Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood

Superintendent's Report
October 2026

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

On September 23, LCBDD partnered with LakeTran to host an engaging and informative *Empowerment Through Connection* session for high school-aged students and adults. Participants explored the ins and outs of public transportation, learning valuable skills such as trip planning, reading bus schedules, understanding fare payment options, utilizing Rides On Demand services, and practicing bus safety. The session also included a bus tour and a hands-on "Touch-a-Bus" experience, giving attendees the opportunity to put their new knowledge into action in a welcoming and supportive environment. Special thanks to LakeTran Director of Communications, Julia Schick, and LCBDD Self-Advocate, Andrew Vogt, for helping make the experience both educational and engaging. By building confidence and practical transportation skills, participants gained valuable tools to travel more independently, access community opportunities, and navigate their world with greater ease.

Adventure was in full swing as LCBDD hosted its first *Dungeons & Dragons & Decisions* demonstration event, presented by the Ohio Network for Innovation (ONI) on September 21 at VGC. Josh Young, ONI Director of Operations, introduced participants to this interactive choose-your-own-adventure game designed to help individuals develop and practice decision-making skills in a fun and engaging way. Individuals from seven local day programs, along with students from Mentor High School's Cardinal Works Program, participated in the experience. After playing the game together, participants engaged in a discussion about the decisions they made throughout the adventure. They also explored strategies, supports, and tools that can empower them to make informed choices and build confidence in their decision-making abilities. The event provided a unique opportunity for learning, collaboration, and self-discovery. We had a wonderful time bringing everyone together and look forward to future opportunities to partner with ONI in support of its incredible mission.

The September Advocacy Meeting was held on September 29 at the Mentor Public Library, bringing together community members to learn about valuable local resources and opportunities. Cory Blackledge, Partnership & Development Manager, at the Mentor Public Library, shared information about the library's many programs, services, and resources available to residents of all ages. Attendees also received helpful take-home materials, including information about obtaining a library card and accessing the library's extensive offerings. Thank you to the Mentor Public Library for welcoming the group and highlighting the many ways the library connects, educates, and enriches our community!

Art Around Town participants made the most of a beautiful fall afternoon on September 17 at Concord Woods Park. Representatives from three local day programs gathered to enjoy creativity, friendship, and the beauty of the season while painting wooden football helmets, footballs, and foam craft projects. The colorful autumn setting provided the perfect backdrop for an afternoon filled with artistic expression and community connection. From bold colors to imaginative designs, each project reflected unique talents

and personalities of the artists. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate creativity, enjoy the outdoors, and connect with friends old and new.

VGC had a full September with trips to the farm parks, ice cream social, music therapy, reading with Theresa, swimming, going out shopping, Craft Club, and celebrating birthdays. They also had two big events this month, one was a Sip and Paint along with sparkling grape juice - the individuals loved it! The other one was staff and a few individuals brought lunch and a framed picture and cards to the Firemen at the Mentor Fire Station as a thank you for all they do for us (this will be a monthly activity).

Mentor Library has resumed monthly story-time sessions for students in the Preschool Program. This builds off our continued relationship with Mentor Public Library and their staff utilizing the information they learned from the training the County Board offered over the summer.

Several of Broadmoor's LEEP students have begun visits to Lake Erie College's Equestrian Center, where they have opportunities to interact with the horses and participate in light vocational tasks.

Fine Arts Association Music Therapy sessions have resumed for School Age and LEEP students, and they are already making beautiful music together.

Rotary Woodworking sessions have also begun for another year. Students work alongside Rotarians to complete projects, sanding and painting wooden pieces donated by Mentor Rotary to take home once finished.

Therapy Dog visits are taking place again this year for Preschool through LEEP classes. The students are enjoying visits from Oreo and Bella who were very happy to return for another year of fun at Broadmoor!

School Age Cooking Classes have started with Board Member, Pam Martin, and her husband, Sous Chef Bill. The students enjoyed making apple pies during their first session.

Special Events

LCBDD artists recently had the opportunity to share their talents with the community through a special artwork display at the Lake County Treasurer's Office. The exhibit showcases the creativity, skill, and unique perspectives of participating artists, providing visitors with an opportunity to appreciate their work and celebrate the importance of artistic expression within our community. We are grateful for the opportunity to share these inspiring pieces and encourage community members to stop by and enjoy the display.

Silly Fun Saturday explored fall activities at the Recreation Site, where Early Intervention and Preschool families participated in a fun fall hike on campus.

Broadmoor's Annual Wheel, Walk, Run was a great success! Our students worked hard to complete multiple laps around the building (four laps equal one mile), while Riverside students supported them by completing miles throughout the day. The event was sponsored by the Broadmoor Family Network, and Second Sole donated the inflatable finish line and medals for all our athletes. Through sponsorships of our student athletes, the event raised just over $8,000 to support Broadmoor School. A special thank you to our Adapted PE team, Sara Jones and Katey Balzano, for making this event a success, and to our Marketing Department for capturing photos throughout the day.

The DI Summer Picnic took place, and it was another huge success! We had individuals and family attending from Willoughby Works (WW), Imagine, and CES programs. There were two food trucks and an ice cream truck for all in attendance to enjoy. The Recreation Department provided games and even a scavenger hunt.

WW had a Remembrance Celebration for several individuals that we have lost over the past couple of years. Family, friends, and loved ones gathered to share their fond memories of these wonderful people who touched our lives and are now gone but never forgotten.

For DSP Appreciation Week, WW celebrated their staff by providing hot bagels, muffins, and donuts - just a small token of appreciation to show how much gratitude we have to all our staff! Andi B. is retiring as of October 1,and there was a lunch celebration complete with a dance. Many visitors came to give Andi a huge hug and farewell. We will miss you dearly Andi…come back and visit us!

Imagine is excited to potentially have two new jobs with Steris and Nova Manufacturing. We sold quite a few dog treats at the recent Mutt Strutt Event at Lake Farmpark. Imagine individuals also started helping with the 68 Hours to End Hunger Volunteer Program.

The ARC Garden is doing wonderfully. Emma made pitas for everyone for Wellness Wednesday and decorated her own chef's hat. In addition, some of the individuals enjoyed having snacks as they watched the Toy Story 5 movie. Some of the individuals have been participating in the Hearts for Music, and went shopping at Walmart. Miracle League Baseball has come to an end. ARC is gearing up for Harvest Fest and Halloween.

Agency Resources

In September, 25 children were evaluated, and 21 qualified for Early Intervention Services.

Staff Development/Training

The Early Intervention Department attended multiple trainings this month, in addition to the Early Intervention Forum. Training topics included:

1. Assistive Technology and Early Intervention
2. Connecting Ohio Early Intervention Professionals to the Division for Early Childhood
3. Strategies for Effective Early Intervention in the Early Care & Education Setting
4. From Family Priorities to Practice: Oral-Motor, Sensory, and Self-Feeding Strategies for Effective Coaching Without Overwhelm
5. Every Family Has a Story: Using Documentation to Capture the Early Intervention Journey