

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



Every March, Murray Ridge Center joins local, state, and national agencies to recognize **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**. This month celebrates the unique and vital contributions that individuals with developmental disabilities make in our communities.

Since operations began in 1968, Murray Ridge Center has made tremendous strides in providing services to eligible individuals and their families in Lorain County. Through the services and supports offered by Murray Ridge Center, more than 2,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to develop critical skills, expand their vocational horizons, and receive necessary care. With the support of Lorain County citizens, Murray Ridge has and will continue to make the world a better place for individuals with special needs.

In 2011, The Early Intervention program served 682 children from birth to three years of age, and Murray Ridge School educated 159 students. Murray Ridge Center provided day services and/or work experience for 940 adults in one of the three Murray Ridge Opportunity/Vocational Centers, several community employment enclaves operated by the Murray Ridge Production Center, or in other locations throughout the community. Residential services were provided to 389 individuals, many of whom require this care due to deceased parents and/or elderly family caregivers. Also in 2011, the Family Support program assisted 677 Lorain County families with the care of a relative with developmental disabilities.

For more information or to schedule a tour of our facilities, contact us at 440.329.3734 www.murrayridgecenter.org.

- Feel free to print/copy and share this page -

Great Effort at Special Olympics Basketball Tournament!

The Murray Ridge Raiders competed in the 17th Annual Special Olympics North Section Basketball Tournament March 2-4 at Lorain County Community College.

More than 600 athletes competed in the tournament from Ohio's four sections (north, east, west, and south).



Team 1 gets ready for the game.

All four Raiders teams put in a great effort, and Raiders 1 came within a game of winning a championship.

- Raiders 1 (division 1) won their semi-final game against Stark County Red 66-58. They lost in the championship game to the Cuyahoga Rockets 50 – 65.
- Raiders 2 (division 2) lost their semi-final game to Medina DD 1 41-45.
- Raiders 3 (division 4) lost their first-round game to the Portage Thunder 20-46.
- Lady Raiders (division 2) lost their semi-final game to the Medina County Thunderbolts 26-43.

12 athletes will be competing at the Basketball Individual Skills competition at Claymont High School in Uhrichsville, OH, on March 31: Jackie Allen, Alexshawn Averett, Lillian Bennett, Tom Djordjevic, Tracy Horn, Sally Gordon, Dennis Johnson, Jessica Johnson, Kathleen King, Tim Quisenberry, Lisa Schultz, and Rebecca Wilson. Congratulations to our Murray Ridge Raiders on a terrific season!

Travelling Art Show Moves to Elyria

Check out the Travelling Art Show in March! Consumer artwork is on exhibit at the Elyria West River Public Library.

If you are interested in submitting art work for future displays, please contact Jenn Judkins at 329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.



Annual Spaghetti Dinner a Huge Success!

On March 3, the Murray Ridge Support Group (MRSG) held its annual Spaghetti Dinner at the AmVets Post 55 in Sheffield Lake.

The MRSG raised \$3,550 and served more than 250 people! Proceeds will benefit programs and services for Lorain County citizens impacted by developmental disabilities.

Thank you to all who came out for great food, great company, and a worthy cause!



MRSG members Jim Uldrich and Andrea Elek (left) smile as they serve food to hungry people. Ashton Eye (center), son of Nursing Director Kevin Eye, enjoys his meal. Representatives from the East 9th Street Group Home Marie Patterson and consumer Robert Conrady (right) had a blast!

One Day at a Time...

On February 8, Murray Ridge School celebrated its 100th day of school. In addition to the many classroom-based activities, such as door decoration, 100-item crafts, and counting games, the school collected 100 empty cereal boxes and used them for different activities (grouping, sorting, knocking over) in the gym. Each class was invited to decorate an oval with 100 things; the ovals were then used to build the body of a dragon that decorated the school. Students also decorated a tree in the school lobby with 100 postcards that were sent to various organizations. Happy 100th day of school!



Jason Pepper lines up 100 cereal boxes.



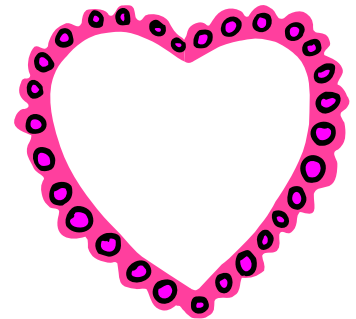
The Heart of the Matter



Kara Coleman and Patrick Boey (above) boogie to the music. Teacher Laura Baus and student Chloe Breeding share a Valentine's hug, while teacher Cheryl Bieri teaches Obed Robledo how to dance!



On February 14, Murray Ridge School celebrated Valentine's Day! Festivities included the annual school dance where students and staff danced to tunes played by music teacher Mr. E., a combination Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts party, and games, parties, and treats in the classroom! Students also created Valentine's cards for friends.



Mardi Gras at Murray Ridge School

On February 21, Murray Ridge School students celebrated Mardi Gras and Fat Tuesday by holding a craft sale in the lobby. Students created crafts and worked the table as classrooms took turns visiting and selecting treats throughout the day. All proceeds from the sale will be used towards the costs of school field trips.



Cianni Martin collects money at the craft sale.

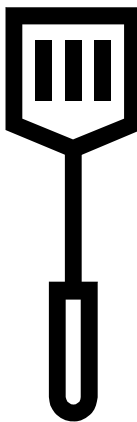


Mark Axford shops the craft table at the Mardi Gras celebration. Crafts were created by MRS students.

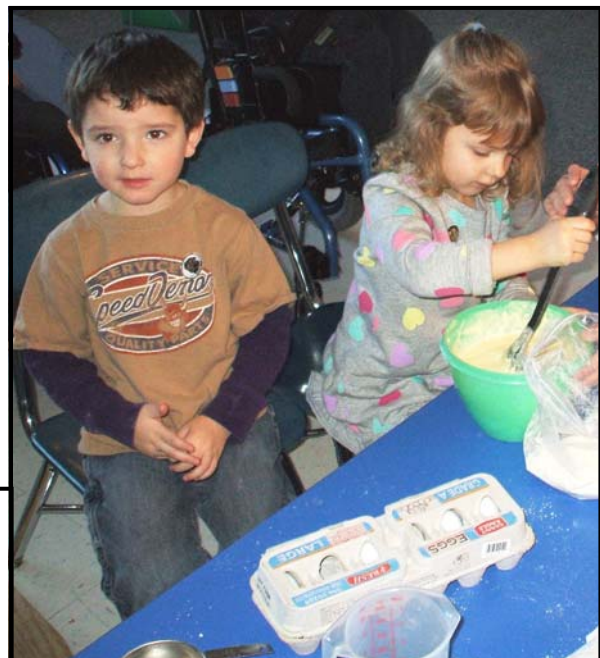
Pancakes and Preschool



In early February, Murray Ridge Preschool read "If You Give a Pig a Pancake" by Laura Numeroff. To celebrate the story, students had a pancake party! Teachers and preschoolers mixed, poured, cooked, and enjoyed the pancake feast! Thank you to all students and staff who participated in the event!



Classroom Aide Beth Fetzer (left) flips pancakes while Gabriel Hearn and Joli Thomson (right) prepare the mix.



Autism 24/7

A Free Mini-Conference for Parents, Teachers, Physicians, and Anyone Interested in Learning More About Autism

Join Murray Ridge Center and professionals from around the state to learn more about Autism at Murray Ridge School.

When: April 19, 2012
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Where: Murray Ridge School
9750 Murray Ridge Road
Elyria, OH 44035

A certificate of completion is available to attendees.

Choose from three 30-minute sessions from our team of Autism experts, including the State Support Team Region 2 Autism Coordinator Jennifer Heim.

Session topics will include:

- Assistive technology
- Adapted equipment
- Transition to adulthood
- Simple and complex communication systems
- and many more!



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME



Remember...April is National Autism Awareness Month

Breaking Down Barriers II

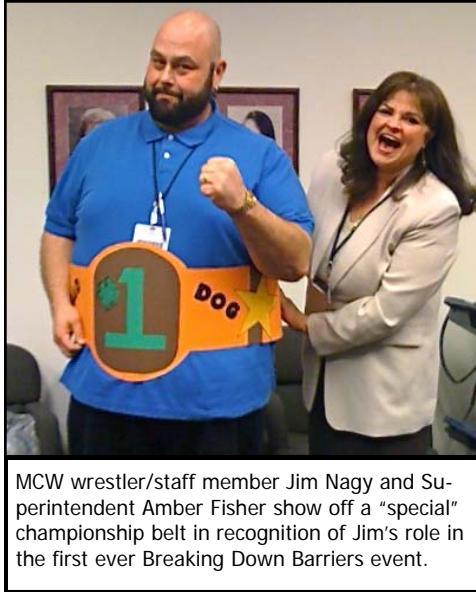
Are you ready to RUMBLE? On April 14, 2012, Mega Championship Wrestling (MCW) presents Breaking Down Barriers II at Lorain County Community College.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and at the door, and can be purchased at the front desk of each Opportunity/Vocational Center and at Murray Ridge School.

This professional wrestling show is a fundraiser that benefits The Friends of Murray Ridge, a not-for-profit organization that supports the activities of the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, better known as The Murray Ridge Center. Money raised from this event will help assist Lorain County residents with Developmental Disabilities.

Wrestlers - including staff member Jim Nagy - will be making guest appearances at the OVCs and school throughout the month of March.

Join us on April 14th to watch Mega Championship Wrestling at Breaking Down Barriers II!



MCW wrestler/staff member Jim Nagy and Superintendent Amber Fisher show off a "special" championship belt in recognition of Jim's role in the first ever Breaking Down Barriers event.

Valued Volunteers

Murray Ridge appreciates our volunteers and the countless hours they dedicate to our consumers.

Two individuals,

Rose Noll and her daughter, Jamey, have contributed many hours throughout the Murray Ridge Raiders' basketball season by volunteering through the Parent/Educator Team (PET) as concession stand workers. Rose, grandmother of Murray Ridge School student Chloe Breeding, has coordinated concession efforts by sending out volunteer sheets to all families and staff. Jamey, who is Chloe's aunt, has worked alongside her mother, as well. A big thank you to these individuals for their service and commitment to Murray Ridge!



Rose Noll and her grandson, Gavin, assist Matt Anthony at a game.

Get the Newsletter!

If you wish to receive future newsletters by email, please visit www.murrayridgecenter.org and click on the Sign Up for Our Email Newsletter link. If you wish to receive future newsletters by mail, please contact the Communications Department, Jenn Judkins, at 440-329-3734.

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on February 24, 2012:

The Board approved a 4-week summer camp for Murray Ridge School. Superintendent Amber Fisher presented and the Board approved revisions to several policies, including Behavior Support and Handling of Consumer Incidents Adversely Affecting Health and Safety. In other business, Board President Michelle Hunt requested approval of a resolution to adopt the 2012 Annual Action Plan Programs and Expenditures with an effective date of February 28, 2012, contingent upon no substantial changes indicated as a result of information gathered in Public Forum on February 27, 2012. The Board unanimously approved the resolution. Following this, Superintendent Fisher reported to the Board that, on March 14, the Lorain County Commissioners will declare the month of March to be "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" in Lorain County, and Tim Donohue outlined a number of ways the agency would celebrate the month throughout the county.



March 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Activities & Events

- 3/1— Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 3/2 — Special Olympic Ohio North Section Basketball Tournament, Lorain County Community College
- 3/3— Murray Ridge Support Group Spaghetti Dinner, 3:00-6:30 p.m., AmVets Post 55, 530 Abbe Road in Sheffield Lake
- 3/7— Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 3/8— Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 3/16— Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 3/22— LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 3/22— Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 3/30— Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria



Lunch Menu



Cost Per Day: Youth = \$3.05, Adults = \$3.25

March 5-9

March 26-March 30

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

Tuesday- Turkey or Bologna with 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

March 12-16

April 2-6

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

March 19-23

April 9-13

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
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our Web site
www.murrayridgecenter.org

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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 Albert Sprague, Director of Residential Service & Support Administration. You may reach him by telephone at 440-324-2366.

—*The Editor*

"Exceptional Service Award"

Do you know someone whose work efforts within the confines of their position show remarkable dedication and have made significant contributions in meeting the needs of Murray Ridge consumers? Nominate that employee for an Exceptional Service Award!

If you are a consumer, parent, guardian, community member, or sibling or other relative, submit your nomination to Jenn Judkins, Manager of Community Education and Volunteers. Include a brief paragraph outlining your reasons for nominating the employee. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for selection at its discretion.

The Board will present this quarterly award to its recipient (s) at one of its regularly 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.