



BRIDGEWAY
 — ACADEMY —
 EDUCATION CENTER

March 2016 Newsletter
 Volume 11, Issue 4

Mark Your Calendar:

(for more information go to: bridgewayohio.org)

April

National Autism Awareness Month

- 2 Light It Up Blue for Autism Awareness (www.autismspeaks.org/liub)
- 7-10 Jazz Arts Group Partnership Southern Theatre
- 13 PTO Meeting, 1pm
Bridgeway Academy conference room
- 16 Local Matters Parent Workshop, 11am
Bridgeway Academy
- 29 Raise Your Glass to Raise Awareness, 7:30pm
Ohio History Center

May

- 4 Staff Appreciation Ice Cream Social
Bridgeway Academy, 11am
- 11 PTO Meeting, 1pm
Bridgeway Academy conference room
- Annual Bridgeway Academy Skating Party
Skate Zone 71, 6—8pm
- 12 Bridgeway Academy Fundraiser
Raising Cane’s Graceland, 11am—9pm
- 19 Annual Donor & Volunteer Breakfast, 9:30am
Bridgeway Academy gymnasium
- 19 Music Therapy Program featuring Cheetah, Chameleon, Panda, Hedgehog and Seal Classrooms, 6pm
- 21 Local Matters Parent Workshop, 11am
Bridgeway Academy
- 24 Field Day (rain day, 25th)
- 26 Last Day of School for Students, 11:30am
Parent Picnic & Awards

June

- 7 Camp Bridgeway begins celebrating the 2016 Summer Olympic Games!



From the Executive Directors:

Dear Parents,

Spring is in the air at Bridgeway Academy. If you walk around the Academy right now, you’ll see the garden being prepped for planting and the trees and flowers blooming. We were fortunate enough to be a grantee from ScottsMiracle-Gro Community Garden Academy again this year so we expect to have our students working and learning in the garden soon. Special thanks to Mr. Bobby, Mr. Kelby, and Mr. Mike for all of their hard work in keeping the gardens beautiful and thriving.

We are constantly reminded of the support for Bridgeway Academy. We are grateful for all of the parents who volunteer with the PTO and who have participated in the multiple staff appreciation events this year. Our staff is so grateful to have the opportunity to work with so many wonderful parents and caregivers and we appreciate the encouragement that the delicious lunches and treats provide each year.

We are also thankful for continued partnerships with amazing foundations and donors like the Conway Family Foundation. Thanks to a generous grant from this faithful partner, Bridgeway Academy was able to purchase 2 busses earlier this year. This additional transportation (one small and one large bus) will open up wonderful opportunities for our students to go out into the community to expand their learning potential. The busses are being painted and branded and we are excited to announce a “Bus Naming” contest that will begin after spring break. Our students in the Huskies, Coyotes, Bears, Cardinals, and Blue Jays will have the opportunity to make Bridgeway Bus name nominations, and then all students will have the opportunity to vote to name the busses. We are also excited for the opportunities that this will provide our summer campers, as we plan for a summer of OLYMPIC CELEBRATION!

As we plan for Camp Bridgeway and creep closer to the end of the school year, we look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our students with parents, caregivers and families at our annual “End of the Year Family Picnic” on the last day of school, Thursday, May 26 from 11:30-12:30. As a reminder, all students will be released from school at 12:30 and aftercare will NOT be available.

We wish you all a wonderful and restful spring break.

With gratitude,

Erin and Abby

From the Development Office:



Raise Your Glass to Raise Awareness, Bridgeway Academy's annual fundraising event, returns to the Ohio History Center on **Friday, April 29, 2016, 7:30—11pm**. The event features great wines and food, The Liz Woolley Band, and a live and silent auction. You can purchase tickets, tables or inquire about volunteer opportunities NOW by going to bridgewayohio.org or calling 614-262-7520. We hope to see you there!

Please join Bridgeway Academy and Jazz Arts Group for the Columbus Jazz Orchestra concerts, "The Music of Sting Steely Dan," April 7 – 10, 2016 in the Southern Theatre. Bridgeway Academy is the social services partner of Jazz Arts Group for this concert series. Volunteers and information will be available in the lobby throughout the run of the show AND at the Friday evening concert, Co-Founders Abby David and Erin Nealy will be on-stage with CJO Artistic Director Byron Stripling to discuss Autism Awareness Month. Ticket discounts for the concerts are available for Bridgeway Academy friends by using the code hhands.

To purchase tickets, go to: www.ticketmaster.com/Columbus-Jazz-Orchestra-tickets/artist/795545tm?link=search_act_1_name or call 614-469-0939.

ABILITY

Two of Bridgeway Academy's oldest students have begun an *internship* at Lucky's Market in Clintonville. These students spend one hour each month at Lucky's Market in Clintonville, part of Bridgeway Academy's transition program titled **ABILITY**. Once students reach age 14, a transition plan is written to assist them to develop skills and abilities that will provide positive outcomes into adulthood. As the program builds and more students reach age 14, Bridgeway Academy will identify additional internship sites and extend the periods of time students work on these skills. We are grateful to our inaugural program partner, Lucky's Market, for providing this opportunity to our students.



Comings and Goings ...

Please help us welcome four (4) new staff members who have joined The Bridgeway Academy team since January 2016! Floater Rebecca Riley (not pictured); Speech Therapists Lana Dennison (in photo-L) and Chelsey Grimes (in photo-R); and, Emily Beam, OTA (not pictured). We say goodbye to Brianna Sims and Christina Boesch and wish them well!



Bridgeway Academy

2500 Medary Avenue
Columbus, OH 43205
614-262-7520
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, 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.

PTO News

Hello fellow Bridgeway Academy Parents!

Your PTO is still working hard to raise funds for some wonderful new playground equipment! We are approaching \$10,000 in fund raised which gets us half way to our goal! So we have asked the playground equipment company to come out to the school and prepare a layout in hopes of adding two pieces in the next few months. We would then continue to raise funds for the remaining pieces over the next school year. We appreciate your continued support with this project!

Upcoming fundraisers including a Raising Cane's event at the Graceland/North High Street location on April 12th, Michael's Meats in April/May and another Bridgeway t-shirt sale in May.

Your PTO has also planned a few family support events in the coming weeks. We have a parent dinner at Cap City Diner on March 23rd at 5:30pm and an AAC Dinner on April 12th at the Worthington Wine Bistro at 6:30pm. We also have Spring Break events planned for the whole family including the *Zootopia* movie, a Bounce Club hour, an outing to Battelle Darby Creek and a private swim at the Westerville Rec Center. More information about all of these events can be found on the Bridgeway website and via our private family Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/helpinghandscenterfamilies>.

Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, April 13th at 1pm in Bridgeway Academy's conference room. Our last meeting of the school year will be May 11th and our summer planning meeting where we will elect officers for next year will be on June 15th, time and place TBD. Please join us!

Students of the Month!



January 2016: Evan, Caterpillar Classroom; Jackson, Tiger Classroom; Eli, Seals Classroom; and Jude, Cheetah Classroom



February 2016: Nahum, Caterpillar Classroom; Aisha, Tiger Classroom; Teagan, Blue Jay Classroom; and, Lilah, Tiger Classroom.

BRIDGEWAY
— ACADEMY —