



# BRIDGEWAY

— ACADEMY —

## EDUCATION CENTER

January 2016 Newsletter  
Volume 11, Issue 3

### Mark Your Calendar:

(for more information go to: [bridgewayohio.org](http://bridgewayohio.org))

#### February

- 10 PTO Meeting, 1:00pm  
Bridgeway Academy Conference Room
- 15 President's Day  
NO SCHOOL OR THERAPIES
- 19 EI/ Music Therapy Open House, 1:00pm  
Bridgeway Academy
- 20 Local Matters Parent Training, 11:00am  
Bridgeway Academy
- 28 SPIN for Camp Bridgeway, 9am—5pm  
FLOW Studio, Westerville

#### March

- 4 Staff In-Service Day  
NO SCHOOL OR THERAPIES
- 9 PTO Meeting, 1:00pm  
Bridgeway Academy Conference Room
- 10/11 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 17 Music Therapy Showcase featuring Tigers, Fox, Starfish and Koala Classrooms  
6:00pm, Bridgeway Academy gymnasium
- 19 Local Matters Parent Training  
11:00am, Bridgeway Academy
- 22 Parent Training,  
"Functional Communication," 6:00pm  
Bridgeway Academy
- 25 Spring Break, through April 2

### Students of the Month!

-  **September 2015:**  
Bowen, Panda Classroom; Wafee, Koala Classroom; Brennen, Coyote Classroom; Lexi, Panda Classroom
-  **October 2015:**  
Liam and Eason, Cheetah Classroom; Tyler, Hedgehog Classroom; Ryan, Coyote Classroom
-  **November 2015:**  
Cesar, Turtle Classroom; Angel, Pelican Classroom; Bryce, Husky Classroom; Josie, Fox Classroom
-  **December 2015:**  
Asma, Tiger Classroom; Mamshona, Seal Classroom; Kyndal, Chameleon Classroom; June, Fox Classroom

### From the Executive Directors:

Happy New Year!

We celebrated the conclusion of 2015, our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and said goodbye to Helping Hands Center at a celebratory staff appreciation brunch. We thanked all of our staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the organization's first decade; presented tokens of appreciation to thirty-five (35) 5- and 10-year staff members; and, kicked-off what will become a quarterly tradition of "Values Awards," honoring specific staff members who embody the values of Bridgeway Academy. First quarter honorees were:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Supportive:</b> Adam Brown                   | <b>Student &amp; Client Centered:</b> Lindsay Cargill |
| <b>Integrity:</b> Lynn Perucki                  | <b>Compassionate:</b> Leslie Murdock                  |
| <b>Respectful:</b> Lindsay Imagie-Douglas       | <b>Collaborative:</b> Beth Stuecher                   |
| <b>Evidence Based:</b> Jenn (Mazurek) Schneider |   |

We are very grateful to all of our dedicated staff who make Bridgeway Academy such a wonderful place.

We are excited for 2016 and what it means for Bridgeway Academy. We will spend the next few months updating forms and materials, and communicating with constituents and the community at large about the transition in name and brand to Bridgeway Academy. The parent, family, staff and community support and excitement behind the name change has been overwhelmingly positive. While it will take time for us to adjust, we are confident that this change will lead to continued growth and progress for the organization. As a reminder, all of the e-mail addresses for staff and classrooms have changed to:

**@bridgewayohio.org.** Email structure will remain the same: first initial last name @bridgewayohio.org or classroom name@bridgewayohio.org. For now, anything sent to @helpinghandscenter.com will be forwarded, but please update your e-mail to prepare for the future.

We look forward to meeting with parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences on **March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>** and are already busy planning for Summer Camp and the new school year. While it may seem early, we will send a brief survey at the end of January which will help us to support you as you plan your goals for your child(ren) for next year. We hope that we can work to support you and your family, either with plans to stay with Bridgeway Academy, or in a transition back to your school district. We want to be your partner and to provide support to ensure your child's success. No matter what you choose for your child, our team at Bridgeway Academy hopes that you will feel supported throughout the process.

Warmly,  
Erin & Abby

## From the Development Office:

Thanks to everyone who gave generously during our end-of-year fundraising campaign. We are grateful for your support, which directly impacts the students and families of Bridgeway Academy.



**Coming February 28th!** Join us for *SPIN for Camp Bridgeway*, returning for a third year thanks to our great partner, FLOW Studio. Participants register for one or more SPINning classes and all proceeds benefit Camp Bridgeway. Join the fun and *#beSPINtastic!* Information and registration is available at 614-262-7520 or at: <http://bridgewayohio.org/spin-for-camp-bridgeway/>.



**SAVE THE DATE!** *Raise Your Glass to Raise Awareness* returns to the Ohio History Center on **Friday, April 29, 2016**. The event features great wines and food, The Liz Woolley Band, and a live and silent auction. Invitations will be mailed in March, but you can purchase tickets, tables or sponsorships NOW by calling 614-262-7520 or by going to [bridgewayohio.org!](http://bridgewayohio.org/) Hope to see you there.

**Classroom Sponsors**—We are so pleased to recognize and thank **Brian and Jen Miller & Family**, sponsors of the Panda Classroom and **Discover Financial Services/Discover Cares**, for sponsorship of the Husky Classroom as well as their huge Wish List donation at the end of 2015. A classroom sponsorship is a \$5,000 annual contribution with specific benefits. To learn more about classroom sponsorship, please contact Carol Argiro, Director of Development, at 614-262-7520 or [cargiro@bridgewayohio.org](mailto:cargiro@bridgewayohio.org).



## Comings and Goings ...

**Please help us welcome seventeen (17) new or newly full-time staff members who joined Bridgeway Academy since September 2015!** Ashley Blackburn (teacher, Hedgehog classroom), Ambar Pantoja (teacher, Turtle classroom), Ashley Brewer (OTA), Kimberly Kay (OT), Jack Ryan (bus driver), Ashlee Frazee (floater), Liza Varnum (teacher, Turtle classroom), Elijah Vazquez, (teacher, Blue Jays classroom ), Keera White (business office), Catherine (Katie) Brower (teacher, Cheetah classroom) Lauren Kress (PTA), Tony Ward (PTA), Erica Butler (teacher, Coyote classroom ) Jessica Kohl (teacher, Bear classroom), Ashley Zipperian (floater) and Stephanie Rogers (floater).

**Back Row (L-R):** Katie Brower, Liza Varnum, Ashley Blackburn, Lauren Kress, Jessica Kohl, Kim Kay and Tony Ward.

**Front Row (L-R):** Amber Pantoja, Ashlee Frazee, Erica Butler and Ashley Brewer.

(not pictured: Jack Ryan, Elijah Vazquez, Keera White, Ashley Zipperian and Stephanie Rogers)



## Bridgeway Academy

2500 Medary Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43205  
614-262-7520  
[www.bridgewayohio.org](http://www.bridgewayohio.org)

## Bridgeway Academy Board of Trustees:

Rose Laywer, Chair Lina Attaie, Jen Fuller, Chris Henry, Lisa Imondi, Tom Manning, Dan Mushalko, William Root, Todd Starker

Bridgeway Academy is a non-profit organization with a mission *to meet the educational and therapeutic needs of children with autism and other developmental disabilities.*

## PTO News

PTO continues to fundraise for new playground equipment and to-date has raised just over \$6,000 since the start of the new school year. Thanks to everyone who has purchased a holiday pie or a box of meat, volunteered at an event or made an individual contribution. Upcoming fundraising opportunities and dates of note include:

- January 27th—City BBQ (Arlington) night with 25% of proceeds (with flyer) donated to PTO
- February 19—Box Tops for Education collection
- February 23—Chipotle (Beechwood) night (more info to come) with 50% of proceeds donated to PTO
- March 2—Teacher Appreciation Mexican Fiesta
- May 4—Teacher Appreciation Ice Cream Social (*May the Fourth be With You!*)
- Watch for information about Art to Remember and gala baskets!

PTO will also plan events for Spring Break—watch facebook and email for more information! PTO meetings take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 1:00pm, in the conference room and everyone is welcome to attend. Hope to see you then!

## School Delays and Closings

Closings and delays will be listed on all major local news networks. Remember to look for **Bridgeway Academy**. You can also sign up for a text alert from Bridgeway Academy directly through “Remind” using these instructions: **Text: @5fbed8 to 81010**. You can opt-out of messages anytime by replying ‘unsubscribe @5fbed8’. In addition to news postings (sign up for additional text alerts at the news station’s websites), a parent e-mail will be sent and a message will be posted on the Bridgeway Academy Facebook page. Decisions are made by 6:00 AM whenever possible. Do NOT assume that because other schools are closed that we will automatically close.

