

Little Bridges News

February 2013



Calendar of Events

Dentist Visit

Monday 2/4

CLOSED – President's Day

Monday 2/18

Open House

Saturday 2/23
10:00am – 12:00pm

Spring Pictures

3/4 & 3/5

Hop-A-Thon

3/11 – 3/15

Preschool Conferences

3/12 – 3/29

Book Fair

3/18 – 3/22

Spring Show

4/11 7:00 pm

Canyon Creek Church

Sunday Services

8:30 am & 10:00 am

Sunday School

8:30 am & 10:00 am

Open House February 23rd 10am – 12pm

You are invited to come to our Open House on Saturday, Feb. 25th. 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 at the Gathering Hall, which is where our after school program takes place.

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

Courtyard Remodel

We are currently in the process of getting bids and quotes to have the toddler yard remodeled. We are looking into having artificial grass installed in place of the existing sod. Know anyone that has done this before? Have any connections? We are very open to any and all input as we look forward for a way to fix the playground for our little ones.

The cost for this will be large (\$15,000 to \$18,000) and we plan to have a few fund raising campaigns to help with the cost. We have already assigned all escrip funds to go to this project – so if you aren't signed up for escrip – do it today! Forms are available in the office.

School Age Summer Camp

Our School Age Summer Camp brochures will be going home with all our current school age families at the end of this month. **Space will be limited this year!** Please return these by March 15th for priority enrollment.

Spring Pictures

Spring pictures will be taken on Monday, March 4th and Tuesday, March 5th. Look for class news about specific times as the date gets closer.

The Beauty of Right Here and Right Now

I've sometimes wondered if I'll spend the rest of my life missing my sons as the little boys they used to be.

Even now, though it's been years since I reminded anyone to look both ways, the sight of a mom crossing the street hand-in-hand with a little guy with sleep-ruffled hair and rolled up jeans fills my eyes with sudden tears.

As I watch you parents walk your children in and out of Little Bridges daily, I want to shout to you "Do you know how quickly this will all be over? Do you realize just how sweet and rich your lives are right here and right now?!"

Of course, this is what older people have been saying to younger ones since time began. And no one wants to hear it.

Your lives right now are busy and distracted - wondering how to transport your kids from point A to point B and pick up some food for dinner and get the homework done without a fight. An over-stretched, over-tired parent isn't worrying about the end of childhood so much as how to survive the hours between 5:00pm and bedtime. I know. I've been that parent, too.

When my children were small, I would sometimes lie in bed in the early morning and try to envision the day ahead. Not the schedule of the day, but rather the attitude I wanted to bring. Imagining myself being patient, calm, accepting, I would create a picture in my mind of the mother I wanted to be for my four boys. Of course, at some point, usually before 7:30am, the morning challenges would always get the better of me. Curtis was going to be late AGAIN because of his obsession with his snooze button, Jacob would be trying to convince me he could wear only a bathrobe to school (because, ya know, it wasn't listed anywhere in the dress code policy that he couldn't), Taylor was so hungry he had proudly poured a whole box of cereal into a 12 liter mixing bowl all-by-himself and Liam had decided to get into the art cabinet and decorate his face with markers "like mommy does" every morning.

It seemed to me during these early years of child raising that my sons' childhoods would go on forever. I couldn't imagine any other life than the one that consumed me right then, full of joys and demands. It is such a raw and relentless business - parenthood. There is a constant physical engagement, at once exhilarating, and at once exhausting. But there is also passionate, insistent emotion - the frightening, thrilling fierceness of our love for these souls.

The journey of these emotions, between childhood and adulthood, doesn't end, of course. When the kids head off to college or embark on careers or start relationships or move across the country. Full of twists and turns, detours and disappointments, surprises and sudden revelations. But what has hit me lately is that this nostalgic longing that brings me to my knees at times has caused me to forget the true wonder there is in the here and now.

Who I am, what my boys are, where we are at this moment is absolutely different from what it was - yes. But it is in no way less than. And the surprising truth is, I wouldn't trade our family's beautiful, complicated, ever changing and un-predictable present for any yesterday.

When I am able to simply be in today - with things as they are, able to accept the day's challenges without judgment or wishing for something else, I am receiving what God is offering me - right here, right now. And I wouldn't want to miss the beauty in that.