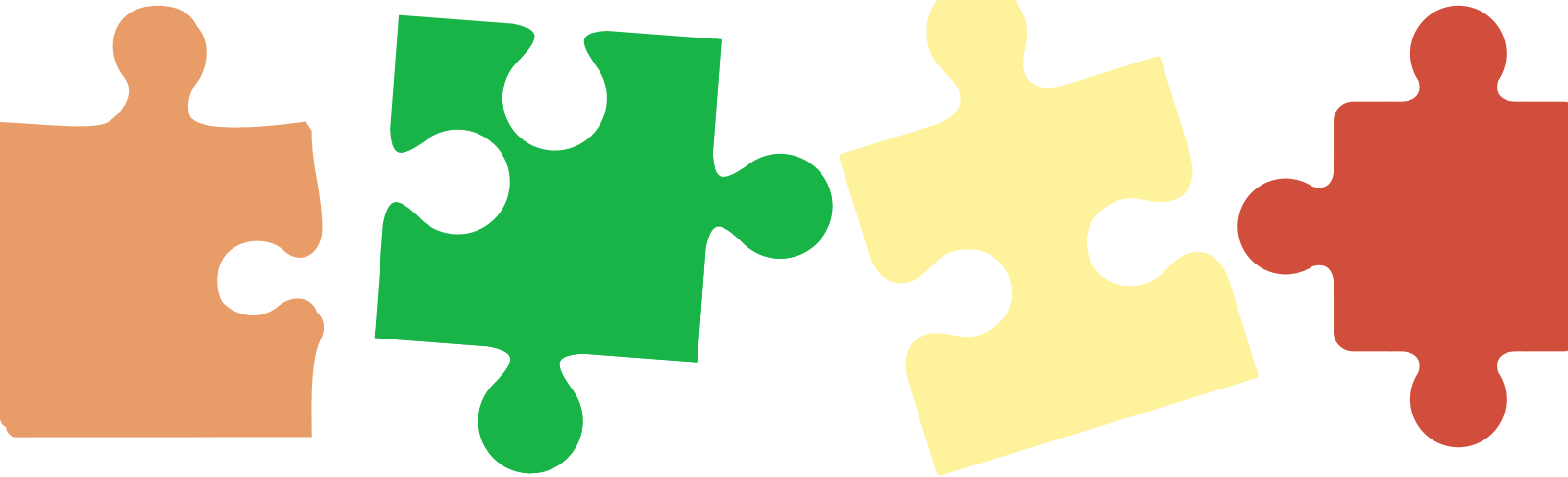


CCA NEWS

Winter 2021-2022



Susie's Corner

What's Happening at CCA

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It is hard to believe that we have been living with COVID-19 for two years. Every day I am hoping for an end but there appears to be no end in sight. We are doing our best to remain open, as we know most of our students do not do well with remote learning. Every day is challenging with the increase in staff and students testing positive. We will do our best to keep you informed and updated as we need to make calendar/schedule adjustments. Even as the pandemic lingers, I am confident that by working together we can continue to remain open and provide quality programming.

In the mist of the COVID turmoil, we have continued to provide awesome and creative programming. Some exciting things we have been able to participate in include re-opening the coffee cart, field trips, Agricultural Day, trunk-or-treat, student-sponsored holiday gift sale, and winter holiday celebrations. The PTO group sponsored a basket raffle, sold LaRosa's Buddy Cards, and provided a wonderful holiday luncheon for staff. Additionally, we were able to offer in-house booster shots for staff, as well as vaccines and booster shots for students.

Even though we have halted enrollment due to staffing and space, we have been able to maintain serving 56 students with 54 staff. We have also continued expanding our consultation services to school districts. It has been a goal to offer school districts behavior services so students can remain in their local school districts. We started offering families feeding therapy sessions in the summer through our speech therapy department, which have continued through the year. This service can be billed through insurance. Please contact me if you are interested in participating. We are continuing to partner with universities. We have an intern student this semester from Wright State University in the Rehabilitation Services program and we are working with University of Cincinnati students in providing hours for their service learning projects. We have started planning our summer services programming and will keep you updated when finalized. As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Exciting Donation

CCA received a very generous donation of \$25,000 from Clarke Power Services. Clarke Power Services surveyed their staff and CCA was the recommended choice this year to receive their generous donation. Clarke Power Services is an authorized service center for diesel engines across nine states. Management staff welcomed them on December 15th with a presentation, tour, and coffee/donuts. They were very impressed with our services and reported that they were happy we were the recipient and the money was going to a good cause.



Holiday Sale

Many thanks to all of our friends and families for supporting our Holiday Sale! Students spent time over the course of a few weeks crafting beautiful, hand-made items including scented soaps, ornaments, scarves, beverage coasters, and tote bags. It was a fantastic opportunity to practice many vocational skills and students loved seeing the results of their work. The experience allowed students to practice important skills they would need in the workplace, such as completing a task list, filling orders, building work stamina, and using functional communication. We hope to continue to grow this project with future sales.



Upcoming Dates

January 19th: PTO Meeting

February 18th: Staff Development Day- No Services

February 21st: President's Day- No Services

March 18th: Parent Conferences

March 21st-25th: Spring Break

April 15th: Staff Development Day- No Services

May 26th: Last Day of Services

May 27th: Staff Development & Parent Conferences

May 30th: Memorial Day

June 10th: Annual Golf Outing

PTO Group

Parents, please consider joining our PTO group. It meets once a month on Wednesday nights via Zoom at 6:30pm. It is a way to interact with other parents to share and support each other. Susie sends out monthly reminders. Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 9th. The PTO group has been amazing in supporting the needs of staff and students.

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CCA Student Car Wash

During the last few days of warm weather, the Space Traveler and Ocean students worked together to host a car wash. Interested staff paid the student led business a small fee and allowed the students to practice vocational skills that many of the students expressed an interest in. The students worked hard to learn the steps of washing a car and were able to practice those steps on eight staff vehicles!



Amazon Wish List

Cincinnati Center for Autism's Wish List is a registry of items to help enhance our school and classrooms throughout the academic year. Amazon offers the ease of shipping items directly to CCA! These supplies support the success of our students in their day-to-day programming at CCA. To continue supporting each child's potential to learn and grow, please consider shopping our wish list. A link will be provided in an email sent by our Building Administrator.



Agricultural Day

In October, we had our annual Agricultural Day with the Fayetteville-Perry High School. Student 4-H officers from FPHS brought farm animals and many agriculture activities for the students of CCA to enjoy. Students of CCA loved visiting with the animals and learning more about agriculture.



Trunk-or-Treat Family Night

CCA hosted their first annual Trunk or Treat Family Night in October and it was a huge success. Staff got creative and decorated the trunks of their cars and passed out awesome treats. Some staff even had their own family volunteer to help at the event. The fun did not stop at treats, there was a hot cocoa and coffee bar, popcorn station, picture booth station, and even some games. Despite the cold and rainy conditions, we still had several CCA families attend for a total attendance of over 70 people!



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Meet the Staff

Mary Mushaben



Mary Mushaben, Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) supports students in the Secondary School (ages 11 years and older). She is in her third year at CCA. She came to CCA with a background in behavioral/mental health. Her undergraduate degree is in psychology and Master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis. She is passionate about honoring and celebrating every student's strengths and interests! In her time outside of work she enjoys reading, hiking, and renovating her home. Please feel free to reach out to Mary with any questions or concerns! She can be reached through email, mmushaben@cincinnati-center-for-autism.org, or by phone, (513) 874-6789.

Leigh Morgan

Leigh Morgan, Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) supports students in the Primary School. Leigh is excited to be working with early learners again! She has worked in the education field for many, many years teaching kindergarten through 8th grade. Leigh's undergraduate degree is in Elementary Education and her Master's degree is in Special Education with a focus in Applied Behavior Analysis. Outside of school, Leigh enjoys being outdoors, playing board games with her husband and children, and visiting with her chickens.

Leigh looks forward to getting to know you and your child better throughout the year. Do not hesitate to contact Leigh with any questions or concerns. She can be reached through email, lmorgan@cincinnati-center-for-autism.org, or by phone, (513) 874-6789.



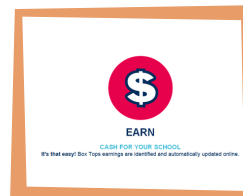
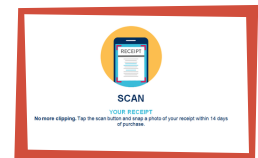
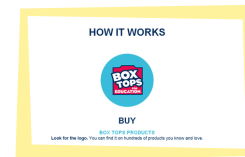
Lisa Grady

I am excited to welcome Lisa Grady as CCA's Transition Program Consultant. She has spent the last 35 years in Special Education with Hamilton County Developmental Disability Services. Her services have included: Instruction (25 years), Vocational Coordination - coordination of pre and employment services (3 years) and Supervision of a Transition team (7 years). The last seven years she provided experiences with transition committees, transition mandates/updates, multi-agency planning as well as transition planning/IEP meetings across 35-plus local schools with multiple families. We are looking forward to the opportunity for Lisa to consult with staff and families as we learn more about transition and employment opportunities in the community.

Ways to Donate

Want to help donate to Cincinnati Center for Autism? Box Tops have made it even easier to help. Download the Box Tops app on your smartphone and sign up. Follow the guided instructions and select Cincinnati Center for Autism as your school. Next, simply look for the Box Tops logo while shopping at your local grocery store. Use the scan button on the app to snap a picture of your receipt within 14 days of purchase. Based on eligible purchases, Box Tops will then update your earnings. CCA will receive bi-annual checks and use the donation to help buy materials for students! Visit the link below for more information: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/refer>.

Please don't forget you can also donate through AmazonSmile and Kroger rewards. If you need help signing up, please contact us for more information.



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