

Bright Start Buzz

February, 2009

Dear Parents,

So far 2009 has definitely brought the cold! Since the children were not able to spend much time outside the teachers engaged them with inside activities like parachute play, play dough, gak, goop, shredded paper and all sorts of other great sensory and motor activities! The rule of thumb we follow is that the children don't go outside when the temperature is below freezing. As long as the temperatures are above freezing the children will still go out so be sure to have hats, gloves and scarves available at school for your child to wear (and remember to label!).

This month we will also see Carin return to Bright Start. She initially planned on coming back the first week in March but as time has gone by she is feeling like she's ready to come back a little early. As of now we are expecting her back at school on February 17. Her first week back she will be in for shorter days, with her regular schedule (10:00 - 6:30) starting the following week. In Carin's absence Shanice and Cynthia have done a great job managing the center. They will both continue in their role as site managers when Carin returns so you will see them both working in conjunction with her in the evenings.

Babies!... We want to announce the birth of two of our babies! Annette's daughter, Alyssa Marie was born January 21 weighing 6lbs 11 oz. Maria P.'s son, Michael Giovany was born January 20 weighing 8 lbs 10 oz. We wish both families the best. As you know Annette has moved to Bristow so she will not be returning to Bright Start. Maria will be on maternity leave for about 2 months.

Coming up this month:

* Bright Start's 4th birthday is February 14. We have come a long way in the past 4 years and hope to continue forward over the next few years.

*Closing Dates: We are closed Monday, February 16 for Presidents Day.

Looking Ahead: There will be a parents meeting scheduled in March (exact date to follow). The meeting will begin at 6 pm and run until 7. A few weeks prior there will be a suggestion box available for you to leave your

concerns or topics you would like to be discussed in the meeting.

We are also looking at the possibility of opening a new preschool class this spring in the space that is currently occupied by the larger room of the coffee shop (more info on next page).

Keep warm and have a great February!

Best,
Amber

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New Preschool

As mentioned on the first page, we are currently moving forward in the process with the city to open a new preschool class in the second room currently occupied by the coffee shop (the larger room next to the current preschool). With a second preschool class we would be able to have a younger preschool class with children approximately 3-4 years old and an older class of children from 4-5 years old. Although there are many benefits to a mixed age room we feel that opening a second preschool class will give us the chance to really focus in on kindergarten readiness with the older preschoolers. In addition, the new class would decrease the maximum number in each preschool class. Instead of the one class with 27 children we would have two classes of 20. We are in the early stages of the process with the city and will keep you posted as things move along.

Weather Closings

Please remember Bright Start follows Alexandria City Schools in their closing and delayed opening procedures. If Alexandria schools open 1 or 2 hours late Bright Start opens at 9:00. If they are closed, we are closed. On occasion we will need to make a decision to close early separate from the public schools due to our longer hours. In the event of an early close we will send an email to all parents (please make sure we have your most up to date email that is accessible to you both at home and at work). In the event of a late opening or closing keep an eye out for a closing or delayed opening by Alexandria City Schools.

Half Day

When dropping off and picking up please be mindful that the half day class is closed. Please don't allow your children to play in the half day class because things get moved around/misplaced. The teacher sets up the room in the afternoon for the next morning and when things are moved the class has to be set up again in the morning. Thanks for your help!

Reminders



Breakfast is over at 9:00 a.m. If your child will have breakfast at school please arrive by 8:50.



Please do not double park outside the center. The police will ticket you. It serves as a hazard to cars that have to squeeze through and more importantly to children and their families crossing the street.



Label all of your child's belongings that come to school and please do not send items to school that are special or expensive.



Tuition is due the 1st of every month for families paying monthly and on Monday for parents paying weekly. Any tuition paid late is subject to a \$25 late fee.



Bright Start opens at 7:00 a.m. We are not licensed to have children in the building before that time. Our staff begins to come in at 6:45 to prepare for the day, but they do not accept children before 7. The Half Day class opens at 9 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. Children are not accepted in the Half day class until 9:00 am.

The center closes at 6:30. There is a \$15 late charge for any children not picked up on time. An additional \$15 is charged after 6:45. For the half day class, the late fee is charged after 1:00.