

## Murray Ridge School Teacher Receives Exceptional Service Award

On June 4, 2010, members of the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities presented its Exceptional Service Award to Nick Kish, Teacher at Murray Ridge School. The award is given quarterly to an employee who, in the opinion of those nominating him or her, exceeds the already exceptional standards of service the agency aspires to. Nominations are only accepted from consumers, family members/guardians or community members.

Anna McElya, parent of a student at Murray Ridge School, nominated Kish saying "If there was a Teacher of the Year award, Nick should get it! I'd go and get the trophy myself! He has a fantastic imagination and beautiful way with the children. Everything he's done this year, the school play, the race, has been fantastic! I want to keep my son with Nick forever!"

A teacher at Murray Ridge School for six years, Kish has educated students in both intermediate and senior classes, and has dedicated himself to helping his students to become as independent as possible.



**Board member Jane Spiegelberg, Ph. D., right, presents the Exceptional Service Award to Nick Kish, left.**

Joan Peterson, Murray Ridge School Supervisor, said "Where others see obstacles, Mr. Kish sees opportunities for creative problem solving." Kish has initiated many unique programs at the school, including a recycling program which has raised money for non-verbal students to purchase communication devices when other funding was not available. He also established the "Pizza House," in which students sell pizza to staff one day a week for the same

purpose, as well as to practice social and communication skills in a functional manner. The "Work Crew" program, which he created, established school-wide jobs for which students had to apply and be interviewed. This volunteer vocational training program has not only given students experience with work in a variety of jobs, but has also taught them critical pre-employment skills such as responding to job postings, completing applications, interviewing and completing job tasks.



**Students Juan Pino, left, and Princeton Perry, middle, congratulate teacher Nick Kish, right.**

Kish goes above and beyond in many other ways. He organized the first "Murray Ridge 500", a school-wide racing event so that students who utilize wheelchairs could actively compete in a relay activity just for them. He encouraged ambulatory students to participate as "pit crews" and fans. Every class in the school participated in this year's event, and parents and family friends attended as well.

And Kish's dedication is not limited by his job hours. He also volunteers many hours of his own time to support his students. When any of his students have been hospitalized, he and his classroom aide have gone after school hours to visit them, usually with a large get well card created by the class. For several years he has picked up students without transportation at their homes so they could attend the prom. "The highest compliment I can pay a teacher is to say, 'If my child was a student at Murray Ridge School, I would want you to be his teacher.' I can say that about Mr. Kish with 100% certainty," said Peterson.

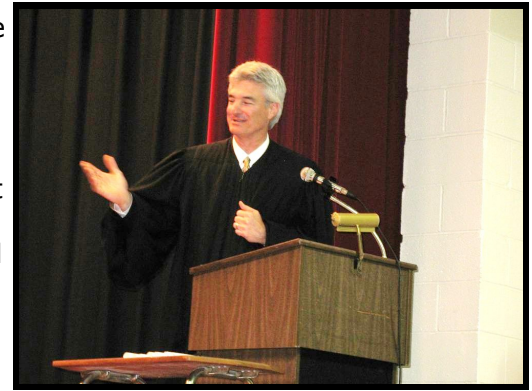
Upon receiving the award, Kish said "This is such an honor to receive this award, but I have to say that I could never do any of the things I do by myself. All of these projects have taken a great effort on the part of many people at the school. Without their help, they would only be ideas."

# Murray Ridge School Commencement 2010

On June 8, seven seniors graduated from the Murray Ridge School program. Rafael Bonet, Michael Fitzgerald, Mitchell Foster, Dan Glowaski, Isaac Hunt, Leonard McKinney and Princeton Perry began the transition from their childhood academic years into the adult world of work. Five of the seven graduates plan to attend one of the three Work/Activity Centers at Murray Ridge Center for vocational training.

Superintendent Amber Fisher encouraged the graduates to embrace their unique strengths and abilities and to grasp future opportunities that may enable them to reach their own greatest levels of independence and personal satisfaction. Following this message of pursuing one's own path and enjoying the journey of life, the Murray Ridge Choraleers gave a touching performance of Miley Cyrus' "The Climb." The Honorable Darrel A. Bilancini, Avon Lake Municipal Judge, then delivered the commencement address. Personalizing his remarks to each graduate individually, he highlighted the many unique qualities they each possessed according to their teachers, such as "charismatic," "life-loving" and "kind." "One of you has been described as 'kind.' If I could choose only one word in which to be described, it would be 'kind,'" said Judge Bilancini, and added "I aspire to be what you already are." He then wished the graduates well as they enter the next, exciting phase of their lives.

Following Judge Bilancini's address was the presentation of certificates by Board President Michelle L. Hunt and Board member Jane Spiegelberg, Ph. D. The Ninth Annual David Elsasser Spirit Award, which is given each year to a deserving graduate with an interest in sports, was then presented. This year's award went to Rafael Bonet and was presented by Kathy Oblak, mother of David Elsasser, former Murray Ridge School student, who passed away in 2000.



**Avon Lake Municipal Judge Darrel A. Bilancini speaks to the graduates.**

Murray Ridge School Director of Educational Services, Dann Swift, concluded the ceremony by congratulating the students on their many years of hard work and wishing them well as they enter the world anew as adults.

## I Love a Parade!

Murray Ridge Center consumers, family members, friends and staff have been proudly representing Murray Ridge lately in several Lorain County Parades.



**Pictured above, left to right: Aggie Busser, Jill Camp, Melissa Henbree, Christy Berkley, Phyllis Kuntz and grandson Isiah, Debbie Radowenchuk and Wendy Reddinger smile before the Lorain International Festival Parade.**






**Pictured below, left to right: Doreen Alaksa, Alexshawn Averett, Jim Ward, Shari Reitenbach, Carol Smith, Sarah Ward, Kevin Rivera, Christine Berkley, Patty Clickner, Andres Rivera, Mike Criss, Larry Schuman, James Peters and Tracey Carroll participate in the Avon Duct Tape Parade.**







# 2010-2011 Murray Ridge Calendars

## Murray Ridge Preschool

### 2010

-  **August 25**—First Day for Murray Ridge School staff
-  **September 1**—Preschool Open House
-  **September 6**—Labor Day
-  **September 7**—First Day of Preschool Classes
-  **October 11**—Columbus Day
-  **November 5**—Agency Inservice
-  **November 11**—Veterans Day
-  **November 12**—Parent/Teacher Conferences/Addendum Day
-  **November 24**—Day Before Thanksgiving
-  **November 25**—Thanksgiving Day
-  **November 26**—Day After Thanksgiving
-  **December 20**—Winter Break Begins
-  **December 24**—Christmas Day
-  **December 31**—New Year's Day

### 2011





-  **January 4**—Preschool Classes Resume
-  **January 17**—Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
-  **February 21**—President's Day
-  **April 22**—Good Friday
-  **April 25**—Spring Break Begins
-  **May 3**—Preschool Classes Resume
-  **May 30**—Memorial Day
-  **June 8**—Last Day of Classes for Students
-  **June 9**—Records Day—Last Day for Staff

## Murray Ridge School

### 2010

-  **August 25**—First Day for Murray Ridge School staff
-  **August 26**—First Day for Students
-  **September 6**—Labor Day
-  **September 9**—Murray Ridge School Open House
-  **October 11**—Columbus Day
-  **November 5**—Agency Inservice
-  **November 11**—Veterans Day
-  **November 12**—Parent/Teacher Conferences/Addendum Day
-  **November 24**—Day Before Thanksgiving
-  **November 25**—Thanksgiving Day
-  **November 26**—Day After Thanksgiving
-  **December 20**—Winter Break Begins
-  **December 24**—Christmas Day
-  **December 31**—New Year's Day

### 2011





-  **January 3**—Classes Resume
-  **January 17**—Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
-  **February 21**—President's Day
-  **April 22**—Good Friday
-  **April 25**—Spring Break Begins
-  **May 2**—Preschool Classes Resume
-  **May 30**—Memorial Day
-  **June 8**—Last Day of Classes for Students
-  **June 9**—Records Day—Last Day for Staff

## Murray Ridge Adult Services and Early Intervention






### 2010

-  **July 5**—Independence Day
-  **September 6**—Labor Day
-  **October 11**—Columbus Day
-  **November 5**—Agency Inservice
-  **November 11**—Veteran's Day
-  **November 25**—Thanksgiving Day
-  **November 26**—Day After Thanksgiving
-  **December 24**—Christmas Day
-  **December 27, 28, 29, 30**—Program Closing Days
-  **December 31**—New Year's Day

### 2011

-  **January 17**—Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
-  **February 21**—President's Day
-  **April 22**—Good Friday
-  **May 30**—Memorial Day

## Calendar Key

-  Holiday
-  Classes Begin/End
-  School Closed/Program Closing Day
-  Parent/Teacher Conference/Addendum Day
-  Agency Inservice
-  Records Day

## 2010-2011 Murray Ridge Calendars

### Murray Ridge Residential

#### 2010

- ☺ **July 4**—Independence Day
- ☺ **September 6**—Labor Day
- ☺ **October 11**—Columbus Day
- 🏠 **November 5**—Agency Inservice
- ☺ **November 11**—Veteran’s Day
- ☺ **November 25**—Thanksgiving Day
- ☺ **November 26**—Day After Thanksgiving
- ☺ **December 25**—Christmas Day
- 🇺🇸 **December 27, 28, 29, 30**—Program Closing Days

#### 2011

- ☺ **January 1**—New Year’s Day
- ☺ **January 17**—Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday
- ☺ **February 21**—President’s Day
- 🇺🇸 **April 22**—Good Friday
- ☺ **May 30**—Memorial Day

### A Royal Visit



Murray Ridge consumer Terry Meagher (right) enjoys a visit from Lorain International Princess hopefuls Melina Matos (left, Miss Greece) and Sara Sperry (middle, Miss Ukraine).

## We Need Your Help

Calling all staff volunteers! As you gear up for all those fun picnics and barbeques 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 or Tracey Carroll at 329-3734.

- Amherst Old Time Jamboree Parade—Sunday, July 11
- Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade—Thursday, July 15
- North Ridgeville Corn Festival Parade—Sunday, August 8
- Lorain County Fair—August 23—29
- Woolly Bear Festival Parade—Sunday, September 26



## “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](mailto:rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org)) by August 13, 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, in 2010 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.

# July 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	31

## Activities & Events

- 7/5—Agency Closed in Observance of Independence Day
- 7/7—Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 7/8—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 7/11—Amherst Old Time Jamboree Parade
- 7/15—Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade
- 7/22—Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 7/22—LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 7/30—LCBDD Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria

## Visions Revealed 2010

Sixth Annual Art Exhibit  
 June 18-July 16  
 Ernsthausen Performing Arts  
 Center Gallery  
 Norwalk High School  
 350 Shady Lane Drive, Norwalk  
 Gallery Hours: Tuesdays &  
 Thursdays 9:00—noon  
 Closing Reception Friday, July 16  
 6:00-8:00 p.m.



## Lunch Menus

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

**July 5-9**  
**July 26-30**  
**August 16-20**

**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

**July 12-16**  
**August 2-6**  
**August 23-27**

**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



**July 19-23**  
**August 9-13**  
**August 30-September 3**

**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](http://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](mailto:rseibert@murrayridgecenter.org).

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

## A Special Kiss



**After saving his pennies for years, Murray Ridge consumer Kevin Taylor, middle, got the thrill of a lifetime recently when he traveled with his parents and grandmother to Discovery Cove in Florida to swim with the dolphins. "I've wanted to do that my whole life," said Taylor. "It was my dream."**



### 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.