

Little Bridges News

December 2017



Calendar of Events

Harbor House Toy Drive

Gifts Due 12/8

Preschool

Christmas Program

12/14 7:00 PM

Festive Sweater Day

Friday 12/22

CLOSED – Christmas

12/25 & 12/26

CLOSED – New Years

1/1

School Age

Holiday Camp

12/22

12/27 – 12/29

1/2- 1/5

Canyon Creek Church

Sunday Services &

Sunday School

Celebrate the Advent Season!

8:45 & 10:15

Christmas Eve Services

Family Services

3:00 & 4:30 pm

Harbor House Christmas Store

Please join us as we participate in supporting the Harbor House Christmas Store again this year. Harbor House is a Christian nonprofit organization located in east Oakland that provides many services to low-income families. The Christmas store empowers low-income parents to purchase gifts for their children at a fraction of the cost.

This year we are using SignUpGenius as a way to coordinate. Gifts can either be sent directly to Harbor House from Amazon or dropped off in the office. To participate, go to your class Shutterfly or our Little Bridges website. All gifts are due **Friday, Dec. 8th.**

Please consider helping another family this year. Your actions will warm your heart, spread kindness to a family and show your own child the true gift of giving this season.

Christmas Program: Thursday Dec. 14th

Please join us on Thursday, Dec. 14th as our preschool children sing about the *"The Spirits of Christmas"*. Bring your cameras and prepare your hearts for a very special evening. The show will start promptly at 7:00 pm in the worship center.

Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. Canyon Creek Church will have it's two regularly scheduled morning services, plus two additional family oriented services at 3:00pm and 4:30pm. Please join us!

Thank You!

We collected over 2000 pounds of food during this years Contra Costa County food Bank Drive. Thank you for supporting this very worthy cause.

Kindergarten & TK Readiness Info. Nights

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District is preparing for kindergarten and TK enrollment for fall 2018. Below are the times for their Information Nights.

Kindergarten (must be five on or before Sept. 1st 2018)

Dec. 13th 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Monte Vista High School

Dec. 14th 6:30pm – 7:30 pm Iron Horse Middle School

Transitional Kindergarten (must turn five between Sept. 2nd – Dec. 2nd)

Dec. 5th 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Coyote Creek Elementary School

Dec. 7th 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm John Baldwin Elementary School

Thoughts From Ms. Jacque...

Teaching Generosity in a Selfish World

*"I want **that** for Christmas!"*

"Santa will get it for me if you won't!"

"Hey kids, ask your parents to buy you _____."

Does any of this sound familiar? Too often these are the conversations of the holiday season, and for the next month your children will be bombarded by the most commercial and greedy aspects of the season. With advertisements blaring out of every TV, Santas on every corner, and decorations in every mall, it's impossible to avoid.

Yet the message of this season is about Jesus coming into the world and doing the opposite of me, me, me. He came to demonstrate what it means to be a servant. With His example, we recognize that teaching kindness, respect, and compassion is a better message than greed. But, how do we get that message across to little children when our larger culture is selling them selfishness?

We start by modeling. One of the most important jobs we have as parents is to be warm, generous and empathetic. Children from homes where generosity and selfless behavior encompass their daily life feel that the world is basically a safe place. They're unthreatened. If you provide an environment of consideration, compassion and kindness, your child's unselfishness will flow naturally. Once that basic premise is established, your parenting job is to seize opportunities to teach the intricacies of unselfishness.

Our children take their best clues from us, and when they consistently see us being generous they will want to copy our behavior. In fact, don't hesitate to explain your own unselfish decisions aloud: "Everything we buy today at the grocery store is for your school's food drive. Our cupboards are full of cereal and soup already. There are many families who don't have extra food." It's good for your child to start to understand that it's important to be aware of others needs.

Showing that you disapprove of selfishness in a firm and consistent way will teach your child your family's stance on generosity. "I don't like it when you keep the doll clothes for yourself. In our family, we share. Please let your sister play with them too." Try not to resort to punishment, which will probably only make her more defiant, not more generous. Do however, praise her when she does share – telling her how proud you are of her. She'll feel good about earning your respect and making someone else happy, and generous behavior will come to her more naturally.

To teach your child generosity on the community level, get involved with a charitable activity, such as the Harbor House Christmas toy drive that is going on at Little Bridges right now. Encourage your child to be involved in picking out a gift for another child– and even for paying for part of it. This will help them understand how real people are affected by their actions. By discussing other people's wants and needs, you are teaching your child to see the world bigger than themselves – and **that** is a precious gift we can give to our children this Christmas season.