

Bright Horizons at Waltham

176 Second Avenue, Waltham, MA 02451

T. 781-899-0516 F. 781-768-6716

www.brighthorizons.com/waltham

October 2012 Volume 7, Issue 10



Activity at Home

Since politics will be monopolizing the media in the upcoming months, you and your children will be hearing a lot about social responsibility. Bright Horizons offers two parent webinars on Raising a Socially Responsible Child. Visit www.brighthorizons.com/growing/parent-webinar to access the archives.

From the Director ...

What are you doing on October 4, 2012? How does breaking a world reading record while raising awareness about America's achievement gap sound?

Join us as we participate in Jumpstart's Read for the Record® — a national campaign that mobilizes adults and children to close the early education achievement gap by setting a reading world record.

This annual campaign allows Americans to demand that all children receive the quality early education they deserve. On October 4th more than 2 million voices will call for an end to America's early education achievement gap by reading Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad by David Soman and Jacky Davis – setting a world record in the process!

Fondly,
Alice

Important Dates to Note

Webinar: Discipline for Young Children

Tuesday, October 2, 2012, 8-9 p.m.

We invite you to join in this important conversation.

Read for the Record & Pajama Day

Thursday, October 4, 2012

Wear your pajamas, bring your favorite snuggly toy or stuffed animal, and get ready to read! We would love for you to participate by reading this book to your child's classroom!!! Please let us know if are able to join us!!

Columbus Day

Monday, October 8, 2012

The center will be closed.

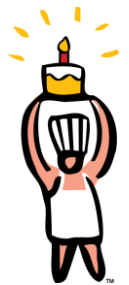
Picture Day with Hayward Photography

Wednesday, October 10, 2012

Infants will be the first to go, starting at 8am.

Happy Birthday to You!

Kevin C.	Oct 3
Milania W.	Oct 5
Avani K.	Oct 12
Thomas M.	Oct 13
Abby B.	Oct 14
Natalya L.	Oct 14
Chloe P.	Oct 16
Lucas W.	Oct 18
Ari Z.	Oct 21





All That We're Learning in Infants



This month in **Infant One** we explored fruits and vegetables while discussing the colors, texture and their shapes. From there we based our curriculum on different colors and where you can find these colors around your house, neighborhood, and classroom. We built structures using many colored blocks, made music with different colored instruments, and read books about shapes and colors. Lastly, we talked about animals and we read books that explained the difference between animals that live in homes, farms, and in the wild. We built shelters for our animal puppets with the blocks in our classroom. This was a very fun month for all of our friends!



Infant Two was very busy this past month! During the month of September Derek, Anya & Rowan focused on using both their fine and gross motor skills. They have also been working on their self feeding skills, holding their own bottles, using their sippy cups, picking up their puffs and or cheerios. We are also concentrating on crawling, pulling up & climbing the climber to strengthen our large muscles. Derek loves to pull up using the shelf, Anya uses the activity table to help pull herself up. Rowan is scooting all over the room, she is also working on getting up on her knees then into a sitting position. Noah has been preparing to move into the Toddler program, he is eating his meals at the big boy table, sleeping on the mat and is really enjoying his finger foods. Ambika has been using her core muscles to assist her in sitting up & holding her head up. She enjoys sitting in front of the mirror in the u-chair reaching for the hanging toys. We also did a few art activities making hand and foot prints, and also used sticky paper and tissue paper to make leaves. We said good bye to our GREAT friend June who transitioned into the Toddler program and I hear she is doing great, we are very proud of her and miss her tons.





All That We're Learning in Infants



What a great month we had in **Infant Three**. We read Fingers and Toes, Ladybug Girl Dresses Up and Eating the Rainbow. We explored fruit and dance concepts. We did an inside/outside science experiment for Science Rocks. We made apple prints and stamp art for Art Smart. We sang several songs including new songs "Have You Ever Had an Apple", "The Watermelon Patch Song". We listened to different kinds of music including salsa, jazz, blues, and classical. Older friends used the push toy to work on walking skills, younger friends worked on tummy-time and sitting.





All That We're Learning in Toddlers



This month in **Toddler One** the children continued to show a lot of interest in dressing up and taking care of the babies. We pretended to feed them, change their diapers, and put them to sleep. The children have been practicing cutting with scissors and lacing with the beads.

The Art Smart activities we have done include painting with water colors, drawing with markers, and painting with water droppers. We have even done lots of dancing and marching like dinosaurs. The children seem to be very excited to have our Monday Musicians start back up again and visit us each week. They enjoy listening and dancing to their music.




This month in **Toddler Two** we have been doing a lot of work with letters, numbers, and colors. We have been practicing in Circle Time with the bean bags and using the number puzzles to identify the numbers in sequence. We also have been using more challenging puzzles for some of our older toddlers who seem to really enjoy them and remain focused on them for longer periods of time. It is so wonderful to see their smiles after they have accomplished such a challenge. It is also so wonderful to watch the older toddlers help out the younger ones saying, "This piece goes here," or "Turn it this way."

We have been working on our self help skills, using our fine motor skills to practice cutting up our own snacks. We also have been practicing drinking from small cups. One of our favorite activities this month was our "Inside/Outside Exploration" of a bell pepper for Curriculum Night. We observed the texture, smell, taste, and color of the pepper. Most of us seemed to enjoy the taste test best :) It was a fun way to explore a familiar object in our everyday world in a new scientific way. Next month we look forward to talking about Fall and the other seasons. We will be exploring a pumpkin (thanks to Dante's grandparents for giving us a giant one), both inside and out and doing a lot of art activities involving nature.





All That We're Learning in Toddlers

 **Toddler Three** had a very busy month. Some of the activities and skills that we have been working on these past few weeks are self help skills, an inside outside project, and planting beautiful flowers. We have been practicing washing our hands after using the bathroom and after returning to the classroom from the playground. We have also been taking turns brushing our teeth, and placing our cups on the counter after throwing away our plates when we are finished eating.

The children experienced an inside outside apple experiment this month. We took a closer look at the outside of a shiny honey crisp apple, and used our five senses to better understand this object. Once we were finished looking at the apple we cut it up and had a taste! Many of our friends seemed to really enjoy the sweet taste of the apple. When we were finished eating the apple it was time make applesauce with our pre-boiled apples. We added cinnamon, sugar, and water to make sweet savory applesauce. To end our wonderful opening into fall we planted beautiful flowers in individual blue pails. Each friend that participated in the activity scooped dirt into their pail then placed the seeds into the dirt, once that was completed the children poured water onto the dirt with help from Tammy and Jenny. We have been watering the plants every morning and talking about the growth of our plants.





All That We're Learning in Toddlers



This month in **Toddler 4** we did a lot of different art projects and explored different items in the Sensory Table. We did ice painting and talked about the colors we saw. The children used their fine motor skills when moving the slippery ice around their paper. The children also did cotton ball painting at the easel and were able to touch and pull apart the cotton balls before painting with them. We made sun catcher collages on contact paper. They stuck on different colored yarn, ribbon, foam fish and tissue paper. We are in the process of making paper bag puppets. The children started off by painting a paper bag black and next week we will continue by adding eyes, a nose and, some feathers to create a bird.

In the Sensory Table we played with corn meal and used spoons to scoop it up and dumped it into plastic cups. We also played with colorful pasta and talked about all the colors we saw and took a few in our hands and counted them. Everyone has gone up to the new art studio to explore. We will continue to go up there each week and make different pieces of art with Andrea.

The children seemed to be very into music these past few weeks. Together everyone made music by banging on the large drum and shaking the instruments. We practiced number recognition with flash cards and a few children already know some numbers. Some of us did a great job climbing up the rock wall outside and others needed some help from a teacher. We will continue practicing so our younger friends can one day climb up it all by themselves. Push toys have also been pretty popular on the play ground. Our younger friends like to push them around. We will continue to encourage the children to sit on them and to use their feet to propel themselves forward.





All That We're Learning in Toddlers



September has been a very busy and fun month for **Toddler Five!** We welcomed our new teacher, Kelly! We were all very excited to have her join our family. She has been brightening everyone's day since she started. We also had another new addition join our class just a few weeks ago: our new friend Vivienne! She is a very sweet little girl and we are all very excited to have her be part of our class!

As you all know we recently had Curriculum Night. We did a special "Inside Outside" Science Rocks project to coincide with the night. For our project we focused on Mandarin Oranges. We looked at the outside of the oranges, felt their texture and smelled them. We then cut them open to reveal the juicy insides! Our friends noticed the differences in texture, smell and the all around appearance of the oranges. We used a small hand juicer to squeeze out all the juice from the oranges and had a taste test. All of our friends seemed to have a great time with this special project! Here are a few highlights from our project.





All That We're Learning in Preschool



September was a very busy and eventful month for us in **Preschool One!** We expanded on our interest in aquatic life by transforming our sensory table from a beach to an aquarium; complete with aquarium gravel in cool blue toned colors! We sometimes mixed things up and color the water to see how that affects the color of the gravel as we perceive it! To build on our interest in Sea Life we introduced the class to a Sea Life Bingo game with corresponding dry-erase coloring/writing pages. These pages feature a picture of the animal and the animal's name written out underneath it. The children used the stubby dry-erase markers to practice tracing the letters and color the picture. Many of the animals in these games are one that we had the opportunity to see and touch during our Aquarium visit this past summer.

The Mars Rover Curiosity continues to peak our interest and we have spend as much time as we can at the Smart Board looking at new videos of the landing and progress on Mars. We have also begun to watch the Apollo rocket launches and are particularly partial to the Apollo 17 launch, which was a night launch and allows the children to see the rocket's Moon destination in the background. That particular rocket holds our favorite astronauts: the ones that dance on the moon! The children impress us every day when they recall facts from these videos and tell us about them days or even weeks later.

As a class we were very excited to learn about the change in season that we saw in September. Thus far, we have painted with fall colors and used certain fall materials such as acorns and fallen leaves to use as paint instruments. We have started a color project which was inspired by the color words on our Word Wall. Each day the children are given a piece of paper with a color word written on it in black ink (RED, ORANGE, YELLOW, etc.) The children are then asked to paint their paper using the color of paint which corresponds with the color word.

Some of our favorite books this month were The Runaway Pumpkin which helps the children to discern alliteration and onomatopoeia and Ain't Gonna Paint No More! which helps the children to discriminate rhyme. Sadly, September marked our last month with Elizabeth as a teacher in Preschool One. We will all miss her and wish her the best of luck in her new school and classroom!





All That We're Learning in Preschool



The children have been enjoying learning about letters in **Preschool Two**. In our writing area, the children have been using the stamp and see screens. When the children are using the stamp and see screens they are learning how to form their letters by using the letter cards and the wooden pieces big line, little line, big curve, and little curve. Every week we are going to learn about a new letter in the alphabet. Last week we talked about the letter A and all the different words that start with the letter A.

Something else that we have been talking about is Fall. All the children have been telling me about the different colors of the leaves that are on the trees. The children told me that the leaves are starting to fall down because of the wind knocking them down. As a class we have been painting with the colors of Fall. The children made a tree and then painted the leaves on the tree. The children dipped a cotton ball into the paint and then blotted it onto their tree to form leaves. The children also took spiky balls and stuck them into paint and made more fall pictures with them. Hello Autumn!





All That We're Learning in Kindergarten Prep



We had a great first month in **K Prep**! The class was introduced to the W.O.R.L.D. meeting. Every day we use the W.O.R.L.D. as a tool to help guide us throughout the day. During our calendar time we have been using the Smart Board in the Art Studio. During this time the children are given a job each week. The children seem to enjoy having different responsibilities in the classroom and we feel it helps them take ownership of the room. Another way that we have the children take ownership is having them create rules that they thought would keep us safe and happy. After coming up with the rules the children all signed their names! The rules are hanging in our classroom and we invite you to come and look at them.

We did many science experiments in our Science Lab in September. We experimented with ice and apples. We found out what was inside an avocado, cucumber, lime, and mango. The class seemed to enjoy opening up the fruits and tasting them. We also practiced using science terminology such as *prediction* and *observation*.

We are excited to tell you that the class voted on a name for our class fish. Ruby Red was the name that won the vote! The class worked on graphing and working as a team while participating in the voting process. We started to write and draw in our Work Journals. We wrote estimations, predictions and classroom rules and drew corresponding pictures. During circle we have started to learn how to say (and sing) "Hello" in different languages! Please tell us if there is a language that your family speaks so that we can include them in our song. The children have also been working in their Handwriting Without Tears books. It has been a great month of getting to know everyone and starting our year off with a bang in K Prep!





All That We're Learning in the Art Studio



In the **Art Studio**, we have been studying the artist Vincent Van Gogh. The children have been very interested in his subject matter (usually nature and/or portraiture) as well as his use of colors to express emotions. We've been using our own version the thick type of paint he used, called "impasto," by mixing flour with our classroom paints. The children loved its gooey texture! The children seemed to have a great interest in color, so in most age groups we have been focusing on "happy" and "sad" colors by making collages. We've also been looking at texture by mixing things with our paints and using different brushstrokes to create designs. The infants are especially interested in different kinds of paint and have been exploring all types from tempera to watercolors! The K Prep class has shown an interest in museums, so for our next project we will be focusing on what a museum is and what sorts of things can be found in one - more to come on that soon! Happy Autumn!





Turning the Presidential Election into Learning for Young Children

Our World, an element of the Bright Horizons *World at Their Fingertips* curriculum, nurtures a child's understanding of the world they live in, fosters an awareness and appreciation of its diversity and promotes positive relationships and empathy for one another. There are many ways to introduce these concepts to children. Opportunities to delve into meaningful civic lessons and social studies serve as an ideal way to do just that. A Presidential election and all of the activity that takes place in an election year can inspire a variety of learning experiences. While it is a complex process, there is much for children to learn from the experience. We can do children a service by focusing on the rich lessons a presidential election can offer, without exposing them to debates, issues, and opinions they can't understand. When asked whom they will vote for, children will certainly parrot their parent's opinions, but we can go further and help them understand the voting process, develop negotiation skills, practice critical thinking, and engage in important social studies and civic learning. Not only can we make the election process meaningful for them, we can introduce an important lifelong responsibility and privilege of citizenship.

Try these activities with your preschoolers, kindergartener preppers and school-age children.

Vote - Host a family vote on any topic from what to eat for dinner to how to spend Saturday afternoon. Learning about voting, give and take, and negotiation are good life skills. It can also become a family practice that makes decision making a bit easier.

If I Were the President... – Whether in the car or at the dinner table, talk about what you'd do if you were the President. This is a great way to find out what's important to your child.

When a Bill Becomes a Law – Work together to draft a few laws for the family. Maybe each person can take turns making a law for a day or the family can establish a set of laws together. The process and experience may teach more about the value of rules and mutual responsibility, than parental lecture ever could.

Family Flag – Research different flags and their meaning. Together create a family flag that represents the things most important to your family. This can be both a historical and family bonding experience.

Campaigning – As a family, discuss a social or civic problem that is important to you. Then come up with a few solutions. Maybe there isn't enough bicycle parking at the library, perhaps a park in a low-income neighborhood needs new equipment, or maybe you feel the residents at a local nursing home need more consideration – get creative. Put together a campaign: determine whom you should talk to about the issue, how you should get your message out and fundraising strategies. Then put your plan into action.

Presidential Reads – Use books to learn about things like the presidential election and the duties of the President and to spark conversation. Here are a few suggestions preschoolers and young school-age children:

- *If I Ran for President* – Catherine Stier
- *Duck for President* – Doreen Cronin
- *If Everybody Did* – JoAnn Stover
- *Grace for President* – Kelly DiPucchio
- *Vote* – Eileen Christelow



Virtual Pumpkin Patch

In celebration of Autumn, Bright Horizons would like you to help fill our **Virtual Pumpkin Patch**. Participation is easy. All you have to do is:

1. Visit your local pumpkin patch, farm stand or craft store.
 2. Carve, paint, decorate or sculpt your pumpkin creation. Can be made out of a real pumpkin or a pumpkin crafted out of paper, paper bags, clay etc.
 3. Upload your photo to the Virtual Pumpkin Patch on the Bright Horizons Facebook page.
 4. Share your photo and ask your friends to Like it. A “Like” is a vote, so the more “Likes” the better.
- Photos can be of groups of pumpkins or an individual pumpkin. Get creative and have fun!

Photo uploading and voting begins in mid-October and remains open until Halloween, **Wednesday, October 31**. Check the Bright Horizons Facebook page for more information and exact dates.

REMINDER: Idling Cars

For the safety of our children, families and environment, please remember to turn off your cars when using our designated pick-up and drop-off parking spaces. We understand as the weather warms up or cools down many parents like to maintain a comfortable temperature in their cars, but ask that you refrain from keeping your cars running while idle. Thank you.