

# Little Bridges News

March 2019



## Calendar of Events

### **Open House**

3/2 10am – 12pm

### **Book Fair**

3/8 – 3/15

### **Spring Pictures**

3/12 & 3/13

### **School Age Min. Days**

3/13 – 3/15

### **School Age Spring Camp**

4/1 – 4/5

### **Spring Show**

Thursday 4/18 7:00 pm

### **Teacher Appreciation Wk**

5/6 – 5/10

### **PreK Grad Pictures**

5/14

## Canyon Creek Church

### **Sunday Services**

9:00 am and 10:15 am

### **MOPS**

Friday 3/8 & 3/22 9:30 am

## **Open House March 2<sup>nd</sup> 10am – 12pm**

You are invited to come to our Open House on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</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 to see where our TK/K class is held and at the Gathering Hall, which is where our after school program takes place.

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

## **Spring Pictures**

Class and Individual pictures will be taken Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Look for specific classroom days and times and picture order forms to come home soon.

## **The Book Fair is Coming!**

The Book Fair will be set up in the preschool office **and** in the Gathering Hall, March 8<sup>th</sup> through March 15<sup>th</sup>. Check out both places to see the larger collection of books we have to offer this year!

## **School Age Summer Camp Registration**

Little Bridges offers a fun-filled summer program for school age children ages 6 to 11 years. Our camp alternates between structured activities like academic review, science/tech projects and journal writing along with summertime traditions like crafts, organized games, swimming and field trips. Campers explore a new park every Monday, swim every Tuesday and Thursday, travel by chartered bus every Wednesday for a weekly field trip and spend Fridays on site entertained by a special guest or activity.

**We are registering current Little Bridges families now and space is limited!**

## **Follow Us & Like Us**

Little Bridges has a new website, a new FaceBook page and a new Instagram account. We would love to have you follow us!

## **Adventures in Writing**

Watching your child learn to write is thrilling, and like grown-ups, children use writing to communicate to others. You've probably noticed your child pretending to write notes, make lists, and take phone messages to enhance her dramatic play. These early activities provide powerful motivation to learn more. When children pretend to write, it indicates that they are beginning to understand the functions of print and to recognize writing as an activity worth learning.

Children learn best in environments that support their earliest writing experiments with various materials. Scribbling is the first stage (or pre-writing) and this begins as soon as a toddler can hold a large crayon or marker. As children love to explore the movement of pencils, crayons, and markers on paper. (If you ever get the chance to observe the toddler room with markers, it is a pure exercise in discovery!)

But as children gain greater control and coordination, recognizable shapes, lines, and patterns emerge. Children tend to vary their scribbles as they gain more experience: One moment they might use squiggles, the next, wavy lines, and still other times, letter-like forms. As children are exposed to more print through books, advertisements, and signs in their environment, their scribbling begins to acquire some of the characteristics of print.

Not surprisingly, the first word most children learn to spell is their name. Learning how to spell their name places your child on the road to learning many things about print: Your name has a beginning sound, it begins with a capital letter followed by lowercase letters and, most importantly, there is a set order to the letters in your name that never varies.

To help support this amazing journey, I have listed a few ways to support your child's writing adventure.

1. Strengthen your child's hands: encourage your child to push and squeeze play-doh, feed and dress themselves and to scribble on paper.
2. As your child scribbles, draw and write with them and talk about what you are writing.
3. Let your child "sign their name" on thank you notes.
4. Help your child learn the letters of the alphabet. Read ABC books, play letter-matching games, work on puzzles with letters, put magnetic letters on your fridge, or make letters out of playdoh.
5. Take a picture or drawing and have your child dictate a story about it. Write down everything he says and then read it back to him, pointing to the words as you do.
6. Expose your child to real words in print – read books, write messages to your child, fill out forms together, write about a fun day or event together in a journal, write to-do-lists and pencil in events into a calendar together.
7. Bring writing materials with you in a Ziploc bag whenever you go out to the grocery store, doctor's office, or to dinner.
8. Take your child's scribbles seriously – if he says it's a grocery list, take it to the store. If he says it's a letter to Grandma, mail it.
9. Celebrate your child's writing by prominently hanging her work in places where it is visible to all. Knowing that writing is important will go a long way toward motivating her to write more.
10. Once your child is sounding out words and writing, refrain from spelling out every word and encourage your child to sound out words. This will inspire your child to think about letter-sound relationships, which helps learning to read!