

A Great Place for a Childhood

May 2015



From Brandi's Desk

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month

This year's Teacher Appreciation theme is "**We are Family**". When talking with teachers and other directors about their reasons for working at Bright Horizons, I repeatedly hear that Bright Horizons feels like family.

There is a sense of belonging that occurs with the children, families and co-workers that is incredibly fulfilling. It is our job to care for the children, but the care we receive back from everyone is humbling.

The Parent Partnership group has helped us plan a month of fun activities to show our appreciation of the amazing staff here at RCC. Be sure to post the calendar (see page 2) on your fridge, so you can join in the fun!

Bright Horizons Training Day

Our local Bright Horizons centers will host a Professional Development Day for all staff on Saturday, May 30.

We are looking forward to amazing trainings offered by area leaders as well as special keynote speakers from our Education Department and the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children.

Sunscreen

Summer is coming! If you'd like for teachers to re-apply sunscreen in the afternoons, please bring a non-aerosol container of sunscreen and complete the permission form!

Important Dates

May 8 Picture Day
May 8 4-6pm Mother's Day treats

Spirit Week...

May 11 Sports Fan Day
May 12 Hometown/Heritage Day
May 13 Wacky Wednesday
May 14 Hat Day
May 15 Vacation Day

Care Packages Week...

May 18th- May 22nd (see page 2 for ideas)

May 25th Center Closed
May 27th 10am Family Sing-A-Long
May 30th Teacher Training Day

Reasons to Celebrate

Happy Birthday to...

May 30th Mrs. Kathy afternoon Program Support

Happy Anniversary to...

May 19th Mrs. Karina P-4 4 years!

May 30th Ms. Katie P-3 2 Years!





Teacher Appreciation Month



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
B Family Feud Game	4	5	6	7 K-Prep organizes Family Picnic lunch	8 Picture Day 4-6pm Mother's Day treats	9
10 Family Spirit Week	11 Sports Fan	12 Hometown Heritage Day wear an outfit from your culture or a t-shirt from your hometown	13 Wacky Wednesday	14 Two's organize Cook Out Lunch Hat Day- Funny or favorite team hats are welcome!	15 Family Vacation- dress like a tourist or wear a t-shirt from your favorite vacation spot	16
17 Care Packages drop items in teacher's bags in Brandi's office this week	18 Note of thanks	19 Photo of your child	20 An item they could use on a family vacation	21 P-1/P-2 organize Bernstein Bears Breakfast A gift card to something they could enjoy with their family	22 A healthy snack	23
24 Family Tree activity	25 Center Closed	26	27 10am Family Birthday Sing-A-Long	28 Toddlers organize Italian family meal	29	30 BH Training Day

May 2015

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month- “We are Family”



Thursday Appreciation Treats

Each Thursday different classrooms will take turns making treats for the teachers. Please check the classroom door for a sign up list on your week! Thanks to Erica King for organizing this!

May 7 th	Family Picnic Lunch	Kindergarten Prep families
May 14 th	Family Cook Out Lunch	Two's families
May 21 st	Bearnstain Bears Breakfast	P-1 and P-2 families
May 28 th	Italian Family Style Lunch	Toddler families

Family Spirit Week

We have organized a spirit week with different dress up days. Teachers will compete for prizes and children are encouraged to join in the dress up fun.

Monday	May 11 th	Sports Fan Day
Tuesday	May 12 th	Hometown Heritage Day
Wednesday	May 13 th	Wacky Wednesday
Thursday	May 14 th	Hat Day
Friday	May 15 th	Vacation Day

Care Packages

During the week of May 18th we will have bags set up for each employee in Brandi's office. They are “care packages” that the teachers will take home on Friday. Parents are encouraged to drop in a few items throughout the week. Feel free to bring any items, we have developed a list of ideas if you need help. Please be sure to bring a few extra items for program support teachers.

Suggested items... Note of thanks, a photo of your child, an item they could use on a family vacation, a gift card to enjoy with their family, a healthy snack...

Games and Sing-A-Long

You will also notice teacher games like Family Feud, Baby Picture Guessing Game, and Guess my Family Tree going on this month.

Please join us on Wednesday May 27th at 10:00 am for a Family Birthday Sing-A-Long in the courtyard.

READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Partnering with Teachers in Potty Training

Your child seems old enough to begin potty training, but you wonder how potty training works in child care. Relax. Like every other aspect of child care, you and your child's teacher will work as partners in the process of potty training. Potty training while in child care is usually very successful. At school, your child sees other children visiting the bathroom, which can create a powerful incentive and example. Teachers are usually very experienced in potty training and can offer you a lot of support. Soon, your days of changing diapers will be over and your child will seem oh, so grown up.

Below are a few more tips for potty training at child care:

- **Get on the same page.** Talk with your child's teachers about the approach they use. They can help you watch for signs of readiness. These signs may include staying dry for lengths of time, expressing an interest in using the toilet, and being able to pull clothes up and down. You and your child's teachers will work together to develop a plan for potty training. Mutually agree on how you'll handle potty training and make sure that you consistently follow the plan during the evenings and weekends.
- **Come prepared.** Accidents are bound to happen during the first few weeks of potty training. Be sure to send your child with plenty of clean clothes. Skip the onesies, blue jeans, or overalls, and opt for soft, loose pants with an elastic waistband. These clothes help your child be more independent, and they also simplify the inevitable changes. Send your child in shoes that come off easily and don't forget extra socks.
- **Expect setbacks.** Potty training is a major developmental milestone and it's very common for children to make progress and then regress. Try not to get discouraged or express frustration to your child. Make sure that your child is really ready before you start potty training. The age of readiness varies from child to child, but most children are ready to potty train between 20 and 30 months. Take it slow and use a relaxed, positive approach. Talk with your child's teacher if you have questions or just need some extra support.

As you go through the potty training process, try to keep perspective. Some children are very motivated and learn to use the toilet quickly. Others need more time before they completely master this developmental task. Remember that both you and your child are doing the best you can. Before long, your child will be diaper-free and ready for the next adventure.

Bright Horizons News



May is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Month!

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.



As part of this month long celebration, we invite you to visit our [Teacher & Staff Appreciation Website](#). 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.

If you're looking for another way to celebrate a teacher or staff member, you may consider making a contribution to the [Bright Horizons Foundation for Children®](#) in their name.

Thank you for helping us recognize the important work of our teachers and staff—they make Bright Horizons a great place!

May installment of the Family Matters Webinar Series!



Growing Givers: Raising Socially Responsible Children
May 2015 - Date and time TBD

Raising children to be socially aware, community oriented, charitable minded, and educated about their world is more vital than ever in today's global society.

The next webinar in the **Bright Horizons®** Family Matters Webinar Series will provide insight on how social responsibility and empathy develops as your child grows, the intersection of family, school, and community in raising children, as well as meaningful activities families can do together to make a difference in their communities and in the world.

Want to join us in May? [Sign up](#) to be notified when registration opens!