






2E\*

2018/19

Parent Association Handbook

# Contents

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# Welcome

Dear Families,

On behalf of the Parent Association (PA), we would like to welcome everyone back to school and welcome our new families to the Bridges Academy community. Every parent of a Bridges Academy student is automatically a member of the PA. We encourage and appreciate your involvement.

Our mission is fourfold:

- To encourage and organize parent volunteer opportunities
- To support fundraising through our major annual event, the Gala, and by assisting with the school's Annual Fund drive
- To foster community-building through non-fundraising activities such as our Halloween Carnival, teacher appreciation events, monthly meetings, and much more
- To raise awareness in our respective personal and professional communities about Bridges' unique mission in educating twice-exceptional (2e) students

We achieve our mission when we work together. There is a place for each person's time, talent, and treasure; and we value it all! We are a small and busy group blazing a new trail as we support an educational model that enriches not only our children, but all the 2e children who will follow in their footsteps.

We look forward to another terrific year at Bridges Academy!

Christine Evey  
Co-President

Lisa Vebber  
Co-President

# Parent Association Executive Leadership

The executive leadership oversees and supports committee chairs and team leaders in coordinating all Parent Association activities.

## **Co-Presidents**

Christine Evey – 310-283-0010, [chrisevey@icloud.com](mailto:chrisevey@icloud.com)

Lisa Vebber – 213-604-5819, [lvebber@me.com](mailto:lvebber@me.com)

## **Vice President**

Heather David – 818-269-7810, [lovecakey@yahoo.com](mailto:lovecakey@yahoo.com)

Stephanie Humphrey – 213-308-7992, [stephumphrey@mac.com](mailto:stephumphrey@mac.com)

## **Co-Secretaries**

Sabine LaFolie – 323-528-7905, [slafolie@yahoo.com](mailto:slafolie@yahoo.com)

Liliana Escudero - 951-377-1088, [lilianaescudero@me.com](mailto:lilianaescudero@me.com)

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Please reach out to us anytime!  
We want to hear from you.  
Our email address is  
[ParentAssociation@bridges.edu](mailto:ParentAssociation@bridges.edu).

*“It isn’t what we say or think that defines us, but what we do.”*

- Jane Austen

# Grade-Level Parents

Grade-level parents disseminate news and information, facilitate social engagement, direct parent questions, and encourage volunteerism. Watch for their emails with important reminders and information about your division and/or grade level. Your grade-level parent is a great person to call when you have questions, and we ask that you please respond to their call when they invite you to volunteer.

## **Phoenix (Grades 4-6)**

Amanda Millet – 213-864-6361, [amillett@speakeasy.net](mailto:amillett@speakeasy.net)

Vanessa Coifman – 323-333-3173, [vanessacoifman@gmail.com](mailto:vanessacoifman@gmail.com)

## **Middle School (Grades 7-8)**

Kate Colleary - 310-749-1411, [kpcolleary@gmail.com](mailto:kpcolleary@gmail.com)

Holly Zuniga - 818-983-4427, [hollyrz@gmail.com](mailto:hollyrz@gmail.com)

Susan Swihart – 323-828-3106, [susanswihartphoto@gmail.com](mailto:susanswihartphoto@gmail.com)

## **9th Grade**

Cathy Blumel – 818-294-4176, [cathyblumel@gmail.com](mailto:cathyblumel@gmail.com)

Siri Maness – 310-729-7893, [sirimaness@gmail.com](mailto:sirimaness@gmail.com)

## **10th Grade**

THIS COULD BE YOU! CONTACT US!

## **11th Grade**

Rebekka Hosken - 818-632-4086, [rhosken@socal.rr.com](mailto:rhosken@socal.rr.com)

Mila Del Carpo – 818-821-5083

## **12th Grade**

THIS COULD BE YOU! CONTACT US!

# Parent Association Events

## ***Halloween Carnival*** – Saturday, October 27, 2018

Our first event of the year is a ton of fun and a great way to get to know other families through volunteering and socializing. This an affordable, community-building, non-fundraising event. Bring your whole family!

### **Halloween Carnival Chairs**

Heather David - 818-269-7810, [lovecakey@yahoo.com](mailto:lovecakey@yahoo.com)  
Marti Ornest - 310 926-1100, [martifaron1@aol.com](mailto:martifaron1@aol.com)  
Joe Heist – [jnkheist@yahoo.com](mailto:jnkheist@yahoo.com)

### **Halloween Carnival Mentor**

Christine Evey – 310 283-0010, [chrisevey@icloud.com](mailto:chrisevey@icloud.com)  
Lisa Vebber – 213-604-5819, [lvebber@me.com](mailto:lvebber@me.com)

### **Halloween Carnival Décor and Design**

Marie and Bruce Parker - 818-846-8306, [bigglesparker@att.net](mailto:bigglesparker@att.net)

### **Halloween Carnival High School Voodoo Lounge**

Kris Smith - 818-821-4007, [Kris\\_smith73@hotmail.com](mailto:Kris_smith73@hotmail.com)  
Jeff Turner - 562-756-6813, [turnerdood@aol.com](mailto:turnerdood@aol.com)

## ***Gala and Auction*** – late April/early May 2019

The Bridges Academy annual Gala is an adult-only evening full of fun with new friends and old. It is our biggest party/fundraiser of the year, and the one event you don't want to miss. Alumni, relatives, neighbors – everyone is invited. Hundreds of auction items will be available. Save the date and start gathering auction items now!

### **Gala Event Co-Chairs**

Toby Berkow – 917-586-8196, tobyberkow@gmail.com

Liliana Escudero – 951-377-1088, lilianaescudero@me.com

Sabine LaFolie – 323-528-7905, slafolie@yahoo.com

### **Basket/Auction Table Design**

Kate Colleary - 310-749-1411, kpcolleary@gmail.com

YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE! CONTACT US!

### **Bidding For Good (auction website)**

**Chair:** Siri Maness - 310-729-7893, sirimaness@gmail.com

**Team:** YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE!

Are you a great researcher, good writer, or just enjoy data entry? Join the Bidding For Good team. Please contact Siri for info.

### **Get Squad (auction item solicitation)**

**Mentor:** Tami Turner – 562-708-3535, turnbaby@aol.com

**Chair:** Terri Kanner – 805-573-4681, th.kanner@gmail.com

**Team:** YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE!

Are you a people person or great researcher? We want you for the Get Squad team. Please contact Terri for more info.

### **Underwriting**

Valerie Weisenfeld - 818-939-3107, valleyval@me.com

Event Chairs welcome your volunteer involvement;  
please contact them to help. Stay tuned to the  
Bridges weekly newsletter for more  
information about event-specific volunteer needs.

# Hospitality & Teacher Appreciation

## ***Hospitality***

The Hospitality committee organizes refreshments for the New Family Social, back-to-school nights, division-level orientations, graduation, and prospective parent meetings and tours.

### **Hospitality Chair**

Sabine LaFolie – 323-528-7905, [slafolie@yahoo.com](mailto:slafolie@yahoo.com)

### **Hospitality Committee**

YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE!

We are looking for 2-3 more committee members. Please contact Sabine for more info.

## ***Teacher and Staff Appreciation***

These mentors and chairs manage the much-deserved appreciation events and activities for our teachers and staff, including Holiday Giving and Teacher Appreciation Week.

### **Holiday Giving Co-Chairs**

Corinne Taylor-Cyngiser – 831-334-0837, [corinne318@gmail.com](mailto:corinne318@gmail.com)

Val Weisenfeld – 818-939-3107, [valleyval@me.com](mailto:valleyval@me.com)

Nancy Alder – 310-704-3748, [alderkrewe@gmail.com](mailto:alderkrewe@gmail.com)

### **Teacher Appreciation Week Co-Chairs**

Allyson Kimmel - 310-855-2425, [Allykimmel@aol.com](mailto:Allykimmel@aol.com)

Susan Swihart - 323-828-3106, [susanswihartphoto@gmail.com](mailto:susanswihartphoto@gmail.com)



# Special Teams & Liaisons

## **Alumni Ambassadors**

These alumni parents connect and inform other alumni parents in support of school activities, initiatives, and fundraising.

Vi Huang - 818-506-1091, Vi.Huang@bridges.edu

Robin Fox - 818-631-6297, Foxdensfv@yahoo.com

## **Food Drive and Neighborhood Outreach**

YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE!

This team organizes student charitable giving activities and neighborhood involvement.

## **Lost and Found**

Jeff Griffin – 310-994-4109, jgrff108@yahoo.com

This team coordinates two Lost and Found days during the school year. We are looking for at least one more team member; please contact Christine or Lisa.

## **Robotics**

This role acts as a liaison between the PA and the robotics team.

Shoshana Anthony - 805-404-1464, notshoshana@gmail.com

Nicole Warner - 818-620-5176, nmwarner@sbcglobal.net

*“Start by doing what's necessary;  
then do what's possible; and suddenly you  
are doing the impossible.”*

- Francis of Assisi

# Special Teams *continued* & Get Involved

## **School Spirit**

Cathy Blumel – 818-294-4176, cathyblumel@gmail.com

This team brainstorms school spirit activities and sells spirit products.

## **Social Media**

Liliana Escudero - 951-377-1088, lilianaescudero@me.com

Siri Maness - 310-729-7893, sirimaness@gmail.com

This role gets the word out about PA activities via social media.

## **Community Advertising for Fundraising Events**

Val Faithorn (graphic design) – 213-700-1366, vfaithorn@gmail.com

YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE! VIDEO EDITOR NEEDED!

This team creates fun and informative videos to teach and inspire our community about our fundraising events.

## **Theater Guild**

Robin Burkhardt – 310-435-6334, robinL2020@gmail.com

Eileen Wolter – 917-304-0714, eileenwolter@me.com

This role acts as a liaison between the PA and the theater department and organizes refreshment sales at theater performances.

## **GET INVOLVED**

There is room for you! The following open positions provide great ways to make new friends and contribute to our school. Please contact Christine or Lisa for more info at [ParentAssociation@bridges.edu](mailto:ParentAssociation@bridges.edu).

# Helpers & Supporters

These current and alumni parents graciously support the PA as needed according to their availability – no commitment required! We email volunteer opportunities to them once to twice per month. If you'd like to join this team, please contact Corinne or Val.

Nancy Alder	Jeff Griffin	Marti and Mike Ornest
Shoshana Anthony	Kristin Harms	Ruth Oroshnik
Tatiana Armbruster	John Harms	Hang Pacey
Arlette Avakian	Joe Heist	Marie and Bruce Parker
Sela Azmon-Fishbein	Rebekka Hosken	Mya Rosett
Gina Battista	Vi Huang	Leif Sandaas
Toby Berkow	Stephanie Humphrey	Judy Share
Cathy Blumel	Elaine Kandel Thomas	Brianna Siegel
Cynthia Bond	Kathryn Kaycoff	Kris Smith
Karen Breslow	Allyson Kimmel	Wendei Smith
Beneth Browne	Kim Kuskin	Jill Sorkin
Vanessa Coifman	Sabine LaFolie	Susan Swihart
Kate Colleary	Julia Lapeze	Corinne Taylor-Cyngiser
Brian Comer	Robin Levey	Jeff Turner
Rebecca Dauterive	LeeAnne Mallel	Tami Turner
Heather David	Siri Maness	Stephanie Vassallo
Christina	Meghan Mather	Lisa Vebber
de Rochmont-Best	John Mattson	Colleen Ventimilia
Milagritos Del Carpio	Mark Melichar	Jen Ventimilia
Lauren DeVillier	Anne Milder	Nicole Warner
Tom Downey	Mary Ellen Miller	Valerie Weisenfeld
Laurence Dumortier	Amanda Millet	Holly Whatley
Liliana Escudero	Christine Molaro	Maria Whitford
Christine Evey	Alberto Muñoz	Anousha Wickser
Valerie Faithorn	Andrea Neumann	John Wickser
Robin Fox	Eric O'Rafferty	Eileen Wolter
Sheryl Fox	Jennifer O'Rafferty	Rianna Zimmerman
Jennifer Glickman	Sherine Omar	Gil Zuniga
Melissa Gordon		Holly Zuniga

*If we've accidentally left your name off this list, please let us know.  
We want ALL our volunteers to feel properly acknowledged.*

# Year-At-A-Glance \*

Events *in bold* are organized by the Parent Association.

## *August 2018*

- New Family Social
- Division-Level New Parent Orientations
- **“Grade-Level Parents” Kick-Off Meeting**

## *September*

- **Monthly Parent Association meetings begin**
- Beach Day
- Division-Level Back-To-School Nights

## *October*

- Prospective Parent Open Houses
- Halloween Lunch Assembly
- **Halloween Carnival**
- **Gala Volunteers Kick-Off Meeting**

## *November*

- Thanksgiving Break
- High School Drama Performance

## *December*

- Coffeehouse (After-School Music Program)
- **Holiday Soiree**
- Staff Holiday Giving and Holiday Luncheon
- Winter Break

## *January 2019*

- **No monthly Parent Association meeting**
- Wintersession
- Musical Theater Performance

## *February*

- Prospective Parent Open Houses

## *March*

- **Community “Kick-Off” for Gala & Auction**
- Robotics Competition
- 9th Grade Catalina Trip

## *April*

- Spring Break
- Participation Day
- High School Drama Performance
- **Annual Gala & Auction**

## *May*

- **Teacher Appreciation Week**
- Coffeehouse (After-School Music Program)
- Prom
- 8th Grade Bridging Presentations
- Middle School Promotion
- High School Graduation

\* This is a brief overview of Bridges happenings.  
For dates and additional events, please refer to  
the calendar located on the school website:  
[www.bridges.edu/calendar](http://www.bridges.edu/calendar)

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Please review your enrollment/re-enrollment packets for more detailed information. You may also contact your grade-level parent and/or Bridges ambassador for questions that are not covered here. Another resource is the official Bridges Student-Parent Handbook, which can be found on the school's website at [www.bridges.edu/bridges-student-parent-handbook](http://www.bridges.edu/bridges-student-parent-handbook).

## *Who can answer general questions about the campus and school procedures?*

Grade-Level Parents – Like room parents at other schools, these are the people who will keep you up-to-date about what is happening in your division and/or grade (*see page 3*).

Ambassadors – These are parents of Bridges students or graduates who assist new families in getting settled.

Your PA co-presidents, vice president, and co-secretaries also are available to help answer questions. If they don't know the answer, they will know the direction in which to point you!

Faculty and staff names, photos, titles, and contact information are listed on the Bridges website at [www.bridges.edu/faculty--staff](http://www.bridges.edu/faculty--staff).

## *Where do I find the school roster?*

The link to our roster is located on the "Community" page of the Bridges website at [www.bridges.edu/community](http://www.bridges.edu/community). The password is: darwin. The roster is confidential. Please do not share this roster or password outside the Bridges community. Thank you.

## *What are the hours for school arrival and dismissal?*

The first bell rings at 8:30 a.m. signaling to students that it is time to go to class. Students arriving before 8:30 a.m. are to wait outside near the main entrance unless they have permission to enter the building before school. Classes start at 8:35 a.m. every day. Monday through Thursday, Phoenix dismissal is 3:00 p.m. and dismissal for middle and high school is at 3:50 p.m. Every Friday is a shortened day for all students with school ending at 2:15 p.m. Hours occasionally are shortened for student conferences or other reasons. Please pay close attention to the weekly email newsletter and check the Bridges calendar at: [www.bridges.edu/calendar](http://www.bridges.edu/calendar).

## *How do I find a carpool?*

Many parents form carpools with other Bridges families who live or work close to them. This is done on an informal basis using the Bridges zip code list, available at the end of the roster (*to access the roster see page 12*). You also can ask your grade-level parent (*see page 3*) or Bridges ambassador if they are aware of existing carpools in your area.

## *Where do I drop off and pick up my child?*

Morning drop-off is the same for all students: Drive onto campus using the main entrance, make your first right, follow the line of cars past the Phoenix/Administrative building (on your left) and the gym (on your right). Pull as far forward as possible into or past the breezeway (the covered portion between the gym and main entrance to the middle/high school building). Our school security officer's name is Lorenzo Yzaguirre - please follow all his safety instructions.

After-school pick-up for Phoenix and middle school is in the same breezeway area. After school pick-up for high school is located in the roundabout at the far end of the parking lot.

**More info can be found in the  
Student-Parent Handbook:  
[www.bridges.edu/  
bridges-student-parent-handbook](http://www.bridges.edu/bridges-student-parent-handbook)**

## FAQs *continued*

### *How do I find out about school events?*

You will receive a weekly newsletter via email from Bridges Academy announcing all events, upcoming meetings, and volunteer opportunities. The newsletter also showcases the accomplishments of our students and faculty, both on campus and around the world.

**Please designate one family member to read the weekly email newsletter so you won't miss out on important information.** You also can access the Bridges calendar at [www.bridges.edu/calendar](http://www.bridges.edu/calendar) or by clicking on the "Calendar" link in the top-right corner of the Bridges homepage. Lastly, you can contact your grade-level parent and/or any of the event or activity chairs listed in this handbook.

### *Is there an obligation to volunteer?*

Part of the strength of the Bridges community is that we support and give generously to one another and to the school. Our level of involvement truly makes this a special place for our children, our teachers and staff, and us parents too. The success of Bridges is a shared responsibility, and we count on each family to provide time, energy, and resources as they are able. In that spirit, we ask that each family commit to at least ten volunteer hours annually. There are PA volunteer opportunities both large and small. Please get in touch with Christine or Lisa if you'd like to help.

### *Why should I get involved?*

Your involvement helps Bridges provide the best possible experience for our children. It's also a great opportunity to socialize and build community with other parents of 2e kids. We are a group of parents as resourceful, talented, and interesting as our children. When you volunteer your time, talent, and resources, you are helping to build this uniquely creative, entrepreneurial, and innovative environment - and we promise that it's also a lot of fun.



# Next Steps

Here are a few ideas to help you get the most out of your Parent Association...

- **Read the school's weekly email newsletter** for important information and volunteer opportunities.
- **Join us on Facebook** at the "Bridges Academy Parents Association" group: [www.facebook.com/groups/BridgesPA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/BridgesPA) -- and, while you're there, don't forget to "like" the main Bridges Academy page: [www.facebook.com/BridgesAcademy](http://www.facebook.com/BridgesAcademy).
- **Attend Parent Association meetings** on the first Thursday of most months. Parent Association meetings provide a great opportunity to get involved, share resources, socialize, and keep up to date with the latest developments at Bridges Academy. Special guest speakers and topics will be presented each month. Coffee and light food is provided. Meetings are from 9-10 a.m., followed by a social hour from 10-11 a.m. We promise to use your time and energy wisely!
- **Get in touch.** Let us know your talents, your capacities, and your constraints. With this information, we can build a better Bridges together.
- **Volunteer!** Keep an eye out for each event's volunteer sign-up sheet. Volunteering at events is a ton of fun and a great way to socialize and build community.



# Notes

# Notes

## **A NOTE ABOUT OUR IMAGES:**

**Abraham Lincoln** (*front cover*) is believed to have been 2e, referring to the fact that he was a political genius and was thought to be challenged with Anxiety Disorder.

**Jane Austen** (*page 2*) is believed to have been 2e, referring to the fact that she was a literary genius and was thought to be challenged with Asperger's Syndrome.

**Marie Curie** (*back cover*) is believed to have been 2e, referring to the fact that she was a chemistry genius and was thought to be challenged with Asperger's Syndrome.

Save the Dates!

# Parent Association Meetings

2E\*



**When:** First Thursday of the month:  
9/6, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6, 2/7, and 3/7  
Second Thursday of the month: 4/11 and 5/9  
*Please note: there is no January meeting*

**Where:** Middle School Community Room

**Time:** Meeting after drop-off: 9-10 a.m.  
Social hour following: 10-11 a.m.

Special guest speakers and topics each month  
Share resources - Hear the latest Bridges info  
Coffee and light refreshments provided  
Socialize - Get involved

We promise to use your time and energy wisely!

**Bridges Academy**  
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd  
Studio City, CA 91604

818.506.1091

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[ParentAssociation@bridges.edu](mailto:ParentAssociation@bridges.edu)