

Dow Jones Family Center News

From the Director

We know that the excellent care and education that our teachers provide is appreciated and valued every day! However, May is set aside as Teacher Appreciation Month, so we have a couple extra ways that you can acknowledge their wonderful work.

Bright Horizons has a designated website for Teacher Appreciation Month where you can leave notes of thanks to school staff. Please consider stopping by <http://appreciation.brighthorizons.com/> and leaving some words of appreciation. This site will be available for the month of May.

Our Faculty Appreciation Luncheon takes place this month and you should have received note cards in your child's cubby last week. These cards are for you and/or your child to write notes to teachers and staff that you'd like to thank for the great job they do. Please put the completed note cards in the yellow Faculty Appreciation box near the check-in computer.

Our staff will be celebrating our Awards of Excellence event this month, too. So, those nominations that you all submitted back in February will finally be revealed later this month and we will make sure we let you know who the award winners were!

Thank you for all your help in recognizing the great work that our staff does every day!

Important Dates

Thursday, May 4 – Trike-A-Thon 4:00

Friday, May 12 – Mother's Day Tea 4:00

Thursday, May 18 – Faculty Appreciation Luncheon 1:00

Friday, May 19 – Staff Awards of Excellence Dinner 7:30

Wednesday, May 24 – Parent Partnership Group Meeting 12:30

Monday, May 29 – School Closed for Memorial Day

Happy Birthday to...

Moonbeams: **Luke D.** May 9

Rocket Stars: **Riva** May 19; **Nitya** May 21

Jumping Jupiters: **Sophia** May 26

Cuddly Clouds: **Ms. Melanie** May 27

Dow Jones Family Center

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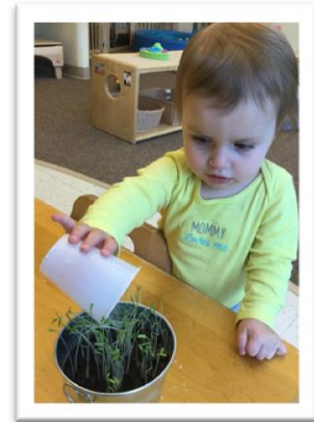
Monday-Friday 7:30am-6:30pm



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Infant

Garden Works and Science Rocks are two parts of The World at Their Fingertips curriculum that infants emphasized this past month. The infants help take care of the plants in the classroom by watering them and they also get to feel the plants and the dirt to learn more about it. They are learning to care for living things and are watching the changes in the plants as they grow!



Toddler

Movement and body awareness are so important for toddlers and our toddlers love to do yoga as part of their Well Aware curriculum. Yoga strengthens and refines the children's large muscles and helps them learn balance, too. The toddlers learn the importance of exercise and keeping our bodies healthy.



Preschool

The preschool children combined visual art with the art of music during a recent Music Monday activity. The children painted and decorated the cylinders before adding the fabric to the top of the drum. They learned to use art materials purposefully and creatively while also learning about different beats and rhythms with their drums.



Kindergarten Prep

The Kindergarten Prep children have been working very hard on their pre-reading skills. They have been identifying sight words, using visual cues, and reading classroom labels and signs. The children enjoy choosing books to borrow from the Bookmobile when it visits, so they are continually challenging themselves with new books to read.



READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

Transition Tactics

Change is in the air and spring is finally here. Families are planning vacations and considering camps, and some children will be moving to new classrooms or even to a different school. Children (and many adults) thrive on predictability. The possibility of change often challenges children's sense of safety and security. Transitions are learning times that open doors to new opportunities. Below are tips to help children and parents transition to new experiences.

- **Be aware of your comfort level.** Children are active perceivers. They sense our concern and hesitation, read our every cue and react to adult unspoken emotions. If it's a new classroom, get to know the teachers and learn about the expectations and routines. Once you feel comfortable with the new situation, you will relay the message that this is a safe, fun place.
- **Give children information.** Talk about what is going to happen, where your child will be going, who will be going with them, and what will happen along the way. Be as informative as ages and stages allow. Explain what will be different, mention the fun activities they will be able to do in the new class, and equally important, discuss things that will remain the same.
- **Read books about similar experiences.** Maybe children will be going on an airplane, visiting relatives, enjoying a family vacation, moving to a new classroom, or going off to kindergarten. Reading stories about similar experiences are a dynamic way to familiarize children with upcoming new experiences.
- **Empower children by making them part of the process.** Children don't choose their class placement, but they can decide what color backpack to buy, help plan a new morning ritual, or draw pictures, bake cookies, or collect flowers for the new teachers.
- **Know your child, and realize that each child's response is different.** Children's reactions to transition depend upon their age, temperament and experience; some are cautious while others might embrace it with "Hello world, here I come."

Transitions are family affairs at Bright Horizons. Remember that becoming comfortable in new situations is an ongoing process, not just a single event. Please access the following *eFamily News* articles for more detailed information and support:

- www.brighthorizons.com/efam-transitions
- www.brighthorizons.com/movingtotoddlers

TEACHER APPRECIATION

Make a Teacher's Day!

The greatest reward a teacher or staff member receives is knowing that they have made a difference in the lives of children and families. Each year Bright Horizons dedicates the month of May as a time to celebrate and recognize all of the teachers and staff who make this such a wonderful place for children and families.

Our teachers, support staff, and leadership team work hard to make our center – and your child's experience here – the very best it can be. Help us celebrate them!

Your thoughts make a difference – and mean a lot to all of us. Take a moment to share any stories, comments, and well wishes for those who touch your family's life each day.

We invite you to visit our Teacher & Staff Appreciation Website at appreciation.brighthorizons.com. Here, you can leave a special note of appreciation for your child's teacher or exceptional staff member. The website will be open from May 1st through May 31st.



BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Connect with Bright Horizons!



The Family Room

On the blog, you'll find parenting tips, advice and tales of work/life challenges – the ordinary and not-so-ordinary moments in the journey of working parenthood.

blogs.brighthouse.com/familyroom



Facebook

On Bright Horizons' Facebook page, see our curriculum in action, learn about Bright Horizons news & events, and find the latest parenting tips and articles from our bloggers and education experts. *Search Facebook for your local center's Facebook page!*

www.facebook.com/brighthouse



Instagram

Connect with @BrightHorizons on Instagram to see some of our favorite photos of center activities, pictures shared with us by our families, as well as tips and advice from our education experts and parent bloggers.

www.instagram.com/brighthouse



Pinterest

On Bright Horizons' Pinterest page, you'll find a whole host of ideas including tips for organizing your home, fun and easy birthday celebration ideas, and activities for growing little learners.

www.pinterest.com/brighthouse



Twitter

Bright Horizons (@BrightHorizons) is the official Bright Horizons Family Solutions Twitter handle for company news & working parents/workplace trends.

Follow @BHParenting for parenting & early education news, and live-streams of our parent webinars.

twitter.com/brighthouse / twitter.com/BHParenting

Join us! Our next parent webinar, ***A Parent's Guide to STEM Education***, is taking place on Tuesday, April 25th. Our Social Media Team will be live-tweeting.

Use #BHParentWebinar to join the conversation!

