



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

February 2012

Dancing Wheels Gets Students Moving at Murray Ridge School



Stephanie Jackson practices her dance moves.

Everybody can dance. Everybody should dance. Dancing is the best expression of the human spirit.

This is the philosophy behind Dancing Wheels, an organization dedicated to helping anyone learn to dance, regardless of their disability or mobility.

Dancing Wheels began in 1990 as the brain child of Mary Verdi-Fletcher, who was born with spina bifida and later went on to become the first professional wheelchair dancer in the

United States. Not only did she realize her life's dream, but Mary also changed the perception of who can be a dancer.

Dancing Wheels is a professional, physically integrated dance company uniting the talents of dancers both with and without disabilities. It is considered one of the premier arts and disabilities organizations in the United States. In addition to working with groups throughout Ohio, Dancing Wheels also offers lectured demonstrations to various businesses and organizations nationally and globally. In fact, Dancing Wheels company's inspirational mission has touched more than 4.5 million people through performances, school assemblies, residencies, and workshops. Millions more have enjoyed its artistry via appearances on CNN, Good Morning America, and the TV special "Christopher Reeve: A Celebration of Hope."

Now in its second year with Murray Ridge School, Dancing Wheels has enabled MRS students to showcase their talents, their abilities, and their desires to break out of the stereotypical "dancer" definition, and become something more.

The school's Dancing Wheels instructor, Emma Parker, has been with the organization for only two years. She has been dancing since age three, and received her Bachelor's degree from Ball State in psychology and dance. Emma is the organization's only instructional dance teacher, and will guide all eight of her dance groups over the next few months as they prepare for the Dare to be Different Gala on May 19*. Each of her eight groups, including Murray Ridge School, will perform a dance created and taught by Emma.

"To me, it's a different way to communicate that everyone can do," Emma remarked when asked about Dancing Wheels. "There are no limitations."

Limitations are something Dancing Wheels has eliminated through its hands-on, student-focused classes. Each Tuesday, MRS students are gathered in the gymnasium where they spend 45 minutes creating movements, listening to instructor-led training, and participating in a dance party at the end, where students are encouraged to showcase their moves to other participants.

Murray Ridge Center is proud to be working with such an innovative organization, and looks forward to watching Murray Ridge School students blossom into confident and skilled dancers.

* Details to come.

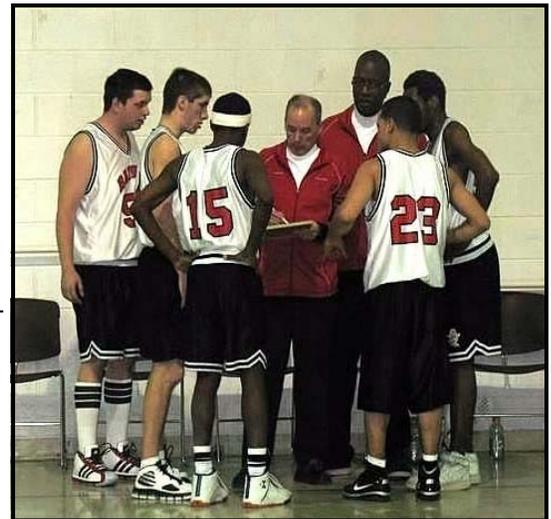


Dante Iglesias and his personal aide Mary Goodman dance to the music.

Support the Murray Ridge Raiders at the 2012 Ohio Special Olympics North Section Basketball Tournament

The 17th annual Special Olympics North Section Basketball Tournament is set to be played March 2 - 4, 2012 at Lorain County Community College. The tournament will bring more than 600 athletes together for a weekend of competition and camaraderie.

The Murray Ridge Raiders have been annual participants in the competition that will determine which teams advance to the State Tournament at the end of March. Competing will be teams from Ohio's four sections (north, east, west, and south), including all four Murray Ridge teams (Teams 1, 2, and 3, and the Lady Raiders). Best of Luck!



Coach Bob Burkhardt and members of the Murray Ridge Raiders basketball team talk strategy at a game in 2011.



Student Krystal Genoff visits with Moose in her classroom.

"Moose" Brightens Students' Days at Murray Ridge School

Moose, an AKC champion male Dogue de Bourdeaux (also known as a French Mastiff), visited Murray Ridge School in January to visit with students and staff.

Moose is a certified therapy dog, has advanced obedience training, and has passed the AKC Canine Good Citizen test. His handler, Shanna King, owns K-9 King Dog Training and Boarding in Grafton, where she teaches various training methods through puppy preschool, basic and advanced obedience training, behavior modification and rehabilitation, private and group lessons, and more.

Moose shares his home with Patch (an American Bulldog) and Rusty (a French Mastiff).

Thank you to Moose and Shanna for stopping by and brightening the day for Murray Ridge School!

Murray Ridge Opportunity/Vocational Centers Fun at the Ridge

Fourteen students from Lorain County Community College (LCCC) were on-hand at each of our three Opportunity/Vocational Centers for a Dental Hygiene Clinic.

The course, which is part of the LCCC students' overall training in the School of Dental Hygiene, was geared towards tooth brushing, flossing, gum care, tongue care, diet, and proper cleaning and maintenance on partial dentures. 60 consumers participated in the event throughout the three OVCs; all had positive comments on the experience and what they learned.

Thank you to all LCCC students who taught the course and the consumers who attended! Happy Brushing!



Consumer Carlos Morales Cruz, LCCC student Jennifer Ogden, and consumer Edward Jackson learn important hygiene skills.

Marlene Jones Retires as Speech Language Pathologist

Marlene Jones retired on December 19, 2011, after 29 years of service to Murray Ridge Center.

Marlene became interested in working with individuals with developmental disabilities after taking a required observation class in college at the Dyer School. She fell in love with the children and wanted to do more for them and with them. After college, she worked for Groveport-Madison Local Schools for three years as a speech-language pathologist. But thoughts of those special children remained in her mind, and her desire to work with them became one of Marlene's passions. On July 19, 1982, she began working at Murray Ridge Center as a Speech Language Pathologist and continued working there for the duration of her career.



Marlene worked with consumers at each of our three Opportunity/Vocational Centers in Elyria, Lorain, and Oberlin. She appreciated her interactions with the consumers, and enjoyed helping those who could not communicate effectively to find their voice. "What I liked most was seeing consumers' lives light up when they were provided a way of talking or communicating, or a way of communicating better, and working with staff, parents and caregivers who willingly assisted me with consumers' communication, making the transition into everyday life go much smoother."

For all her hard work and dedication to those we serve, Marlene will truly be missed at Murray Ridge Center by consumers and staff alike. "My career has had some challenges along the way," she noted, "but through it all it has been a joy and pleasure serving at Murray Ridge where I feel God placed me to be a blessing to others."

ATTENTION MRPC EMPLOYEES Direct Deposit has arrived!

In August 2011, the Murray Ridge Production Center introduced our Client-Employees to Direct Deposit. Although several hundred have already completed the necessary paperwork and started receiving their pay through direct deposit, there are still many more that we are missing.

Direct Deposit is the safest and most effective way to receive your paycheck. Although it is not mandatory at this time, we strongly encourage all of our employees to participate in this method of payment. Each person that has direct deposit will receive a stub which shows how much was deposited into his or her account.

All you need is either a checking or savings account. If you do not have one, your local bank can open one up for you. Most banks do not charge a fee for this service; however, you will need to discuss this with your bank prior to opening an account.

For more information on Direct Deposit, or to have a form mailed to you to begin Direct Deposit, contact the Client Payroll office at 440-284-2720.

In the Spirit of Giving

The Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department donated \$225 and three boxes of food and pet supplies to the Lorain County Friendship Animal Protective League (APL) this December.

SSA has made giving donations an annual event, in lieu of holiday gifts or gatherings. Thank you to all who contributed funds and products to this worthy cause!



Exceptional Staff at the LOVC

Helen Woods received the 4th quarter 2011 Exceptional Service Award on Friday, January 27. She was nominated by consumer Chris Tillman (with Helen, right), who has worked with her for the past three years at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC).



Helen has worked at Murray Ridge Center for 16 years. She enjoys the daily interactions with the consumers, and says seeing them laughing and having fun each day is the best part of her job. As Chris noted in his nomination letter, "She knows that everyone is equal and is valuable in the Lord's eyes."

When asked about her award, Helen said, "I certainly feel honored; it was an unbelievable shock. I feel proud that Chris said such nice things about me and that he appreciates the fact that I do care and want him to have the best life possible."

We appreciate you, too, Helen! Congratulations on receiving the Exceptional Service Award for the exceptional service and care you provide to Murray Ridge consumers every day.

Triumph through the Challenges: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Who should attend?

This course series is for nurses, social workers, counselors, physicians, educators, parents and caregivers who work with individuals that may have had prenatal exposure to alcohol/drugs.

Learn about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how to best work with those affected in order to reach his/her fullest potential.

Gather useful tips and local resources!

Discover ways to succeed!

2012 Spring Course Series

- April 5:** Section 1, 6-9 p.m.;
- April 12:** Section 2, 6-9 p.m.;
- April 26:** Section 3, 6-9 p.m.;
- May 3:** Section 4, 6-9 p.m.



Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities
Service & Support Administration Bldg.
9740 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 44035

*Parking available at Murray Ridge SSA Lot.
Enter through the back door.

No fee to attend. Space is limited. Bring your own personal refreshments and food.

Register

- www.loraincountyhealth.com/fasdcourse
- 440.322.6367
- Follow us on twitter @LorainCoHealth
- Join us on facebook



Sponsor:
Lorain County General Health District



Presenter:
Judy Petricevic RN, BSN, FASD
Facilitator, Lorain County General
Health District Public Health Nurse

Series Details

- **Section 1:** FASD Basic Facts; Characteristics; Chronological vs. Developmental Age
- **Section 2:** Neurological Issues & Behaviors of FASD; Coping Skills
- **Section 3:** Developing Effective Strategies for FASD; Advocacy & Finding Resources
- **Section 4:** Advocacy in Schools; Discipline; Daily Living & Future Planning for Individuals with FASD

Contact Hours Available

- Nurses; provided by Lorain County Community College Department of Allied Health and Nursing
- Social workers, counselors, and chemical dependency RCH; provided by the ADAS Board of Lorain County
- Developmental Disability hours provided by Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities.
- Certificate of Attendance for contact hours given.

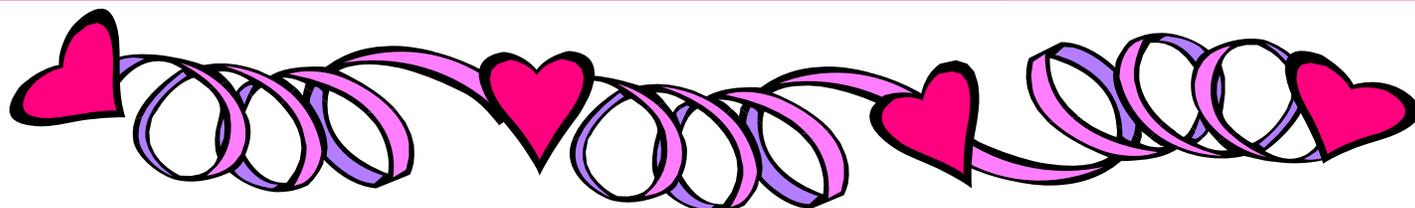


February 2012

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
19	20 	21	22	23 	24 	25
26	27	28				

- 2/2— Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 2/8— 100th Day of School Celebration at Murray Ridge School—activities throughout the day
- 2/9— Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 2/10—Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 2/14—Murray Ridge School Valentine's Day Dance, 1:15 p.m.
- 2/16—LCBDD Finance Committee meeting , 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 2/20—**Agency closed for President's Day**
- 2/23—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 2/24—Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on January 27, 2012:

At the **Organizational Meeting**, the Board re-elected Michelle L. Hunt, President, Kurt Koepf, Vice President, and Bob Gajdos, Secretary. President Hunt then made all Board-committee appointments.

At the **Regular Meeting**, Helen Woods was awarded the Exceptional Service Award for her work as an Aide at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center. Superintendent Fisher requested that the Board approve the annual resolution to provide educational services to children ages 6 through 21 at Murray Ridge School. The Board unanimously approved the resolution. Dann Swift, Director of Education, updated the Board on plans for the Murray Ridge School summer camp 2012, tentatively scheduled for June 11-29; formal requests for funds will be submitted to the Board in March. In other business, Human Resources Director Tom Forhan reviewed the status of recommendations made in 2011 by the agency Risk Management Committee, and identified areas to be addressed in 2012. The Superintendent and the Funding/Forecasting/Medicaid Services Manager, Nikki Dye, updated the Board on 2011 expenditures, which had been adjusted to reflect the actual vs. anticipated figures. Finally, the Board unanimously approved a draft of the 2012 Annual Action Plan/Programs and Expenditures for public review, and gave a 30-day notice of public forum on the document, which is scheduled for 12 p.m. on February 27 at the Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria. The document will be available for inspection at all Opportunity/Vocational Centers, Murray Ridge School, the Service and Support Administration Building, the Administration Building, and at each of the six residential facilities of the Board.

New to the LCBDD Crew

Please Welcome the Newest Members of the Murray Ridge Team!



Heather Borrelli will be working as a part time group home aide at East College. A graduate of Firelands high school, Heather now attends LCCC where she is studying to be an x-ray technician and also works part time at Marc's in Elyria. She lives at home with her parents and four siblings. In her spare time, Heather enjoys crafting and hanging out with her friends.

Julie Sekerak will be working part time at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center as a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). Julie received her BA from Cleveland State and her MA from the University of Akron. She currently works as an SLP for the Monroeville Local Schools. She and her husband Jim, have two sons, Christopher (14) and Gregory (11).



Kathy Senft has been hired as a part time Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) for the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center. She obtained her BA from the University of Iowa, and MAs from Roosevelt University and Cleveland State University. Kathy and her husband Fred enjoy being active with their two kids, Nicole (18) and Zach (13).

Deborah Thompson will be working as a full time teacher's aide at Murray Ridge School. She previously worked as an aide at the Liberty Lane group home. Deborah is an Elyria High School grad who now lives in Grafton with her husband Jim. They have two daughters, Shelly and Jan, and three grandchildren, Jordan, Justin, and Leah.



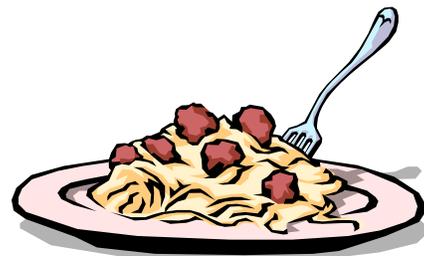
Kara Coleman will be working as a teacher's aide at Murray Ridge School. She previously worked as a substitute workshop aide at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center. Kara graduated from Elyria High School, and still lives in Elyria. In her spare time, Kara enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

- Saturday, March 3 from 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- AmVets Post 55, 530 Abbe Road in Sheffield Lake
- Sponsored by the Murray Ridge Support Group

This Italian feast, which includes spaghetti with meatballs, fresh bread, salad, desserts, and beverages, is being generously donated by the AmVets Post 55. Activities will include a gift basket auction and a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds will go toward programs and services for Lorain County citizens impacted by developmental disabilities.

Tickets are \$8 for persons 6 years of age and up, and free for kids 5 and under. Sponsorships are available.



Murray Ridge Raiders Season Update

There are only a few games left in the Murray Ridge Raiders' basketball season. Competition is heating up as the teams battle to win!

Lady Raiders: 3-6
Team 1: 4-4
Team 2: 1-8
Team 3: 3-4





2012 Lunch Menu



For the convenience of Murray Ridge consumers and their families, we are posting the lunch menu for the 2012 year in its entirety in this issue of The Murray Ridge Courier. **Please maintain this copy for your records and refer to it in the coming months, as monthly newsletters are not disseminated before the first of each month.** The menu will also be available on our website in the January 2012 edition of the monthly newsletter. If you have questions or need a replacement copy, please contact Jennifer Judkins at 329-3734 at any time during the year.

Please note that the cost of adult lunches will be \$3.25 as of January 1, 2012. The cost of student lunches will still be \$3.05.

February 13-17
 March 5-9
 March 26-March 30
 April 16-20
 May 7-11
 May 28-June 1
 June 18-22
 July 9-13
 July 30-August 3
 August 20-24
 September 10-14
 October 1-5
 October 22-26
 November 12-16
 December 3-7
 December 24-28

January 30-February 3
 February 20-24
 March 12-16
 April 2-6
 April 23-27
 May 14-18
 June 4-8
 June 25-29
 July 16-20
 August 6-10
 August 27-31
 September 17-21
 October 8-12
 October 29-November 2
 November 19-23
 December 10-14

February 6-10
 February 27-March 3
 March 19-23
 April 9-13
 April 30-May 4
 May 21-25
 June 11-15
 July 2-6
 July 23-27
 August 13-17
 September 3-7
 September 24-28
 October 15-19
 November 5-9
 November 26-30
 December 17-21

Monday- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scaloped 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

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

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

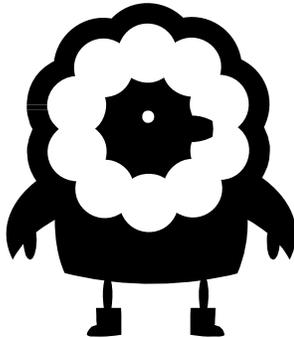
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1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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Visit our Web site
www.murrayridgecenter.org

Lost and Found!

Men's winter coat, size large. All black, polyester filled by SouthPole. Found in the school gym before the holidays. To claim, contact Bob Burkhardt at 284-2720.



Further News You Might Use...

We are often in receipt of information from external sources on offerings designed for people with DD. Some examples include summer camps and special interest classes. Many such 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 such consumer-oriented events and opportunities, please contact Albert Sprague, Director of Residential Service & Support Administration. You may reach him by telephone at 440-324-2366.

—*The Editor*

If you wish to receive future newsletters by email, please visit www.murrayridgecenter.org and click on the Sign Up for Our Email Newsletter link.