



Mark Your Calendar:

- April** **National Autism Awareness Month**
- 1 Deadline to apply for Bridgeway Academy Financial Aid through FACTS for 2017-18 academic year
- 2 Autism Awareness Night with the Columbus Blue Jackets
- 3 1st day back after spring break
- 6 Music Therapy Performance with Pre-K & K Classrooms. 6:00pm Bridgeway Academy
- 7 Bridgeway Academy & Jazz Arts Group Southern Theatre, 7:30 pm
- 12 PTA Meeting, 1:00pm
Bridgeway Academy conference room
- 14 Bridgeway Academy CLOSED
No School or Therapies
- 21 *Raise Your Glass to Raise Awareness*
Annual fundraising event, 7:30pm
Ohio History Center
- May**
- 9 Family Partnership Parent Training, "Visual Strategies for Home and Community," 6:00pm
Bridgeway Academy
- 10 PTA Meeting, 1:00pm
Bridgeway Academy Conference Room
- 11 Donor/Volunteer Breakfast, 9:30 am
- 15 Monday Theater Group Performance
Vocational Skills Center, 4:30 pm
- Family Partnership Workshop on Visual Strategies, 4:00pm, Bridgeway Academy
- 17 Bridgeway CREATES, 3:15—6:00 pm
Bridgeway Academy
- 23 Field Day
- 25 Last Day of School—watch for information about family picnic
- June**
- 6 Camp Bridgeway begins
- 14 PTA Meeting, 1:00pm
Bridgeway Academy Conference Room
- July**
- 3/4 Bridgeway Academy CLOSED
No school or therapies

From the Executive Directors:

Dear parents,

It is so hard to believe that we have entered the final quarter of the academic year. Time truly flies when we are having fun! We are gearing up for our summer camp program and are excited to announce the theme: *Bridgeway Academy's Got Talent!* This summer will be filled with exciting social and recreational activities, from water slides to special guest artists, dancers and musicians - your child will not want to miss out! We know our students have so many talents and this summer we hope to help those talents to shine through. Summer camp will commence with an end of summer "Talent Show".

We never want financial need to be a reason that a Bridgeway Academy student does not attend summer camp. Last year, during our annual fundraising gala, *Raise Your Glass to Raise Awareness*, Bridgeway Academy was able to raise nearly \$100,000, much of which went to support scholarships for children to attend camp and school. Please plan to join us for this year's event—our 10th *Raise Your Glass to Raise Awareness*, on April 21, 2017. Each year, we have a few sponsors and guests who choose to include a Bridgeway Academy parent on their guest list. After spring break, we'll announce information on how you might be included as a sponsor guest at this event.

In January, we worked with a small team of dedicated staff members alongside our Board of Trustees to complete a new Strategic Plan for Bridgeway Academy. Our former strategic plan spanned a three year timeline from January 2013- December 2016. Our new plan features goals related to improved communication, curriculum, new facilities and more. Once approved by our Board of Trustees the new plan will be available for your to review at: <http://bridgewayohio.org/about-us/organizational-leadership/>

We look forward to seeing all of you during our end of the year activities including Bridgeway CREATES on May 17. On behalf of all the staff at Bridgeway Academy, we thank you for sharing your children with us.

During the week of spring break the business and development offices of Bridgeway Academy will remain open. If you need any assistance or wish to purchase tickets for *Raise Your Glass to Raise Awareness*, please feel free to contact us at 614-262-7520.

From the Development Office:

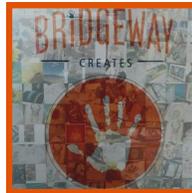
PTA News



Please join us for *Raise Your Glass to Raise Awareness* on Friday, April 21, 2017. This event, Bridgeway Academy's largest fundraising event, will take place at the Ohio History Center, 800 E. 17th Ave. from 7:30—11:00pm. For more information, please visit: <http://bridgewayohio.org/raise-your-glass/>.

Bridgeway Academy's Staff Campaign concluded on March 23rd with over \$17,000 contributed to the staff scholarship fund. The campaign is led by the Staff Campaign committee: Adam Brown, Karissa Fraley, Jen Swetnam and Laura Karl.

Bridgeway CREATES is a celebration of the arts at Bridgeway Academy. Thanks to generous donors, Bridgeway Academy has had wonderful opportunities to work with Thurber House, Ballet Met Columbus and the Dick & Jane Project and has explored a variety of visual arts through the art supply of the month program. Bridgeway CREATES will also feature performances by the Wednesday Theatre Group, middle school choir and individual students in recital. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the arts at Bridgeway Academy. Bridgeway CREATES is generously supported by:



Psychology Corner:

Spread Kindness

Many children with ASD struggle with skills related to empathy or kindness. Although teaching methods and supports may differ based on your child's needs, here are some basic tips for cultivating these skills.

- Be sure to teach basic rules, as well as "unwritten rules" for behavior (e.g., *what behaviors are expected when you see a classmate crying?*).
- Discuss deeper questions such as *why* certain behaviors are important, *how* the person likely feels, and *how* your child has felt in similar situations. Incorporate every day social interactions, books, and media.
- Involve your child in showing random acts of kindness such as donating old toys to less fortunate kids and discuss the impact of these behaviors.
- Model the skills you want to see and describe those actions to your child (e.g., *your sister was sad, so I gave her a hug to help her feel better*).

Comings and Goings ...

Bridgeway Academy welcomes: Ebony Domingo, Teacher-Floater; Christa Wilk, Paige Sanna, Kari Mumaw and Kathryn Chapman, Classroom Teachers. Help us make these new staff members feel right at home at Bridgeway Academy.

We are sad to say goodbye to: Samantha Stringer, Erin Slevin, Kari Barton, Susan Gifford and Lauren Wermer. We also say goodbye to Music Therapy interns Nicole Price and Dawn Stewart. We wish them the best!

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, 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.*

Happy Spring Bridgeway families!

We are ecstatic to share that we have made the down payment for three new and exciting playground pieces. Installation is scheduled for May 30-31. If you are interested in volunteering on the installation team, please contact Carol at cargiro@bridgewayohio.org. The new equipment will accommodate the large range of ages we have at Bridgeway Academy, and we think all of the students will be very excited to explore the playground this summer and for years to come. Thanks for your support...keep it coming! We still have dollars to raise to meet our goal. Here are upcoming ways you can support this cause:

SPRING FUNDRAISERS:

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 3/29 | Art to Remember—online orders due |
| 4/9 | Raising Canes restaurant night |
| 4/24-5/5 | Michael's Meats sale |
| 5/3 | Five Guys restaurant night |

We also have some fun Spring Break events planned including a private swim at the Westerville Community Center on 3/26 at 5:30pm; a private showing of "Rock Dog," at the AMC Dublin theater on 3/29 at 11am, and a private hour at The Bounce Club in Powell on 3/31 at 11am. We hope you will join us for these special family friendly events! Registration info is available via your email or the family Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/helpinghandscenterfamilies/>.

Please join us at our next PTA meeting on Wednesday, 4/12 at 1pm in Bridgeway Academy's conference room. We always welcome new faces and fresh ideas ... join us!



Left to right: Kari Mumaw, Christa Wilk, Paige Sanna and Katie Chapman

