



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

July 2013

Murray Ridge Students, Adults, and Staff Celebrate the Inclusive Playground at the New Lorain County Metro Parks Facility at Hollstein Reservation in Amherst



Lorain Adult Opportunity/Vocational Center participant AJ Grimm and Murray Ridge School student Shawn Tidmore swing together at the inclusive playground.

On Wednesday, July 3rd, many gathered at the Hollstein Reservation in Amherst for the ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening of the inclusive playground at the newest site of the Lorain County Metro Parks. The "inclusive playground," which was designed with significant input from a committee of family members of Murray Ridge service recipients, is an imaginative and state-of-the-art play area where people with disabilities can play alongside typically developing peers, other family members, and the community at large. At the opening ceremony, Superintendent Fisher stated, "the Metro Parks involved Murray Ridge in this project from its inception; they worked with a committee of Murray Ridge staff and families, not only asking for our expertise and technical assistance, but also inviting the parents to *dream* about a setting that would be most engaging for their children and adults with developmental disabilities."

And the remarkable end product *is* a dream come true for many Lorain County residents. The outdoor playground, which combines opportunities for water play, structured play and natural play in a single setting, features such attractions as a Living Willow Hut, a tree house, a stage, a sunflower

maze, a fishing pond, and a tent village. In addition to such novelties, all of which are accessible for people who use wheelchairs, the park includes more typical items such as swings, a rock pile and a covered sand pit. At the dedication event, parents Damita Vanche and Brenda Grimm, participants on the committee that designed the playground, spoke about the true accessibility of this play area, and what it means to their families to have this resource available in Lorain County.

Located just outside the Splash Pad area of the playground is an Art Wall featuring tiles that were purchased by local citizens to support the project, and many of which were individually decorated by Murray Ridge program participants. For more information about the inclusive playground, and opportunities to support and access it, see the Lorain County Metro Parks website.

Many thanks to the Lorain County Metro Parks for its visionary leadership, and commitment to *all* residents!



Tile wall in the Hollstein Reservation water play area.



Murray Ridge School students Sean McCray and Emily Gessner play the chimes at the new playground.



Murray Ridge Camp Counselor Polly Allman spins campers on one of the many inclusive pieces of playground equipment.

Parent Brenda Grimm and LCMP Board member Bob Campana push Murray Ridge School student Zachary Grimm on a swing in his wheelchair.



Murray Ridge School Summer Camp 2013!

Summer camps offer campers a place to learn and play, and parents the opportunity to keep their kids active - in both body and mind - after the school year has ended.

For the 25th year in a row, Murray Ridge School students were invited to participate in the Murray Ridge Summer Camp, a four-week long day camp where attendees had the opportunity to engage in many enjoyable activities and field trips, and to try their hands at a variety of crafts.

This summer's weekly themes included art, music, sports, and food. Campers were able to have fun in a relaxed setting, while staying connected to their peers and learning from the dedicated staff of Murray Ridge School camp counselors.

Thank you to all who helped make the 2013 Murray Ridge Summer Camp a huge success!



Evey Rodgers, Alexis Throckmorton, and Athyna Rivera (above) enjoy rec time with teachers aide Amy Daniels!



Brynne Diedrick and Chloe Breeding take a dip during swim time (upper left). Roger Minnick and Raelyn Ensign (lower left) enjoy a popsicle in the summer heat! Steven Fosdick (above) rinses out his tie dye t-shirt.


2013-2014 Murray Ridge Center Calendars


Adult Services Early Intervention Residential


2013


 July 4 – Independence Day


 September 2 – Labor Day

 October 14 – Columbus Day


 October 25 – Agency Inservice

 November 11 – Veterans Day

 November 28 – Thanksgiving Day


 November 29 – Day after Thanksgiving

 December 24 - Program Closing Day


 December 25 – Christmas Day


 December 26, 27, 30, and 31 – Program Closing Days


2014

 January 1 – New Year's Day

 January 20 – Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

 February 17 – Presidents Day

 April 18 – Good Friday


 May 26 – Memorial Day


School Preschool

2013


 August 26 – First Day for Murray Ridge School Staff


 August 26 – Open House (evening)


 August 27 – First Day for Students (school-age)

 September 2 – Labor Day

 September 3 – First Day of Preschool Classes


 October 14 – Columbus Day

 October 25 – Agency Inservice


 November 11 – Veterans Day


 November 12 – Parent/Teacher Conferences

 November 27 – Day before Thanksgiving


 November 28 – Thanksgiving Day

 November 29 – Day after Thanksgiving

 December 23 – Winter Break Begins

 December 25 – Christmas Day


2014


 January 1 – New Year's Day

 January 6 – Winter Break Ends/Classes Resume

 January 20 – Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday


 February 5 – Parent/Teacher Conferences


 February 17 – Presidents Day

 April 18 – Good Friday

 April 21 – Spring Break Begins

 April 28 – Classes Resume

 May 26 – Memorial Day


 June 6 – Last Day of Classes for Students


 June 9 – Records Day – Last Day for Staff

Key

 Holidays


 Program Closing Day

 Agency Inservice


 First Day for School Staff


 Open House

 First Day for Students/Classes Resume

 First Day for Preschool

 Parent/Teacher Conference

 Last Day for Students

 Last Day for School Staff

MRC Attends 44th Annual Special Olympics Games!

Murray Ridge Center sent 48 athletes to compete in the 44th annual Special Olympics Ohio State Summer Games, a year-round training and competition program for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

The Games, which were held June 28-30 at the Ohio State University in Columbus, featured competition for more than 2,700 competitors from across the state. The program included competition in eleven sports, movies, recreational clinics, and the colorful opening ceremonies which took place at Jesse Owens Track and Field Stadium.

Murray Ridge athletes brought home many trophies, including nine gold, five silver, and three bronze medals won by the track team.

Special Olympics Ohio serves more than 17,000 citizens with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Ohio has an event calendar that includes seven state level championships and more than 125 local and area events in twenty-three Special Olympics type sports.

Congratulations Murray Ridge athletes!



The Modified Volleyball Team: Back Row (l-r) Tracy Horn and Richard Urban. Front Row (l-r) Matt Anthony, Doug McCartney, and Kevin Plata. Krystle Keener, Sandy Keener, and Michele Lott not pictured.



Murray Ridge athletes, coaches, and volunteers preparing to leave for the Special Olympics Ohio State Summer Games.



Murray Ridge athletes and coaches at the opening ceremony.



The Five-a-side Soccer Team: Goalie Eric Johnson, #1 Kris Sommer, #12 Ryan Eliason, #4 Carl Jeans, and #10 D.J. Overall. Jeremy Foster, Steve Locurto, and Maria Pincura not pictured.

State Summer Games Results

Five-a-side Soccer Team finished second. In the semi-finals they defeated Medina County 4-0, but in the finals lost to Montgomery County 4-1. They finished the season with 7 wins and 2 losses. Team members included: Ryan Eliason, Jeremy Foster, Eric Johnson, D.J. Overall, Carl Jeans, Steve Locurto, Kris Sommer, and Maria Pincura. Coaches were BJ Winkelman and Michelle Miller.

Traditional Volleyball Team finished second in the Blue Division. In the semi-finals they defeated the Summit County DD Warriors 2-1, but in the finals they lost to the Franklin Columbus Comets, 2-1. Team members included: Ryan Busher, Kurt Caris, Leroy Davis, Andrew Donald, Mike Kovacic, Zuleyka Perez, James Peters, and Shari Reitenbach. Coaches were Stacy Rosecrans and Rick Rovere.

Modified Volleyball Team finished fourth in the Navy division. In their preliminary match they lost to Morrow County 2-0, but in their next match defeated Greene County 2-0. In the medal round they lost to Fulton County 2-0. Team members included: Matt Anthony, Tracy Horn, Krystle Keener, Sandy Keener, Michele Lott, Doug McCartney, Kevin Plata, and Richard Urban. Coaches were Mary Lucente and Russ Moye.

Tennis Singles Sarah Ward took second place in Division 4, JoAnn Gall took third place in Division 5, Andrew Prihoda took third place in Division 7, and David Zsigray took fourth place in Division 10.

Tennis Doubles the team of Sarah Ward and Andrew Prihoda earned third place and the team of JoAnn Gall and David Zsigray took fourth place in Division 5. Our tennis coach was Starr Price.

Bocce Team earned a medal for second, third, fourth, and fifth place. Isaiah Wicks and Alex Averett earned second place in the Milano Division. Juanita Young and Mary Gressler earned third place in the Monte Carlo Division. Mike Ward and Andy Rivera earned fourth place in the Messina Division. Lillian Bennett and Jessica Johnson earned fifth place in the Montecristo Division. Coaches were Noreen Romano, Caitlyn Keil, and Jim Ward.

Athletes competing for the Murray Ridge Track Team brought home nine gold, five silver, and three bronze medals in individual events.

Standing Long Jump: Britiny Bennett and Alicia Lawrence won gold medals, and Jenna Jones won a bronze medal.

Mini-Javel: Mika Yanda and Tim Dammeyer won silver medals, and Ray Behner won silver.

400 Meter Run: Alicia Lawrence and Leif Hammonds won gold medals.

1500 Meter Run: Ray Behner and Tim Dammeyer won silver.

Shot Put: Tim Zsigray won gold, Bill Lacko won bronze, and Mark Lacko won bronze.

100 Meter Dash: Diana Clement and Mark Lacko won gold. Mike Yanda, Bill Lacko, and Tim Zsigray won fourth place.

Softball Throw: Diana Clement won silver, Leif Hammonds won bronze, and Wendy Smitkowski won sixth.

100 Meter Walk: Wendy Smitkowski won fourth.

4x400 Meter Relay: Mike Yanda, Leif Hammonds, Ray Behner, and Tim Dammeyer won silver.

4x100 Meter Relay: Bill Lacko, Mark Lacko, Jenna Jones, and Diana Clement won fourth.



Bill Lacko running the 4 x 100 relay.

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.

Murray Ridge Preschool Offers:

- Individualized Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy in the classroom
- An extensive collection of early childhood educational equipment
- Full-time nurse on site
- Behavior Support Services
- Music classes



- A well-rounded curriculum based on the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards
- Dynamic, ODE-certified staff
- Physical development through indoor/outdoor physical education classes
- Door-to-door transportation services

Did You Know...

The Murray Ridge preschool serves children with a wide range of developmental disabilities, from those with mild delays to those profoundly impacted, and Murray Ridge is a recognized leader in its comprehensive approach to teaching children with autism. 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 (see below).

For More Information Contact:

Dann Swift
Director of Educational Services
Murray Ridge School
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Elyria, Oh 44035
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dswift@murrayridgecenter.org
www.murrayridgecenter.org



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July 2013

Activities & Events

- 6/12 - 7/6 - Murray Ridge School Day Camp (NO CAMP on July 4)
- 7/4 - Independence Day, Agency closed
- 7/10 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 7/11 - Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade, 7:00 p.m.
- 7/11 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	School Day Camp - No Camp Thurs.					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

MRC Represented at Local Parades



This summer, Murray Ridge is proud to be participating in five events throughout Lorain County. On June 15, consumers and staff marched in the Avon Duck Tape Parade and on June 30, at the Lorain International Parade!



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on June 28, 2013:

The second quarter Exceptional Service Award will be presented at the August Board Meeting. The Board unanimously established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve in the third quarter of 2013. Superintendent Fisher discussed arrangements for strategic planning. Dr. Fisher announced that the agency's Help Me Grow allocation will be increased by \$105,944 for FY 2014. (Our allocation for FY 2013 had been reduced by nearly \$50,000 as compared to our FY 2012 allocation.) These monies are used to offset our cost of assessing infants and toddlers within our Early Intervention Program. The Board approved the revision of the 2013-2014 agency calendars to include December 24th as a Program Closing Day. In other business, it was reported that the Murray Ridge Support Group (MRSG) donated T-shirts for the Avon Duct Tape Parade participants. In addition, duck tape was donated by the Shurtech Brands company. The Murray Ridge Support Group will not meet again until September 5th, and September 20th will be the date of the next dance. There will be no Board meeting in July.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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PLEASE NOTE!

**There will be no August edition
of the Murray Ridge Courier.**

**Current calendars and upcoming
events are always available
on our website.**

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 Jeff Neal, Director of Service & Support Administration at 440-324-2366.

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.