

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Superintendent's Report - October 2024

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

A Mentor High School Senior chose Broadmoor for her study of the *Impact of Music on Students with Developmental Disabilities*. She will be collecting and analyzing data from a LEEP classroom through January and presenting her findings at the Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF), as well as, the Western Reserve Science Day at the University of Akron in March.

Oreo, from Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc., and Rudder, from Therapy Dogs International, have begun their 2024-2025 school year visits to Broadmoor. Students in Preschool through LEEP enjoy reading to the dogs, walking them and giving them treats in exchange for lots of wet kisses!

Broadmoor's LEEP students have already begun their job exploration and training experiences at Unique Like Me Boutique, Kirtland Church, Lake Erie College, the Mentor Ice Arena, St, Noel's Banquet Center and Broadmoor's onsite Vocational Lab.

This year, visitors coming to Bobcat Basketball games on Fridays during October through April, are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items to place in the Bobcat Bin outside the Gym doors. These items will be sorted by LEEP students and distributed to area shelters throughout the year.

The Community Advocacy group met on September 24 from 10 - 11 am. The meeting was originally scheduled to take place at Garfield Park, but due to weather, the meeting was moved to the LCBDD Vocational Guidance Center. We were meeting to talk about all things Fall and did an activity about how we can "turn over a new leaf" with the changing of the seasons and improve something in our lives. Some of the biggest goals were getting outside more, added exercise, and cleaning our personal spaces. Since the meeting was about all things Fall, we had to have our first pumpkin roll of the season! The group enjoyed their Fall treats while we watched performances of Deepwood Idol. The next Community Advocacy Meeting that was chosen is scheduled for October 29, 2024, at Patterson Fruit Farm to learn about the farm and enjoy the beautiful fall scenery.

The LCBDD Aktion Club traveled to The Sub-Zero Mission to help them with a project for their annual golf outing on September 11 from 5 pm - 6:30 pm. LCBDD Aktion Club members and advisors helped stuff over 120 gift bags for the Sub Zero fundraiser and they were so thankful! It has been a wonderful year of helping support Veteran causes this year at the Aktion Club. The new cycle of Aktion Club begins in October, so the club will decide what their focus will be for 2025. The next meeting is October 30, 2024, at the LCBDD Vocational Guidance Center to have their annual Halloween costume party/candy exchange and discuss what our goals for the following year will be.

Special Events

The Early Intervention Department is now using Tiger Connect (a HIPAA compliant messaging system) to communicate with their providers and to receive information regarding Agency events, community resources, and events in our area.

The Preschool Program participated in a monthly Adaptive Dance class being led by the Fine Arts Association. Lake Metroparks also came to Broadmoor and did a program called "Backyard Critters." Students learned about the animals found in our area through hands-on learning activities. The Metro-park Program was provided through a grant through the Deepwood Foundation.

The IT Department and Broadmoor staff met to plan and develop enrichment activities for students and discuss ideas on ways technology can support our students in the classroom and at home.

Broadmoor School's annual Wheel, Walk, Run took place on Friday, September 20. Volunteers from the Broadmoor Family Network and Riverside Local Schools helped support the event. Broadmoor Family Network sponsored the event and provided food for all the attendees. Additionally Second Sole provided the inflatable finish line and medals for all our athletes. The event raised over \$7,000 that will support Broadmoor School throughout this school year.

Preschool and EI families joined our Recreation Department for the Silly Fun Saturday event at Preston's H.O.P.E. Playground in Beachwood. In October, the Silly Fun Saturday will be trick or treating at VGC.

Willoughby Branch celebrated DSP Appreciation Month by providing a special breakfast for staff. Yours Truly provided breakfast sandwiches, assorted pastries, and coffee. We wanted to take a moment to celebrate our staff at Willoughby Branch and all the work that they do to make the individuals' day that much better.

Deepwood Industries, Inc., had a family picnic this month at Veteran's Park. There were food trucks, outdoor games, and we had a beautiful day at the park. What a great opportunity to bring all the DI programs together as a family!

It's FOOTBALL SEASON! Willoughby Branch is celebrating the start of the season by wearing our favorite football team apparel. We're also doing football picks and each week individuals turn in their team selections on who they think will win that week...we're having lots of football fun!

Nancy Brass continues her "feathered friends" and "furry friends" programs here at Willoughby and the individuals love to learn about cats, dogs, birds...pretty much all of our animal friends.

Because it's Fall and apple season, the Willoughby Branch couldn't miss watching a segment on Johnny Appleseed to celebrate the approach of Fall and all the color, scents, and sounds of the season.

VGC has fallen into Fall decorating and preparing for Halloween. They celebrated their tie-dye with JK winning Photo Friday! VGC is back to enjoying bingo at the Senior Center, visiting and having lunch at the Metroparks. Fine Arts is in tune with playing and singing along with Fleetwood Mac, Rolling Stones, and Queen.

The JCR Imagine Program had an Open House on September 26 from 5:30 - 7 pm. It was well attended and the staff was able to share with the attendees all of the wonderful things that the individuals do in the program and provided tours of the building

Agency Resources

During the month of September, 25 children were evaluated and 21 qualified for Early Intervention Services.

Staff Development

The SSAs, QIDPs, and team leaders are attending DODD's office hours regarding the OhioISP trainings, which have been focusing on Behavior Support Strategies and where information can be housed.

Featured Success Stories

At about eight weeks old, Sonny was diagnosed with Biliary Atresia (a rare liver disease). Babies with biliary atresia can't drain bile from their liver, which causes a host of complications. Although Sonny had a surgery to try to correct the problem, it was ultimately deemed a failure and at three months old, Sonny received a liver transplant. Because a significant portion of the first six months of his life was spent in the hospital unable to move, Sonny had a little catching up to do. After discharge, the family immediately started working with the Early Intervention (EI) Program to help them develop a plan to support Sonny's development.

Starting with tummy time (which he hated), EI staff coached us on exercises we could do and week after week Sonny has made progress. After a year, we are proud to report that Sonny is now walking and babbling and getting into everything!

Sonny will continue to face challenges as a transplant recipient, but we are so grateful to our entire team of people we have, including EI, to help support our family. It's a great illustration of "it takes a village to raise a child."