



SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER JULY 2020

Greetings from all of us at HCBDD!

HCBDDB again would like to thank ALL essential workers on the frontlines, during this COVID-19 pandemic. You are very important to your community and we appreciate your dedication and time. We especially thank healthcare workers, truck drivers, law enforcement, store workers, manufacturing workers and government officials.

To all our Families, Friends and Community Partners,

We hope this newsletter finds you safe, healthy and enjoying the summer. Hard to believe it is July already. We have put together a few articles to let you know what we have been up to. We also wanted to bring you information about upcoming services and the impact the Coronavirus Pandemic continues to have on our near future. Since the information is continuously changing, we will try to keep you updated as quickly as possible so stay in touch with us through our social media accounts for the latest.

Through these challenging times, we have been proud of our staff and of those we serve. Being able to adjust to our changing environment and continue to move forward has been a positive thing to watch. To those we serve, stay the course and we will all find our way back to a new normal.

Stay safe, stay healthy.

Deb Buccilla, Superintendent



PRESCHOOL

We have been busy planning for the upcoming school year. Plans are very fluid and have been changing daily! Currently, what we know is that we will be serving 50% of the students at one time. Per Governor DeWine's orders we are required to follow the pandemic childcare guidelines, which limits our classrooms to a total of 10 people including teachers and aides. We have been working on sanitation plans as well as what the day will look like for students with all the necessary changes. Stay tuned for more information as the plans come together. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in late August for the 2020-2021 school year!



Hi! I am Renee Achtermann and I am the new Education Director for Highland and Fayette County. For the last nine years I have taught in Washington Court House City Schools. I live in Wilmington with my husband Bryan and our two daughters, Adalynn (7) and Morgan (4). We raise show pigs and my little girls LOVE to show pigs almost every weekend in the summer! I am excited to join the team here and look forward to getting to know everyone!

Community First - Summer Youth Foundations

Summertime means summer jobs and learning about jobs in the community for our students in Community First. This year is no exception! Our typical Summer Youth Work Experience and Career Exploration had to be adjusted to a program called Summer Youth Foundations, due to restrictions of social distancing. The students were offered a choice in how they wanted to participate and given support to try something new.

Most of our students are choosing a remote training on skills needed for a job in the community, using Microsoft Teams to meet with their instructor. The groups are no larger than four students in each class and use video chat to complete the tasks, watch videos related to employment and interact with each other. The flexibility of this approach allowed our team to create morning and afternoon sessions, to allow for more students.

Others chose to work at either Star Cinemas or the Hillsboro Elks Golf Course. These partners were able to provide an excellent location for social distancing. Students at the Elks have had the opportunity to work on customer relation skills, groundskeeping, etc. Those at Star Cinemas have learned janitorial skills, customer service, running a cash register, food service, etc.

Summer Youth is a natural extension of real-life work experience for our Pre-Employment Transition students. It provides a way to apply those interactive skills that we work on throughout the year in their schools. Each student receives a training stipend for participation at minimum wage.





Special Olympics *Highland County*

The Highland County Wildcats are taking extreme precautionary measures to ensure our local athletes are as safe as possible. While we were supposed to play softball this month and next month, we felt it is necessary and appropriate to cancel the season for safety reasons. We

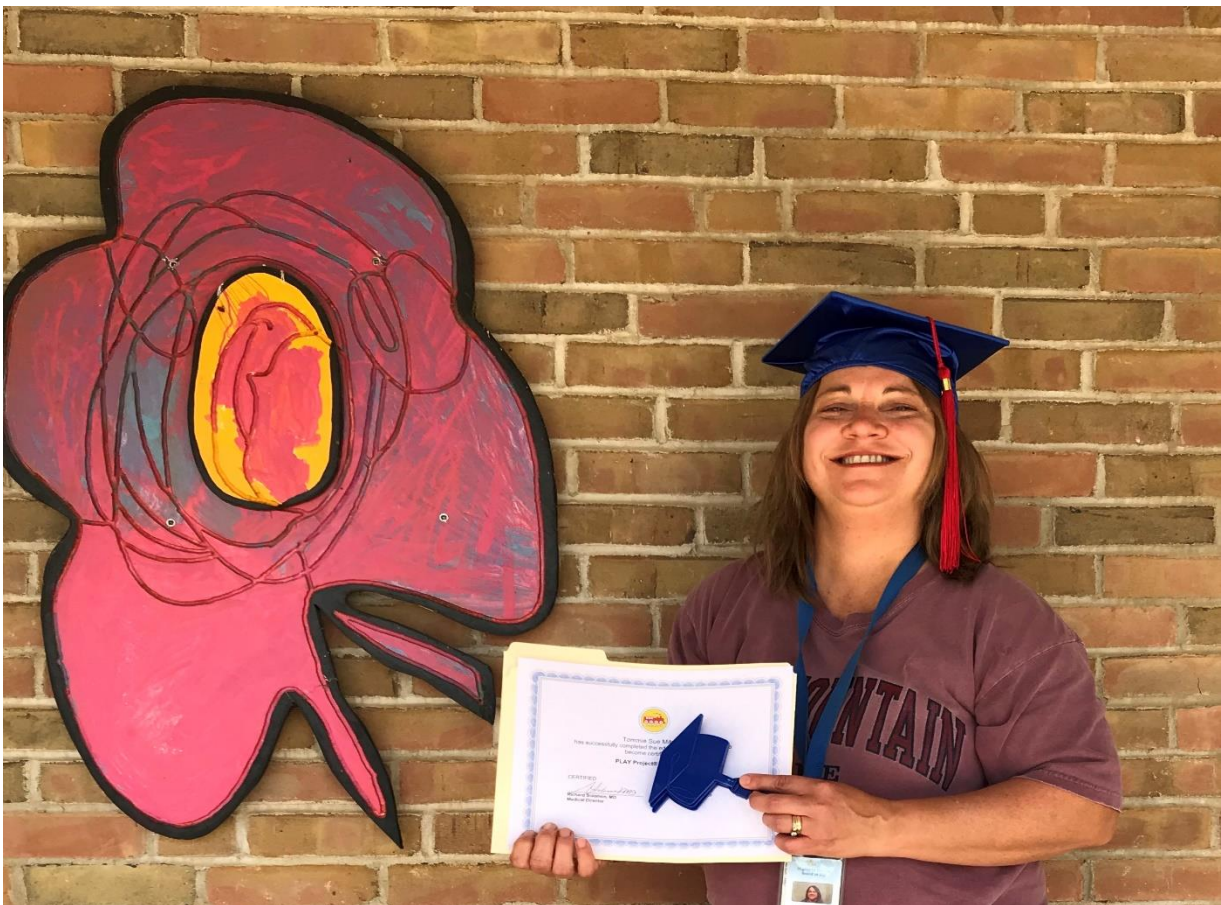
are slowly practicing golf and are working on scheduling a unified golf match with another county in the upcoming weeks. At this time, we are not sure if we will have flag football, fall field and track, or basketball later this year, but keep looking for updates on what is occurring through our Facebook page.

One event that is occurring is the Fitness Influencer Challenge organized by Special Olympics Ohio which kicked off on May 4, 2020. We have several athletes that are participating in this challenge. This challenge encourages athletes to follow the FIT 5 plan – Exercise for 20-30 minutes 5 days a week, eat 5 fruits or vegetables each day and drink 5 bottles of water each day. This is a 52-week challenge and participants can earn incentives at 3 months, 6 months, 9 months and 12 months of participation. At the end of the 52-week challenge, contenders are offered the opportunity to apply for the Fitness Influencer position with Special Olympics of Ohio, where they will be featured on fitness videos, fitness updates and help make fitness decisions. Brylee T. is one of our athletes in this challenge. Good luck to all our athletes and keep moving forward towards the 52-week goal!





Highland Board of DD would like to congratulate Tommie Mitchell, Developmental Specialist / COTA/L in her recent graduation from the Play Project consultant program. The P.L.A.Y. Project (Play & Language for Autistic Youngsters) is an evidence-based developmental intervention for families of young children with ASD. The P.L.A.Y. Project is the pragmatic application of the theory of DIR (Developmental Individual Differences & Relationship-Based)/Floor time and emphasizes the importance of helping parents become their child's best PLAY partner. Way to go Tommie!



Up and Beyond Art Studio

The Up & Beyond Art Studio is back up and running in full speed. The artists are working on multiple new projects that include emoji picture stands, outside welcome signs and lots more bird houses. While following social distancing and mask wearing, the artists are continuing to produce fun and exciting art. During the shutdown, we were able to finish the front of our building with a whimsical hot air balloon scene. If you get the chance, please drive by and see it at 8310 US 50 E. Check out some of our artists hard at work!

