



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

September 2013

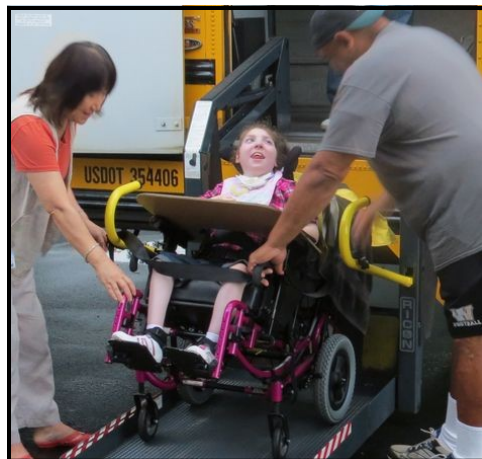
## Welcome Back Murray Ridge School Students!



Sierra Long smiles all the way into school

On Tuesday, August 27, Murray Ridge School opened its doors for the 2013-2014 school year. Smiles were seen everywhere. Students and staff were eager to get back to working hard and having fun, as they do every day throughout the year.

Best of luck to all of our students! Have a happy, healthy, and successful school year!



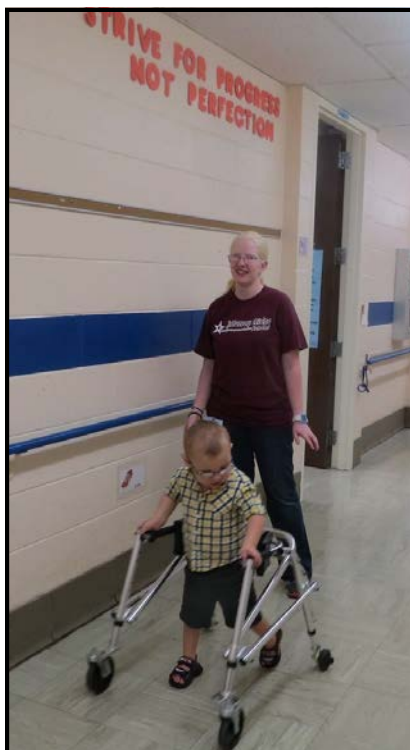
Brynn Hutchinson happy to see Gary Huff

## Making a Career at Murray Ridge School

Amy Daniels is a new Primary Teacher this year at the school. She is not, however, new to the school. Amy has been a teacher's aide in the Senior and Intermediate classrooms for the past two years.



**Amy's Classroom** (L-R): Sandra Lisso, Polly Allman (**Teacher's Aide**), Owen Richardson, Amy Daniels, Aneesa Shakur, Naya Scribner, Shelly DeAngelis (**Naya's personal aide**). Student Charles Valentine is not pictured.



Amy walks with Owen Richardson for his first time to his new Primary classroom

She began volunteering at Murray Ridge School in 2007 when she was just a senior in high school. She fell in love with the children right away and knew that teaching at Murray Ridge was the career for her. Amy attended her college classes at night while working as a **teacher's aide** so that she could see her dream come true. Congratulations Amy, and thank you for nearly seven years of dedicated service at Murray Ridge School.

## New to the LCBDD Crew

Please Welcome the Newest Members of the Murray Ridge Team!



Linda Avolt will be working as an Activity Aide-PT at the LOVC. She resides in Amherst. She graduated from Marion L. Steele High. She has an Associates degree in Human Services and is currently working **on her Bachelor's degree in Social Work**, a degree which she expects to have completed in May of 2014.

Kelly Baker will be working as a Group Home Aide-PT at the Liberty Lane Home. She has been working as a substitute at this home since April. She is currently attending Lorain County Community College. She lives in Elyria with her husband and two children. She enjoys playing on a kickball league with her husband and friends.



Deanna Bennett will be working as a School Aide. She has been working as a substitute in the Adult Program. She lives in Elyria with her three children. She graduated from Elyria High and has been a certified STNA for 15 years. She enjoys crafts, scrapbooking, and spending time with family.

Derek Hall will be working as an Adult Program Aide at the EOVC. He has been working as a substitute in the adult program. He **has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology** from Kent State University. He lives in Vermilion with his father. He likes writing and performing music.



Hannah Haslage will be working as an Activity Aide-PT at the LOVC. She lives in Lorain. She graduated from Southview High and is currently studying Special Education through Western Governors University. She loves being with her family and helping at church, but most of all she loves football and dirt bikes.

Amy Hricovec will be working as an Activity Aide-PT at the LOVC. She **has a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts** from Madonna University, Livonia, Michigan. She lives in Lorain with her husband and three children. She enjoys reading, baking, and crafts.



Young Killinger will be working as a School Aide. She has been a substitute in the Adult Program for more than five years. She attended Su-Ra-Bul University in Seoul, Korea. She lives in Lorain with her husband. She loves cooking and shopping.

Tyler Robinson will be working as an Adult Program Aide at the EOVC. He has already been working as a substitute, so he is familiar with the center already. He resides in Elyria, where he graduated from Elyria High. He has **a Bachelor's degree in Journalism** from Ohio State University. He enjoys sports, running, and writing.







Erica Schmittle will be working as a School Aide. She has worked as a substitute School Aide for the past two years, so she is well acquainted with Murray Ridge School. She lives in Amherst with her husband and five children. She likes riding bikes and spending time with her family.

Hanh Willbond will be working as a Group Home Aide-PT at the Liberty Lane Home. **She has a Bachelor's** degree in Pre-Med from Case Western University. She lives in Elyria Township with her husband and son. She enjoys ice skating, the piano, and writing articles on social and economic problems in Vietnamese and English.



Marcin Oleksy will be working as a Program Specialist at the OOV. He attended Kent State and Cleveland State Universities. He has been working as an English Teacher. He lives in Lorain.

## An Exceptional Employee

Julie Kraker received the Exceptional Service Award at the meeting of the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities on August 30, 2013. Julie was nominated by two families for her outstanding efforts with the Boy Scout Camp experience. For the past two summers, each Murray Ridge boy scout was able to partner with a boy scout from another troop, and attend camp at the Lorain County Boy Scout campgrounds. Check back next month to read all about the Boy Scout Camp adventures this past summer.

Julie has worked as a the Liaison at the school for the past five years, and has worked for Murray Ridge for a total of 13 years. Congratulations Julie on a job well done!



Nick Vanche and Julie Kraker beside the Boy Scout Pinewood Derby track



Julie Kraker with her award

## MRC at the Lorain County Fair

Staff, consumers, family members, and community members volunteered, once again, at the Murray Ridge Center's booth at the Lorain County Fair. It was a wonderful experience to communicate with the public about the exceptional programs and services provided through Murray Ridge Center to individuals with developmental disabilities.



Joaquin Page, Jaclyn Guerrieri, and April Pizzoferrato

## MRC Represented at Local Parades



Many consumers and staff marched in the Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade on July 11 (left) and in the North Ridgeville Corn Festival Parade on August 11 (below)!



## Murray Ridge Has Got Talent Show

The **Murray Ridge Has Got Talent Show**, which was modeled after the TV show, "America's Got Talent," was held on July 23rd at the Murray Ridge School. Consumers from each of the three adult centers participated in the show. Three final contestants were chosen from each OVC to go on to the Grand Finale, which was held on stage at the Murray Ridge School. **This year's winner was from the Lorain OVC.** Congratulations to Todd Buchanan and his group for winning First Place!



Todd Buchanan holding up the First Place trophy for his group

## Have You Heard the Murray Ridge Choraleers?

The Choraleers have become a popular performing group for churches, civic clubs, and special events throughout the county. Through singing and entertaining, the Murray Ridge Choraleers provide insight about Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities and the programs available at Murray Ridge.

The Choraleers are getting ready for the Holiday Season! If you are interested in booking a performance, please contact Tina Tucker, at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center: (440) 774-7400.





## The Blooming Garden at the Meister Home

The Meister Road Home residents and staff planted a vegetable garden this past spring and are very proud to showcase their home-grown vegetables. A great deal of work by residents and staff have made it quite a success.

The garden has brought everyone at the home much joy. For some, this was the first time seeing the growing process of vegetables and what happens to them before reaching the dining table. Residents helped with the watering, weeding, and general care of the garden. Lessons were learned about differentiating weeds from plants and most of all patience. The butterflies and various bugs have been very interesting to watch also.



Meister residents and staff admiring their work.



Ray Kelley getting a closer look

As they are about to enjoy the "fruits of their labor," they are also thankful to the maintenance staff for helping construct the garden beds. They hope to share vegetables with other Murray Ridge group homes next summer.

## Here We Come, State Tournament

The Division 1 Murray Ridge Softball Team 1 has advanced to the State Tournament in Oregon, Ohio which will be held on September 14th! It defeated Medina County 25-2, and then lost 17-5 to Stark Public #1 at the North Section Tournament on August 17th, placing it in second place in its division. Due to another state section not having a Division 1 team, Murray Ridge Team 1 is advancing to the State Tournament to even out the tournament brackets. Way to go Team 1, good luck.

The Division 3 Murray Ridge Softball Team 2 defeated Lake County 22-6, and then lost 14-6 to the Geauga DD Bluestreaks at the North Section Tournament, placing it in second place in its division.

Some outstanding individuals won awards in their divisions. Tom Dammeyer, Sally Gordon, Katie Kellogg, Maria Poling, Casey West, and Donna Wolfe placed first in their divisions. Torie Ambers, Alex Averett, Linda Brewer, Stephanie Budweg, and Mike Ward placed second in their divisions.

Alyssa DeAngelis, Kelly Fath, Dennis Johnson, Pamela McClain, and Sarah Ward placed third in their divisions. Lorraine Clark, Kari Dolan, Jessica Johnson, and Jenna Jones placed forth in their divisions. Charles Garn placed fifth in his division. Way to go teams!



Tim Dammeyer at bat at the State Softball Tournament

# Annual Transportation Safety Instruction

Murray Ridge Center wants your ride into our program sites to be a safe one. These are guidelines that students, adult program participants, and their caregivers should be aware of when utilizing transportation services provided by Murray Ridge Center.

## WAITING FOR THE BUS

- Wait for the bus at least 10 feet from the road.
- Dress properly - winter clothing, hats, mittens, and boots will help keep you warm in the winter.
- **Watch for the bus' red lights.**
- Wait until the bus has stopped and door opens before stepping into the roadway.
- Wait for the driver to signal to cross. Cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Use the handrail when stepping onto the bus.
- If you use a wheelchair, it must be equipped with a functioning seat belt. The wheels should lock as well.
- Store all belongings in a backpack so nothing gets dropped.

## BUS SEAT SAFETY RULES

- **Follow all of the driver's instructions.**
- Speak softly so the driver will not be distracted. At railroad crossings, be quiet.
- Stay seated until your stop and keep the aisle clear.
- Never put head, arms, or hands out of the window.
- Never do anything to distract the driver.
- Keep aisles clear and free of tripping hazards.
- Never throw things on the bus or out the windows.
- Tell the driver or monitor if you are being bullied.
- If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- Do not eat on the bus, as this could present a choking hazard.

## GETTING OFF THE BUS AT HOME

- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road, until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure that the driver can see you.
- Wait for the signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- **Stay away from the bus' rear wheels at all times.** If you drop something near the bus, leave it. If you leave something on the bus, never return to get it. The driver may not see you come back and start to move the bus. If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver before you pick it up so he/she knows where you are.









Some of our consumers are also able to travel about the community through the use of public transportation. We want your trips to be safe ones!

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- When you enter or leave a vehicle, watch for slippery or uneven pavement and other hazards that could cause you to fall.
- Have your LCT ID, bus fare, ticket, or pass ready to avoid losing your balance while looking for it.
- Do not carry too many packages – always leave a free hand to grab a railing.
- Allow extra time to cross streets, especially in bad weather.
- **If it's dark outside**, wear light-colored or reflective clothing.
- Do not talk to strangers. If you are being bothered by someone, tell the driver immediately.
- If you use a stop assistance card, remember to show it to the driver as you board the bus.
- Most LCT stops are not sheltered. Dress appropriately for the winter weather, and utilize sunscreen in the summer.
- Whether you are in a bus, car, or van – **ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEATBELT IF THE VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH ONE!**



# September 2013

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
29	30					
10/6 						

## Activities & Events

- 9/2 - Agency closed for Labor Day holiday
- 9/3 - First day of school for Murray Ridge Preschool Students
- 9/5 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, EOVC, 4:15 p.m.
- 9/18 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 9/19 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 9/20 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7-9 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 9/27 - LCBDD Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Rd, Elyria
- 10/6 - Woollybear Festival and Parade Vermilion, OH

**Come walk with us at the Woollybear Festival Parade in Vermilion October 6th.**

**If interested, contact Tracey Carroll at (440) 329-3734.**



## BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

**The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on August 30, 2013:**

An Exceptional Service Award was presented by Board Member Dan White to Murray Ridge School teacher Julie Kraker. Director of Vocational and Transportation Services Jeff Miller recommended that the Board approve identified bus stop locations for the 2013/2014 school year. The Board unanimously agreed. Dr. Fisher presented and the Board approved revisions to the following policies in the Management/Confidential Policy Manual: Military Leave, Educational Pay Supplement, and Medical/Health Coverage. Director of Nursing, Kevin Eye, presented and the Board approved revisions to the Family and Medical Leave Policy. Superintendent Fisher also discussed arrangements for the upcoming strategic plan review meetings to occur on September 20 and 21. In other news, the Board was updated on the Murray Ridge Golf Classic, a levy fundraiser to occur on September 16.

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

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

Visit our Web site  
[www.murrayridgecenter.org](http://www.murrayridgecenter.org)



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## 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, Public Relations/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, usually held on the last Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or [jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org).

## October is National Disabilities Awareness Month.

If you wish to receive future newsletters  
by email, please visit  
**[www.murrayridgecenter.org](http://www.murrayridgecenter.org)**  
and click on the  
*Sign Up for Our Email Newsletter* link.

