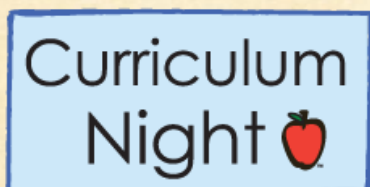


# Bright Horizons at Beverly Cummings Center

October 2015



## From the Director



Tuesday, October, 6, 2015  
6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

***Parents in all age groups are invited to join us  
for an orientation  
into your child's year at Bright Horizons***

### **During Curriculum Night, you will:**

- Learn about your child's daily classroom schedule and activities
- See how the various pieces of our *The World at Their Fingertips®* curriculum are brought to life throughout the day
- Meet with your child's teachers to ask questions and discuss learning objectives for the upcoming year

***Don't forget our Family Referral program.  
Bring a friend to Curriculum Night too! If  
they enroll you can receive credit toward  
one month of tuition.***

## Important Dates

**October 1: Wear Pink**  
**October 6: Curriculum Night Parent Event**  
**October 13: Center Closed**  
**October 22: Read For The Record**



## Reasons to Celebrate

**Friday, October 30th will be our  
annual Halloween Walk throughout  
the Cummings Center. Children can  
wear costumes and parents and/or  
grandparents are more than welcome  
to join us! Keep an eye out for more  
information later in the month from  
your child's teachers!**

### Connect with Bright Horizons





# Classroom Highlights



**INFANTS** The infants had a busy month. We welcomed Sawyer, Graham and Noelle to the Infant Program. We also celebrated Elijah, Maggie and Sawyer's first birthday. We enjoyed taking walks outside near the pond and inside the center. The infants enjoyed celebrating National Dot Day by using a variety of materials and paint to represent dots and circles on pieces of construction paper. We have been utilizing the Movement Matters Zone by bringing in the tunnel into the classroom. Curriculum Night is October 6, hope to see you all there.



**TODDLERS** September was a very busy month in the Toddler Program! We welcomed many new friends to the toddler program including MJ, Hayden, Gately, Anabelle and Luciana!! The toddlers loved exploring a variety of themes! They enjoyed learning about apples and fall and even raked leaves on the playground. They discussed the different colors found in fall and used them to make art projects like an hombre painting! They also finished learning about the five senses and were able to "milk" a cow when learning about farms!

**PRESCHOOL** The month of September has been full of fun and learning in the preschool department! We have focused on many topics including letters, autumn, and apples! As always, we have incorporated each area of curriculum into our activities. The preschool classes have participated in exciting apple science experiments. Preschool 2 put apples into various liquids like vinegar, water, and soda water and watched as the properties changed throughout the day. Preschool 1 used apples to make a volcano. They hollowed out an apple and added baking soda and vinegar and watched the bubbly reaction! The preschool children have been working so hard to enhance their budding language skills by writing and tracing many fall words such as autumn, pumpkin, apple, and leaves. We have explored the inside of apples and used scientific tools to make independent observations. The children's math skills have been enhanced this month by counting apple seeds, measuring leaves and apples, and even measuring their own height with apples during a game called "How Many Apples Tall Are You?" We are really smelling fall this month as Preschool 2 made apple sauce and Preschool 1 made pumpkin spice play-dough. The children love activities like that because they get to help add ingredients and mix them together. We are sad that the summer is gone but are so excited to see what fun the fall has in store for us in preschool.



**KINDERGARTEN PREP** This month, the class gradually transitioned from Preschool to Kindergarten Prep. Together created our classroom rules and practiced the routines of the classroom. The children became a part of the classroom as they made their marks writing and prewriting their names on their cubbies. We focused a big part learning about apples, examining and describing the physical features of apples, and experimenting with apples. The children practiced writing and prewriting as they tasted different types of apples by choosing the types they liked and disliked. We also looked at the different parts of an apple and labeled an apple diagram. This gave children a chance to practice holding a pencil, word recognition, and word tracing. The class did also did a S.T.E.M activity with different paper shapes such as a square, triangle, and circle. There was a lightweight book placed on top of each shape. The children hypothesized which shape they thought could hold the weight of the most apples on top. After each child took a turn placing apples on top of the different shapes, the class discovered the cylinder supports the most weight. Lastly, we had a chance to visit our friends at PACE. We did a scavenger hunt together and played a popcorn toss game. The children had fun while learning about how to care for others as they spent time with them. We look forward to the year ahead in our Kindergarten Prep class!



## The Process of Art

Loris Malaguzzi, founder of the highly regarded Reggio Emilia preschools, coined the phrase, “the 100 languages of children,” meaning that children express their thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences through many vehicles, including writing, symbolic play, dance, verbal expression, music, and of course, art.

If art is a form of expression for children, then what should art look like and what is our role as teachers and parents? What are the goals and purposes of art in the early childhood classroom? In this article, we explore what art is — and what it isn’t — for young children.

First, art is a pleasurable sensory experience. Consider the joy a toddler feels squishing his hands through play dough or a glob of finger paint. This type of art experience is soothing and peaceful, encouraging participants to fully embrace the present. Learning how to use art materials builds a sense of confidence and focus. The exploration of textured papers or fabric increases tactile awareness; experimenting with color fosters an understanding of pattern, shade and tone, as well as the basic elements of design.

For many children, art serves as a precursor to writing. Children use art to communicate their ideas to others. For example, a young child may draw a picture to explain why she’s feeling sad. Children paint pictures of themselves, their pets, or their families. These pictures often have deep meaning for children. Children create stories and illustrate them long before they can write their stories in words.

But what happens to this organic, spontaneous vehicle of expression when adults introduce “crafts” — products prepared ahead of time by a teacher and designed to look the same? A bulletin board with 20 identical snowmen might seem whimsical, but where in this display is a child’s voice? These types of craft projects might be appropriate occasionally to reinforce a skill, such as patterning or sequencing, but they are not art because they are not a form of self-expression.

At Bright Horizons, we believe that children need ample opportunities for **process art** — **art that focuses on process and personal expression, rather than an end product**. We believe the benefits of process art lie in its simplicity. When children are allowed to create art spontaneously and independently, they are strengthening their own unique voices.

Because process art is a form of self-expression, we believe that children’s art should be labeled and displayed with respect. As you visit your child’s center, look for examples of process art. Think about what the children are “saying.”

# Bright Horizons News

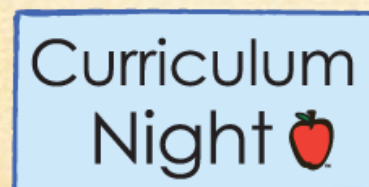


## Curriculum Night 2015: “A Day in the Life”

Join us for our Curriculum Night event, where families from all age groups will have the opportunity to experience a *day in the life* of their child and learn about the upcoming year with **Bright Horizons®**.

During the event, you and your family will have the opportunity to:

- explore our curriculum, *The World at Their Fingertips®*
- discover how literacy education is woven into our curriculum
- learn about your child’s daily classroom schedule and activities
- connect with teachers to ask any questions you might have



Share in your Bright Horizons experience and invite your friends and family to join you at Curriculum Night. Please see our Center Director or your child’s teacher if you have questions or would like more information about Curriculum Night. We will see you there!

## Help Set a World Reading Record!

***Join us on October 22<sup>nd</sup>***



Bright Horizons invites you and your family to participate in the 10th anniversary of JumpStart’s *Read for the Record®*.

Join us and pledge to read Kelly Bennett’s *Not Norman: A Goldfish Story* with your child on Thursday, October 22nd. Help us to break the record (again!). *Read for the Record* brings together millions of people to celebrate literacy and high-quality early education by breaking the world record for reading the same book on the same day.

Find out more and get involved in our center’s exciting *Read for the Record* activities.