

Little Bridges News



August, 2011

Calendar of Events

CLOSED – Staff Training

Monday 8/22

Tuesday 8/23

Orientation (3 years & up)

8/23 9:00am – 9:45am

First Day of School

Wednesday 8/24

CLOSED – Labor Day

Monday 9/5

Back-To-School-Night

(No children please)

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Thursday 9/15

Enrichment Classes

Art & Kinderdance

Resume this Fall

Tuff Tumblers

Thursdays

Science/Math/Magic

Mondays & Fridays

Soccer Shots

Wednesdays

E.nopi

Wednesdays & Fridays

CCPC Happenings

Sunday Services

Service 8:30 & 10:00 am

Sunday School 10:00 am

Teacher Training/In-Service Days

Little Bridges will be closed on Monday, August 22nd and Tuesday, August 23rd for teacher training/in-service days. We use these days to come together as a staff and prepare for the year ahead. This year's agenda includes curriculum training, team building exercises and a special workshop with Ronald Mah, who is a well-known staff development consultant in the early childhood field.

New Student Orientation Tuesday, August 23rd.

New Student Orientation Day will be held August 23rd. Any child transitioning into a new room in the fall is invited to check out their new classroom. We hope that a brief visit with your child's new teachers and environment will help make for an easy transition on their first day of school. The Giraffes, Jaguars, Koalas, Pandas and School Age classes will have a morning orientation time from 9:00am – 9:45am. Because this is a teacher training/in-service day we have to keep the orientation brief.

Hot Lunch Program Starts September 1st

Nob Hill Catering will be providing daily hot lunches to Little Bridges starting Thursday, September 1st. Each meal includes an entrée, a side dish, a fruit or vegetable, and a healthy beverage. Parents can sign up and pay for lunches on-line. Just go to www.thelunchmaster.com and request a log-in and password. The lunches will be labeled with your child's name and classroom, and then delivered before lunch time.

Nob Hill offers several healthy meal choices a day – including at least one vegetarian option. Their lunches are prepared using only all whole grains, organic produce, limited sugar and no trans fats.

All full day preschool and kindergarten school age children can participate.

Updated Emergency Forms

Emergency Information Sheets are due! Every Fall we ask that a new sheet be filled out for each student at Little Bridges. Packets were sent to your home last month with all required forms. If you have not turned your 2010/2011 forms in yet, please do so ASAP. Thank You!

I'm An Imperfect Mom

OK. I admit it. Sometimes I yell. Sometimes my kids don't brush their teeth. I've opened crackers in the grocery cart. I've served overly processed meat products with no vegetables more times than I want to admit. I've culled their Halloween candy for the "good" chocolate. I've forgotten school deadlines and misplaced library books. I've proudly organized my boys' toys into color-coded bins but, within days, found myself tossing Luke Skywalker in with Mr. Potato Head – and not even feeling guilty about it. I've made chore charts, which I later used for writing my grocery list. I never carry tissues in my purse. I've even been known to have my kids blow their noses on those brown sand-paperish towels in the Target bathroom.

Of all the jobs I wanted to wildly succeed at, being a great mom was at the top of my list. There was only one problem. It was a job I couldn't master. It didn't help that I grew up in a generation of moms who read approximately 143.2 books on becoming a great parent. My dad says we're becoming more informed and less secure. I think he has a point.

I'm all for the wonderful books on the market that teach us proper modes of discipline and help us better understand our kids. I've benefited from many of those books. But parenting doesn't require perfection. I've finally figured out that the perfect mom doesn't exist. It's just as well. My boys wouldn't be better off with a perfect mom. There are things perfect moms can't teach. I can. I can teach my boys about asking forgiveness because I model it. I can teach them that one of the greatest gifts in life is giving and receiving mercy. They can learn humility from me. I don't have to try to "wow" my boys with human perfection.

Another benefit to being an imperfect mom is that I have lots of friends. Other moms feel comfortable sharing their struggles and mistakes with me. They feel safe admitting that sometimes they question themselves. They're not afraid to open up and let me see their ugly side. They know that I'm not afraid of the truth. Let's be honest. No one wants to be friends with a perfect mom.

Don't get me wrong. I'm all for parenting with consistency, love, discipline, order and instruction. But I'm not depending on my own ability to "nail" those concepts. At the end of the day, I still fall short. That's OK.

How many of us can honestly say the following while lying in bed at night? "Yep! Today I was quite the parent. I modeled patience and self-discipline in every area. I taught my children the value of consuming green leafy vegetables. I enlightened them with both Scripture and Shakespeare. I always affirmed their gifts and in love, graciously corrected their shortcomings. I was never angry. I gave them a sound and hearty lesson on oral hygiene and the lesson was eagerly received. All 64 crayons are sharpened and neatly placed in the original box. I can rest easy now."

Yeah. Me neither. My boys have an imperfect mom. They have a mom who makes mistakes. But I smile at the end of the day when I thank God for my four boys. I know they thank God for me too because if they could choose any mom in the world, they'd choose me.