



TIMBER LINES

Bridges Academy, Inc.
Established
November 2003

October 2009

Curiosity: An Essential Tool for Learning

Children are born with a natural sense of curiosity about the world around them. We can see it in babies who react with wonderment at every new sight and sound in their crib or playpen. We watch as toddlers explore their sense of touch. Later, we see their curiosity rise as they are exposed to new ideas and concepts through formal learning at school and through reading. There's nothing better than watching a child read a book, and seeing curiosity propel the youngster through the pages as he or she seeks to find out what happens next.

The challenge for parents and teachers is learning how to channel the natural force of children's curiosity to help them learn subjects for which they may not have a natural affinity. For one child, math may be a stumper; for another, science. But regardless of the subject matter, great teachers have learned to make these subjects come alive for children and

harness each child's curiosity as a tool to help him or her learn. Teachers also recognize that curious children seek answers to their questions in different ways. Some may learn best just by listening, while others need more hands-on experiences.

There are also steps that parents and educators can use to help the natural learning process unfold. The first step is to provide a stable environment that encourages children to ask questions. Children need to be given encouragement and support to fuel their desire to explore the world around them. All children need to feel safe in order to learn, and the job of parents and teachers is to help give them that sense of security.

In order that the power or curiosity in learning be fully released, children also need someone to share their discoveries with. This can often be their friends and schoolmates. This need to share new things and ideas is why group

science or nature projects are often so successful. But children also need to be able to share their new ideas and findings with an adult, such as a parent or teacher, who can give them encouragement and approval to keep using their curiosity. It's also important for a child to know that it's okay to explore and try something new, even if it doesn't work out so well. There should be no failures in satisfying curiosity, just opportunities to learn and grow.

Walt Disney once said, "We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things because we're curious, and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."

Supporting a child's need to act on his or her curiosity should be a lifelong ambition for all of us. Who knows where it may eventually lead a child? After all, the greatest discoveries have always started with curiosity.

Develop Emotional Vitality

Some modern writers and business authorities have their own theories about what will make a person successful. One says it takes 10,000 hours of practice. Another says a person can't be successful unless his or her parents provided outstanding opportunities to learn.

These ideas have merit, but they don't touch on one quality that would have to be present for success at almost any job.

Harvard professors call it "emotional vitality." It means having mental and physical energy plus positive wellbeing and the ability to manage emotions.

To put it more simply, being able to look at the glass as half full gives people energy that keeps them engaged with the world and engaged in their work.

Emotional energy makes them feel good more often than not. Those who have it don't think that life is hard all the time. And when bad things happen, they can say the trouble is not going to last forever and good things will happen again.

Daniel Goleman's book, *Emotional Intelligence*, brought legitimacy to the concept that emotional content is at the core of every business deal, no matter how rational the players believe they are being.

Business consultant Fred Kiel, writing in *Business Week*, tells of talking with a hot dog server at a Costco lunch counter. The server said he had had several jobs there since leaving his job as a high school teacher.

Costco is known for treating its people well, but this man was also an excellent example of emotional vitality and forward thinking.

He said he was paid well. Plus, he knew that sooner or later he would be given a better job--one with more responsibility--and that was exciting to him. He was engaged, positive, and going somewhere.



Mark Your Calendar

OCTOBER

- 09 Country Western Hoedown
- 19 2nd Quarter Starts
- 22 Early Release 1:00pm
- 23 NO School - Teacher Work Day
- 29 PTO Meeting & Video Speaker
6pm - 8pm
- 30 Fall Harvest Classroom Parties

NOVEMBER

- Fundraiser:** Scholastic Book Fair
November 9th - 13th
- 01 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 12 Book Fair Extravaganza Night
6pm-8pm
- 13 6th Annual Thanksgiving Feast
Early Release 1:00pm
- 19 Fall Photo Retakes - Individual
- Dress For Success**
- 20 Early Release 1:00pm
- 23-27 NO School - Holiday Break

NO \$\$\$ FUNDRAISERS!!!

We will continue to participate in the following no cash needed fundraisers.

- * BOX TOP\$ for Education
- * Campbell's Labels for Education
- * Nestle Pure Life Go Play! Water Labels



Sunday, November 1, 2009

SAFETY! SAFETY! SAFETY!

PARENT GUIDELINES

*** 5 MPH - Entering & Departing Campus**

*** NO Cell Phone Use On Campus**

Parents & Guardians,

If you are observed speeding or using your cell phone during dismissal you may be ticketed by the police department or asked by the administration to park street side and walk on to campus to pick up your child.

Please note, The Winter Springs Police Department will observe dismissal periodically. We know the presence of an "on duty" officer will serve as a reminder and help keep our campus safe during dismissal.

Thank you,

Bridges Academy Administration



Upcoming National Interest Dates

Flower: Calendula

Birthstone: Opal

October 1-31

Eat Better, Eat Together Month

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

National Go On a Field Trip Month

October 4-10

Fire Prevention Week

National Newspaper Week

October 5

Child Health Day

October 12

Columbus Day

October 18-24

National Character Counts Week

National School Bus Safety Week

Teen Read Week

October 24

Make a Difference Day

United Nations Day

October 31

Halloween

LDA Florida State Conference

MARK THE DATE...

Saturday, January 30, 2010

@

Embassy Suites Orlando North

225 Shorecrest Drive

Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

PH: (407) 834-2400

For Registration Information & Forms

(407) 366-1099

Or

www.LDA-FL.com

Life is like a ten-speed bike. Most of us have gears we never use.

--Charles M. Schultz

Optimism is essential to achievement and it is also the foundation of courage and of true progress.

--Nicholas Murray