

# Little Bridges News



September, 2011

## Calendar of Events

### Hot Lunch Starts

Thursday 9/1

### CLOSED – Labor Day

Monday 9/5

### Back - To - School Night

Adults ONLY please

Toddlers & Preschool

Thurs. 9/15 7:00 PM

### School Pictures

Wednesday 9/21

## Enrichment Classes

### Soccer Shots (3-5 yrs)

Mondays

### Art Classes (3-4 yrs)

Tuesdays

### Kinderdance (3-5 yrs)

Thursdays

### Tuff Tumblers (2-4 yrs)

Thursdays

### Science/Math/Magic (3-4)

Mondays & Thursdays

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

Guitar & Piano Lessons

## Back –To-School Night

Little Bridges Back-to-School-Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

This is a time for teachers to discuss the class curriculum, the daily schedule, and the objectives for the year. I hope you plan on attending this very informative night.

This night is for parents only please. Parents can go straight to their child's classrooms.

## Free Kinderdance Demonstration

Kinderdance will be giving each class a free demonstration on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Kinderdance is a developmental dance/movement and fitness program for children ages 3 – 5 that teaches the basics of Ballet, Tap, Gymnastics, and Movement. Parents are invited to meet the instructor this day while observing the students as they participate.

## Picture Days

School pictures will be taken on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Look for picture packets to come home in the next week. Children that usually do not attend on their picture day are encouraged to come during their picture time to be included in the class photo.

## 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 2011/2012 forms in yet, please do so ASAP. Thank You!

## eScrip

Do you shop at the grocery store? Do you have a grocery card? Do you use credit cards? If you answered yes to any of these questions did you know that at no cost to you, you could be providing us with thousands of dollars for our fund-raising efforts? Little Bridges is an authorized participant in a very convenient scrip program called e-Scrip. It is a very simple process to join. Register all of the cards you are using such as Safeway club cards, MasterCard, Visa etc. A percentage of your purchases will be given to our children's program at no additional cost to you – in fact we purchased several new rugs just this month for our classrooms using e-scrip funds! It is easy to sign-up. Go online to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com). Our ID# is 138042748.

## **Is Your Child a Miniature Perry Mason?**

I had a parent say this to me the other day: *I know my kid's going to grow up to be a lawyer! He argues whenever he's asked to do something. He debates his rights when he's asked to stop doing something. He pleads his case when I tell him he can't do something. He disputes every rule I create. How can I put an end to this?*

My response: *Think about it: It takes two to argue. Your child cannot "argue" by himself. That's called "mumbling."*

Here are a few tips I like to use with my own children, who I'm sure will be joining the debate team in high school.

### **Say it once**

Practice stating your case, then being quiet. Ignore your child's argumentative comments, and walk away if you must. Let your child get used to your word being "final."

### **Let 'em complain a bit**

As long as it's respectful, sometimes letting your child have the last word is okay. Often a statement, such as, "Why do I have to do it?" doesn't require an answer, nor does it deserve one. Often, a child's mutterings really mean, "I'll do it 'cuz I have to, but I don't like it."

### **Set rules for debating**

My youngest, Liam, really does like debating an issue. If your child is like this, set ground rules for when and how issues can be debated. For instance: no raising of voices, no name calling, quiet listening to the other person's point of view. This behavior provides excellent practice for learning how to negotiate in life. In addition, Liam must understand that some things cannot be argued, that there are some things we as parents must decide. My standard reply for when an issue cannot be debated, "This is not open for discussion." Period. The end.

### **Offer choices**

Get in the habit of offering your child choices, instead of issuing commands. Children who are argumentative will have less opportunity to practice the skill if you offer a choice. For example, instead of saying, "Do your homework, right now," offer a choice, such as, "What would you like to do first, your homework or the dishes?" (If the response is, "neither," you can smile sweetly and say, "That wasn't one of the choices. Homework or dishes?")