

# Summit Connect

NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER



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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe the holiday season is already upon us! This is always a great time to reflect on the things we are thankful for. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our member districts for allowing us to serve them. The ESC is pleased to be your trusted partner.

As some of you may know, Summit ESC's Treasurer Sondra Clevenger, will be retiring. Her last day with the ESC will be effective December 31.

Sondra has been with the ESC for 17 years. During that time, she has provided our member districts with expertise and exceptional service. Our team will truly miss her!

The ESC has been busy finding a high-quality professional to replace her. We are pleased to announce Deanna Levenger will

serve as the assistant treasurer throughout the month of December to facilitate the transition. She will serve as the interim treasurer through July 31, 2018.

Deanna brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Previous to accepting her position at the ESC, she was the treasurer at Woodridge Local School District for 17 years. She has also spent time as the assistant treasurer at Hudson City School District, Kent City School District and Woodridge Local School District.

Please join us in welcoming Deanna to our team!

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with questions, concerns or ideas.

Happy Holidays!

- Joe Iacano

## PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING THE 2017 TOP OF THE CLASS EDUCATORS

On Oct. 24, Summit County's *Top of the Class* educators were recognized at the 2017 Education Celebration at St. George Fellowship Centre in Fairlawn.

The educator selected as the 2017 Teacher of the Year was Jennifer Walls, math teacher, Akron Public School District, and the 2017 Rookie of the Year selected was Ashlynn Schindler, biology, honors chemistry, media production and communication teacher, Cuyahoga Falls City School District. The Lifetime Educator award was presented to Russell Chaboudy, superintendent, Coventry Local School District.



Jennifer Walls  
Teacher Of The Year



Ashlynn Schindler  
Rookie Of The Year



Russell Chaboudy  
Lifetime Educator Award

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

This month's program spotlight is First Start, Summit ESC's preschool autism program.

First Start serves a variety of districts in the greater Summit County area. This program is for students three years old through kindergarten, who could benefit from a smaller, more structured learning environment and a higher adult-to-student ratio for a more specialized system of learning. Each student's participation in the First Start program is determined on a case by case basis and all decisions are made according to data from evaluations, observations and behavioral needs.

The First Start classroom is designed to meet the needs of children who need concentrated academic, social-emotional, communication and/or behavioral interventions. There is a huge emphasis on developing academic, functional and language skills, as well as establishing appropriate play, social skills and interactions with peers. The classroom offers one-to-one intervention, small and large group activities and hands-on teaching lessons.

Heather Brolly, lead teacher of First Start, has a bachelor's degree in early childhood intervention and a minor in speech pathology and audiology from The University of Akron. She has been teaching for almost eight years, five of them leading First Start.

"It has been so rewarding being a part of this program," said Brolly. "I love being

able to help students learn in a way that is specialized for them. Not all students learn the same way or at the same speed, and this program helps that."

Assistant teacher, Kathie Pyanowski, has almost 19 years of teaching experience and has spent four years in the First Start classroom. Emily Johnson, another assistant teacher, is currently earning her degree in early childhood education with a focus on special education and English-Language Learners.

"This program is designed to help non-verbal children with Autism succeed, by discovering ways to help them communicate their needs," said Director of Student Services Kristin Fazio.

Therapies are embedded into the daily schedule and speech therapy is offered in the office two days per week. Students attend First Start four days a week for five and a half hours per day.

### FIRST START EXPANSION

This year, First Start has been focusing on increasing the functional communication of the children in the classroom with an emphasis on whether or not they would be good candidates for High Tech speech generating devices (SGDs). The program has access to three SGD devices, lent by FORBES, PRC and Saltillo, to help develop an assessment process to screen, collect student data and test children in the preschool who may benefit from an SGD.

With the proper assessment of children's needs, the hope is that next year community training nights and professional development trainings will be held for all members involved in the development of this program, including parents.

All four of the students who have gone through an SGD assessment have been recommended for a device and the improvements being seen from the trial devices have been incredible.

"Children who have been previously labeled as being non-verbal are now creating speech that previously was not heard," said RyAnn Heller, speech and language pathologist. "Students are now getting both a verbal and visual model for language that is consistent and allows them to express their needs and wants at any time."

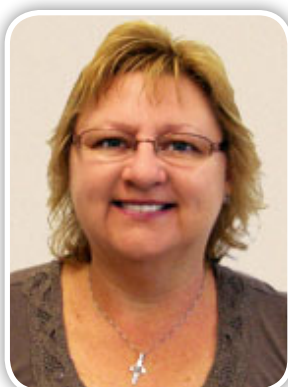
The expansion of First Start will benefit the students in helping them to develop their verbal skills through proper identification, assessments and access to the right devices.

The First Start program is located in the Newberry Elementary building in Cuyahoga Falls. For more information, please contact the Director of Student Services, Kristin Fazio by email at [KristinF@SummitESC.org](mailto:KristinF@SummitESC.org) or by phone at **330.945.5600 ext. 513919**.

## MEET THE TEAM



**Heather Brolly**  
*Lead Teacher*



**Kathie Pyanowski**  
*Assistant Teacher*



**Emily Johnson**  
*Assistant Teacher*



**RyAnn Heller**  
*Speech Language  
Pathologist*

## STUDENT SERVICES FEATURED CONSULTANT KAY SONODA

Attendance Coordinator Kay Sonoda has been with the Summit ESC since 1995. Kay's consultant services include helping districts communicate with families to prevent truancy, assisting with the completion of forms and sitting in on attendance intervention teams. In addition, she assists districts in filing complaints with Juvenile Courts, participates in court mediation and represents the districts she serves in court hearings.

With the passage of House Bill 410, Sonoda plays an integral part in helping the districts she serves stay compliant with the law. Schools must now track and report student absences to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) in school hours missed rather than school days. Tardiness also counts toward a student's overall absence. A student is considered a "habitual truant" under state law, if absent without legitimate excuse 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in one month or 72 or more hours in one school year.

Sonoda fully understands the policies and procedures that must be followed and works with districts to ensure they understand them as well.

Sonoda's background is in social work, elementary education and school counseling. Prior to joining the Summit ESC, Sonoda was a social worker for Akron Public Schools and taught second grade. Over the past 22 years, she has worked with over 12 school districts in Summit County.

"House Bill 410 presents a number of changes that must be made to district's attendance policies and procedures," said Sonoda. "I have the knowledge and expertise to help districts put the new truancy law into practice and I look forward to assisting our member districts and their staff."

All consultant services can be provided to your district at a very reasonable cost. Districts that would like to utilize Sonoda's consultant services can contact her by phone at **330.945.5600, ext. 511236** or by email at [KayS@SummitESC.org](mailto:KayS@SummitESC.org).



## SUMMIT ESC & SST-8 FEATURED CONSULTANT DEBBIE THEIRL

Debbie Theirl is the Summit ESC's English language arts (ELA) curriculum consultant and State Support Team, Region 8's (SST-8) Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) consultant.

Previous to joining the ESC, Theirl spent 29 years as a classroom teacher, Title I teacher, literacy coach, Reading Recovery teacher-leader, curriculum consultant, assistant principal and elementary principal in the Canton City School District.

As the ELA curriculum consultant, Theirl develops rubrics and designs curriculum and assessments for the reading and writing content areas. Her curriculum designs change with the instructional shifts and Ohio's Learning Standards for Language Arts and strengthen the literacy work at the school level.

She also provides in-service trainings tailored to district needs.

In her role as the OIP consultant, Theirl provides support to districts as an external support and OLI-4 (Ohio Leadership for Inclusion, Implementation and Instructional Improvement) coach for principals. She also provides common formative assessment (CFA) 2.0 training. Her CFA work prioritizes standards by creating a roadmap that links standards, assessments and instructional practice.

"I truly enjoy working in both departments," said Theirl. "I enjoy supporting the districts in their initiatives to improve student achievement through instructional practice."

Theirl lives in North Canton with her husband, Greg, and two spoiled cats. Together, they have four children and one adorable grandchild.



## TWO SUMMIT ESC TEAM MEMBERS HAVE ARTICLES FEATURED IN OHIO ASCD JOURNAL

Summit ESC's Director of Student Services Kristin Fazio and former Director of Professional Development N'ecole Ast recently had an article titled, *Self-Monitoring: A Forgotten Tool*, featured in the Ohio Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Journal.

The article focused on ways to improve student achievement by teaching self-monitoring strategies and having the student play an active role in the education process, as opposed to relying on teacher-led instructional strategies and techniques. While most professional development tends to center around what the teacher says and does, Fazio and Ast focused on the importance of placing emphasis on what the students say and does.

The article references a personal testimony on how introducing the self-monitoring concept within the classroom, quickly led to a complete turnaround for a struggling student.

"Self-monitoring helps a student see their negative behavior and the effect it has on others," said Fazio. "It's an easy way for teachers to help students who present a variety of behavioral challenges. The outcome of introducing the self-monitoring tool in the classroom is truly invaluable for the student and the classroom as a whole."

To read the full article, visit [www.ohioascd.org/page-18084](http://www.ohioascd.org/page-18084) and click the fall 2017 issue. The article is on pages 26-29.

## SUMMIT ESC'S WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK BECOMES STATE-WIDE EFFORT

As part of the Lifting Leaders series, Summit ESC's Leadership Services Consultant Dr. Christina Dinklocker and Geauga County ESC Superintendent Jennifer Felker teamed up to launch a Women's Leadership Network in August.

The Women's Leadership Network offers women who wish to pursue a career in a management position or to sharpen their leadership skills an opportunity to meet and network.

The duo shared the concept at the Buckeye Association for School Administrators (BASA) Conference in Columbus in October in an attempt to begin a state-wide effort to offer the networking opportunity throughout Ohio.

Women across the State of Ohio are now teaming up to organize Women's Leadership Networks in each area of the state. Each organized group of women will meet monthly to discuss career opportunities, share resources and learn new skills. In March, the groups will come together in Columbus for an annual Women's Leadership Conference.

Details of the conference have yet to be shared in the coming months.

"This is a great opportunity for women across the State of Ohio," said Dr. Dinklocker. "I encourage all women to attend the network sessions to expand their knowledge and skills to reach their goals."

The Lifting Leaders series is a program that provides networking and high-quality professional growth opportunities to various groups and individuals aspiring to transition to a leadership role.

For more information on the Lifting Leaders Series, please contact Dr. Dinklocker by email at [TinaD@summitesc.org](mailto:TinaD@summitesc.org) or by phone at **330.421.2883**.

## SST-8 UPDATE DISTRICTS SUPPORT ACCESS AND EQUITY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

During the 2017-2018 school year, Portage Lakes Career Center and nine districts are participating in a series entitled "Leading Reform in Least Restrictive Environment Practices" led by State Support Team, Region 8 (SST-8). The participating districts include Barberton City Schools, Copley-Fairlawn City Schools, Kent City Schools, Manchester Local Schools, Medina City Schools, Rootstown Local Schools, Tallmadge City Schools, Wadsworth City Schools and Waterloo Local Schools. An additional 10 districts attended this series last year.

Since the Education for All Handicapped Children Act was passed in 1975, schools have been required to provide children with disabilities with a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). With the current focus on standards and accountability, a "key aspect in thinking about achievement of students with disabilities is access – access to general education curriculum, access to high quality instruction and access to peers." (Theoharis and Causton, 2014)

Throughout this four-day series, district teams will analyze both school and district level data to determine the current status of student services and student opportunities for learning, facilitate conversations to raise equity awareness within their district and investigate the research of highly effective practices in integrated schools. The teams will then work to draft action steps that will ensure the needs of all students are met appropriately within their buildings.

This year's session is currently closed to new registrants; however, if you would like to learn about how your district can begin examining LRE or become a part of future SST-8 events on this topic, please contact Stephanie Denham, educational consultant with SST-8, by email at [StephanieD@sst8.org](mailto:StephanieD@sst8.org).

# NEONET UPDATE

The Summit ESC works closely with NEONet to assist districts with their technological needs. In each issue of our newsletter, NEONet provides helpful tips about technology in education and/or professional development opportunities to help our districts remain current on the latest technology trends. In this issue, their focus is on the addition of a makerspace to its facility.

The newly added makerspace allows for professional development and curriculum assistance.

According to makerspace expert Laura Fleming "a school makerspace is a place where young people have the opportunity to explore their own interests; learn to use tools and materials, both physical and virtual; and develop creative projects." (Worlds of Making, Fleming)

The makerspace is aligned with best practices for the makerspace/science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiative.

## Current equipment in the NEONet Makerspace includes:

- Sphero robots
- Ozobot robots
- Greenscreen
- littleBits
- MakeyMakey
- Digital sandbox
- Raspberry Pi
- Legos
- Makerbot 3D printer
- Tinkertoys
- Blocks
- A sewing machine
- Serger
- Silhouette Cameo
- Heatpress
- Art supplies
- K'nex

"We are excited to provide this unique space," said Matthew Gdovin, NEONet's executive director. "The makerspace will allow teachers and students to build upon their innovation, creativity, collaboration and problem solving skills."

## NEONet invites districts to attend one of its upcoming professional development opportunities:

- Making in the Language Arts Classroom: Dec. 6 from 2-4 p.m.
- Using the Engineering Design Process: Dec. 12 from 9-11 a.m.
- Learn and Play with Electronics Using littleBits: Dec. 20 from 9-11 a.m.
- In addition to these opportunities, the makerspace will be open for lab time which will allow attendees to drop in, experiment and ask NEONet's knowledgeable team questions.
- Makerspace Open Lab: Dec. 5 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Makerspace Open Lab: Dec. 18 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

To register to attend a makerspace event, visit [portal.neonet.org/calendar/view-list/technology-integration](http://portal.neonet.org/calendar/view-list/technology-integration).



# SUMMIT ESC INVITES YOU TO GET FIT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Summit ESC's first fitness challenge has ended. Congratulations to Emily Johnson, Carole Varga and Tom Jansen for being the top steppers in the Step Challenge.

The next challenge is "Get Fit for the Holidays." The challenge is running from Nov. 1-Dec. 13. Participants are tracking their daily physical activity outside of work hours (including lunch break activities) on tracking forms. Activity can include walking, running, sit-ups, swimming, etc.

There is still time to join! If you would like a tracking form, please email Deb Shorter at [DebS@SummitESC.org](mailto:DebS@SummitESC.org). Tracking forms are due on Nov. 15, Nov. 29 and Dec. 13. Please email your tracking form to Deb, fax it to **330.945.6222** or drop it off in the human resources office. The winner will be announced Dec. 18.



**SUMMIT ESC's**  
**WELLNESS PROGRAM**

Energize, Socialize, Come Alive!

# UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## WINTER KAASP CONFERENCE

On Dec. 8, Summit ESC will host the Winter Kent Akron Association of School Psychologists (KAASP) Conference from 1-4 p.m. The conference will focus on School-Based Mental Health Services: Best Practices on Collaborating and Consultation presented by, Summit ESC school psychologist, Dr. Elisabeth Goodman.

The conference is open to all school psychologists and educators who wish to gain knowledge on current practices in counseling techniques, with an emphasis on how to connect them to psycho-educational assessment results and to socio-emotional IEP goals within a collaborative framework.

The cost to attend the conference is \$15 for KAASP members and \$35 for guests/non-members. Lunch will be provided from 12-1 p.m. for an additional \$10.

For more information and a full list of additional professional development opportunities, visit [www.summitesc.org/Events/Registration/Default.aspx?o=1](http://www.summitesc.org/Events/Registration/Default.aspx?o=1).

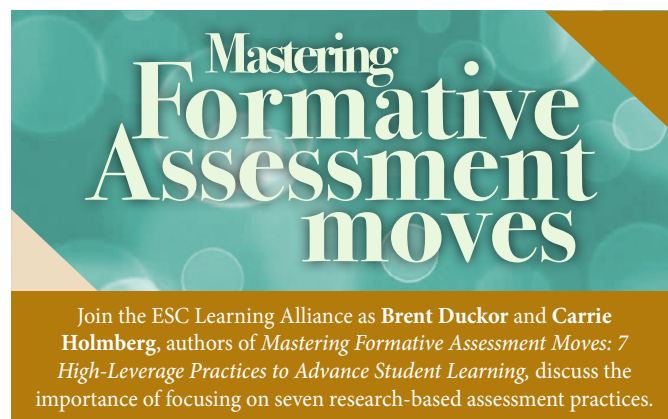
## WILSON LEVEL 1 TRAINING (3-DAY INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP)

**PRESENTED BY:** Lori Josephson

**WHEN:** Dec. 15, 18 and 19 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Summit ESC – Room 16

**COST:** \$350



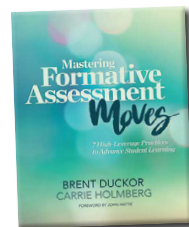
Join the ESC Learning Alliance as **Brent Duckor** and **Carrie Holmberg**, authors of *Mastering Formative Assessment Moves: 7 High-Leverage Practices to Advance Student Learning*, discuss the importance of focusing on seven research-based assessment practices.

**When:** Jan. 29, 2018 from 9:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

**Where:** Solon Community Center - 35000 Portz Pkwy., Solon

**Who:** All kindergarten - grade 12 teachers and administrators

**Cost:** \$150 (lunch included)



For more information, contact **Sally Gibson**, Curriculum & Instruction director's secretary by phone at 330.945.5600, ext. 511225.

If you would like to attend, please register at [www.SummitESC.org](http://www.SummitESC.org).



# SUMMIT LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

What is your view from the balcony?

**When:** August 2-3, 2018

**Where:** Marriott Cleveland East  
26300 Harvard Rd, Warrensville Heights

**What:** Ronald Heifetz argues that leadership must be active and reflective. In this year's symposium, we will explore how you lead and reflect on your district from the viewpoint of being on the balcony.

