

# Bright Horizons at UM Canterbury Preschool News

## From the Director

Season's Greetings Families,

I would like to thank you for all of your support while I was away. I am very happy to be back with my Canterbury family and excited to share with you our up-coming holiday activities.

The month of December promises to be a busy one for all of us, both children and adults alike. Some of you will be bustling about planning, shopping, decorating, and most importantly enjoying family time. Here at UM Canterbury Preschool the children will be learning how different cultures celebrate the holidays. Please join us on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am as the children showcase our Holiday's Around the World. Invitations will be sent. In addition, the Preschool 3 class and VPK class will be caroling at the UM Cafeteria on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am.

The UM Canterbury Preschool will close for the holidays on Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00pm and reopen on Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.

UM Canterbury Gable's Team wishes you a bundle of joy during these holidays!

**Mariella & Vicky**

*Was it not then that I acquired all that 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*

## Important Dates



December 9	Caroling on Campus
December 16	Holiday's Around the World
December 16	Family Potluck Lunch
Dec. 19-Jan. 2	Non VPK days
December 23	Center closes at 12:00 PM
Dec. 26- Jan. 2	Center Closed

## Reasons to Celebrate

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

12/02	Grayson M.
12/10	Veronica R.
12/11	Isabella L.
12/11	Abigail P.
12/13	Miles C.
12/13	Daniel G.
12/14	Pedro C.
12/16	Ms. Betty
12/28	Kenzo S.
12/30	Alexander F.



## Bright Horizons at UM Canterbury Preschool

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Monday - Friday 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM



# CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

## Infant

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In the Infant class the children do a variety of sensory activities. On this day they were able to explore with pudding as a group. After Ms. Kendra placed a small mound of pudding in the center of the paper the infants crawled over and began to feel, pat, and taste the pudding as they spread it around the page.



## Toddler

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As the Toddler class learned about feelings and emotions they took turns looking in the mirror making different faces. The children were able to see how they looked when they were happy, sad, angry and silly.



## Two's

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As the children in Preschool 2B learned about togetherness as they learned about the Thanksgiving holiday. They did many activities that required them to work in small groups and large groups. They enjoyed painting a class mural with fall colors while in Art Smart on their patio.



## Preschool 3

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Preschool 3 celebrated Thanksgiving with the story "Stone Soup". After listening to how the town contributed the ingredients for the soup the children each brought in an ingredient and during Science Rocks they made their class stone soup. They were able to learn about caring and sharing with their friends.



## Kindergarten Prep

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During Movement Matters the children in the VPK class enjoyed playing a game of tug-of-war. They were learning to work together as a team realizing that each person contributed to the team as a whole.



# READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

## Literacy Tips for Parents

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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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.*



## CONNECT WITH BRIGHT HORIZONS

