



HAPPENINGS

March

26-4/2 Spring Break – no school or therapies

April

- 7 NACHO Concert, 11am @ Primary
- 10 PTA Meeting, 1-3pm @ Primary
- 17 Visual Strategies Parent Training, 6-7:30pm @ Primary
- 20 *Raise Your Glass to Raise Awareness*, 7-10:30pm @ Mid-Ohio Food Bank
- 25 Visual Strategies Parent Workshop, 4-5pm @ Primary

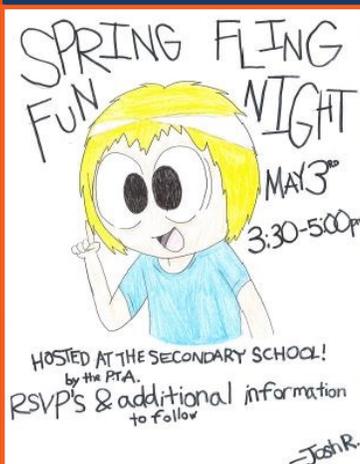
May

- 3 Spring Fling/Parent Training @ Secondary
- 4 Closed – no school or therapies
- 8 PTA Meeting, 1-2:30pm @ Secondary
- 24 Last day of academic year—half day. Watch backpacks for more information.
- 25 Staff Work Day – no school or therapies
- 28-6/3 Closed – no school or therapies

June

- 4 First day of Camp Bridgeway

Primary | 2500 Medary Avenue, Columbus, OH 43202
 Secondary | 2155 Fenton Street, Columbus, OH 43224



Don't miss the **Spring Fling Dance and Fun Night** at the Secondary School and Therapy Center!

Parents and Caregivers:

While the kids are enjoying the Spring Fling dance, you are invited to attend a Parent Panel about the transition to adulthood. Beginning at 3:30, join a group of parents and their adult children with disabilities to hear about their diverse experiences during their transition. Whether living independently or with the help of an aide, working in a supported or independent employment setting or going to college, these amazing families have a helpful story and perspective to share.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Inspire the potential and celebrate the ability of every child. Inspire. There is not a day that goes by that we spend at Bridgeway Academy where we are not inspired... by the perseverance, progress and development of our students, by the attitude and excellence of our staff, by the dedication and support of our families. Our new mission reflects the responsibility of Bridgeway Academy to inspire our students and clients. We are grateful to our board, staff and families as we have rolled out our updated mission, which we feel better captures the spirit of the organization and the work being done to progress toward our new vision: *a world of opportunity for every child and a community of support for every family.*

Our staff is critical in meeting our mission. The month of March is inspirational because of the work our incredible staff is doing during the annual Staff Scholarship Campaign. During the month of March, the amazing teachers, therapists, administration and business staff fundraise and donate their own money to support Bridgeway Academy's Staff Scholarship Fund. The Fund is staff-managed, and provides vital dollars for the students of Bridgeway Academy to receive much-needed therapies, behavior support, Family Partnership consulting and even summer camp scholarships. This group of dedicated staff raised nearly \$20,000 for the Fund last year and participation rates have been 75-90% over the last 2 years. We are amazed and inspired by the generosity and dedication of our staff.

Speaking of AMAZEMENT...we hope you will plan to join us this year for *Raise Your Glass To Raise Awareness*, coming up on April 20! You will not want to miss this fun and exciting event that supports our students and programs of Bridgeway Academy.

With Gratitude,

BRIDGEWAY ACADEMY | 2500 Medary Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43202 | 614-262-7520 | www.bridgewayohio.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES | William Root, Chair, Lina Attia, Michelle Croft, Kourtnei Hatton; Chris Henry, Matthew Huffman, Rose Lawyer, Dave Moffat, Dan Mushalko, Rick Schostek, Robert Shenton

Bridgeway Academy is a non-profit organization with a mission to *inspire the potential and celebrate the ability of every child.*

PTA NEWS

Hello Bridgeway families! We're excited for the activities we have planned for Spring Break! You can access the full list and registration links via your email or the family Facebook page, but here is the recap:

Sun. 3/25, 10:30-11:15am - Special Needs Bounce @ The Bounce Club Powell

Sun. 3/25, 5:30-7:30pm - Swimming @ Westerville Community Center

Wed. 3/28, 10am - Sherlock Gnomes Private Movie at Marcus Crosswoods

Thur. 3/29, 10-11:30am - World of Bounce in Gahanna

Fri. 3/30, 3:30pm - Red Robin @ Polaris, then Blendon Woods Metro Park

Mon 4/2 @10am - Cookie decorating @ Panera Bread near Tuttle Mall

Don't forget about our Parent Autism Wine & Canvas event on Friday, April 6th at Party Studio in Worthington. We still have seats available if you want to join us for a fun evening out and channel your inner Picasso! You can find the details in your email or our Facebook group as well.

The PTA recently purchased some very cool adapters for the basketball hoops in the gymnasium at both buildings. The classroom teachers and therapy team will be able to utilize these for a more engaging inclusive basketball experience for all of our kids. Check them out next time you are in the buildings! Thanks for all of the delicious items you sent in for our Staff Appreciation event in February! We will have our Ice Cream Social for the Staff on May 9th in conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Day!

Soon we will be asking you to send in item donations to create some AMAZING baskets for *Raise your Glass To Raise Awareness* on April 20th. Watch your email for classroom assignments to help us create three baskets to be raffled off and help raise money at this year's event. We also have multiple fundraisers going on this Spring and we appreciate all the support you have already shown! We recently finished up our shirt and sign sales, flower sale and Art to Remembers sales as well as restaurant nights at Red Robin and Chipotle. We have Michael's Meats coming again from April 20-30, with delivery on May 16th to coincide with the flower delivery. We have three remaining SCRIP gift card orders for this school year on 4/3, 4/23 and 5/14.

We always love to have new faces join the PTA! Please join us for our April meeting on Tuesday 4/10 at 1pm at the Primary building or at our final meeting of the school year on Tuesday 5/8 at 1pm at the Secondary building. Please join us and be an integral part of supporting our families and staff!



Lastly, don't miss a performance by NACHO—the Nationwide Children's Hospital Orchestra Street Band on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 11:00am –12:00pm at the Primary building! PTA is providing cookies and water for guests. Feel free to bring a friend. This event is free and open to the community.

PSYCHOLOGY CORNER

Kicking Spring Activities off on the Right Foot



With warm weather right around the corner, you may be looking for activities in which to get your child involved. While some of these activities might be familiar, others might be starting for the very first time. Here are a few tips to help make the first activity, practice, game, or meeting a positive experience: **Social Stories:** these can help prepare your child for where they will go, who they will see, what they will do, and how long it will take. It can also be helpful to include details about how the activity is similar to other experiences your child may have had.

Visit the location ahead of time: this will allow your child to get acclimated to the new environment before being there with a bigger crowd.

Practice conversation skills: greetings and introductions are a great place to start.

Sensory Breaks: identify a quiet spot ahead of time where your child can retreat to if overwhelmed ; and, pack calming activities to use while on the break (e.g., weighted lap pad or fidgets); practice functional communication for requesting a break ahead of time.

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Please join us:



Friday, April 20, 2018
7:00pm-10:30pm
Mid-Ohio Food Bank,
3960 Brookham Drive
Grove City, OH 43123

Prepare to be amazed as we raise funds in support of our students, families, and staff! During the program, you'll hear many amazing stories, with a magical twist! Includes delicious food, flowing drinks, and amazing entertainment from PopGun, DJ Jay Ram, and more!

Reserved tables are filling quickly—reserve today!

For more information or for tickets, visit bridgewayohio.org/raise-you-glass/ or contact Carol Argiro, Director of Development at cargiro@bridgewayohio.org or (614)-262-7520.



Stay tuned in April for more info about an exciting drink collaboration between Bridgeway Academy and **Condado Tacos** across all Columbus locations!

Remember, get your Awesome gear until April 1st—10% of proceeds support Camp Bridgeway! Order online at theawesomecompany.com and use the code: BRIDGEWAY.



WELCOME NEW STAFF (as of 1/9/18)

Tina Duong
Floater, Primary

Corrine Esmont
Teacher, Hedgehogs

Brittany Fleming
Floater, Secondary

Abigail Moonis
OT



Not pictured: Sierra Bain, Floater, Primary

GOODBYE AND WELL WISHES

We said goodbye to the following staff members since the last quarterly newsletter and wish them well in the future.

Rebecca Riley and Keera White