



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

September 2016

Welcome Back Murray Ridge School Students and Staff!

On August 30, Murray Ridge School welcomed back students and staff for the 2016-2017 school year!

The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been operating the Murray Ridge School in Elyria for almost 50 years. The school is designed to be a positive, caring, and nurturing environment that enables students to acquire and practice functional skills in a manner that fosters self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment.

Murray Ridge School provides educational services to eligible children who are referred by their families and Lorain County School Districts.

- In Preschool Classes for children ages 3-5, students with special needs learn alongside typically-developing peers.
- In School-Age Classes for students ages 6-21 with developmental disabilities, experiences designed to meet the unique needs of each student are offered in our Primary, Intermediate, and Senior learning areas.

The School-age program utilizes a functional life skills curriculum. Functional academics, vocational skills, leisure time activities, and social opportunities provide **the basis for lessons designed to meet a student's** individual goals and objectives. Art, gym, music, and swimming supplement the curriculum.

For students at Murray Ridge School, classroom learning is enhanced by lessons in the community. Field trips and volunteer opportunities are a major part of ensuring students have the opportunity to learn about being a part of community life.

This year, MRS welcomes 149 students, and 7 new staff members! We wish you all a successful school year!

Diane Davis (right) is all smiles for the start of the new school year! Below, Obed Robledo sports a new backpack and ready-for-work smile. Below, right, Lorenzo Cooke and Karen Hart welcome each other.



Above: Xavier Moore gets help off the bus from Randy Demyan and Maryann Rivera. Right, Owen Richardson holds Sandy Schreur's hand on the walk into school.

Annual Transportation Safety Instruction

Murray Ridge Center wants you to be safe when travelling. These are guidelines that students, adult program participants, and their caregivers should be aware of when utilizing transportation services provided by Murray Ridge Center.

WAITING FOR THE BUS

- Wait for the bus at least 10 feet from the road.
- Dress properly - winter clothing, hats, mittens, and boots will help keep you warm in the winter.
- **Watch for the bus' red lights.**
- Wait until the bus has stopped and door opens before stepping into the roadway.
- Wait for the driver to signal to cross. Cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Use the handrail when stepping onto the bus.
- If you use a wheelchair, it must be equipped with a functioning seat belt. The wheels should lock as well.
- Store all belongings in a backpack so nothing gets dropped.

BUS SEAT SAFETY RULES

- **Follow all of the driver's instructions.**
- Speak softly so the driver will not be distracted. At railroad crossings, be quiet.
- Stay seated until your stop and keep the aisle clear.
- Never put head, arms, or hands out of the window.
- Never do anything to distract the driver.
- Keep aisles clear and free of tripping hazards.
- Never throw things on the bus or out the windows.
- Tell the driver or monitor if you are being bullied.
- If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- Do not eat on the bus, as this could present a choking hazard.

GETTING OFF THE BUS AT HOME

- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road, until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure that the driver can see you.
- Wait for the signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- **Stay away from the bus' rear wheels at all times. If you drop something near the bus, leave it. If you leave something on the bus, never return to get it. The driver may not see you come back and start to move the bus. If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver before you pick it up so he/she knows where you are.**

Some of our consumers are also able to travel about the community through the use of public transportation. We want your trips to be safe ones!

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- When you enter or leave a vehicle, watch for slippery or uneven pavement and other hazards that could cause you to fall.
- Have your LCT ID, bus fare, ticket, or pass ready to avoid losing your balance while looking for it.
- Do not carry too many packages – always leave a free hand to grab a railing.
- Allow extra time to cross streets, especially in bad weather.
- **If it's dark outside, wear light-colored or reflective clothing.**
- Do not talk to strangers. If you are being bothered by someone, tell the driver immediately.
- If you use a stop assistance card, remember to show it to the driver as you board the bus.
- Most LCT stops are not sheltered. Dress appropriately for the winter weather, and utilize sunscreen in the summer.
- Whether you are in a bus, car, or van – **ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEATBELT IF THE VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH ONE!**



Triumph through the Challenges Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Who should attend?

This course series is for nurses, social workers, counselors, physicians, educators, parents, and caregivers who work with individuals that may have had prenatal exposure to alcohol/drugs.

Learn about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how to best work with those affected in order to reach his/her fullest potential.

Gather useful tips and local resources!

Discover ways to succeed!

2016 Fall Course Series

Evening Sessions:

October 04, 2016: Section 1, 6-9 p.m.

October 06, 2016: Section 2, 6-9 p.m.

October 11, 2016: Section 3, 6-9 p.m.

October 13, 2016: Section 4, 6-9 p.m.

Location:

Murray Ridge Center LCBDD
Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities Service & Support Administration Bldg.
9740 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 44035
Building at the rear of Murray Ridge School
*Evening parking available at Murray Ridge SSA lot. Please enter in back door.

Register

Contact : Kathy Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD
(440) 284-3655
e-mail: kbevaque@murrayridgecenter.org

No fee to attend. Space is limited.

Bring your own personal refreshments and food.

Facilitator:

Kathleen Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD



Series Details

- **Section 1:** FASD Basic Facts; Characteristics; Chronological vs. Developmental Age
- **Section 2:** Neurological Issues & Behaviors of FASD: Coping Skills
- **Section 3:** Developing Effective Strategies for FASD: Advocacy & Finding Resources
- **Section 4:** Advocacy in Schools; Discipline; Daily Living & Future Planning for Individuals with FASD

Contact Hours Available

- Social workers, counselors, and chemical dependency RCH: provided by the ADAS Board of Lorain County
- Developmental Disability hours provided by Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Certificate of Attendance for contact hours
- Ohio Approved Specialized Training for Early Childhood SUTQ, ODE, ODH (pending)



Exceptional Service at Murray Ridge Center

On August 26, the Lorain County Board of DD honored Marcin Olesky, Program Specialist at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center (OOVC), with the Exceptional Service Award for the second quarter of 2016.

Marcin was nominated by Melanie Ladina, an Adult Program participant at the OOVC. In her nomination letter, Melanie said, "He is a good coworker and is very helpful. He goes above and beyond the call to help consumers." In addition to his job responsibilities, it is widely known throughout the OOVC that Marcin is a helpful voice coach for attendees, assisting many to get ready for the Murray Ridge Has Got Talent show held in August.

Thank you, Marcin (pictured here with Board member Dan White), for your exceptional service and dedication to



Murray Ridge Has Got Talent!



Congratulations to our winners from the OVC's annual Murray Ridge Has Got Talent show! 1st place: Michael Kimbrough (right) from Elyria, 2nd place – Shasta Knarr (middle) from Oberlin, and 3rd place – Angel Rivera (left) from Elyria!

The annual Murray Ridge Talent Show was held at the Murray Ridge School gymnasium on August 5. The top 3 finalists from the Elyria, Lorain, and Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Centers competed against each other for the title!

Congratulations to all who showed off their amazing talents, and thank you to all our participants, both in the semi-finals and finals! You are all talented in so many ways. We look forward to new acts next year!

For more information on the show—and to see additional photos and videos of the performances—please Like us on our Murray Ridge Center Facebook page.



MRC Represented at the Lorain County Fair!

Volunteers, including adults and children from our program, staff, family members, and caregivers, once again, represented Murray Ridge Center at our booth throughout the week of the Lorain County Fair! Volunteers were on-hand to speak with community members about the exceptional programs and services we provide to individuals with developmental disabilities. Thank you to all who volunteered to make this another very successful year!



A PRESCHOOL OPTION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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
- Door-to-door transportation services



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

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.

For More Information Contact:
Dann Swift
Director of Educational Services
Murray Ridge School
9750 Murray Ridge Road
Elyria, Oh 44035
440.329-3760
dswift@murrayridgecenter.org
www.murrayridgecenter.org



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THE MURRAY RIDGE SUPPORT GROUP IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!



The Murray Ridge Support Group, a not for profit organization that exists to support the mission of Murray Ridge Center and local residents with developmental disabilities and their families, is seeking new members!

Some activities of the Murray Ridge Support Group include:

- * Provide education and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities and their families
- * Conduct fundraisers
- * Address special financial needs of consumers
- * Sponsor social activities for the benefit of individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers

M R S G

For more information on how you can join the Murray Ridge Support Group, please contact Joaquín Page at 440.453.2576.

September 2016

Activities & Events

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|--|---|-----|---|-----|
| 1 | | | | 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  | |

- 9/5 - Agency closed for Labor Day
- 9/6 - First Day of school for preschool students
- 9/13 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, 4:15 p.m. at the EOVC
- 9/16 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7-9 p.m. at the Murray Ridge School
- 9/21 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 9/28 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 9/30 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria

**Come walk with us at the
Woollybear Festival Parade
in Vermilion October 2nd.**

If interested, contact Jennifer Judkins at (440) 329-3734.



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on August 26, 2016:

An Exceptional Service Award was presented by Board Member Dan White to Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center Program Specialist Marcin Olesky. Superintendent Fisher discussed arrangements for upcoming training of Board members and managers on facilitating employment and community connections for people with developmental disabilities (DD). Director of Transportation Jeff Miller presented a Bus Stop Resolution. Superintendent Fisher announced that as of September 1, the Board would no longer own or operate the Academy Court Group Home; the bed licenses for this residential facility have been sold to Our Lady of the Wayside, which will take possession of the home on September 1, 2016. The Murray Ridge Housing Corporation wishes to take advantage of State Capital Assistance Funds for the purchase of homes to be rented to individuals with DD in need of housing, including individuals on Exit Waivers and other individuals moving from local Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs). The Board unanimously agreed to pass Department of Developmental Disabilities Capital Housing dollars through to Murray Ridge Housing Corporation. In other news, the Board was updated on the Murray Ridge Golf Classic fundraiser which was held in July.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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Visit our Web site
www.murrayridgecenter.org



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 Heather Gurchik, Director of Service & Support Administration. You may reach her by telephone at 440-324-2366.

—The Editor

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.

