

Bright Horizons at Pembroke News

From the Director

Pembroke Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 4th

2:00-5:00 p.m.

Bright Horizons Pembroke will be hosting a children's craft table at the Pembroke Tree Lighting. The Pembroke Tree Lighting is an annual family event held on the Pembroke Town Green. There are several activities for children including: cookie decorating, hay rides, roasting marshmallows, children's crafts, and face painting. Santa will arrive at 5:00 p.m. to light the tree. We hope to see you all there!

For more information about the Pembroke Tree Lighting please visit the event website.

www.pembroketreelighting.org

www.facebook.com/pembroketreelighting

Holiday Schedules

Bright Horizons Pembroke will be closed on Monday, December 26th for Christmas and on Monday, January 2nd for the New Year. Otherwise, the center will be open as usual for the rest of the holiday season. If you are planning any other time off during the holidays please let Bethany or Ashley know.

Important Dates

Sunday, December 4th

Pembroke Tree Lighting 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21st

Ugly Sweater Day

Monday, December 26th

Center Closed for Christmas

Monday, January 2nd

Center Closed for New Year

Monday, January 16th

Center Closed for MLK Jr. Day

Save the Date!

Breakfast with Frosty 2017

Saturday, February 4th

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.



Bright Horizons at Pembroke

334 Old Oak Street, Pembroke, MA 02359

781-829-2156 | pembroke@brighthorizons.com

Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

The teachers added a clear tube to the Infant classroom, and the children used it in various ways to investigate various materials. They sent balls and toy cars through the tube, and they also stacked blocks in the tube. The Infant teachers helped the children investigate further by propping the tube up to see what would happen. The children learned that it was easier to send a ball through the tube from the top of the incline instead of trying to push it from the bottom.

Toddler

The Toddlers learned about vegetables that are harvested in the Fall. The Toddlers took a walk to Farmer Steve's garden to see what was growing. They noticed carrots, tomatoes and potatoes were growing in the garden. The Toddlers also visited our Science Rocks Lab for a Science Rocks/ Math Counts learning experience. The Toddler teachers filled a sensory table with soil. Then, they buried several toy vegetables in the soil. The children used spoons and shovels to dig up the vegetables. Then, the children sorted and counted the vegetables they had "harvested."

Preschool

The Preschoolers were so excited to find that their classroom had been repainted, and there were new materials available for them to explore. The Preschoolers were particularly interested in the woodworking station that had been added to their block area. At morning meeting, the Preschoolers listened to a book about constructing houses. They learned about the different tools that construction crews use. After the story, the Preschool teachers and the Preschoolers went over the tools that are available in their woodworking station, and what they are used for. Then, the Preschoolers got to work creating their own structures!

Kindergarten Prep

The KP students learned all about the Native American Squanto, and the Patuxet Tribe. The children learned that Squanto served as a translator for the Pilgrims, so that they could communicate and trade with Native American tribes. Squanto helped the Pilgrims learn how to grow crops in the New World, just like Farmer Steve helps us grow crops in our garden! The KP Students visited the garden to see what was growing. They found that there are currently carrots, tomatoes, and potatoes growing in the garden. The KP teachers asked the children why they think that only some vegetables are still growing in the garden. After some brainstorming, the children decided that maybe some vegetable grow in the cold weather better than others. The children also learned that Squanto and the Native Americans removed salt from ocean water by using sticks. The children decided to try this for themselves. In a Science Rocks experiment, the children submerged toothpicks in a salt water solution. They left them in the water overnight. Then, when they checked the next day, all of the salt from the salt water solution was stuck to the toothpicks!



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Literacy Tips for Parents

Most children develop literacy skills predictably, just as they learn to walk. In the early years, they gain language, vocabulary, and an understanding of story. Older preschoolers may show an interest in letters and their sounds; they understand that those odd little squiggles on the page make words and can be used to communicate ideas. Children then move on to understanding phonics rules and blending sounds to make words. This stage is followed by fluency and finally, comprehension, or reading for knowledge.

To some degree, learning to read is a developmental skill and the age and timeline when reading occurs varies from child to child; but to become successful readers, all children need lots of experiences with books and reading in the early years. Below we've offered a few ideas to try at home:

- Make reading a part of your family culture. Build times into your day to read together or listen to audiobooks. Keep a book in your bag to read while you're waiting for an appointment. Stash books or magazines in the car for when you're out and about.
- Teach print concepts. As you look at books together, occasionally point out aspects about reading. For example, to a very young child you might say, "See how we hold the book? We start at this side and turn the pages to the end." Older children can understand that print moves from top to bottom and left to right. Show children that words are made up of letters and have spaces in between them.
- Play games to build early literacy skills. Young children love nursery rhymes and songs; these activities are more than an entertaining diversion. They help children hear the sounds in words and begin to understand language patterns. Point out "environmental print" – traffic signs, familiar store signage, or product labels on packages in your pantry. Play rhyming games, e.g., "Can you think of a word that rhymes with cat?" Another simple game is the rubber band game in which you say a word, stretching it out so your child hears each sound distinctly and separately. Then "snap" the word back, saying it quickly. Try clapping your hands for each syllable you hear in a word.
- Celebrate early reading attempts. Many children enjoy thumbing through a familiar book and retelling the story. They're not necessarily reading each word, but they do feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. Encourage these early efforts. They show that children understand the purpose and essential nature of books and reading. Children are also developing vocabulary and a sense of story.
- Teach skills through playful means. If your child shows an interest in learning alphabet letters, try reading alphabet books, demonstrating each sound. Roll play dough into letters or write them in a tray of sand or cornmeal. Use refrigerator magnets to make simple words together, saying each sound and blending the sounds to form words.

BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS



Striking a Balance: The Work/Life Equation

Next Live Webinar: Tuesday, December 13th at 3:00 PM ET

Parenting, marriage, career, social life, and community: are you managing the facets of your busy life or are they managing you? Join Bright Horizons and mother-daughter duo Drs. Marti and Erin Erickson, co-hosts of Mom Enough for strategies to find calm in the chaos.

Register: www.brighthorizons.com/strikingbalance

Making A Difference With Your Holiday Shopping

Without spending any additional money, you can make a big impact on the life of a child experiencing homelessness or other crises. When you buy books, toys, music, and more as part of your holiday shopping, 8% of your purchase will be donated to the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children from Amazon.com using this link.

Just click on [this Amazon link](#) and shop as normal. Visit our [FAQ](#) for more information about this program.

Make sure to save this Amazon page as a favorite and then share it with your family and friends! It works all year.

Looking for a great gift idea for someone on your shopping list? Make a donation to the [Bright Horizons Foundation for Children](#) in their honor and [send a special holiday ecard](#) to let them know. Each time you send an ecard, not only are you sending a personalized message of love, hope, thanks, or support to your friends, colleagues or family, you are also helping make a difference for children and families in crisis.

The Bright Horizons Foundation for Children is a nonprofit organization focused on brightening the lives of children, youth, and families in crisis, especially those who are homeless.



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