



Commencement 2008



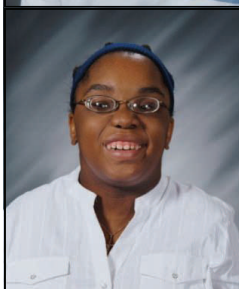
This June, ten Murray Ridge School students will begin an exciting new stage in their lives. It is often said that as one door closes, another opens. Whatever doors these young men and women decide to walk through, we wish them the best in their future endeavors. Congratulations, graduates!



Teddy Flood is an energetic young man who has been missed since his move to Geneva. He was a member of Boy Scouts, the Bell Choir, was a kitchen worker, worked at Super K-Mart in the Liaison Program, and was involved with the Liaison Outing Program.



A. J. Grimm enjoys being social with his many friends and school staff. He is a Boy Scout and participates in the Liaison Program. A.J. has been at Murray Ridge School since preschool and will be transitioning to the Lorain Work Activity Center.



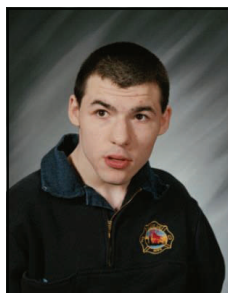
Megan Johnson is a friendly young woman who loves having fun and joking with her many friends. She is a very hard worker and has mastered many skills. It has been said that if there is a job to be done, Megan is the woman to count on.



Paul Kropp is a delightful young man who is very involved with school activities. He is a Boy Scout, is in the Bell Choir, works in the school kitchen and at Super K-Mart with the Liaison Program, and is involved in the Liaison Outing Program. Paul is a hard worker and enjoys completing math worksheets.



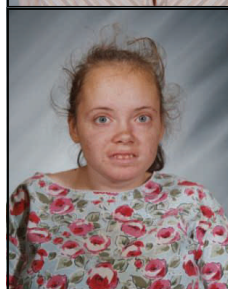
Brooke Mangus is a very happy young woman who enjoys school. She especially enjoys seeing her friends and teachers. She is a Girl Scout and plans to transition to the Oberlin Work Activity Center.



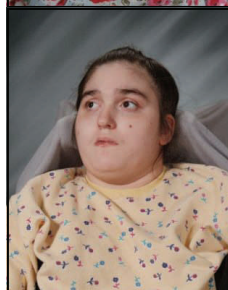
Josh McCray is a very active young man. He enjoys swimming, field trips, listening to music and being outside on the swings. He will be joining the Lorain Work Activity Center.



Elise Moore is a wonderful friend who cares unconditionally for the special people in her life. She uses her communication device to socialize with everyone she encounters. She is always excited to try new things and is always willing to lend a hand to a friend in need.



Missy Raines is a very social young woman who loves the company of her friends. She has a terrific sense of humor and a wonderful laugh. Her hobbies include puzzles and reading.



Ashley Stephenson enjoys going to school with her classmates, but particularly likes spending time with her grandparents.



Marvelous White (No photo available) is a happy young man who likes to laugh and smile. He enjoys "people-watching" and listening to music. Marvelous will be joining the Lorain Work Activity Center.

2008 Murray Ridge School Prom in Full Bloom

Few four-letter words have quite the same impact on a teenager's life as P-R-O-M. And this year's Murray Ridge School Prom, held May 16, was impactful, indeed. As attendees arrived they excitedly went "In the Garden," which was the theme this year. The botanical wonderland, complete with a waterfall, wishing well and, of course, flowers, proved a beautiful backdrop for an evening of dancing, laughing and reminiscing about the year. And the honor of Prom King and Queen went to all seniors who attended. It was an enjoyable evening for all and undoubtedly provided fond memories that will last for years to come.



Pictured left: Senior students A.J. Grimm and Elise Moore arrived in style at the 2008 Murray Ridge School Prom.



Pictured above: Missy Raines looking poised in purple.

Many Murray Ridge Special Olympians Advance to State Championship



Pictured above: Bocce athletes Marty Hahn (left) and Don Durkee (right) compete in the Spring Sport Qualifier recently.

Recently, 83 Special Olympians from Murray Ridge Center competed at the Spring Sport Qualifier. Overall, Murray Ridge athletes earned 22 gold, 19 silver and 22 bronze medals, as well as a number of 4th, 5th and 6th placements. In addition to these significant achievements, the Pat Bristo/Henry Liberatore Sportsmanship Award, which is given to only one bocce athlete each year, was awarded to our own Angela Collado. Forty-seven of these athletes will advance to the State Competition at Ohio State University on June 27-29. Congratulations and good luck to all of our athletes who personify the Special Olympics oath "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

Pictured right: Angela Collado proudly displays her Pat Bristo/Henry Liberatore Sportsmanship Award.



Murray Ridge Center June 2008

New Faces in Murray Ridge Places

Welcome, new members of the Murray Ridge Center team!



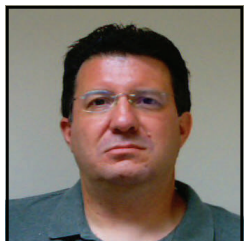
Debra Campbell joins Murray Ridge Center as a Group Home Aide/Permanent Sub at East College Home. She resides in Elyria with her husband, Bryan and has five children ages 12-24. She is also an instructor in CPR and First Aid. In her spare time she enjoys reading, bike riding, walking and spending time with her family.



Erica Hales has recently been hired as the new Group Home Aide/Permanent Sub at Academy Court Home. Erica graduated with honors from Elyria High School, and is currently studying nursing at Lorain County Community College.



Theresa Roszman joins the Murray Ridge School as a Teacher. Theresa graduated from Bowling Green State University with a B. S. in Education and is currently pursuing her Master's degree. She resides in Carlisle Township with her husband, Robert, and daughter, Morgan.



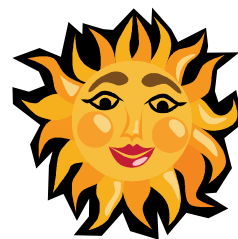
Richard Williams, previously a Sub at Meister Home, has accepted a position as a Workshop Aide for the Lorain Work Activity Center. Richard resides in Lorain with his wife, Silvia, and his three children. He enjoys sports and reading.

Help Habitat for Humanity

On June 28, 2008, there is an opportunity to help Habitat for Humanity, while also earning 4 CEU hours. The work day will run from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and lunch will be provided. If you don't mind getting a little dirty, this is a terrific chance to help build a home for a fellow Lorain County resident. For more information, contact Jan Hopkins at (440) 574-9449 or jan@hopkins2.com



Be Safe While Having Some Fun in the Sun



As the weather turns warmer and we all look forward to some fun in the sun, the Ohio Department of MRDD offers a few suggestions for staying safe while enjoying the great outdoors.

For Sunburn Prevention:

- Avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Use sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater. Apply 15-30 minutes before going outside and reapply frequently.
- Wear a hat and sunglasses that absorb at least 90% of UV rays.

Avoid Dehydration and Sun Stroke:

- Drink plenty of water—at least eight glasses each day.
- When outdoors, seek shaded areas.
- Take frequent breaks from physical activity when outside.
- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.

Watch Out for Insects:

- Be prepared if you or someone you know is allergic to bee, wasp and hornet stings. Know the protocol which must be followed for an allergic reaction. For all other people, remove the stinger with a flat edge—such as a credit card—to scrape it from the place in which it's imbedded. Wash and apply ice.
- To avoid Lyme disease and West Nile Virus, use an insect repellent. Spray exposed areas as well as clothing. If a tick becomes attached, seek medical help immediately.

And don't forget to protect your canine friends this summer. According to the American Kennel Club, there are a few simple tips for keeping your pooch safe, too.

- If outside, make sure your pet has a shady spot to rest in.
- Never leave your dog in a closed vehicle on a hot day. The temperature in a car can rise to more than 100 degrees in a matter of minutes.
- Always make sure your dog has plenty of cool, fresh water to drink.
- To protect against burned paws, avoid prolonged exposure to asphalt or sand.

Here's hoping all Lorain County residents—and their pets—have a safe, happy summer!

Murray Ridge Center

6/2—Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, Elyria Work Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Road, 4:15 p.m.

6/5—Last Day of School for Students

6/9—Summer Camp begins

6/11—Family Support Parent Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m., SSA Building, 9740 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria

6/12—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria

6/17—LCBMRDD Meeting, Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria, 7:30 p.m.

6/20—Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, Murray Ridge School, 9750 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 7:00 p.m.

6/26—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:00-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria

6/29—Lorain International Festival Parade



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of MR/DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on May 9:



Superintendent Fisher presented the Board with the particulars of a five-year transportation proposal submitted by **First Student**. The Board unanimously approved entering into a new contract with the vendor. Dr. Fisher also updated the Board on the next State Biennial Budget, emphasizing that a cut in the budget of the Ohio Department of MRDD is expected. In jeopardy is approximately \$32 million, or 10% of the state department's budget. Further cuts to the county board's state funding should be expected. Director of Business John Bonko presented the agency's 2009 Tax budget, noting increased costs. Dr. Fisher added that the anticipated increase in expenses and decreases in revenue, make the agency's current savings in areas like health insurance all the more important. In other business, Dr. Fisher recapped her participation in a statewide Children's Summit, which she recently attended in Columbus. She recounted that attendees were tasked with proposing multi-system strategies to prevent children from falling through the cracks of a service continuum. Dr. Fisher added that she was pleased to discern that Lorain County appears to be well ahead of the curve in pooling economic resources to address the special needs of children in our community.

Autism Seminar Sparks Interest



Pictured above, left to right: Lenora Oeftering, Jenn Howser, Kristen Haskins, Julie Kraker, Beth D'Ambrosio, Theresa Roszman, Joan Lunsford and Joan Peterson. Not pictured, Bridget Novak.

Recently, nine educators at Murray Ridge School presented a seminar in an effort to promote autism awareness. This seminar was designed for parents and other community members interested in learning more about autism and the autism services provided by Murray Ridge School. The following topics were discussed:

- Sensory Strategies
- PACE Demonstrations
- Brain Gym in the Classroom
- Friendship Management Social Skills
- TEACCH – Red and Green Choices
- New to Autism (Teachers Survival Suitcase)
- Gentle Teaching, A Comprehensive Approach to Behavior Support
- Elements of ABA/Ziggurat Model
- Murray Ridge Autism Services

Many family members, as well as people from local schools, daycare centers and child welfare agencies attended to learn more about this complex developmental disability.

If you would like to know more about the autism services provided by Murray Ridge School, call (440) 329-7360.

My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived and let me watch him do it.

—Clarence Budington Kelland

Happy Father's Day!

The "Incidental" Column



John Syrowski

As this will be my last column discussing Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs), I think it is only proper to close with the last step involved with the MUI process. This step is the **Prevention Plan**.

A prevention plan, which addresses the cause and contribu-

ting factors of an incident, is written collaboratively with those who provide services to the consumer. From this, preventive measures are implemented to decrease the likelihood of an incident reoccurring.

As mentioned in a previous column, all MUIs require a prevention plan, even those MUIs that occur on a random basis. For example, if an individual fell while at the workshop and received 8 stitches, this would be an MUI under the category of Known Injury. After assuring that there is no history of falls, an appropriate prevention plan may be to monitor the individual and document findings. By monitoring this individual staff may be able to notice subtle changes. For instance, staff may find that just prior to eating lunch, the consumer tends to become unsteady on his feet. This observation may in fact be a contributing factor and help in determining the cause of the initial fall. Also, because of this prevention plan, a medical need may have been discovered. As you can see by this scenario, not only is the prevention plan effective for preventing future MUIs, it is also a potential tool for diagnosing other issues.

Prevention plans are truly a team effort. Each member of the team may interact with the consumer at different times and in different contexts. By meeting and discussing the needs of the consumer, these team members are each able to share insight and information that may not be known to the group. The end result of developing a prevention plan is to protect the health and safety of the consumer.

While writing this column I hope I provided some insight into the role of an I.A. as well as the MUI process. In this particular column, I speak of team efforts. I must tell you, investigating an MUI is truly a collaborative effort. We (I.A.'s) often rely on family, staff, and guardians to provide us with vital information. With that, I want to be sure to thank each of you for your help and support. Not only in regards to investigations, but also in providing for the health and safety of the consumers!

Thank you and thanks for reading!

Incidentally,
John

Lorain County Board of Mental Retardation
& Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our Web site
www.loraincountymrdd.org

Standard Presort
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PAID
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Lunch Menus for Murray Ridge Center

Cost Per Day: Youth = \$2.55, Adults = \$2.55

June 2—6

June 23—27

July 14—18

June 9—13

June 30—July 4

July 21—25

June 16—20

July 7—11

July 28—August 1

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

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/Lowfat Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Meat/Cheese Burrito, Spanish Rice, Cole Slaw, Applesauce

Monday- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scalloped 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