

Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Dennis M. Coble
Administration Building
2606 Brady Lake Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266-1657

Superintendent's Office:
330-297-7261

Board Office:
330-297-6209

Fax: 330-297-1202

Website: www.pcbmrdd.org

Business Office:
330-297-8991

Service & Support Administration:
330-297-4100

Family Support Services Program:
330-297-4106

Residential Services Program:
330-297-4106

Transportation:
330-297-6462

Adult Services:
Portage Industries
7008 State Rte. 88
Ravenna, OH 44266-9134
330-296-2839
Fax 330-296-8875

Children's Services:
Happy Day School
2500 Brady Lake Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266-1698
330-678-2400
Fax 330-673-3714

**PCBDD
Emergency Number
330-678-7559**

PCBDD does not discriminate in provision of services or employment because of handicap, race, color, creed, national origin, sex or age.



Flashes Finish Second in State!

The Portage County Flashes Special Olympics basketball team completed their season in late March. The team finished their season with a second place finish in the Division III state tournament. This is quite an accomplishment considering that the team is only in their second year of existence. The team fought hard in a closely contested championship game but came up a little short in the end. The team is already talking about making a return trip to the title game next year with aspirations of winning a state title.

The team put in a lot of hard work and dedication throughout the season. The team began practices in October and practiced regularly until the season ended in late March. Their dedication and commitment to getting better is what lead them to making an appearance in the state title game. If you know members of the team please congratulate them on their success.

Team members include; **Ben Salvo, Chris Dejanovitz, Donald Flegal, Mike Havel, Richard Sparks, Jerry Dowling, Logan Cox and Donny Shardy.** Coach **Bill Whitacre** would like to thank the following individuals for the tremendous amount of help they provided throughout the season; **Mick Yeager, Andy Krcmar, Chad Konkle, John Havel, Pam Krcmar, Annette Dowling and Frank Dowling.** It was with the help and dedication of these volunteers that the Flashes were able to be so successful.



Basketball Team Ready for Next Season

The Portage County Thunder Special Olympics basketball team completed their inaugural season. The team progressed as the year went on with many of the players improving every game and practice. The team consisted of mainly first year players with a couple of veterans to lead the team. The whole team is looking forward to next season. The dedicated members of the Thunder were: **Joe Horner, Josh Horner, Chad Howe, Jason Servey, Adam McFarland, Nathan Lambert, Michelle Reed, Jacob Scheiben, Shawn Heffernan, Kevin Moore, Michael Hegsted and Jim Folan.** The team was coached by **George Paroz.** A BIG thank you goes out to all families, providers and staff for taking time out of their busy schedules to transport players to games and practices and coming out to support the team. Every home game was well attended and the players appreciated the cheers and support.

Mack's Message

Changes Coming to the Family Support Services Program (FSSP)



One of the many programs offered through the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Board) is the Family Support Services Program (FSSP). Services and supports through the FSSP are available to any individual eligible for services from the Board and living at home with their families. Individuals

living in their own apartment, enrolled on an Individual Option (IO), or Level One waiver, or living in an ICF/MR or in foster care are not eligible for services and supports through the Family Support Program.

There are a number of services and supports available under the FSSP including the following: incontinence supplies, specialized dietary items, special equipment, specialized recreational therapies, camp assistance, home modification, and respite care. The program operates on the state fiscal year beginning on July 1 of each year. Levels of services available to a family may vary from one year to the next based on available funds and the number of families served. There may be family copays and the copay amount is based on reported taxable income per state rule.

Beginning in July, the Board's FSSP will be administered by the North East Ohio Network, better known as NEON, a Council of Governments (COG) established by six northeast Ohio County

Boards of Developmental Disabilities in 1996, one being the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities. In addition to taking over the administration of the FSSP, NEON also performs a number of other services for the Board including waiver administration, quality assurance nursing reviews, and backup major unusual incident (MUI) investigations. NEON also provides FSSP administration for the Mahoning and Richland County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

The transition of the administration of the FSSP to NEON should be seamless but there will be changes. There will be a reduction in the amount of each family's annual dollar allocation for FSSP services. This will allow for greater numbers of families to access the program. In addition to the annual allocation, each family will now have a lifetime cap of \$7,500.00 for home modifications. NEON will be conducting a parent information meeting at the Board office in mid July and written communication to all families currently enrolled in the FSSP will be forthcoming.

Respectfully,

Pat



New name, new look, same helping hands



PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF
**DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

Making the difference in meeting lifelong needs

Promoting positive awareness of people with developmental disabilities



Ryan McCoy and Adam Derthick

McCoy and Adam Derthick, representing the Greater Ohio Area Super Kids Classic Soap Box Derby race that was held on June 5th at Derby Downs in Akron.

Ravenna Memorial Day Celebration

This year's Ravenna Memorial Day Parade had lots of sunshine for everyone. Participating in this year's fair was **Sandy Osdyke**, Vehicle Operator, driving one of our school busses decorated in honor of those who have served. Also participating in this year's parade was **Ryan**



A Growing Collection

George Cosko has been proudly collecting Matchbox cars since he was 5 years old. He has 3,000 cars in his collection which are decorating his bedroom.



Stork News

Sherri Svoboda has recently become a grandmother. Her son, Matthew had a baby boy named Caleb. Sherri has enjoyed getting to know the little one.

Congratulations to the new family!



Spring is in the Air!

After a long gray winter, spring showed up at the Dennis M. Coble Administration Building.



Matthew's Story

Submitted by: Sandy Craft



When I was pregnant with my first baby, I had numerous complications and the doctor said that there was a 10% chance our baby would be delayed. I figured if a plane is delayed, it eventually gets to its destination. Therefore, if our baby is delayed, he would eventually catch up. When Matthew was born, he was medically fragile and spent 2 months in NICU. I knew in my heart that something wasn't right but even the pediatricians said he would be fine by the time he was two. When Matthew was 1 ½ years old he was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. The neurologist said he could have a mild limp to using a wheelchair. Of course I wished for him to just have that mild limp. Reality hit when one of his therapists admitted that he would probably never walk. Since then, it's been a journey of ups and downs. After a miraculous surgery at age 5, Matthew learned how to walk. Like that plane, I thought we were finally landing.

I read many books regarding Cerebral Palsy and I expected Matthew's condition to affect him physically. I was never told that Matthew could also have mental retardation. Years ago, I remember feeling so sad when a mother told me that her 5th grade son had a 2nd grade reading level. Here I am now with my 11th grade son with a second grade reading level. I have come to realize that a cognitive disability can be just as frustrating and devastating as a physical one.

Having a child with a disability is a hard struggle between having high expectations and being realistic. Over the years we have worked hard at adapting, accommodating, and modifying so Matthew can be included with friends and family in some form. He has been hunting for black bear and wild boar, four-wheeling, kayaking, camping, biking, to list a few. So when Matthew told me that he wanted to drive, I didn't want to hurt his feelings yet I truly didn't believe he could. I figured I would let him go through the process like every other teenager and let the BMV let him down instead of me.

The more I researched, the more assistance I found for drivers with disabilities. After intensely studying the driving material, Matthew took the knowledge test having it read to him using ear phones. He was able to have questions repeated to him or even skip the difficult ones. After 7 attempts, Matthew finally passed and now has his temporary driving permit.

Matthew's next goal is to get a girlfriend. Surprisingly, Matthew was brave enough to ask a fellow schoolmate cheerleader to prom. Although they went as friends, he said it was the best night of his life. Matthew has proved to me that nothing is impossible and dreams can come true.





Racers Get Rolling at the Super Kids Classic



The Greater Ohio Area Super Kids Soap Box Derby Race for children with disabilities was held on Saturday, June 5th at Derby Downs in Akron. There were 32 children competing in this year's event. The children were being driven by racers from the All American Soap Box Derby.

This race is for children between the ages 8-18 that have developmental delays and/or physical challenges. This year Portage County had 7 participants.

This year's events included again a parade with the Grand Marshall being **Gail McAlister**, Director Children's Services at Happy Day School.

As usual everyone had a wonderful time hanging out with friends and racing. Unfortunately we got rained out at the last 6 heats, so the winner was chosen by a draw from earlier racing times in the double-elimination competition.



This year's winner was **Kieran Murray**, from Copley, second was **Benjamin Wilt** of the Portage Lakes Career Center, and **Emilee Sublet** of Field High School was third.

Anyone interested in next year's race can contact **Denise McCoy** at 330-296-0671 or **Debbie Kempisty** at 330-850-5143. Thank you to all

who participated in this year's race and hope to see you at next year's event.



Mark Your Calendar!



Golf Outing

The 19th Annual Portage Industries, Inc. Benefit Golf Outing for Developmental Disabilities will be held on July 27, 2010 at Windmill Lakes Golf Club in Ravenna, Ohio. We are once again requesting donations from friends and business associates. Donations can be in the form of hole sponsorships, door prizes, gift certificates and completed themed gift baskets. Donations are tax deductible and all money raised is used for the levy fund. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact **Gretchen Spahlinger** at 330-296-3996 or e-mail at gspahlinger@portageind.org You may also contact **Phil Miller** at 330-296-3996 or e-mail at pmiller@portageind.org.

Special Needs Golf

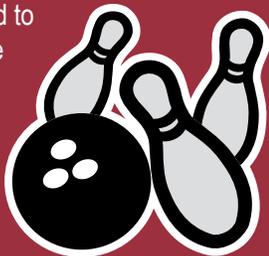
A new golf league for special needs individuals of all ages is in the works at Kale Creek in Palmyra. The program will begin June 7th and will run every Monday through the summer. Tee-off time is 4:30 p.m. The cost is only \$5.00 to cover the cost of the riding cart. The name of the league will be called Kale Creek Special-Tees. Golfers will have special-tees, t-shirts, hats, golf balls and clubs. Lunch will be provided. For more information please contact **Ron Shesko** at 330-654-4602. Interested persons may also contact Kale Creek at 330-654-0805.

Bowling Update

Bowling for the 2010– 2011 year will start on Wednesday, September 1, 2010.

The cost has increased to \$4.00 a week which will be \$68.00 for Session I.

More information will be sent home soon.



A Boat Scootin' Dance

On May 14th a "Country Western" themed dance was held at Happy Day school. Many came dressed in their 'western gear'. **Shawn Heffernan** and **Shannon Schmidt** enjoyed the county music. **Christina Sonny** got her picture taken in her western outfit and **Calvin Garrett** and **David Hornsby** are taking a break and watching the dancers.

A local Square Dance group, The Circulators, came dressed in their dance outfits and put on a square dance show for everyone.

The next dance won't be until the end of September and will be the Homecoming. Start looking for your Homecoming dresses !!



Square dancers show off their moves



Christina Sonny



Calvin Garrett and David Hornsby



Shawn Heffernan and Shannon Schmidt

Fall 2010 Special Needs Soccer

The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Very Important Player (VIP) program provides a quality soccer experience for children whose physical or mental disabilities prevent them from successful participation on mainstream teams. The VIP program carries the AYSO philosophy of "Everyone Plays" to a new height, giving everyone a chance to play. Through participation in VIP soccer, the goal for every player is to:

- Have Fun Playing
- Be part of a soccer team
- Understand the fundamentals of the game
- Increase positive self-esteem
- Become more physically fit
- Make friends



Registration for our 2010 Fall Session is now through mid-June. Our team will be participating through AYSO in Twinsburg. Practice and games will be held at Glenmeadow Park each Saturday (August 21 – October 16) from 10:00-11:00, with each player having a "Buddy" to encourage and assist them on the field. We are looking for kids in the 5-14 age range that have either physical or mental disabilities that would benefit from this type of activity.

The registration fee is \$25 and includes uniform (shirt, shorts and socks), fall season games, awards ceremony and FUN! Registration forms are available online at www.twinsburgsoccer.com. Please make checks out to AYSO #1026. Return forms and fees to: VIP Soccer, c/o Scottie Rorabaugh, 4160 Baird Rd., Stow, OH 44224.

If you are interested in having your child be a part of our team or have any questions, please contact Scottie Rorabaugh at 330-688-9593 or scotte@noga.org.

2010 Special Needs Soccer Schedule



- August 21 • 10:00 Practice / Game
- August 28 • 10:00 Practice / Game
- September 4 • 10:00 Practice / Game
- September 11 • 10:00 Practice / Game
- September 18 • 10:00 Practice / Game
- September 25 • 10:00 Practice / Game
- October 2 • 10:00 Practice / Game
- October 9 • 10:00 Practice / Game
- October 16 • 10:00 Practice / Game

- All practices / games will take place at Glenmeadow Park in Twinsburg—Fields 3A and 3B.
- Picture Day is tentatively scheduled for September 11.
- The VIP Awards Ceremony date will be announced later.
- VIP players will play rain or shine. It will be the parents' decision whether or not your child should participate.

VIP Coordinator: Scottie Rorabaugh
scotte@noga.org
 440-479-1176



Parent Council News

Parent Council has had a very busy spring, hosting several major events. The 2nd Annual Rummage Sale was held at Portage Industries in March, the 3rd Annual Carnival at Happy Day School was held in April and the May Dinner was held at Happy Day School on May 11, 2010. All of the above events involved the general community as well as students and clients. Winners of the May Dinner raffle were:

- Chuck Barnauskas – T.V.
- Robert Eddy - Laptop
- Catherine DeLair – Gas Card
- Brent Loebick – DVD Player

Parent Council also hosted a night of information exchange among employees, union members and administrators. This was a well controlled question and answer session to share information about all programming concerns and many other controversial issues. The meeting was well attended by staff and administrators. It is important for families and the community at large to understand that Parent Council exists to provide information and support to anyone in the community who is involved with individuals with developmental delays.

Retirement News

Congratulations to the following individuals that recently retired from the PCBDD:

Bill Brauning, SSA – 26 years of service

Lorraine Herbert, Instructor Assistant – 31 years of service

Linda Mitchen, Account Clerk I – 28 years of service

Linda Reese, Account Clerk I – 22 years of service

Jim Rock, Director of Residential Services/Assistant Superintendent/FSSP Coordinator – 9 years of service with the PCBDD but many previous years with PERS through other agencies.





PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF
**DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

Making the difference in meeting lifelong needs.

2606 Brady Lake Road
Ravenna, OH 44266-1657

Calendar of Events

July/August 2010

July 5, 2010 – July 9, 2010	Summer Break!		
July 12, 2010	Programs Resume		
July 21, 2010	Tentative Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Dennis M. Coble Administration Building
July 27, 2010	Golf Outing		Windmill Lakes Golf Club
August 18, 2010	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	Dennis M. Coble Administration Building
August 24 – August 29, 2010	Portage County Fair		

The mission of the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to ensure the availability of programs, services, and supports that assist eligible individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities in choosing and achieving a life of increasing capability such that they can live, work, and socialize in the community, and to assist and support the families of these individuals in achieving this objective.