

# Sign-language Santa 'talks' holiday wishes with Aurora deaf kids

Aurora-area deaf kids used American Sign Language to talk Christmas wishes with Santa Claus at Luigi's Pizza in Aurora Monday, Dec. 12.

About 80 students, caregivers and teachers from West Aurora School District 129 and East Aurora School District 131 were guests of Aurora Noon Lions Club at an 11th annual pizza, pasta and gifts holiday party.



Aurora Noon Lions partnered in the event with Sycamore-based Northeastern Illinois Association, a regional special-education cooperative that serves children with autism, hearing impairment and vision impairment from 10 northern Illinois counties.

Kathy Reuter, NIA St. Charles office supervisor, coordinated the celebration.

Speech pathologists and sign-language interpreters from East and West school districts assisted.

Several students presented Noon Lions members with hand-drawn thank-you notes.

Aurora Noon Lion Bill Poss, Luigi's owner, hosted the party with club members.

**PHOTO:** Samuel Nou Paw, 6, left front, first grader at Schneider Elementary School in North Aurora, uses American Sign Language to talk Christmas wishes with Santa at Luigi's Pizza in Aurora Monday, Dec. 12. From left are Kristina Neville, teacher of deaf and hearing-impaired at Schneider; Jeanne McDonald, teacher, hearing impaired, Allen Elementary School, Aurora; Santa, Dan Bassalone, Lisle; and Michelle Needham, Plainfield, Aurora Noon Lions Club president. Aurora Noon Lions sponsored the 11th annual party. (Al Benson photo)