

CCBDD News

Winter Edition

Volume 4 Issue 4

Happy
NEW YEAR

Here's to a year of new beginnings
and exciting possibilities

2024

@carrollcbdd.org

Special Points of Interest

- * Director of Education Services
- * Superintendent Remarks
- * Welcome New Staff
- * People First Advocacy
- * High School Class
- * Stay Safe and Healthy
- * In the Spotlight
- * Carroll Hills School
- * Special Olympics
- * Community Employment



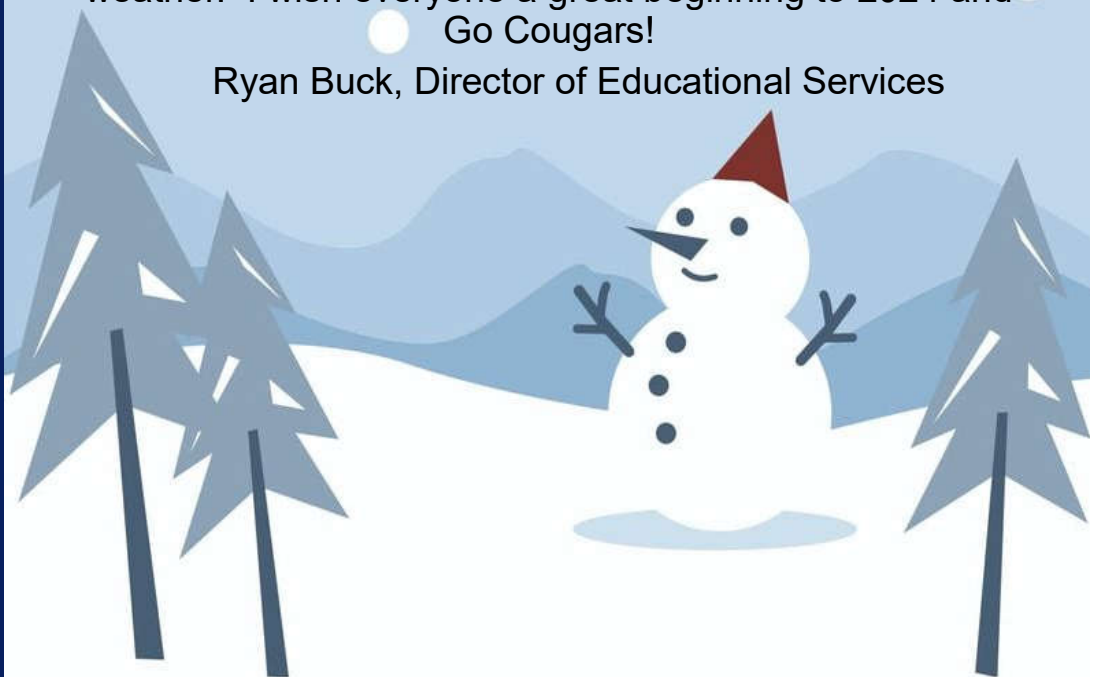
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Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. 2024 is here and Carroll Hills School is ready to go! We ended 2023 in style with a PreK Christmas Program. The other classes had fun events in their classrooms. The school looked great! I love all the Christmas decorations and the student's artwork around the holidays. One thing about the new year is that winter weather is officially here. Please make sure we are taking precautions to stay healthy and to keep children home from school when they are sick. Make sure you listen to our One Call Now messages and look at our Facebook page for updates on any delays or cancellations due to winter weather. I wish everyone a great beginning to 2024 and Go Cougars!

Ryan Buck, Director of Educational Services



The new year stands before us,
like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written.
We can help write that story by setting goals.

- [Melody Beattie](#)



Matt Campbell, Superintendent

Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities continues to address our strategic plan. The Board now has three job coaches to address gaps in community employment. The Special Olympics program remains strong with basketball now playing on a full court and winning their first game this year. The Waiver rate increase has dramatically increased Waiver costs which will have to be addressed to continue serving as many people as we currently do. Our Waiver funding waiting list has increased to eight people. The Academy for Leadership Abilities is now in Carrollton and Brown Local schools. Please

contact the Board with any service needs including gaps in service. We want to best utilize our services to meet customer needs.

The Board is navigating the many changes that are occurring in the DD field. We have the Appendix K unwinding, the new OhioISP, new rules, and increase in Medicaid funding rates. The Service and Support Administrators have been working hard to switch from our My Plan to the OhioISP which takes more time to complete. They are also navigating rule changes on shared living, H/PC, rate changes, etc. The Board is also preparing for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities accreditation review which will occur December 2024.

This is the time of year where we focus on what we are thankful for and enjoy Christmas! I am thankful for so many things. I have great staff who provide quality services. I was blessed to have a new granddaughter born Thanksgiving Day, Rose Katherine. That makes four grandchildren!

I pray you have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! Thanks again for all the support for our wonderful Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities program.



Board Office Staff 2023 Christmas party



Introducing the newest members of our team



Aaliyah Geiser

Hello, my name is Aaliyah Geiser. I'm extremely excited to start working with all of you, while gaining more experience as a young adult. I'm hoping to use my education, and

previous work experience to fulfill my duties here at the CCBDD, and further my education as a Job Coach to successfully serve our community. I look forward to meeting everyone!



Bonnie Mitchell

Hello, my name is Bonnie Mitchell. I am a Job Coach/ALA Instructor with the Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

I previously worked in human resources and office management. I am very excited to start this new career change. I enjoy traveling and nature.

People First Self Advocacy



The People First group hosted a Haunted Trail of Terror and Halloween Costume fundraiser at St. John's Villa on October 28, 2023. For the first-year hosting, there was a good turn out even though the weather was cold and rainy. Everything was moved indoors, but that did not dampen the fun! The group is now getting ready to hold their Christmas meeting and exchange gifts with the other members. They are planning to have special speakers and presenters come to the meetings in 2024 and are still working hard on raising money to go to Washington DC.

The group is starting to plan the annual talent show and fundraiser, Carrollton's Got Talent. This will be held in March to celebrate DD Awareness Month. The group is focused on growing their members and has already gained a few new faces. People First is looking

forward to making an impact on our local community in 2024. Two of the members participated in the Christmas Parade on the Carroll County Board of DD / Carroll County Special Olympics float, they had a ton of fun throwing candy to everyone on the parade route.

Penny Hodgson



Holidays in High School

What a busy year we have had! At the end of October, the high school class celebrated Halloween by dressing up, passing out candy, and trick or treating around the school. The students really loved seeing everyone's costumes.

During the month of November, we helped to prepare for the Carroll Hills Craft Show by shopping for some of the items needed at the concession stand. The students worked with classroom staff and Jules Rowles, Speech Therapist, to navigate the store to locate the needed items. The students also helped to count the money at checkout. It was a great experience for everyone!

On November 17th, the class began working at a new job site. We are now at The Chophouse in Carrollton once a week. The owner, Gary, has been amazing during this process.

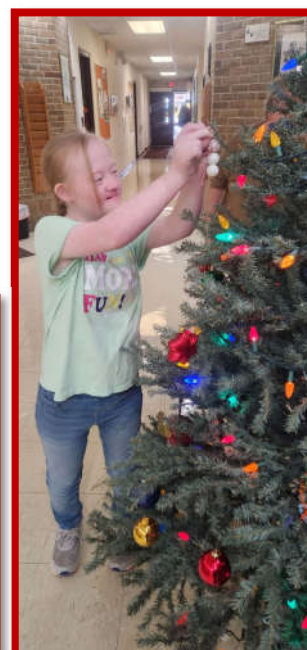
We visit Carrollton High School weekly to promote integration.

We are so grateful for that opportunity as well.

Finally, as this year winds down, the staff in the high school class would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season, a wonderful New Year, and a restful break. Thank you to everyone who has provided us with help along way!

-Nancy Boley

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Stay Safe and Healthy in Winter

Winter storms and cold temperatures can be dangerous. Stay safe and healthy by planning ahead. Outdoor activities can expose you to several safety hazards, but you can take these steps to prepare for them:

- * Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: wear a tightly woven, preferably wind-resistant coat or jacket; inner layers of light, warm clothing; mittens; hats; scarves; and waterproof boots.
- * Sprinkle cat litter or sand on icy patches.
- * Learn safety precautions to follow when outdoors.
- * Work slowly when doing outside chores.
- * Take a buddy and an emergency kit when you are participating in outdoor recreation.
- * Carry a cell phone.

Hypothermia (abnormally low body temperature) and frostbite are both dangerous conditions that can happen when a person is exposed to extremely cold temperatures.

Hypothermia is caused by prolonged exposures to very cold temperatures. When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it's produced. Lengthy exposures will eventually use up your body's stored energy, which leads to lower body temperature. While hypothermia is most likely at very cold temperatures, it can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water. The following are warnings signs of hypothermia, shivering, exhaustion or feeling very tired, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech, drowsiness and in babies bright red, cold skin, and very low energy.

Hypothermia is a medical emergency, if you notice any of the above signs, take the person's temperature. If it is below 95° F, get medical attention immediately! If you are not able to get medical help right away, try to warm the person up. Take the person into a warm room or shelter and remove any wet clothing and warm the center of the person's body. Don't rub or massage the person. You can use a electric blanket, skin-to-skin contact under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels, or sheets. Warm drinks can help increase body temperature, but do not give alcoholic drinks. After body temperature has increased, keep the person dry and wrap their body, including their head and neck, in a warm blanket. Get the person proper medical attention as soon as possible.

Frostbite is a type of injury caused by freezing. It leads to a loss of feeling and color in the areas it affects, usually extremities such as the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, and toes. Frostbite can permanently damage the body, and severe cases can lead to amputation (removing the affected body part). If you notice redness or pain in any skin area, get out of the cold or protect any exposed skin—frostbite may be beginning. Signs such as a white or grayish-yellow skin area, skin that feels unusually firm or waxy and numbness may point to frostbite. A person who has frostbite may not know they have it until someone else points it out because the frozen parts of their body are numb. Call 9-1-1. Don't rub a person's frostbitten skin. Warm the area slowly, but don't use heating pads.

If you notice signs of frostbite on yourself or someone else, seek medical care. Check to see if the person is also showing signs of hypothermia. Hypothermia is a more serious condition and requires emergency medical care.

If a person shows signs of frostbite, but no signs of hypothermia and immediate medical care is not available, do the following:

- Get the person into a warm room as soon as possible.
- Unless absolutely necessary, do not walk on feet or toes that show signs of frostbite—this increases the damage.
- Do not rub the frostbitten area with snow or massage it at all. This can cause more damage.
- Put the areas affected by frostbite in warm—not hot—water (the temperature should be comfortable to the touch for unaffected parts of the body).
- If warm water is not available, warm the affected area using body heat. For example, you can use the heat of an armpit to warm frostbitten fingers.

Do not use a heating pad, heat lamp, or the heat of a stove, fireplace, or radiator for warming. Affected areas are numb and can easily burn.

Don't substitute these steps for proper medical care. Frostbite should be checked by a health care provider. And remember, Hypothermia is a medical emergency and immediate medical care is necessary.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Noah Gray



Noah is known as the community newspaper because if you need information, he can likely tell you. He has an uncanny ability to pick up on information from many outside sources. This skill has helped him learn his new community job tasks quickly. Noah started his employment journey through OOD last year and gained employment at Walmart. Noah works as janitorial staff and assists with many tasks. He has a drop in job coach that can help when needed and Noah has also made natural supports on the job and knows who he can go to for support in the moment. He has met many new people and has started forming relationships outside of his social circles. Noah takes great pride in his successes at work. He has grown in areas that are not usually thought of as employment related, Noah has grown emotionally and has increased his confidence and relationship building as he is learning to have effective conversations with strangers. Noah's long term goal is to save enough money to take his family on a vacation to Myrtle Beach. There are accounts available for folks to be able to save for their goals, such as a STABLE account. A STABLE account is an investment account available to eligible individuals with disabilities. This allows individuals with disabilities to save and invest money without losing eligibility for certain public benefits programs, like Medicaid, SSI, or SSDI. If you would like to learn more about community employment for the DD community, assisting our population in achieving their goals or STABLE accounts please reach out to Carroll County Board DD.

Reagan Hauck



Raegan's Journey

Raegan Hauck is a new student at Carroll Hills School. She came to us after aging out of The Golden Key in Canton when she became a high school freshman.

Raegan's family was nervous about her starting at a new school with new people since Raegan isn't always receptive to change. However, since starting at Carroll Hills, she has been making so much progress in so many areas, and we are all excited to see what she does next.

Raegan goes to work with her classmates at several local businesses, including The Chophouse and The Assembly of God Church in Carrollton. While at work, Raegan has gained skills in cleaning windows, wiping down walls, and using a broom and vacuum. She seems to enjoy these jobs and tries her best to complete tasks to the best of her ability.

In the high school classroom, Raegan adapted quickly and fits in perfectly. She makes staff and peers laugh with her silly personality and works hard to complete academics. With help and support from classroom staff, Raegan is becoming more independent in her activities.

We are so thankful to Raegan's family for letting us share her journey!

Looking forward to what the New Year brings!

Volume 4 Issue 4



Happy New Year! I am so proud of our little scholars; they have improved greatly on their listening ears, looking eyes, walking feet, and calm bodies. I love watching them learn new skills and become kind friends to one another. They learned about safety, elections, family traditions, letters, colors, and numbers, along with a few art projects along the way. We have some very creative kids. They made paintings, ornaments, wreaths, and more. They truly enjoyed their Festive Family Christmas Party. They visited with Santa, played games, had a snowball fight, sculpted snowmen, traced packages, enjoyed some cookies, and made ornaments. Thank you to our families who celebrated with us. I can't wait to see what our new year holds! -Mrs. Schockling



Christmas Parade

Thank you to Rich Stertzbach, Cindy Jones, Kathy Greene, Bonnie Mitchell, Missy Toothman, Logan Smith, Karen Bross, and Penny Hodgson for braving the cold Saturday evening while participating in the parade. We also want to thank Amy Swaim, Shannan Boone, Chris Boone, and Christina Burkhart who helped to plan and decorate the float beforehand.



CCBDD is making the Christmas Parade a yearly tradition, so watch for us next year!

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

The Intermediate class has shown so much growth this year - communication is increasing, friendships are growing, math and literacy skills are improving and everyone is settling into our routines. STEM continues to be popular - last week focused on bubble science and we all made and experimented with custom bubble wands. We explore new books in Library, learn about and impersonate famous artists in Art and enjoy themed songs in Music. Tech has been popular, especially PBS Kids and Starfall. The boys even dance every day - Danny Go is their favorite. Getting ready for the holidays included visits from Santa and the Grinch, too!

-Mrs. Jeffries



Volume 4 Issue 4



PRESCHOOL Letter K Races—Oh What Fun!

Letter K race to the finish! I love how the kids cheered each and every classmate. Plus, the repetition about the letter K gave lots of learning moments. This activity led into the art of learning to write a number 8. Such a tricky number for little ones to write. - Mrs. Service



PREK CHRISTMAS Program

Volume 4 Issue 4



We had a great holiday season in Pre-K! During the month of December we worked hard to learn songs for our Christmas program and did an amazing job singing for family and friends. We also were able to do fun activities including making gingerbread houses, doing art projects, making snow, trying to trap our classroom elf, and even meeting Santa! We are ready to get back in the swing of things as we return to our routine after a nice relaxing break. - Mrs. Malone



The Holidays with the Elementary Class

There's been a lot of excitement leading up to the holidays in the elementary class. We welcomed fall with a trip to the pumpkin patch. We picked pumpkins and sunflowers, went on a hayride, played in corn, and went down a giant slide. In our classroom we measured pumpkins, counted seeds, and after reading the book "Pumpkin Jack," we put a pumpkin in our garden bed to see how it will decompose over the next several months. We celebrated Halloween by dressing up as our favorite character and visiting the other classrooms to collect a treat.



As Christmas drew near, we read two different versions of The Gingerbread Man story and made our own gingerbread houses. We also received a special visit from Santa himself! We finished the week before break by reading The Polar Express and enjoying Polar Express Day in our classroom.



I know the new year will bring many new opportunities for learning and making memories. -Ms. Kristi



Carroll County Special Olympics

Penny Hodgson, Special Olympics Coordinator

**Special
Olympics**
Ohio



Time flies when you're having fun and the athletes of Carroll County Special Olympics have been having a ton of fun! Basketball, Cheerleading, and Bowling seasons are in full swing. The Varsity basketball team has been hard at work preparing for their season and practicing in a full size gym. The season started off a little rocky with the first game as a loss against Muskingum County, but they quickly bounced back and won the second game against Tusc. County Rockets with a score of 40-12. Keep an eye out for upcoming posts on the CCBDD Facebook page for pictures and game results from now until the end of March.

February 17, 2024, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm will be the 2nd Annual Polar Plunge My Way Ice Cream Social fundraiser event held at Carroll Hills School. We are starting to plan for this event, and it is going to be fun for the whole family. There will be fun winter themed activities, 50/50 raffle, ice cream, and much more. And don't forget to show your Cougar Pride with the various merchandise items available at all games and events.

Plans are underway for March Madness basketball games in the month of March. Both Varsity and JV will be playing against community teams such as SAVE22, Carrollton Police Department, Village of Carrollton Fire Department, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, ODOT, Jimmy's BBQ/Pizzeria, etc.

I'm starting an incentive program for Special Olympics volunteers. Starting January 1st, every time someone volunteers to help with anything Special Olympics related (minimum of one hour), their name will be entered into a drawing which will be held at the 2024 Sports Banquet. The prize for this drawing is a \$100 Visa gift card. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Penny Hodgson at 330-627-6555.





Our class had a fun holiday season. We made presents for parents and for the wonderful people at the Golden Age Retreat. The students even wrapped the presents themselves. In science, we made homemade marshmallows, playdough, and candy cane crystals. We have been busy learning letters and numbers. Almost everyone can count to 20! In the midst of everything these precious little ones are learning how to be a true friend to others. Life is good in Pre-K! - Mrs Service



2023 Community Employment



2023 was a busy year for Community Employment. We provided job coaching for eight individuals and assisted ten individuals with transportation needs. Fourteen individuals found or obtained community employment in a variety of fields including maintenance, cashier, janitor, dishwasher, fast food, and grocery stocker. The County Board also held summer Job Exploration Training (JET) for thirteen students, ages 14-21, from local school districts. At the end of October, Tara Burke, Job Coach, retired making it necessary for the County Board to hire additional staff. We welcomed Aaliyah Geiser, Job Coach, and Bonnie Mitchell, Job Coach/ ALA Instructor.

Reva Castelucci



Commissioners recognized Tara Burke for 32 years of service to the [Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities](#).

Congratulations Tara!



CCBDD News

Promoting positive awareness of people
with developmental disabilities

Board Members

Debra Shaw, President
Deb Postlewaite, Vice President
Kristen Long, Secretary
Diana Strader
Katie Bailey
Sally Ferrell

Superintendent

Matt Campbell

The Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities—CCBDD Equal Opportunity in Employment, Access, and Services.
CCBDD News— Editors, JoAnn Hilliard & Amy Swaim. Send information or inquires to jhilliard@carrollcbdd.org or call 330-627-6555

UPCOMING EVENTS



Happy New Year

- 1/03/24 - Program Resumes
- 1/15/24 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Entire Program Closed
- 2/19/24 - President's Day—Entire Program Closed
- 3/15/24 - 2 Hour Delay—School Only
- 3/19/24 - Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30PM - 7:00PM
- 3/21/24 - Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30PM - 7:00PM
- 3/27/24 - School Closed- Conferences Comp Day
- 3/28/24 - School Closed
- 3/29/24 - Entire Program Closed
- 4/01/24 - Entire Program Closed
- 5/10/24 - 2 Hour Delay—School Only
- 5/27/24 - Memorial Day—Entire Program Closed
- 5/30/24 - Last Day for Students
- 5/31/24 - Last Day for Staff
- 6/19/24 - Juneteenth Day—Entire Program Closed

Special Olympics



Carroll County's Special Olympics Coordinator, Penny Hodgson, and the County's Athletic Leader and Assistant Basketball Coach, Brandon Hahn, attended the 2023 Special Olympics Ohio Leadership Summit. We learned a lot about fundraising, unified sports, building and expanding the program, and several other great topics. Brandon helped with one of the presentations and did a wonderful job! We have a lot of exciting new ideas for the future of our program. Thank you all for your continued support of the Carroll County Special Olympics Cougars. Share the joy of this amazing program with others and spread the word about how important this program is for our community.