

Murray Ridge School Students Learn Lessons in Sports and Crime-Fighting

Every day, students with developmental disabilities at Murray Ridge School learn everything from functional academics to vocational skills to music and art. Recently, however, students in two Murray Ridge School classrooms got lessons in both sports and crime-fighting when local television and radio personality **Bob Frantz** paid a special visit.

Frantz, who grew up in Elyria and graduated from Elyria Catholic High School, went on to Heidelberg College and graduated with a degree in English. Following college, Frantz taught junior high school and high school English which, according to him "seems like a lifetime ago! That makes me feel really old!" In 1996 he began working as a reporter and announcer for WOBL's high school football and basketball broadcasts. Establishing a high school sports talk show while at WOBL was the genesis of his talk radio career. In 1998, he was hired by Newsradio WTAM 1100 as a talk show host, anchor and reporter. He would spend two years with WTAM before leaving to host talk radio shows in San Francisco, Orlando and Toledo. In 2006, Frantz returned to WTAM where he now hosts "The Bob Frantz Show," as well as pregame and postgame shows for the Cleveland Indians, Cleveland Cavaliers and Cleveland Browns.



Murray Ridge School student and Bob Frantz fan Jansen Plumb (left) gives Frantz a "high five."



Murray Ridge School Behavior Support Specialist Bridget Novak (left) assists non-verbal students at Murray Ridge School to use communication devices to ask questions of Bob Frantz (right).

As busy as his radio work keeps him, his day doesn't stop there. In addition to hosting radio shows, Frantz also hosts the television program "Warrant Unit" on stations WOIO 19 and WUAB 43. On this Emmy winning program, Frantz works with the Cleveland Police Department, the Cuyahoga County

Sheriff's Department, the FBI and the U.S. Marshals Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force to solve local criminal cases.

Students were eager to learn more about this local celebrity who seems to be able to balance the fun of athletics with the seriousness of crime-fighting. Assisted by Murray Ridge staff **Bridget Novak**, non-verbal students who utilize Augmentative and Alternative Communication, or AAC, devices asked Frantz questions like "what sports teams do you like," to which Frantz responded with a smile "the Indians, Browns and the Cavaliers!" Following a Question and Answer session, students eagerly lined-up for a chance to have their photos taken with, as one student put it "a tv star!"

After shaking many hands and learning more about the programs and services offered to students with developmental disabilities at Murray Ridge School, Frantz commented "it's amazing to me the amount of compassion I've witnessed here today. I see a variety of needs and each child is being treated gently, with compassion and as individuals. It's very impressive." Clearly the students were equally impressed as they waved goodbye to their new friend.

Murray Ridge Staff Receives Exceptional Service Award



On October 29, the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities, commonly known as Murray Ridge Center, presented its Exceptional Service Award to **Larry Schuman**, Workshop Specialist II at the Lorain Work/Activity Center (LWAC). This award is given to an employee who, in the opinion of those nominating him or her, reflects remarkable dedication in meeting the needs of Murray Ridge consumers. Nominations are accepted from consumers, family members/caregivers or community members.

Steve Rodocker, who nominated Schuman said "Mr. Schuman is a stand-up individual." He added that Schuman's "gentle approach with consumers" was admirable, and it was clear that he not only provided great care to the consumers through his work, but he also provided great memories through the activities in which he engages them.

Schuman has worked at Murray Ridge Center for eight years, the last six of which have been as a Workshop Specialist II in the LWAC Recreation Department. In this role, he takes the more than 100 consumers at LWAC who have evening recreation in their ISPs on various recreational outings. While thinking creatively about various activities for consumers, Schuman is always mindful of budgetary limitations. He is always on the lookout for free or discounted programs and events that provide consumers opportunities to engage in interesting community integration activities with minimal cost. He feels that it is important to provide diverse activities that will appeal to the varying interests of consumers. Outings have included bowling, Zumba, Tai Chi, baseball games, musicals, WWE

events, and local concerts where, he says, the consumers "boogied 'til they dropped." "I want these individuals to really embrace their lives by having some fun," said Schuman. To make consumers laugh, Schuman is known for wearing "crazy" hats around LWAC, including a "birthday hat" that he wears on consumers' birthdays while serenading them with his heartfelt rendition of "Happy Birthday to You." He also uses his booming voice to call the "BINGO" numbers, and encourages consumers who utilize communication devices to help him.

Schuman, who gets his own support and inspiration from his wife, daughter and parents, believes he has the best job in the world and says that the appreciation he gets from consumers and their families means a great deal to him. As for words of wisdom, Schuman said that it isn't necessarily the big gestures that make the most impact in others' lives. For him, the most important thing is to know—and use—consumers' names when greeting or talking with them, as he believes it makes them feel welcome, appreciated and important. "It's the 'Cheers' factor," he said. "Once they know that you know their name, you have already made a connection and have opened a door to building that relationship."

Inland Trail Marathon



The Murray Ridge Levy Committee recently sponsored its 5th annual Inland Trail Marathon/Half-marathon and 5K Run/Walk. This Boston-qualifying event attracted more than 300 runners from around the country. Many thanks to the Murray Ridge Levy Committee for its efforts to support the Murray Ridge Center mission!

Fun & Wellness Expo



Pictured above: Murray Ridge Center staff Sue Ward (left) and Lorraine Schaffner (right), owner of Pony Tales Farm smile with a therapy pony.

Pictured right: Mega Championship Wrestlers Marcus Knight (left), and Jeff Jevic display their championship belt with Murray Ridge staff Steve Harder (middle).



Spreading the Word on DD Advocacy

Elyria librarian **Janet Hooper** discusses her display of actress, author and songwriter Dale Evans. Evans, who was married to actor Roy Rogers,



gave birth to a daughter with down syndrome in 1950. The child died two years later, inspiring Evans to write a book about her daughter, *Angel Unaware*, and donating the sizeable proceeds to the National Association for Retarded Citizens, which receives thousands of dollars in revenue from the book even today. Because of this funding, the organization went on to become one of the most powerful groups representing people with developmental disabilities and their families. The exhibit was on display throughout the month of October.

Tricks and Treats



Consumers, family members and staff kicked up their heels at the annual Murray Ridge Support Group Halloween Dance. Pictured above: Harvey Graham, consumer at the Lorain Work/Activity Center.

Special Olympics Banquet



Murray Ridge staff member Judy Hartung presents the Special Olympics Recognition Award to Lake Erie Crushers pitcher Jeff Cinadr.

Recently, more than 300 athletes, coaches, family members and volunteers gathered together to celebrate the accomplishments of Murray Ridge Center Special Olympians. In a keynote address to an enthusiastic crowd, Lake Erie Crushers pitcher Jeff Cinadr talked about his love of baseball. "It's my one true love," he said, "and I feel so fortunate that I get to spend my life doing something that I love so much." He went on to talk about the importance of following one's dreams. "Doing what you love makes all the difference in how happy your life is," he said. He added that it didn't take talent to pursue one's dreams. "All it takes is determination and a belief in yourself. And no one can take that away from you."

"Exceptional Service Award" Nominations Sought by Board

If you are a consumer, parent, guardian, sibling or other relative, or a community member and would like to participate in recognizing a Murray Ridge Center employee whose work efforts reflect remarkable dedication in meeting the needs of Murray Ridge consumers, you are encouraged to nominate those staff members who, in your opinion, have made significant contributions to the lives of those we serve. The nominating criteria are purposefully wide to reflect the diversity of staff duties and contributions, but in general, the nominees will reflect a standard of service that exceeds, *in the opinion of the one making the nomination*, the already high standard of service set by the agency.

Nominations for this award should be submitted to Racheal Seibert, Community Education and Volunteer Manager (rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org) by December 10, 2010. When making a nomination, it is requested that you write a brief narrative (of at least one paragraph), outlining your reasons for nominating the employee.

All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for selection at its discretion.

It is the intention of the Board to present this quarterly award to its recipient (s) at one of its regularly scheduled meetings, which will normally be held on the last Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

If you have any questions, contact Racheal Seibert, Community Education and Volunteer Manager, or Tim Donohue, Director of Communications, at 440-329-3734.

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on October 29, 2010:



Board member Jane Spiegelberg, Ph. D., presented the "Exceptional Service Award" to Murray Ridge staff member Larry Schuman. Following this presentation, Superintendent Fisher outlined the Board's responsibility to cover the non-federal share of Medicaid services provided and/or authorized by Murray Ridge Center. Dr. Fisher requested that per O.R.C. 5126.0511, the Board pass a resolution to request that the Lorain County Auditor certify the availability to the Board of \$1,470,229 for use in calendar year 2011 to pay the non-federal share on Medicaid services. The motion was approved unanimously. In other business, Dr. Fisher informed the Board that the master contract with the Murray Ridge Housing Corporation, which is unchanged from the previous contract, was up for a five-year renewal and requested that the Board approve the contract. The Board approved the contract unanimously. Dr. Fisher and Al Sprague, Director of Residential Service and Support Administration, then reported to the Board that the new Murray Ridge Housing Board home, constructed with state capital assistance funds, is almost completed. This home will replace an older home, offering a fully-accessible setting for residents, as well as an emergency placement option. Finally, Superintendent Fisher informed the Board that U.S. Senate Bill 2781 ("Rosa's law") has been signed into law and that this law replaces the words "mental retardation" with "intellectual disability" in the Federal Register.



November 2010

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

11/1—Special Olympics Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Spitzer Conference Center, LCCC, 1005 North Abbe Road in Elyria

11/4—Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Work/Activity Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria

11/5—Agency In-service

11/10—LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria

11/11—Agency Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day

11/12—Parent/Teacher Conferences/Addendum Day

11/14—Special Olympics Greater Cleveland Swim Meet, Ernfeld Recreation Center, Strongsville, Time TBD

11/18—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria

11/19—LCBDD Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria

11/24—Preschool and School Closed for Program Closing Day

11/25—11/26—Agency Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving

NOTE: The next Family Support Parent Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, December 14, 2010.



Lunch Menus

Cost Per Day: Youth = \$2.80, Adults = \$2.80

November 8-12

November 29-December 3

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

November 15-19

December 6-10

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



November 1-5

November 22-26

December 13-17

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

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www.murrayridgecenter.org

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If you have a news item that you would like to include in the **Murray Ridge Courier**, please email relevant photos, stories or event information to Racheal Seibert at rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org.

Submissions are due by the 20th of each month for the following month's newsletter.



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.



Happy Thanksgiving!

With the cornucopia of delicious food on the tables of Americans across the country, it may be hard to choose a favorite dish. But for many, pumpkin pies hold a special place at the thanksgiving table. As you sit down to enjoy this sweet holiday treat, you may be interested to know a few fun facts about this American tradition. For example, did you know that the largest known pumpkin weighed 1,700 pounds? Normal-sized pumpkins have around 500 seeds, which are a good source of protein. Nineteenth century New Englanders thought pumpkins could cure such things as snake bites, freckles and wrinkles. And every November, Nassau, Delaware hosts the annual 'Punkin Chunkin Championship,' where pumpkins are launched nearly 5,000 feet. Whether you choose to bake a pie, cure an ailment or throw your pumpkin this holiday, Murray Ridge Center wishes all Lorain County residents a very Happy Thanksgiving!