

# Letterman Digital Arts Center

November 2014



## A Message from Pat

### Greetings to all!

October was a very busy month here at the center! We made costumes, learned about pumpkins, got to splash in a few puddles and we ended the month with a great costume parade and family fun fest! We are also busy now decorating the cement pillars in each classroom. If you have been wondering why the teachers have been asking for your help with the pillars-it's because one of the criteria - that is weighted heavily - is parent participation! Judgement Day is Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and the grand prize is a Pizza Party and new books for the classroom - but the real prize is bragging rights! Your classrooms will fill you in on what they need from you! Good Luck to all!

Our International Pot Luck events are coming up too! We would like to invite you to bring something that is special to your family or a dish that represents your family culture. Since this event happens at around dinner time - we are looking for parents to bring mostly main dishes and finger foods. Come join us if you can - the Parent Partnership Group is helping to organize the event so ask them if you have any questions! Hope to see you there! (Remember that you cannot park in the Letterman Loop for our events)

## Important Dates

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Daylight Savings time ends

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

**November 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>** - International Pot Luck events

**November 27 & 28:** LDACCC Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>** - Gene Cohn - Black & White School pictures(more details coming soon)

**Next Year date TBA** - Carney & Co - Color School Pictures

## International Pot Luck Dates & times:

Infants - Tues, Nov 18<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30-5:30

Toddlers - Wed, Nov 19<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00-5:00

Teddy Bears - Tues, Nov 18<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00-5:00

Turtles - Thur, Nov 20<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30-5:30

Dolphins - Thur, Nov 20<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30-5:30

Please sign-up to bring a favorite dish!

### Connect with Bright Horizons





# Classroom Highlights



## Infants—Honeybees

We wrapped up October with our annual-centerwide Imagination parade/Fun Fest event. It was a lot of fun celebrating the fall season with our children and families. Thank you to all who were able to come and participate for the event, and thank you to those who helped contribute to the pot-luck party. We always enjoy the bonding time spent with your children and all of you. We also began our pillar decoration for the contest. Thank you for picking and voting on a topic for our pillars. We have all agreed to do Planets as our theme and we are looking forward working with the families on this project. We are very excited to welcome Teacher Elizabeth to our Honeybee team. She moved all the way from San Diego to San Francisco recently. Although it has only been a week, she has already seemed to pick up the routine and schedule of our Honeybee friends and she has made some special bonds already; we are very glad to have her on our team! This month, we spent a lot of time doing various messy and fun activities. The children enjoyed the process in their learning and we want to thank the parents who were able and willing to come to join in during these activities. Your participation in your child's learning is always encouraged in our program. Based on our Honeybee's interests, we came up with fine and gross motor and "Fall" themes this month. It was a lot of fun scaffolding the children's learning in the process. We look forward to what November will bring. See you next month!

## Infants—Butterflies

This month has been a busy and fun month for the Butterfly class. We have been very busy working on our classroom pillars, which will be judged in early December. We also had fun creating our costumes for the Imagination Parade, which was so much fun and all the kids were the cutest little caterpillars ever. This month the kids have been able to explore a lot of painting, water, and pumpkin sensory activities. We have been able to enjoy some nice weather and go on some outings around the lagoon. The kids enjoy looking at the water and ducks the most. We want to send out a huge Thank You to all our parents that graciously supplied our Fun Fest with such yummy treats and drinks.

## Toddlers—Penguins

What a fantastic month! October was a month filled with hand and feet exploration for a number of **ART SMART** activities. We used our hands and feet to make elephants, peacocks, crabs, big flowers and lions; check them out in our classroom on the windows. Other **ART SMART** activities for this month included painting our t-shirts for our Imagination Parade Costume, exploring with paint and painting tools on coffee filters, as well painting on large pieces of paper. The Penguins love to get messy and paint themselves too! For **SCIENCE ROCKS** this month we explored with colored play-doh and play-doh that smelled like pumpkin pie....YUM! We made sensory bottles for our Science Center that have glitter, glue and pieces of a chip bag. The toddlers enjoyed sitting with the bottles, learning to shake them and watching all of the contents move around and around inside. Thank you to Bella for helping us to make these bottles. Lastly, for **SCIENCE ROCKS** this month, we found some grass seed and soil in the cabinet outside in our toddler yard. The toddlers helped to scoop the soil, pour the seeds into the container and add water. Several times during the week we would invite the toddlers to water our grass. We touched the grass, "picked" the grass and also tilled the soil. When we did this, to our surprise we were able to watch earwigs crawling around in the soil. So much fun! Thank you to all of the families who joined us for the Imagination Parade. Thank you for joining us afterwards for some snacks and great conversation! See you next month.

## Toddlers—Monkeys

Hello Monkey families! We had so much fun in October! We got creative painting and building our Imagination Parade float. The children painted the caterpillar and butterfly wings themselves! For Language works we have been reading, Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? This book is a favorite amongst the children. Along with the catchy, repetitive story, it also helps them identify color and the animals. After reading the book a few times, the children learned to recognize the repetitive text and rhyme. For Math Counts we have been counting objects to relate to our routine experiences. We count as we pass out snack, the number of books we read and anything we have multiples of. We went on a walk and counted buses, trees and ducks. For Movement Matters we are having fun practicing our gross motor skills. We are jumping and hopping. Our goal is to jump in place with both feet off the ground. This usually occurs around age three but many of them have mastered it! This month we will be introducing books and songs from around the world. To kick off our multicultural curriculum, we read an English and Spanish bilingual book called, Bear In A Square/Oso en un Cuadrado. If you have any books or music you would like to share, please feel free to bring them in!



# Classroom Highlights



## Transition—Teddy Bears

The Teddy Bears had an event filled October! They were excited to play with some new activities and toys in the classroom, took many nature walks around the building, and ended the month with an fun filled Imagination Parade and Family Fun Fest. The Teddy Bears have loved playing with the new penguin dominoes; they help each other line them up and get a good laugh when they are able to tip them all down. They were also happy to have some new trucks to play with in the classroom and made sure to push them around the circle rug and around the room. We were happy to start taking the Teddy Bears on walks around the grounds this month. The Teddy Bears collected pieces of nature that they got to save in Ziploc bags and it was a great way to take advantage of the nice weather and gave the Teddy Bears a chance to have small group time with the teachers. We were very excited for the Imagination Parade this month and worked hard on our Pete the Cat costumes for the Teddy Bears. They certainly love these books are did an amzing job during our parade. They walked proudly with their costumes on and we loved seeing all of their smiling faces! Thank you to all of the families who made it down for our Fun Fest afterwards. We were ablw to showcase some the Teddy Bears favorite activities—painting, oobleck, cars, and even got explore the insides of a pumpkin. Our Teddy Bears certainly love getting messy! Here is to an amazing November!

## Preschool—Turtles

We have had so much fun in the Turtle room this October! At the beginning of the month we worked on our "things with wheels" project with the children and turned our Turtle Train into two race cars. Since there were only two, friends practiced sharing and problem solving when they had to wait their turn. Some friends decided to make their own race cars with chairs on the circle rug!

During the second week of October, we decided to put our project on hold to spend time learning about pumpkins and fall. After some friends visited the pumpkin patch over the weekend, they were excited and curious about what was inside of pumpkins. Teacher Francesca took the children through the whole life cycle of a pumpkin, ending with the chance for the children to help carve a pumpkin. While carving the pumpkin, the children could put their hands inside the pumpkin and take out the "guts" of it. Many friends thought the pumpkin was very "slimey" and "stinky."

After learning all about the pumpkin life cycle, we turned the classroom into everything pumpkin. We decorated pumpkins in the art center, played with pumpkin play dough, made pumpkin gak, made pumpkin bread, and used pumpkin seeds to make collages!

One of the most exciting things for the children this month was the Imagination Parade. The children got to be turtles from "Yertle the Turtle." They enjoyed making their shells, wearing them for their parents, and getting their faces painted. After

## Kindergarten Prep—Dolphins

It's been a very busy month in the Dolphin room! The Dolphins started out the month by kicking off their construction project, visited Eden Villas, worked very hard on their Imagination Day costumes, and had a spooky party following the Imagination Day parade.

The class was very excited to welcome Miss Annie, a general contractor to the Dolphin room. She brought in her tools, blue prints, and answered the Dolphin's questions about construction and how to build a house. The Dolphins all wore their construction hats as they listened and learned about construction. Following her presentation the class enjoyed a Construction Party complete with themed snacks, games, and activities!

October marked our first visit to Eden Villas Assisted Living Facility. The Dolphins worked hard to learn Halloween songs and to make cards for each of the residents. They excitedly gathered with their parents and teachers to board MUNI and head down to Eden Villas. Once we arrived they did a great job singing to the residents and spreading some Halloween cheer. We are so proud of the Dolphins for working so hard to deliver smiles and spend time with the residents of Eden Villas.

The Imagination Day parade and party are one of the Dolphin's favorite events of the year and this year they were very excited to dress up as Piggy and Elephant from the series by Mo Willems. They enjoyed dying their clothes (either pink or gray) in the classroom and were so excited to represent one of their favorite book series during the parade. The Dolphins invited their families back to the classroom following the parade to eniov some spookv snacks. shoulsh games. and a

## 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.