

# The ESC Connection



Spring 2011

An e-newsletter published by the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County

## Educating Serving Communicating

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## ESC of Cuyahoga County Named Race to the Top Partner

By **Dr. Robert A. Mengerink**, Superintendent

In May 2011, the ESC of Cuyahoga County was proudly selected as one of 10 ESCs to formally partner with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) in implementing various aspects of Ohio's Race to the Top Strategy for the Northeast Ohio region. Forty-eight organizations across Ohio submitted information to ODE to be considered as Race to the Top partners. Our team is exceptionally proud to have received the highest score in the review of partner applications based on the capacity of our partnerships, services, technological infrastructure and facilities.

Through this partnership the ESC of Cuyahoga County will work with ODE, Mahoning County ESC and the Northeast Ohio Regional Coordinator, Maggie Niedzwiecki, to provide project personnel, professional development and technical assistance to help school

districts achieve their Race to the Top goals and performance measures. The Northeast Ohio region not only includes Cuyahoga County, but also Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Summit and Trumbull counties. We are honored and excited to be able to work with ODE to continue supporting district Race to the Top efforts and expand this assistance across the entire region.

The recognized capacity of our organization to implement this important initiative is due to the ongoing collaborations with school districts and other partner agencies. Therefore, on behalf of the entire staff at the ESC of Cuyahoga County, I would like to thank you for allowing us to support everything you do for the students in Northeast Ohio.



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#### ESC Connection

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## TEACCH Training Session Offered to Educators

This June, State Support Team 3 and the ESC of Cuyahoga County brought in Sloane Burgess, Ph.D., Certified TEACCH trainer to work with five local trainers to provide 5-day Intensive (ASD) Classroom training for staff working with students with autism spectrum disorders and multiple disabilities.

Dr. Burgess has consulted with many local school districts and Special Education Regional Resource Centers to provide educational support to individuals with autism spectrum disorders.



## Common Core State Standards

By **Aireane Curtis**, SST-3 Consultant

The common core state standards have been adopted by 44 states so far. As Ohio moves through the four year transition from the current standards to the common core standards in English language arts and mathematics, schools across the state are looking at how to prepare their teachers and students. The Ohio Department of Education is utilizing the Educational Service Centers across the state to get information to the schools in a timely fashion. Our ESC has done just that. The curriculum consultants provided three rollout sessions for teachers, administrators and community members in May. At the sessions, attendees were given updates as to what is taking place at ODE and how schools can prepare for the transition that will occur in the fall of 2014.

Some recent updates from ODE include the assessment consortia being selected by July of this year. Currently, Ohio is participating in both the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and Smarter Balanced testing consortia. Also discussed was the timeline for scoring these assessments. Since our new assessment system will be done online, schools will have results in two weeks. Also, students will no longer take one assessment per year. Instead, students will be assessed at various times throughout the year so teachers can intervene and enrich more quickly using real time data.

As we transition to the common core, districts and community schools should begin the conversations about similarities and differences from the current standards to the common core standards. Teachers should start the discussion about what holes and gaps they see and who will be responsible for teaching those standards. Also, teachers should begin familiarizing themselves with the common core as well as the model curriculum, which can be accessed from ODE's homepage ([www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us)). The model curriculum will give educators tools to differentiate instruction, connect the lessons to 21st century skills and guide their assessments. Districts that are participating in Race to the

Top will have the opportunity to participate in pilots in reference to the common core regarding performance based assessments, online testing, and formative assessments to name a few. Districts with an interest in participating in any of the pilots should contact ODE.

As we move through this transition period, the ESC will be offering professional development to assist districts and community schools as they prepare for full implementation in 2014-2015. If you have any questions or have specific professional development needs for your district or building, please contact:

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## The North Coast Educational Media Center

By **Roni Staimpel**, NCEMC Director

The North Coast Educational Media Center (NCEMC), a project of the ESC of Cuyahoga County, provides video, DVD, and has the distinction of being the only Media Center in the state of Ohio to provide multiple electronic educational databases to its subscribing schools.

Improvements in technology command that soon much of the information our schools access will be conducted electronically. To that end, the NCEMC has worked with other media centers and INFOhio to supply all Ohio K-12 schools with free access to almost 400 digital titles available for streaming or downloading. The NCEMC also provides discounted pricing for streaming services with Discovery Education and LEARN360. Both of these companies make digital resources and the tools for implementation available to teachers and students. For more information on the NCEMC, please contact:

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## Regional Meetings for Standards Rollout Phase II: "Digging Deeper! Pre-K to 12"

ESC consultants from Cuyahoga and Geauga County and Ohio Department of Education content area experts will present four model curriculum sessions this summer at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center, 5700 West Canal Road, Valley View, OH 44125.

There is no charge to participate. All sessions meet from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

July 18 Mathematics Content  
July 20 English Language Arts Content  
July 25 Social Studies Content  
July 27 Science Content

Reservations:

**Tracy Murphy**

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*Session highlights will include:*

- Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Updates
- Overview of Ohio's Enhanced Comprehensive Educational System, Newly Revised Standards, Model Curriculum, Next Generation of Assessments
- Digging Deeper into the Standards Model Curriculum by Grade Level, Grade Band and Course Implications for Deepening Student and Teacher Knowledge Resources
- Rigor and Relevance - Standards and Instructional Practices!
- Content Area Presentation & Modeling of Revised Standards and Instructional Practices
- Instructional Practices Collaboration & Vertical Discussions
- Phase III: 2011-2012 Common Core Curriculum Network

## Ohio School Boards Association Honors Board Members with Award of Achievement

The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) honored Cuyahoga Heights Local School Board Members Reno Contipelli, Kenneth Perk and Ron J. Krzynowek as well as ESC Board Member Frank Mahnic, Jr. with the 2011 OSBA Award of Achievement during its spring conference.

The OSBA Award of Achievement is presented to a very select group each year. Of more than

3,400 board members in Ohio, only 81 received the honor this year. Recipients are honored for earning continuing education credits received when attending seminars, workshops and conferences throughout the year. In addition, credits are awarded for leadership positions such as president, delegate, and serving on boards and state committees.



*Congratulations to Cuyahoga Heights Board Members Reno Contipelli, Kenneth Perk and Ron J. Krzynowek and ESC Board Member Frank Mahnic for being recognized by the OSBA with the 2011 Award of Achievement*

# Meet Our ESC Staff

## Linda Manoni

Financial Clerk

Linda Manoni is a financial clerk for the ESC of Cuyahoga County. Linda is responsible for many miscellaneous accounting and payroll duties in the Treasurer's office, including the EIS inventory system, processing and printing of purchase orders, invoicing and check processing.

She has worked in public education for 34 years and prior to joining the ESC, Linda was a fiscal support specialist with LNOCA for 5½ years training districts on the state software applications of USAS and USPS. Before joining LNOCA Linda spent 28 years working with the Rocky River Schools with most of those years in the treasurer's office processing accounts payables, receivables, inventory and payroll. Perrysburg High School was also a stop on the way.

Linda is a member of the Ohio Association of School Business Officials and the National Association of Educational Office Professionals.

In her free time, Linda enjoys spending time with her family, walking her dog, cooking and juggling.

## Candi Hazelwood

SST-3 Consultant and Quad Lead



Candi Hazelwood joined the State Support Team–Region 3 at the ESC of Cuyahoga County in August 2009 as a school improvement consultant and quad lead for the northwest quadrant of the state (including Regions 1-Toledo area, 2-Lorain area, 3- Cuyahoga County, and 7-Mansfield area). As a quad lead, her responsibilities include developing statewide professional development for the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP), supporting the training needs of the regions, and building a sustainable system of support through a consistent message of improvement.

Candi graduated from Bowling Green State University with a double major in special education. She holds a Master's of Science in Education from University of Akron and completed her post graduate principal and superintendent's license at Cleveland State University. Her teaching career began at Shaw High School in special education where she worked for nine years as department chair and vocational-special education coordinator (VOSE). Candi then enjoyed more than a decade as principal at Cuyahoga East Vocational Education Center (CEVEC), a community based training program for disabled youth, where a model for training and employment was implemented. In 1995, she became 8-9 assistant principal at Mayfield High School followed by associate principal for curriculum, instruction and staff development. After leaving Mayfield she spent several years in Region 4 (Lake and Geauga County) as a school improvement consultant before returning to Cuyahoga County where she enjoys her current position.

## Northeast Ohio College Fair for Students with Learning Differences

By **Ed Flegel**, SST-3 Consultant

Students and families are invited to the Northeast Ohio College Fair for Students with Learning Differences being held at two locations in the county. On Tuesday, October 11, 2011, colleges, universities, and other post-high school training programs will have representatives at the Holiday Inn in Strongsville. On Wednesday, October 12, 2011, colleges, universities, and other post-high school training programs will have representatives at Corporate College in Warrensville Heights. Both programs are from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Attendees may talk with postsecondary representatives and participate in breakout sessions covering essential topics. Topics include: rights and responsibilities in preparing for postsecondary education; panel discussion of high school to college transition; how parents can help their children prepare for post-high school education or training, and; a panel discussion

by college representatives highlighting strategies to get the most from the college experience.

There is no cost to attend these events. You can attend both; however, the format and speakers' topics will be the same. This is a great opportunity for your family to begin preparing for the transition from the entitlement of a free public education to the world of higher education where eligibility determines assistance.

More information can be found at [www.esc-cc.org](http://www.esc-cc.org). If you have questions, please contact:

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## UGIVE.ORG

By **Molly Dull**, *UGive.org* Coordinator

UGIVE.ORG's current Cleveland VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) members are wrapping up the school year and are thrilled at the culture of service that has continued to grow since their arrival in August. Katie Brahaney, Kristina Mielke, and Molly Dull have reached out to over 100 schools in the area and have seen incredible enthusiasm from administrators, faculty, and students alike when it comes to getting their hands dirty with service work to build an even better Cleveland community. In just nine months, almost 4,000 students have logged more than 30,000 service hours to 200 local organizations in need of volunteers—WOW!

We absolutely could not have seen such amazing things happen without the support of the ESC of Cuyahoga County, countless helpful organizations and people in the region, and of course, the school districts with vested interest in making their students the next generation of civically-engaged

volunteers. Thank you for your hospitality in your schools, neighborhoods, and email inboxes and we hope your relationships with UGIVE and the next wave of Cleveland VISTAs will continue to blossom and thrive.

UGIVE.ORG is truly humbled and inspired by the positive and tangible impact that school districts in Northeast Ohio are making on a metropolitan area once again on the rise. Please continue being catalysts for the community. Best wishes and enjoy your summer months!



*UGIVE.ORG VISTAs Karen Kearney, Katie Brahaney, Kristina Mielke, and Molly Dull at the March 26th Cesar Chavez Day of Service at Esperanza, Inc.*

## Professional Development

By **Paula Kucinic**, *Director of Professional Development and Outreach*

The ESC of Cuyahoga County and our State Support Team Region-3, in partnership with the Lorain County ESC and their Support Team Region-2, are pleased to announce several upcoming and exciting professional development opportunities.

### **June 20-22, 2011 – The Dr. Robert Marzano Teacher Evaluation Academy**

This academy focuses on the Marzano Evaluation Model and reveals strategies and best practices to facilitate a strong redevelopment effort that is grounded in contemporary research and practice. This academy is for participants who want to find solutions for their district Teacher Evaluation System and Gap Analysis, to meet Race to the Top and other new legislative requirements.

### **August 1-3, 2011 – The 1st Annual Early Learners Conference**

This conference allows participants to hear from the Ooey Gooey Lady, a national early-learning childhood expert, learn about the latest research-based strategies and have the opportunity to explore proven practices that create and support a successful early learning environment.

### **August 8-10, 2011 – The 2nd Annual Response to Intervention (RtI) Institute**

The ESC and State Support Team–Region 3 are pleased to announce that the Second Annual Response to Intervention (RtI) Summer Institute will be held August 8 to 10, 2011 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Independence. This year's conference is being co-sponsored by the Lorain County ESC and State Support Team–Region 2. It will feature three nationally recognized experts in RtI and school improvement. The first keynote speaker, Dr. Joseph Murphy from Vanderbilt University, will present on ways for schools to close the achievement gap. Dr. George Batsche, University of South Florida, will provide a keynote address entitled, "Response to Intervention (RtI): The Problem Solving Model." Our

third keynote presentation will be provided by Dr. Terry Scott, University of Louisville. He will discuss Kentucky's Academic and Behavioral Response to Intervention (ABRI) model. Dr. Scott will also provide training on Tier 2 and 3 behavioral supports for at risk and struggling students during afternoon featured workshops.

Ms. Alexa Posny, Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education will share her national perspective for supporting all children through an RtI model via a video presentation. In addition, Dr. Cynthia Lemmerman, Dr. Kathe Shelby, and Ms. Sasheen Phillips from the Ohio Department of Education will offer insights into state level school improvement efforts, supports for students with disabilities and gifted students, and new statewide assessments for the 2011-2012 school year. Several area school districts, including **Lakewood, North Olmsted, North Royalton, Parma, and Strongsville** will be sharing their experiences with implementing RtI during featured workshops.

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# Grants

## CCC America Teachers Go Mobile

By **Nadine Grimm**, Program Manager

During winter and spring, teachers participating in CCC America learned about the new mobile application, *Cleveland Historical*, that “curates” Cleveland history. The app, developed by the Center for Public History and Digital Humanities at Cleveland State University and DXY Solutions, details information about historic areas in Northeast Ohio through narrative text, photographs, oral histories, and audio and video. During their training sessions about potential uses of the app for history education, teachers toured sites, physically and virtually, in University Circle, Tremont, and in downtown Cleveland. CCC America teachers and their students are working with historians in local museums to develop content for virtual tours of their own communities. Students at **Lakewood High School**, for example, are working with the Lakewood Historical Society to develop content about the Winton estate and the Bird Town neighborhood and other historic sites in the city. During the Summer Institute 2011, teachers will continue to develop the content for topics of relevance for teaching and learning suitable for their own classrooms and communities.

On May 26th, teachers joined administrators, colleagues, and community members at the Dr. Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center for a gala celebrating the culmination of the three-year *Constructing, Consuming and Conserving America Teaching American History* program. The grant has been administered by the ESC of Cuyahoga County and directed by Prof. Mark Tebeau of Cleveland State’s Department of History. During the gala, Nancy Proctor, Head of Mobile Strategy and Initiatives for the Smithsonian Institution, was the featured presenter of *Mobile Applications: Teaching, Learning and You!* In her multimedia presentation, she considered the advantages and challenges of mobile formats in the museum, the classroom, and in the community. The event included an opportunity for teachers to discuss their observations and considerations of using mobile apps in the classroom environment, and guests had an opportunity to download the new *Cleveland Historical* app to their smart phones. The application has won an award by the Ohio eTech for educational mobile apps developed in Ohio, and recently it was awarded honorable mention for outstanding public history project by the National Center for Public History.



# Grants

## Internationalizing the Curriculum

By **Nadine Grimm**, Program Manager

On April 28th, Prof. Linda Robertson Director of the Gerald Read Center for International and Intercultural Education at Kent State University and Nadine Grimm of the ESC of Cuyahoga County reported to the Ohio Department of Education's International Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) about the project *Developing Global Citizens for Northeast Ohio's Future*. The year-long project, funded by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, was a partnership among the Cleveland Clinic's Office of Civic Education Initiatives, Cleveland Council on World Affairs, Cleveland State University, Kent State, Lake County Educational Service Center, and the ESC of Cuyahoga County. Goals of the project were to identify Northeast Ohio school districts that are leaders in global awareness and 21st century skills, and to help build relationships and partnerships with higher education institutions, local government, and businesses in our region to promote preparation of teachers and students for life and work in our global economy.

The partners brought together teams of teachers and administrators from 10 school districts (**Shaker Heights, Painesville City, Euclid, Aurora, Beachwood, Oberlin, Westlake, Crestwood Local, Hudson and Berea City**) and three local colleges (Baldwin-Wallace, Hiram and Lake Erie) for a series of meetings to define and recognize best practices of global competencies and international mindedness, to assess current initiatives in the model schools, to share ideas with local business and government representatives, and to share resources and future steps toward internationalization in schools and with community partners. Dr. William Hiller, executive director of the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation,

shared with the group the foundation's new foci on Deep Learning and Excellence in Teaching and the means by which global competencies foster these intellectual and teaching and learning goals.

The Ohio Global Institute 2011 will be hosted by Ohio University from August 2-4. One hundred Ohio teachers of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, world languages, health, physical education, career programs or technology in grades K-12 have been selected to participate. The 2011 Global Institute is a collaborative effort of the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio University, Ohio State University, Kent State University, Shawnee State University, and the University of Cincinnati. During the three-day residential program, teachers learn about best practices, teacher exchange programs, and consider strategies for internationalizing the curriculum in their school districts. This is the third year for the Ohio Global Institutes sponsored by the IEAC.



# Gifted & Talented Consortium News

## Highlighting Gifted and Talented Events

By Nina Stein, Administrative Assistant

A shadowing event was held at Hyland Software in Westlake on Thursday, May 5th. The workshop was attended by students from **East Cleveland** and **Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools**. We are planning to continue offering these opportunities to our consortium schools during the next school year.

Middle school students from **Bedford** and **East Cleveland City Schools** had an opportunity to attend a GPS Workshop at the Cleveland Metroparks Look Ahead Lodge in Chagrin Falls on May 26th. A total of 36 students attended and had a great day developing skills in using a GPS unit and strengthening their logical reasoning strategies.



Hyland Software



## 2011-2012 Seminars for Students

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	GRADES
GPS Workshop	Sept. 22, 2011	Look About Lodge	7-8
Leadership	Oct. 12, 2011	ESC	9-12
Peaceful Solutions	Nov. 17, 2011	Beck Center (Lakewood)	9-12
Equations	Jan. 24, 2011	ESC PD Center	4-8
	Jan. 31, 2011 (snow date make-up)		
Public Speaking	Feb. 9, 2012	ESC	9-12
Fine Arts	Mar. 20, 2012	Beck Center	7-8
Hyland Software	Oct., Jan., Mar.	Westlake	9-12

GPS Workshop



The ESC is also in the planning stages for additional opportunities for middle school and elementary students. Information will be available at a later date. For more information on any Gifted and Talented activities and services, please contact:

**Wayne Gibson**

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## Northcoast Academy News

By **Rena Wertheim**, *Special Education Supervisor*

Spring is a busy time at North Coast Academy (NCA). Ohio graduation tests were prepared for and taken in March and results were received in mid-May. On April 13th, 14 students participated in a visit and tour of Lakeland Community College. Students listened to speakers from the college describe the application process, hints to complete FAFSA, various courses of study available at Lakeland and a self guided tour of the campus. Lakeland provided vouchers for students' lunches. Andrew Prusinski, NCA's College Now advisor, coordinated the trip and accompanied the students with NCA's Mr. Forfia. The field trip was sponsored through the generous funding of the Simon Youth Foundation's (SYF) Enhancement Grant. A similar trip will be scheduled this fall to Cleveland State University, also funded by SYF.

On April 14th, students participated in the final blood drive of the year; 21 pints of blood were collected from students, teachers and some community members. This year over 60 pints of blood were collected. One graduate donor, Zeetia "Mary" McKay will receive a \$250 scholarship from the American Red Cross to be used toward her college expenses.

In April and May, NCA students served the community through service opportunities with the students of Legacy Academy in South Euclid. In April, NCA students tutored Legacy students in preparation for their OAA tests. In May, students from the two schools worked together at the Homewood Senior facility to prepare for a party and entertained the senior citizens. NCA students also traveled to Ginn Academy to read to elementary students in the school library. Community service opportunities have been coordinated by Heidi Solomon of Jewish Family Services youthAbility program.

NCA's graduating class of approximately 30 students was from **Beachwood, Cleveland Heights, Orange, Mayfield, Shaker Heights** and **Solon** school districts. The Simon Youth Foundation awarded three scholarships at graduation. Recipients were DaVaughn Johnson, Dante Jones and Jonathan Thomas. The awards total \$84,000 over four years; the students must maintain a "C" average. Guest speakers were Edward Little, founder of the Keeping It Real Program and Dr. J. Michael Durnil, Executive President and CEO of the Simon Youth Foundation.

## 2011 North Coast Academy Graduation Highlights



## Adaptive Playground to be Constructed for Rose-Mary Center School Students

The ESC of Cuyahoga County's Rose-Mary Center School, located on West 14th Street in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood, educates approximately 42 multiple handicapped children from 21 Ohio school districts. Thanks to the ESC of Cuyahoga County, Catholic Charities and Meyer Design, work will begin in June on an adaptive playground for the school's children. The playground will have a wheelchair accessible swing, a transferable adaptive swing, a ramp with multiple play areas, including drums, xylophones, interactive panels, and two slides.

"Our goal for this playground is to address the needs of the children at Rose-Mary Center School with different physical, developmental, cognitive and sensory abilities and have them navigate freely through the play area," said Bob Mengerink, superintendent of the ESC. The new playground also will be used by children who participate in Catholic Charities events during the summer and on weekends.



Family and friends of Rose-Mary Center, along with Tremont residents, will be volunteering their time to construct the playground. Those interested in donating time to this project may call the Rose-Mary Center at 216-621-3451. Ribbon cutting for the new adaptive playground will be this fall.

## Two Students Graduate From ESC Rose-Mary Center School

By **Lisa Adler**, *Special Education Supervisor*  
*Rose-Mary Center*

Two students graduated from the ESC Rose-Mary Center School on June 3. Margaret Anne and Demetrius received diplomas from their districts and Certificates of Completion from the ESC.

ESC Director of Pupil Services Steve Rogaski, families, friends, RMC staff, bus drivers and many more were in attendance. Supervisor Lisa Adler introduced the spring graduates. Margaret Anne's diploma was presented by Chris Heusser, Administrator, **Parma City Schools** and Demetrius' was presented by Joyce Abegglen, Vocational Coordinator, **East Cleveland City Schools**.

For the past several weeks, these two students began transitioning to their respective Adult Activity Centers (AAC). They visited their new rooms and met their new staff and peers. They began their on the job training at the AAC immediately after graduation.



*Demetrius*

*Congratulations to our  
ESC Rose-Mary Center School  
spring graduates.*



*Margaret Anne*

## Students at Rose-Mary Center School take a Caribbean Cruise . . .

Caribbean Cruise was the theme for this year's spring formal at the Rose-Mary Center School. The students were treated to lunch in the "dining room" decorated for a Caribbean Cruise. There were round tables covered with table cloths and decorations, a fancy lunch, dessert and punch. Dancing was provided by Eddie of Action Disc Jockey, and parents joined their children in dance and fun.



*Nikki and Stephen pose for a picture before boarding the cruise ship*



*Maggie dancing with her brother*



*Jeannie from Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities swings to the music with Mark*



*What a nice couple Mary Alice and Zach make*



*Carlos and his mother taking a twirl on the dance floor*



*Michelle, Nikki, Shelly, Stephen and Leandrea enjoying the music*

*Mary Alice, Rose-Mary Center School's Art Therapist, created and transformed the gym. Every students' art talents were utilized and incorporated into all of the prom theme decorations.*

## Parmadale School

By **Annette Hayes**, *Special Education Supervisor*

Parmadale School has had a busy school year! The faculty has been dedicating significant time to professional development activities. Teachers and paraprofessionals have attended workshops on using technology in the educational environment. Integrating the Smartboard into lessons has become commonplace in the classrooms. New teachers are in the process of becoming highly qualified across all content areas, a necessity in our very diverse school. With the assistance of our two consultants, Peggy Klein from PEP Assist and MaryAnn Merendino from ESC of Cuyahoga County, the entire faculty has been able to refine the behavior management skills needed to work with students who have emotional and academic handicaps. As there are many aspects to our program, here are a few highlights from three of our classrooms:

### The St. Augustine Classroom

By **Joyce Huntz** and **Chris Carroll**

The St. Augustine teaching team and students start each morning with a Circle of Courage meeting. During this meeting rules are reviewed, concerns are discussed, new business is shared, and daily goals are made. The Circle of Courage is based on a Native American philosophy which cultivates courage and empowers youth. All students begin at the belonging level. We were very proud to have a St. Augustine student be the first to advance to mastery, the second level, when the student assumed a leadership role and led our class meetings.

In the springtime, the boys in the St. Augustine classroom focused on gardening. The whole class read *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman. This fictional story is about a garden that develops in a vacant lot in the city of Cleveland. The class planted vegetable seeds, conducted soil experiments, tended to a small worm farm, and sampled unusual vegetables. The vegetable program was made possible through a donation from the Veggie U organization.



### The St. Elizabeth Classroom

By **Christy Krynski** and **Marie Nemeth**

During the school year, the St. Elizabeth team devised a new behavioral reward system to more specifically address teen female students. Like most girls, the ladies of St. Elizabeth enjoy the finer things in life. Our behavioral reward system tries to reflect our students' tastes. The teaching teams of St. Elizabeth go bargain hunting and garage sale shopping to fill the store with little things the average teenager may enjoy, but have been unavailable to the students of St. Elizabeth.

Throughout the week, the students earn tickets for accomplishing daily expectations such as an "A" paper, helping a peer, assisting the teacher, following a directive or achieving a goal. Tickets can be "spent" on Friday "store days." Students are expected to fulfill certain daily or weekly expectations agreed upon by the students and the staff, such as completing weekly math and reading probes, completing Successmaker (a computerized academic program for reading and math), and earning at least 70% average for weekly behavior charts. The percentage points are determined by how much time each student is on task in the classroom.

Weekly behavioral averages determine the store “level” for which the student shops that week. In short, the quantity of items purchased is determined by the number of tickets, but the quality of items is determined by the percentage of on-task behavior. Students named the store levels to reflect the stores where the girls wish they could shop, although students remain in the classroom. Those students who have earned minimal expectations shop at the “Good Will/Corner Store” level. The second shopping level entitles buyers to shop at the “K-Mart” store level. If a student earns the third shopping level, she can shop at the “Macy’s” level. The top level shopping, most prestigious of all, is at “Nordstrom/Sak’s Fifth Avenue” when only the best behavior and academic skills have been displayed within the classroom! Store purchases may include hygiene items, books, erasers, art supplies, clothes, and other things the girls enjoy, but may not be able to get for themselves. The ladies of St. Elizabeth look forward to the Friday shopping experience.

## **Parmadale Graduation Coaching Activities**

By **Elizabeth Lansing** and **Doreen Walter**

Parmadale School has implemented a new support system for students: Graduation Coaches. This past year, our two full-time Title 1 Graduation Coaches worked with classroom teachers to develop a series of self-assessment and career investigation activities that will encourage our students on their path toward high school graduation and beyond. Since many of our students have attended several high schools, we begin by reviewing transcripts with new students to help them determine their progress toward graduation. Coaches and teachers then lead students through a series of self-assessments of their values, interests, skills, and academic achievement. Coaches help students review results of these assessments and set academic, social, and career learning goals to pursue under the guidance of their graduation coach. One student may want to increase their reading comprehension level; another sets the goal of completing a high school resume and learning about a career as an electrician, while others may set goals to master

specific content learning, such as mastering long division strategies or learning to create a budget. Students also participate in decision-making about how best to measure progress toward those goals while at Parmadale. Over the course of the student’s term, the coaches model self-monitoring learning strategies for both content reading and literature, as well as math, and work with classroom teaching teams to integrate these strategies into students’ classroom learning practice. Looking back over our first year with Graduation Coaches, we have found students to be more cooperative in keeping appointments with their coaches and more receptive to working on academic tasks outside the classroom.



*Parmadale’s Annette Hayes and Tom Proinski*



*Picture 1-r Marilyn Proinski, Marie Nemeth and Christy Kryszinski*

## Recognizing Excellence in Education for Students with Disabilities: Don't Dis My Abilities

By **Juanita Primous, SST-3 Consultant**

On May 6, 2011, more than 200 people came together for the 25th recognition of excellence in education for students with disabilities at St. Michael Woodside in Broadview Heights. This annual recognition brunch is planned by the ESC of Cuyahoga County and the State Support Team-Region 3 to honor students, peers, parents, educators, paraprofessional and educational aides, and community partners, and to reward those individuals who go above and beyond merely doing their jobs.

The theme for this year was *Don't Dis My Abilities*. The keynote speaker was Daniel Wilkins, president of the Nth Degree, who is an advocate, storyteller and visionary for people living with disabilities. He delivered a powerful thought-provoking message about expectations and stereotypes that people form when they hear about different disabilities. He talked about how it takes courage, not only to believe in yourself, but also in your vision of the ways things ought to be. He challenged the audience to find their courage, see through bigger eyes, share their vision, and change their world.

The audience also was entertained by a performance of students from Parma High School. It showed the



shifting of one individual's insensitivity to a student with cerebral palsy to showing compassion towards him. In order to deal with the situation, their teacher wrote and directed a play, called "Challenged." The play showed how the two young men started to understand each other's challenges and ultimately became friends.

The recognition ceremony is meant to be a "feel good" affair, and organizers have heard countless times how beautiful, sensitive and personally rewarding it is for the participants. It means a lot when others recognize those individuals who "go the extra mile" to help others. In addition to the brunch with friends and families, honorees receive certificates of "outstanding achievement" and have their accomplishments noted in the recognition booklet. Congratulations to all those who were recognized this year.



## Achievement Award Winners

### Outstanding Student

This award was established as a means of acknowledging achievements of school-age children and youth with disabilities in Cuyahoga County.

Lacretia Pollard, Cleveland Metropolitan School District  
Adrian Roddy, North Royalton City Schools  
Linden Wagner, Orange City Schools  
J. Alex Motl and Coty Wayne, Parma City Schools

### Outstanding Peer

The purpose of this award is to recognize and honor students with or without disabilities who have established positive relationships, assisted other students with disabilities, and who have been exemplary role models.

Lea Fierst, Bryce Hasman, and Jamie Holkovic, Brecksville/Broadview Heights City Schools  
Randy Kuzilla, Independence Local Schools  
Max Schlessel, North Royalton City Schools  
Kayla Spira, Orange City Schools  
Taylor Higginbotham, Gino Minosky, Meghan Smith, Parma City Schools

### Outstanding Parent Service

This award was created to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of a parent of a school-age child with a disability who has worked on behalf of children with disabilities in Cuyahoga County.

David Cantillon, Cleveland Metropolitan School District  
Donna Boss, Solon City Schools

### Outstanding Educator

These educators and education teams are the exemplars in designing instructional strategies and programs. They have been recognized for their work in one of the following categories of achievement: standards, capacity, or accountability.

James Cahoon, Gail Hartman, Barbara Marsh and Holly Montgomery-Nye, Bay Village City Schools  
Shena Hill, Bedford City Schools  
Patty Kempf, Brecksville/Broadview Heights City Schools  
Matilda Brawley, Jenna Head, and Sunday Scarbrough, Cleveland Metropolitan School District  
Denise Daugherty and Kami Likovic, North Royalton City Schools  
Bridget Chase, Susan Rueger, Sharon Simmerer, Parma City Schools  
Jessica Wilkes, Shaker Heights City Schools  
Lindsay Arndt, Strongsville City Schools  
Kim McCue, Westlake City Schools

### Outstanding Paraprofessional/ Educational Aide

These candidates must be full-time paraprofessional/educational aides who work with students with disabilities in Cuyahoga County, have provided outstanding service, and have made contributions that have enhanced the lives of the student and/or their families.

Michele Moore, Brecksville/Broadview Heights City Schools  
Gail Laird, Shella Lewis, and Michael Mathis, Cleveland Metropolitan School District  
Ann Magill, Orange City Schools  
Bonnie Meier and Lisa Smith, Parma City Schools  
Meg Sell and Regis White, South Euclid/Lyndhurst Schools

### Outstanding Related Services

This award was established to recognize and celebrate the special accomplishments of related services staff involved with school-age children with disabilities in Cuyahoga County.

Carole Erlinger, Berea City Schools  
Joyce Abegglen, East Cleveland City School  
Kimberly Dittman, North Olmsted City Schools  
John Pudimat and Debbie Sopko, Parma City Schools

### Outstanding Community Partner

This award was established to recognize and celebrate the special accomplishments of community partners' involvement with school-age children with disabilities in Cuyahoga County.

Gladys Melvin, Imagin It Technologies  
Scott Montgomery, SOAR!

### Acknowledgements and Special Thanks to . . .

The Staff of the ESC of Cuyahoga County and the State Support Team Region 3 for their efforts and work in making this Awards Brunch possible.

The State Support Team Region 3 Family Council Committee members: Raychelle Fair, Brenda Heeg, Saundra Jordan, Teresa Karsnak, Lisa Neumeyer, Michelle Pallo, Jackie Reid, Mary Woods, and Juanita Primous and Jackie Lawson, SST3 Consultants.

ESC of Cuyahoga County Awards Committee for their contributions and guidance.

Sir CC (the mighty swashbuckling cavalier who came in place of Moondog) and Ahmad Crump of the Cleveland Cavaliers for always being the life of the party! GO CAVS!

We're planning for 2011-2012 - check back with us throughout the summer to see what we have planned for families/communities & educators!

## ESC of Cuyahoga County Awards Humanitarian Scholarships

The ESC of Cuyahoga County presented its annual Humanitarian Awards to students from **Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, and Richmond Heights School Districts**. One student from each middle and high school received the award, presented by a member of the ESC Governing Board at each honoree's recent awards assembly. Recipients are nominated by their own schools' administration for demonstrating outstanding character and service to the community throughout the past school year. In addition to a cash award of \$500 at the high school level and \$250 for middle school, the six students each received a personalized plaque, starfish pin, and starfish keychain. The starfish represents a short story about one person making a difference.

### This year's ESC Humanitarians included:

#### Recipients from Cuyahoga Heights Schools

Cristina Traffis was the 2011 Humanitarian from Cuyahoga Heights Middle School. Her entry states, "Cristina's spirit of kindness permeates our school community. Her random acts of kindness are performed continuously with students, staff and community. Cristina holds kindness and compassion in her heart. Her positive attitude is contagious. Many of our students admire and strive to imitate Cristina's ability to shun pettiness and gossip and encourage generosity and friendship. Cristina seeks to improve the lives of other people, expecting nothing in return."

Anthony Eder was the 2011 Humanitarian from Cuyahoga Heights High School. His entry states, "Anthony is a strong young man with huge helping hands. He knows how to give willingly and with joy. Two years ago, Anthony was one of the founders of our Boys to



Men Leadership group. He has completed numerous service projects locally and for Ronald McDonald House." ESC Board Member Frank Mahnic presented both Cristina and Anthony with their awards.

#### Recipients from Independence Local Schools



Jennifer Wisniewski was the 2011 Humanitarian from Independence Middle School. Her entry stated, "Jennifer always has a positive attitude that

has a wonderful effect on her classmates and staff members. She is always ready to help any teacher carry out a task. She demonstrates a high level of participation in class. Jennifer is also very helpful to her fellow students that are having difficulty with an assignment. She can always be counted on to put aside her own responsibilities to help out others. Jennifer is a walking example of 'blue devil pride' every single day at I.M.S." ESC President Carol Fortlage presented Jennifer with her award.

Gabrielle Riley was the 2011 Humanitarian from Independence High School.

Her entry states, "Gabrielle's accomplishments and positive attributes have been recognized by both her peers and teachers. She has been selected

to multiple leadership roles in our student council, and has contributed significantly to important committees such as Prom and Homecoming. During this, her senior year, Gabrielle has contributed greatly to the planning and facilitation of our so many of our activities." ESC Board Member Dr. Christine Krol presented Gabrielle her award.



## Recipients from Richmond Heights Schools



Seng Choi was the 2011 Humanitarian from Richmond Heights Middle School. His entry states, "Seng is a bright, talented young man. He is often seen explaining concepts to his classmates in ways that they can better understand the

material. He holds court daily to ensure all students have completed their homework. He is well liked and respected by his peers and teachers." ESC Board Member Tony Hocevar presented Seng with his award.

Sara Dela Vega was the 2011 Humanitarian from Richmond Heights High School. Her entry states, "Sara will be another of my many former students who will fulfill their promise of tomorrow by becoming an outstanding success. Sara has aspirations of becoming a doctor. Doubtless, she will. And while I marvel at her academic achievements, it is the essence and personality of Sara that I admire most. She is kind, compassionate, caring, gentle, and humble. Without ever calling attention to herself, she is an example of what is good about America's young people." ESC Board Vice President Tony Miceli presented Sara with her award.



## Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce State of the Schools Luncheon Features Local Superintendents

Dr. Bob Mengerink, Superintendent of the ESC of Cuyahoga County addressed members of the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce this past May at the annual State of the Schools Luncheon, held at the Holiday Inn in Independence. He was joined by Roscoe Schlachter, Superintendent of the **Cuyahoga Valley Career Center**; Lora Garrett, Interim Superintendent and Dr. Edwin Holland, new Superintendent of **Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools**; and David Laurenzi, Superintendent of **Independence Local Schools**. More than 200 people attended this annual event.



*Interim Superintendent of Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools Lora Garrett; Retiring Superintendent of Independence Local Schools David Laurenzi; Retiring Superintendent of the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center Roscoe Schlachter; ESC Superintendent Bob Mengerink*

