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MILLER RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4704 MILLER ROAD
MIDDLETOWN, OH 45042
(513) 420-4559 • 420-4560 FAX

December 18, 2009

Dear Parents:

I have a few safety issues with the morning drop-off procedure that need to be brought to your attention. In the past month we have had four students almost get hit by cars. Lately, we have had parents drop off students near the bottom of the hill and then doing a turn around to exit the school. We have also had parents do a U-Turn in front of the building after dropping off students. It is very important that everyone be patient. Make sure you drive all the way up the driveway. Once your car is stopped, students may get out of the car. Then proceed along the marked area to turn around on the side of the building. Please watch your speed as you move along this area. I ask that you pass this information along to other friends or family members who may be driving the students to school.

I am very proud of our students. They have collected food to help 13 of our families to have a holiday meal. I also want to thank Meijer for their donation of hams to add to these baskets.

The first Miller Ridge Spelling Bee was held last week. Tori Adkins was the winner. She will do a written test in January to see if she will qualify for the regional Spelling Bee to be held in Cincinnati. Mariah McIntosh came in second place. Other participants were: Kaytlin Goodwin, Tristan Back, Madelaine Fisher, Alyssa Till, Shelby Beatty, Lindsay Thornton, Tommy Cecil, Taylor Beeson, Blade McCormick, Sean Ramsey, Jamey Colts, Molly Burton, Jack Eichelberger, John Payne, Kate Brewer, Shayla Combs, Kadin Mejia, Tiffany Dennis, Caleb Shepherd, Jasmynn Thomas, Tyler Barker, Buffy Wieneke, Allison Collinsworth, Jahmal Lidge, Emily Farley, Caleb Whitesell, Zarek Taylor, Michelle Reyes, McKenzie Bowling, Nina Stewart, Kayla Heizer, Chris Parsons, Noah Long, Dylan Dreckman-Brown, MaKenze McCarty, Tyler Bellis, Nicholas Simpson, Jillian Frechette, Carrie Langendorf, Ben Slone, Alex Dykes, Meghan Edwards, Jacob Singer, Grant Ashworth, Makiah Packard, Jason Hollon, and Brooke Walker.

Four fifth grade students, Nicholas Howard, Chris Parsons, Nina Stewart and Kelsey Gardner, were chosen to represent Miller Ridge at the Character Education Banquet held at the Manchester Inn on Saturday, December 12.

Printed on the back of this newsletter is a reprint of an article from the December 7, 2009 Cincinnati Enquirer featuring one of our students, Nathan Brown.

The last day of school is Wednesday, December 23 and classes will resume on Wednesday, January 6. I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season and that the new year will be a great one for you and your family!

Sincerely

Michael Lolli



New manual chair would allow play □□ WISH LIST:

Nathan Brown, Middletown □□ *By John Kiesewetter □jkiesewetter@enquirer.com*

Nathan Brown smiles from ear to ear when he thinks about getting a new manual wheelchair.

“I can go down the street (and) play with my friends,” says the shy 9-year-old who speaks in whispers.

The Middletown boy can’t easily play with neighbors now. He cannot walk. He has cerebral palsy, which inhibits muscle control and coordination. His big, heavy electric wheelchair, paid for by Medicaid, is being repaired again. The government will not buy him a second chair, says Teresa Wyche, his single mother, who has seven children.

Nathan has outgrown his hand-me-down manual wheelchair with small stroller-like front wheels and 12-inch back wheels that Nathan can’t reach to push himself. “His knees are up in his face when he sits in that chair,” says Wyche, an aide at Garden Manor Extended Care Center, Middletown.

Nathan lives with his mother, two sisters (ages 13 and 18) and a brother-in-law in a disabled-accessible home on 18th Avenue built for Wyche by Habitat for Humanity. Her older children live on their own. □□The fourth-grader at Miller Ridge Elementary School crawls on his hands and knees from the kitchen to the family room to watch his favorite TV show, WWE wrestling. At school, he likes to play baseball and Wii video games. □□A \$4,137 Etac lightweight wheelchair, with lateral leg supports, would provide needed exercise and independence, says Lynne Houser, physical therapist for Middletown’s Abilities First. □□“It is essential for Nathan and his family... (and) will enhance the quality of his life immensely.” Houser says. □□It would be similar to the new Etac chair Wish List donors last year provided for Elley Ferrell, 7, his classmate. □□Nathan grins again when asked if he could go faster than Elley in a new chair. And he could play more with his dog, a boxer named Peyton. “Chase her!” he says, eyes twinkling. □□Often Nathan stays home with a sister and Peyton when his mother goes shopping. “He doesn’t get a chance to go out a lot because of what it takes to get him in the van with



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the old chair,” Wyche says. Her 79-pound son has to be lifted, while strapped into the bulky metal chair, into her van. □□“He’s so independent, and a new chair will help him getting around. He’d be able to go a lot more places,” his mom says.