LITTLE BRIDGES NEWS

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TK INFORMATION NIGHT

Thursday, November 5th, 5:00pm

Transitional Kindergarten options can be confusing - but we're here to help! Did you know Little Bridges offers three different TK programs to fit your families needs? Join us on Thursday, November 5th at 5:00pm for an informational meeting where we'll answer all your questions!

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Food Drive for Food Bank of CCC**
  November 1st-30th
- **TK Information Night**
  Thursday, November 5th
  5:00-5:45pm
- **Veteran's Day - LB CLOSED**
  Wednesday, November 11
- **LB Conferences**
  November 16-20th
  Jaguars, Koalas, Pandas & Tigers
- **Harbor House Window Shopping**
  LB School Age Outreach Event
  Friday, November 20, 3:30-5:30pm
- **Thanksgiving - LB CLOSED**
  Thurs. & Fri., November 26 & 27
- **Gift Donations Due to LB**
  by Friday, December 5 for delivery to Harbor House
- **Christmas Show**
  Thursday, December 17, 6:30pm
- **Christmas Break**
  Thursday, December 24th - Friday, January 1st



School Age students during Food Drive 2025

Monthly Preview

Thankful & Blessed

In November, we turn our focus to sharing and caring for others. Our life lesson and outreach mission both focus on helping our community neighbors.

Our entire school is starting off the month by reading and discussing Bear Says Thanks by Karma Wilson. It is a touching story that celebrates gratitude and friendship, showing how every character realizes they have something to share.

Coming Up:

Fight to End Hunger!

November 1st - November 30th



Little Bridges is proud to sponsor a Food Drive benefiting the Contra Costa Food Bank throughout the month of November. We hope you will take this opportunity to shop with your children and teach them the joy of giving. By dropping off items in the collection bins, every child can learn that they have the power to make a difference in someone else's life.

The most needed items are non-perishable proteins, including: peanut butter, canned tuna, beans, soups and ready-to-eat meals (e.g., ravioli, chili).

Please note: No glass items.

The School Age Program will be hosting a "Window Shopping" event on Friday, November 20th, to support The Harbor House Christmas Store.

Come enjoy a cup of warm cider and bring your phone to scan the QR code for their Amazon wish list. Gifts for children from birth to teens are needed to support the families they serve.



Ms. Jacque's Journal

Giving With Strings Attached

"Grace lies in the heart of every true gift. If grace is present, the humblest gift warms and expresses love.".

How do we teach our children to give?

Scan the QR code to read the full article

Making a Difference

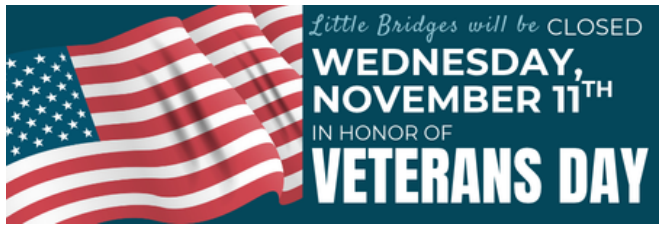
Share the Joy of Christmas!



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

1. Attend our Window Shopping event on **Friday, 11/20** to enjoy cider and popcorn, and shop from QR Codes straight from the HH wish list.
2. Shop in person with your family and drop off unwrapped gifts to the LB office by **Friday, 12/5**.
3. Scan the QR Code to the left to access the Wish List on your own and have gifts sent straight to Harbor House.

Interested in volunteering? Adults are welcome to volunteer to staff the Harbor House Christmas Store on Saturday, December 12th. Want to learn more? Ask Ms. Sammy!



Good News is Coming!

Chirstmas Show 2026

BREAKING NEWS!! Little Bridges Christmas show this year is The Good News: A Christmas News Report.



We'll be sharing the good news of Jesus' birth on Thursday, December 17th. The show will begin at 6:30pm. Students from Frogs all the way through School Age will be a part of this year's show - you don't want to miss it!

Thank you to Our Community Helpers!








Thank you to all of our parents and community members who visited Little Bridges this month! We appreciate the important work you do for our community, and taking the time to visit our students!

We had school-wide visits from our local librarian, Glenda, CHP Officer Johnson, and Walnut Creek Pediatric Dentistry.

We also had some generous parents visit classes to share about their professions! The Panda Class was visited by Sanam's parents, Bahareh and David, and Yulie's mom, Saehya, and Frank's mom, Shontal, visited the Jaguar Class. Thank you all for sharing your expertise!

Spotted

Highlights from September at LB:



Ms. Tammy's helped us focus on resposisbilty and being helpers at home, just like God helps us every day. Students' worked hard all month to complete their Chore Charts.



October was full of pumpkin exploration and creativity! Students explored the ins and outs of pumpkins, their life cycle, and creating lots of pumpkin-themed projects!

Canyon Creek Corner

What's coming up at Canyon Creek?

- Sunday Services (8:30AM & 10AM)
- MomCo (every 1st & 3rd Thursday)
- Refuge (Mon.)/Stronghold (Wed.)
- CCKids Wild Night for 4th & 5th Graders
  - 1st Friday of the month
- Community Care Pantry
  - First Monday of the month

Thoughts From Ms. Jacque …

Giving with Strings Attached?

When my boys were younger, they came up with the generous idea of sorting through their toys and setting several aside to give to “needy” children. Taylor, then 12, said, “And wouldn’t it be cool to take the toys and hand them over in person!”

Now, this may sound like my child’s heart was in the right place –but the idea of giving used toys to others and then handing them over as a noble gesture really bothered me.

I pointed out to my kids that even though that was an admirable idea, I thought their charity fell short in a very important way. Giving, or at least, the kind of giving I want to teach my children to do, is about grace. Giving is not about toys, things, or possessions and shouldn’t be about what you get out of it. I believe Taylor was on the right track, but his gesture was all about him and how he would feel.

Grace is the ultimate gift. It is something given freely, not earned. It has no ulterior motive. It is selfless. It is a force more powerful and more loving than any human emotion, need or want.

Grace lies at the heart of every true gift. If grace is present, the humblest gift warms and expresses love. Without grace, even the costliest gift is cold and heartless.

But you can't give with grace if you're thinking of yourself first! Or if your gift comes with strings attached, or sends a mixed message to the recipient. There's no grace in the coerced gift, the I-don't-want-to-but-it's-expected gift, the gift that is designed to nudge the recipient in some vital way.

When we ask our children to give, do we teach them to give with grace? Or is it merely, a learning experience -without thought for the recipient?

How do we teach our children to give? To give in the spirit of grace, to reflect God’s love which has been poured out so generously upon us?

Give year-round

First, we need to bring giving into our lives all year long. During the holiday season, it is easy to share our good fortune. Food drives, bell ringers, charity functions help us remember the needs of others.

People are hungry the other 364 days of the year! Do our children see us model charity and giving from January through November?

Make giving real

Second, we need to make giving real to our children. Best strategy: get them involved.

One effective method is to have your kids actively participate in the Harbor House Toy Drive ministry we are doing. Get your child involved in shopping (and helping pay for) a gift to put under the tree for another child.

When my children were younger, our family sponsored youngsters of the same ages, and my children did the shopping for the gifts. It makes giving very, very real when a child chooses to buy another child the radio-controlled car he hopes to find under his own tree!

Give in secret

Third, make sure your right hand doesn't know what your left hand is doing. Jesus, exposed the fallacy of the ostentatious giver, whose abundant charity depended upon whether anyone was watching.

Give in secret, and tell your children why: it is no gift when we expect gratitude, appreciation, or attach strings to our offerings. We give, instead, to relieve need; to share the abundance with which we've been blessed; and to reflect to others the good that we find in the world. Giving with grace is reward enough.

Allow your children to sacrifice

Finally, give your children the chance to experience sacrifice in order to give. Even a small sacrifice on their part will reinforce a lesson on giving more than any other factor. Have them dip into their allowance money to buy gifts for others. Your children will see the direct connection between their little sacrifices and their ability to give.

And they’ll do it without having to hand an old toy to another child.