



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

April 2019

## April is Autism Awareness Month

Join Murray Ridge Center as we observe April as National Autism Awareness Month.

Murray Ridge School and the Adult Opportunity/Vocational Centers will spend the month raising awareness through activities and events.

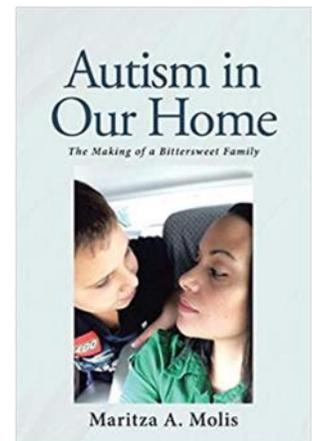
Autism is treatable, and early diagnosis and intervention can lead to significantly improved outcomes. Visit [nationalautismassociation.org](http://nationalautismassociation.org) for more information. To learn about programs and services offered by Murray Ridge School, contact Dann Swift, Director of Educational Services, or Supervisors Stacie Starr or Linda Lapp at 329-3760.



As part of Autism Awareness Month, the staff of Murray Ridge School took part in the World Autism Day 'Light it Up Blue' program by wearing blue on April 2 to show their support of understanding and acceptance for people with autism.

## Autism . . . One Piece at a Time

Murray Ridge School hosted an evening of fellowship and support on March 21. **Kevin** and **Maritza Molis** shared their experiences and journey with their son Jaiden, who is diagnosed with Autism and a seizure disorder, which is described in their recently published book, Autism in Our Home: The Making of a Bittersweet Family. Their mission is to make sure that families know that they are not alone. There were more than 20 people in attendance including parents, grandparents, aunts, paraprofessionals, and teachers. Many attendees took the opportunity to talk with other parents afterwards. Other resources available at the event besides LCBDD, were *Connecting for Kids* and *Autism Speaks*.



# Students Showcase Talents at Murray Ridge School

More than 65 students from Murray Ridge School impressed their peers with talents such as singing, dancing, playing an instrument, and telling jokes at the 8th Annual Talent Show on March 13.

Teacher Cheryl Swierz coordinated the show, with help from Music Teacher Lisa Lopes. Each teacher was responsible for signing up the students in his or her class, and helping the students with the basics for an act. Rehearsals took place every Thursday in February and continued in March up until show time.

More than 150 visitors were in the crowd. Supervisor Stacie Starr emceed the show. In Stacie's closing of the show, she stated, "the closing act that sang **Whatever it Takes** was so appropriate, as the families do whatever it takes at home and we do whatever it takes at school, together we work so hard for each student to reach their potential. The biggest thing here is to focus on the students' abilities rather than disabilities, and abilities were certainly seen today."

Congratulations to all of our talented students who participated in this year's show!



L-r: Evey Rodgers and Jennifer Sislowski



L-R: Diane Davis, Owen Richardson, Brady Johnson

L-R: Aiden Harper, Sariah Lugo, Audrey Dodge



L-R: Matthew Maraldo, Lorenzo Cooke, Christian Martin, Corde Barnewll, Terrence Nagy, Bentley Spooner



L-R: Naya Scribner, Nathan Reynolds, Alexis Throckmorton, Christopher Ackley



Stephanie Jackson signs and Shawn Selmon sings.

# Murray Ridge Raiders Skills Athletes Compete at State

The Murray Ridge Raiders Skills athletes competed at the State Skills Competition in Hilliard on Saturday, March 23. The participants brought back three Gold Medals, three Silver Medals, two Bronze Medals, one 4<sup>th</sup> place award and 1 5<sup>th</sup> place award.

Pictured are: Front Row (L-R): Brenden Stull, Jenna Jones, Lori Rhodehamel, Casey West. Back Row (L-R): Kenny Martin, Kevin Johnson, Dennis Johnson, Lutz Fazekas, Tim Quisenberry, Andrew Prihoda.



## Cheerleading Squad Recognized

In late 2018, Coaches Glenda Kaz and Penni Shuster held tryouts for three days for a Cheerleading Squad. All participants of the tryouts had to learn a "Hi Hello" cheer, as well as a dance routine. Practice was held twice a week until the beginning of the basketball season. The Cheerleading Squad cheered at all the home games for each basketball team. The Cheerleading Squad was composed of individuals from Elyria and Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Centers. Penni Shuster stated, "it was really great to see them come together and bond not only as a team, but in friendships." At the end of the basketball season Coaches Glenda and Penni held an awards ceremony. Each member received a trophy. Co-Captain Stephanie Basstock made a very touching speech at the awards ceremony, she stated how meaningful the season has been for her because of all the close friends she has made, and that she is really going to miss her new friends until next season. Coach Penni stated that she and Glenda look forward to the next season and really appreciated all the hard work the girls put in every week.

**Front row: Torie Ambers; Second row (l-r): Coach Penni Shuster, Casey West, Britiny Bennette, Captain Alyssa Deangelis, Coach Glenda Kaz; Third row (l-r); Theresa Ramos, Co-captain Stephanie Basstock, Michelle Lott.**



## EOVC Attendee Continues Tradition of Giving Back



Jesse Frisch accepts a donation from Michelle Trupo at the MRC Administration Building.

Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) attendee and resident philanthropist Jesse Frisch continued his yearly tradition of donning leprechaun attire and making his rounds throughout the EOVC, MRC Administration Building, and SSA Building on March 14 to collect money for the Friendship Animal Protective League in Elyria. For more than ten years, Jesse has made the APL the place where he donates his St. Patrick's Day collection. This year, Jesse gifted the APL with more than \$200. Thank you, Jesse, for continuing the spirit of giving by making this donation to the APL!

## Murray Ridge Speaks Up

**Murray Ridge Speaks Up** is a self-advocacy initiative that involves strategies for consumers to advocate for themselves in a positive manner.

On March 19, self-advocates from the three Opportunity/Vocational Centers had a combined meeting at the Mercy Recreation Center in Amherst, where **Officer J. Podrosky** presented a PowerPoint on cyber-bullying, community safety, and street smarts.

The most important thing learned was that harassing and threatening people on the phone is a crime. Consumers were instructed to call the police if this happens and "block" the bully on their social media. Additionally, Officer Podrosky told everyone to never give out private information on the phone.



## Christine Rosenbaum Remembered by Ohio State Senate



Christine Rosenbaum's grandson Aaron Rosenbaum (left) and son Jon Rosenbaum are pictured with the Ohio Senate Plaque that is now on permanent display in the Murray Ridge Center Board Room.

The Ohio Senate presented family members of the late Christine Rosenbaum a plaque recognizing her many years of work on behalf of those with developmental disabilities — and the family in turn presented the plaque to Murray Ridge Center for permanent display in its Board Room.

According to Superintendent Amber Fisher, Rosenbaum, "was really a legend, an incredible advocate for people with disabilities. She was there from the very beginning, and in 1967, she helped establish our service delivery system for people with developmental disabilities."

Rosenbaum, a registered nurse, was an original member of the Lorain County DD board and served as its president from 1971-74. She was active in the opening of Murray Ridge School in 1969 and worked diligently to help pass nine tax levies to support Murray Ridge.

"Christine Rosenbaum left an indelible impression on the lives she touched and she will be remembered as a dedicated activist and leader who contributed immeasurably to the world around her," read the Ohio Senate plaque. "Although the void her death has created can never be filled, her legacy of care, commitment, and compassionate social reform will surely live on."

# Mega Championship Wrestling Presents Breaking Down Barriers 9

Mega Championship Wrestling, a local entertainment company, will once again be presenting **Breaking Down Barriers 9**.

As in the past, proceeds from this event will go to the Friends of Murray Ridge, a non-profit charitable organization which supports the mission, community education, and informational outreach of the Murray Ridge Center.



- Date:** Saturday, May 4, 2019
- Time:** Doors open at 6 p.m.  
Showtime 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Where:** St. John's Lutheran Church Gymnasium, 1140 West River North, Elyria
- Cost:** Murray Ridge Center attendees - \$8/ticket in advance and \$15 at the door  
Public - \$12/ticket in advance and \$15 at the door

There will be a merchandise table and a concession stand for you to purchase items and snacks. For more information and tickets go to [megachampionshipwrestling.com](http://megachampionshipwrestling.com).

## Murray Ridge attendees can purchase tickets in advance for \$8 each:

1. Complete the bottom section of this page. Cut on the dotted line.
2. Return the bottom section below with your money or check in an envelope addressed to one of the buildings below:

Loretta Binder at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center	(440) 774.7400
Amber Fitzgerald at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center	(440) 284.2720
Christine Mazze at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center	(440) 282.2131
Peggy Smith at the Murray Ridge School	(440) 329.3760
Beverly Monteleone at the Administration Building	(440) 329.3734

3. If you are sending a check, make it payable to: Mega Championship Wrestling



## Breaking Down Barriers 9 Ticket Order Form for MRC attendees:

NAME OF PERSON ORDERING TICKETS: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF TICKETS (\$8 each): \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_ Check  Cash



# April 2019

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
School spring break						
28	29 	30				

## Activities & Events

- 4/3- Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 4/17 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 4/19 - Agency closed in observance of holiday
- 4/19 - 4/26 - Murray Ridge Preschool and School Closed for Spring Break
- 4/29 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria

### BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

#### The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on March 25, 2019:

The Honorable James T. Walther, Lorain County Probate Judge, addressed the Board on the topic of guardianship services boards, the creation of which is now allowable under ORC 2111.52. Board member Dan White announced that the Board Award Committee had selected a nominated Murray Ridge employee to receive the next quarterly Exceptional Service Award. Superintendent Fisher explained anticipated revenues and variable expenses of the Agency's preschool program for the 2018/2019 school year, and provided a historical overview of subsidies for Murray Ridge Preschool Program participants with special needs; the Board voted unanimously on a rate structure for both school districts and parents of typically developing peers that place students in the Murray Ridge Preschool Program for the 2019/2020 school year. The Board also unanimously approved revisions to the policy on Addressing Major Unusual Incidents and Unusual Incidents to Ensure Health, Welfare, and Continuous Quality Improvement. Superintendent Fisher provided an update on reporting requirements applicable to board members. The Board approved the proposed 2018 Strategic Plan Progress Report. Director of Educational Services Dann Swift discussed the proposed dates for the Murray Ridge School 2019 Summer Camp. Departing Director of Human Resources, Faira Corbett, was thanked for her hard work and contributions at Murray Ridge; we wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

**Murray Ridge Center**  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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

## **Work at the Ridge!**

**Check out our website [murrayridgecenter.org](http://murrayridgecenter.org)  
to see our open positions!**

## **School Wellness Policy**

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 Services at 440.329.3760 or [dswift@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:dswift@murrayridgecenter.org).



## **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 Chris Vasco, 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. If you have any questions, contact Chris at (440) 329-3734 or [cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org)