

# Little Bridges News



September 2019

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## Calendar of Events

### **CLOSED – Labor Day**

Monday 9/2

### **School Pictures**

Ducks, Pandas & Giraffes

Monday 9/16

Frogs, Jaguars, Koalas

Tuesday 9/17

### **All School Book Fair**

9/27 – 10/4

## Enrichment Classes

### **Soccer Shots (3-5 yrs)**

Mondays

### **Pivotal Training (2-5 yrs)**

Tuesdays

### **Kinderdance (3-5 yrs)**

Wednesdays

### **Tuff Tumblers (2-4 yrs)**

Thursdays

### **Science (3-4 yrs)**

Varies

### **Art & Soul Music (K-5)**

Guitar & Piano Lessons

### **Leggo Robotics (K – 5)**

Fridays 4:15

## **Picture Days**

School pictures will be taken on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Look for picture packets to come home soon. Please complete and return your picture form to your child's teacher or order on-line.

## **Lost & Found**

We have a place in the Little Bridges office for all Lost and Found items that are NOT labeled. Please feel free to stop by any time to go through the many items we collect. What is the best way to avoid a favorite jacket from ending up in our lost and found? Label it! All labeled items are returned back to your child's cubbie, hook or classroom.

## **Classroom Shutterfly Sites**

Each classroom has their own Shutterfly site where teachers post calendar events, class news and pictures. This is a very useful place for parents to go to get classroom information. You can access the school and class newsletter, snack menus, dates and teacher emails any time. If you have not received an invitation to join your class site, just let your teacher know and they will resend you an invite email.

## **Join us on Facebook and Instagram**

Keep up with us on Social Media! Pictures, events and daily happenings are posted weekly. You can find us at Little Bridges Childcare on both Facebook and Instagram.

## **Help Us Compost!**

Did you know that Little Bridges is a Green School? Your children and all our staff separate our trash into three types: Compost, Recycle and Trash. We can actually compost over half our waste here. Paper cups, paper plates, utensils, food waste, pizza boxes, napkins and paper towels can all be composted! Please help us by reducing the amount of disposable items you place in your child's lunch. Refillable sippy cups instead of juice boxes, reusable Bento or Tupperware instead of plastic baggies and Lunchables and real fruit instead of fruit cups are easy ways to help our planet!

## **Little Bridges Spirit Wear**

We have a limited supply of Little Bridges t-shirts and sweatshirts for sale in the preschool office. These are different than our orange fieldtrip shirts. Sizes range from onesie infant shirts to adult sweatshirts. You have probably seen a few teachers and students wearing these lately – come get a shirt and show your Little Bridges pride!

### **Laughter Brings Us Together**

I walked into our Joyful Jaguar room the other morning delivering snack. Sophia, a three-year-old ran up to me as I entered the room.

Sophia: "Hey Ms. Jacque!"

Me: "Good morning Sophia"

Sophia: "I'm just yolking with ya!" (she smiles broadly with a twinkle in her eye)

Me: "You mean you're just joking with me?" I giggle with her.

Sophia: "NOOO...I'm just yolking with ya!"

Me: "Oh, your YOLKING with me – that's funny!" (both of us laugh out loud and she runs over to give me a big squeeze– both joyful as we share in a funny moment.)

I realized as I walked out of the room that whether Sophia really understood the joke (or yolk) didn't matter at all. While it did tickle *my* funny bone, it was the interaction that Sophie and I shared that was so heart warming. Our laughter together wasn't just a response to her joke but it was actually an intimate connection we shared. Seeing her joy as she nailed her punch line and her thrill at my amused feedback was absolutely authentic and delightful.

What kids find funny changes as they mature, but shared laughter and smiles unify us from the beginning. Infants start smiling and even chuckling as young as 2 months because they are responding to emotional exchanges with parents – those precious coos are signs of a secure bond being built. Then around the age of 6 months, babies have enough information about the world to be surprised at the unexpected. What a joy games like Peek-a boo and blowing raspberries become for both baby and parent.

From the ages of 1 to 3 the ridiculous interactions are what usually gets your kids to LOL – daddy drinking from a sippy cup, a cow saying "quack", wearing pants on your head... If you're willing to be silly, your child will respond with glee and giggles. These moments of laughing together build our relationships and bind us together in an emotional way.

As kids move into kindergarten and beyond, basic wordplay, exaggeration, and slapstick are increasingly funny. A kindergartener asked me yesterday to spell "pig" backwards – and as I said out loud "G-I-P", the entire group roared – funny right?!

And this I overheard last week between two very different aged kids.

8 year old: "Here's a good one. What's the safest room in a haunted house?"

5 year old: (blank stare)

8 year old: "Now you have to say 'I don't know'"

5 year old: "Why?"

8 year old: (after a moment's thought) "That's the way with jokes. It's how they go."

5 year old: "OK, I don't know"

8 year old: "The living room!" (both children roll around laughing.)

At first, it seemed likely to me that these children were laughing at completely different things. But the more I think about it, the less I'm sure. The 8 yo probably understands the wordplay of the joke and more importantly has a memory of the funny moment when the joke was passed on to him – which formed the basis of his laugh and motivated him to retell it. The 5 yo? Well, the 5 yo loved the fact that a beloved big kid was laughing. And with him! The moment was clearly delightful to them both, and I'm thinking that the shared warmth of the moment was much more important than the joke itself for either child.

The best part of this story is that the 5yo sought to continue the laughter...

5 year old: "What's the safest room in a haunted house?"

8 year old: "Duhh...the living room"

5 year old: "No! The kitchen!"

Ok – now I was rolling on the floor, which the 5 yo thought was fabulous, and guess who joined in quickly – yup, the 8 yo was now in stitches too.

So why were all three of us laughing so hard and genuinely? Because laughter isn't just a reaction – it communicates approval and love. And that is very powerful in bringing people together.