

OHIO VALLEY VOICES

News & Updates

January 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

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Save the Date - OVV Annual Gala
Meet New Staff

From the desk of the Executive Director



Dear Friends and Family,

Happy New Year! Our staff and children are excited to get back to learning in our new and renovated spaces! Our Grand Opening, in October, was a great success with an overwhelming number of families and generous supporters. I was honored to be the Grand Marshal of the Miami Township Holiday Parade! Our families, alumni, and staff enjoyed getting into the holiday spirit. For our Winter Program, we had all of our children together for a standing room only performance! It was a lovely way to celebrate with families, staff, board

members, and friends of OVV as we listened to our children speak about their excitement of the upcoming holidays. We continued our tradition of having children bring ornaments for our Memory Tree. The tree has 23 years of OVV Children and showcases special memories from staff and families.

As we move into 2024, we are looking forward to many opportunities and events to continue celebrating our successes. Our annual gala will be held on Saturday, March 2nd at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Cincinnati. I hope to see you at "A Night in Paris" as tickets go on sale soon! Happy New Year! Maria Sentelik

Miami
Township Holiday
Parade



Program Update



Toddlers

The toddlers have been busy learning! Every month, the theme in the classrooms and activities change. A fan-favorite theme this past quarter was the "Farm and Fall" theme. The classrooms were decorated with barns, pretend chicken coops, and rocking horses with saddles. We had mums and pumpkins graciously donated by Hidden Acres Farm for our toddler pumpkin patch. Some of the daily activities included washing pumpkins, picking, and preparing apples to eat, and collecting eggs from the chicken coop. All the while, the toddlers learned to listen to important words and were prompted to repeat them as well as form phrases and sentences.



Some of our younger toddlers have been saying their first words while our older toddlers have been expanding their words into simple phrases and sentences! While talking is very important, we are also practicing listening skills. For our toddlers these skills could include turning to their name, understanding simple directions, and listening to words that sound similar.



Program Update

Pre-School



Our pre-school children had quite a quarter! At the beginning of each day, they participate in circle time where they count the days on the calendar, talk about weather, sing the alphabet song, and practice reading their letters, especially the ones in their names. Our preschoolers practiced vocabulary and reenacted events in different stories by using items in their classrooms to make it relatable to them. They have read "Mrs. Wishy Washy" and "Going on a Bear Hunt." During handwriting time, the children practiced writing their first and last names and learned to form new letters and the sound each letter makes.



This quarter's popular theme was The Farm. The children practiced their fruit and vegetable vocabulary by matching pieces of a puzzle.

Our preschoolers celebrated the winter holidays by reading "The Gingerbread Man" and baking cookies. They also learned about Kwanza, Hanukkah, and Christmas by playing games and making bracelets and ornaments.



Program Update

Early Elementary



During the holidays, our first and second graders made ornaments and learned how to wrap them. They also learned to play holiday songs with bells.

Each morning our first and second graders work on writing and phonemic awareness. They practice listening to ending sounds and rhyming and blending words. On Mondays, the children write about their weekends in their journals. They worked on saying days of the week and months of the year. They also completed a weather graph and wrote out number patterns learning the number order. In their math class, our first and second graders worked on solving addition problems and learning ten frames, tally marks, and drawing pictures to represent a mathematical problem. Our children receive small group instruction when it comes to reading.

This quarter, they learned to identify all letter names in capital and lower-case letter form, letter sounds, blend consonant vowel consonant words and answer comprehension questions. They engaged with books like "Me on the Map" to compare and contrast texts which also helped them learn about oceans and continents.



Silence to Speech

Grand
Opening



We celebrated our Grand Opening on October 19, 2023 with over 200 of our generous supporters, families and staff. The ribbon cutting was such a monumental experience. We were able to showcase our successfully completed 5,000 square foot expansion and are entering the completion phase of our renovation. Although there are many finishing touches needed, the children are utilizing the new space. The staff and children love it!

Thanks to our generous constituents, the end is in sight for the Silence to Speech Campaign. We are not finished yet, but we are so thankful for all of the kindhearted donors that have gotten us this far.



Ribbon Cutting at Ohio Valley Voices
Grand Opening, October 19th, 2023

Student Spotlight



Easton
Mirus

Silly in nature with an outgoing and very loving personality, that's Easton!

Easton Mirus was diagnosed with bilateral hearing loss at 5 months old after contracting Bacterial Meningitis. Once he got his cochlear implants, Easton's parents took him to see a speech pathologist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. That's when they learned about Ohio Valley Voices.

"OVV is special because it has given Easton the one-on-one time and teaching that we would not have been able to provide for his speech to have developed nearly as well as it has in the last 3 years," says Emily, Easton's mom. "He loves to tell time now and he shouts out a letter when he sees one he knows." Easton loves to play with his big brother and do arts and crafts with his OVV friends. After school, Easton also plays soccer. He says he wants to be a chef or a police officer when he grows up.

Ohio Valley Voices has changed Mirus' life forever. Emily could not have imagined how their life would turn out if it wasn't for OVV. "For us as a family it was very difficult to learn that our infant was deaf due to the illness. OVV has been a tremendous help in Easton's speech development. They have a wonderful staff with an immense amount of knowledge to help children succeed in life and have always been welcoming with any questions we have had along the way."



SAVE THE DATE

March 2, 2024
6:00PM

Hyatt Regency Cincinnati
featuring The Sly Band
Hosted by Steve Raleigh

Financial contributions from our community ensure that OVV provides exceptional services to all children who are deaf and hard of hearing to learn to speak and listen!

[Donate Here](#)

Meet Our New Staff



Stephanie Holbrook
Learning Center Assistant



Carmen Hortenberry
Toddler Aide / Floating Aide



Kristin Stock
Development Manager

Thank You to Our Friends

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