

Bright Horizons at Wilton News

March 2014



From the Director

Hello families:

Welcome to March! We are all hoping and praying for the warm weather to arrive! We are looking forward to getting back outdoors, as well. It's been a long winter!

Thank you to all those who signed up for Online Payments! If you missed the deadline for March, you may sign up for April. This is meant to make life easier for everyone, so please sign up today.

Please remember that our Penny War is still going on to raise money for the Bright Space in Stamford that we will be renovating. Please drop your pennies off today!

We are excited to announce that we will be opening up the Preschool 2 classroom in the very near future, to allow for the Toddlers who are turning 3 to move up. Please be on the lookout for more information on the opening of P2.

We are all excited to announce that we have partnered with the Wilton Library and the Librarian, Andrea Faulkner, will begin coming to the center on a regular basis, starting in March. She will read to all of the age groups and classrooms. Her first visit will be on March 10th.

Have a great March!

Cindy & Chris

Dates to Remember:

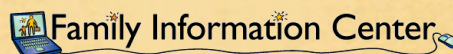
Librarian Visit – March 10th

Tom Weber Music – March 12th

Parent Group Meeting – March 25th 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Free Infant Yoga Class – March 26th 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Online Payments Now Available!



Bright Horizons at Wilton is pleased to announce the introduction of our new *Online Payment Solution*—a secure online web portal accessed via the [Family Information Center](http://familyinfocenter.brighthorizons.com).

With the new Online Payment Solution, you can:

- **Sign up for recurring ACH payments.**
- **Easily access billing statements and view account balances.**
- **Manage your family's information** in one place.

Visit <http://familyinfocenter.brighthorizons.com> to register for online payments today!

Happy Birthday!

03/06 – Annabelle L – 5yrs – Kindergarten Prep

03/07 – Blaine B – 2yrs – Toddler One

03/10 – Troy O – 2yrs – Toddler Four

03/10 Brian D – 3yrs – Toddler Three

03/18 Claire H – 3yrs – Toddler Three

03/20 – Emily S – 2yrs – Toddler Two

03/27 – Tyler S – 4yrs – Preschool Three

03/29 – Madelyn Y – 2yrs – Toddler One

03/30 Freya C – 3yrs – Toddler Three

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Classroom Highlights



Infants

The Infants had a great time doing some Sensory exploration with gloopy cornstarch!

Miss Bunny and Miss Natalie mixed the cornstarch with water, and let the infants explore it on their high chair counters. The children enjoyed touching the cornstarch, making marks in the 'gloop' and watching it from their fingers. Sensory exploration is a great way for Infants to work on their tactile skills and explore the world around them!



Toddlers

Toddler One recently enjoyed tasting many different fruits during this Science Rocks food tasting activity.

Miss Iryna and Miss Angelique cut up many different types of fruit, including pineapple, mango and banana. The class was able to taste each fruit, and talk together about the texture, color and taste of the fruit.

Preschool

Preschool Three have been learning about Winter animals and birds during the past few weeks.

Their circle times have included animal books, and they have worked on a variety of Winter Animal themed Art Smart projects, including using natural materials and recycled material to make their own 'bird's nest' which the class was able to explore in their Sensory Table.



Kindergarten Prep

Kindergarten Prep has been very busy with many different Dr. Seuss themed activities, as the class gears up to celebrate his birthday.

The class has been working on rhyming words and reading many different Dr. Seuss stories, cooking and tasting their own 'green eggs and ham' during Science Rocks time, and making a wide variety of Dr. Seuss themed Art Smart activities.

READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Creating an Environment for Learning in Your Home

As adults, we typically find it is easier to sit down and pay bills, write a letter, or send an email when our work space is attractive and easily accessible. The same is true for children. The environment matters. One step in helping your child get ready for formal schooling can be creating an environment for learning in your home.

Subtle environmental additions communicate that you think learning and learning materials are important. This could be as simple as setting aside a space in your child's room or a corner of the kitchen table for "school activities."

READY to WRITE: Provide a small basket or cardboard "school box" with crayons, pencils, post-its, and small pads of paper. An attractive container of colored pencils and washable markers is also likely to attract your child's attention. You could add ABC stencils, a ruler, an eraser, and lined paper for older children, if you'd like. (If you have younger children in your home, keep these out of reach when your preschool or kindergarten child is not using them). This can be the place your child can go to do his/her "school work." Keep it fun and avoid pressuring your child to use these materials. Save them for a relaxed activity where your child can practice as he/she chooses while you are busy cooking dinner or cleaning up.

READY to READ: Another helpful addition to the environment is having reading materials readily available. We know that reading aloud to children is a key factor in later embracing reading in their own lives. In addition, children who see their parents reading and enjoying it are more apt to want to read themselves. As you read the newspaper, for example, your child can select from a basket of books or children's magazines to look through. It is important to have books at children's levels that they can access on their own. Even toddlers will enjoy a basket of sturdy board books or plastic books at their level. When children look through the pictures in a favorite book that has been read aloud to them again and again, they often retell the story to themselves, either silently or out loud. Being able to recall and re-tell a story is an important pre-reading skill.

READY for MATH: The kitchen is a logical place to add materials for your child to learn math skills such as measuring. Have some plastic measuring cups and spoons for your child's use that are kept in a low, open cabinet or drawer accessible for his/her use. At appropriate times, when you are not too rushed, your child could help you count and measure as you, for example, pour cups of lukewarm water into a pot for cooking pasta. When you have less time to interact, stacking nested measuring cups (ones that fit inside each other), spoons, or small bowls is a good ordering activity for your child to work on independently.

You probably already have many learning opportunities available in your home. Consider presenting them in new and different ways to attract renewed interest from your child. Have fun setting up these learning spaces!

Bright Horizons News



Help a Friend Discover Bright Horizons during our Spring Open House Week!



Each year, Bright Horizons welcomes new families to our community. And, year after year, we've found that the best way to meet these families is through you!

This April, we are hosting an Open House week to welcome new families to learn more about our center. If you have a friend or family member that might be interested in joining the Bright Horizons family, we would be happy to provide information for you to share with them!

Please see Center Director for details.

Join us for the next installment in our Family Matters Webinar Series on March 26!

Family Matters

A Bright Horizons Webinar Series

Organization Tips for Busy Families

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET

Being a working parent takes an incredible amount of organization, preparation, juggling and a little bit of daily magic! If you're a busy parent in search for some tips to help organize your family's busy schedule, this webinar is for you! In this webinar we'll provide you with tips and tricks on getting your family organized, including:

- how to make transitions from home to school/child care easier
- tips and resources for meal planning, calendar sharing and overall family communication
- how to manage 'hiccups' in your daily routine, such as school holidays or breakdowns in child care arrangements
- homework management, chore organization and overall tips for keeping your home and family running smoothly

To register, visit www.brighthorizons.com/organizationtipswebinar.*

* **The first 100 registrants will win a free 3-month subscription to The Six O' Clock Scramble**—an online family dinner planning service for busy parents that takes the Scramble out of 6:00 with a weekly dinner plan and grocery list delivered right to their email inbox or phone. Visit webinar registration page for additional details.