

Bright Horizons Tierrasanta

October 2012



Activity at Home

Since politics will be monopolizing the media in the upcoming months, you and your children will be hearing a lot about social responsibility. Bright Horizons offers two parent webinars on Raising a Socially Responsible Child. Visit www.brighthorizons.com/growing/parent-webinar to access the archives.

Upcoming Events

**Read for the Record/
Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad-
Oct. 4**

**Pumpkin Patch Field Trip for Grizzlys
and Teddies- Oct. 4**

**Pumpkin Patch Field Trip for Polars,
Koalas, and Brown Bears- Oct. 5**

**Picture Days- Tuesday, Oct. 16 and
Wednesday, Oct 17**

**Halloween Carnival - Friday, Oct 26
10a.m. -11:30a.m.**



Happy Birthday to You!

Austin L. Oct. 1
Linden R. Oct. 2
Eagen C. Oct. 3
Keaton K. Oct. 3
Chase S. Oct. 5
Ms. Patricia Oct. 13
Gabriel T. Oct. 14
Ms. Debbi Oct. 17
Ms. Heide Oct. 17
Ms. Kim C. Oct. 18
Ms. Alicyn Oct. 20
Anjali R. Oct. 20
Simrin R. Oct. 20
Tiernan N. Oct. 22
Aubrey Z. Oct. 25
Athena R. Oct. 27
Vanessa P. Oct. 29
Alex R. Oct. 30
Ms. Gloria Oct. 31





Science Rocks



Activity: Color mixing experiment

Date: September 5th 2012

Materials: Red, yellow and blue paint and paper

Learning Benefits: The children were able to use their fingers and hands as a sensory activity to mix two colors of their choosing. Next, they watched to see what happened when they combined them together. They learned that two colors mixed together make a new color. They were able to use their fine motor skills by mixing the colors together with their fingers and hands



Porter is experimenting with blue and yellow...
it's green!



Haley watches as she carefully mixes
her red and blue paint.



Turning the Presidential Election Into Learning for Young Children

Our World, an element of the Bright Horizons *World at Their Fingertips* curriculum, nurtures a child's understanding of the world they live in, fosters an awareness and appreciation of its diversity and promotes positive relationships and empathy for one another. There are many ways to introduce these concepts to children. Opportunities to delve into meaningful civic lessons and social studies serve as an ideal way to do just that. A Presidential election and all of the activity that takes place in an election year can inspire a variety of learning experiences. While it is a complex process, there is much for children to learn from the experience. We can do children a service by focusing on the rich lessons a presidential election can offer, without exposing them to debates, issues, and opinions they can't understand. When asked whom they will vote for, children will certainly parrot their parent's opinions, but we can go further and help them understand the voting process, develop negotiation skills, practice critical thinking, and engage in important social studies and civic learning. Not only can we make the election process meaningful for them, we can introduce an important lifelong responsibility and privilege of citizenship.

Try these activities with your preschoolers, pre-kindergarteners and school-age children.

Vote - Host a family vote on any topic from what to eat for dinner to how to spend Saturday afternoon. Learning about voting, give and take, and negotiation are good life skills. It can also become a family practice that makes decision making a bit easier.

If I Were the President... – Whether in the car or at the dinner table, talk about what you'd do if you were the President. This is a great way to find out what's important to your child.

When a Bill Becomes a Law – Work together to draft a few laws for the family. Maybe each person can take turns making a law for a day or the family can establish a set of laws together. The process and experience may teach more about the value of rules and mutual responsibility, than parental lecture ever could.

Family Flag – Research different flags and their meaning. Together create a family flag that represents the things most important to your family. This can be both a historical and family bonding experience.

Campaigning – As a family, discuss a social or civic problem that is important to you. Then come up with a few solutions. Maybe there isn't enough bicycle parking at the library, perhaps a park in a low-income neighborhood needs new equipment, or maybe you feel the residents at a local nursing home need more consideration – get creative. Put together a campaign: determine whom you should talk to about the issue, how you should get your message out and fundraising strategies. Then put your plan into action.

Presidential Reads – Use books to learn about things like the presidential election and the duties of the President and to spark conversation. Here are a few suggestions preschoolers and young school-age children:

- *If I Ran for President* – Catherine Stier
- *Duck for President* – Doreen Cronin
- *If Everybody Did* – JoAnn Stover
- *Grace for President* – Kelly DiPucchio
- *Vote* – Eileen Christelow



Virtual Pumpkin Patch

In celebration of Autumn, Bright Horizons would like you to help fill our **Virtual Pumpkin Patch**. Participation is easy. All you have to do is:

1. Visit your local pumpkin patch, farm stand or craft store.
2. Carve, paint, decorate or sculpt your pumpkin creation. Can be made out of a real pumpkin or a pumpkin crafted out of paper, paper bags, clay etc.
3. Upload your photo to the Virtual Pumpkin Patch on the Bright Horizons Facebook page.
4. Share your photo and ask your friends to Like it. A “Like” is a vote, so the more “Likes” the better. Photos can be of groups of pumpkins or an individual pumpkin. Get creative and have fun!

Photo uploading and voting begins in mid-October and remains open until Halloween, **Wednesday, October 31**. Check the Bright Horizons Facebook page for more information and exact dates.

REMINDER: Idling Cars

For the safety of our children, families and environment, please remember to turn off your cars when using our designated pick-up and drop-off parking spaces. We understand as the weather warms up or cools down many parents like to maintain a comfortable temperature in their cars, but ask that you refrain from keeping your cars running while idle. Thank you.



Remember the days when pumpkin carving meant two triangles for eyes with a crescent moon smile to top it off? These days, carving jack-o-lanterns has practically become a sport, with crazy designs that take hours of concentration and precision. Never fear, though, because it is possible to impress the trick-or-treaters without losing your sanity. We've rounded up this list of cute creative pumpkin carving templates to decorate your porch this Halloween. Keep an eye on the difficulty level based on the age of your kids: let the youngest scoop out the pumpkin's insides before carving, and the older ones can carve simple shapes with your help, of course!



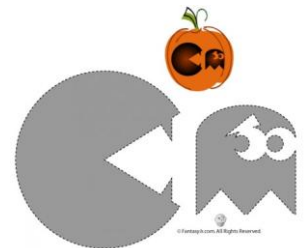
Curious George

Who needs a ghosts and goblin when you have an adorable furry friend? If you've got a monkey lover in the family, help them carve up this cute Curious George pumpkin from [My Magic Mom](#).



Vampire Pac-Man

This design from [Fantasy Jr.](#) harkens back to our days of Pac-Man and pinball machines--with a Halloween twist! The large blocks of pumpkin to be cut out make this a pretty easy design for little ones to pull off, too.



Spooky Cat

Welcome visitors to your home on Halloween night with [Animal Jr.'s](#) creepy-cool cat pumpkin. Its wide eyes will always be watching (be careful when you cut the eyes out, though!).



For more fun design templates to do with your family visit <http://www.redtri.com/kids/pumpkin-design-templates>