

Reasons to Celebrate!

Children's Birthdays:

Milos M - 1/1
Danielle D - 1/1
Olivia L - 1/2
Ethan F - 1/4
Teighan - 1/5
Lexi P - 1/9
Addison G - 1/9
Hannah S - 1/9
Daniel D - 1/9
Sammantha B - 1/11
Penelope P - 1/12
Folasade M - 1/17
Zakkery S - 1/21
Ian S - 1/24
Matthew B - 1/30



Faculty Birthdays:
Mallory - 1/11
(Toddlers)

Kim - 1/7
(Toddlers)

2013 Parent Survey

Your feedback is important to us.

Each year, Bright Horizons distributes a **Parent Satisfaction Survey**. This is your opportunity to let us know if we are continuing to meet your needs. The annual survey will be available beginning **January 2, 2013 continuing through January 31, 2013.**

We are committed to providing the highest quality care for your family. We appreciate the feedback and use the parent survey results to create an action plan and make improvements based on your comments. Every opinion counts, so please take the time to complete one and help us improve our center.

Links to Visit



www.facebook.com/brighthorizons



www.twitter.com/brighthorizons



blogs.brighthorizons.com/momtomom



www.brighthorizons.com/community

Important Dates

Thurs. 1/10 & Fri. 1/11 -

11am-2pm - Eagleview CDC at Uncas Grill - Tell your friends to stop by our table to register their child for free!

Thurs. 1/31 -

5:00- 6:00pm - Preschool/PreK Showcase

Classroom Highlights



Preschool D explores Projections with a classroom *Elf on the Shelf*

Upon opening the box, we discovered our new classroom *Elf on the Shelf* with a special note. The note read as follows:

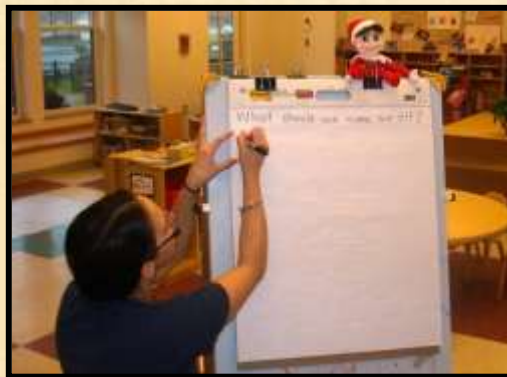
Dear Preschool D,

"I have been sent here to watch over all the boys and girls in your classroom. When you come into school every morning, you will have to use your BIG watchful eyes to look for me! I will be watching over you everyday while you are at school. When you go home at night, I will let your family know if you had been making good choices. Please work together with your friends to come up with a name for me!

Love - Your *Elf on the Shelf*"



As a group, we created a list of our favorite names and we counted which one was the class favorite and "Frosty" was the winner!!



Our *Elf on the Shelf* did all sorts of crazy things! The project created a great dialogue between home and school. Our *Elf on the Shelf* moved back home at the end of December. To remember our friend, we created a class book about all of our special memories. We drew pictures of our favorite memories and dictated our thoughts so Miss Karleen and Miss Nikki could help us write them. Please stop by Preschool D to see this special book!



READY for SCHOOL



Parents Play a Role in Encouraging Math and Science Skills

Research points towards the important role that parents can play in encouraging children's interest in math and science. A joint study by Penn State and the University of Michigan and another by the University of California, Santa Cruz indicated that parents play a major role in determining whether their children continue an interest in math and science past the middle school years. Not surprisingly, some gender differences were found. Parents did more to encourage their sons in math and science than their daughters. Furthermore, if fathers held gender-stereotypical views of boys and girls (i.e., held the view that boys prefer and are better at science and math than girls), the less interested their daughters were in math or science.

While these studies were focused on older children, attitudes about math and science start early. There is much that parents can do in the preschool years to encourage interest in these areas.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Encourage scientific inquiry. While it is important to provide answers to your child's questions, also frequently ask your child, "What do you think?" to show that her opinion matters and to encourage her to think things through.
- Use opportunities throughout the day to build math skills. During waiting times in the car or in the doctor's office, make up easy, fun word problems. "There were only five leaves left on the tree. Two fell off. Now how many were left?"
- Talk about how things work and encourage your child to ask questions and share his opinions. Discuss how cars work, how plants grow, how our bodies work, etc.
- When you purchase toys and materials, look for:
 - books that encourage exploration and discovery (consider Stephen Biesty's books showing the cross-sections of how things work) or children's cookbooks where children can follow a pictorial recipe with help from you
 - open-ended interconnecting building materials (like Legos or marble rolls) that encourage creativity and experimentation with gravity, balance and how things fit together
 - open-ended materials like playdough, sand, or water which encourage experimentation ("What happens when the sand gets wet?; "How many straws can I stick in this little piece of playdough?").

It is always important to keep it fun and interesting and avoid drill and drudgery. Remember that your interest matters. And if you aren't that interested in science or math yourself, take the opportunity to learn something new with your child or find a family member or friend with a math/science interest that your child could spend time with.

Reference: Cavanaugh, S. (October 24, 2007). "When it Comes to Math and Science, Mom and Dad Count." *Education Week*.

Bright Horizons News



Preschool/Pre k Showcase Events

During the month of January, Bright Horizons centers will be hosting Preschool/Pre-k Showcase events. The purpose of these events is to highlight the teachers and program that your child will enter next at our center. These events are different from the Curriculum Night events held this past fall.

How does the Showcase event differ from Curriculum Night?

Fall Curriculum Night	Winter Preschool & Pre-kindergarten Showcase
Focus on all age groups and programs	Focus on Preschool, Pre-k and Kindergarten programs only
Adults only	Parent-child learning opportunity
Highlights curriculum and activities in current classroom	Highlights extension of learning and curriculum into the next age group

- For the Showcase event, you will **visit the NEXT age group** for your child. Regardless of when your child will make his next transition, you will get a chance to meet the teachers in that age group and see their classrooms in action.
- The Showcase event is a **parent-child learning opportunity**. You will visit Inspiration Stations and learn right beside your child. This is a great opportunity to see your child in action.
- As you finish each Inspiration Station, you will receive the instructions on how you can **re-create this activity at home**, the learning skills that are being focused on and how you can take this activity to the next level with your child as she masters the skill.
- At the beginning of the event, current and alumni parents will be available to speak on **Parent Panels**. These parents will share their experiences with Bright Horizons and answer any questions you may have about your upcoming age group or the transition to elementary school.
- **Teachers** will be available at the Inspiration Stations. Their role is to do what they do each and every day- facilitate learning. As you work at each of these stations, you will get a chance to also see our teachers in action, ask questions and get to know them a bit. We know that the teachers are the most important people at the center to you and you want as much time with them as possible.

We hope that you get a clear idea of how this event differs from Curriculum Night and the benefits for you and your child to attend. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please see your center director.

Activity at Home

Learn about magnets! Find a shoebox lid, iron filings or metal objects such as nuts, bolts, paper clips, and a strong magnet. Put the metal objects inside the shoebox lid. Have your child hold the strong magnet underneath the box. As the magnet is moved, it will attract the metal pieces and they will move with it. To extend the learning, add non-metal items and see which move and which don't, then create a picture graph of each.