



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

## Murray Ridge School Edition

June 2017

### A Night In The Orient at the Murray Ridge School Prom

On May 5, Murray Ridge School held its annual Prom.

This year's theme was A Night In The Orient! Prom was attended by more than 200 people, there to celebrate the graduating seniors in this year's class, with seven young men and one young woman crowned kings and queen.

Staff spent weeks after school decorating the gymnasium for the big event, and attendees were astonished to see the transformation; oriental decorations, complete with fans, parasols, and hanging lanterns lined the halls and decorated the entire gym!

A delicious catered dinner was provided to all attendees. Additionally, a professional photographer was on-hand to take photos to mark the occasion, with a photo booth donated for candid shots. A DJ provided music and entertainment! These professionals donated their services to the school, and all funds for the Prom were raised through donations to the school, and by staff through bake sales, t-shirt sales, and various raffles and dining events held throughout the school year.

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Prom a huge success!



Top, right: Students Christian Martin and Deja Sherman pose with school Supervisor Stacie Starr. Middle, right: Student Sean McCaffrey poses with his family. Bottom, right: Gus McKee and his mom get crazy with the photo props. Bottom, left: Superintendent Amber Fisher crowns prom king Joshua Ivancic.

## 2nd Place For Murray Ridge Soccer

The Murray Ridge Special Olympic Soccer Team finished in 2nd place at the Sandusky County Tournament on May 13. Congratulations, Murray Ridge Raiders!

Pictured are Kris Sommer, Coach Shannon Gaines, Ryan Bockey, Ryan Eliason, Alyssa Deangelis, Katie Bryant, Ray Behner, Torie Ambers, General Hodge, Angel Rivera, Maria Pincura, and Jeremy Foster.

Congratulations to these amazing athletes!



## 50 Acts of Giving Back Update



We are up to 84 Acts by 114 consumers in our 50 Acts of Giving Back, a 50-year anniversary initiative whereby, in 2017, members of the Murray Ridge family will 'give back' through (at least) fifty acts of helping to meet needs in Lorain County.

Congratulations to all of our consumers and staff who have made this project such a success!

Pictured, left, Torie Ambers, Jaclyn Guerrieri and Alyssa DeAngelis at the Salvation Army Store in Elyria. Right: Jonah Griffore and Michael Kepis visit with cats at the Friendship Animal Protective League.



## Amherst Steele High School Visits Murray Ridge School

The Amherst Steele High School softball and baseball teams visited Murray Ridge School on May 15th for an afternoon of playing baseball and eating popsicles!



The softball and baseball teams pose in the photo above, ready to get the afternoon started with our Murray Ridge School students! Middle, Diane Davis and a member of the Amherst Steele softball team land safely on base. Right, Deja Sherman and Amherst baseball coach and Murray Ridge School staff member Matt Rositano smile at first base.



# Murray Ridge School Students Participate in the 37th Annual Lorain County Special Olympics

On May 13th, more than 500 athletes from Lorain and Cuyahoga counties participated in the 37th annual Special Olympics event in a wide range of activities, including the opening ceremony, races, softball throw, and standing long jump. The event was held at Ely Stadium in Elyria.

Seventeen groups, including Murray Ridge, competed in the games, and hundreds of parents, teachers, friends, and caregivers came out to show their support for the amazing athletes. Murray Ridge is a proud participant each year in this event where children with developmental disabilities can showcase their exceptional athletic abilities.

We commend all the athletes that competed in the games, with special congratulations to our Murray Ridge School students who, once again, represented us well!



Matthew Maraldo (top, right) and Patrick Boey (top, middle) at the Special Olympics party held on May 12 to wish all the athletes good luck. Stephanie Jackson (above) competes in her race, while Brandon Rivera (right) completes the softball throw!

# MURRAY RIDGE PRESCHOOL

## A PRESCHOOL OPTION

*The Murray Ridge Preschool Program offers students with a variety of developmental disabilities the advantages of in-room therapies, an array of state-of-the-art equipment, outstanding staff, and an opportunity to learn alongside typically-developing peers. The Preschool Program runs Tuesday through Friday. Children with disabilities must be referred to the Murray Ridge Preschool Program by their local school district. Applications for typically-developing children are available through Murray Ridge School.*

## WE OFFER:

- *Individualized Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy in the classroom*
- *An extensive collection of early childhood educational equipment*
- *Full-time nurse on site*
- *Door-to-door transportation services*
- *A well-rounded curriculum based on the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards'*
- *Dynamic, ODE-certified staff*
- *Physical development through indoor/outdoor physical education classes*
- *Music classes*

[WWW.MURRAYRIDGECENTER.ORG](http://WWW.MURRAYRIDGECENTER.ORG)



## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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# Murray Ridge "Rocks"

Murray Ridge Center is proudly participating in a fad sweeping northeast Ohio called "Northeast Ohio Rocks." This project, which involves painting and hiding rocks, is intended to be a fun activity for young and old to spread random acts of kindness within the community.

Staff and consumers at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center have been painting rocks, adding a decoupage tag on the back, and hiding them at nearby parks, beaches, and other places throughout the community. They are encouraging people to find the rocks, upload the photos with the hashtag #MurrayRocks, and re-hide the rocks in Lorain County!



Left: Andra Frcka shows where she hid her rock. Left, center: A rock found outside the Murray Ridge Center Administration Building. Right, top: a bumblebee rock found in a local park. Right, center: Joe Bellotie and Angie Miller hide their rocks outside the EOVC.

# Local Union President Wins Award

Diane Smith was the recipient of the Ohio Association of Public Employees (OAPSE) Northeast District Legends Award at the Bi-Annual Northeast District Conference held in Cleveland May 6-8.

Smith (pictured, right, holding her award), is the Family Support Coordinator for Murray Ridge Center and Local President for local union 771; she has been an OAPSE member since its inception. Diane was nominated for this award by the Northeast District President for her many years of service and participation in political activities.

As part of her Local President responsibilities, Diane sits on several committees, is involved with Agency labor negotiations, advocates for union members, and meets with Agency management, including the Superintendent, regarding any concerns or changes impacting the Agency.

"I appreciate our Superintendent and upper management because I believe they care about the students and consumers we serve, as well the staff that work at Murray Ridge," Smith said.



# The Murray Ridge 500!

On May 26, Murray Ridge School students competed in the annual Murray Ridge 500. Students and staff enjoyed creating and racing their cars.

Pizza was provided to all the hungry participants, and students cooled off with popsicles throughout the event!

Congratulations to all our MRS racers, and to all the parents, staff, and caregivers who came out to cheer on the participants!

Pictured, Top, left: Deja Sherman, Lindsay Bookshar (teacher), Julie Noble (personal aide), Steven Fosdick, Desiree Aponte as super heroes. Top, right: Jacob Montgomery decked out in his Batmobile. Bottom, right: Matthew McKinney shows off his patriotic spirit. Bottom, left: Christian Garcia, Lisa Koney (aide), Marvelous Seymore, Jane Spinney (personal aide), Aneesa Shakur, Elizabeth Emery (teacher), Makenzie Dvorscak dressed as characters from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs!





# June 2017

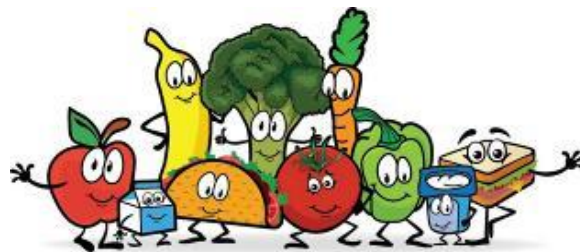
## Activities & Events

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
School Day Camp						
25	26 	27	28	29	30	
School Day Camp						

- 6/7 - Murray Ridge School Commencement Ceremony, 11:00 a.m.
- 6/7 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:30 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 6/7 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 6/13 - Last day of school for Murray Ridge School
- 6/14 - LCBD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 6/16 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 6/17 - Avon Duck Tape Festival
- 6/19-7/7 - Murray Ridge School Day Camp
- 6/26 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria

### School Wellness Policy Information

As part of the National School Lunch Program, Murray Ridge School has a Local School Wellness Policy. If you are interested in being involved with the development, implementation, periodic review, and/or updating of this policy, please contact Dann Swift, Director of Educational and Children's Services at 440-329-3760 or email him at [dswift@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:dswift@murrayridgecenter.org)



### BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

**The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on May 22, 2017:**

Superintendent Fisher provided the Board with a review of the Governing Rules and Regulations. Director of Education, Dann Swift, presented a rescission of the Board Policy *Wellness - Murray Ridge School*; and a replacement policy, *Murray Ridge School Wellness Policy*; both were unanimously approved. The Board unanimously established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve in the third quarter of 2017. Superintendent Fisher updated the Board regarding the State Biennium Budget, and announced that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has extended the final date for compliance with its waiver settings rule provisions (requiring community-based services) to 3/17/22. Director of Community Education and Volunteers Jennifer Judkins gave a presentation on the Agency's 50 year anniversary initiative, *50 Acts of Giving Back*. In other business, it was reported that the Murray Ridge Support Group (MRSRG) will have a dance on June 16. There will be no Board meeting in July.

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

Standard Presort  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 146  
Elyria, OH 44035



### Visit the Inclusive Playground This Summer!

Visit the Lorain County Metro Parks Inclusive Playground! The unique playground incorporates water play (seasonal), structured play, and natural play environments. People of all ages and abilities will be able to use the area and enjoy the play features. Stop in and visit today!

47160 Hollstein Drive, Amherst, Ohio  
(440) 984-3470



### Exceptional Service Award

Do you know a Murray Ridge employee whose work efforts reflect remarkable dedication and have significantly contributed to the well being of people with developmental disabilities? Nominate that employee for an Exceptional Service Award! If you are a community member; consumer; or parent, guardian, sibling or other relative of a Murray Ridge program participant, submit your nomination to Jennifer Judkins, Community Education/Volunteer Director. Include a brief paragraph outlining your reasons for nominating the employee. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for consideration. The Board presents Exceptional Service Awards on a quarterly basis at regular scheduled meetings. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or [jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org).