

# Bright Horizons at Waltham

November 2014



## From the Admin Team

We had a VERY busy October with Picture Day, Read for the Record, Channel 7 coming to film in the Art Studio (see pg. 5), and Halloween. With November here, that only means that more is to come with the Holiday Season!

Each year in January, our tuition increases. We are unsure of what the new rates will be at this time, however, we will notify all families as soon as we receive them. At that time, be on the lookout for new Enrollment Agreements to sign. We encourage those of you who haven't enrolled in the Online Payment System to do so before the end of the year. See below for more details.

*~Alice, Sara, & Kait*

## Important Dates

**November 10<sup>th</sup>** – Channel 7 will air our *Who Did It Better?* segment starting at 6am.

**November 10<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>** – *Voices of Gratitude: What Are You Thankful For?* (see pg. 7 for details)

**November 11<sup>th</sup>** – The center will be closed in observance of Veteran's Day. Our staff will attend a Regional Training Day in Waltham.

**November 12<sup>th</sup>** – Transition Call at noon for families who received Transition Packets.

**November 19<sup>th</sup>** – Parent Meeting in the LRC or by conference call at noon.

**November 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** – Thanksgiving break. The center will be closed. (see pg. 7 for details)

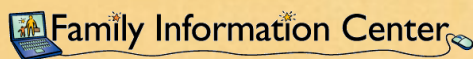
**A look ahead...**

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>** – Scholastic Book Fair.

## Have you signed up for Online Payments?

Did you know that Bright Horizons at Waltham now offers a new, easy way to pay tuition? Our *Online Payment Solution* is a secure online web portal accessed via the [Family Information Center](http://familyinfocenter.brighthouse.com).

Visit <http://familyinfocenter.brighthouse.com> to register for online payments today!



## Reasons to Celebrate

### Birthdays

Adam	Nov 2
Hunter	Nov 3
Isabella	Nov 5
Kayla	Nov 7
Elisa	Nov 14
Joshua	Nov 14
Reyad	Nov 18
Riya	Nov 19
Rishav	Nov 19
Allison	Nov 20
Alex S	Nov 24
Colt	Nov 28

### Staff Anniversaries

Renae 9 years

### Congratulations

...to Kayla for receiving the Lead Preschool Teacher position!

## Connect with Bright Horizons





# Classroom Highlights



## Infants

For a couple of weeks out of October, the children of **Infant 1** focused their time learning about animals! Our infants loved snuggling with stuffed animals, using their senses while exploring the different textures, and developing their Gross Motor skills while pretending to climb over mountains like some animals! The activity they seemed to enjoy the most was pretending to ride in a canoe! The children used their imagination to pretend a cardboard box was a canoe and they were cruising down a river in search of animals like fish, turtles, and aquatic birds! Our infants especially liked it when we sang the song *Row, Row, Row Your Boat!*

This past month in **Infant 2**, we learned about the autumn and harvest seasons and did many related activities. These activities included exploring the outside and inside of pumpkins, making applesauce and coloring their own pumpkin pictures. Sadly, we said goodbye to our friend Teagan who moved up to toddlers. We did, however, have a new friend join us; her name is Fatima and she is a wonderful addition to our class!

This month in **Infant 3** we worked a lot on sensory and exploration. Our infants were able to explore *Ooblick* and enjoy some water play in our sensory bin. We talked about the textures of both and how one is a liquid and the other is a solid. By doing this our infants are able to learn the difference between different materials.

This month **Infant 4** has been focusing on the autumn weather, specifically leaves falling. We planned an integrated curriculum all about leaves. Our infants got a chance to go outside on a nature walk and observe the fall weather to see leaves falling from bushes and trees. We used real and fabric leaves as sensory objects for our infants to explore by smelling, touching and painting with the different colors and sizes. This way our infants were able to use many of their senses during these integrated projects. We are excited to keep introducing new concepts to our infants as the weather continues to change.





# Classroom Highlights



## Toddlers

During the month of October, the toddlers in the **Toddler 1** classroom explored fall, their five senses, personal space, and outer-space aka *the galaxy*! Our toddlers also focused on active exploration quite a bit, with many messy activities in the sensory bin and using paint and play-dough! We created pumpkin play-dough for fall, explored a water sensory table, taste-tested limes, lemons and applesauce, did a hula hoop activity to demonstrate personal space and explored moon sand and space rocks for a *Science Rocks* activity. We had a lot of fun this month together!

This month in **Toddler 2** we learned about the fall season and its changes. The children observed the trees and how the leaves changed their colors. They learned the fall colors: red, yellow, and orange. We also learned about apples, different kinds of apples and their shapes, textures and colors. We also went "apple picking" on the playground. The children also seemed to have fun exploring pumpkins. We opened a big pumpkin and explored the seeds inside it. They expanded their language by learning new words like: slimy, sticky, and gooey.

During the month of October, **Toddler 3** learned about apples. The children went "apple picking;" played "Pin the Apple on the Tree;" and created their own red apples with construction paper. In addition, the children used their sense of smell as they smelled cinnamon sticks in the Sensory Table. Toddler 3 also enjoyed playing instruments as they marched during a musical parade and sang songs!

**Toddler 4** learned about pumpkins and apples. They used their sense of touch, sight, smell and taste while exploring different types of apples and the inside of a pumpkin. The children used the apples to paint, make muffins and applesauce, and to go apple picking. They used their large motor skills to go "pumpkin picking" on the playground. The children also had a chance to work on their fine motor skills while playing at the sensory table. They used large tweezers to pick up apples, leaves, acorns and pumpkins.

Over the past few weeks, **Toddler 5** has enjoyed different *Science Rocks* experiments. We worked on a sink or float experiment, that involved apples and pumpkins. The children also seemed to enjoy observing half of an apple with lemon juice on it and the other half plain. We noticed that the half with the juice stayed fresh while the other half began to turn brown.





# Classroom Highlights



## Preschool



This month brought the fantastic colors of fall, the **Preschool 1** Letter of the Week Wall, and of course Halloween! The children of Preschool 1 use their Letter of the Week Wall to practice letter recognition, word sounds, and identifying sight words. While focusing on the letter C, the children helped create a Construction Zone, complete with hard hats and lots of building materials! As we moved onto the letter D the children got to knock down some towers on Demolition Day! The children also seemed excited about the changing leaves outside, pumpkins, and getting ready for a spooky time on Halloween!



This month has been a busy one in **Preschool 2!** We began by preparing for Curriculum Night which was a lot of fun to attend and to prepare for! The children enjoyed exploring watercolors and learning about categorizing books by subject in preparation for the event. We also began exploring leaves and apples as we noticed the seasons begin to change over in a more obvious way. We will continue on our autumnal path as we learn about pumpkins and begin to start identifying leaves by their type of tree.

## Kindergarten Prep

For our *Science Rocks* activity this month we focused on planting. The **Kindergarten Prep** class took a pumpkin and scooped the insides out. They then filled the pumpkin with dirt. Next, they added the pumpkin seeds. Over time the children did daily observations of the pumpkin. After a few weeks went by we finally have seeds growing!! The children are very excited! Our *Language Works* activity has been doing different activities using *Handwriting Without Tears* materials and songs. The children learned about body awareness when we put Mat Man together and sang the *Mat Man* song. The class sang the *Alphabet Song* as they pointed to the alphabet letters that we have on the back of our *Language Works* shelf. The children learned that when they write letters they have to start at the top of the paper. They will remember this since we learned a *Handwriting Without Tears* song called *Where Do You Start Your Letters?* We will continue to work on more *Handwriting Without Tears* activities throughout the year.





# Classroom Highlights



## Art Studio

We have had an exciting month in the **Art Studio** as we introduced new artists, explored different art materials and techniques, and discussed art as a creative way of expressing our own ideas, experiences and emotions.

Inspired by the work of Polly Apfelbaum and her “fallen paintings,” both the Infant and Toddler students engaged in different artistic expressions that made use of their many senses and made their large and small muscles work hard in coordination. For example, taking the word “fallen” literally, both groups created their beautiful fall sceneries by tossing squares of crepe paper high in the sky and pressing them onto the contact paper after watching them slowly swirl in the air before they softly landed on the ground. Later in the month, Toddlers explored pumpkin printmaking, while the Infants found their inspiration looking at the work of contemporary artists like Damien Hirst. Looking closely to Hirst’s colorful “spot paintings,” the Infants constructed and deconstructed their own “spots inspired installations” practicing their visual discrimination and refining their motor skills by reaching, grasping manipulating and letting go of the materials.

As the highlight of the month, the Preschool and the Kindergarten Prep students explored clay. The Preschoolers made their pumpkins inspired by the “wrinkly” and “bumpy” textures of the real pumpkins and gourds and the Kindergarten Prep students made their trees. Later in the month the Preschoolers reviewed the color wheel experimenting with primary and secondary colors. Kindergarten Prep students, worked on their mixed media collage that draws attention to the beauty and the usefulness of trees, and later in the month, explored “action painting” as a way to express emotion. These projects were a part of their longer discussion of the power of art to change the world, convey ideas, and express emotions.



## Channel 7 – “Who Did It Better?”

Our Kindergarten Prep children had a blast while filming their 15 minutes of fame with news anchor, **Kayna Whitworth**, and Celtics player, **Brandon Bass**. They participated in 2 groups: 1 lead by Kayna, and 1 lead by Brandon. Each group was shown Wassily Kandinsky’s *Squares with Concentric Circles*. They were then given different recycled materials and paint to make their own concentric circles masterpieces. The segment will air on Channel 7’s morning show on November 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 6am.



## READY for SCHOOL Parent News: Measurement

Preschool children like to compare objects or people and often want to figure out which is bigger, longer, or heavier. They especially love to compare themselves to others – who is taller, whose hair is longer, who is the oldest, etc. We can take advantage of these opportunities to help children learn the basics of measurement.

Children typically progress through a series of stages in understanding measurement (Copley, 2000):

- 1) Comprehending that objects can be compared and measured and understanding the meaning of questions like “how long is this?,” “how heavy is that?,” etc.
- 2) Making comparisons themselves, such as judging which block is shorter, which rock is heavier, etc.
- 3) Determining an appropriate unit and process for measurement
- 4) Using standard units of measurement (inch, pound, centimeter, etc.)
- 5) Creating and using formulas to help count units

During the preschool and kindergarten years, children primarily focus on stages 1 and 2 and may begin to work on the concept of “unit” in the third step. Steps four and five are typically focused on in the elementary school years.

What kinds of activities encourage the development of measurement in preschool and kindergarten children? Here are a few samples to get you started:

- Use measurement and comparison language frequently in your incidental conversations with your child.
  - “This grapefruit feels really heavy. Is it heavier or lighter than this orange?”
  - “This tablecloth is too short for this table. Let’s find a longer one.”
  - “Do you think this pitcher will hold all the juice?”
- Include language that compares time (earlier, later, tomorrow, next week); temperature (warmer, colder); and capacity (holds more, holds less).
- Consider introducing non-standard measurement. “This fire truck is four blocks long.” Offer children opportunities to practice non-standard measurement. “Let’s see how many hands long this rug is.”
- You can also incidentally introduce standard measurement language (Talk about gallons, liters, yards, meters, etc. during your daily life as you pour milk or juice, measure wood for a home improvement project, etc.)
- You might provide a plastic bin filled with water or cornmeal as a place for your child to practice with volume and capacity. As children pour from a tall, thin cylinder to a short, fat cylinder, for example, they are developing a concept that Jean Piaget called “conservation.” If a child understands the concept of conservation of volume, he/she knows that a tall, thin container can hold the same as a short, fat container. Piaget’s research showed that children learned to conserve around age seven or later. More recent research has been showing children conserving earlier than that.
- Provide tools for measurement for children’s easy access throughout the day (rulers, meter sticks, bathroom scales, etc.).

### Reference:

Copley, J. V. (2000). *The Young Child and Mathematics*. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.

# Bright Horizons News



**Submit your art during Nov. 10-23, and it will be displayed in a Bright Space!**



*Voices of Gratitude: What Are You Thankful For?* is an opportunity for the Bright Horizons community, parents and teachers alike, to come together and support the **Bright Horizons Foundation For Children®** by submitting art that illustrates the answer to “What are you thankful for?” The resulting piece of collaborative artwork will be proudly displayed in all **Bright Spaces®** (Bright Spaces are warm, safe, and enriching spaces in shelters and agencies across the country that allow children to heal from trauma through play and experience the joy of childhood).

Submissions will be accepted from November 10-23. Artwork can be uploaded through [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [Twitter](#), or it can be emailed to [thankful@brighthorizons.com](mailto:thankful@brighthorizons.com). Participation is optional.

## **How to Grow a Giver this Holiday Season:** Family Resources for Teaching

### Compassion



As a parent, you try to raise your child to become an active, compassionate member of society. [Growing Givers](#) is a resource to help you find age-appropriate activities, projects, and volunteer opportunities to encourage empathy, caring, and compassion for the world and all its people. *Growing Givers* offers ideas for how you can promote empathy and social awareness through your daily interactions and modeling with children and through service opportunities from home or out in the community.

As fall and winter holidays approach, we've collected a list of resources from *Growing Givers* that can help you come up with easy ways to incorporate giving into your family's routine:

- **(Parenting Blog Posts)** [Family Volunteering: Tips for Finding Ways to Give Back](#), [Teaching Manners and Good Behavior Through Books](#), [How to Raise a Grateful Child](#)—join the conversation on *The Family Room* blog: <http://blogs.brighthorizons.com/familyroom/>.
- **(Community Topics)** [Volunteering with Small Children](#), [Donating Old Toys to Charity](#)
- **(E-family News)** – [The Caring Connection: Teaching Empathy to Children](#), [Raising Caring and Giving Children](#)
- **(Family Matters Series Webinars)** Raising a Socially Responsible Child ([Part I](#) & [Part II](#))—featuring *Bright Horizons* early education experts and guests from *The Volunteer Family*

Visit [www.brighthorizons.com/growinggivers](http://www.brighthorizons.com/growinggivers) for additional resources and at-home activities to promote empathy and social awareness.