

# Little Bridges News

March 2021



## Calendar of Events

### **Virtual Book Fair**

3/19 – 4/1

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

3/10 – 3/12 & 3/23

### **School Age Spring Camp**

4/5 – 4/9

### **Spring Show Recordings**

Week of 4/19 – 4/23

### **Spring Pictures**

4/19 & 4/20

### **Teacher Appreciation Wk**

5/3 – 5/7

## Canyon Creek Church

### **Daily Devotionals**

Facebook Live  
Monday – Friday 7:30am

### **Sunday Service & Sunday School**

Facebook Live 10am

## **Virtual Book Fair**

Little Bridges will be hosting a virtual Book Fair the last 2 weeks of March. From March 19<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>, you can order books that will be delivered direct to your home. Shipping is FREE on book-only orders over \$25. The link will be emailed to you on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> and orders can be placed up until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

All purchases benefit Little Bridges. We earn 25% in Scholastic Dollar rewards that we can use for more classroom books and supplies.

The online fair has over 6,000 items for all ages - from board books to adult literature. All classes will put out "Wish Lists" should you want to give the gift of a book to your child's class. The link is absolutely sharable – family and friends from anywhere can bless our school with book profit. It is our one and only fund raiser that directly impacts our classrooms with literature and educational materials!

## **We are Getting Vaccinated!**

More than 80% of the teachers at Little Bridges have either gotten their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine or are scheduled to get the first dose this weekend! Our goal is to have every staff person through the double vaccine process by April.

## **School Age Summer Camp**

Attention all School Age families! Priority Summer Camp registration for all current families is open now! Our goal is to provide a fun and special summer experience with a variety of camp activities in art, sports, cooking, STEM, theatrical writing, water games, group hikes, special excursions and more!

So far, all restrictions and guidelines for child care, summer camps and groups are the same as they were last summer. We are planning on cohorts of 16 (14 students and 2 staff) per group and have space to run 3 groups (Tigers, Pink Team and Purple Team). All our existing families will have priority to sign up first. We will open up registration to those on our waiting list on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Spring Show**

This year each class will be performing a few of their class favorites with Ms. Tammy and their teachers. We will record performances and share on-line, just as we did the Christmas performances. In addition, our hope is to do a special outside-in-person performance for all our graduating Kinders/TK and PreK families in May.

## **Raising Patient Kids in the Age of Instant Everything**

One of my favorite scenes in the classic movie *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* is when spoiled and impatient Veruca Salt screams "I want it now!" just before falling into the "bad egg" pit. Her daddy is beside himself as Willy sends him off with the Oompa Loompas to rescue her. I am not so sure that dad and daughter get the moral of the story, but the idea is that our children watching should.

Most children do "want it now" – but the fact that children often "get it now" makes teaching patience difficult, especially in this instant world we live in.

Patience is a virtue that needs to be instilled in children. It teaches children the value of delaying gratification, and can help develop the ability to think through and resolve problems; it can counteract impulsivity and even acting out. The value of patience lies in its ability to lead to inner calm and emotional strength of character.

I worry that these critical "civilizing" skills are being lost in the fast-paced, point-and-click world where technology reigns. Toddlers learn how to work television and DVD controls before they know their ABCs and grade-schoolers chat with friends online. There's instant oatmeal (remember boiling water on the stove), instant pictures (remember having film developed), instant phone (remember waiting for your sister to get off and busy signals), instant cartoons (remember Saturday mornings). Everywhere children turn, they have so much power in their grip.

Impatient children can be short-tempered, ill-mannered, bossy, angry and upset which often leads to meltdowns. When children haven't been taught or given the opportunity to wait, they have a harder time empathizing with others and even coping when life becomes challenging.

Here are a few ways to encourage patience:

**Make Your Kids Wait** Don't always drop everything as soon as your child asks for something. Allow your child to feel the unpleasantness of waiting because it's a great change agent. By not giving him the juice immediately, for example, you'll help him get practice in managing his impatience.

**Tell Your Child What They're Feeling** Young children aren't able to express their frustration at having to wait for things, but you can help by labeling their emotions and offering praise when they demonstrate patience. If your preschooler has to wait his turn, you might say: "I know it's tough to just stand here. But you're doing a terrific job. You're being patient, and that's great!" When you validate your child's struggle with something, it's more likely he'll try harder.

**Engage Your Child in Activities that Promote Patience.** Encourage your child to do things that don't offer immediate results, like block building and puzzle solving, or board games where everyone needs to wait for their turn. Even coloring with crayons instead of markers or a doodle board takes more effort. I am not a big fan of all the high-tech gadgets that offer instant press-of-a-button results. So much more learning happens when kids work through tasks that take thought and critical thinking.

**Be a Role Model** You can't explain patience to a toddler, but you can show her how you practice it. How do you handle yourself when you get behind the slow person at the grocery store? Do you show patience when your scheduled day is disrupted? How do you respond to your child when she has called your name for the 500<sup>th</sup> time in an hour?

### **Pray with Your Kids**

God is not on our timetable, and prayers are answered in God's perfect time with his perfect answer. Our life with Christ is to be lived with patience and understanding that God is above our restrictions of time. Teach your kids humility that will combat selfishness and impatience through prayer and life experiences.

**Celebrate the Patience in Nature** Watch the sun come up or set. Lie down at dusk so you can look up and watch the stars pop out. Plant a seed and watch it grow. Sit quietly in the woods and wait for a deer to come by. Or wait for a fish to bite at your favorite fishing hole. The beauty of nature doesn't happen instantly.

Children today live in a sound bite, instant gratification world but the wise parent counters this with many little, age-appropriate patience lessons.