

Feb 2025

outreach



EA education alternatives

Busy Enjoying Another Successful Year at EA

The new year has kicked off brilliantly here at EA, and we're excited to share some of our latest news with you.

Christmas might already seem a long time ago, but it was such a special period we can't help but share pictures and updates of what the students and staff got up to.

Particularly heartwarming was a comment made by our new Director of Autism Programming, Oksana Trimble (who we're introducing you to fully later in this newsletter):

"I've only been here a little while, but seeing how much EA and the staff went out of their way for the students this Christmas was really something – it's honestly something I've never seen elsewhere!"

So, please have a read through the following pages to see what the EA family got up to over Christmas, what we've been up to since the start of the new year, to learn more about our Coral Autism Program and some exciting changes we're implementing, and to get to know our newest director, Oksana.

Best Wishes,

Jerry Swartz
Executive Director

Important Dates

MARCH

FRIDAY

21

End of 3rd Quarter

MARCH

MARCH

MONDAY - FRIDAY

24 - 28

Spring Break

APRIL

FRIDAY

18

Good Friday / No School

APRIL

MONDAY

21

Easter Monday / No School

MAY

MONDAY

5

Teacher In-Service Day / No School

MAY

MONDAY

26

Memorial Day / No School

JUNE

TUESDAY

3

Last Day of School / Half Day

For a complete school calendar, check online at easchools.org/calendar.

What's Been Happening at EA?



CHRISTMAS WAS CELEBRATED IN STYLE ACROSS EA!



There was lots of Christmas artwork and decorating...



Students made gifts, gingerbread houses, and enjoyed gift exchanges...



What's Been Happening at EA?



We had fun with cozy PJ days and indoor snowball fights...



And of course, meeting Santa!



What's Been Happening at EA?



AND IT'S BEEN A BUSY (AND COLD!) START TO THE NEW YEAR!



WH students enjoyed a game of basketball with WH Police's new officer



SF students completed a Kindness Challenge



Students across all our locations have been embracing their artistic sides...



One of our Ravenna classes got to dissect frogs. It was a fantastic lesson!



Ravenna ran a successful "Ice Cream Social" community outreach event.



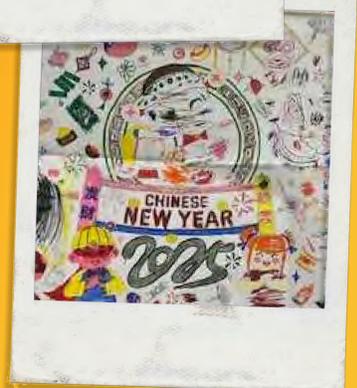
There's been lots of dodgeball!



And celebrating the 100th day of school!



Celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

What Is EA's Coral Autism Program?

EA's Coral Autism Program is our school-day program designed to support all the needs of children on the autism spectrum: **academic, social, emotional, and life skills.**

We understand the unique needs of children with autism, and the needs of their families, and know that a **personalized approach** is the only way.

What does this mean?

EA's Coral Autism Program looks and feels like a traditional school, but our processes ensure every student's unique needs are being met. Essentially, we create an inclusive, safe, and academically appropriate learning environment for every child.

We achieve this through the use of:

- Evidence-based best practices tailored to every student
- Additional educational therapy (e.g. OT, speech pathology, physical therapy)
- Sensory spaces
- Behavioral therapy and psychiatry services via REACH
- VisionQuest program to learn life skills and transition into healthy adulthood





Exciting Updates To The Coral Program



We're thrilled to announce that we have a new director of autism programming, **Oksana Trimble**, who is already making some exciting changes to the Coral Autism Program.

You can get to know more about Oksana and her work at EA further below. But one of the biggest changes she's implementing is the addition of **individualized ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) services**, which will be offered to all our Coral Autism students at EA.

This therapy will involve assessing behavior, setting measurable goals, applying reinforcement techniques, and tracking student progress – all with the help of a team of Board Certified Behavior Analysts and Behavior Technicians.

"The goal is to promote independence and improve quality of life by teaching socially significant skills in various settings."

ABA therapy is proven to be extremely beneficial for children and adolescents with autism, and we're excited to be bringing this into our daily school program.

To learn more about the Coral Autism Program, visit easchools.org/services/coral-autism-program or contact us at easchools.org/contact-us.





STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Oksana Trimble

Coral Autism Program Director

Since joining us just three months ago, one thing has already become very clear: Oksana is passionate about helping students on the autism spectrum thrive – both in school and in life.

A Pennsylvania native who moved to Ohio four years ago, Oksana brings an impressive background to EA Schools.

She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in special education, a second master's in applied behavior analysis, and a doctorate in special education. She is also a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), a Certified Ohio Behavior Analyst (COBA), a licensed Intervention Specialist, and has several years of experience as a special education teacher and director.

Her role here, which spans both EA Schools and REACH, is fully centered on enhancing and improving our autism services even further.

At EA, she is helping to structure the Coral classrooms with evidence-based strategies that support the students' academic, social-emotional, and behavioral development. This involves working directly with the students, and training the teachers in new approaches. Through REACH, she is also leading the introduction of individualized ABA therapy – a major and exciting expansion in the support available for Coral students and their families.

Her passion for this field comes from a desire to challenge autism stereotypes and promote self-advocacy. "Yes, there are truly individuals with autism who become lawyers, engineers, doctors, etc.," she explains. "While this is not everyone's success story, I wanted to teach advocacy skills so students can showcase their unique abilities and prove people otherwise." "They do all the work," she's quick to add, "I'm just here to provide the tools."

Outside of work, Oksana is an avid runner and adventurer. She runs two marathons a year and, with her husband, is on a mission to hike all 63 U.S. National Parks. At home, she enjoys spending time with her two Australian Shepherds, Millie and Everest.

As she settles into her new role, Oksana is excited to see her plans for Coral Autism classrooms and ABA services take shape. "For me, the best part of the job is seeing students progress at home as well as at school. When a parent tells me their child can now go to the grocery store without having a meltdown, or that they received their first unprompted hug – it's those moments that remind me why this work is so important."

Please join us in welcoming Oksana to the EA family!

To learn more about the Coral Autism Program and the services Oksana provides, contact us at easchools.org/contact-us.

LEARNING FOR LIFE

Alternative Schools in Ohio

EA Locations

BEDFORD

270 Union Street
Bedford, OH 44146
440-232-0214

BROOK PARK

5445 Smith Rd, Brook
Park, OH 44142
216-453-1111

CUYAHOGA FALLS

1225 Orlen Ave,
Cuyahoga Falls, OH
44221
330-945-4944

ELYRIA

333 Naples Dr, Elyria,
OH 44035
440-324-1168

CENTRAL OFFICE

5445 Smith Road,
Brook Park, OH 44142
216-332-9360

PAINESVILLE

273 E Jackson St,
Painesville, OH
44077
440-709-0053

RAVENNA

310 Bennett Ave,
Ravenna, OH 44266
330-839-9966

**AKRON/
SPRINGFIELD**

3258 Nidover Dr,
Akron, OH 44312
234-867-8260

WILLOUGHBY HILLS

2882 Cricket Ln,
Willoughby Hills, OH
44092
440-347-0716

Reach Locations

ELYRIA

992 N Abbe Rd N,
Elyria, OH 44035
440-406-5323

RAVENNA

507 E Main Street
Ravenna, OH 44266
330-967-2846

WESTPARK

3951 Rocky River Dr,
Cleveland, OH 44111
216-675-6360

WESTLAKE

25000 Center Ridge
Rd, Westlake,
OH 44145
440-788-2948

AKRON/SPRINGFIELD

2410 Massillon Rd.
Akron, OH 44312
330-269-5492