

**February 2015**

Happy Day School  
2500 Brady Lake Road  
Ravenna, Ohio 44266

## THE LINK

**Linking families to  
Happy Day School  
330-678-2400**



### High School classroom loves new curriculum

Beginning this school year, the High School classroom has started implementing a new curriculum. It is called News2You. It was created by a family run business that was started in 1997 with a weekly current events based newspaper designed specifically for students with special needs. In 2008 the curriculum we are using was launched due to an overwhelming need for a special education specific curriculum. This dynamic, online curriculum brings standards-based, age appropriate instructional material to all students. Following the monthly units such as Government, Earth and Space Science, History, and Health, we are learning an array of information while participating in fun, meaningful activities. We incorporate science experiments, art projects, work sheets, and more.

Since 2011, the Early Intervention Program has celebrated the retirements of four wonderful Early Intervention Specialists. These ladies have made a lasting impact to the Early Intervention Program as they have each dedicated 35 or more years of their lives to helping the families of Portage County.



Early Intervention Specialist Retirees (from left to right) Debi Wilson, Pam Hendricks, Annette Malorni & Mary Lou Renner at a recent get together in January. These alumni enjoy meeting regularly to catch up on each other's lives and sharing news of their families. The bonds they built as co-workers were too strong to break after retirement.

Since her retirement in September 2011, **Mary Lou Renner** has taken on a new role in life and it is one of her favorites...Grandma. She has two lively, handsome, energetic grandsons that keep her busy and feeling young. She can be found in the area taking wellness classes, providing respite services to a local family and spending time with her sister-in-law and teenage nephew. She is looking forward to begin volunteering with social services within the next few months. Mary Lou also enjoys traveling to visit her daughter, son and daughter-in-law.

**Debi Wilson** has been very busy since retiring in August 2014. Since retiring Debi has found the time for new hobbies such as refurbishing old furniture and spending more time on things she's always loved to do, such as experimenting with new recipes and sharing her creations with family and friends. She is also enjoying the extra time to travel to visit her mother and brothers and volunteering at the animal shelter and nursing homes. Debi especially enjoys spending time with her husband and four sons and a recently added daughter-in-law.

**Annette Malorni** who retired on December 31<sup>st</sup> of last year is still adjusting to retirement life. She enjoyed spending the holidays with her children who were home from college and is looking forward to visiting with them more often. She enjoys having the extra time to spend with her husband and visiting and helping her parents. Annette has joined a natatorium and can be found walking the track, swimming and trying out new classes. She is looking forward to an extended Florida vacation with her husband and children.

**Pam Hendricks**, who retired at the beginning of January this year, has jumped right into the life of a retiree. She enjoys traveling with her husband along the Florida coast and plans to cruise the Southern Caribbean Islands and vacation in Arizona. She is also looking forward to spending more time with her two sons. When Pam isn't traveling, she is looking forward to spending her time making jewelry, reading and being at home with her husband, Bill, and dog Millie.



So you are tired of the cold and want to do something new and different that does not involve taking your child out to be around the flu bug. What do you do? As therapists we can always come up with suggestions for activities to do with your child at any age or any ability level. Lets start with the youngest. The first 6 months some fun activities include encouraging lots of supervised tummy time. Bringing hands to feet, rolling, propping and beginning sitting are fun. Incorporate seasonal things like bright red for Valentine's Day, different textures like smooth, bumpy, crinkly, and different sounds. For the older students with limited ability to interact with their

environment, these same things can be incorporated into their daily routine. In sit, propping on one arm while playing with the other hand in jello, shaving cream, pudding, or snow can be fun. Feet can also be used to explore these. For kids standing independently or standing in equipment, kicking a play snow ball, stomping on bubbles, reaching high for bubbles, or throwing and catching socks rolled up as pretend snow balls can be fun. Making a slide out of stacked couch cushions and pulling a plastic sled over the cushions can be a fun indoor activity. Also drawing a shape such as a snowman with painter's or masking tape on the floor and walking on the lines, jumping over them, or standing with both feet on the line are good motor activities. How about filling a big box with shredded paper and playing in the box, climbing in and out of the box, or tipping the box slightly while your child is inside for balance. Hope this helps to add some new twists to your long winter days. Anytime you would like additional ideas specific to your child, do not hesitate to contact your child's therapists or teachers for more suggestions. Have a warm and safe winter and remember spring will be here eventually.

Start a new tradition with your child. Instead of candy, give them the gift of time and memories by trying some of these great sensory and fine motor activities. Just remember, make sure children have adult supervision!

### Easy no-cook play dough recipe

2 cups plain flour  
 1 cup salt  
 2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
 2 tablespoons cream of tartar  
 1 1/2 cups boiling water  
 1 tablespoon red food coloring  
 Plenty of red and pink glitter



~Stir all the ingredients together in a large bowl then play!

~Use with cookie cutters, cupcake cases, sequins, lollypop sticks and mini pompoms for lots of fun sensory play. Cut your cupcakes and cookies with plastic silverware to help your child learn to use utensils.

~Store the play dough wrapped in plastic or in an airtight container and it will keep well for weeks of play.



### Valentine Keepsake

Red or Pink washable paint  
 Paper  
 Paintbrush

In upper left corner, print the letter "L" in pencil and have your child finger paint/trace over it. In upper right corner, paint your child's hand and press onto paper. In bottom left paint your child's feet and press onto paper overlapping at heels to create a heart shape. In bottom right corner print the letter "e" in pencil and have your child finger paint/trace over it. Allow to dry and date for a family keepsake. This is a great tactile sensory experience for your child and provides practice for writing.



### Heart Decoration

- Large pony beads of various Valentine's colors
- Chenille stem (pipe cleaner)
- Red or pink ribbon

Help your child slide large beads onto pipe cleaner. When full, twist ends together and shape into a heart. Use ribbon to create a loop to hang it from.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

2/9/15	6:00 pm	Portage Industries	Parent Council Meeting
2/10/15	6:00-7:30 PM	Happy Day School	Board Eligible Family Swim
2/12/15	9:30 AM	Happy Day School	Valentines Party & Spirit Day-Wear red/white
2/13/15	9:30-10:15 AM	Happy Day School	Kindermusik
2/13/15	10:30-11:15 AM	Happy Day School	Kindermusik
2/16/15	NO SCHOOL IN SESSION FOR ALL STUDENTS		
2/17/15	6:00-7:30 PM	Happy Day School	Board Eligible Family Swim
2/18/15	5:00 PM	Board Office	PCBDD Board Meeting
2/20/15	9:30-10:15 AM	Happy Day School	Kindermusik
2/20/15	10:30-11:15 AM	Happy Day School	Kindermusik
2/20/15	6:00-8:00 PM	Happy Day School	School-Age Socialization-Dinner and Activity
2/27/15	9:30-10:15 AM	Happy Day School	Kindermusik
2/27/15	10:30-11:15 AM	Happy Day School	Kindermusik
3/3/15	6:00-7:30 PM	Happy Day School	Board Eligible Family Swim
3/5/15	3:00-4:00 PM	Happy Day School	Market Day-Dessert Fundraiser Pick Up
3/6/15	9:30-10:15 AM	Happy Day School	Kindermusik
3/6/15	10:30-11:15 AM	Happy Day School	Kindermusik
3/6/15	6:00-8:00 PM	Happy Day School	School-Age Socialization-Dinner and Activity
3/9/15	6:00 PM	Portage Industries	Parent Council Meeting
3/10/15	6:00-7:30 PM	Happy Day School	Board Eligible Family Swim
3/13/15	9:00 AM-3:00 PM	Happy Day School	Genetics Outreach Clinic
3/13/15	9:30-10:15 AM	Happy Day School	Kindermusik
3/13/15	10:30-11:15 AM	Happy Day School	Kindermusik
3/14/15	9:00 AM-3:00 PM	Portage Industries	Rummage Sale- sponsored by Parent Council

