



The ALL-STAR Newsletter

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Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Jefferson County
BDD

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A Message from the JCBDD Superintendent

March is DD Awareness Month: Celebrate Community

What do you think of when you hear “celebrate community?”

For some of us, it might be attending the many different festivals throughout Jefferson County. For some, it might be attending high school athletic events and cheering on your favorite team. For some, it might be the comfort of living in a safe neighborhood and enjoying the company of neighbors. For some, it might be the involvement in a church community. For some, it might be your work and co-workers. For some, it might be the involvement in the many social clubs throughout the county.

Many of us may take for granted how involved we are in a community and how that involvement has changed our lives for the better.

Being involved in the community is near and dear to the hearts of many, if not all individuals. Whether it is small

or large, feeling like you are a member of the community brings about feelings that are critical to being happy.

The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities is changing



the way we think about community. Not only are we changing as a program, we are educating and providing opportunities for the individuals we serve to gain community access.

With the hiring of Alex “Cookie”

West into a new position of community integration specialist in 2017, we are in the beginning stages of what community will mean to someone with special needs.

Through new housing developments, Jeffco Services, community employment, the School of Bright Promise and Shaffer Plaza, our entire program is thinking in new ways about community. That, along with self-advocacy, will not only bring about change that will add value to the lives of the individuals we serve but it will add value to the community in which we live.

I challenge all community leaders, business owners, school administrators, church pastors, social club officers and every neighborhood to think about and change the way community will mean to someone with special needs.

School Activities Highlight Understanding Disabilities

The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities is celebrating community as it observes National Developmental Disabilities Month in March.

The month was designated through a proclamation by President Ronald Reagan in 1987 to increase public awareness of the needs and potential of Americans with developmental disabilities. This year’s theme is “See Me for Me,” which looks beyond a person’s disability, while Ohio is observing its own theme of “Celebrating Community.” JCBDD will hold several events this month to help mark the occasion.

On March 16, about 30 area high school students will take part in the 10th Annual Simulation Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the School of Bright Promise. While there, teens will work with school staff and learn what it is like have visual, hearing and other impairments by performing activities at a series of stations in the gym.

Principal Rachel Bodo said the event has been successful and shows how people live with physical and

mental disabilities. Four students per district were invited to attend the event and will also get a chance to interact with special needs kids.

“We’ll provide lunch and will have the same stations. They will go into the classrooms and do a craft for an hour,” Bodo said. “Then they will return and write about what they learned.”

She said participants have found it to be an eye-opening experience and it has altered their way of thinking.

“Every year they appreciate the experience, and most students say they saw people with special needs in a different way and would be more willing to offer them assistance,” she commented.

Another program making a return is Spread the Word to End the Word, which is part of an online effort to erase the use of the R-word that has long been synonymous with having a mental disability.

Alex “Cookie” West, JCBDD community integration specialist, is organizing the event on March 23 and will speak along with Bodo and

speech therapist Andi Starkey at Indian Creek Middle School on March 23 at 8:15 a.m. with plans to also talk that day at Harding Middle School.

“The campaign has reached out to Pugliese West Elementary in the past and we’re looking to get it out more,” West said. “We don’t know if it will fall over into other months, but March is great for awareness month. We want to have a conversation, especially with students, about the importance of not saying the R-word. It demeans a person’s value and we want students to know it’s not okay to say it. It’s not even a word that’s used in a professional setting. We want to make students aware of this and be mindful that it hurts a person.”

JCBDD officials also plan to have a traveling pledge poster and collect signatures from students as a promise to stop using the R-word and learn to be kinder to others, especially peers with special needs. They will also be directed to the www.r-word.org website to join an estimated 718,000 pledges, as well as to begin a dialogue with their families about the cause.

Winter Olympics Fun at the School of Bright Promise

Classes Represent Countries and Compete for Medals during World Games Event

As skaters, skiers, snowboarders and more vied for the gold at PyeongChang, South Korea, students at the School of Bright Promise took part in competitions of their own on Feb. 15.

The 2018 Winter Olympics was held, albeit in a smaller scale, in the school gym and featured classes representing countries around the globe, including Australia, Canada, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, North Korea, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States.

About 80 preschool through secondary students with special needs had fun as they competed in sporting events such as speed skating, which included plastic booties instead of skates, a hockey shootout, scooter slalom and Wii bowling. Gold, silver and bronze medals were distributed and the top three medalizing countries received trophies.

The classes got to practice their skills



School of Bright Promise student Kyle Talbott, center, outpaces opponent Javon Galloway during the speed skating event at the school's Winter Olympic Games on Feb. 15.

during gym and the room was open to provide some extra time to prepare.

Physical education teacher Janie Bodo, who organized the games, said it was a fun

time for the contenders.

"It went very well. Everyone seemed to enjoy participating and there was lot of friendly competition," she said.

The final numbers included Australia with one gold medal; Canada with two gold and a bronze; Ireland with one silver; Israel with three silver and a bronze; Italy with one gold and one bronze; Jamaica with two silver and two bronze, Norway with one bronze; Russia with two gold and one bronze; Sweden with one gold, a silver and a two bronze; and the U.S. with two bronze medals. Bodo added that Israel, Jamaica and Sweden earned trophies as the top medalists.

Principal Rachel Bodo said similar events were previously conducted and the games were a great way to celebrate the world sporting event.

"Watching the broadcasts of the Winter Olympics struck a chord and we discussed doing one. Everyone seemed excited about it and was on board," she commented. "It's just a good way to come together as a school and have a fun event where everyone can participate."

Calendar of Events

March 1: DD Awareness Month; Rocky Road Gym 9:30 & Big Red Walk 1 (JCTC); Decorate for Easter (Shaffer A&B); Just Dance Wii (Shaffer C)

March 2: Dr. Seuss's Birthday (SBP); Prime Time Lunch 11:30 (JCTC); Game Night (A&B)

March 3: Make Slime (A & B); St. Patrick's Day Craft (C)

March 4: Carmike Cinema Matinee (A&B)

March 5: BR Walk 1 (JCTC); Steubenville Country Club Dance Class 5:15 ©

March 6: Prime Time 10, Toronto Library 10 & Swim 12:30 (JCTC); Trampoline Park (A&B)

March 7: No Preschool (SBP); Friendship Room (JCTC); Bowling @ Steel Valley Lanes (A); Dinner at Naples (B); Mall Trip (C)

March 8: Human Rights Mtg. 9 (SBP); RR Gym 9:30 & BR Walk 1 (JCTC); DJ Lisa W (C)

March 9: PT Lunch 11:30 (JCTC); Staff Choice (A&B)

March 10: Comedy Night (A&B); Wii Tourney (C)

March 11: Daylight Savings Time

March 12: Big Red Walk 1 (JCTC); Showcase Your Talent Night (A&B); Steub CC Dance Class 5:15

March 13: Prime Time 10 & Swim 12:30 (JCTC); Safety Mtg. 3 (SBP); God's Choice (Shaffer)

March 14: Friendship Room (JCTC); Pizza Party (C)

March 15: Brooke Library 10:30, RR Gym 9:30 & BR Walk 1 (JCTC); School Behavior Mtg. 2:50 (SBP); Resident's Choice (A&B)

March 16: Simulation Day (SBP) 9-2 & End of Third Quarter (SBP); PT Lunch 11:30 (JCTC); M&M Party (Shaffer)

March 17: St. Patrick's Day Activities (Shaffer)

March 18: Carnegie Museum of Art 10-5 (A&B)

March 19: Mobile Dentist & IEP's (SBP); BR Walk 1 (JCTC); Resident's Choice (A&B); Steub CC Dance Class 5:15 ©

March 20: Report Cards (SBP); Prime Time 10 & Swim 12:30 (JCTC); Trampoline Park (A&B)

March 21: Statewide Tornado Drill (SBP); Friendship Room (JCTC); Bowl at SV Lanes (Shaffer)

March 22: RR Gym 9:30 & BR Walk 1 (JCTC); Parent Support Group Mtg. 1:15 (SBP); Mall Walk (C)

March 23: Spread the Word to End the Word (SBP); Prime Time Lunch 11:30 (JCTC); Movie Night at Home (A&B); Craft Night (C)

March 26: BR Walk 1 (JCTC); Student Advocacy Mtg. 1:15 & LPDC Mtg. 2:50 (SBP); Friendship Park Trip (A&B); Resident Council Mtg. (C)

March 27: Prime Time 10 & Swim 12:30 (JCTC); God's Choice (Shaffer)

March 28: IEP/ETR Training at ESC (NO SCHOOL); Friendship Room (JCTC)

March 29: Easter/Spring Break (NO SCHOOL); RR Gym 9:30 & BR Walk 1 (JCTC); Crafts (A&B); Mall Walk (C)

March 30: Good Friday; Break (NO SCHOOL); JCTC OFF; Movies at Home (A&B); Game Night (C)

March 31: Make a Bunny Easter Cake (A&B); Passover