# Little Bridges News



April 2021

#### Calendar of Events

#### Virtual Book Fair

Last Day Thursday 4/1



## **School Age Spring Break**

All Day Camp 4/5 – 4/9

#### Trike-A-Thon

Week of 4/12

#### **Spring Pictures**

Monday 4/19 Tuesday 4/20

# **Teacher Appreciation**

Week

5/3 - 5/7

## **Memorial Day- CLOSED**

Monday 5/31

## **Canyon Creek Church**

## **Sunday Services**

In person (must register) or Virtual

10:00 am

## **Good Friday Service**

In person (must register) or Virtual

Friday 4/2 7:00 pm

## Scholastic Book Fair Ends 4/1

Thank you to all who have purchased books from our Scholastic Book Fair. This is the only school fundraiser we do and we appreciate your support! Little Bridges earns 25% profit on all purchases. We use these funds to add to our classroom libraries and curriculum. All purchases over \$25 ship for FREE right to your front door.

You can find the link to our Virtual Book Fair on our website, classroom Shutterfly sites or just use the QR code to the left of this!

# **Preschool Spring Music Performances**

Music and Bible classes are an integral part of our preschool curriculum at Little Bridges – teaching about Jesus and worshiping through song and dance is certainly a highlight in each child's day here. Your children have learned so much this year and we want to share some of Tammy Time with you!

Each class will be recording a performance of some of their favorite songs from this year. Look for links to these performances late in the month. There is nothing more heartwarming and joyful than listening to our kids singing God's word.

# Spring Pictures: April 19 & 20

Picture Day is coming soon! Student portraits will be taken outside by APVisions on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. We are proud to have this local company come again to take individual and class photos of our students. They have very safe protocols in place and do a fantastic job capturing natural pictures. Teachers will be sending out specific days and times for your class soon.

# St. Jude's Hospital Trike-A-Thon

We will be hosting a St. Jude Children's Hospital Trike-A-Thon the week of April 12<sup>th</sup>. Your child will have the opportunity to ride a trike around our playground to help raise money for others in need. St. Jude's is the only National Cancer Institute devoted solely to children. Your contributions will help make it possible for patients to receive treatment regardless of a family's ability to pay.

## We Are All Vaccinated!

Our teachers are so very thankful to announce that we have all been vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. While this is great news and provides an added layer of protection, we will continue to follow all set protocols at Little Bridges. Wearing masks, small cohorts, gate check-in/out, fresh air and continual sanitizing will all be followed as before.

#### Grief, Grace, Gratitude and Grilled Cheese

A grilled cheese sandwich. That's what threw me into my sorrow and nudged tears to trickle down my cheeks this week. I was fine slicing the cheese and buttering the bread - it was the flip of the sandwich. Curtis loved a crispy grilled cheese - I mean who doesn't?

I never know when it's going to come or what will trigger my grief. My oldest son, Curtis, passed away 5 months ago and while I often find myself missing him and being sad, these intense waves of gut wrenching agony smash over me - completely out of the blue - and tumble and twist me underwater as I gasp for air.

Moments like these make me want to retreat inside - crawl up and hide. I even hide my tears from my husband (who would in an instant wrap me up and comfort me in his arms). I am alone with my pain and suffering and with my unanswerable questions.

My heart swells and aches with raw emotion....but in my loneliness, way down deep in the depths of me, I meet Hope.

Not the hope of this world that disappoints, but a Hope that picks me up and carries me at the very lowest and saddest times. A Hope that promises never to leave me or forsake me. A promise I can rely on.

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Pain, grief, suffering...but in the midst... Hope. And Gratitude.

Gratitude for God's never giving up, always and forever love for me. And you. A love that is relentless in his pursuit of us. A love that is not earned, but gifted. A love that knows no bounds and can never be defeated. *Never.* 

A love that beckons me to come - just as I am - alone and suffering - to accept His gift. The gift of His presence with me. A presence that embraces me, lifts me up, comforts me, empowers me, transforms me. A presence that, God in his mercy, assures me that my dear son felt - and embraced. A presence that gets me through the storm.

A presence I am eternally grateful for.

When it all comes down to it, when everything is stripped away, the only thing that matters - that has eternal significance is that we understand and experience the love of Christ for us.

So, as I sit in my suffering, not really alone, but nestled in the arms of my Father, I pray for all who are grieving alone - that you may place your trust in Him. The only Hope that endures. Which in turn produces Gratitude.

Gratitude for grace, grief and grilled cheese sandwiches that stir up the intense love for my child - a parental love that is rooted deep in everything I am – but one that pales in comparison to my Heavenly Fathers love for all his children.