

Little Bridges News

June 2019



Calendar of Events

Donuts For Dads

Friday 6/14

Marriage Night

Friday 6/14 6 – 9 PM

VBS

June 3 – June 7

Summer Camp Starts

For kids entering 1st -6th

June 10 – August 8

CLOSED

Fourth of July

Thursday 7/4

CLOSED

In-Service Staff Training

Friday 8/9

Monday 8/12

Enrichment Classes

Science

Tuesdays & Fridays

Tuff Tumblers

Thursdays

Soccer Shots

Wednesdays

Parent Survey – Thanks for the Feedback!

Thank you to the families who took the time to fill out our Parent Survey. Your responses affirmed what we are doing here at Little Bridges. We take pride in all areas of our program – from the curriculum and the environment to the teachers and ways we communicate with you. Of course we are not perfect, and your comments are useful to us as we plan our goals for the next school year.

VBS at Canyon Creek

Canyon Creek's annual Vacation Bible School is happening here the first week of June. There will be LOTS of activity going on. Little Bridges preschool continues to run as normal and our school age children have the opportunity to attend the fun filled week to hear the Gospel. The whole church gets involved - including the high school and middle students who learn to be leaders. The week ends on Friday with a 6pm Family Night. Please join us for some food, games, worship and to watch a video of the week's events.

Marriage Night at Canyon Creek

Canyon Creek is excited to partner with RightNow Media to host a one-night Marriage Night event. You are invited to be a part of this live stream happening featuring speakers Francis & Lisa Chan, Les & Leslie Parrott and comedian, Michael Junior.

The event will take place from 6 – 9 pm here at the church. Register today on the Canyon Creek Church website. Child Care will be provided by our own Little Bridges staff in the classrooms. **Registration is required.**

Fall Registration/Welcome Packets

All children enrolled in Little Bridges for this fall will be receiving a Welcome Packet from us in July. Please read through all the material carefully and return any forms by July 26th. The packet will contain a 2019/2020 calendar, parent handbook, new Fall tuition schedule, specific class information, bios on your teachers, daily schedules and enrichment information. The first day of school this year is August 13th.

Sunscreen & Water Wednesdays

Please apply sunscreen to your child EVERY morning as they are getting ready for school. We will re-apply mid day before your child's afternoon outside time.

Kids love water play! Look for specific information from your class about Water Wednesdays. These will start in June.

You Want A Piece Of Me?

"You know," my husband, Dana, said to our seven-year-old son the other day as they both sat on the couch, "it occurs to me that I haven't body slammed you into the ground in at least a day or two."

Liam shot his dad a fiendish look. "You want a piece of me, buddy?!" he shouted.

The next few minutes were a blur of arms, legs, body slams, and grunts mixed with laughter. They were lost in the moment, focusing only on who would gain the upper hand.

I, being mom, of course was saying things like, "Be careful!" "Watch out for the furniture!" "Somebody's gonna get hurt!" But the more they wrestled, the more fun they had.

My husband loves to roughhouse with our kids – and as much as I complain that it gets the kids too riled up, I actually enjoy seeing and hearing our kids and their dad tossing around on the ground. It's a fun way for them to connect and I think it's one special way for Dana to let the kids know he cares about them. Chasing, tackling, tickling and safely tossing them around never fails to get smiles and giggles.

This ritual with my children has been going on for many years. Dana began wrestling with our big boys 15 years ago and started physical play early on with our next two. We have video of Dana on all fours chasing Taylor, about 22 months old, around the room – tackling him to the ground and giving him 'zerberts' on his belly – our toddler laughing so hard he can hardly breathe, but then squealing "again daddy again!" And more clips of both the kids "riding" on daddy's back and then being thrown to the carpet like bucking bronco riders.

Dana likes to do many things with our kids, including roughhousing. I don't think it sets a bad example for how to behave; in fact, I think it is one of the most healthy things they do together. My dad roughoused with me, and I believe it helped us to build a strong bond at an early age that was different than the relationship I had with my mother.

I've read several articles on the subject of roughhousing, and there are a variety of opinions. Some parents or experts warn that kids will imitate the aggressive behavior with other kids causing potential injury. *Well...I guess it's possible*, but I've never seen my kids do it. I think a bit of rough and tumble with dad can help create trust, build self-confidence and strengthen bonds. Establishing the difference between going too far and just playing can encourage self-discipline and respect for other's feelings.

Of course, playing should be fun and mutual. Knowing that rules apply is one of the benefits of rough housing because it fosters a sense of fair play and responsibility towards others. Fathers who play roughly with their children teach them the difference between appropriate and inappropriate aggression. For example, when things go too far, like hitting or hair pulling, Dana stops and addresses the behavior. If it happens again, then playtime is over.

More than anything, I believe that some of the first lessons about loving authority can be shown to your children through physical play. Roughhousing teaches your kids that you love them, that you're strong enough to control them, and that you won't control them unless it's necessary. Your kids learn that you're powerful and kind and gentle at the same time. Fathers should see themselves as a "loving authority" in their kids' lives. Your children know you care about them very much, and would never hurt them. However, it should be clear to your children, that you are the parent and they are the kids – that you expect them to respect you and your decisions.

So, Dads – play with your kids! And the next time you grab your child by the waist, lift them onto the couch and pin them down bellowing, "Here comes the pile driver!" know that you are developing a stronger personal bond with your children. Through your eager interaction with them, they will trust you more, creating a foundation for healthy relationships throughout their lives – giving them a huge piece of you forever.