

Bright Horizons at Staples News

From the Director

March was a SUPER busy month! We celebrated Dr. Seuss' Birthday, Green Day and Spring Fling in the classroom. See the highlights later in this newsletter.

April is upon us and is the typical time that the weather breaks and we get to see changes outside and within our daily routine at Staples. Winters are unpredictable with the weather and there are times we are unable to go outside. Spring usually brings a change of consistent and longer out door time. This is a time that the children and staff enjoy so much. Keep a look out for their outdoor adventures in a What in The World near you.

The Week of the Young Child is April 11-15. Children are the reason the Staples Center exists. We love to see children grow, develop, and learn new things. To celebrate we have planned a messy STEM/science week for the children. The children will take part in an exciting science experiment each day! The Kindergarten Prep and Kindergarten classes will host a Science Fair on April 14 from 4:00-5:30. April will also bring some planting activities for the children as we introduce our Garden Works program.

Celebrate your child and let them know how wonderful and special they are!

Happy April/Spring!!

Until next time,

Jason

Important Dates

April 11-15 Open House

April 11-15 Week of the Young Child

April 19 Infant/Toddler Parent Meeting
12pm

April 28 Parent and Me Yoga Class 5:00-6:00

Reasons to Celebrate

The Staples Center maintained its NAEYC Accreditation after submitting various reports and documentation to the NAEYC Council. This is one of the highest honors a child development center can attain and we are so proud to live up to this criteria.

Bright Horizons at Staples

600 Staples Drive, Framingham MA 01702

508-253-0555|staples@brighthorizons.com

Monday through Friday 7:00am-6:00pm



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Seuss Day

On March 2, 2016 we celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with a variety of activities and reading some of his most famous books.



Green Day

On March 17, 2016 the children celebrated the color green in grand style. The children explored green/mint scented water, painted with green paint, moved through the center to find all the hanging shamrocks, and found all the hidden coins outside. We showed everyone that *It is easy being green!*



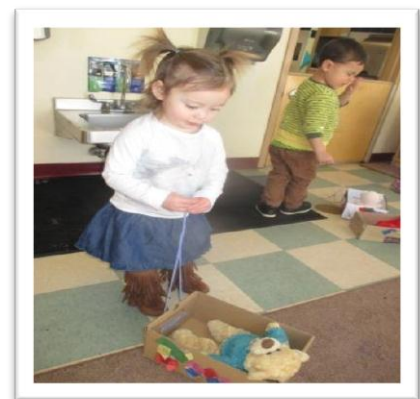
Spring Fling

During the week of March 21 the children took part in daily activities that included: exploding volcanoes, mixing Sprite and Mentos, planting lima beans, painting with feathers, coloring eggs, making bird nests, painting with pastel paints, string fruit cheerios, exploring bubbles, and making rainbow drawings with crayons. The children were so engaged and busy during this whole week. We ushered Spring in.....the right way.....



Teddy Bear Fun

The highlight of our Spring Fling week was our Teddy Bear Day. The children decorated a bear, had a special snack with their bear, and searched around the building for all our super hero bears. The children also made wagons to pull their bears on a parade around the building. It was a BEARY special day!!!



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Where in the World? Geography in the Early Childhood Classroom

In the July, 2015 issue of *Young Children*, Pamela Brillante and Sue Mankiw discuss the value of fostering a sense of place in young children, of helping them develop deep roots and a sense of belonging to their community and environment. This sense of place gives children the tools they need to later “protect natural and cultural resources, reduce violent conflicts, and improve the quality of life worldwide.”

In short, the purposes of studying geography in early childhood are:

- To help children understand and appreciate their local community.
- To foster a sense of wonder and curiosity.
- To increase children’s knowledge of the world as a vast space with varied peoples and cultures.

When we think of geography, we tend to think of maps and globes or geographic regions. For young children, though, geography should include a study of both physical geography – maps, regions, land features, and climates – and human geography – the study of how humans interact with each other and the world.

Viewed through this lens, geography isn’t a subject taught in isolation. Geography happens every day as you read, cook, sing, learn, and explore with your child. Below are a few ideas for studying geography with your young child:

- Work to create a “sense of place” in your home. Display photos, artwork, and mementos that reflect your family’s interests and values. What defines your family culture? Perhaps it’s the library of books that speaks to your love of learning or the game cupboard or sports equipment that reflects your family’s hobbies.
- Explore both the natural and human geography near your home. Walk through leaves in the fall, visit a nearby pond, or turn over rocks to find bugs. These simple activities create a sense of deep security for children and encourage a lifelong love of nature. Get to know the people who live and work in your community. When you visit a nearby bakery, hardware store, coffee shop, or post office, talk with the people who are helping you. These relationships help ground people within their community.
- Display maps and globes in your home. Point out places that you’ve visited or lived. Share photos and mementos from those places. Create books that depict stories of your trips or special events.

The study of geography, like most learning, enriches our understanding of ourselves and our world. In [“Pedagogy of Ecology.”](#) Ann Pelo described her return to her childhood home: “I remembered with a child’s open-hearted joy how it feels to give yourself over to a place, to be swept into an intimate embrace with the earth. I understood that place shapes our identity.” Children lucky enough to experience this deep connection become securely-grounded adults who can extend that deep respect for place to all cultures and regions of the earth.

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS



It's Open House Month!

Throughout April, Bright Horizons' around the country will be holding Open House Weeks for families to learn more about our programs and how we educate children to become successful lifelong learners.

If you have a friend or family member that might be interested in joining, we would be happy to provide information for you to share with them!

Check in with your center director for exact dates and times.



Earth Day is April 22nd!

We encourage you to celebrate the holiday by making one pledge or one change to be more environmentally conscious this year. Small changes can lead to a big impact!

Interested in learning about how you can celebrate Earth Day with your child(ren)? Check out our [Earth Day Activities for Families](#).

COMING SOON: Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month

Each year we take the month of May to celebrate and recognize staff whose hard work and dedication help us accomplish great things and make Bright Horizons a wonderful place for children and families.

May is almost here! Make sure to mark your calendars. ☺

CONNECT WITH BRIGHT HORIZONS

