

# Little Bridges News

February 2023



## Calendar of Events

### **Dentist Visit**

Friday 2/16

### **CLOSED – President’s Day**

Monday 2/19

### **All Day Camp -School Age**

Tuesday 2/20

### **Open House**

Saturday 2/24  
10:00am – 12:00pm

### **All Day Camp -School Age**

Friday 3/15 &  
Friday 3/29

### **Minimum Days -School Age**

3/18 – 3/22

### **Book Fair**

3/18 – 3/22

### **All Day Camp – School Age**

4/1 – 4/5

### **Spring Show**

4/18 7:00 pm

### **Spring Pictures**

4/22 & 4/23

## **Open House February 24<sup>th</sup> 10am – 12pm**

You are invited to come to our Open House on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. All classrooms will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This is the perfect time for your child to show off his/her school to you and for you to visit other classrooms. It also provides a wonderful opportunity for prospective families to tour Little Bridges.

Teachers will be available to talk informally with parents about our philosophy, curriculum and daily schedules. If your child will be “moving up” any time this coming year, please use this Open House as a chance to review next year’s curriculum and to get a preview to what your child’s experiences will be like.

All pre-k families should make a stop upstairs and to the Gathering Hall, which is where our after school program takes place.

Everyone is welcome – so invite your family, friends and neighbors!

## **Full Day TK at LB starting Fall 2024**

We are thrilled to be moving forward with offering a Full Day TK program here at Little Bridges starting in August 2024. We have lots of printed information and can talk with any family interested. We only have 2 spaces left!

## **Summer Camp Priority Registration 2/1 - 2/9**

Our School Age Summer Camp brochures are ready! We have a fun-filled summer program for children who are entering 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Fall. **Space will be limited this year!** Priority registration ends Friday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> for our currently enrolled families.

## **Diaper & Baby Wipe Drive**

**The Community Care Pantry needs our help!** The current need for essential baby products is exceeding the supply of the pantry. For the entire month of February our school age program is hosting a diaper drive to help support this very important program. The requests are specifically for diapers sizes 2 – 6. We will also be collecting baby wipes. Donations can be dropped off in the Gathering Hall or Little Bridges office. Please label them CCPC PANTRY.

We know Little Bridges families recognize how vital these needs are, so we’re doing what we can to help!

## Beautiful Act of Love

The other day, I overheard a father say to his daughter, "Honey, could you please do me a favor? Could you just eat one bite of your green beans?" Now, to many people, this probably sounds like good parenting. The gentle-coaxing-formed-as-a-question-to-get-my-child-to-cooperate-without-threatening-her-autonomy-or-creating-a-scene type of parenting.

However, I would like to challenge this type of parenting and call it for what it is – a collapse of parenting. A relinquishing of and lack of confidence of parental authority. Parenting motivated by a desire to avoid conflict, to raise children respectfully, and to build up kids by giving them influence. But in reality, when grown-ups ask children instead of telling them what is expected, aren't they giving up their ultimate authority?

For trivial choices such as which shirt to wear, this approach is fine. But when we consult our children about caregiving issues like nutrition and going to bed, we put them in the lead. This is an absolute role reversal – and quite frankly, role confusion for children.

Let's start with the dinner table. This seems to be one of the first places parents begin to cede control to their kids. A rule such as "No dessert until you eat your broccoli" morphs into "How about three bites of broccoli, and then you can have dessert?" The command has become a question capped with a bribe. And guess what? When parents are coercive, they're going to get resistance. It's a natural response!

So if the girl served green beans eats her one bite as her dad asked, isn't she more likely to believe that she has done her father a favor - and that now he owes her a favor in return? What happens over a meal is a metaphor for how uncomfortable parents have become in their position as the boss of the family - the person in charge - the grown-up.

Food may be the first manifestation of the collapse of parenting, but I believe many of the problems within families are a result of this type of role confusion.

Kids are growing up in democratic households where each family member has a say about what happens—*Should we go outside now? Are we ready to have a bath? Would you like chicken for dinner? Are you ready for bed?*

Many kids are actually overpowering their parents – and that's the problem. A functional family unit hinges on hierarchy. Yes – you heard me right. Kids need (and want) a strong parent in charge who they trust and depend on. Strict obedience used to be praised; now it is seen as outdated.

In my opinion, that's partly why a "culture of disrespect" has sprouted. When kids become less attached to and influenced by the adults in their lives, same-age peers matter more. Children are not rational beings. Part of growing up is testing boundaries; kids, by their very nature, can't be relied on to hold each other accountable—nor should they. They need an ultimate person in their life they can trust and rely on.

Parenting is awfully frustrating and often a lonely place, especially when a child doesn't like what mom or dad is requiring of them. In those moments, "in charge" parents reassure kids that their relationship isn't broken. They take charge, realize that they are their child's best bet, and follow through lovingly and with strength.

A calm but steadfast parent who stands by their well meaning decisions creates humble and respectful children (which runs counter to inflating a child's self esteem and sense of entitlement). Confident parents that give children a firm foundation where they know what to expect, is in fact, one of the most beautiful acts of love required of parents.