

Little Bridges News



December 2023

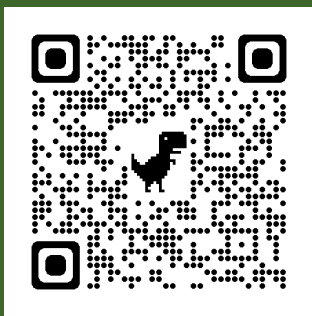
Calendar of Events

Harbor House Toy Drive & Window Shopping Event

Wednesday 11/29

All toys due by Fri 12/8

Harbor House Amazon Link
** QR Code **



PreK Conferences

12/4 – 12/8

Christmas Show

Thursday 12/14
7:00 PM

CLOSED – Christmas

12/25 – 12/29

CLOSED – New Years

1/1 & 1/2

School Age Holiday Camp

12/21 & 12/22
1/3 – 1/5 & 1/8

CLOSED – MLK Jr. Day

Monday 1/15

Little Bridges Christmas Show 12/14

Please join us on Thursday, December 14th at 7pm sharp for our Christmas Show! All classes (Toddlers through PreK) will be performing on stage in the Worship Center.

Your children have been learning songs in their Tammy Time class and are excited to perform for you. Come celebrate Jesus' birth with us and make sure to bring your camera!

Look for specific classroom information about attire and drop off times from your teachers in their Friday emails.

Thank You!

We collected over 2500 pounds of food during this years Contra Costa County Food Bank Drive. Thank you for supporting this very worthy cause!

Harbor House Christmas Store Toy Drive

Little Bridges will again be partnering with **Harbor House in Oakland** to help share some Christmas joy with families less fortunate than us. There are 3 ways to help:

1. Drop off new unwrapped toys to the office by Friday 12/8.
2. Select items form the Amazon wish list to be delivered.
See QR code
3. Attend our **Window Shopping Event for Harbor House** on Wednesday, Nov. 29th in the courtyard.

LBSA OUTREACH PRESENTS

Window Shopping

for the
Harbor House Christmas Store

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29
3:30-5:30PM IN THE COURTYARD

Stop by and enjoy hot cocoa and candy canes from School Age as we kick off the Christmas Season and our December Outreach!

Thoughts From Ms. Jacque

(from the archives – 16 years ago! – but still relevant, just substitute Nintendo Switch for GameBoy DS)

All I Want For Christmas

It's December. That means that it's prime time for my 6-year-old son to remind me what he wants for Christmas (a GameBoy DS) for Winter Solstice (a GameBoy DS) for his half birthday (a GameBoy DS) and as a reward for finishing his supper (a GameBoy DS).

When I was six, I begged my parents for a pony, but times have changed and gifts of livestock don't hold the same appeal for this generation. My son wants electronics. My son wants a GameBoy DS.

According to Taylor, he's the only kid in town, quite possibly the only child in all of America, that doesn't have a GameBoy system. And it's not fair. This makes our house really boring and makes me a serious contender for the Joan Crawford Motherhood Award.

The way my son sees it, depriving him of a GameBoy DS is equivalent to withholding food or forcing him into hard labor. It's practically child abuse and it's just not fair. Besides, everybody else has one.

"Please Mom," he begs. "I'll even pay for it with my own money."

But, as I have explained to him during the weeks preceding other gift-giving holidays, money isn't the issue, even if he could save enough dollar bills from the Tooth Fairy. I know a GameBoy DS doesn't cost a fortune—our family easily spends the equivalent on stuff like concert tickets, Girl Scout cookies or a dinner out. It's the mind-numbing, sit-on-your-butt, seizure-inducing lack of creativity that makes me want to embrace a more Amish lifestyle.

"Taylor," I sigh. "If they were giving away GameBoy DS's at Toys 'R Us, I would say, 'No thanks' and head straight to the Legos."

"How about if I get all A's on my report card?" he asks hopefully. "Then can I get a GameBoy DS?"

Little does he know that A's aren't given out in first grade and even if they were, somehow, rewarding academic achievement by encouraging a Mario Party doesn't seem right. And, if he doesn't get stellar grades, I don't want him playing Super Monkey Ball when he could be reading, reviewing his multiplication tables, or developing cold fusion.

Besides, having one more thing in our house that I have to monitor, regulate, and negotiate about will drive me over the edge. I'm already nagging my kids to turn off the TV, log off the computer, put their dishes away, clean their rooms, feed the rats, and play outside. I don't need to add GameBoy DS to the mix.

Families who do have GameBoys argue that their kids hardly ever play them. If that's the case, I don't see why I should spring for one. Come to think of it, I've never heard any parent say, "We're so glad that we bought little Johnny a GameBoy. Luigi's Mansion has been such an *enriching* experience."

Sure, it would be easy to make my son happy this holiday season. I could just break down and buy the GameBoy DS and cartridges, or I could attempt to develop his character with the gift of disappointment.

I struggle because I want to give gifts that inspire creativity and cooperation, and I do not want to give him everything on his list. I struggle because as much as I hate to see my kids let down, I know that there is value in the gift of disappointment—and someday, he will too. I struggle because I want to keep giving Tinker Toys, puzzles, and games for the family to play. I struggle because he is *only* six and does not need to grow up as fast as the world tells him to.

The other day, as I was chatting with a group of kids, one little girl asked the group, "Do you believe in Santa?"

The kids murmured mixed replies. Some wavered on the verge of disbelief; others were still fervent in their faith. Then my son spoke up, "If I get a GameBoy DS for Christmas, I'll know that Santa's real. My parents will never buy me one."

So, at that very moment I realized I would stick to what I said. Don't get me wrong, I do want Taylor to believe in the magic of the season—but I also want to teach him that the true joy of the holidays is not all about what you get. Taylor was right. His parents would not be buying him a GameBoy DS, but they may just get him a pony.