



## iPads Help Children Get In Touch with Learning

An iPad, commonly purchased for entertainment, has become a teaching tool in schools across the country and is being used at the School of Hope where students with disabilities are getting “in touch” with learning.

The iPad, a tablet computer created by Apple, was part of a technology upgrade the County Board has made for children who attend its school-age program. The various applications, or apps, available for the iPad mean that it can be custom-designed for children who do not learn in typical ways.

“This investment demonstrates the Board’s commitment to ensure that children with disabilities have the tools they need for success,” said Monty Kerr, CEO/Superintendent. “Devices like iPads and similar technology can enhance their learning in ways that traditional methods cannot.”

The Board’s speech therapist, Lea Sicurella, couldn’t agree more. She is using it to complement the activities she does with her students in speech.

“If I’m reading a book about animals or working on phonics, we use the iPad to bring up the sounds for the kids to repeat,” Lea said. Older students enjoy interactive digital books where they read along and do the exercises.

*Please turn to page 8*



## Parent/Advocate Delivers Powerful Message

Nationally-recognized parent/advocate, author and trainer Kathie Snow of Colorado visited Belmont County in October where she delivered a powerful message to audiences at Ohio University Eastern. Her appearance was sponsored by the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The Board’s goal in bringing Snow’s “revolutionary common sense” to Belmont County was to introduce new ways of thinking about children and adults with disabilities and how to best support them on their journey through life.

“Kathie encourages us to think differently when planning and delivering services to the people we serve,” said Monty Kerr, CEO/Superintendent of the Board. “Her core message is that people with disabilities deserve opportunities to live the lives of their dreams, just like everyone else. For that to occur, we must be open to new ideas and ways of doing things.”

**“Her core message is that people with disabilities deserve opportunities to live the lives of their dreams, like everyone else.”**

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# 'Positive'y Rewarding and Fun Events

**Thinking and acting in a positive way was promoted at two special events this past summer.**

On August 3rd, a group from Belmont County took part in Posipalooza, a "positive culture experience" where people of all abilities came together to learn how to create positive and responsive services and supports. Posipalooza was organized by the Positive Culture Conveners Group in Ohio. The Self-Determination Leadership Team from Belmont County

**"Positive Culture is about continuously striving to become more human in our work, to cultivate our spirit of gentleness and fully invest ourselves in creating environments where people can truly thrive."**

facilitated a round-table discussion while a Positive Culture collage created by members of Tomorrow's Corner was prominently displayed in the lobby of the Xenos Center in Columbus where the event was held.

Fast forward to September 10th when the positive culture experience was offered at Field Day, a fun-filled day of activities for adults with disabilities. Corn hole and other games of skill, a dunking booth and more added to the carnival atmosphere in

the parking lot at Tomorrow's Corner. More than 200 people attended the event where activities were offered by Belco Works, Paramount Support Services, ResCare, Tomorrow's Corner, and the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Ohio Legal Rights Service was also present.

Positive Culture is a high-priority initiative of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Its key message is about continuously striving to become more human, to cultivate our spirit of gentleness and fully invest ourselves in creating environments where people can truly thrive. The Belmont County Positive Culture group, made up of local providers, representatives from the County Board and the ARC of Belmont County, hosted Field Day.

Additional pictures from Field Day are on the next page.



*OACB Communications Director Linda Oda listens as Brad Stephens explains how this Positive Culture collage was created at Tomorrow's Corner. The collage was on display at Posipalooza, a positive culture experience, in Columbus.*

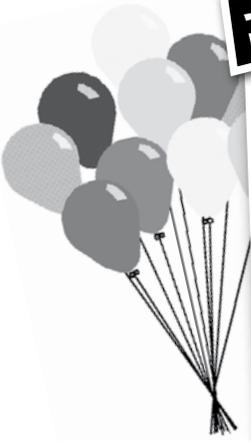


*Professional cage fighter, Travis "The Terror" Clark made a guest appearance at the Positive Culture Field Day. He signed autographs and posed for pictures with local fans, like Raechelle.*



*Matt got a little help from his friends in the duck pond while Jeff waited his turn.*

# Field Day FUN!



## Board Receives ODOT Grant

The Ohio Department of Transportation has awarded a grant to the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities for the purchase of three new vehicles through Ohio's 2010 Specialized Transportation program.

The Specialized Transportation program is designed to increase personal mobility of Ohioans with disabilities and the elderly through safe transportation alternatives.

Specialized Transportation grants are awarded annually and cover 80 percent of the vehicle and equipment costs. The Board will purchase three light transit vehicles complete with lifts for those who use wheelchairs. Other adaptive equipment for use by passengers with disabilities will also be installed. Estimated cost of the vehicles is just over \$142,000. The Board will be responsible for approximately \$28,000 of that amount.

"For many people with disabilities, the Board offers the only safe, accessible transportation available to them and this grant helps us offset the rising costs of that service," said Monty Kerr, CEO/Superintendent of the Belmont County Board of DD. "We thank and acknowledge the Belmont County Commissioners, who paved the way for us to receive this grant through development of a county-wide transportation plan."

The Board's transportation service travels the entire county, logging 1700 miles per day taking eligible individuals to school, work, medical appointments, and other services.



## Winter Cancellations

When the weather turns bad and snow, wind, or icy rain affects the roadways, the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities may delay or cancel transportation and other services it provides. Announcement of two-hour delays and cancellations for the **School and Hope** and **Board of DD Transportation** is broadcast on the following television and radio stations:

WTRF-TV 7  
WTOV-9  
WBNV (93.5)  
JACK FM 100.5  
KOOL – FM  
WWVA  
WOVK  
WEGW  
WKWK  
WBBD  
WVKF

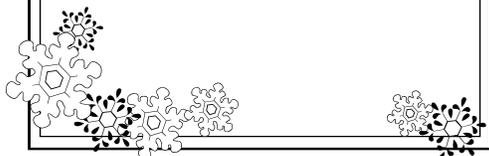
Winter weather also means that the driver may drive slower to ensure the safety of those on board, so the bus or van may be a little late. If you have questions, review the BCBDD Transportation Handbook or call 740-695-7420 weekdays, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Note: Belco Works and Tomorrow's Corner make their own determinations of whether to be open for business when Board transportation is cancelled. Watch and listen for separate announcements from those two private providers.

# Pumpkin Play Dough



*Aiden (above) practices cutting out "cookies" for the holidays while Elijah and Hunter (below) consider what they'll do with the pumpkin-scented play dough that Miss Bronte cooked up for her preschoolers. The creative shapes were as unique as each child, yet one thing was the same – no one ate the dough!*



# Special Olympians Honored



Ron Donley (left) and Mike Watson were two athletes honored at the Special Olympics Sports Banquet held at the Eagles in St. Clairsville in August.

Photos courtesy Tomorrow's Corner

## Snow...Continued from page 1

Snow is the author of *Disability Is Natural: Revolutionary Common Sense for Raising Successful Children with Disabilities*, a ground-breaking manual full of positive, common sense approaches to ensure children with disabilities live the lives of their dreams. Several universities use her book to train emerging professionals.

Snow spoke to parents, educators and others on October 21st and was the keynote for an all day in-service training for BCB staff, agency and individual providers the following day. Kathie stayed for more than an hour after the Thursday presentation to speak with parents and others who wanted to learn more.



Kathie Snow, pictured at Ohio University Eastern, St. Clairsville.

Photo courtesy Sherry Steinman, DODD

Feedback solicited from those who attended her presentations revealed that her message was well-received and that people came away with useful information that will help them think, act and talk differently about the people with disabilities. One of the most telling comments came from the grandmother of a small child with a disability who came up to HR Coordinator Holly Weatherson following Kathie's presentation.

"She thanked us for providing the opportunity for her to hear Kathie's message and said that it has changed everything about the way she will approach caring for her grandchild," Holly said.

Articles and resource materials created by Kathie Snow can be found on her website -

[www.disabilityisnatural.com](http://www.disabilityisnatural.com)



## 2010-2011 Belmont Eagles Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	PLACE
Dec. 4	Rec. Games	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	
Dec. 7	Carroll	6 p.m.	Home
Dec. 8	Harrison	4:30 p.m.	Away
Dec. 9	Monroe	5:30 p.m.	Away
Dec. 13	Guernsey	5:30 p.m.	Home
Jan. 4	Harrison	4:30 p.m.	Home
Jan. 6	Muskingum	6:30 p.m.	Away
Jan. 8	Rec. Games	10a.m. - 2 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Carroll	6 p.m.	Away
Jan. 13	Tusky	6 p.m.	Home
Jan. 19	Jeffco	6 p.m.	Away
Jan. 20	Monroe	5:30 p.m.	Home
Jan. 26	Holmes	6:15 p.m.	Away
Jan. 29	Rec. Games	10a.m. - 2 p.m.	
Jan. 31	Guernsey	5:30 p.m.	Away
Feb. 7	Tusky	6:30 p.m.	Away
Feb. 10	Muskingum	6:30 p.m.	Home
Feb. 12	Rec. Games	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	
Feb. 16	Jeffco	6 p.m.	Home



# ARC Halloween Dance

These photos were taken at the Halloween Dance, hosted by the ARC of Belmont County on October 29th at the School of Hope gym. Thanks to Adam "Nick" Nicholoff for capturing the fun.



*The Wicked Witch and the Scarecrow called a truce and danced together.*



*Could she "bee" more beautiful?*



*Smile for the camera*



*ARC officer Linda Link was caught red-handed - collecting money and having fun!*



*"Who ya gonna call?"  
Cara, that's who!*



*Brian (left) couldn't escape with Officer Bill tailing him at the dance!*



# Little People, Big Dreams



This group of Head Start preschoolers stopped by to see BCBDD Superintendent Monty Kerr during a tour of the Board office where they took his place behind his desk. Could one of these children sit in this chair one day? The potential certainly exists among this group of bright and energetic youngsters.

Head Start is a comprehensive child

development preschool program of the Community Action Commission of Belmont County. The Belmont County Board is pleased to house one of its classrooms at the Board office. There are classrooms in five other communities across Belmont County as well. For more information about Head Start, call 740-633-8964.



Chronicle is a quarterly publication of the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

It is published to inform and educate individuals served and their families, staff, providers, and others in the community.

To contact the editor, submit an article or subscribe, please call or write to:

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## Board Sets Public Forum

The Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities will seek input for its Strategic Plan at its annual Public Forum slated Friday, Dec. 17. Interested individuals and community members are invited to visit the Board offices at 330 Fox-Shannon Place, St. Clairsville, anytime between the hours of 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.

The annual survey of facility, service and support needs will be available for individuals to complete. For more information, call Pamela McCort at 740-695-0407, ext. 335, or email [pmccort@bcbdd.org](mailto:pmccort@bcbdd.org)

330 Fox-Shannon Place  
St. Clairsville, OH 43950



## **iPad...Continued from page 1**

There are over 4,000 apps in categories like science, math, and geography that can be used in education. Some, like Tap to Talk, is more high tech than what Lea had been using.

Children with certain disabilities do not communicate in typical ways. The iPad's multi-touch screen and interactive applications make it possible for them to learn and participate in classroom activities they may not have been able to before.

"It doesn't matter if a student can't speak or take a paper and pencil test," Lea said. "The iPad makes it possible for students to communicate the answers by touching them on the screen." Certain applications track a student's progress as well.

The benefits of iPads in education were recently discussed at the 2010 Ohio Center for Autism Low Incidence (OCALI) Conference in Columbus that Lea attended. One of the points made is that an iPad is socially acceptable, so students in general education classrooms are not made to feel different.

The iPad is user friendly and students can sit with it on their laps or move it around the room. Lea even takes it on home visits when she works with children in early intervention.

"It's taking our community by storm," Lea said. "Families are buying iPhones and iPads because they are a cheap way to help kids with disabilities communicate."

The Board purchased two iPads. One is used in the speech department and the other in Stephanie Thornton's classroom at the school.



**Speech therapist  
Lea Sicurella,  
watches while  
Megan works on  
the iPad. Megan  
(right) reacts to  
the answer she  
chose.**