

# CCBDD News



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People First News

Director of Educational  
Services



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DJ Chelsea  
Householder  
and Pictures by  
Kristen Long



## Celebrating Achievements and Looking Ahead



Superintendent Matt Campbell

This is the time of year when we focus on what we are thankful for and enjoy the holiday season. I am thankful for great staff at the Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities. I just received news that our school age program “meets requirements” through the Ohio Department of Education. We were also reviewed for Preschool Step Up to Quality and maintain a Gold Star rating. I appreciate the willingness of staff to step in to meet individual needs.

I am also excited to report the progress on our Strategic Plan. The Board continues to see an increase in requests for services. Our waiting list for Waiver funding has decreased from sixteen to three. The Board increased Level 1 Waivers from forty to fifty. Ohio Network for Innovation purchased two homes that are currently undergoing renovation. The Board continues to support person centered thinking with five people attending the Synergy Conference and two people getting Project STIR training (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility). The Board also voted to reduce our main operating levy by a half mill which will reduce property taxes next year.

I am also very thankful for my Board of Directors. Nowadays it is difficult to find people to volunteer their time. Our Board of Directors does a great job navigating this complex system and keeping us on track with our strategic plan.

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



## Middle School Students Explore, Learn, and Celebrate the Season

The middle school class continues community adventures by visiting the bowling alley in November. My students enjoyed bowling, and practiced skills such as waiting their turn, asking for help, and navigating a new environment. We also enjoyed a trip to the McKinley Museum, where history came alive. The students loved the hands on interactions with the exhibits. We have been gearing up for Christmas by learning about service, traditions, and what it means to help others. We will travel to The Millstone Grind and Café to enjoy a scoop of ice cream among friends before break begins. We are excited to enter the New Year!

Makenzie Miller

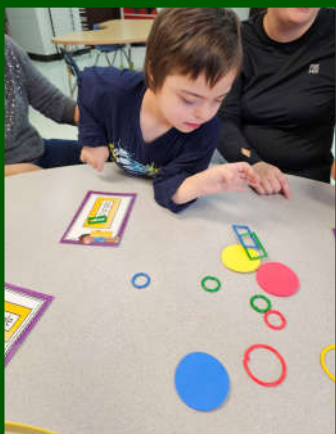




## Celebrating Learning and Holiday Joy in Elementary

What a wonderful time of year! Christmas lights are shining, snow is falling, and our students are learning! We are so very proud of how far our students have come in the last few months. We raced outside to catch the first snowfall with our hands. We played some fun holiday games including our Christmas tree chase and count. We also loved learning about shapes, letters, and numbers using playdough and shaving cream. Each week we enjoyed a big science experiment whether it was cooking or shaking a tornado bottle. Last week we had an unusual visitor who keeps an eye on us for Santa; our very own elf on the shelf whom we named Elfina. We are happy to say that all the reports have been good. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mary Service



Carroll Hills School students decorated two adorable trees at the McCook House.

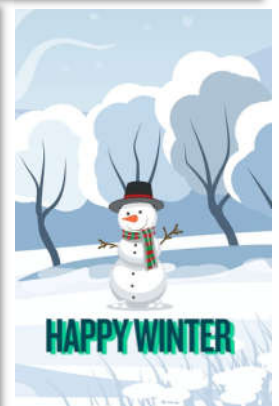
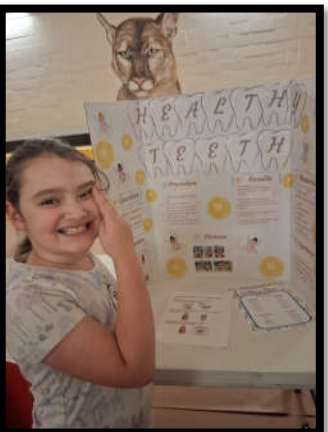
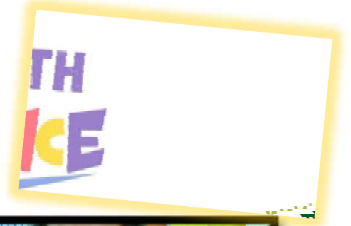




## Fall Adventures in Learning in Intermediate Class

It's been a busy fall in the Intermediate classroom. October was full of science experiments and culminated in a school-wide science fair! Our students each completed a project using candy corn, Skittles, Lucky Charms marshmallows, gummy bears, raw eggs or hard-boiled eggs. Families were invited in to check out the displays and question the students about their projects. We also completed our books about all 50 states. And, even though we had to move inside due to the weather, everyone is still walking a mile every day. The class is excited about our upcoming holiday break and switch to 2026. Happy winter, everyone!

Mrs. Jeffries



HAVE A HAPPY WINTER HAVE A HAPPY WINTER HAVE A HAPPY WINTER



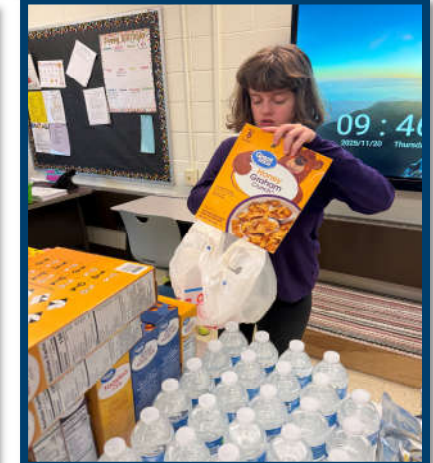


# From Scarecrows to Science: A Busy Season for High School

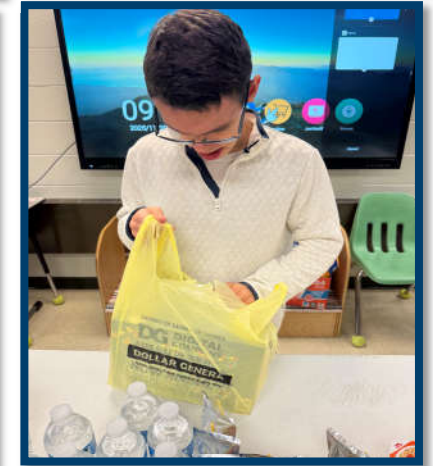
The high school class has been busy each week packing the Cougar Care Kits. After Christmas break, we will be going shopping to purchase more food for the Cougar Care Kits. Our class earned 2nd place at the Scarecrows on the Square contest with our Hispanic scarecrow. High school teamed up with middle school for a field trip to the McKinley Museum where students learned about living in the late 1800's and turn of the century. They also learned about astronomy, science, and many animals.



Scarecrows on the Square



McKinley Museum





As winter arrives, our preschoolers have been busy exploring, learning, and creating wonderful memories together. This season has brought excitement, curiosity, and plenty of fun experiences that we're thrilled to share.

One of the highlights of the season was getting to meet some amazing community helpers. The fire department visited our class, and the children had the chance to see real firefighting gear, and the big fire truck up close and learned how firefighters help keep our community safe. The kids were thrilled to have Deputy Lisa in our room showing us all the fun gadgets she gets to use and tell us all about how she and other officers keep our school and our community safe. The students also thought it was so cool they got to sit in the sheriff's cruiser. These hands-on experiences helped our little learners understand safety, bravery, and the importance of helping others.

We're also practicing for our upcoming winter program. The children have been working hard learning songs to perform for their families. Their voices fill our classroom with cheer and excitement, and we can't wait to share this special moment with you. Watching our preschoolers shine on stage is sure to warm even on the chilliest winter day!

We're excited to explore all the new things winter brings. From learning about weather to discovering how animals adapt to the cold, we have lots of fun lessons and hands-on activities planned. We're looking forward to snowy play, creative crafts, and plenty of new learning adventures.



Mrs. Manful





As we welcome a new year, our preschool class is filled with gratitude for the kindness and support surrounding us. This past season, our students spent time learning about tolerance, helpfulness, courage, humor, responsibility, and respect—skills that help shape them into caring and confident young learners. We also explored the roles of community workers, ways to be helpful at home and school, how to make healthy choices, and fun ways to stay active. Their curiosity and growth have brought so much joy to our classroom.



We are deeply thankful for the organizations, neighbors, and supporters who continually pour into our program. Your generosity allows us to create meaningful experiences for our students and helps them feel valued, safe, and connected. Our preschoolers are learning what it means to be part of a strong and caring community, and that is a gift we truly cherish.

As we step forward into a fresh year, we look ahead with excitement and hope. Thank you for being a cherished part of our journey. We wish each of you a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year filled with warmth and new possibilities.

With love and gratitude,  
Mrs. Schockling



# Happy New Year!





# In the Spotlight



## Johnny Peterson

Johnny joined the Intermediate class this year and fit in immediately. He is a hard-working and diligent learner, a kind and friendly peer to classmates, and a calm presence in our room. I have seen a lot of growth in Johnny this year. He is achieving and exceeding his first goals and working on the next skills, all with increased confidence. He really enjoys science and STEM and was able to make raw eggs bounce for his science fair project! Seeing Johnny understand new concepts in math and improve his reading is a joy.

-Stacy Jeffries

See page 4 for more pictures

## Beat the Boredom: A Fun Parent Night with Early Intervention

Early Intervention held a fun Parent Night on November 19th. Parents enjoyed learning about fun and educational ways to "Beat the Boredom" during holiday breaks and snow days while their children played games and enjoyed snacks. Dinner was enjoyed by all.

Playgroup dates are coming soon

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
The Early Intervention Team



## PROJECT STIR

Devon and Dustin attended Project STIR in Franklin County November 3-6, 2025. They were accompanied by staff members Penny Hodgson and David Case. Project STIR™

(Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) is advocacy/ leadership training designed to provide people with disabilities and their allies with the tools to advocate for themselves, work with others in advocacy and gain leadership experiences





## Winter Safety



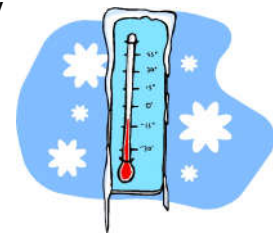
Winter safety involves dressing in layers, avoiding overexertion, preparing your vehicle and home, and preventing slips and falls. To stay warm, wear multiple layers of loose-fitting, insulated clothing and dry wet clothes immediately. When outdoors, walk slowly on icy surfaces, use non-slip footwear, and avoid strenuous activities like shoveling snow or, if necessary, take breaks and stretch first.

### Personal and health safety

- **Dress warmly:** Wear layers of loose, warm, and moisture-wicking clothing to insulate your body. A hat and mittens are crucial, as significant heat is lost through the head and mittens are warmer than gloves.
- **Avoid overexertion:** Cold weather puts a strain on the heart, and activities like shoveling snow can be dangerous. Pace yourself, take breaks, and avoid pushing yourself too hard.
- **Recognize cold-weather injuries:** Be aware of symptoms of frostbite (numbness, pale skin) and hypothermia (shivering, confusion) and seek shelter or medical attention if they occur.



**Stay dry:** Remove wet clothing and boots as soon as possible, as wet clothing rapidly transmits cold and loses its insulating value.



### Home and indoor safety

- **Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:** Use carbon monoxide detectors and ensure generators are placed at least 20 feet away from doors and windows. Never run a vehicle's heater in a closed garage.
- **Prepare for power outages:** Have flashlights, blankets, and extra clothing on hand. Avoid using candles if possible due to the fire hazard.

**Maintain your home:** Ensure windows and doors are locked, and close blinds or curtains to help keep the cold out.



### Outdoor and driving safety

- **Prevent slips and falls:** Wear footwear with non-slip soles and walk slowly. Take small steps and use handrails when available. Clear snow and ice from walkways to create a safe path.
- **Drive safely:** Increase your following distance, avoid using cruise control, and accelerate and decelerate slowly. Ensure all snow and ice are cleared from your vehicle, including the top, before driving.
- **Prepare your vehicle:** Have a car emergency kit with essentials like a blanket, warm clothes, a flashlight, a snow shovel, and non-perishable snacks.







## Duck Pull Fundraiser

The second annual Duck Pull fundraiser took place on October 18, 2025, in Carrollton Village Square. Thanks to the efforts of ticket sellers, volunteers, and behind-the-scenes supporters, the event was a great success. Participants enjoyed a day of fun activities, good food, and community spirit, while raising funds for our program. We look forward to hosting this event again in fall 2026.

## 2025/2026 Sports Season

Basketball, Cheerleading, and Bowling are now in full swing. The Varsity Cougars have started strong with a 2-0 record, while the JV team is preparing for a home game on January 27th at Carroll Hills School. Both teams will compete in the NE Ohio Regional Tournaments on February 7-8th in Lodi, Ohio.

Our cheerleaders are practicing routines for the annual Cheerleading Invitational, hosted by Tuscarawas County on February 1st at Strasburg High School. This event brings together teams from across NE Ohio for a day of competition and team building.

Bowling is thriving with 78 athletes participating this season. Practices are held Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and athletes enjoy tracking their weekly scores. Special thanks to Palmer's Minerva Bowl for hosting us again this year.



Carroll County Special Olympics Coordinator  
Penny Hodgson  
phodgson@carrollcbdd.org  
330-627-6555







The group continues to host special speakers at their meetings. Recently, they welcomed Sloan Kyler from COMPASS, who gave an engaging presentation on healthy relationships and identifying “red flags.” Members enjoyed listening, asking questions, and participating in the interactive activity she provided.

In November, the group celebrated Thanksgiving with a festive meal featuring turkey roll-ups, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, and an assortment of pies lovingly prepared by provider staff.

Looking ahead, the group is excited for their special Christmas meeting and gift exchange, which will take place at their new meeting location—John’s Bakery and Café in Minerva. While they said a heartfelt goodbye to the wonderful staff and owner of the Chop House during their October meeting, they are eager to begin hosting future gatherings at John’s Bakery and Café every other month.

The excitement doesn’t stop there! In May, the group will embark on an unforgettable outing to the Cuyahoga Scenic Railroad on **May 12, 2026**. With 40 participants signed up, they will fill an entire train car. For many, this will be their very first train ride, making the day even more special.

Penny Hodgson  
330-627-6555





**CARROLL COUNTY**  
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
P.O. Box 429, Carrollton, OH 44615.

## CCBDD News

Promoting positive awareness of people  
with developmental disabilities

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Mathual J. Campbell

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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](mailto:jhilliard@carrollcbdd.org) or call 330-627-6555

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**12/22-23/25** - School Closed for School Staff and Students  
**12/24/25 –1/02/26** - Entire Program Closed  
**1/05/26** –Entire Program Resumes after Break  
**1/19/26** –Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Entire Program Closed  
**2/16/26** – President's Day, Entire Program Closed  
**3/16/26** – School Staff Inservice—No Students  
**4 /1 & 2/26** – Spring Break for School Staff and Students  
**4/3/26** – Entire Program Closed  
**4/6/26** – Entire Program Closed  
**5/25/26** -Memorial Day, Entire Program Closed  
**5/28/26**—Last day of School for Students  
**5/29/26**—Last day of School for Staff  
**6/19/26**—Juneteenth Day Observed—Program Closed



## Happy Holidays from Our School

This school year has flown by. It seems like yesterday we were talking “back to school.” Now it is Christmas and halfway through the year. The classrooms have been creating amazing holiday artwork and decorations. The preschool classrooms held a Christmas Program on Thursday 12/18, see our Facebook page for pictures. I hope everyone has a safe, fun, and happy holiday and stay warm. Happy New Year! School resumes Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Ryan Buck, Director of Educational Services

