



January 2017 Newsletter
Volume 12, Issue 3

Mark Your Calendar:

January

- 11 PTA Meeting, 1pm, conference room
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
No School or Therapies
- 16 "Spruce it Up Day," 8:30 am—12 noon

February

- 7 Family Partnership Services
Parent Training, 6:00—7:30 pm
"Functional Communication"
- 8 PTA Meeting, 1pm, conference room
- 15 Family Partnership Services
Functional Communication Workshop
4:00—5:00 pm
- 20 President's Day Holiday
No School or Therapies

March

- 3 Staff Work Day
No School or Therapies
- 5 *SPIN for Camp Bridgeway*—fundraiser
Lifetime Fitness, Henderson Road
- 8 PTA Meeting, 1pm, conference room
- 9-10 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 24-25 Ohio Physical Therapy Association
Annual Conference, Renaissance Hotel
- 27-31 Spring Break—Bridgeway Academy
CLOSED, no school or therapies

From the Executive Directors:

Happy New Year!

We hope you are surviving the winter chill! The month of December flew by and was packed with excitement. We celebrated our amazing staff during our annual Staff Celebration Brunch. We honored four teachers who celebrated their 10-year anniversary working at Bridgeway Academy and seven staff who celebrated five years working at Bridgeway! We had a very successful Scholastic Book Fair which allowed our staff to order more than \$1,000.00 in classroom/department books and materials. Thank you to the PTA and the many parent volunteers for helping the Book Fair to be such a success.

In December, we had our annual visit from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Childcare Division for our yearly inspection. With this visit, they brought many updates to the policies and procedures for Licensed Child Care Centers in 2017. The two most pertinent changes for 2017 are that **food for students 5-years old and under MUST be cut into small pieces** (grapes, cherry tomatoes, hot dogs, etc.) and that over the counter medications must have a physician signature on the Medication Administration form in order for Bridgeway Academy to administer medication during school. You will receive a letter with some detailed information regarding procedure changes for Medication Administration and food preparation. Please understand that these are not Bridgeway Academy requirements, but ODJFS requirements.

We continue to work to improve and enhance the services offered at Bridgeway Academy. We are excited to announce that beginning in mid-January, River's Crossing, the company with whom Bridgeway Academy contracts for Medicaid billing services, will be providing a nurse, two-days a week, on site at Bridgeway Academy. We are excited that this nurse will be available to assist with any emergencies that may arise, and for consultation. Please contact one of us with any questions or concerns.

Next month, Bridgeway Academy's Business office will be sending out information and contracts for both Camp Bridgeway and the 2017-18 academic year. Please be on the lookout for this important information.

We wish all of you a very happy and prosperous New Year!



(Top Photo) **Five-Year Anniversary Staff:** Dawn Battocletti, Mary Torrey, Kaitlyn Starr and Ann Shipley (not pictured: Erin Slevin, Shannon Klouda and Jess Weibel)

(Bottom Photo) **Ten-Year Anniversary Staff:** Lynn Perucki, Kelsey Delaney, Beth Stuecher, and Sharee Brandler

From the Development Office:

There's a lot happening in the Office of Development. Coming up on Monday, January 16th, Bridgeway Academy hosts its annual "Spruce it Up Day," and will have over 50 community volunteers in the building painting, repairing and cleaning. If you'd like to help, contact Carol at cargiro@bridgewayohio.org.

We have two fundraising events coming up this spring!



SPIN for Camp Bridgeway will take place on Sunday, March 5th with all proceeds benefitting Camp Bridgeway. Take a spinning, yoga or hip hop fitness class and benefit Camp Bridgeway at the same time. Join the facebook event page [#beSPINtastic!](#)

Raise Your Glass to Raise Awareness is coming up on Friday, April 21st and is Bridgeway Academy's annual gala benefitting the students, staff, families and programs of Bridgeway Academy. Save the Date postcards will be coming home soon!



Psychology Corner:

Don't Let the Cold Slow You Down

Exercise has important benefits for mood and behavior for adults and children alike. However, with the colder temperatures and shorter days, it can be challenging to help children achieve the minimum of 60-minutes of exercise per day recommended by the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans. Here are some tips for keeping kids moving during the winter months:

- Don't be afraid to put on the layers and get outside to play or take a walk.
- Turn on music and have a dance party or set up an obstacle course in your house using cushions and toys.
- Try exercise videos geared towards kids such as *Once Upon a Mat*, *DanceX*, or *Shaun T's Fit Kids Club*.
- Check out active gaming systems such as *Wii Fit* or games such as *Just Dance*.
- Look for opportunities in the community such as open swim sessions, skating, bowling, open gym plays, or bounce times.
- Exercise is cumulative, so any activities that get your child's heart rate up count toward the daily minimum.



Comings and Goings ...

Please help us welcome the following staff to Bridgeway Academy

(8-23-2016 to 1-9-2017): Jacqueline Soler, Speech Therapy; Ciara Frazee, Certified Occupational Assistant; Correen Wiggins, Nicole Barbour, Ashley Nicoles Singer, Kacie Jewett, Katherine Moore & Samantha Stringer, Teachers.

We are sad to say goodbye to the following staff members (8-23-2016 to 1-9-2017):

Tracie Evans, Ashley Brewer, Laura Haren and Stephanie Crawford.

Bridgeway Academy

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Bridgeway Academy Board of Trustees:

Rose Laywer, Chair Lina Attaie, Jen Fuller, Chris Henry, Tom Manning, Dan Mushalko, William Root, Robert Shenton

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.*

PTA News

Exciting things coming up for your PTA in 2017.

We will have several fundraisers this winter and spring including restaurant nights (Chipotle, Raising Cane's, and more), a Bridgeway Academy spirit wear sale, Art to Remember, yearbooks and Michael's Meats for spring and summer grilling. Watch for restaurant night info to come home by the end of January and help us eat our way to some more playground equipment dollars! We have raised over \$7,000 so far this school year with a goal of \$12,000 so we still have work to do! Our goal is to install 3-4 additional playground pieces in June to make the outdoor play space for our kids better than ever!

We will also have family support events coming up over the next few months. In February we will host a parent dinner and in March a breakfast. We also have family activities planned for Spring Break including a private swim at the Westerville Recreation Center pool the evening of March 26th! An email will go out with additional activities in February. We will host our annual "Mexican Luncheon" staff appreciation event on February 15th and we hope you will all send in some yummys for that!

Please join us for upcoming meetings in the school conference room at 1pm on 2/8, and 3/8. We wish you and your families the best for 2017!



L to R: Kathryn Moore, Correen Wiggins, Ashley Singer, Jackie Soler, Sami Stringer and Nicole Barbour.

Not Pictured: Ciara Frazee, and Kacie Jewett.

