

Little Bridges News

December 2020



Calendar of Events

Harbor House Toy Drive

Purchase Due Date 12/4

Festive Sweater Day

Wednesday 12/16

CLOSED – Christmas

12/24 & 12/25

CLOSED – New Years

12/31 & 1/1

School Age

Holiday Camp

12/21, 12/22 & 12/23

12/28, 12/29 & 1/30

Harbor House Christmas Gift Drive

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. So many have been hit especially hard this year and are in need.

Thank you to all who purchased gifts from their Amazon Wish List – all gifts have been bought! There is still a need for \$25.00 gift cards from Target or Walmart. Visit our website for the Sign Up Genesis link. All gift cards need to be mailed to Harbor House by Dec 4th.

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 Performances

Your children love “Tammy Time” and have started practicing songs for a special Christmas performance. We have plans to record each class separately and will share these with you before Christmas.

Thank You!

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

Mask Recommendation

Our main priority at Little Bridges is to keep your children safe. While our staff and school age children in third grade and above are required to wear masks, **we would like to encourage all students aged two and above to wear a face covering.**

With the upcoming cold season and rising COVID cases in our county, we are asking that everyone do their part to keep our Little Bridges community safe.

We have several students already coming to school “masked up”, and our teachers can easily follow through with reminders and help (just as they do for any other health related practice).

Festive Sweater Day

Send your child dressed in their most festive get up on Wednesday, December 16th. Let's get in the Christmas spirit and celebrate!

JOY

The other day I had a conversation with a parent about a hard situation she was going through with her child. She was feeling helpless and out-of-control. She ended our conversation by saying in despair, "All I can do now is pray."

As I walked away, I replayed her words in my head "All I can do know is pray, All I can do know is pray." It hit me like a Mac Truck..... ALL I CAN DO?! The truth is, prayer is one of the most powerful things we can do for our kids.

Why is praying my last resort and not my first response? I can lift my kids up to God all day - praying in times of crisis, praying in celebration, praying for protection, praying for their friends, praying for no reason at all other than to thank God for his goodness in them. I want my kids to know I pray for them and I want them to turn to God anytime, anywhere, all the time.

Several years ago, I was driving my son to preschool and I looked in the rearview mirror and saw him leaning over his car seat looking out the window. He had his thumb up and a smile on his face. I said, "Taylor, what are you doing?" He just kept looking out the window and said, "I'm just giving God a thumbs up for the clouds."

Teach your kids to understand that praying is just talking to God and that they can do that anywhere and anytime - especially to give thanks! This will teach them to be grateful at an early age and to realize that life is not all about them. To help our kids with their early prayer life we taught them the word **JOY** - which is just a simple structure for a way to pray. **J**(Jesus) – start by thanking Jesus for who He is and what He has done. Secondly, **O**(others) – pray for family, friends and the world. Lastly, **Y**(you) - pray for yourself.

Let your kids hear you pray. Pray out loud and honestly – what's on your mind, your heart, your joys, fears, doubts, concerns, confess, ask for wisdom – don't hold back!

I have a friend who prays out loud over her children when they come to her arguing. The first time I saw her do it I thought she was losing it as a parent of 3 kids under the age of 5, but it is quite fabulous. She'll just start praying louder than her bickering kids, "God I ask for your help in this situation. Place it on Kevin and Kyle's hearts to peacefully figure this out and remind them of Your love and their love for each other.." She just goes on and on until the kids leave the room – it's brilliant! But more importantly, she's letting her kids see her dependence on God through prayer in daily life. We all need His help and presence all the time.

If your family is like mine, we usually pray before meals – but my favorite time for prayers when the kids were young, was at bedtime. We would pray for all events of the day – including being thankful for stuffed animals and ice cream.

As my boys grew older (and too big for out loud bedtime prayers), we started a new good night ritual we called "Where did you see God today?" It was the same routine every night – and when those boys saw me coming down the hall, they knew to pull their headphones off or pause their computer because I was coming in to ask them the same question that I did every night.

I would sit down on the side of the bed and ask, "Where did you see God today?" And they would tell me. And then they would ask me the same question. We saved this question for the end of the day and I know they rolled their eyes every once in a while, but I also know that deep down they loved the one-on-one time and I loved that they could find God EVERYWHERE.

When we first started, they often saw God in His beauty – the sunset, the smell of lemons, even the rolling brown hills. Then it started to change....they saw God in others – someone who did a kind act, their brother, their mom. But then, best of all, they started sharing with me that they saw God in themselves. Jesus, Others, Yourself...now that's **JOY!**