

Bright Horizons at UM Canterbury News

From the Director

Dear Families,

As we begin the month of March, we have wonderful activities planned for the children. We will start with our famous Dr. Seuss parade, a time filled with his stories and book readings shared with our parents. Please let the teachers know if you would like to participate. Among other activities this month, we will have our scholastic book fair and our spring picture day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents that took the time and effort to participate during last month's activities. The children had a lot of fun engaging and socializing with parents during the potluck. I know we too enjoyed the potluck and getting to know each other better. In an effort to continue our friendships outside the school, we will continue to send e-mails with information about upcoming events happening throughout our community.

This month we have a Parent Partnership Group meeting, you are all welcome to join us.

"Was it not then that I acquired all that now sustains me? And I gained so much and so quickly that during the rest of my life I did not acquire a hundredth part of it. From myself as a five-year-old to myself as I now am there is only one step. The distance between myself as an infant and myself at five years is tremendous." – Leo Tolstoy

Mariella and Vicky

Important Dates

3/2	Dr. Seuss Parade
3/8	Parent Partnership Group Meeting
3/13-17	Scholastic Book Fair
3/17	Happy St. Patrick's Day!
3/21	VPK Graduation Parent Meeting
3/30-31	Picture Day (Lifetouch Pictures)

Reasons to Celebrate Happy Birthday!

3/2	Hudson B.
3/11	Ms. Mariella
3/12	Mackenzie B.
3/15	Ms. Kendra
3/18	Kathryn A.
3/20	Emmett C.
3/21	Ms. Dolores
3/23	Nicolas N.



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant A

While on their buggy ride the babies enjoyed the wonderful weather that we have been having lately. Ms. Kendra and Ms. Aymee read a story during “Language Works” as they took a buggy break by the fountain.

Infant B

During Art Smart the children in the Infant B class created a work of art for our lactation room. Using their bodies the children crawled, scooted and rolled across the canvas in the paint. If you would like to see the finished product, it is hanging in the lactation room.

Toddler

While in the “Math Counts” area Emmett, Abigail, and Noah worked together sorting items by color. They also learned concepts like “inside and outside” when placing their items into the containers.

Two's

The children, with help from their parents, became authors as they made their own “Family Book”. The children took turns proudly sharing their books with their friends during circle time. Dr. Seuss wrote books for others to enjoy and we did too.

Preschool

Tobin celebrated his birthday with his classmates by teaching them how to make ice cream. The children took turns adding and mixing the ingredients for the ice cream. Once everything was combined, Tobin’s parent’s added liquid nitrogen. This caused the ice cream to change from a liquid to a solid. The children were amazed at the instant transformation. What a wonderful Science Rocks activity!

Kindergarten Prep

The children in the Kindergarten Prep class did a S.T.E.M. project about podiums. They learned that people use them when making speeches. The class spent time learning about the different presidents of the United States and their contributions. Using craft stick podiums that they made, the children performed a presidential puppet show with their friends.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

^{1.} Building Responsibility

When asked what traits parents would like to see in their children, one of the most common responses is “to be responsible.” According to the Center for Parenting Education, being responsible is a key to children’s future success both in school and in the larger world.

Contributing to the family by helping with age-appropriate chores instills a sense of responsibility and fosters competence in young children while teaching them valuable life skills. By making helping part of your family culture, you demonstrate that contributions, big and small, are part of the expectations of life. Taking the attitude that “in our family everyone helps” is much more effective than “this is a job that you must do.”

With young children, the goal is for the contribution to be enjoyable so it instills a sense of pride. Include your child in the process of planning and assigning jobs. Choose jobs that are appropriate for your child’s developmental capacity and temperament. Below are some suggestions:

Toddlers:

- Help put toys away
- Sort and match socks
- Carry own backpack or lunchbox
- Classify items to recycle (cans, paper)
- Turn off lights and the water faucet

2-3 Year Olds:

- Help feed pets
- Dust with socks on hands
- Clear own dishes from table
- Help set the table and fold napkins
- Carry laundry to the washer

4-5 Year Olds:

- Water plants
- Set and clear the table
- Carry out recycling bins
- Make own bed (if simple)
- Rake leaves

Family members develop a closer connection to each other by working side-by-side to complete a task. Every family is unique, yet in all families, it takes cooperation to run a household. Children’s contributions help them recognize their competence and the importance of their role in the family. When everyone pitches in, tasks get done more quickly. For additional ideas obtain the READY for SCHOOL Family Activity Cards available for preschoolers from your center.

For more information, see The Center for Parent Education website:

<http://centerforparentingeducation.org/library-of-articles/responsibility-and-chores/developing-responsibility-in-your-children/>

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Come to our OPEN HOUSE in April!



Each year, Bright Horizons welcomes new families to our community. And, year after year, we've found that the best way to meet these families is through you!

Next month, we will be hosting an Open House Week where new families will be able to discover what makes a Bright Horizons education unique.

If you have a friend or family member that might be interested in joining, we would be happy to provide information for you to share with them! Please see your Center Director for details. We hope to see everyone at Open House Week!

Join Bright Horizons This Summer for Fun, Friendships, and Exploration!

Our two summer camp programs, *Camp Explorations: Preschool Adventures* (ages 3-5) and *Camp Explorations: School-Age Adventures* for school age (ages 6-12), take advantage of everything summer has to offer.

Our teachers develop a fun curriculum that uses surrounding communities and special visitors as an extension of the camp and integrate technology throughout the programs. Children learn about the world around them while exploring nature, experimenting with science, and engaging in creative arts.

To learn more about summer camp programs at your center, talk to your center director. Programs vary by location.



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