



June 2017 Newsletter
Volume 13, Issue 1

Mark Your Calendar:

June

29 Fourth of July Celebration and Parade
2:30pm

July

3/4 Bridgeway Academy CLOSED—no camp
or therapies
13 Secondary School and Therapy Center
Celebration— 3:30—5:30pm
2155 Fenton St., Columbus 43224
26 Bridgeway’s Got Talent Show, 2:00pm
Early-intervention—2nd grade
27 Bridgeway’s Got Talent Show, 2:00pm
3rd—10th grade

August

12 Parent ONLY Open House, 3—5pm
15 1st day of classes (1/2 day—details
coming soon)
22 PTA Meeting, 1pm, conference room

September

4 Labor Day—NO SCHOOL OR THERAPIES
12 PTA Meeting, 1pm, conference room
13 Curriculum Night, 6-8pm
22 Staff Work Day—NO SCHOOL OR
THERAPIES

October

8 Walk Now for Autism Speaks
Columbus Commons
Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/y84y8jda>
10 PTA Meeting, 1pm, conference room
26 Practice Trick-or-Treat, 4:30pm
27 Bridgeway Academy CLOSED—no school
or therapies
27 Bridgeway Academy CLOSED—NO
SCHOOL OR THERAPIES

From the Executive Directors:

**Student and Client Centered. Collaborative. Respectful. Evidence-based.
Integrity Driven. Compassionate.**

These core values are what ground us and motivate us at Bridgeway Academy.

We are so grateful to our parents and families who took the time to fill out the Parent Insight Survey in May. We are thrilled that 95% of you “agree” or “strongly agree” that these seven core values are demonstrated at Bridgeway Academy and received a very positive report from Measurement Resources (the firm hired to facilitate the survey). Survey results will help us to identify the strengths and opportunities that exist at Bridgeway Academy, and will allow us to continue providing excellent services for our students and families. Parents identified the staff as the **primary strength** of Bridgeway Academy and identified communication between the school and families as an **opportunity for improvement**. Communication is addressed in Bridgeway Academy’s 2017-2020 Strategic Plan as Strategic Goal #5: Internal and External Engagement. Objective 1 of this goal reads: To develop and strengthen external communication strategies including Bridgeway Academy families. To see the full report, please visit bridgewayohio.org. We hope that the work we do over the next year will continue to show improved communication with our families. We appreciate your continued support and feedback.

Camp Bridgeway 2017 is off and running! Bridgeway students definitely have talent and they are having a blast with our special guests and their community outings. We are planning the “Bridgeway’s Got Talent Show” so that all our students and classrooms can share their talents with fellow students and parents. The Talent Show for the Early Intervention through Second grade classrooms (Lower Level and Main Level classrooms) will take place on Wednesday, July 26 at 2:00 PM. The Talent Show for the 3rd through 10th grade classrooms is scheduled at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 27th. We look forward to celebrating our students’ special talents.

We are excited to invite you to two other events this summer: our annual Independence Day Parade on **Thursday, June 29th at 2:30 PM** on the lawn. Come “march” with your child or cheer on our students as they parade around the block with their classrooms and live musicians. We also invite you to the Bridgeway Academy Secondary School Celebration on **Thursday July 13 at 3:30 PM**. We’ll have fun activities for the kids, a dunk tank, treats and tours of the Secondary School and Therapy Center, located at 2155 Fenton Street. Stay tuned for more information!

We hope you continue to have a safe and wonderful summer!

Mary & Erin

Psychology Corner: Planning a Balanced Summer

Summer brings new fun-filled experiences and increased downtime!

However, the decreased structure, routine, and predictability can also be stressful for children with autism and may lead to an increase in challenging behaviors.

Additionally, some children may prefer to spend their downtime engaged in solitary activities and may resist opportunities to practice their social and life skills.



Here are some tips for finding a good balance:

- **Provide Choices:** Have choices of activities ready to go instead of asking the open-ended question, "What do you want to do today?"
- **Be Mindful:** Schedule in downtime each day and know your child's limits (e.g., amount of time they can tolerate being away from home).
- **Stay Engaged:** Schedule in at least one social opportunity and one community outing per week. Check out the Bridgeway Parent Directory for classmates' phone numbers.
- **Increase Predictability:** Verbally review the day's activities and use visual supports such as a visual schedule or calendar.
- **Stay Consistent:** Keep a basic structure for each day (e.g., consistent wake up, meal, and bed times).
- **Plan Ahead:** On outings, pack a busy bag (toys, snacks, fidgets, etc.) and locate a good space to take periodic sensory breaks.

Comings and Goings ...

Bridgeway Academy is excited to welcome the following individuals to its staff (since March 31, 2017): Andrea Heiden (classroom teacher), Gabrielle Moots (floater), Shayleigh Holbrook (PT floater), Coty Maple (maintenance assistant), Sarah Bauman (classroom teacher) and Taylor Rickman (speech therapy department).

We are sad to say goodbye to the following individuals and thank them for their service to Bridgeway Academy: Hilary Draper, Rachel Pierce, Andrea Garner, Christa Wilk, Mary Torrey and Nikki Sellan.



Left to right:

Andrea Heiden,
Gabrielle Moots,
Sarah Bauman and
Shayleigh Holbrook.
Not pictured:
Taylor Rickman and
Coty Maple.

Bridgeway Academy

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Bridgeway Academy Board of Trustees:

Rose Laywer, Chair Lina Attaie, Jen Fuller, Kourtnei Hatton, Chris Henry, Matt Huffman, Tom Manning, Dan Mushalko, William Root, Robert Shenton, Rick Shostek

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

Happy Summer Bridgeway families!

Your PTA held its annual summer elections and planning meeting on June 14th. The 2017-18 officers are:

President, Primary School: Kaytie Fulks
Vice President, Primary School: Callie Mitchell
President, Secondary School: Sarah Smalley
Vice President, Secondary School: Emily Burt
Treasurer: Rachel Piekarski
Secretary: Jen O'Brien

Several important chairperson roles were filled. **Book fair:** Melissa Heine; **Box Tops:** April Dill; **SCRIP:** Sarah Smalley; **Student Directory:** Callie and Noah Mitchell; **Family Social Activities:** Lindsay Schrabner; **Gala Baskets:** April Dill, Emily Burt and Maira Fagan

Our next meeting will be 1pm on August 22rd at the Primary School. Beginning in September, meetings will take place the **2nd Tuesday of each month** at 1pm and will occur at both the Primary and Secondary buildings on alternate months. The September meeting will occur at the Primary School, October at the Secondary School, and so on. Go to bridgewayohio.org for the entire schedule.

Your PTA is hosting two private movies this summer for families. On Friday, June 23rd at 11am we will see *Cars 3*. On Friday, July 7th at 11am we will see *Despicable Me 3*. Both movies will take place at the AMC Theater at Dublin Village. Tickets must be purchased in advance via Eventbrite. More information is available in your email or via the Bridgeway Academy Families Facebook group.

We will be holding our 2nd annual *Christmas in July* online sale from July 9-20. This will be our first fundraiser of the school year to begin funding raising funds for a school store.

Be sure to check out the beautiful and fun orange and navy tunnels that have been installed on the Primary School playground! The remaining two new pieces will be installed at the Secondary School on July 7th. Thanks to everyone who supported this cause over the last 2 years.

What a difference we made together!

If you are not already a member, please join our Bridgeway Academy Families facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/helpinghandscenterfamilies/>.

Enjoy your summer,
Bridgeway Academy PTA

