

Think It Over

The Official Newsletter of *Bridges to a Brighter Future*
An Academic Enrichment Program of Furman University
"Just think it over...then do the next right thing."

From the Director's Desk

We are off to a busy summer, and we hope/trust that your young person is benefiting from our three "girders" of *Bridges*: **Be safe, learn, and have fun**. As of this week we are 66 students (counting two commuters): 29 "Babies," and 37 "Middles," and "Olders": or Etas, Zetas, and Epsilons.

Residential life is smoothing out, with **Weslica Johnson** and **Marie Bumgarner** at the helm. We have our strongest residential staff ever, including two Wellness Interns and the Chaplain.

We held our first **church** service of 2003 and have safely returned from our longest field trip (to Charleston for the older students. Altogether, the "Olders" and "Middles" will visit 12 colleges and universities. The "Babies" will visit the 7 schools represented at the University Center.

Classes are challenging and also highly interactive with the best Greenville County teachers I can recruit. I hope you hear many good reports. Ask specifically about "Leadership" and the dog categories of leaders, "Underground *Bridges*" with Marie and me co-teaching, science and ethics with Dr. Turgeon, "Wellness," "StarTek," and the habits/talents of Leonardo da Vinci.

Our talented students are producing a **literary magazine** and a **yearbook**. Naming contests are underway. Special thanks to the teachers who have volunteered to direct these overload activities: Ms. Duggan and Ms. Plumstead.

My special appreciation goes to **Mr. Harvey Choplin** who has stepped up to be my right-hand person. He and I have decided that one could take his best traits and mine and make one perfect leader. Ask your student about the meaning of *complementary*.

Mid-term **progress reports** are coming home with your student. Only two grades are granted at mid-term: "meets expectations" and "does not meet expectations." We would appreciate your having a serious talk with your young person about grades and expectations. Students who end the program with unsatisfactory reports may not be eligible to return. A third category of grade will be giving at the program end: "exceeds expectations."

Go forth and do good things,

Head's Up:

Students are to return after supper (still wearing armbands), on Sunday, June 29, and be checked in by 6:30 in time for evening activities. Students will be dismissed after lunch on July 11 and should be checked out by 3 pm to make room for another summer program.

Tips for Girders {Supporters} of Bridges

Do's for the Summer

1. Ask about rules, expectations, learning.
2. Check out the handbook.
3. Ask how one gets "caught doing something right" and what the reward is.
4. Be sure you know your young person's counselor's name.
5. Ask about "one minute apologies." Practice with your family.
6. Ask what is good about conflict.
7. Ask how diversity is an asset.
8. Ask if your young person read the assigned summer reading book before arrival in June. If the answer is "no," find out why. Read the book yourself and talk about it at the dinner table.
9. Ask about asking, "May I touch you?"
10. Ask if they have been "caught doing something right"? Praise them for this honor.

[Please] Don't's for the Summer

1. Don't send junk food. Why?
 - It undermines our wellness emphasis.
 - It creates an environment of have's and have not's.
 - It makes our counselors into "bag boys" and "bag girls"—not a good use of their time.However, if you want to help:
 - Contact your young person's counselor (or me) and arrange for ice cream or another kind of treat for everyone.
 - Encourage your young person to be adventurous about trying new (and new culture's) foods.
 - Do encourage your young person to honor curfew and to go to bed on time. If your son or daughter is not alert in class, you will receive a call asking them to come home.
2. Don't expect phone calls unless there's a problem. Why?
 - If we were to allow every student to call home for only 10 minutes every day, this process would take 5.2 hours of counselor supervision time.
 - Also, we have no way to insure that the students are calling home. And we do not want them calling friends, especially boy- and girlfriends since we do not know your rules at home.
3. Support the program.
 - We are preparing your young person, step by step, to live away from home independently so that the transition to college and "real life" may be smoother for them.
 - Don't discourage your young person to "test" the dress code. We instituted this code this year with the encouragement of both teachers and parents independently. If in doubt, please have them leave the outfit at home. Dress code is enforced for class time only.

TTY: Tips Throughout the Year

Ideas for Success All Year Long

1. Love your child unconditionally.
2. Encourage your child to "do the right thing."
3. Encourage having one meal a day together. National Merit Scholars share one amazing trait: They sit down and have a meal with their families at least once a day.
4. Be firm. They have many friends and very few people to admire.
5. Encourage them to take responsibility for their actions and practice the "one minute apology."
6. Emphasize as often as possible the importance of being on time and meeting or beating deadlines. We have students not at Bridges this summer because they failed to meet deadlines even with repeated reminders:

Remember: "Early is on time. On time is late. Late is unacceptable."

Remaining Calendar Events, 2003

We invite you to join us on the following occasions:

Church services July 6, 10:30 am, Townes Auditorium.

College admissions, financial aid presentation (repeated), July 7, 7:45 pm, Townes Auditorium.

College Fair, visits by 3 College Admissions officers from SC colleges and universities, 7:45 pm, Townes Auditorium.

Epsilon family members only: **Senior Banquet**, July 10, 7 pm, Hartness Pavilion. Two family members are our guests; other guests up to 4 may attend at the cost of the meal (\$14 per person), paid in advance. The program is not suitable for small children: they would be extremely bored.

Questions? Do not hesitate to call and leave message with a concern or suggestion, and I will call you back at my earliest convenience: 294-3135/294-3134.

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN ON JUNE 29.

Your name _____

Your young person's name _____

Class (check one): Eta () Zeta () Epsilon ()

I have received my son/daughter progress report: _____

Signature

Date

Comments and/or questions: _____
