

Little Bridges News



December 2022

Calendar of Events

Harbor House Toy Drive

Drop Off Gifts By 12/2

PreK Conferences

12/5 – 12/8

Christmas Show

Thursday 12/15

7:00 PM

CLOSED – Christmas

12/23 & 12/26

CLOSED – New Years

12/30 & 1/2

School Age

Holiday Camp

12/27 – 12/29

1/3 – 1/6 & 1/9

CLOSED – MLK Jr. Day

Monday 1/16

Canyon Creek Church

Sunday Services &

Sunday School 10am

Christmas Eve Service 4pm

Harbor House Christmas Store Toy 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.

Grab a gift for any aged child 0 – 18 years old and drop it off under the Little Bridges office tree by **this Friday Dec. 2nd**.

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.

Little Bridges Christmas Show 12/15

Please join us on Thursday, December 15th at 7pm sharp for our back-to-in-person Christmas Show! All classes (Toddlers through PreK) will be performing on stage in the Worship Center.

Your children have been learning songs in their Tammy Time class and are excited to perform for you. Come celebrate Jesus' birth with us and make sure to bring your camera!

Look for specific classroom information about attire and drop off times from your teachers in their Friday emails.

Thank You!

We collected over 2500 pounds of food during this years Contra Costa County Food Bank Drive. Thank you for supporting this very worthy cause!

Christmas Eve Service

Join Canyon Creek Church for a family friendly Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, Dec. 24th. Come share the joy of Jesus and celebrate our Lord's birth at 4pm. This special service will be followed by a cookie potluck.

Calling all PreK Families

Will you need after school care next year for your Kindergartener or TK student? Little Bridges is enrolling NOW for the 23/24 school year. All Koala and Panda families have first dibs to enroll into our sought after school age program!

We would love to give you a tour and are happy to answer any questions you have. Don't miss out on priority enrollment!

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.