

# Little Bridges News



May 2021

## Calendar of Events

### **Teacher Appreciation**

Monday - Friday 5/3 – 5/7

### **Muffins for Moms**

Friday Morning 5/7

### **CLOSED**

### **Memorial Day**

Monday 5/31

### **Last Day of School (for school age only)**

Thursday 6/3

### **School Age CLOSED (Tigers, Pink, Purple only)**

Friday 6/4

### **PreK Graduation (hopefully in-person!)**

**More details to come...**

Friday 6/4 3pm – 4pm

### **Donuts for Dads**

Friday 6/18

### **CLOSED**

### **Fourth of July**

Monday 7/5

### **CLOSED**

### **Teacher In-Service**

Thursday & Friday 8/5 & 8/6

## **Muffins For Moms**

Calling all mommies! We want to invite you to drop off your child/ren on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Each child has made you a special gift and would like to present that to you in their classroom!

Moms, you can walk your child to class this day, take a peek around the classroom, receive your gift from your child (with a hug attached of course) and then grab a cup of coffee to go and an individually wrapped muffin from us on your way out. Coffee carts and muffins will be set up in the main courtyard for you to serve yourself.

We ask that you make this a short visit and social distance from other moms and children. We have all missed these social events so very much, and we feel it is time to start slowly and safely opening up again. Our morning runners will be available for all who are not ready to come on campus or for those students whose mommies cannot make it.

Dads, plan on the same sort of treatment on Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup> when we celebrate you with Donuts For Dads!

## **St. Jude's Hospital Trike-A-Thon**

Thank you to all the families who participated in the St. Jude Children's Hospital Trike-A-Thon. Our kids learned that they can help other kids who are sick. We raised almost \$3,000.00 for St. Jude's which is the only National Cancer Institute devoted solely to children. Your contributions will help make it possible for patients to receive treatment regardless of a family's ability to pay.

## **A Year of Praise**

Recordings of Spring Show performances will be out the first week of May! We have taken all the Bible themes from this past year and put together a compilation of the year's songs and bible verses your children have learned. While this year has been a challenge for us all, we are so grateful for God's protection and grace - all the time. Our hope is that these songs of praise and joy fill your heart with thankfulness as you reflect on this past year too.

## **Thank You Room Parents**

As I write this, many room parents are organizing our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Teacher Appreciation Week. It is a special week for the staff here at Little Bridges and we would like to thank each of you for organizing, e-mailing, shopping, collecting, leading, helping and answering daily questions from your parents to make this week memorable for all of us. A special thanks to Uma Mange, Diana Deknoblough, Sammy Mattichak, Laura Cogorno, Merna Nakhla, Erin Wilbur, Annie Su, Christine Wong, Angel Liang, Alexandria Janda, Sree Balachandran, and Janice Burke. Thank you for thanking us 😊

## Calling All You Mommas - Get On The Grace Highway

Is there any worry like mom worry? The knowing you are responsible for whole human lives!? I mean *this is it*. Every mother I know worries she isn't doing this right, failing in countless ways - seen and unseen. Our faults seem so huge, blunders and breakdowns and mess-ups that could equal a complete and total disaster.

When I was a young mom someone told me, "If you are worried about being a bad mom, you are probably a good one."

I wanted to believe this so badly. Was I? Was I a good mom? Because I mostly felt like I was spitting into the wind. Then something happened. I jumped outside my mind where the crazy lived and watched myself talking to my kids. I was so nice sometimes - I said sweet and precious things here and there! There were so many *I love yous* and *You are very smarts* and attentive *Mmhmmms* and *Sounds, Awesomes* and *Great jobs* from myself to my boys. And the hugs - lots of hugs and snuggles and sweet moments. I watched myself be a good mom and realized I was my own worst critic - sometimes even a liar - convincing myself that nothing good was happening and it was all my fault.

I decided I should ignore myself more often.

Why do we exaggerate our failures and ignore our successes? I would never overvalue another mother's lows and neglect her triumphs, so why would I do that to myself? Why do any of us? We observe other momma's strengths with 20/20 vision while our strengths are blurred. I declare others goodness as easily as I affirm my wretchedness.

If you are worried about being a bad mom, you are probably a good one.

Some of the good is obvious, the stuff you readily notice in others - the loving words, the endless attention, the eye contact, the praise. You read to your kids and tuck them in with kisses and use affirming parenting language and attend all the games/ recitals/tournaments/programs. You braid hair and tie ribbons and apply Band-Aids and pretend your kids' art is awesome. You do all that, and it is good, and it counts.

Some of the good is less obvious, the stuff that also happens in every home - the apologies, the conflict resolution, the tough love, the boundaries, the making up, the hard lessons. You are molding failure into character, both your kids' and your own. Every mom blows it. Every kid comes unglued. Every family goes off the rails. That doesn't mean you are ruined; it means you are ordinary. Course correction is standard. These moments often feel bad because they started bad, but they are actually good, and they count too.

This is my point: You are doing a better job than you think.

Self-criticism sometimes leads to being better, but it can also lie to you and probably has. You may need to ignore your mind and watch yourself awhile - not just detecting the sharp moments but the soft ones, for I assure you they are there. If you would tell a friend having a bad mom day, "It's okay! Your kids know you love them. Everyone loses it sometimes. Parenting is hard. Tomorrow is a new day..." then you should extend that same compassion to yourself.

Motherhood has many sides. Not every conversation with kids is esteem-building. Sometimes those kids just need to get in the bathtub and stop stalling. There is no shame in that. Sure, sometimes you intentionally parent but you also manage, discipline, intervene, boss around, implement, and even just survive sometimes.

Condemnation is a trick of the enemy, not the language of the heavens. Shame is not God's tool, so if you are a slave to it, you're way off the beaten path. If your inner monologue is critical, endlessly degrading, it's time to move back to grace. Then you can breathe and assess your own parenting with the same kindness you extend to others.

Let me assure all you mommies - you are loving, capable mothers - you're just reading the room wrong. Can I tell you my goal for my kids? That their childhood was *mostly good*. If I was mostly patient and they were mostly obedient, great. If I was mostly nurturing and they turn out mostly well-adjusted, super. "Mostly good" is later remembered as "loved and safe". Mostly good is enough. Mostly good produces healthy kids who know they are valued and they either forget the other parts or turn them into funny stories.

So all you mommas - for Mothers' Day and every other day of the year, step outside your mind to self-observe and plant your feet on the grace highway. You are doing a wonderful job! Parenting is mind-numbingly hard and no one is perfect at it - we all mess it up a thousand times, yet with grace and, against all odds, it is more than enough.