



# The ALL-STAR Newsletter

February 2020

Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Issue 22

## Jefferson County BDD

256 John Scott Highway  
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### How Are We Doing?

**Take Our Survey and Provide Your Feedback at**  
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## Superintendent's Message:

### Seeing the World "Through Our Eyes"

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is just around the corner. Each year, March is reserved to advocate and bring awareness to the rights of individuals with special needs.

National DD Awareness Month officially began in 1987 with a proclamation from President Ronald Reagan to help bring awareness and acceptance for people of every ability. Visit our webpage at [www.jcbdd.com](http://www.jcbdd.com) to read the history of the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the significant strides our society has made with inclusion and acceptance. However, continuous work needs to be done to bring about an even better society for the people we serve.

This year, the JCBDD will be doing a program called "Through Our Eyes." JCBDD Employment

Navigator/Community Facilitator Alex "Cookie" West will be working with our special needs population and local school districts to pair up artists and create artwork of the sights around Jefferson County. Our county offers some beautiful scenery for those that take advantage.

The teams will have a chance to brainstorm and craft their projects from Feb. 21-March 20 and the items will be displayed for judging by a panel of community members and the public.

West is seeking teams of four students in grades 3-4 at six area elementary schools and in grades 5-8 at four middle and junior high schools to team up with a person from PALS, the activity center for special needs adults, while art teachers would assist with the projects and provide guidance. Karaffa Elementary, Wells Academy, East

Garfield Elementary, Pugliese West Elementary, McKinley STEM Academy, the School of Bright Promise, Harding Middle School, Toronto Jr. High, Bishop Mussio Jr. High, Indian Creek Middle School and Jefferson County Christian School were selected based on their close proximity since time and transportation are major factors. Jasmine Bowling, an art coordinator with PALS, will coordinate the particulars of the project and a panel of community members will judge the works separately with one overall winner to be selected on March 26.

I hope that through DD Awareness Month our society will grow more aware throughout the year. This March, ask yourself if you are doing all you can to make your community welcoming for people of every ability.

## Creative Campaign Launched for Developmental Disabilities Month

A creative initiative is set for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month this March which will see the world from a unique perspective.

The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities will mark the occasion with "Through Our Eyes," a campaign designed to recognize the diverse talent within the community. Cookie West, JCBDD employment navigator and community facilitator, is looking for county elementary and middle school students to work with special needs individuals on a collaborative art piece. The teams will have a chance to brainstorm and craft their projects from Feb. 21-March 20 and the items will be displayed for judging by a panel of community members and the public.

She will talk to schools about the "Spread the Word to End the Word" campaign to eradicate the use of the "R" word which has been used as a derogatory term to describe someone with special needs.

During that time, she will also introduce the "Through Our Eyes" project and look to involve students in the process.

"This campaign seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of community life, as well as awareness to the barriers they still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live," she said, adding that JCBDD is following its mission to "recognize ability" by teaming up with schools. "The students will work with one person with disabilities to form a team and our goal in this project is to have a diverse group of individuals working together towards a common collaborative art piece."

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teachers would assist with the projects and provide guidance. Karaffa Elementary, Wells Academy, East Garfield Elementary, Pugliese West Elementary, McKinley STEM Academy, the School of Bright Promise, Harding Middle School, Toronto Jr. High, Bishop Mussio Jr. High, Indian Creek Middle School and Jefferson County Christian School were selected based on their close proximity since time and transportation are major factors. Jasmine Bowling, an art coordinator with PALS, will coordinate the particulars of the project and a panel of community members will judge the creations separately with one overall winner to be selected.

"We will have local community members judge the project and also a community voting opportunity to include public participation," West added, saying the latter will occur from March 23-25 with the winners to be named on March 26.

(Continued as EYES)



## The Sound of Music

Secondary students at the School of Bright Promise lifted their voices in song during a session with Aimee Carroll, a music instructor at the Center of Music and Art in Wintersville. Pictured, from left, is Carroll with Cheyenne Hooper, Cheyenne Monigold, Logan Briggs, Jordan Bennett and Dale McCoy as they practice “Do-Re-Mi” from “The Sound of Music.”

## African Drum & Dance Troupe Performing at Bright Promise

Students and faculty at the School of Bright Promise will get a glimpse of culture with a visit from the African Drum and Dance Troupe on Feb. 27 at 9:30 a.m.

The performance is sponsored by the Bureau of Lectures and Concert Artists, Inc. of Lawrence, Kansas, and features Senegal-based entertainers donning traditional clothing as they conduct an interactive production filled with authentic music and dance movements. Principal Jane Bodo said the troupe has performed at the school in the past while the Bureau of Lectures has also provided Native American productions for the school to enjoy.

“Our student council voted to bring the African Drum and Dance Troupe back and this will be their third year here,” Bodo said. “It’s very interactive and exciting for the kids because [the troupe] gets them dancing.”

## EYES (Continued from Front)

She was inspired by the fact that every person has abilities, skills and talents to enrich the community and the people around them and the arts provide a way to express thoughts and imagination.

“Not only do the arts provide an expressive component and a sense of accomplishment, but it can bring great joy to anyone. Even a person with the most severe disability can, through their senses, appreciate the joy of the arts. Our pilot year is an opportunity to have fun and learn.”

She hopes to display the artwork at the

JCBDD’s new administrative offices located in the former Jeffco Workshop on John Scott Highway as a way to make the heartbeat of the organization visual, plus she wants to make the “Through Our Eyes” project an annual event. West said it would continue to engage students and the public while also building connections with the special needs community.

“We envision a time when every person with different abilities has an opportunity to explore and interact in the wonderful communities in Jefferson County.”



## Calendar of Events



- Feb. 1: Bingo Night (Shaffer A)
- Feb. 2: Groundhog Day; Make Your Own Sundae (A); Super Bowl Party (Shaffer B&C)
- Feb. 3: Women’s Club of Steubenville Mtg. (Employment Navigator/Community Facilitator); Resident’s Choice (A); Decorate for Valentine’s Day (B); Valentine’s Craft (C)
- Feb. 4: Parent-Teacher Conferences (SBP); State Support Team 12 Transition Network/Parent Teacher Conferences (EN/CF); God’s Choice (A); Resident’s Choice (B); Wii Night (C)
- Feb. 5: Investor to Investor (EN/CF); Bowling @ Steel Valley Lanes (A&B); Movie & Bake Cookies (C)
- Feb. 6: School Behavior (SBP); JCBDD Strategic Planning Implementation-MEORC (EN/CF); Walk in School Gym (A); Board Game Night (C)
- Feb. 7: Family @ Children First Council (EN/CF); Game/Valentine Craft Night (A); Staff’s Choice (B); Resident’s Choice (C)
- Feb. 8: Craft (B); Walk @ Mall (C)
- Feb. 9: Movie Night (A); Sundaes on Sunday (B); Sunday Fun Day PJ Party (C)
- Feb. 10: Visit Buckeye Local Jr. High School (EN/CF); Local Ride (A); Bowling (C)
- Feb. 11: JCBDD Leadership Team/Kiwanis Mtgs. (EN/CF); Human Rights (SBP); Movies @ AMC (A&C); Movie & Popcorn (B)
- Feb. 12: Lincoln’s Birthday; County Regional Employment Group Region V Mtg. (EN/CF); Bowling (A&B)
- Feb. 13: Lockdown Drill (SBP); Walk in School Gym (A); Bake Treats for Valentine’s Day (B); Wii Just Dance (C)
- Feb. 14: HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY! Who is Developmental Disabilities? JCESC (EN/CF); Professional Development Day (PROGRAM CLOSED- SBP); M&M Party (A); Valentine’s Day Pizza Party (C)
- Feb. 15: Sweetheart Walk-Fort Steuben (A); Magazines & Books (B); Movie & Snacks (C)
- Feb. 16: Let’s Make a Treat (A); Coloring Pictures (B); Make Your Own Sundae (C)
- Feb. 17: President’s Day (PROGRAM CLOSED-SBP); Game of Presidents (A)
- Feb. 18: Kiwanis (EN/CF); Safety Mtg. (SBP); God’s Choice (A); Exercise (B); Bowling (C)
- Feb. 19: IEP’s @ SBP (EN/CF); Bowling (A&B)
- Feb. 20: Visit Buckeye Local Jr. High (EN/CF); JCBDD Board Meeting (SBP); Walk in Gym (A); Ride (B); Karaoke Night (C)
- Feb. 21: Curriculum Mtg. (SBP); Game Night (A); Movin’ & Groovin’ Music in Activity Room (B); Resident’s Choice (C)
- Feb. 22: Resident’s Choice (A); Walk @ Mall (C)
- Feb. 23: Resident’s Council (A&C); Easter Craft (B)
- Feb. 24: Watson/Student Council (SBP); Resident’s Council (B); Bowling (C)
- Feb. 25: Fat Tuesday; Kiwanis (EN/CF); Movie Night (A); Movies @ AMC (C)
- Feb. 26: Ash Wednesday; Fire Drill (SBP); Bowling (A&B)
- Feb. 27: Multi-Agency County Transition Youth Team Mtg. (EN/CF); African Dancers/Parent Support Group (SBP); Walk in Gym (A); Ice Cream Social (C)
- Feb. 28: IEP @ SBP (EN/CF); Movie Night (A); Puzzles (B)
- Feb. 29: Leap Year Craft (A); Movie & Popcorn (B); Build a Snowman (C)