

# Little Bridges News

October 2023



## Calendar of Events

### **School Age Program**

#### **Minimum Days**

10/2– 10/6

#### **All Day Camp**

Wednesday 11/1

11/20, 11/21, 11/22

### **Pumpkin Patch Field Trip**

Friday 10/20

### **Costume Parade**

Tuesday 10/31

### **Food Drive**

11/1 – 11/30

### **CLOSED – Veteran's Day**

Friday 11/10

### **CLOSED – Thanksgiving**

11/23 & 11/24

## Enrichment Classes

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

Tuesdays

### **Art & Soul Music (K-5)**

Wednesdays

## ***Pumpkin Patch Field Trip: Friday, October 20th***

On Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, all preschool children will be heading to Joan's Farm & Pumpkin Patch in Livermore. Little Bridges will cover all pumpkin patch entrance fees which includes one pumpkin, one cup of animal feed and a wristband for unlimited rides & games (maze, slide, pumpkin bowling, kids corral or little kid's train). There is also a museum, old west town and educational posters for all to enjoy!

All families should meet their teachers AT the Pumpkin Patch by 9:45am sharp so we can all enter together. Please dress your child in their orange Little Bridges t-shirt.

Don't have a shirt or your child has outgrown theirs? Pop by the office to purchase another one to wear with pride!

## ***Halloween Festivities***

On Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, all infant/toddler and preschool children will parade around in their costumes at 9:30 a.m. We will rope off an area in the parking lot for the parade route. Please come, watch, cheer and take pictures!

It is easiest to send your child to school in their costume with a bag of clothes to change into. Please label everything and remember that anything scary or violent (including masks and weapons) are not appropriate for a school setting.

We also ask that parents drop off in the classroom as usual and then come back and wait in the parking lot for the parade. Believe me, it is easier on your teachers and children not to hang around in the classroom. We try to make this day super fun but also as normal as possible.

## ***School Age Bake Sale for Jessie Rees Foundation***

**Thank you** to all who supported our school age program this past week by either baking or buying delicious baked goods! All money raised will help assemble Joy Jars for children fighting cancer. NEGU (Never Ever Give Up) distributes Joy Jars to children going through in-patient cancer treatment. The jars are filled with games and toys and offer some Joy and Hope.

Many of our preschool and school age kids also dropped coins and dollars in their classroom Compassion Change Coin Drive Bottles. All this will be added to the bake sale donations.

**WAY TO GO LB community for empowering our kids as they learn they can make a difference and help others in need!**

## **Teaching Your Children Responsibility & Community Values**

The first place that children learn values is within your own home. From home, your child then filters in school values, values of friends and values from the broader community. I am a true believer in raising children who give back and have an innate sense of responsibility. One of the easiest ways to do this with young children is by assigning chores. The idea that everyone should do their share is a basic value held by most of us. Participating in family chores can strengthen a child's sense of belonging and contributing to the common good.

This month's bible lessons focus on how God can help us and that we in turn can also be big helpers. Look for a "Chore Chart" to come home in the next few weeks to help you get started.

Children can start contributing to household chores when they are very young. A young toddler can be expected to help put their toys away, tear lettuce for the family salad or hand out napkins to set the table. The following are some helpful hints for young children and chores.

- 1. Make tasks manageable.** Jobs given to young children should have a defined beginning and end.
- 2. Give children chores that have obvious value to you and your family.** Simple tasks like washing a pet's food dish or folding small pieces of laundry are understandable to a young child. Remember to tell your child how useful and important his work is to the family. Let your child overhear you tell a friend how his help with the dishes makes a difference in how smoothly the household runs.
- 3. Assign chores that produce pleasant effects.** These are usually more satisfying than jobs that leave little to show for one's efforts. Setting a table is more rewarding than cleaning it—the table looks nice and others can admire the work!
- 4. Teach children how to do a job.** Demonstrate first and then practice with them before you turn the task over. Share some chores with your children. Working together requires coordination and cooperation. For many children, it may be easier to be part of a team cleaning the family room than it is to clean their own rooms by themselves.
- 5. Give an incentive to finish.** Link pleasures to responsibilities—making a fruit gelatin means family members will enjoy a tasty dessert, cleaning up the yard means a place to practice kickball.
- 6. Set reasonable performance standards,** and be prepared to accept a less-than-perfect performance. If a parent constantly finds fault and redoes the task, the child's effort has no value. A child-made-bed will obviously not be quite as tidy as yours.
- 7. Help you child follow through** on completing assigned tasks. If your child regularly procrastinates, resist the temptation to nag. This will only incite further resistance. Instead, point out in a matter-of-fact way that you and other family members are counting on their completion of the task.

### **MORE THAN CHORES**

Teaching a child to be responsible is more than a matter of chores, however. Reaching out to help family members or friends and people in need is another way children become responsible. Siblings can be asked to read to younger siblings, cards can be made and sent to friends, or new toys can be bought for the needy when all that birthday money comes rolling in. A kindergartner may not understand the concept of social responsibility but will understand "Open the door for Mrs. Brown because her arms are full." Learning ways to help, share, cheer up, and provide companionship to others sets the stage for developing a sense of social responsibility.

The most important way you can teach responsibility is by example. Encourage your child to accompany you when you go to vote. Take them with you when you drop off clothes to Olive's Closet. Explain to your preschooler that we throw trash in the cans at the park so everyone can enjoy the area. Give details to your child about our upcoming Food Drive and how their efforts can help others.

Helping a child develop into a responsible adult is our fundamental task as parents. By teaching our children to assume responsibility—first for themselves, then within the family, and finally as a member of the larger community—your children can experience the satisfaction that comes from accomplishment and develop a healthy confidence in themselves.