

# Lawrenceville Ledger

November 2014



## From the Director

An abundance of activities took place throughout the month of October, which began with Curriculum Night. This event provided families with an opportunity to get a glimpse of the learning activities the children take part in each day. Families were able to speak with the teachers about the curriculum and participate in an age-appropriate activity with their child, as well. During the month, the preschoolers and kindergarteners had a great time visiting Windsor Farm. Taking a hayride and picking pumpkins is always a fun-filled day.

Read For The Record took place this month, as well. The entire Center read Bunny Cakes, by Rosemary Wells. This day is designed to provide children with an appreciation of literature and the knowledge they need to be prepared to read as they enter public school.

The Harvest Festival is always a blast! The children looked wonderful dressed up in their costumes as they paraded around the Center. Afterwards, families enjoyed a fun concert on the preschool playground with Yosi!

And to end the month of October, the BMS Firefighters visited us! The children love seeing the flashing lights on the fire truck and learning all about fire safety!

## Important Dates

**November 3 through 14** – HomeFront Drive Begins

**November 4** – Parent Partnership Meeting  
12:15pm

**November 10 through 21** – Heritage Cafe

**November 19** – CPR/First Aid for Families  
12:30pm -1:30pm

**November 20** – Lovey Williams Concert

**November 10-23:** Voices of Gratitude: What Are You Thankful For? (see pg. 4 for details)

**November 26:** Thanksgiving (see pg. 4 for details)



### Connect with Bright Horizons



# Family Rituals

## For Learning at Home



### Mealtime Appreciations

Before a meal, each family member can say something kind or positive about one other family member. You can end the conversation with a special rhyme like “Bon Appetite – now we can eat!”



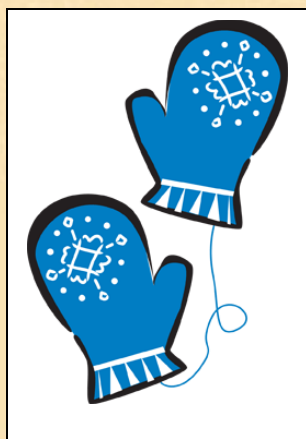
### Recycling Stations

Speak with your child about the reasons why it is important to recycle materials and find 3 empty bins. Together, make 3 signs: Plastics, Metal, and Paper. Make recycling part of the family culture. If possible, visit the local recycling center, too.



### Family Collection Jar

Decorate a jar. On a regular basis, put coins in the jar. This might include change from a trip to the market, a collection of pennies, or anything else the family decides upon. Discuss how the money should be spent or where it should be donated. You can also give your children a weekly allowance and have them donate a percentage to the jar.



### Laundry Sorting

While putting away the laundry, have your child help you sort it by color. All the red shirts together, all the blue pants together, all the white socks together, etc. You can also sort the items by the type of clothes you have. Afterwards, have your child assist in hanging them in the closet or putting them away in the drawers.



## READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Measurement

Preschool children like to compare objects or people and often want to figure out which is bigger, longer, or heavier. They especially love to compare themselves to others – who is taller, whose hair is longer, who is the oldest, etc. We can take advantage of these opportunities to help children learn the basics of measurement. Children typically progress through a series of stages in understanding measurement (Copley, 2000):

- 1) Comprehending that objects can be compared and measured and understanding the meaning of questions like “how long is this?,” “how heavy is that?,” etc.
- 2) Making comparisons themselves, such as judging which block is shorter, which rock is heavier, etc.
- 3) Determining an appropriate unit and process for measurement
- 4) Using standard units of measurement (inch, pound, centimeter, etc.)
- 5) Creating and using formulas to help count units

During the preschool and kindergarten years, children primarily focus on stages 1 and 2 and may begin to work on the concept of “unit” in the third step. Steps four and five are typically focused on in the elementary school years.

What kinds of activities encourage the development of measurement in preschool and kindergarten children? Here are a few samples to get you started:

- Use measurement and comparison language frequently in your incidental conversations with your child.
  - “This grapefruit feels really heavy. Is it heavier or lighter than this orange?”
  - “This tablecloth is too short for this table. Let’s find a longer one.”
  - “Do you think this pitcher will hold all the juice?”
- Include language that compares time (earlier, later, tomorrow, next week); temperature (warmer, colder); and capacity (holds more, holds less).
- Consider introducing non-standard measurement. “This fire truck is four blocks long.” Offer children opportunities to practice non-standard measurement. “Let’s see how many hands long this rug is.”
- You can also incidentally introduce standard measurement language (Talk about gallons, liters, yards, meters, etc. during your daily life as you pour milk or juice, measure wood for a home improvement project, etc.)
- You might provide a plastic bin filled with water or cornmeal as a place for your child to practice with volume and capacity. As children pour from a tall, thin cylinder to a short, fat cylinder, for example, they are developing a concept that Jean Piaget called “conservation.” If a child understands the concept of conservation of volume, he/she knows that a tall, thin container can hold the same as a short, fat container. Piaget’s research showed that children learned to conserve around age seven or later. More recent research has been showing children conserving earlier than that.
- Provide tools for measurement for children’s easy access throughout the day (rulers, meter sticks, bathroom scales, etc.).

### Reference:

Copley, J. V. (2000). *The Young Child and Mathematics*. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.

# Bright Horizons News



**Submit your art during Nov. 10-23, and it will be displayed in a Bright Space!**



*Voices of Gratitude: What Are You Thankful For?* is an opportunity for the Bright Horizons community, parents and teachers alike, to come together and support the **Bright Horizons Foundation For Children®** by submitting art that illustrates the answer to “What are you thankful for?” The resulting piece of collaborative artwork will be proudly displayed in all **Bright Spaces®** (Bright Spaces are warm, safe, and enriching spaces in shelters and agencies across the country that allow children to heal from trauma through play and experience the joy of childhood).

The Bright Horizons community will be invited to upload the artwork via social media or email it to [thankful@brighthorizons.com](mailto:thankful@brighthorizons.com). Submissions will be accepted from November 10-23. Participation is optional.

## **How to Grow a Giver this Holiday Season:** Family Resources for Teaching Compassion



As a parent, you try to raise your child to become an active, compassionate member of society. [Growing Givers](#) is a resource to help you find age-appropriate activities, projects, and volunteer opportunities to encourage empathy, caring, and compassion for the world and all its people. *Growing Givers* offers ideas for how you can promote empathy and social awareness through your daily interactions and modeling with children and through service opportunities from home or out in the community.

As fall and winter holidays approach, we’ve collected a list of resources from *Growing Givers* that can help you come up with easy ways to incorporate giving into your family’s routine:

- **(Parenting Blog Posts)** [Family Volunteering: Tips for Finding Ways to Give Back](#), [Teaching Manners and Good Behavior Through Books](#), [How to Raise a Grateful Child](#)—join the conversation on *The Family Room* blog: <http://blogs.brighthorizons.com/familyroom/>.
- **(Community Topics)** [Volunteering with Small Children](#), [Donating Old Toys to Charity](#)
- **(E-family News)** – [The Caring Connection: Teaching Empathy to Children](#), [Raising Caring and Giving Children](#)
- **(Family Matters Series Webinars)** Raising a Socially Responsible Child ([Part I](#) & [Part II](#))—featuring Bright Horizons early education experts and guests from *The Volunteer Family*

Visit [www.brighthorizons.com/growinggivers](http://www.brighthorizons.com/growinggivers) for additional resources and at-home activities to promote empathy and social awareness.