-deaf-mailman-sign-language/)

One little girl has used her coronavirus lockdown time to learn a new skill — sign language.

In a heartwarming video shared to Twitter by mom Amy Roberts, her daughter can be seen signing “have a good day” to their parcel delivery man.

“We see him one or two times a week,” Roberts writes of the Hermes Parcel courier service worker. “Start of lockdown, Tallulah drew him a #thankyou rainbow. He still has it proudly on show in his van. They have built up quite a friendship over these last few weeks.”

Tim Joseph, who is deaf, makes regular deliveries to their home in Greater Manchester, especially during the lockdown.

He said the morning surprise “made [his] day” and that he was “shocked” when Tallulah signed to him that morning, he told the BBC.

“Tallulah realized I was deaf and then one day she surprised me when she signed to me, ‘Have a good day,’” Joseph told BBC Radio Manchester. “I think she learned sign language at school.”

“I was very happy and then I showed Tallulah how to sign, ‘Good morning, have a good day,’ and then she signed it perfectly and it made my day,” he continued.

Joseph was surprised when he saw how many people were watching the video Roberts shared. By Wednesday, it had more than 12 million views.

“I hope more people learn to sign and we bring more people together,” Joseph said.

Many who saw the video were touched by the sweet moment the two shared, with one writing on Twitter: “You are a very special and beautiful little girl, Tallulah.”

“He’s so lovely, isn’t he,” another tweeted, to which Roberts responded: “Tallulah’s always asking me, ‘Have you bought anything, mom? Is my friend coming today?’”



## MASKS & HEARING AIDS

Wearing masks or face coverings with hearing aids can be tricky, especially if you also wear glasses. Here are some tips that may be helpful:

- + Buy or make a mask with elastic or ties that go around the back of your head instead of ear loops.
- + If you have long hair, put it into a bun and loop the elastics around it.
- + Add buttons to an elastic hairband and put ear loops over buttons
- + Use a homemade or store-bought mask extender or “ear saver.”

## NEW ZOOM FEATURE

A new feature that’s coming to Zoom is multi-pinning. With multi-pinning, any user may “pin” up to nine other participants on-screen in their custom personal view. This is particularly helpful for teachers and students that use American Sign Language because it does not automatically trigger the speaker to appear in the speaker’s view.

“Students who are deaf or hard of hearing can pin both teacher and interpreter on the screen for a more accessible learning experience,” the company said in a statement.”

This will be helpful during ZOOM meetings for Deaf individuals to PIN the hearing speakers they want to see AND the interpreters to make for a more visually accessible experience during virtual meetings.

To learn more follow this link <https://www.gadgetsnow.com/tech-news/zoom-to-get-new-features-to-improve-student-engagement/articleshow/77783186.cms>

## CLEAR FACE SHIELDS

IDHHC has recently received some clear face shields generously donated by “Project Draw Breath.”



Clear face shields allow for easy view of the mouth for speech reading and access to a person’s facial cues and expressions which support better communication. If you or someone you know would benefit by giving a clear face shield to someone they are in regular contact with please contact us at [idhhc@idhhc.ca](mailto:idhhc@idhhc.ca) or 250.592.8144.

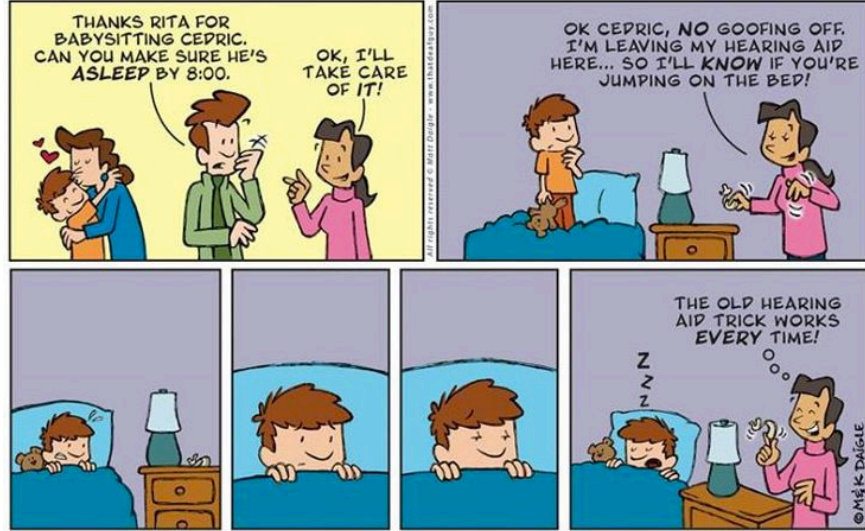


# THE FUNNIES

HAVE A LAUGH

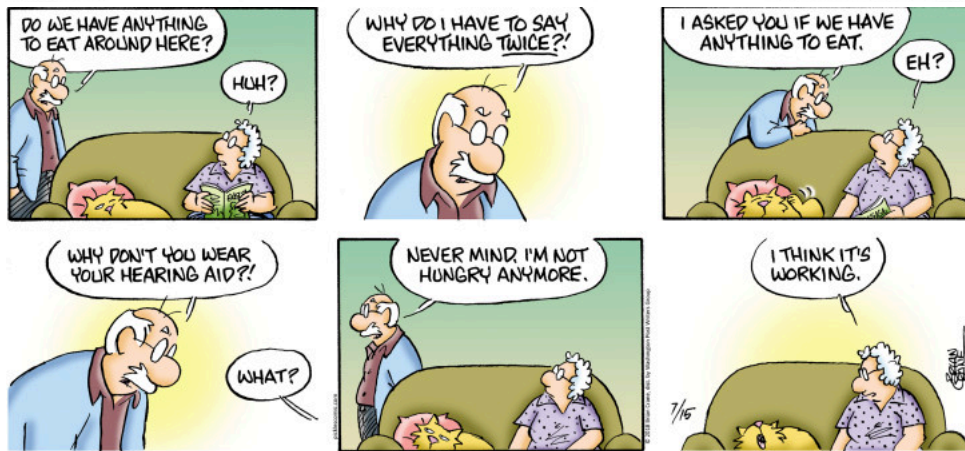
## THAT DEAF GUY

BY MATT & KAY DAIGLE



## PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE



alcohol  
@Mandac5

What is an extreme sport?



deafmemes.exe  
@DeafmemesExe

Waiting to see if the captions appear at the very beginning of a movie after a series of commercials and trailers without captions

