The Bridge Academy proudly graduated eight students; (L to R) Alex Tessein, Ryan Butcavage, Dana McMillian, Elliot McGlew, Susan Morris (Director of Education), Justin Minitee, Sarah Kotlan, Justin Robles, and Matthew Pacchiano. As our graduates have demonstrated in the past, 90% of the students will be pursuing future studies in a 2 or 4 year college or technical program. We are very proud of our graduates and as Ryan Butcavage said it best in his graduation speech; “Most graduates our age have never had to overcome the challenges we all faced that brought us to the Bridge Academy. But now look at us; we overcame those challenges and make up the 2017 graduating class of the Bridge Academy. We have learned that our disabilities do not limit us; they are what make us who we are today. Strong, resilient, and confident young men and women ready to take on a future that looks bright.”
The Bridge Academy’s 2017 Annual Report

Planting Seeds for the Future
On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank you for your continued support of The Bridge Academy. Our school has made great strides in educating children with learning disabilities; but this would not be possible without the support of our entire Bridge family – Board of Trustees current/alumni students, faculty, staff, current and alumni parents, grandparents and friends. There is a cause and effect that happens at our school when our entire family supports our students and they in turn rise to the occasion with their success. This report is an expression of our gratitude and a celebration of the successful year we have shared at The Bridge Academy highlighted by our students’ and our school’s success.

Everyone at The Bridge Academy is dedicated to providing an exceptional educational program that focuses on our students’ individual needs, provides a nurturing environment where students are free to be themselves and are supported by an exceptional staff dedicated to helping them bridge the gap between potential and performance. Our ultimate goal is to find a larger and permanent home for The Bridge. This past year we planted the seed to make this dream a reality.

With your help and past generous donations, we have been able to purchase the property adjacent to our existing location. A new school will bring the security of ownership and the ability to enhance our educational programs and increase our enrollment so we can help more children with their educational needs. We are excited as we begin this next chapter in The Bridge Academy story by laying the foundation for our capital campaign fundraising. It was with your help that we were able to take this step and we hope you will join us on this journey through your continued support of the school.

Your participation supports the kind of education Bridge Academy students can’t receive anywhere else. I hope you enjoy reading about our students’ and our school’s accomplishments. Together we can build a stronger and far-reaching bridge.

Mark Reilly – President, Board of Trustees

BOARDS OF TRUSTEES
OFFICERS
Mark Reilly, President
David Couture, Vice President
Robert C. Albanese, Treasurer
David Kornberg, Secretary

TRUSTEES
Joseph Claffey
David Hayden
Susan Hodges
Joanne Epply-Schmidt
Nicholas Scozzari

ADVISORY
James Houghton
Hench Murray
Ken Radziwanowski

EX OFFICIO
Susan K. Morris, Director of Education
Jayne Pellegrino,
Director of Business Administration
Kim Bruno, Development Director

“We are fortunate that our successful educational program is enhanced through the solid partnership formed between the school, parents and the community.”
~ Mark Reilly, President Board of Trustees
Elizabeth Haines
John and Joyce Haluszka
Dave Hayden
Hickory Hog
Hill Wallack LLP
Cynthia Holland
Elizabeth Holland
Tom and Kathrine Hunt
Brandon Hurd
Irvine and Gwyn Hurd
Lana Inacio
IPlay America
Mason Irving and Eden Richman
Kenny’s Boardwalk
Scott Jennings
JM Group
Howard and Sherri Jonas
Lisa Jones
KC Prime
Julie Kilbane
Frank and Irene Kotlan, III
Kramer Studios
Kumo Japanese Fusion
Marge Kuzin
La Mezzaluna Restaurant
La Stalla Restaurant
Leonardo’s
Kim Lowery
Lucy’s Ravioli Kitchen & Market
Donald and Christina Maines
McCaffrey’s
Mercer County Park Commission
Lynne Merklin
Kathleen Mitchell
Paul and Kim Mitchell
Monmouth University
Greg and Denise Moon
Susan Morris
Mystique Hair & Skin
New York Giants Football, Inc.
New York Jets
New York Rangers
Nino’s Trattoria & Pizzeria
Gerard and Jennifer Norton
Olives
One53
Robert and Giovanna O’Neill
Joseph and Phyllis Panetta
Pennington Quality Market
People’s Light Theater
Jim and Lisa Perry
Philadelphia 76ers
Philadelphia Eagles
Ellen Popkin and Louis Boccumini
Princeton Flying School
Karen and Jay Reinhard
Rider University
Riverhouse Brewery
Rutgers University
Lauren Saul
Andrew Scheman
Jeff Scott
Rafael and Lorna Sharon
Fabienne and Steve Shiffrin
Six Flags Great Adventure
Sourland Mountain Spirits
Spano’s Ristorante
Surf Taco
The Rose Group - Applebees
TD Bank
The Turning Point
Theresa Artigas Portraits
Frank and Antoinette Tuttolimondo
Lillian Viera
Walt Disney World Resort
Washington Crossing Vineyards
Wegman’s
Whole Foods
Tom and Kathleen Willert
Wine Outlet
William and Fran Wrona
Michele Young

Bill Delaney
Marietta Gordon
Katherine Hunt
Marge Kuzin
Luann McCarty
Kim Mitchell
Jayne Pellegrino
Janet Pultorak
Karen Savar
Lillian Viera
Fran and Billy Wrona

Volunteers
Bonnie and Bob Adams
Catherine Bongiovani
Barbara Chabot
Carol Greenfield
Lisa Hernandez
Cynthia Holland
Sue Jeavons
Janet Kiefer
Paula and Dave Kornberg
Bart Zantzinger
Charlotte Kennedy
Lana Inacio
Kim and Paul Mitchell
Alison Perrone
Lynn Jones-Sandler
Vivian Viera

Student Dancers
Erin Schobel
Max Kaiser
Megan Bruthers
Nicole Kilbane
Julisse O’Neill
Matt Warzaniek

Student Speakers
Erin Schobel
Santina Wrona
Ethan Jonas
Xavier Sanchez

Gala Committee
Heather Archer
Sarah Bernotas
Stephanie Bruthers
Special thanks to our Reach for the Stars Gala committee and for everyone that attended this wonderful evening of celebration. Our student speakers were inspiring and the student dancers were amazing! This special evening raised over $60,000 for our school.

We thank the following supporters, donors, volunteers and committee members.

---

Reach for the Stars Gala Donors

The Bridge Academy would like to thank everyone who attended and/or supported our mission, as well as the countless volunteers who helped make the night possible and the event so memorable. Special thanks to our sponsors, advertisers and donors to the event:

**Presenting Sponsor**
Investors Bank

**Silver Star Sponsor**
Michael Inzelbuch, LLC
Stark & Stark
TD Bank

**Bronze Star Sponsor**
Anonymous
epr Resources
Ralph Pacchiano and Nancy Micalizzi
PNC Bank

**Rising Star Sponsors ($500)**
Barbara and Robert Chabot
Sherri and Howard Jonas
Harry Krystalla, CPA
Kim and Paul Mitchell
Giovanna and Robert O’Neill
Phyllis and Joe Panetta
Sussan, Greenwald &Wesler
The Bank of Princeton

**Advertisers**
Investors Bank
Scozzari
TD Bank
Crisdel Group
Bristol-Myers Squibb

Catherines
Capital Health
Kids Smile
Saker Shop Rites
Adath Israel Congregation
P&A Management
Primepoint HRMS & Payroll
Sussan Greenwald & Wesler
NJM Insurance Group
O’Meara Financial
Willis Towers Matson
PNC
Remax The Ocean’s Six Group
Leonardo’s II Mediterranean Grill & Cucina
Thomas Burns, DDS P.A.

**Donors**
Adventure Aquarium
Bob and Robin Albanese
Alchemist & Barrister Restaurant & Pub
Sethand Kathleen Amster
Amy’s Restaurant
Kim and Heather Archer
Arden Theater
Bed, Bath and Beyond
Sarah Bernotas
Bradford Renaissance Portraits
Brave New World

Bridge Academy Board of Trustees
Bridge Academy Parents
Bridge Academy Students
Bridge Academy Teachers
and Parents
Broadway Theatre of Pitman
Kim and Michael Bruno
Brendan and Stephanie Bruther
David and Diana Butcavage
Bill and Melissa Cardenuto
Maureen Cassidy
Catelli Duo
Bob and Barbara Chabot
Cheesecake Factory
Chef’s International
Coopers Pest Solution
Corner Bakery Cafe
Crossing Vineyards & Winery
William and Susan Delaney
Diamonds Restaurant
Dick’s Sporting Goods
Aristide Economopoulos
Europa South Spa
Brett and Elizabeth Fagan
Frankie’s Bar and Grill
Donna Froschhauser
Nicole Froschhauser
Sean and Carrie Griffin
From the first day The Bridge Academy was founded, our objective was to create a school that was unique in providing a high quality, effective educational approach critical to children with language-based learning disabilities. We created a unique curriculum based on Orton-Gillingham principals including a multi-sensory approach with nurturing, student centered instruction and teaching methods. Fourteen years later it still works! Our students’ results continue to grow and amaze all of us. We witness frustrated, confused children transform into confident, self-assured critical thinkers resulting in successful citizens of the world.

While The Bridge Academy is recognized for its strong academic program, the lessons we hope our students take with them go beyond those measured by test scores. We had a very successful year. Not only did our students continue to increase in their reading and math skills, we also graduated eight seniors and the majority of them have decided to pursue post-secondary education by enrolling in a 2 or 4 year college or technical program.

And word is spreading about The Bridge Academy! Our enrollment continues to grow each year. While we maintain committed to our small class size, our building is bursting at the seams. We started this year at full enrollment of 72 children with a waiting list that is breaking my heart as we cannot fill it quickly enough. But with growth comes opportunity. We have finally found the location for a new and larger Bridge Academy. We are so excited to begin to make our dream a reality.

Thank you for helping to make The Bridge Academy the wonderful school it is. I want to personally thank all of you for supporting us in educating the students of The Bridge Academy. We are making a positive impact on our students, their families, the community and each person they connect with in the future. As we move forward, our mission and commitment to effectively educate our students remains at the heart of our school. I am proud to share these successes with you and I invite you to join us a future event in celebrating these remarkable students.

Susan Morris, Director of Education
As we reflect on the past year at The Bridge Academy, we realize we are planting the seeds for success with our students, both as future scholars and citizens of the world. Our students fully embrace the Orton-Gillingham approach to reading and have grown as a result. This past year, our students increased an average of 1 ½ years in their language arts skills, reading and vocabulary development. To promote independent reading, our Reading Challenge was enthusiastically embraced by all students. Collectively, they read over 100,000 pages. In addition to their reading accomplishments, our past year was filled with wonderful experiential learning opportunities, collaborative teaching projects and guest artists, teachers, and speakers. Thank you for helping to make this possible with your support of our school. Some of the past year’s highlights were:

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** 2016 was a presidential election year and our social studies teachers used that as the basis for lifelong learning opportunities. The school hosted an “elected official day,” with Lawrence Mayor, David Maffei, and New Jersey Assemblywoman Elizabeth Maher Muoio. They each explained why they wanted to become an elected official and both the challenges and rewards of their respective office. Students continued their governmental studies by visiting the Constitution Center in Philadelphia, PA. These activities combined with the current event of the election gave our students a better understanding of our country’s constitution, government structure, and their responsibilities as citizens.

**SCIENCE:** Environmental science was the theme for the science classes last year. Students focused on water issues, especially the sources for our water in an urban and suburban area. Bridge students visited the Fairmount Water Works in Philadelphia, PA, a national historic landmark, a civil engineering landmark and a national mechanical engineering landmark. Students learned it was designed and constructed to provide safe clean drinking water to a city on the cusp of remarkable growth. During their visit, students were able to learn about its past, present and future impact of water and its connections between daily life needs and the natural environment. Students were able to compare the urban water needs outlined in the Fairmount Water Works to those same needs in a suburban environment by visiting the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed.

Students continued their environment science studies by participating in The World of 7Billion video challenge. As part of the Population Education, a national program that focuses on human population issues, students planned and executed a short video on one of the three topics; overfishing, coral bleaching and urban sprawl. Not only did they learn about specific scientific issues, but this project required them to apply teamwork, critical thinking, and organization skills to complete the project.

**PEEC:** Students spent two days at the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC). PEEC is one of the largest and longest running residential environmental education centers in the northeastern United States. PEEC sits in the midst of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and utilizes the natural and cultural resources to develop experiential learning
Susan Hodges
Cynthia Holland
Margaret and Henry Hollin
Charles and Claire Hunt
Susan and John Jeavons
William and Debra Kasan, Sr.
Charlotte Kennedy
Rose Ann Kesting
Julie Kilbane
Marge Kuzin
Adrienne and Mark Lambdin
Hashawn Lewis and Nicole Sistrunk-Lewis
Andrew Mersel
Charles and Diane Miller
Thomas and Carolyn Mulligan
Glenn and Linda Palsky
Phillip and Mildred Pappano
Christopher and Andriod Pylaras
Cornel and Madeline Rebeles
Kenneth and Pam Rosenblum
Lindsey Scheman
Michael Simko
Kathryn Wink

**Gifts In Honor**
Lianne Radziwanowski
Kenneth and Diana Radziwanowski
Weston Brody Lahn
Patricia and Randy Lahn

Brian Stone-Sapp
Meredith and James Stone
Jeffrey and Elizabeth Warzeniak
Jade Zayas
Samuel Amster
Seth and Kathleen Amster
Sarah Kotlan
Frank and Joy Kotlan
Bridge Academy Staff
Jay and Karen Reinhard
Anthony and Dennise Romano
Kathryn Alzamora
Kathryn Wink

**Gifts In Memory**
Sonia Schuchat
Susan and Stephen Couture
Kathleen Corson
Diane Corson
Susan and Stephen Couture
Sharon and Fred Gomberg

**Gifts to the Build The Bridge Fund**
Robert and Bonnie Adams
Robert and Robin Albanese
Bernadette Alexander
Anonymous
Meryl and Leonard Baum
Louis Boccumini and Ellen Popkin
Brendan and Stephanie Bruther
Susan and Stephen Couture
William and Susan Delaney
Brad and Alison Gingrich
Lester and Pegg Gothen
Matthew Haluska
Anne Marie and James Harshaw
David Hayden
Cynthia Holland
Tom and Katherine Hunt
Howard and Sherry Jonas
Bill and Carolyn Kaiser
Dolores Kelley
David and Paula Kornberg
Harry Krystalla CPA, LLC
Carla MacGuigan
Linda Martin
Paul and Kim Mitchell
Hench and Donna Murray
Gerard and Jennifer Norton
Joe and Phyllis Panettta
Jayne and Albert Pellegrino
Madeline Perrone
Mark and Alison Perrone
James and Alice Perry
Devin Pultorak
Mark and Heather Reilly
Eric Rosenblum
Jeffrey Snyder
Vidal and Lilian Viera
Thomas and Kathleen Willert
Kathryn Wink
Lisa Woodman
Eileen Ziper
Thanks to our many supporters, The Bridge Academy had another successful year and raised just over $55,000 in unrestricted and restricted gifts to the school’s Annual Fund. Thank you to our Board members, staff, parents, alumni and friends of the school.

Annual Report of Giving

Arch ($5,000 +)
Joanne and Paul Epply-Schmidt
Patricia Moser McCarthy

Span ($2,500 – $4,999)
Kim and Michael Bruno
Jewish Communal Fund

Pillar ($1,000 – $2,499)
Barbara and Robert Chabot
Susan and Stephen Couture
Carol and Sutton Hamilton
Susan Morris
Diana and Kenneth Radziwanowski
Jeffrey and Ethel Renee
Carrie and Frank Strasburger

Pier ($500 – $999)
Robert and Robin Albanese
Anonymous
Diane Corson
Sonia Lamberd
Patricia and Randy Lahn
Vanessa and Steven Morrison
Hench and Donna Murray
Meredith and James Stone
Stop & Shop

Anchor ($250 – $499)
Sherry Cherris
Dell Your Cause, LLC
James and Denise Houghton
Howard and Sherri Jonas

David and Paula Kornberg
Joe and Phyllis Panetta
Mark and Alison Perrone
James and Alice Perry
Joseph and Sheryl Punia
Mary Ann and Gerald Raymond
Mark and Heather Reilly
Garfield and Sandra Trenfield
Mark and Colleen Twardziak
Vidal and Lilian Viera
Jeff and Liz Warzeniak
Jade Zayas

Foundation ($100 – $249)
Robert and Bonnie Adams
Seth and Kathleen Amster
Meryl and Leonard Baum
Neuberger Berman
Ashis Bhisey
Victoria Bixel
Louis Boccumini and Ellen Popkin
Patricia Giacock
Barbara Connell
David Couture
Mary DeMauro
Susan Fiske and Douglas Massey
Janet and Mike Friedman
Sondra Giaccone
Max Giaccone
Sharon and Fred Gomberg
David Hayden

Tom and Kathrine Hunt
Mason Irving and Eden Richman
Alice and Robert Jackson
Lynn and Iven Jones-Sandler
Frank and Joy Kotlan
Wendy Matthews
PNC Foundation
Jay and Karen Reinhard
Anthony and Dennise Romano
Margaret Rossi
Nicholas Scozzari
Rafael and Lorna Sharon
Mario and Georgiane Tanzi
Eileen and Thomas Tresansky
Sharon Trott
Thelma Wardlaw
Stephen and Georgiana Weingart, Jr.
Ronald and Denise Weinstein
Phil and Kim Weiss
William and Frances Wrona

Support (under $100)
Bernadette Alexander
Sarah Bernotas
Catherine Bongiovanni
Walter and Gloria Bowen
Linda and John Brown
Christopher and Kathleen Chrzan
Scott Fort
Brad and Alison Gingrich
Anne Marie and James Harshaw
opportunities. A visit to PEEC provided instruction that was project focused and tailored to hands on learning. It taught our students how to take care of the world by understanding where they live and taking action in their own backyards and communities. Students participated in an outdoor classroom to observe and learn about forest communities and habitats. In addition to the environmental science program, students took part in team building exercises to strengthen their skills in working in groups and decision making.

**STEAM:** Working together, the teachers of Bridge wanted to take the environmental education a step further and deepen our students understanding and engagement. With the help of a grant from the Young Audiences of New Jersey and NRG Corporation, our teachers designed a STEAM program incorporating science, technology, engineering, art and math in the creation of an outdoor sculpture. Working with artist-in-residence, Ben Prangler, students designed wind powered sculptures and then used a 3D printer to create some of the design components.

**ART:** Bridge parent and pen maker, Phil Weiss, taught all the students how to create their very own personalized writing instrument. Students were able to choose the outside casing of their pen from a variety of pre-made wood blocks designed by Mr. Weiss and his sons and Bridge students, Ian and Ethan. After selecting the perfect casing, students used a lathe to shape the pen to appropriate size. Many of the students have never built anything with their hands and this was the first time they had used machinery of any kind. After shaping the size of the pen, students used 12 steps of sanding to smooth the wood and applied an oil finish. The entire process taught patience, machine skills, concentration and a pride in ownership and accomplishment. Mr. Weiss was accompanied by a friend and co-worker, Guy Rind. Thanks to corporate support from their employer, Dell Technologies Give Back Program, they were able to take a day off from work to work with the students.
At one point in my education, this speech would have been too difficult to write. It would have been too difficult to write because when I entered The Bridge Academy in eighth grade with four learning disabilities, I could not read a book by myself. I was well below grade level and I hated reading. Along with my poor reading ability, my level in mathematics was at a long-standing low. In eighth grade I was at a second-grade level in math and was learning how to multiply.

Years of struggling with my education had left me with a low self-esteem, a fear of flipping burgers for the rest of my life, and undeniable frustration. The Bridge Academy would change that for me. My teachers challenged me, believed in me as a person and student, and taught me how to be a better person and citizen. At The Bridge Academy my self-esteem flourished and I discovered that no obstacle was too difficult for me to conquer. My teachers believed in my aspirations and so did I.

I graduated The Bridge Academy in 2012 and went on to attend Rowan University where I studied abroad twice, held several executive board positions in campus clubs, and hosted my own art thesis exhibition. I graduated Rowan University in 2017 with a degree in Art Education, and with certification as a Teacher of Students with Disabilities. I graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Honors Concentration, first in my major, and in the top eighteen in my college.

This school year I started my teaching career in a temporary art teaching position at Grice Middle School in Hamilton Township. What I see in my students is myself; tremendous potential to succeed and grow as individuals and as students. I encourage them each day to appreciate the opportunity of education and to value themselves as individuals.

I will only continue to help students visualize their potential. Just this month, I received a job offer for a permanent tenure track position. Out of eight applicants, I am delighted to say that in January I will be the new ceramics and sculpture teacher at Lawrence High School. I visited my new classroom this week and was astonished by not just the opportunity that lay in front of me, but by the fact that my new art classroom is literally the same size as the entire Bridge Academy.

Me, a girl who could not read a book by herself in eighth grade. Me, the girl who could not multiply and went through four semesters of remedial algebra in college. Me, the young girl with aspirations of becoming an art teacher - has made that dream a reality. This all happened because a humble school believed in my potential. The Bridge Academy taught me that no obstacle was too difficult and that my learning disabilities do not define me, they just make me a more aware and compassionate educator.

Thank you Bridge Academy!

Karen Donnelly, 2012 Graduate
The Bridge Academy continues to grow in our reputation, student enrollment and financial security. The 2016-2017 fiscal year resulted in another year of solid growth for the school and the have the highest student enrollment since the school opened. Interest and demand has been increasing each year and as a result we will have a “waiting list” for the 2017-2018 school year. We appreciate the support of our families, friends, community and corporate sponsors for your financial contributions and support of The Bridge Academy’s mission to help students bridge the gap between potential and performance.

Financial Report

The Bridge Academy 2017 Annual Report • www.banj.org

Revenues

![Pie chart showing Revenues]

| Category               | Percentage | Amount    |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Tuition                | 96%        | $2,791,583|
| Gifts                  | 4%         | $130,487  |
| Interest Dividends     | (less than 1%) | ($6,617) |
| **TOTAL REVENUE**      |            | $2,928,687|

Expenses

![Pie chart showing Expenses]

| Category               | Percentage | Amount    |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Administrative         | 21%        | ($595,250)|
| Instructional          | 64%        | ($1,864,450)|
| Facilities             | 11%        | ($323,847)|
| Curriculum/Program Supported by Gifts | 4% | ($119,734) |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES**     |            | $2,903,281|

Audited

Planting the Seeds for the Future

Since The Bridge Academy began, our goal has always been to have our own school. We have been leasing space and as tenants of leased space, we face constraints to our ability to grow and thrive. A new school brings much; the security of ownership, the ability to enhance our educational programs, and the ability to increase our enrollment so we can help more students.

Now is the time to make our dream a reality by creating the campus environment that we know will best serve our students. We have a plan! We want to create a multi-building campus for our students and have decided the best way to accomplish this is through a phased approach. Phase I is the purchase of new property. And we are excited to announce that Phase I is complete! Thanks to the generosity of past donors, The Bridge Academy purchased the property adjacent to its current location.

Phase II is the renovation of the existing building that will bring our administrative offices from two separate locations into one, saving the school additional rental expense. This space will also include a new, upgraded student art studio and additional student spaces, such as a new nurse’s office and counselor’s office. This new building will also provide room for student, parent, and professional development meeting space.

Phase III is the construction of the new building that will include state-of-the-art classrooms for language arts, math, social studies, science labs, a music room, a library and a student activity room. We are excited to begin this new chapter for The Bridge Academy and we invite you to join us on this journey!
Save the Date – Bridge Alumni Reunion
Saturday, January 21, 2017

Please contact Ms. Karen Savar ksavar@banj.org to place your name on the mailing list and to learn more. Also check our facebook page www.facebook.com/The-Bridge-Academy-285508417325/ for more information.