

Little Bridges News

August 2018



Calendar of Events

CLOSED – Staff Training

Thursday 8/9

Friday 8/10

Orientation

8/10 9:00am – 9:45am

First Day of School

Monday 8/13

CLOSED – Labor Day

Monday 9/3

Back-To-School-Night

(No children please)

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Thursday 9/6

Fall Picture Days

Mon 9/10 & Tue 9/11

Enrichment Classes

Tuff Tumblers

Thursdays

Soccer Shots

Mondays

Science

Varies

CCPC Happenings

Sunday Services & Sunday School

8:45 & 10:15

Teacher Training/In-Service Days

Little Bridges will be closed on Thursday, August 9th and Friday, August 10th for teacher training/in-service days. We will be using these days to go through safety training, curriculum, and team building exercises.

New Student Orientation Friday, August 10th

New Student Orientation Day will be held August 10th. Any child transitioning into a new room on August 13th is invited to check out their new classroom. We hope that a brief visit with your child's new teachers and environment will help make for an easy transition on their first day of school. The Giraffes, Jaguars, Koalas, Pandas and School Age classes will have a morning orientation time from 9:00am – 9:45am. Because this is a teacher training/in-service day, we have to keep the orientation brief.

Parking Lot Safety

Please drive **SLOWLY** through our parking lot and back up **SLOWLY** when pulling out of a parking spot. There are so many little children coming and going and they are hard to see.

Updated Emergency Forms

All enrollment and emergency forms are due! We must have updated forms filled out every school year. Packets were sent to your home last month with all required forms. If you have not turned in your 2018/2019 forms in yet, please do so ASAP.

Lost and Found

Is your child missing a jacket or coat? Our lost and found is overflowing in the preschool office. Please take a moment to sift through the many items that we have collected over the past few months.

What is the best way to avoid a favorite jacket from ending up in our lost and found? Label it! All labeled clothing that is found is always returned back to your child's cubbie, hook or classroom.

Chrome Books for Homework Club

We have recently purchased 10 new Chromebooks to support our school age students in homework club. These will be enabled with restricted internet and will give our students access to their school website, Google Docs, online assignments and research content. Our older students are excited to try these out in a few weeks!

Time For Water Play!

During the warm months, your child will experience a lot of water play here at Little Bridges. Water play is a unique activity for children because it's always available, open-ended, and provides opportunities for extended learning. Your kids of course will think splashing and getting wet is fun, but what they—and maybe you—don't realize is that there is a lot of learning that takes place during water play.

Problem-Solving Skills: As children manipulate water play materials, they begin to understand why and how things happen. For example, given sinking and floating objects, a child will soon discover that just because something is large in size does not mean it will sink.

Math: Children begin to understand and experiment with concepts such as more/less, same/different, many/few, empty/full, before/after, greater than/less than, and even counting. Filling and pouring from different sized measurement cups teaches volume and capacity.

Science: Water gives children an avenue to contemplate issues such as, “What makes rain?” “Where does water come from?” “What makes mud?” “Why does my shirt dry off in the sun?” Children also learn physics principles such as the effects of force (increasing the water flow through increased force); effects of gravity (water runs downhill); and change in state (solid, liquid, gas).

Physical Development: Water play encourages the development of eye/hand coordination through pouring, squeezing, stirring, painting, scrubbing, and squirting. Children strengthen their gross motor skills by running, dodging water drops, and hopping through a sprinkler. They widen their sensory experiences as they put their hands in different textures (gritty, squishy, and slimy) and different temperatures (warm, cool, and cold).

Social and Emotional Development: Water play is one of the most relaxing activities children can experience. After all, we adults sure like to relax in a warm bubble bath or hot shower! Water play relieves tension by encouraging children to release their emotions with pouring, pounding, and swooshing. In addition, social skills expand as children play cooperatively; negotiate; and share equipment, space, and materials.

Language Development: Children learn new vocabulary such as sieve, funnel, eggbeater, stream, bubbly, moisture, and evaporation. Water play is such a meaningful experience for young children that it can be extended to writing experiences as well. Children may draw pictures of their water play day, and then dictate a description or story to their teacher. Another valuable writing experience involves the teacher writing down children's predictions, such as how long it will take ice cubes to melt in the sand box, or how many babies one batch of soapy water will wash.

Creative Development: Water encourages children to use their imagination. As children play, they may pretend that they work at a car wash or that they are out fishing on a boat.

On your child's water play day, please send your child to school dressed in their swimsuit, already slathered with sunscreen. Be sure to send a towel and dry clothes for them to change into. All children must wear some sort of shoes (water shoes or sandals with a heel strap are fine). Please make sure to label *everything* with your child's name.