

Sunday, May 29, 2016 » MORE AT FACEBOOK.COM/MORNINGJOURNAL AND TWITTER.

morningjournal.

**AMHERST** 

# Living the dream

### Teacher follows students on educational journey

By Kelsey Leyva

kleyva@morningjournal.com $@MJ\_KLeyva\ on\ Twitter$ 

Seeing her students succeed is something Kaye Long, intervention specialist at Josiah Harris Elementary School in Amherst, described as one of the best feelings in the world.

"I love my job," she said. "I feel so blessed to come to work every day.'

Long, of Lorain, has been teaching for five years and three of those years have been spent in Amherst. Ever since she was a young girl, Long knew she wanted to follow in her mom and grandmother's footsteps and become a teacher.

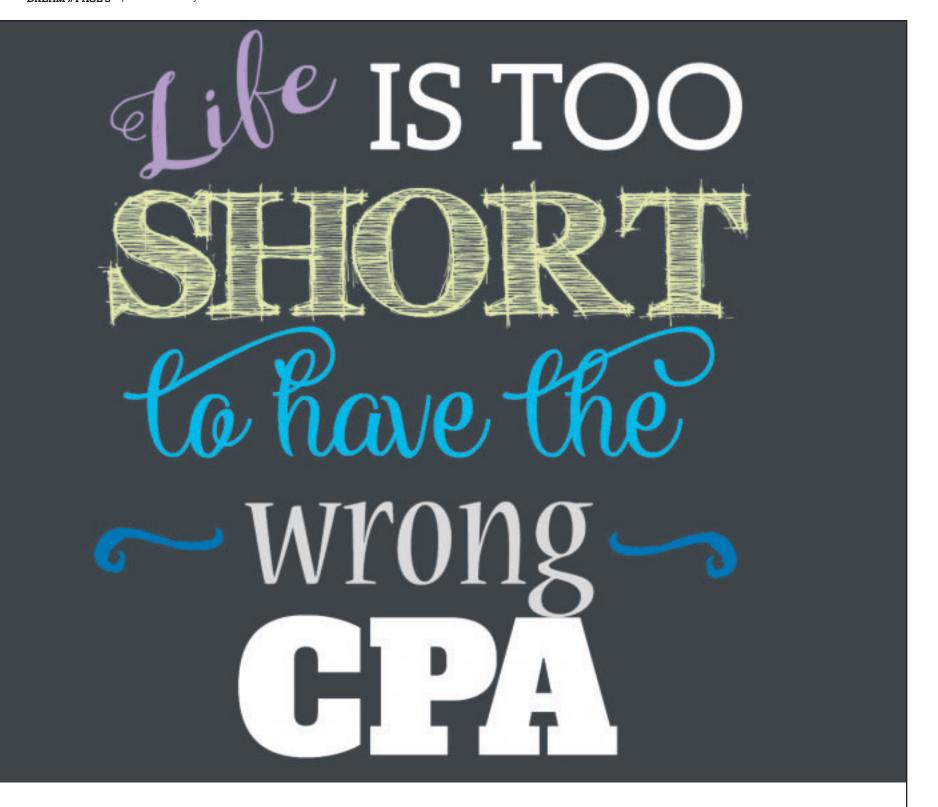
"My dream job has always been to have my own classroom, so being in this unit has just been fabulous," she said. "This is exactly the job I envisioned

for myself." Long has seven children in her classroom who are third- through fifth-grade students with varying educational needs. Students in her class have the opportunity to stay with her for up to three years depending on what grade they're in when they join, which Long said is beneficial.

> "They get comfortable DREAM » PAGE 3



Ten-year-old Jordyn looks on as Harris Elementary School intervention specialist Kaye Long helps fourth-grader Josh, 10, water his Mother's Day planter on May 6.





www.walthall.com Amherst 440-984-2441



Tip of the hat

### Far West Center receives Ryan White grant

ceived a Ryan White grant include evaluation, counselto provide outpatient men- ing, psychiatric care, medtal health services for eligible persons with HIV/ AIDS living in Lorain or sions. Cuvahoga counties.

emotional impact of HIV/ AIDS can be overwhelming. Often, the diagnosis itself triggers a host of mental health problems that worsen symptoms of the illness itself.

Far West Center is an experienced provider of specialized mental health services, including the care of President/CEO of Far West persons living with HIV/ Center, "Our community is center.com.

ication, case management, and recovery support ses-

Through both locations The psychological and in Amherst and Westlake, Far West Center is able to provide these services under one roof.

> Individuals with HIV/ AIDS in need of the center's services may self-refer, or be referred by health care providers from local hospitals, clinics, or the community.

According to Kelly Dylag,

Far West Center has re- AIDS. Outpatient services fortunate to have such capable health care partners as the Infectious Disease Clinic at Mercy Regional Medical Center and the Elyria City Health District, partnering with us to serve our Lorain County HIV/ AIDS patients."

> All three organizations receive grant funding for caring for HIV/AIDS patients through the Ryan White grant administered by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

> For more information, call 440.835.6212, ext. 230 or email intake@farwest-





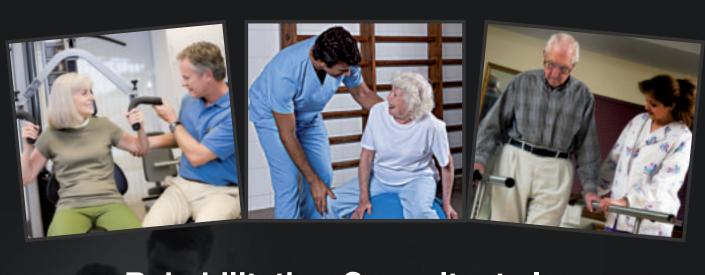
### **KEEPING** FOCUS ON **CLIENT** NEEDS

Build PC's & Servers to Customer Specifications Business & Home Network Design & Installation Business Phone Installation & Support Virus Removal

Consulting & Programming

209 Park Avenue In the Heart of Downtown Amherst

440-988-5200 www.ohiomcr.com



**Rehabilitation Consultants Inc.** 1317 Cooper Foster Park Rd. | Amherst

www.RehabConsultants.net rehabconsultants@neohio.twcbc.com

### What we can offer:

- Athletic training
- Aquatic / pool therapy
- Industrial service rehabilitation, work conditioning, functional capacity evaluations
- Physical therapy
- Therapeutic massage
- Wellness program



Heated Adult Pool

## Adriatic Swim C

**Summer Enjoyment Close To Home** 

EMBERSHIPS N

- <u>3 Pools</u> The main pool equipped with slides and diving boards, Kiddie pool and a HEATED adult pool for members 21 and over.
- Lots of Room Located on nearly 4 acres, we also have basketball and volleyball courts (including a beautiful white sand court), shuffleboard, lots of playground equipment, and
- Great Concession Stand Over 50 items to choose from,

440-282-2883

- Sign Up Early for arthritis exercise & aqua zumba classes 'MAY'28T
- Special Discounts for police, fire, military and teachers
- Good Grade discounts for kids

www.americancroatianclub.com/adriatic **Book Now for Your Birthday & Graduation Parties** 



Our season runs May 28th thru Labor Day. Call 282-2883 for more information.



### Dream

FROM PAGE 1

with me as their teacher so they're able to open up more in her room. and express themselves more," she said. "I really get to be with them on their educational journey. I get to see their growth from year to year and see the progress that they've made.'

Lessons are usually done in a small group setting of two to three students, but Long said she runs whole group lessons as well. If she's covering a new topic and someone needs individualized attention, Long moments I live for," Long is able to provide that. She said. "Helping a child sucsaid her room is based off of the Unique Learning Curriculum, so everyone learns I do what I do." the same topic but each child's lesson or assignment looks slightly different.

Long said she has a lot of visual and auditory learners in her room, which is why she incorporates traditional academics as well as technology and activities such as Veggie U in her

Long said Veggie U is a program where her students grow plants that are later donated to the school garden. Every child also has an iPad and Long said the educational apps really bring learning to life for her stu-

"We definitely have a diverse group of learners in my room and so I'm always trying to pull different methods and use difand help them all grow with their academics," she said. "I try to make it as fun and engaging as I can, but my students also know that I have very high expectations for them and they work to achieve those expectations."

She described her students as hard workers who love to learn.

goal that they've been work- get the opportunity to teach ing for it's a huge celebra- my students new things, but tion for that child and right- I learn something new from fully so, but those are the my students every day. My

Long said she has a lot of visual and auditory learners which is why she incorporates traditional academics as well as technology and activities such as Veggie U in her classroom.

ceed, helping a child have that confidence, that's why

But Long said she wouldn't be able to develop the relationships she does with her students if it weren't for the two women who serve as the classroom support staff.

Patty Leuszler has been assisting Long for three years and Melissa Haslage has been in the classroom for two years.

"They are amazing," Long said. "I could not do my job without them. They go above and beyond every day to help me and they would do absolutely anything for our students, so they are huge in my classroom."

her job and thinks the world of Long.

"She's so kind-hearted ferent methods of teaching and loving," Leuszler said to really include all of them of Long. "You need that to do this job.'

In addition to building bonds with her students, Long said she feels her job is to support their families as well. She admitted that there are challenges at times, but said that the rewards outweigh those chal-

"Being a teacher is so ful-When they achieve a filling," she said. "I not only



Third-grader Fernando, 9, fills his planter with soil with the help of Harris Elementary School teacher Kaye Long, May 6.

students really help make me a better person.

On top of running her own classroom, Long is also one of two coordinators for the Special Olympics Program. Long said this is her second year working with the program and described it as a big family.

"I love it because I get to work with some of my Leuszler said she loves future students, my current students, my former students and then I get to meet students who I haven't had the privilege of working with which is wonderful," she said.

The student athletes participate in sports including soccer, swimming, bowling, basketball, softball and track.

Long said each sport is practiced for six weeks at a time with one practice a week. Her responsibilities include getting purchase orders set up with vendors, shopping for different supplies and planning different events and fundraisers for the nonprofit.



ERIC BONZAR — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Third-grader Clark, 10, and Harris Elementary School teacher Kaye Long admire Clark's finished planter the pair made for Mother's Day, May 6.

Long said the program is "I'm very lucky to be a part her passion aligned, Long a great social activity for the of the program. Our athletes student athletes and a great all get along and they have a way parents to meet other parents and learn of other activities.

"It's a lot of fun," she said.

special friendship and bond together. It's a wonderful program."

With her profession and

said she couldn't imagine herself doing anything else.

"Not many people know exactly what they want to do and I lucked out," she

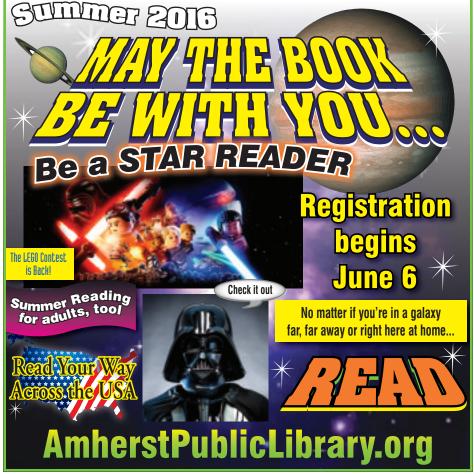
and receive

\$5 OFF FIRST VISIT Coupon valid for full-service bathing and

full-service grooming.

\*One coupon per visit. Expires 6-30-16.







Check Lydia's Pet Grooming Website

mypetsalon.biz

for New Customer Specials &

Monthly Promotions

WE GROOM THEM ALI

**INSIDE Alpha Dog Pet Center** 



Our culinary showcase is your chance to walk through a whole room that's full of amazingly delicious treats. Specially created meals will be featured at stations around the room, and all you have to do is stroll from place to place, enjoying every morsel. Bring your friends, bring your family, bring your taste buds. They'll all be very glad they came.

### Independence Village

STORYPOINT -

Independent Living | Assisted Living Memory Care

IndependenceVillages.com

CULINARY SHOWCASE AND OPEN HOUSE / JUNE 25TH Please RSVP by June 20th to reserve your spot!

OF AVON LAKE
345 Lear Road
Avon Lake, OH 44012

Saturday, June 25th II a.m. – 2 p.m.

CALL TO SCHEDULE A VISIT 440-249-6065