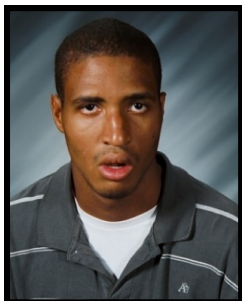


Commencement 2009

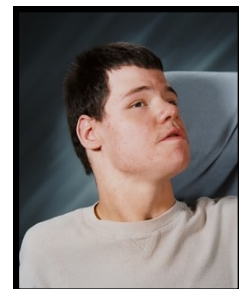
On June 2, four Murray Ridge School seniors began an exciting new stage in their lives. Throughout their years at Murray Ridge School, these students have worked hard to prepare for their adult lives and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Congratulations, graduates!



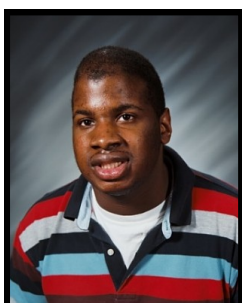
Bradley Hairston

An energetic student with a cheerful personality, **Bradley Hairston** also excels at sports. He loves playing basketball, riding bicycles and rollerblading. He also loves the outdoors. During his senior year, Bradley worked in the Murray Ridge School cafeteria, and at the Service and Support Administration building. When he's not attending school, working or playing sports, he enjoys hanging out with his friends and family. After graduation, Bradley plans to attend the Lorain Work/Activity Center.

His great laugh and terrific smile have won **Josh Johnson** many friends at Murray Ridge School. These friends have had the pleasure of enjoying one of his lesser-known talents. Quite the music lover, Josh is also adept at playing drums. He can keep time and play rhythmically to most any type of music. His favorites are country and jazz, and he has a particular fondness for John Coltrane. When he is not in school, he enjoys sports, music and hanging out with his friends. After graduation, Josh plans to attend Lucy Idol Center where he will continue to work hard and make many new friends.



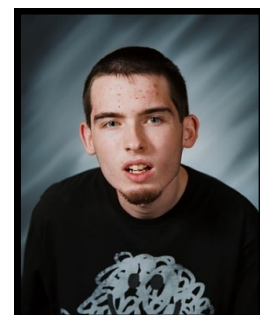
Josh Johnson



Eric Riser, Jr.

Eric Riser, Jr. is an active young man who enjoys participating in dances, swimming, gym classes, outdoor activities, community trips and the Boy Scout Troop at Murray Ridge School. Eric has been active in the Special Olympics Track and Field Day for Lorain County for many years and has participated in the 25 meter run, as well as the softball throw. He also works in the Murray Ridge School cafeteria. After graduation, this young man with lots of friends and a great sense of humor plans to enter the world of work at the Lorain Work/Activity Center.

A young man with a talent for singing and a love of tasty food, **Mitchell Valentine** enjoys putting on impromptu concerts. He also loves eating at restaurants. His favorite places include Applebee's and a variety of fast food restaurants. While in school, Mitchell participated in the community-based outings program and the Boy Scouts. A gentle-natured young man who enjoys hanging out with friends and visiting his grandparents, Mitchell plans to attend the Elyria Work/Activity Center after graduation.



Mitchell Valentine

Global Perspectives in Special Education

While most students pursuing degrees in education satisfy their student teaching requirement in a nearby school district, Murray Ridge Center employee **Natalie Radovich** opted to gain a global perspective on special education methods. So, at her own expense, Radovich packed her bags, along with her adventurous spirit, and headed to New Zealand.

While many would be intimidated by the thought of leaving their everyday lives and immersing themselves in a new culture, Radovich embraced the opportunity to expand and enhance her understanding of the world and how other cultures educate individuals with developmental disabilities. Said **Lisa Lee**, Workshop Specialist at the Oberlin Work/Activity Center, of her co-worker "Natalie is a free spirit and isn't afraid of anything! She welcomes new adventures."

Nestled amidst magnificent alpine heights and crystal blue waters, lies the town of Christchurch, New Zealand, where Radovich greets her class of nine youngsters, ages eight to 13, every day. The typical day starts with the morning news and announcements, followed by songs that incorporate sign language and following instructions. "Brain Gym" is next, which consists of physical movements that reportedly stimulate the brain and help with things such as coordination and concentration. Then, just before morning tea and recess, the students practice their math skills. Following lunch, the remainder of the day includes reading, spelling, arts and another recess. Radovich says that, throughout these activities, the students are encouraged to move around physically as much as they are able. "This not only helps the students to burn off energy, but also helps to activate their minds, keeping them engaged in the learning process through the whole day," said Radovich. "I definitely want to incorporate this practice into my own classroom eventually."



Natalie Radovich

As there is a large indigenous Maori population in New Zealand, there is a focus on Maori culture and language as part of the daily curriculum. On Fridays, many of the students participate in Haka, a traditional Maori dance. According to Radovich, the inclusion of this important indigenous heritage encourages and fosters a culture of respect among the students and teachers. "When you enter a new class, the students are very welcoming and have obviously learned the skills of acting sensibly and respectfully," she said.



The picturesque Akoroa, new Zealand, where Radovich spends her down time.

She observes that there are some similarities to the programs at Murray Ridge School. For example, the classes are small with a teacher and several aids, and the curriculums are similar, incorporating academics, arts and physical activities. The students also have access to certain therapies, such as speech, occupational and physical. However, unlike Murray Ridge, there is very little vocational preparation or assistance for the students to prepare them for life after school. "They are teaching some post-graduation skills like cooking and taking public transportation, but there's not a lot of job training," said Radovich. She says that the concept of vocational training and assistance for special needs students is a relatively new one in New Zealand.

Overall, despite what minor differences may exist continent-to-continent, Radovich has learned that people all over the world are dedicated to educating young people with developmental disabilities, and she looks forward to doing exactly that when she returns to Murray Ridge and completes her studies.



Summer Outings

Please note that the Recreation Department is finalizing an exciting summer outings schedule and will soon be notifying consumers which outings they will be attending.



Legislators Visit Murray Ridge Center



Above: Murray Ridge Superintendent Amber Fisher (left), State Representative Terry Boose (center) and Murray Ridge School Director of Education, Dann Swift (right).

Right Photo, left to right: School Supervisor Joan Peterson, Dann Swift, Ohio State Senator Sue Morano, Amber Fisher.



Murray Ridge was recently honored by two very special guests. Ohio State Representative Terry Boose and Ohio State Senator Sue Morano stopped by our offices to learn more about the programs and services we provide annually to more than 2,000 Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities. They each took time out of their busy schedules to tour the Elyria Work/Activity Center and the Murray Ridge School. While touring, they were able to speak with staff and consumers, ask questions and observe the various activities that take place each day at Murray Ridge. It was our great pleasure to meet these elected officials and to have the opportunity to show them what we do. We welcome the opportunity for future visits.

Knights in Shining Armor



Murray Ridge School Senior "Sir" Mitchell Valentine having a ball at the 2009 Prom.

Every year, high school seniors across the country reach important milestones—graduation, first jobs and, of course, the Senior Prom! The meticulous planning of this widely-anticipated social event often rivals that of a wedding; but then, so does the amount of enjoyment.

For seniors at Murray Ridge School, the 2009 Prom may well be one of their most enjoyable and memorable events yet. The theme this year was "Night of Knights," in honor of the four young men who graduated from Murray Ridge School this June. Indeed, it was a night of knights as the four seniors, dressed to the nines, entered the school gym, which had been transformed into a Camelot-like fantasyland, complete with decorative wizards, unicorns, elves and dragons.

It was a night that will surely live happily ever after in the memories of these young men.



Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Calling all volunteers! As you gear up for all of those picnics and barbecues this summer, you may be interested in having a little fun while at the same time helping to educate the community about Murray Ridge Center. There are several community events this year throughout Lorain County and Murray Ridge needs volunteers to help staff booths and participate in parades. If you are interested in representing Murray Ridge at any of the following events, please contact Racheal Seibert, Community Education & Volunteer Manager, at (440) 329-3734.

- Lorain International Festival Parade—Sunday, June 28
- Sheffield/Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade—Thursday, July 9
- Amherst Old Time Jamboree Festival Parade—Sunday, July 12
- North Ridgeville Corn Festival Parade—Sunday, August 9
- Lorain County Fair Booth—August 24-30



Achieving in Business and Philanthropy



Students at Avon Lake High School hold the Junior Achievement Award check before generously donating the money to Murray Ridge Center.

During the 2008-09 school year, marketing students at Avon Lake High School participated in Junior Achievement of Greater Cleveland and started a t-shirt company called "Shorty Shirts." Competing against schools throughout Cuyahoga and Lorain counties, these young entrepreneurs created a business plan, sold stock, sold their product and earned more than \$500 in profits. Because of the students' business savvy, Shorty Shirts won first prize for this year's competition. And, as a company that cares, these young philanthropists opted to donate both the profits and the prize money to help consumers at Murray Ridge Center. We are both impressed with and honored by these future business leaders, and wish them many future successes.



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of MR/DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on May 29, 2009:



Dr. Fisher informed the Board that she was recommending the appointment of Jeffrey Neal, Director of Day Service & Support Administration, to represent Murray Ridge on the Norcare Enterprises Board. The recommendation was met with unanimous approval. The agency's 2010 Tax Budget was presented with explanation by John Bonko, Director of Business. After discussion and clarifications, the budget was unanimously passed by the Board. In other business Superintendent Fisher presented two revised Management/Confidential Policy revisions and one Personnel Policy revision for Board approval, along with a singular exception to the current Supported Living Program Policy. Following discussion and clarifications, all corresponding motions were passed by the Board. Finally, Dr. Fisher recommended a prorated discount for children who join our pre-school program after the start of the school year, and the Board unanimously accepted the recommendation.

June 2009

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				

Activities & Events

- 6/1—Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Work Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 6/2—Murray Ridge School Commencement ceremony, 11:00 a.m., Murray Ridge School
- 6/5—**Last Day for Murray Ridge School students**
- 6/8—Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road
- 6/11—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School
- 6/18—LCBMRDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 6/19—Murray Ridge Support Group dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria
- 6/25—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School
- 6/26—LCBMRDD Meeting, 12:30 p.m. Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 6/28—Lorain International Parade, 11:00 a.m.



Lunch Menus

Cost Per Day: Youth = \$2.65, Adults = \$2.70

June 1--5
June 22-26

Monday- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scaloped Potatoes, Corn, Peaches, Cookie

Tuesday- Ham & 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

June 8-12
June 29-July 4

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



May 25-29
June 15-19
July 7-11

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 Mental Retardation
& Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our Web site
www.loraincountymrdd.org

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Avon Lake Playgroup Notice

During the summer months, the Avon lake playgroup will be meeting at different locations on the last Wednesday of each month.

- **June 24**—Weiss Field, 3318 Webber Road, Avon Lake
- **July 29**—Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, 28728 Wolf Road, Bay Village
- **August 26**—Avon Lake Play Space, Avon Lake

In the case of rain, the group will meet at the Old Firehouse. For verification of locations during rain, or for more information, call 440-284-3655.

A Message From the Director of Nursing

Since the news was released in early April that one of the first cases of the H1N1 flu was in Lorain County, Murray Ridge Center has been receiving updates from public health officials and is prepared to act on any advisement. Internally, all school and program personnel were reminded that the Universal Precautions practiced every day at Murray Ridge to prevent the spread of all communicable diseases, are the same actions currently recommended by state and local health departments, as well as the Center for Disease Control, to prevent the spread of H1N1. While Murray Ridge consistently maintains safe, clean environments, and facilitates good hygiene habits, this recent health alert has prompted staff to provide creative daily opportunities to remind consumers of this importance of hand-washing. These opportunities have included motivational announcements and songs. If you would like to know more about how Murray Ridge is addressing the issue of H1N1, please contact Janet Winterstein, director of Nursing, at 440-329-3734.



Further News You Might Use...

We are often in receipt of information from external sources on offerings designed for people with MR/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.