

# Little Bridges News



November 2018

## Calendar of Events

### **Food Drive**

11/1 – 11/30

### **CLOSED – Veteran’s Day**

Monday 11/12

### **School Age**

#### **All Day Camp**

Friday 11/2

&

Mon. – Wed. 11/19 – 11/21

### **CLOSED – Thanksgiving**

Thurs 11/22 & Fri 11/23

### **Harbor House Toy Store**

All gifts due by Fri 12/7

### **Preschool**

#### **Christmas Program**

Thurs 12/13 7:00 pm

## Enrichment Classes

### **Soccer Shots (2-5 yrs)**

Mondays

### **Tuff Tumblers (2-4 yrs)**

Thursdays

### **Science (3 -5)**

Varies

### **Private Music (K-5)**

Guitar & Piano Lessons

## **Fighting Hunger, Changing Lives**

Little Bridges and Canyon Creek Church are sponsoring a food drive for the Contra Costa County Food Bank. We will be collecting food for the entire month of November. Our goal is to fill all 6 bins at least twice, which would be a donation of 1,200 pounds of food!

The most needed food items include powdered milk, peanut butter, canned meats and stews, cereal, fruit juices, tuna, pasta, rice and beans.

## **Share the Joy of Christmas**

Little Bridges will again be partnering with Harbor House in Oakland to help share some Christmas joy with families less fortunate than us. Look out for a Sign-Up Genius on-line form via email to participate. Donations of new and unwrapped toys are needed for children aged 0 – 18. **Last day to drop off donations is Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Harbor House serves under-resourced families through educational, spiritual and economic programs. Again this year, Harbor House has an Amazon Wish List of desired toys and clothes. Amazon will send your gifts directly to Harbor House to be organized and then put out at their Christmas Store. The Christmas store is open on a Saturday and provides parents a place where they can purchase gifts for their children at greatly reduced prices.

Both the food drive and the gift giving opportunities we have here this month offer priceless experiences for you to participate in with your kids. What a great way to teach and instill compassion, sharing, empathy and unselfishness in your kids who are so very blessed with an excess of food and toys.

## **Christmas Cards Designed by Your Child**

This year Art & Soul will be turning your children’s artwork into beautiful one-of-a-kind Christmas cards. These would make cute Christmas cards from your child or could be used after Christmas for a fun personal “thank you” coming from your child. You can choose from a variety of sayings to have printed on them or can leave them blank. Cards are bundled in packs of ten. All cards will have your child’s artwork on the front and have his/her name printed on the back. Order forms will be available later in the month and cards will be delivered mid December

## **Follow Us & Like Us**

Did you know Little Bridges has a website, a FaceBook page and an Instagram account? We would love to have you follow us!

*Thoughts from Ms. Jacque...*

## Raising Brave Disciples

I was made to parent boys. I love boys. I love them dirty and reckless - I love their ridiculous projects, competitions and adventures. I even love how they're always one step away from needing an icepack – it's so fun – really.

But I believe that if God had blessed me with girls– I'd want them to be just as brave and as willing to take risks as my boys are - willing to speak up, to try new things, and to be adventurous.

When I think about my own childhood, I have so much respect and admiration for how my parents raised me (they were certainly NOT “helicopter parents”). I grew up in the 70's and my parents inspired me as a young girl to go for it. To be brave and headstrong. You may not see it now, but I was actually a tom-boy growing up. I hated dresses, flowers and anything in my hair. I loved bellbottom corduroys, climbing trees, finding frogs and spinning really hard on my Big Wheel. My parents encouraged me to be courageous and daring - not just because these are qualities for success, but because they wanted to raise a strong disciple of Christ.

I was taught from a young age that I could take risks and bravely encounter the world. To be fearless and bold. I was also taught that God loved **me** recklessly. He would pursue me no matter what and love me unconditionally. My parents didn't live in fear of what might happen to me – they trusted in God's plan. They of course wouldn't allow me to play in the street, but I certainly don't ever remember thinking “My parents are going to freak out” any time I chose courage over safety.

My parents wisely knew that I would need to engage in this broken world one day and that safety had to be somewhere around #14 on their list of parenting priorities. I would be totally ineffective as a disciple if I were afraid of my own shadow.

I love Romans 8:28 for all our kids: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” But can we accept the very next verse? “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”

Being conformed into the image of Jesus is not a pretty process, because our kids are born into sin and God has messy, real work to do to transform them into disciples. This process involves sacrifice and loss and struggle and failure and courage and maybe even some danger.

When have you grown the most? Changed the deepest? Struggle. Failure. Loss. Risky obedience. Our kids are the same. Our job is not to shield them from everything hard, but to parent them through it with wisdom and discernment. We should not pull our kids completely out of this culture in some parallel Christian universe, but instead teach them to navigate the real world with grace and conviction. This requires a gradual process of letting go, so our kids can actually live a real life with real people and real problems and discover the real God who shows up there.

I don't want my kids safe and comfortable. I want them BRAVE. I don't want to teach them to see danger under every rock, avoiding anything hard or not guaranteed or risky. They are going to encounter a very broken world, and I want them prepared to walk into difficult territory and come up against obstacles and tragedies and hardships.

My hope is to let the leash out, bit by bit, to allow God to work through my kids as they take big, giant gulps out of life and grow into brave disciples.