

December 5th, 2017

## Bridges Public Charter School

### NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello Friends and Family of Bridges PCS –

This school year we have nearly 400 students and approximately 130 staff working to meet the needs of all students! We are rapidly growing and are excited for the many new families we welcomed this school year! Our leadership team is filled with people ready to support you with answering questions and/or meeting your child's needs. Often it is challenging to know who to go to for all of the different questions, concerns and needs that may occur from day to day.

A question I recently received during one of my monthly parent coffee meetings was, "Who do I go to for what?"

The purpose of my letter to the friends and family of our Bridges PCS community for the month of December is to introduce you to members of the Bridges leadership team and how we can help you. On the next page you will find a chart outlining members of the leadership team and some of the areas you can reach out to each person regarding. Of course, anyone on the leadership team is always willing to lend a helping hand whenever needed. I hope this helps with understanding a bit more about who is in charge of each area at Bridges.

Have a wonderful month of December!

Kristine Rigley  
Principal



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 4-8 - Inclusive Schools Week
- Dec. 20—Winter extravaganza
- Jan. 4, 5, & 8—Vision & hearing screening for all students
- Jan. 19-20—Clothing/ toy/book swap

## DIRECTOR'S NEWS BY: OLIVIA SMITH

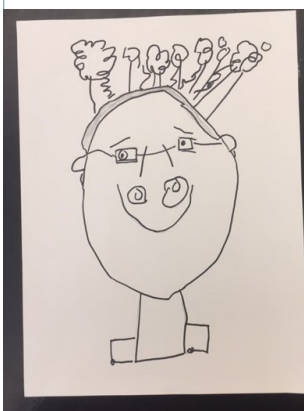
Greeting Bridges families!

It was wonderful to see so many parents and extended family members join us for the Bridges' Family Meal of Thanks on November 22<sup>nd</sup> just before the Thanksgiving holiday. If you were not able to attend this year, we hope you can join us next year for this multicultural potluck meal.

This month we hope that you join us for activities happening at Bridges such as the celebration of **Inclusive Schools Week (Dec. 4 – 8)** and **The Winter Extravaganza on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. The Winter Extravaganza is a celebration of winter and community and each classroom will do a skit or song. Pre-K & kindergarten classes will perform from 9:30 am - 11:30 am and 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms will perform from 11:30 pm - 1:30 pm.

**Bridges' Annual Winter Time Fundraising Campaign has begun and we ask you to consider making a donation to the school.** The school is working this year to raise funds for new furniture and technology for classrooms. Always mindful of managing costs we brought all of our well used furniture with us when we moved into the new school building in August 2016. This was necessary to complete the new building on budget. Now we would like to outfit classrooms with new furniture and technology. Please consider a donation of \$10, \$25, \$100 or more to help us reach our goal. All donations, small or large are valued and greatly appreciated. There are several ways families and friends can support the school. On-line donations can be made through the Bridges' website at the "Support Us" page, <http://bridgespcs.org/support-us/>. Donations in the form of checks or cash can be dropped off at the front desk or mailed in to the school (checks only). On-line shopping with Amazon also helps raise money for Bridges PCS. The shopper gets the same prices, same products, same service. When you shop Amazon through the **Amazon Smile link**, Amazon gives 0.5% of every sale to the nonprofit you select. This link can be used to set up shopping at Amazon in support of Bridges PCS: [smile.amazon.com/ch/73-1681983](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/73-1681983). For people who are Federal Government employee, they can support Bridges PCS through the **2017 Combined Federal Campaign**. Donate online at the CFC's [e-Giving](#) program. **Bridge's CFC number is 97434**. If you have friends or family members who are interested in donating to a non-profit organization during the holiday season or at any time during the year, please refer them to donate to Bridges PCS through the school's website, [www.bridgespcs.org](http://www.bridgespcs.org). All donations are 100% tax deductible. Thank you for considering making a donation to Bridges PCS this holiday season.

Olivia Smith  
Founder / Head of School



## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



### **STAND UP, SIT TALL FOR INCLUSION! Bridges Celebrate Inclusive Schools Week.**

Bridges PCS will celebrate Inclusive Schools Week, December 4-8, 2017. Inclusive Schools Week celebrates the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and high quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students who are marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference, or other factors. This year's theme is "STAND UP, SIT TALL FOR INCLUSION" because inclusion results in improved outcomes for ALL students! At Bridges we pride ourselves as being a school for all children and are excited to celebrate Inclusive Schools Week. Look for more information detailing our upcoming Inclusive Schools Week events and activities.

#### **Wellness**

#### **Helping your Child Cope with "Big Feelings"**

Children can have the same big feelings that adults do. The difference for adults, though, is that we have more life experience to know how to deal with difficult emotions. Here are 5 steps to help to teach children how to cope when they feel fear, anxiety, or anger:

1. **Remind myself that it is never okay to hurt others** – Children immediately lash out at others (physically or verbally) as a first reaction when they feel angry, frustrated or upset. Remind your child that this is not OK to hurt others.
2. **Take 3 deep breaths or count slowly to 10** – These are very simple and immediate calm down techniques that children can use to give them a little time and space to think before they act or react.
3. **Use my words to say how I feel and what I wish would happen** – This step allows children to acknowledge their feelings, recognize that these feelings are legitimate and important, and to verbalize what they wish would happen.
4. **Ask for help to solve the problem** – Let your child know that they may not always be able to solve a problem by themselves and it is ok to ask for help.
5. **Take the time I need to calm down** – When your child has a hard time managing their feelings let them know that they can take some time to calm down and take time to discharge these feelings safely.

## NEWS FROM THE PTO

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

We hope that you and your children are enjoying the school year. As 2017 comes to a close, we have planned some fun activities for the community.

**We have more Bridges t-shirts and sweatshirts for sale!** We sold out our first order and have more available. Thank you for your support. It's not too late to pick up some Bridges swag. **There will be more t-shirts and sweatshirts available at the Winter Extravaganza on Wednesday, December 20.**

Bridges' social workers have asked for **gift card donations** to help Bridges families in need during the holiday season, including school breaks when kids won't have access to the school's breakfast and lunch program. **Our social workers are accepting gift card donations through the month of December. Although they are grateful for any donation, gift cards in increments of \$15 - \$25 from Wal-Mart, Safeway and gas stations would be especially helpful.**

Finally, where would Bridges be without our amazing volunteers? Thank you to everyone who made Picture Days, Family Movie Night, the Lending Library, Flex Academy/afterschool programs, the Staff Appreciation breakfasts, t-shirt sales and our music and arts fundraiser a **HUGE SUCCESS!**

Looking ahead to 2018

**Our annual book/clothing/toy swap will take place from Friday January 19 through Saturday January 20.** Please bring your gently-loved books, clothes and toys and enjoy "shopping" while you're there.

-The Bridges PTO

## 5 Steps to Managing Big Emotions





## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Hola Familias / Hello Families,

### **School Calendar Update:**

February 2<sup>nd</sup> is the new date for Academic Parent Teaching Teams (APTT) meetings and Parent Teacher Conferences (PTC)

### **Health screenings Information:**

Vision and hearing screenings will be conducted on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> for all students attending Bridges Public Charter School.

### **Attendance Update:**

Attendance matters all day, every day. Please know that the attendance rate of Pre-K students affects the overall attendance rating of the school.

### **Early Childhood Information**

Students in Kindergarten will be participating in Fountas and Pinnell (F&P) reading assessment soon. ECE students have started testing using the Learning Accomplishment Profile (LAP) Assessment. This assessment measures student development in the areas of cognitive/math, language, prewriting and personal/social. The students will also be participating in the Peabody, Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT). This assessment measures students' expressive and receptive vocabulary.

### **New Protocol: Signing out with the school nurse--- (Inform all designated Pick-up Persons for your child)**

Students who are ill and are sent home by the school nurse need to be signed out with the school nurse. The adult picking up the student must show a picture ID and also sign out of the building at the front desk. These measures are being put in place to ensure that all our students are safe and we know who is taking a student out of the building.

### **Student Development Focus: Letter Identification Development Activities:**

How can you help?

Help your child identify letter names around them.

Help your child distinguish CAPITAL vs lowercase letters

Read a story every night, have your child retell the story, identifying what events happened in the story and the sequence of each event. Develop language and listening comprehension skills.

Consistently narrate or talk about the activities you are doing. For example, "I'm setting the table; I set one fork for ....., and one cup for ....." Doing this helps children develop their skill of memory, sequencing, and recalling detail.

Please stay in contact with your classroom teacher and check Tuesday Folders for school information.

Danette Dicks,

Assistant Principal

