

A Great Place for a Childhood

June 2014



From Brandi's Desk

Many Thanks

The teachers really enjoyed their month of appreciation. They were truly touched by your comments on the website, your nominations for awards, and the Thursday treats in the lounge. They really enjoyed the Gift Card Swap day. Thanks to your generosity, each teacher received \$35 in gift cards. It was fun to see them swapping cards all day long!

A Busy Year

2014 has kept us busy. We earned our NAEYC accreditation and are currently in the process of renewing our Star rated license. On June 23rd we will begin renovation of our 16 year old building. Be on the look out for LOTS of updates on this process as we get details from the construction crew.

Father's Day

Join us Friday June 13th. Ms. Kim will be cooking up treats to enjoy with your child on their way to work in honor of the upcoming Father's Day holiday. This will be a very busy day in our parking lot as we also have two goodbye celebrations taking place between 9 and 1230.

Sunscreen

Parents need to apply a thorough coat of sunscreen on their child each morning. Teachers will reapply sunscreen (once parents have provided an ointment permission slip) each afternoon. We cannot apply aerosol sunscreen.

Important Dates

June 12: Family Matters Series webinar (see page 4 for more information)

June 13 Breakfast treats in honor of Father's Day

June 13 9:30 am NC PreK Goodbye Celebration

June 13 11:00am Kindergarten Prep Goodbye Celebration

June 13 School Age Summer Camp begins

June 16 Preschool/KPrep Summer Camp begins

June 23: Center Renovation Project Scheduled to begin

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Birthday to...

June 5 Santana P-2

June 19 Myra

Happy Anniversary to...

June 12 Shawna 7 Years

June 13 Brandi 20 Years

June 25 Santana 2 Years

June 25 John 2 Years

Connect with Bright Horizons



Renovation Project



June 5, 2014

Dear RCC Families,

We are pleased to share exciting news about our upcoming facility update and curriculum enhancement project at the center. These enhancements will offer you and your child expanded program space, enriched programming and a beautiful learning environment.

Facility Enhancements

Our center will receive a brand new look! You can expect to see freshly painted walls, new cabinets, cupboards and cubbies. These facility enhancements will also include the addition of an outdoor Science Laboratory and an expanded Art Studio in the common area.

The Art Studio - The concept of an art studio or *atelier* originated in the highly regarded early education programs in Reggio Emilia, Italy. An art studio at Bright Horizons is where children have a custom-designed space with ample, beautifully arranged materials and tools which inspire creativity and often encourage the development of long-term artistic and educational projects. Work in the art studio may grow out of the study of great artists or may grow out of the original ideas of children and complements creative endeavors which take place in the classroom.

The Outdoor Science Laboratory – We are excited to add a new space to the covered area on the Garden Playground. We will have an enhanced Outdoor Science Laboratory where we can expand our *Science Rocks* curriculum. We will use the scientific method to explore Big Questions.

We are pleased to provide these enhancements to you and your children.

These enhancements and renovations will be a normal part of your child's tuition with only our typical fee increase anticipated each year.

Project Updates

Look for updates on the renovation and enhancement project in the Renovation Update, distributed to you on a weekly basis each Friday. We will post plans and updates near the check in computer.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact one of us.

Sincerely,

Brandi Nobles

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READY for SCHOOL Parent News: What about READY for SCHOOL for Babies? Part I

How early is too early to start thinking about getting children READY for SCHOOL? Should we be thinking about school readiness even with the youngest children? The answer is yes, but probably not in the way you might think. Early learning starts from birth and there is much that we can do to nurture that learning. Here are a few tips:

- Your baby's brain is an organized network, made up of brain cells (neurons) and the connections between neurons (synapses). Synapses link up to form neural pathways. Most of the synapses are formed during the first three years of life. Synapses that are activated frequently tend to become permanent. Those that aren't used, or are used infrequently, tend to be "pruned out." When you touch, talk to, and interact with your baby, the brain synapses are activated. Interaction with caring adults in the first three years of life is critical for brain development and ultimately, for success in school. As learning to read grows from competency in language skills, and language skills start in infancy, the very beginnings of learning to read also start in infancy.
- Talking to children frequently is crucial. Research has shown that children of talkative mothers have larger vocabularies than children of less talkative mothers. But it is not just talking to children, but talking responsively which is important – a child coos or babbles and you coo or babble back as if you were having a conversation. The "give and take" of language is almost as important for babies to learn as the words themselves.
- Learning language is facilitated by the universal way in which adults tend to speak to babies across cultures, sometimes called "Parentese." This type of speech, characterized by higher pitch, shorter phrases, slower speech, and repetition, assists children in learning language. This is different from what is commonly known as "baby talk." When adults use "parentese," they naturally adjust the quality of their speech to what babies are attuned to hear. Babies as young as three months also begin to attune themselves to the emotional intonations of the speech they hear.
- Reading to children, even infants and toddlers, is the most important factor in children having later success as readers. Nursery rhymes and songs also help children remember words and learn the pattern and rhythm of language.
- Television and computer programs offer a form of language stimulation, but they do not offer the skill that an adult uses in adapting his/her verbal interaction to the situation. Nothing replaces the live interaction between a baby and caregiver in learning language.

To read more: Wolfe, P & Nevills, P. (2004). *Building the Reading Brain*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

Bright Horizons News



Foundation Celebrating 15th Anniversary with Thanks



As the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children prepares to celebrate our 15th anniversary, we look back with pride and gratitude for all we have accomplished. During the past 15 years, we have provided places to play for thousands of children. We have provided thousands of dollars in grants to help support community programs. We have engaged hundreds of Bright Horizons employees. Our impact has become much larger than we first imagined.

Bright Horizons Family Solutions founded the Foundation in 1999. Through the Foundation, Bright Horizons employees are able to work with community organizations and tap into our teachers' experience and expertise to serve at-risk children.

The theme for celebrating our anniversary throughout the year will be "Voices of Gratitude." We will use this theme as an opportunity to reflect on the past 15 years, acknowledge our progress and success, and share the gratitude to and from our many constituencies.

Voices of Gratitude is also the title of the Foundation's new Impact Report, a digital magazine that celebrates the difference our programs make in people's lives. We hope you will check it out at www.brighthousefoundation.org/impactreport2014.

Thank all of you who have supported, volunteered, and partnered with us -- watch for more stories in the coming months!

REGISTER NOW: June installment of the Family Matters Webinar Series!

Family Matters

A Bright Horizons Webinar Series

**Caring for a Loved One with Alzheimer's:
Support Strategies for Families**

Presented in collaboration with BrightStar Care

Thursday, June 12, 3:00 pm est

<http://www.brighthouse.com/alzheimers>

Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease can be both a challenging and emotional experience for families. Managing and scheduling care, understanding your loved one's needs and providing emotional support are important roles of a caregiver that can be challenging to navigate. In this webinar, we are partnering with [BrightStar Care](http://www.brightstarcare.com) to bring you strategies to provide support for your loved one and family throughout the caregiving process.

BrightStar Care has over 12 years of experience provide home care support for individuals with neurological disorders--including Alzheimer's care, Dementia, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis and more. In this webinar we will provide strategies that will help you care for your loved one, and yourself.