



Winter Health ...By Tennille Cline, RN

We are asking for your cooperation in trying to keep everyone healthy through this cold and flu season... In order to do our best to maintain a healthy environment, we are asking everyone to be reminded of some simple steps and guidelines when it comes to the prevention and spread of illness. Proper handwashing with soap and running water for 20 seconds and covering your coughs and sneezes are some important ways to help decrease the spread of germs. We have protocols in our school for handwashing and disinfecting surfaces to help control the spread of germs year round.

For many individuals with developmental disabilities, a cold or flu virus can lead to a more serious illness such as bronchitis or pneumonia. If an individual you are caring for is showing signs of illness, please keep them home until they are well. Illnesses can spread easily to others. We also know that sometimes illnesses come on quickly. If that happens, it is best for that person to be picked up or brought home. Please be sure to have an alternate drop off that could care for your loved one in the event that you are not at home.

In order to reduce the spread of illness, please follow these guidelines in making the decision to keep your child or adult home:

- Fever- a temperature over 100 degrees. Must be fever free without the use of fever reducing medication (Tylenol, Advil, Motrin, ect) for 24 hours before returning to school/work. Please do not give them medication for a fever and send them to school/work. The medication is only masking the fever and they are still contagious.
- Vomiting and Diarrhea- More than 1 abnormally loose stool or any episode of vomiting. Must be free of any vomiting or diarrhea for at least 24 hours before returning. Usually the viruses responsible for vomiting and diarrhea are highly contagious and can be transmitted to others for days.
- Severe colds- frequent coughing, sore throat, runny nose, sneezing
- Unusual behavior- excessive sleepiness, irritable, crying
- Eye infections- redness, irritation, swelling, and discharge from the eye could mean a contagious eye infection

Remember these are guideline to help you make the decision whether your loved one should stay home. If you are still unsure, please call your family physician for advice.



School Highlights *By Jessica Martell*

The school students have been quite busy over the last few weeks. After a two year break, the annual Thanksgiving lunch with families returned on November 10th. The laughter, conversations, and delicious food made for a wonderful day for the students, staff, and families. Throughout the month of November, classes gathered for fun activities such as lab class, science experiments, and BINGO.

December has brought more fun activities with a holiday theme. We have all enjoyed sing-a-longs, Christmas song BINGO, making gingerbread men ornaments, holiday shopping, and the West Holmes Chamber Choir. The Christmas program also returned this year after a two year break. The staff selected the theme of "gratitude" and students read a story, read a poem, and performed a skit. The school staff and students want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season! Thank you for all of the love and support!



SSA Update

by Mimi Patterson

The SSA staff have been very busy the last few months. Due to a retirement and resignations, the SSA Department has been doing our work with 50% of our workforce! At any other time, this would be difficult, but it is especially challenging right now as we are switching all waiver recipients to the new statewide ISP. Our HR Department has been working closely with us to fill the positions. We hope to be fully staffed by the end of January.

Because Holmes DD is committed to the success of our local providers, we have partnered with MEORC (Mid East Ohio Regional Council of Government) to provide a wide range of support at no cost to our providers. Providers can get help from MEORC to submit initial certification, prepare for compliance reviews, learn how to bill, take required online trainings, get help with incident report tracking, receive leadership training and much more. If you are an independent provider or an agency provider and would like some support, please contact me so I can put you in touch with MEORC.

Speaking of providers, Holmes County is facing a shortage. We have quite a few people who are not receiving waiver/provider services due to staffing shortages. If you or someone you know has a caring heart, some time, and would like to make a difference in the life of a person with a developmental disability, contact me. I can put you in touch with MEORC if you are interested in becoming an independent provider, or I can put you in touch with an existing agency provider who will serve as your employer and provide you with necessary training.

The SSA Department wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Until we meet again

WE THINK ABOUT YOU ALWAYS,
WE TALK ABOUT YOU STILL,
YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN FORGOTTEN,
AND YOU NEVER WILL.
WE HOLD YOU CLOSE WITHIN OUR HEARTS
AND THERE YOU WILL REMAIN,
TO WALK AND GUIDE US THROUGH OUR LIVES,
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.



Until we meet again.....

We would like to take this time to remember:

Joshua Butler

William "Dewey" Scheufler

David Burkhardt

With heartfelt sympathy,

*Your friends from the Holmes
County Board of D.D.*



Holmes County Bucks Basketball

By Cindy Boals

Holmes County Bucks Basketball is BACK! The last couple years the team has been having a lot of fun playing local teams. Yes, Our Bucks were undefeated.

This year the Team is going to play special olympic teams and play some local rivals as well. Check the schedule out and we hope to see Buck fans back in the stands. Come cheer them on.

The Team opened their season against neighboring county rival "Big Blue" from Wayne County. This was the first game for our Bucks and for Big Blue against a Special Olympics team since covid, so everyone was excited. The Bucks were victorious, with a hard-fought win against the very good "Big Blue". The score was 40 to 32. Dennis had 16 points to lead the way to victory, with Levi close behind helping with 14 points. In all the Bucks 5 teammates scoring to get the win.

Bucks have another game before Christmas at Holmesville Elementary on December 20th, at 6:30 pm. Hope to see the stands filled with fans cheering them on.



An update from



GentleBrook has been working on a new thing ... we do clubs weekly. Monday is exercise club. We get anyone who wants to join and do different types of exercises. We do sit exercises and we also do some yoga. Tuesday is communication club. In this club we learn different ways to communicate, like body language and we are even learning some sign language. Wednesday is nutrition club. In this club we learn about the food groups and healthy and non-healthy foods, as well as measurements. Thursday is nature club. Birds, plants, bugs are just some of the things that they learn about. They talk about what state the bird comes from or what kind of weather the plant needs to grow in. Friday is coffee/book club. Staff will ask everyone to pick a book that they are interested in reading. Then they will pick one, by drawing out of a can, which book to read that day, meanwhile they get to sit and drink some coffee or hot chocolate.

Staff and individuals come together and work on a calendar for the month. They will have themed weeks and then work on finding crafts that they can do for that theme. Crafts seem to be a big hit with everyone. We usually have the craft on the walls for everyone to enjoy.

Yahtzee is the game of choice lately. Staff will gather a big group and play a couple games of it. The game Trouble is running in a close second place. We have also been playing balloon pop and doing some bowling on the smartboard. Everyone's favorite game is hangman.

We do plan on doing some holiday activities and having a gift exchange. We collected food donations throughout the month of November. We plan to give the donations to a church or to the Love Center to help families this holiday season.

Our staff would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays. They would also like to thank everyone for the support that has been shown through the new changes that we have been going through.



Advocacy update ...By Cindy Boals

Holmes County Advocates held their monthly meeting on December 7th. We had a great turnout for the meeting, 13 members. The group talked first about the rules we will post for everyone to remember to follow while we are having our meetings. Group feels the first and most important is to turn your phones onto mute. Other rules that the group decided on are to show respect to each other, take turns talking, don't interrupt, there are no "dumb" questions, no cussing and or name calling. When it gets too loud with side conversations someone will yell O-H and the group will say I-O, which means to quiet down so we can hear who is talking.

Their Motto for the group is "WE CAN". So, we all took turns coming up with things that "WE CAN" do. At the end, the group agreed that it is up to themselves what they set as goals to achieve, and how hard they work towards it will be the difference of achieving it or NOT.



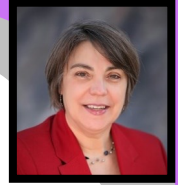
Playground Phase 2 Update



Plans are coming together for the final phase of the playground project. Rhoda Mast, former Holmes DD principal, continues to find donors for this section of the playground for preschoolers and our youngest students. HCAHC has donated \$30,000 and Holmes DD has contributed \$10,000 for this enhancement to the playground. Community contributions continue to rolling. The old playground was removed in the fall. Construction is planned for this spring. We are hoping children will be able to use the playground before this school year ends! If you would like to make a donation to the playground, contact Marianne Mader so she can put you in touch with Rhoda.

Superintendent's Message

by Marianne Mader



In October 2022, Holmes DD published our 2021 Annual Report which showcases progress made in the last year.

Highlights include:

Grants from 8 different sources.

Increased Community Awareness through use of Facebook, WKLM radio, and the Bargain Hunter and Daily Record.

Development of a website and Facebook page for the Holmes County Transition Partnership Network.

Used \$500,000 of local tax dollars, along with State and Medicaid dollars to purchase 2.7 million dollars' worth of Adult Day Services, residential services and transportation.

Expanded the Advocacy program from 4 participants to 8 participants.

Students and adults contributed to the community by volunteering for the Love Center Food Pantry, Church of God Food Pantry, Holmes County Dog Warden, Harvest Thrift Shop, and Holmes County Chamber of Commerce.

Bucks Basketball team served as ambassadors as they connected with local churches and businesses on the basketball court.

Holmes DD's first Provider Fair highlighted six providers in Holmes County.

GentleBrook and Sacred Ground, provider agencies, were welcomed to Holmes County and began providing adult services.

100% of Early Intervention families were satisfied with the help they received from EI staff and feel better able to understand their child's strengths and needs.

There are now 27 adults with developmental disabilities employed in the community earning minimum wage or higher.

Services were expanded for 3-5 year olds who have aged out of Early Intervention and still require in-home supports.

Summit Housing became the property manager of homes in Millersburg housing DD adults and received \$234,000 from the Ohio Dept. of Developmental Disabilities for renovations and improvements.

Technology expanded including the purchase of 6 iPads, 18 computers, 4 communication devices, 18 communication tools, development of a Technology First policy and transition to a cloud based server.

A new Employee Development process was created and piloted.

Improving Employee Engagement was an area of focus.

If you would like to review our 2021 Annual Report, it can be found on our recently updated website at <https://www.holmesdd.org/2021-annual-report>.

Holmes DD staff and I thank you for the opportunity to serve!



10 Critical Holiday Home Safety Tips *by Dave Crilow*

1. **GIVE CANDLES CLEARANCE.** Beautiful candles light up the holidays with a special glow, but they can quickly become a fire hazard. Give candles at least 12 inches of clearance on all sides, and display them on sturdy bases protected by hurricane globes.
2. **COOK WITH CARE.** Between family feasts and cookies for Santa, the stove and oven work as hard as you do during the holidays. Always cook with care, and remember that kitchen equipment is the leading cause of home fires year-round.
3. **STAY WARM SAFELY.** Be sure that a professional furnace checkup stays high on your holiday to-do list, and schedule it before your technician's season gets busy. Don't turn on the space heaters until they've passed your inspection. When you're sure they're safe, use with caution.
4. **WATER THE TREE.** A fresh-cut Christmas tree adds a wonderful aroma to the holiday household. A tree that isn't watered every day dries out quickly and can ignite in just a few seconds. Pamper your fir with a sturdy, deep stand that holds plenty of water, and never decorate it with candles. If you decide to play it safe and celebrate the season with an artificial pre-lit tree, make sure you choose one that's certified as UL-rated.
5. **CHECK THE LIGHTS.** Some family favorites are a beloved tradition on the tree, but be extra careful with older strands of lights. Check for cracks, frays and loose connections that can overheat. When you replace bulbs, be sure to match voltage and wattage, and never overload extension cords or wall sockets.
6. **HANG OUT CAREFULLY.** While most holiday home safety tips focus on festivities inside, this outside pointer is very important too. Hang outdoor lights by securing them to exteriors with clips, hooks or insulated holders. Tacks and nails can damage wiring and cause dangerous electrical arcs especially during wet weather.
7. **TURN EVERYTHING OFF.** When you go to bed, turn off all the holiday lights. Unplug the tree, make sure outside decorations are off, and double-check space heaters. If you leave during the evening, resist the temptation to come home to a brilliantly lit house. Play it safe, and turn everything off before you go.
8. **WINTERIZE THE HOUSE.** Prepping your home for cold weather also secures it for the holidays. Develop a plan to winterize the house, and let it become an annual property inspection too. This strategy helps you spot potential problems with the fireplace, fire sprinkler system, electrical wiring and more.
9. **SHARE WITH NEIGHBORS.** Talk with homeowners on either side of your property and across the street about watching out for each other. If one family plans on being away for the evening, another can keep an eye on the empty house. If a fire breaks out or some other emergency occurs, everyone stays covered with a little neighborly watchfulness.
10. **HAVE A PLAN.** Because fires occur more often during the holidays, it's important to be ready with an evacuation plan. If you already have one, refresh the details with a practice run before things get too hectic. If you don't have a plan yet, developing a strategy can become a life-saving present for your family.

Always have working smoke alarms!



Staff Changes

by Curtis Goehring

The Board would like to welcome a few staff members that have come on board since our last newsletter. Jamie Wright has been a welcomed addition to our SSA Department. She started with us back in September and comes to us from Columbus City Schools. Jamie is doing well in learning the complexities of the SSA position and we are fortunate to have her in our organization.

The friendly voice that you hear when you call in or come to the front office window is Kim Weaver. She comes to us with many years of classroom experience, being a teacher for over twenty years. Kim is one of the friendliest people you will meet, always smiling, and has been a great asset to our team.

And finally, Deanna Miller, who has been a substitute Teacher Assistant for a number of years with us, joined our team full-time to work as a permanent Teacher Assistant in the classroom this past October. We appreciate her passion and experience working with our school age children and look forward to her contributions in the classroom.



HCAHC FAMILY NIGHT

JANUARY 20, 2023

SNOW DATE: JANUARY 27TH

5:30 TRUSTEES MEETING

6:15 CASTING VOTES FOR 2023 TRUSTEES

6:30 PIZZA

7:30 BINGO

BRING SNACK &

PLEASE BRING

WHITE ELEPHANT

GIFTS TO USE AS

BINGO PRIZES





Winter Weather is Here.



One important service provided to many is transportation to/from necessary services. If a Holmes DD/Training Center bus or Precious Angel or Midwest Community van is expected at your house, please make sure your driveway has been cleared of snow and ice. During the winter, transportation may be running a few minutes late as drivers know that it's okay to be late because their goal is to make sure everyone arrives alive. If road conditions are unsafe and services will be delayed or canceled, you will receive notification through our ONE CALL NOW system.

Early Intervention

The Early Intervention program started Play Groups this Fall to provide an opportunity for children to play with other children. Plus moms enjoy talking with other moms. Any children under age 5 from the community are invited to participate in the Play Group, so invite your neighbors and friends.

2023 DATES: January 13, February 10,
March 10, and April 14

SPECIAL PLAYGROUP: March 31

Sensory Friendly Easter Egg Hunt with the
Easter Bunny



Meet the staff... Kim Weaver

Where do you live?

Shreve

Tell us about your family.

I enjoy spending time with my dad Roy and my older sister and her family Jen, Doug, Micah, Jacob, and Rachel.

How long have you worked at HCBDD?

I started working at Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities on September 1, 2022

What is your role at HCBDD?

Secretary/Receptionist

What do you think is the most important part of your job?

Making sure to connect others to the right person(s) and/or resource in a timely manner.

What is an accomplishment you are proud of?

In my previous job as an elementary teacher I was asked to teach a combined 2nd and 3rd grade class. It was fun to work with the students as they completed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade together as a team and really took ownership over there own learning.

What is something you are looking forward to?

I'm looking forward to getting to know the staff, students, and families of Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

What are some of your hobbies/activities?

Reading, gardening, baking, and taking road trips with my nephews and niece.

What is your favorite book and/or movie?

I enjoy watching the movies on the Hallmark Channel.

What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

When hiking through Cades Cove in Tennessee I came within 10 feet to a bear. Thankfully he decided to climb up a tree. When I looked back to see where my friends were, they were safely peering out the window of the old schoolhouse nearby.





Measles ...By Tennille Cline, RN

There is currently a measles outbreak in 5 Ohio counties. Measles is very contagious and can be serious. Measles spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It is so contagious that if one person has it, up to 9 out of 10 people around him or her will also become infected if they are not protected. Your child can get measles just by being in a room where a person with measles has been, even up to two hours after that person has left. An infected person **can spread measles to others even before knowing he/she has the disease**—from four days before developing the measles rash through four days afterward. Some of the more common measles symptoms include:

- high fever (may spike to more than 104° F),
- cough,
- runny nose (coryza),
- red, watery eyes ([conjunctivitis](#)), and
- rash (3-5 days after symptoms begin).

The best protection against measles is measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. MMR vaccine provides **long-lasting protection against all strains of measles**. If a child is exposed and not vaccinated, they will be asked to stay home from school for 21 days. If you have any questions, please call and speak with our nurse or seek advice from your doctor



Important Dates

December 21—Jan 2	School Program Closed
December 23, 26, 30	HCBD Closed
January 2	HCBD Closed
January 16	HCBD Closed

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Facebook.



HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

8001 TOWNSHIP ROAD 574

HOLMESVILLE, OHIO 44633

HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES CONTACTS

Marianne Mader, Superintendent

Sheri L. Martin, Asst. Administrator

Jessica Martell, Education Director

Curtis Goehring, Business Manager

Mimi Patterson, Service & Support Administration Supervisor

Renee Spencer, Early Intervention Coordinator

Phone: 330-674-8045 Fax 330-674-5182

**The mission of the Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities
is to support individuals in living meaningful lives.**