



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

June 2013

Murray Ridge School Celebrates the Class of 2013



The graduating seniors (l-r): Kyle Bourisseau, Michael Lewis, James Woods, Joey Cechura, Patrick Butcher, Grant Holbrook, and Nick Vanche, with an empty chair in memory of senior Emery Nagy, who passed away in April.

On June 4, 2013, seven Murray Ridge School students said goodbye to their studies and hello to life outside the school walls.

Murray Ridge School Commencement 2013 began with a prelude by music teacher Nevan Eilbeck and a welcome by Director of Educational Services Dann Swift as he introduced the transferring students, Kyle Bourisseau, Patrick Butcher, Joseph Cechura, Grant Holbrook, Michael Lewis, Nicholas Vanche, and James Woods.

The Murray Ridge Bell Choir played "Lean on Me," and then Superintendent Fisher took the podium.

"This ceremony is called "commencement" because, while it may be the end of your formal schooling, it marks the beginning of a lifetime of continued learning, new opportunities, and new choices," Dr. Fisher said. "You each possess unique gifts that will not only lead you to get the most out of your lives, but will also lead you to continue to enhance the lives of others."

Lorain County Sheriff's captain James Drozdowski, the ceremony's keynote speaker, delivered an inspirational speech, congratulating the graduates on all they've accomplished throughout the years. "Today is your day to be recognized for your accomplishments and the goals you have achieved," Captain Drozdowski said. "This is just the beginning for these students. Our community is a better place because of these graduates."

Director of Vocational and Transportation Services Jeff Miller added his own encouraging words to each senior, quoting Henry David Thoreau, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."



Lorain County Sheriff's captain James Drozdowski was the graduation ceremony's keynote speaker.

Following the keynote address, Board President Michelle Hunt and Board Member Kurt Koepf presented each graduate with a diploma. Finally, the twelfth annual David Elasser Spirit Award was presented to Grant Holbrook by Kathy Oblak, mother of David Elasser, a previous student at Murray Ridge School who passed away 12 years ago.

The ceremony ended with Dann Swift wishing the seniors best of luck in the future, and thanking them

for their hard work and dedication as students at Murray Ridge School.

The festive afternoon concluded with a luncheon for all graduates, their families and friends, and staff members provided by the Parent Support Group.

Best of luck to our 2013 graduates, Kyle Bourisseau, Patrick Butcher, Joseph Cechura, Grant Holbrook, Michael Lewis, Nicholas Vanche, and James Woods.

Farewell, Mr. E

The end of the school year can bring about tears from students and staff who will miss each other over the long summer months.

For Murray Ridge School students, the end of *this* school year meant saying goodbye to a very special teacher whose career – spanning 27 years at MRS – has been focused on educating and inspiring his students through music.

Nevan Eilbeck, or “Mr. E.” as he is affectionately known, said farewell to MRS on June 6. His retirement, while known by all throughout the year, was still met with much sadness by those who worked with him and learned from him every day.

“I hope to leave a legacy of teaching with compassion as was left to me,” Nevan said on his retirement. “Many staff have been influential to me. I learned from them.”

Nevan’s peers and parents of MRS students were quick to praise his work and remark on his retirement, and all who were touched by his teaching over the last 27 years will miss him terribly.

Murray Ridge Center wishes Nevan the best of luck in the future; he will be greatly missed.



Mr. E. posing in his early years at Murray Ridge School with his trumpet, which he played at West Point and Baldwin-Wallace College.

“Nevan was a fixture at Murray Ridge School; he developed a music curriculum from nothing. I would say the music curriculum he developed could be beneficial and touch the lives of students with special needs all over the world!” *Dann Swift, Director of Education, MRS*

“The connection Mr. E. makes with children is beyond special. He is so in tune with their needs, challenges, and strengths, and can melt that all together into his songs. Everything from teaching kids to sneeze in your arm, to raising hands, to trying to stay seated – he can come up with a song for ANYTHING! The students will be losing a friend as well as a teacher. He will truly leave a huge hole in the school.” *Michelle Hunt, Board President, parent of former MRS students*

“His songs will continue to be played within the school for many years. Mr. E.’s greatest success has been to create a joyful environment for each student; they will miss his creative energy.” *Lenora Oeftering, MRS School Supervisor*

“Mr. E. always has a positive disposition about him. He will randomly start singing a tune when he passes a certain adult or student in the hallway. Mr. E. reminds us not to take life or hard times so seriously; there is joy in the smallest of things.” *Cheryl Bieri, teacher at MRS*

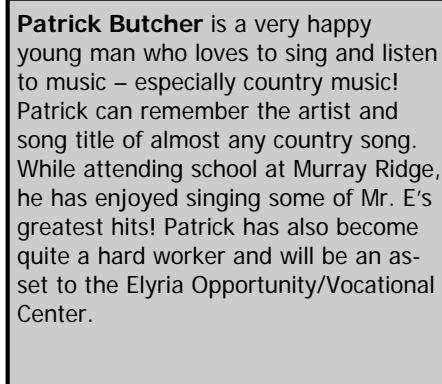


Mr. E. and his wife, Brenda, at the 2013 Murray Ridge School prom in May.

The Class of 2013



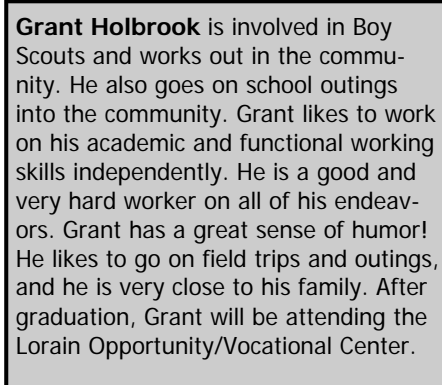
Kyle Bourisseau is a young man with a loving personality who enjoys spending time with his family. He especially loves his family trips to North Carolina. Kyle's two other loves are pizza and movies; he is excellent at reciting back movie lines to several of his favorite Disney films. Kyle has come a long way at Murray Ridge School. Kyle has decided to take his talents to the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center after graduation.



Patrick Butcher is a very happy young man who loves to sing and listen to music – especially country music! Patrick can remember the artist and song title of almost any country song. While attending school at Murray Ridge, he has enjoyed singing some of Mr. E's greatest hits! Patrick has also become quite a hard worker and will be an asset to the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center.



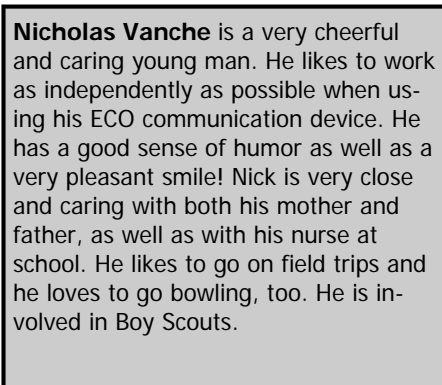
Joey Cechura loves to be the star of the show! He is independent and likes to make his own decisions. Joey has a good sense of humor along with a loving and caring attitude. He expresses his love for his mom and grandmother. Joey is very outgoing; he is involved in boy scouts, works in the community, and goes out into the community on individual and group outings. After graduation, Joey will attend the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center.



Grant Holbrook is involved in Boy Scouts and works out in the community. He also goes on school outings into the community. Grant likes to work on his academic and functional working skills independently. He is a good and very hard worker on all of his endeavors. Grant has a great sense of humor! He likes to go on field trips and outings, and he is very close to his family. After graduation, Grant will be attending the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center.



Michael Lewis is a sharp dressed man with the latest fashions, always on the move, and likes to look back to see where he's been! He is always happy and has a smile on his face. Michael's favorite class is music; he likes jazz music and strolling down the hall with Mr. E. Michael has a passion for cartoon images and likes action video clips. After graduation, Michael will be attending the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center.



Nicholas Vanche is a very cheerful and caring young man. He likes to work as independently as possible when using his ECO communication device. He has a good sense of humor as well as a very pleasant smile! Nick is very close and caring with both his mother and father, as well as with his nurse at school. He likes to go on field trips and he loves to go bowling, too. He is involved in Boy Scouts.



James Woods is a fixture at Murray Ridge School; he has been a member of the student-run "Crew" pre-vocational work program for the past five years working in the recycling program, hallway cleaning crew, and Pizaland crew. An extremely hard worker, Jim takes great pride in his work ethic. He is extremely popular amongst his peers and staff. Jim will be attending the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center after graduation.

In loving memory of **Emery Nagy**
June 8, 1991 - April 15, 2013



School Days...

Hollywood Nights at Murray Ridge School Prom

Graduating seniors, teachers and staff, and parents and caregivers attended the 2013 Murray Ridge School Prom on May 10. This year's theme was Hollywood Nights, complete with star-studded decorations and paparazzi capturing every fun-filled moment. Thank you to all those who attended and had a glitzy good time!



Shawn McCray (left) dances in a circle of

friends and loved ones during the dance. Six of the seven prom kings (above) posed after being crowned, while teacher Nevan Eilbeck and Board Members Bob Gajdos and Keith Boey look on! (kings l-r: Michael Lewis, Joey Cechura, Grant Holbrook, Nicholas Vanche, Patrick Butcher, and James Woods.)

Murray Ridge School Students Participate in the 33rd Annual Lorain County Special Olympics

On May 17th, Murray Ridge School students participated in the 33rd Annual Lorain County Special Olympics competition at Ely Stadium in Elyria with twelve school districts throughout Lorain County competing in the games. Hundreds of parents, caregivers, teachers, friends, and families came out to show their support.

Murray Ridge is a proud participant each year in this event where children with developmental disabilities can showcase their exceptional athletic ability. We commend all the athletes that competed in the games, including Steven Fosdick, Obie Roblado, and Stephanie Jackson (right)!



MRS Student Accepts Award for Outstanding Student Achievement

Danny Bader accepted the 2013 Outstanding Student Achievement Award from The Educational Service Center of Lorain County at the Murray Ridge 500 at Murray Ridge School on May 24!



Annual Murray Ridge 500 Race!

On May 24, Murray Ridge School students competed in the annual Murray Ridge 500. Students and staff enjoyed creating and racing their cars; themes included Dr. Seuss, pirates, ice cream trucks, and many other original and unique inventions.

Congratulations to all our MRS racers! And thank you to all the parents, staff, and caregivers who came out to cheer on the participants!

Savon Heston and Aide Guy Lombardo race around the track.



The Preschool Class of 2013!

Nine students from the Murray Ridge Preschool program celebrated graduation on June 5. Teacher Maria Michelmann, along with classroom aide Beth Fetzer and floating preschool aide Heidi Sayre, presented each child with a diploma and invited guests and graduates for cupcakes and punch following the ceremony.

Congratulations to the Preschool Class of 2013! Pictured l-r: Brayden Altobelli, Owen Wall, Connor Henline, Sophia Hetsler, Janaiya Taylor (with pink helmet in the back), Keilee Taylor, Roger Minnick, Michael Elsleger, and Evan Clarke.



Breaking Down Barriers III a Great Success!

The Breaking Down Barriers III event held on May 4 by Mega Championship Wrestling (MCW) brought in huge crowds and a huge donation! MCW wrestler and Murray Ridge staff member Jim "Mad Dog" Nagy presented the Board President Michelle Hunt with a check for \$1,365.00 payable to Friends of Murray Ridge at the May 31st Board meeting.



Pool Days

Meister Road Group Home resident Linda Hardway and LOVC Recreation Specialist Karen Pavelschak enjoyed their day of swimming at the new Mercy Recreation Center in Amherst. Linda and fellow resident Kara Zudell (not pictured) currently take a swimming class at Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center that takes consumers to the new recreation center one day a week for six weeks.



A PRESCHOOL OPTION

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
- Behavior Support Services
- Music classes



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

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. Applications for typically-developing children are available through Murray Ridge School (see below).

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





June 2013

Activities & Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 						1
2	3	4 	5 	6 	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 
School Day Camp						
16	17	18	19	20 	21 	22
School Day Camp						
23	24	25	26	27	28 	29
School Day Camp						

- 6/4 - Murray Ridge School Commencement Ceremony, 11:00 a.m.
- 6/5 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 6/6 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 6/6 - Last day of school for Murray Ridge School
- 6/11 - Murray Ridge School Day Camp begins
- 6/15 - Avon Duck Tape Festival
- 6/20 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 6/21 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 6/28 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 6/30 - Lorain International Parade

"Bee" Safe This Summer!

With the onset of popsicle season comes bee season! Remember to be safe this summer and, should you feel the sting of a bee, use the following guidelines:



- Remove the stinger by scraping with your fingernail. Do not remove the stinger with tweezers. Squeezing releases more of the poison into your body. A stinger that is not removed continues to release venom into your body for as long as 20 minutes.
- Wash the area thoroughly with soap and water.
- Apply an ice pack for 20 minutes to relieve the swelling and pain; swelling should be gone within 24 hours.

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on May 31, 2013:

Jim Nagy, MRC staff member and Mega Championship Wrestler, presented Friends of Murray Ridge with a \$1,365.00 donation from its Breaking Down Barriers III event held in May. The Board approved, for submission to the Lorain County Commissioners, a tentative agreement with the OAPSE, Local 771, for the period 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2016. Superintendent Fisher discussed topics for upcoming strategic planning. An update on the Ohio Association of County Boards revealed a new Executive Director has been hired; Bridget Gargan will begin this position on 7/8/13. In other business, the Murray Ridge Support Group (MRSG) reported that there will be no dances in July and August; the last dance will be held on 6/21/13 for the year. MRSG also reported that new officers have been elected for the coming year, that the group helped finance the school's senior prom, and that a Giant Eagle gift card donation was made to a Lorain family in the previous month.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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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 Jeff Neal, Director of Service & Support Administration at 440-324-2366.

—*The Editor*

Exceptional Service Award

Do you know a Murray Ridge employee whose work efforts reflect remarkable dedication and have significantly contributed to the well being of people with developmental disabilities? Nominate that employee for an Exceptional Service Award! If you are a community member; consumer; or parent, guardian, sibling or other relative of a Murray Ridge program participant, submit your nomination to Jennifer Judkins, Public Relations/Volunteer Director. Include a brief paragraph outlining your reasons for nominating the employee. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for consideration. The Board presents Exceptional Service Awards on a quarterly basis at regular 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.