

# Bright Horizons at Wilton

September 2012



## Activity at Home

Turn bath time into a science experiment...even with a toddler. Find a few items that will float (a toy boat, Ivory soap, a sponge) and find a few that will sink (a rock, a spoon etc.). With your child test which will sink and which will float, then put them into separate buckets. An older child may be able to hypothesize which will sink or float before the activity.

## A note from Alishia:

**We had such a great summer! The children enjoyed the themes, and all of the fun enrichment programs and activities we implemented.**

**Please extend a warm welcome to Mellissa Berardi our new toddler 3 teacher.**

**Thanks to all of you who contributed to our Preschool Bake Sale.**

**Our Toddler and Preschool cooking clubs will start in September. Get ready for our "little bakers"!**

## Welcome New Families:

**Ellie Boroca (Inf 1)  
Cole Kross (Inf 1)  
Olivia Kross (Pre-K)  
Matthew Hall (Inf 2)  
Blaine Bolner (Inf 2)  
Ellie Wilson (T1)**

## Important Dates to Note

Sept 3: We are closed for Labor Day

Sept 7: Celebrate National Grandparents Day! We invite our grandparents in to eat lunch with their grandchild(ren) at 12:00.

Sept 14: Pajama Day! Please send your child to school wearing his/her PJ's. Please be sure your child has an extra set of clothes to change into if needed.

## Save The Date!

### Curriculum Night 2012

Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2012

6:00pm – 7:00pm

See last page for more details

## Happy Birthday to You!

**Gabriella Metter 9/5**

**Nick Tong 9/14**

**Marin Almstead 9/20**

**Lincoln Jones 9/26**

**Henry Wulfleff 9/26**

**Kayleb Smart 9/28**

**Sophie Hall 9/28**

# ArtSmart Show 2012

Our ArtSmart show 2012 was a huge success! All of our classes from Infants to Pre-K worked to create wonderful, colorful works of art. We were able to display sculpture, 3-D sensory art, collage, recycled models, photography, painting and paper mache! The show was a great way for us to showcase the creative and colorful art that our children create each day, and let them share that work with their peers and families. ☺



## Art Smart



Our Pre-K class also did a fantastic job of baking some delicious treats for a bake sale to raise money for the Bright Horizons Foundation. The Foundation creates 'Bright Spaces' in homeless shelters across America, safe, comfortable rooms with games, toys and activities.

The class raised over \$50 for the Foundation...way to go Pre-K!!!



# READY for SCHOOL

## Early Science: How Things Work

Children are constantly experimenting to find out how things work. What may sometimes look like purposeless, repetitive activities are often very specific scientific observations to understand the workings of the world. For example, one of the basic principles of physics is understanding that there are six simple machines that can make our work easier. Simple machines include a lever, inclined plane, wheel and axle, screw, wedge and pulley. While the names are not particularly important to most young children, chances to experiment with these simple machines are needed in developing an early understanding of physics.

For example:

- Observing that a ball rolls more quickly down a ramp than it does when it is rolled across the flat floor gives an early understanding of the **inclined plane**.
- Fascination with all things with wheels – wheelbarrows, small trucks, tricycles, scooters, etc. – gives children early practice with the advantages of the **wheel and axle**.

It is important to encourage children's incidental experiments with simple machines throughout your home. When you have time, you can help guide the experience.

- Children can experiment with building or using ramps for marble rolls, small car races, or moving water from one place to another.
- Children love to use wheeled vehicles (a wheelbarrow or small dump truck) to help with the work of moving blocks, dirt or other materials. While you are working in the yard, your toddler can move dirt with a toy dump truck or move objects from place to place with a child-sized wheelbarrow.
- Safe plastic workbenches, which give children an early opportunity to master the use of tools, are often favorites of toddlers including hammers (levers), screws and vices (a machine that includes screws).
- Pulleys help with lifting. With your assistance, you could help your child use or make a small pulley to make it easier to lift small buckets of sand, blocks, etc. Small pulleys can be purchased at the hardware store or can be made from a coat hanger and empty spool of thread.

Some of us may not feel like science is our strongest area of expertise; but it doesn't take a mastery of physics to notice children's interests in how things work and then build upon and extend these interests to nurture inquisitive scientists.



## 2012 Curriculum Nights

Each year, Bright Horizons hosts an evening where parents can come together to learn more about the Bright Horizons curriculum *The World at Their Fingertips*, mingle with other parents and spend time with their children's teachers. This year, the events we have planned will be better than ever because you helped us plan them. Over 5,000 families responded to our surveys last year and using that feedback, our centers have planned events that will allow you to not only hear from center leadership but experience activities that demonstrate how your children are learning how we are tracking that learning.

Our events will consist of a:

- Presentation led by Alishia that provides an overview of our curriculum and the developmental progression of learning for each age group.
- Review of *Bright Learner*, our tools & processes for understanding, planning and communicating your child's developmental journey with you.
- Time in your child's classroom to meet our teachers and see how they foster your child's growth and development through the *World at Their Fingertips* curriculum each day.
- Meet members of our families from your child's classroom, ask questions parent-to-parent and hear about their experiences at our center.

**We hope you will be able to join us. If you'd like to learn more about our curriculum before the event, check out our [NEW Curriculum Guide!](#)**