



Parent News

JENNIFER VANLERBERG

Parent Mentor
Wood County ESC
1867 N. Research Dr.
Bowling Green OH 43402
419-354-9010
Fax: 419-354-1146
Email: jvanlerberg@wcesc.org
Website: wcesc.org

JENNY MYERS

Parent Mentor
Wood County ESC
1867 N. Research Dr.
Bowling Green OH 43402
419-354-9010
Fax: 419-354-1146
Email: jemyers@wcesc.org
Website: wcesc.org

Upcoming Events

Learn about "Positive Behavioral Interventions and IDEA 2004 (opportunities for parenting and teaching)" with Trainer Sandy Brickner from the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) on March 13th from 6-8 PM at 1155 Larc Lane Toledo. Register with Lucas County Parent Mentor, Wendy Smenner at 419-214-3066. This is a free training.

Learn how to read with your children and spot any warning signs of issues in the free training "All About Reading" on March 15th from 6:30-8:30 PM at the NCOESC at 928 W. Market Street in Tiffin. Trainer is Sandy Brickner from the OCECD. Call Sandy at 419-447-2927 or Paula at 419-294-3445 to register.

Attend an Autism Resource Fair on April 14th from 9-12 at Union Chapel Missionary Church at 4869 Ada Road in Lima. Meet service providers and find resources to assist loved ones with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Contact Parent Mentor, Jen Slechter, at 419-222-1836, ext. 114.

See enclosed articles about a free Dyslexia training in March in Bowling Green and about an inspirational parent night with our State Support Team featuring Le Derick Horne in March in Toledo. Hope to see you there!

The Parent Mentor Program

What exactly is a Parent Mentor?

A Parent Mentor is a parent of a child with a disability, and provides a support network to school districts and parents of children with disabilities. The Parent Mentor can provide information and resources to families and school districts free of charge. Services provided by the Parent Mentor include guiding families through the special education process, listening to and providing support for families and educators on an individual basis, attending Individual Education Program (IEP) meetings or other school meetings, organizing workshops or trainings, and building collaborative partnerships between families, schools, and committees to benefit students with disabilities. As a Parent Mentor for Wood County, we are just a phone call away if you need help with your child's special education services, if you need information, or if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Vanlerberg and Jenny Myers

Agency Spotlight—NWO Apraxia Support

Our Mission: NWO Apraxia Support is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to supporting families impacted by and raising awareness about Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) and other invisible disabilities. CAS is a motor speech disorder that becomes evident as a young child is first



learning to speak. It is not completely understood why these children have difficulty planning and producing the movements needed by the tongue, lips, and mouth for clear sounds and words. An invisible disability is a physical or mental challenge that is not always obvious to the onlooker, but can sometimes or always limit daily activities. It can range from mild challenges to severe limitations and vary from person to person. Some examples of the invisible disabilities are, including but not limited to, sensory processing disorder, anxiety, epilepsy, non-specific learning disabilities, ADHD, dyslexia, autism, Tourette’s syndrome, and other speech and language disorders. NWO Apraxia support also provides grants to fund supplemental therapies, treatments, activities, or equipment that will enhance the lives of individual children impacted by these invisible disabilities. We seek to provide information and resources for all families impacted by CAS and other invisible disabilities, but focus on funding those close to home in Northwestern Ohio and Southeastern Michigan. We are a volunteer organization made up of parents, grandparents, caregivers and professionals working together to make a difference one family at a time.

NWO Apraxia Support seeks to “fill the gap” for families. This means that the organization seeks to provide support for the families we serve in the following ways:

- Financially – by funding therapies, experiences and equipment not covered by insurance, but integral to the success of the child
- Socially – by providing a variety of “safe” social outings for the superheroes and their families where they can practice social skills and feel free to be themselves
- Educationally – by providing educational opportunities for parents and caregivers to learn how to better help their child and connect with needed resources

There are many upcoming events that are being planned to honor our Superheroes and raise money for the 2019 grant cycle and the 2018 grant cycle is currently open. Grants are due by 2/28/18 for consideration this calendar year. A few of the other upcoming events include our Superhero Bowling Night on Friday, February 9th at Rossford Lanes, the 3rd Annual Superhero Golf Scramble on Friday, May 18th at Stone Oak Country Club, tickets are now on sale for the Superhero Raffle, or sign up for the 2018 Family Fun Day Walk at the Toledo Zoo on Saturday, September 15th. Please visit www.nwoapraxia-support.org to learn more about apraxia or other invisible disabilities, to sign up for events, or to donate.

For more information about NWO Apraxia Support, visit www.nwoapraxiasupport.org.

For questions, contact NWO Apraxia Support at NWOApraxia@gmail.com.

Scholarship Opportunity

ACT Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Deadline March 30

The Ability Center of Greater Toledo provides college scholarships to area students with disabilities. Eligibility includes having a disability; having a permanent address in Lucas, Wood, Fulton, Henry, Ottawa, Defiance, Williams counties in Ohio or Monroe or Lenawee in Michigan; and carrying least a 3.0 GPA. Last year, The Ability Center and our Auxiliary collaborated to give out several college scholarships totaling \$20,000. To find out more check out www.abilitycenter.org or call 419-885-5733.

“Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them.”— A.A. Milne

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” — Frederick Douglass

The Autism Scholarship and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship

Common Questions and Answers about the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship and the Autism Scholarship...from the Ohio Department of Education (www.education.ohio.gov)

Autism Scholarship Program

To receive information and deadline reminders for families of children with autism applying for Ohio’s Autism Scholarship text OHED AU to 468311.

The Autism Scholarship Program (ASP) gives the parents of children with autism who qualify for a scholarship the choice to send the child to a special education program other than the one operated by the school district of residence to receive their education and the services outlined

in the child's individualized education program (IEP). Any student who has been identified by their district as a child with autism and for whom the district has created an individualized education plan (IEP) qualifies for the Autism Scholarship program.

The student must have a current IEP from the district of residence that is finalized and all parties, including the parent, must be in agreement with the IEP.

A child is eligible to apply to participate in the program when the child turns three.

Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship **2017-2018 FACT SHEET**

WHAT IS OHIO'S JON PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program (JPSN) gives the parents of children with disabilities the choice to send their child to special education programs other than the one operated by their school district of residence to receive the education and the services outlined in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Children are eligible to apply from kindergarten up to age 22 (if graduation requirements have not been met), and have been determined eligible for special education and related services through an Evaluation Team Report (ETR). A finalized IEP from their district of residence is required to receive the scholarship award.

WHEN WILL JPSN APPLICATIONS BE ACCEPTED?

The passage of House Bill 49 eliminated student application deadlines for the JPSN Scholarship Program. Students will have the ability to apply for the JPSN Scholarship year-round beginning September 29, 2017.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP?

The scholarship amount is the lesser of the fee/tuition charged for the child by the special education program up to the maximum amount awarded based on the child's special education category.

Maximum scholarship amounts range from \$7,588 to \$27,000. The child must be enrolled in the scholarship program for the entire school year to receive the full scholarship amount. Refer to the Category Amounts chart for specific details.

WILL PARENTS/GUARDIANS HAVE TO PAY ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY?

The scholarship pays for services on the child's IEP. The cost of education is only included if the JPSN provider is a chartered non-public school, providing special education/related services and is an approved scholarship

provider. Parents/legal guardians are also responsible for any costs exceeding the amount of the scholarship.

*Category 1 (Speech or Language Impairment) students may only utilize their scholarship to pay for related services that are included in the IEP. Students in this category cannot use the scholarship to pay tuition (education) at the nonpublic school. Visit the JPSN website at www.education.ohio.gov/jonpeterson

CAN A CHILD ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOL AND USE THE JPSN SCHOLARSHIP?

No. The scholarship is an educational choice program. If a student is approved for the scholarship, the public district is no longer responsible for providing a free and appropriate education (FAPE).

ARE CHILDREN WHO ARE IN PRIVATE SCHOOL OR ARE HOME SCHOOLED ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Yes, but they must first be evaluated by their school district, and determined to qualify for special education.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?

If a student is eligible for the JPSN Scholarship, the first step is to select a participating JPSN Provider to submit a scholarship application on behalf of the student. If multiple providers are selected, only one provider is able to submit the initial application. Additional selected providers will be able to access the application after the scholarship has been awarded to add applicable information.

WILL EVERY CHILD WHO APPLIES BE AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP?

No, the number of scholarships awarded cannot exceed five percent of the total number of Ohio students identified as a child with a disability. If the number of eligible students who apply for a scholarship exceeds the number of available scholarships, a lottery will be conducted.

IF MY CHILD IS AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP, HOW LONG CAN HE/SHE CONTINUE TO USE THE SCHOLARSHIP?

The scholarship application process occurs on a yearly basis. If the student continues to be eligible for special education and related services and has a current IEP, then a parent may submit a renewal application for the next program year.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Visit the JPSN webpage at education.ohio.gov/jonpeterson or send an email to

Peterson.scholarship@education.ohio.gov

Dyslexia



Participants will gain an understanding of the cause and prevalence of Dyslexia, signs of Dyslexia, and practical tips & strategies that can be used at home and in the classroom. Interventions, accommodations, the types of assessments and differentiated instruction will also be discussed.

A Free Event for Parents and Professionals

March 12, 2018

5:00-6:30

Wood County Educational Service Center

1867 N. Research Drive
Bowling Green, OH 43402

To register contact:

Wood County Parent Mentors

419-354-9010

Jennifer Vanlerberg

jvanlerberg@wcesc.org

or **Jenny Myers**

jemyers@wcesc.org

Presenter: Pam Croson is the Director of the Dyslexia Education Training Center, the successor to the former Children's Dyslexia Center of Northwest Ohio. Pam has both a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master of Arts in Special Education from the Ohio State University. She was an elementary level teacher in Toledo Public Schools for 28 yrs, teaching in special education and typical classrooms. Pam holds certifications from the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council through the Children's Dyslexia Centers Inc. in Advanced Teaching, Supervisor and Instructor of Orton Gillingham Teachers and is certified by the Academic Language Therapy Association as a Certified Academic Language Professional. She has tutored students using Orton-Gillingham Methods as well as incorporated them into her classrooms while teaching Kindergarten, First and Sixth grades.



Changing School Culture

An Inspirational Evening Presentation with LeDerick R. Horne
for Students, Parents & Educators

State Support Team



Changing School Culture

The State Support Team Region 1 (SSTR1) is pleased to sponsor *Changing School Culture*, an inspirational evening presentation for students, parents, teachers and educators with nationally recognized spoken word poet, author, playwright, speaker, and disability advocate, LeDerick Horne.

This event is for students with disabilities who are in the process of transition and their parents and educators. LeDerick's presentation focuses on disability self-awareness and self-advocacy for youth as they transition to adulthood.

To register, contact Jill Barnhisel at 800-346-8495, extension 152, or esclw_jbar@sstr1.org. If sending an email, please include the number of people attending, their names, and the email address and phone number of a contact person. Seating is limited, so registration is required.

Location Details

The Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West Conference Center is located at 2275 Collingwood Boulevard in Toledo, Ohio.

Four County Career Center is located at 22900 OH-34 in Archbold, Ohio.

LeDerick R. Horne

Labeled as neurologically impaired in third grade, LeDerick Horne defies all labels. LeDerick is a dynamic spoken word poet, disability advocate, and motivational speaker. His work addresses the challenges of all disabilities, uniting the efforts of diverse groups in order to achieve substantive, systemic change.

LeDerick has spoken to thousands of students, parents, teachers, and service providers about his experiences.

He is on the governing board of Project Eye-to-Eye, a national nonprofit that provides mentoring programs. Learn more at <http://www.lederick.com>

This special evening presentation is sponsored by the State Support Team Region 1.

This document was supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, (Award #H027A160111, CFDA 84.027A, awarded to the Ohio Department of Education). The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and no official endorsement by the Department should be inferred.