



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

June 2011

Commencement 2011

On June 3, 2011, nine students took their first steps toward adulthood.

Murray Ridge School Commencement 2011 began with an original composition written specifically for graduation by Nevan Eilbeck, music teacher at the school, titled "Just By Being You," and beautifully sung by staff member Kathy Beatty. A welcome by Director of Education Dann Swift followed by a soulful rendition of "The Greatest Love of All" by the Murray Ridge Choraleers then set the tone for the rest of the event.



Taking the podium, Superintendent Fisher spoke of how much the students have already accomplished, and what they can accomplish as they make the transition into adulthood.

"They have the opportunity to contribute in accordance with their own unique abilities and aspirations," Dr. Fisher remarked. She thanked the assembled teachers and therapists for helping the seniors along the path to graduation, and called upon the Adult Program staff, Service and Support Administrators, and current caregivers to help transition the students to the working world. She then went on to quote Mattie Stepanek, a child poet and peace activist who fought a debilitating illness. "Every day we must have confidence in what we are doing. Trying new things is important. And if we believe in ourselves and have confidence, we can achieve so many exciting goals."

Ohio's 57th District State Representative Matt Lundy, the ceremony's keynote speaker, delivered an inspirational speech, stopping to thank the students, staff, families, and caregivers for all they've done to help guide these graduates. Addressing the seniors, Rep. Lundy said, "Your daily attempts to reach your goals made today a reality."

Rep. Lundy also remarked on the incredible things Murray Ridge School has done for consumers and the community, saying "This facility is made possible through the support

from Lorain County residents, and I thank you."

Director of Vocational and Transportation Services Jeff Miller added his own encouraging words to each senior, "Welcome to the adult world. You will make new friends and new memories as the next chapter of your lives begin."

Following the keynote address, Board President Michelle Hunt and Rep. Lundy presented each graduate with a diploma and a certificate from the Ohio House of Representatives. Finally, the tenth annual David Elasser Spirit Award was presented to Juan Pino by Kathy Oblak, mother of David Elasser, a student at Murray Ridge School who passed away 10 years ago.

The ceremony concluded with Dann Swift wishing the seniors best of luck in the future, and thanking them for their hard work and dedication as students at Murray Ridge School.

Best of luck to our 2011 graduates, Michael Dimitrievich, Tysha Jackson, Lauren Johnson, Jared Mazzei, Jayson Negron, Juan Pino, Glendalee Quinones, Michelle Rivera, and Steven Stefek.

Class of 2011

MRHS Graduating Seniors

Congratulations to our nine graduates! They have worked hard to prepare for life beyond Murray Ridge School, and will soon begin an exciting new stage of their lives. We wish them well in their future endeavors!



Michael Dimitrievich has been involved with the Murray Ridge program since pre-school. He enjoys trains, roller coasters, and movies. Michael's smile and sense of humor have touched the hearts of many. After commencement, Michael will be pursuing personal interests and hobbies.

Tiysha Jackson is a determined young lady who has overcome some serious health issues to become the woman that she is today. Her beautiful smile is loved by all who know her. Tiysha recently had a role in the senior class play. Upon graduation, Tiysha will be going to the Elyria Work/Activity Center.



Lauren Johnson is a lovely young lady who enjoys telling jokes, listening to music and books, and spending time with family and friends. She has taken part in the school play for two years. She plans to attend the Lorain Work/Activity Center after graduation and is wished the best by her friends!

Jared "J.J." Mazzei is an affectionate young man who is a member of "The Crew" and recently had a role in the school play. Jared enjoys basketball, artwork, puzzles, and having fun with his friends. After graduation, Jared will begin working at the Lorain Work/Activity Center.



Jayson Negrón is a delightful young man who enjoys working, participating in "The Crew," acting in the school play, and hanging out with his friends. Jayson has faced many challenges and adversities and still has come out smiling. Jayson will do well regardless of the path that he chooses after graduation.

Juan Pino is a friendly young man who brightens everyone's day with his infectious smile. Juan has participated on "The Crew," in the school play, and in other social groups. Juan will be attending the Elyria Work/Activity Center after graduation.



Glendalee Quinones enjoys music, relaxing with friends and family, working on "The Crew," and participating in school plays. She plans on attending the Lorain Work/



Michelle Rivera is a wonderful young lady who enjoys books, watching TV, and spending time with her family. She has been involved with the Murray Ridge program for many years. After graduation, Michelle plans to move to Puerto Rico.



Activity Center after graduation. Everyone wishes Glendalee well in her future endeavors.

Steven Stefek enjoys participating in many activities with his family and friends. He likes books, music, trips, and joking with others. After graduation, Steven will participate in activities through the MRS Adult Services program.



Krystal Genoff as Little Red Riding Hood

Once Upon a Time...

“Amazing” was the word of the day when Murray Ridge School students debuted their play, *Once Upon a Time*, to family, friends, caregivers, and Murray Ridge staff on May 13.

And it was amazing! More than 40 high school students dusted off their acting hats to participate in the play – a delightful story about all our favorite fairy tale characters! From auditioning to rehearsals to the big day, each student had a part in making the play a magical story for the audience.

And a special thank you to Kathy Beatty who coordinated every detail of *Once Upon a Time*, along with her husband Chris who contributed special effects expertise, including light and sound, to the production. Kathy, after 35 years in the school system – six of those at Murray Ridge – will be retiring to California with her husband to be closer to family. Kathy will be working as an Augmentative and Alternative Communication Specialist with Oakland City Schools and as a Speech and Language Pathologist in the Bay Area. Thank you for all your hard work, and best of luck!



The cast takes the stage!

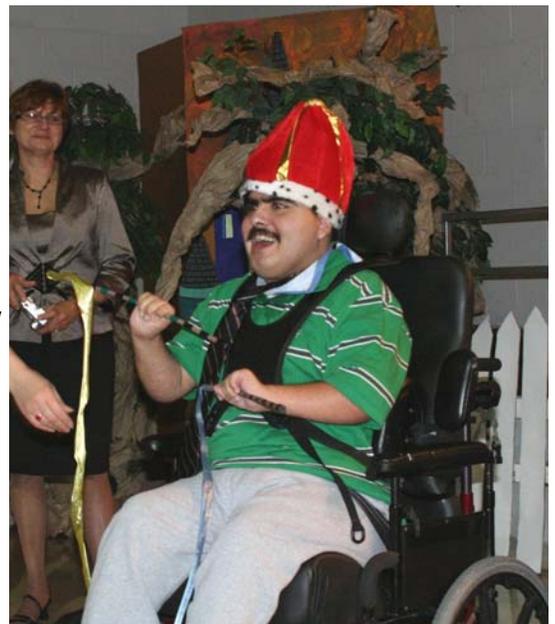


Happily Ever After Prom

Kings and queens reigned at this year’s Murray Ridge School Prom. The nine graduating seniors were crowned by Board President Hunt, Superintendent Fisher, and Board member Bob Gajdos.

More than 125 people attended the event – including MRS staff chaperones and Elyria Catholic High School students – to dance, eat pizza, and interact with students and their families and caregivers. Music was provided by Nevan Eilbeck, who played a catchy mix of contemporary and classic music along with some of his own songs. Nick Kish provided transportation for students to and from the dance.

Thanks to all who made this another successful prom! And good luck to our queens, Lauren Johnson, Glendalee Quinones, Tiysha Jackson, and Michelle Rivera (not in attendance), and our kings, Michael Dimitrievich, Jayson Negron, JJ Mazzei, Juan Pino, and Steven Stefek!



Prom King Juan Pino enjoys his new “royal” attire.



Murray Ridge 500

On May 25, Murray Ridge School students competed in the annual Murray Ridge 500. Students and staff enjoyed creating and racing their cars. Congratulations to all our MRS racers!

Patrick Boey and Evey Rodgers take their bus for a ride!



Jennifer Toth, Joe Farina, and Tiara Gilchrist get a push from Murray Ridge School staff!

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

Board member Dr. Jane Spiegelberg presented the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities Exceptional Service Award to music teacher Nevan Eilbeck (affectionately known as “Mr. E” by Murray Ridge School students). In special recognition of his achievement, Director of Educational Services, Dann Swift shared how the entire school frequently utilizes original compositions by Mr. Eilbeck that emphasize health and safety matters. The presentation concluded with two students performing two songs. In other business, the Board unanimously approved revisions to policies concerning Retention of Board Records, Establishing Staff Ratios for Early Intervention, and Admission Criteria For Residential, Children’s Services and Adult Services. Additionally, the Board unanimously approved a Transition Agreement for Help Me Grow - Part “C” to Part “B.” Superintendent Fisher also announced the resignation of Dr. Spiegelberg from the Board, explaining that she would soon be relocating to another state. Superintendent Fisher thanked Dr. Spiegelberg for her service to the Board, particularly as chair of the staff recognition committee.

Community Education/Volunteer Manager

Jennifer Judkins joined Murray Ridge in May as the new Community Education/Volunteer Manager. She graduated from Bowling Green State University in 2003 with an MA in Scientific and Technical Writing. Jennifer has years of experience in communications and public relations with several agencies in Chicago and, more recently, at a Applied Industrial Technologies in downtown Cleveland. Jennifer and her husband, Dan, are the proud parents of two daughters, Lauren and Reid.

As Manager of Community Education and Volunteers, Jennifer also serves as the editor of this publication. Please contact her at jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org or 440-329-3734 with any questions, comments, or information for upcoming stories.



Lady Raiders Receive Commissioners' Proclamation



The Lady Raiders received a commissioners' proclamation on May 4 for their silver medal win at the state basketball tournament held in Bowling Green, OH late March. Congratulations Raiders!

Harold West Home Dedication



On Sunday, May 15th, Murray Ridge Housing Corporation (MRHC) celebrated the dedication of its a newly constructed, fully accessible home for individuals with developmental disabilities in honor of Attorney Harold West, who served as a member of the MRHC Board for more than sixteen years. An attractive plaque commemorating Mr. West's years of service has been mounted next to the front door of the home. Members of Mr. West's family were on-hand for the celebration, along with the individuals living in the home, their provider staff from Flat Rock Community Services,

friends, neighbors, and family members. Approximately 90% of the cost of constructing this new home was covered by capital grant funds available from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. In addition to generous living space for the three residents, the home provides a small separate suite that is currently leased to LCBDD and is designed to provide temporary emergency housing.

Exceptional Service Award Presented to Nevan Eilbeck



Twenty-five years ago, West Point Band member and trumpeter Nevan Eilbeck heard about a job teaching music at Murray Ridge School. While new to teaching, Nevan soon discovered his own unique way of reaching students through music. Rather than simply play instruments or sing songs, he composes individualized lyrics for each student. Nevan's compositions, which set the students' names and personal goals to music, seem to reach the children in ways that mere language sometimes cannot.

This past December, Nevan hosted a group of Oberlin College students who spent time observing his unique teaching style. Students were so moved by his approach that one of the attending music professors, Dr. Peggy Bennett, nominated Nevan for an Exceptional Service Award. This nomination came on the heels of a touching letter sent by Dr. Bennett with comments from the Oberlin students who witnessed his interactions with Murray Ridge School students.

On May 27, Nevan was presented with the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities Exceptional Service Award at the monthly Board meeting.

Nevan's teaching method is appreciated by students, parents, and teachers, alike. It is this sort of thoughtful, individualized approach that makes our staff truly exceptional.

Amherst Eagles Poker Run



The Amherst Eagles are hosting a Poker Run on Saturday, June 18 to benefit Murray Ridge Special Olympics. Breakfast will be served from 10:00-11:30 a.m. First bike/car out at noon and the last bike/car in at 6:00 p.m. All vehicles are welcome. Live music, hot dogs, and hamburgers will be offered following the event. Prizes will be given. Tickets are \$15 each or \$25 per couple.

For information call Terry Harper 371-0367, Ron Livingston 522-9291 Dan Campell 453-7723, Frank Redinger 724-7270 or Tim Hembree 965-4817.

Town Hall Meeting With DODD

Join Director John Martin on Thursday, June 9, from 6-8 pm to discuss the proposed 2012-2013 Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) budget, including initiatives to address potential cuts and other cost saving strategies for the upcoming fiscal year. Guests will have the opportunity to participate in the discussion, share ideas, and ask questions. Concerned individuals and families are encouraged to attend this free meeting.

Meeting location:

Harry E. Eastridge
Professional Development Center
5700B West Canal Road
Valley View, OH 44125



Calling all Artists!



Murray Ridge Center will be adding a Consumer Art page to its web site and is looking for entries. If you paint, draw, sculpt, or have some other artistic talent and would like to have your work featured on the Murray Ridge web site, submit a photo of your masterpiece to Jennifer Judkins at jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org. Submissions must be in a specific format (jpeg) and emailed as an attachment. If you need assistance, call Jennifer at 329-3734.

June 2011

Activities & Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 	3 	4 
5	6	7	8 	9 	10	11
12	13	14	15 	16 	17 	18
School Day Camp						
19	20	21	22	23 	24 	25 
School Day Camp						
26 	27	28	29	30		
School Day Camp						

- 6/1 - Lake Erie Crushers Game, many schools attending
- 6/2 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Work/Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 6/3 - Murray Ridge School Commencement, 11:00 a.m.
- 6/4 - Medina Invitational for Special Olympics
- 6/8 - Last Day of School for Murray Ridge School
- 6/9 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 6/13 - Murray Ridge School Day Camp
- 6/30
- 6/15 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 6/16 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., SSA Bldg., 9740 S. Murray Ridge Rd., Elyria
- 6/17 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 6/23 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 6/24 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 6/24 - Special Olympics State Summer Games in Columbus
- 6/26



Lunch Menu



Cost Per Day: Youth = \$2.80 Adults = \$2.90

June 6- 10

June 27 - July 1

July 18 - July 22

Monday- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, Peaches, Cookie

Tuesday- Turkey or Bologna with Cheese on Wheat Bread, Peas & Carrots, Pears, Nutri-Grain Bar

Wednesday- Meat Lasagna, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Fish Patty, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Apple Slices, Wheat Bread, Cookie

June 13 - 17

July 4 - 8

July 25 - 29

Monday- Ham, Wheat Bread, Rice Pilaf, Diced Carrots w/Herbs, Applesauce

Tuesday- Hamburger on a Bun, Potato Wedges, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

Wednesday- Chicken Patty w/Gravy, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Macaroni & Cheese, Cooked Carrots, Diced Pears, Cookie

May 30 - June 3

June 20 - 24

July 11 - 15

Monday- Chicken Patty on a Bun, Potato Rounds, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

Tuesday- Meat Lasagna, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Diced Peaches, Nutri-Grain Bar

Wednesday- Rigatoni w/Meatballs, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Meat/Cheese Burrito, Spanish Rice, Cole Slaw, Applesauce

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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Visit our Web site
www.murrayridgecenter.org



If you have a news item that you would like to include in the Murray Ridge Courier, please email relevant photos, stories, or event information to Jennifer Judkins at Jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.

Submissions are due by the 20th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

More News You Might Use...

We often receive information from external sources about offerings designed for people with DD (e.g., summer camps and special interest classes). Many offerings have an associated cost to the participant. Although we are not in a position to "vouch for" or promote such offerings, we recognize that these opportunities may be of interest to our consumers, their families, and/or guardians. If you are interested in learning more about these consumer-oriented events and opportunities, please contact Albert Sprague, Director of Residential Service & Support Administration at 440-324-2366.

Volunteer This Summer

Have fun and educate the community about Murray Ridge Center. Several events this year throughout Lorain County need volunteers to help staff booths and participate in parades. If you are interested in representing Murray Ridge at any of the following events, please contact Jennifer Judkins or Tracey Carroll at 329-3734.

- Avon Duct Tape Parade (June 18)
- Lorain International Festival Parade (June 26)
- Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade (July 14)
- North Ridgeville Corn Festival Parade (August 14)
- Lorain County Fair (August 22 - 28)
- Woolly Bear Festival Parade (September 25)

If you wish to receive future newsletters by email, please contact Jennifer Judkins at 440-329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.