

LifeConnections Children's Learning Center

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Throughout the month of October, we continued to celebrate fall with many great center-wide activities! As we move into November, we often spend a bit more time thinking about our family, friends, communities, and all of the wonderful cultural celebrations that are among us. **With that, we would like to invite you to join your child's classroom Multicultural Day on November 20.** Your child's teachers will be reaching out to you to see how you would like to participate in their event, which will look a bit different for each classroom.

The children, their family, and the teachers are the HEART of the school and so this is a great opportunity to get to know those around us a little bit better. Please also know that we welcome you to share more about your culture, job, passions, or anything else of interest to you, all throughout the year – as this should not only be discussed during the holidays.

Health Reminders – With winter fast approaching, we would like to remind you of ways to help keep you and your little one healthy as the weather begins to change. First and foremost, the Sick Policy is a great resource for you to determine whether not you should bring your child to school. If they have a fever, rash of any kind, diarrhea, or are not able to participate in their regular activities, we ask that you keep them home. We want to minimize the amount of exposure to other children and teachers as much as possible. Please also remember to **wash your hands, along with your child's, upon entry into the classroom.** This is a great way to lessen germs entering the classroom and is also a NAEYC requirement.

Scholastic Book Fair – You will soon see our lobbies transform into Enchanted Forests as we prepare for the Scholastic Book Fair. You can **get a head start on your holiday shopping and also treat your child's** teachers with a new book from their wish list! We will be hosting pictures with Clifford on Wed., Nov. 28 from 4-6 in the lobby (more details to come soon).

Heart Heroes – You may have noticed some new picture frames in both the North and South lobbies (near the entrance to the courtyards). We are working on creating a great space to highlight our **World At Their Fingertips curriculum, along with our center's Heart Hero.** What is a Heart Hero you might ask? Each month, we nominate a teacher (or group of teachers) that we feel have shown great HEART (Honesty, Excellence, Accountability, Respect, & Teamwork) over the past month. We then recognize the team by displaying their picture in the lobbies for all to see and award them with a special parking space for the month. If you would like to nominate a teacher or teachers, please send them to me (mgalazzo@cisco.com) and we would be happy to share your appreciations.

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800 Barber Ln, Milpitas, CA 95035

408-527-8499 | mgalazzo@cisco.com

Monday-Friday, 7am-6:30pm

Important Dates

- 11/12 & 11/19-21 – School Age Care Available
- 11/13 – Car Seat Checks
- 11/20 – Classroom Multicultural Day
- 11/22 & 11/23 – CLOSED for Thanksgiving
- 11/26-11/30 – Scholastic Book Fair
 - 11/28, 4-6pm – Pictures with Clifford
- December Family Partnership Group Meetings TBA soon
- 12/11 – Car Seat Checks
- 12/24-1/1 – CLOSED for Shutdown

Reasons to Celebrate

We want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate our **teachers'** commitment to Early Education! Happy anniversary to the following:

- Ms. Nikki B, North I/T and back-up EC, celebrating 18 years!
- Ms. Fadila, I/T back-up teacher, celebrating 12 years!
- Ms. Ata, field teacher, celebrating 8 years!
- Ms. Daniele, CR D Primary, celebrating her 1st year!
- Ms. Maggie, CR J Primary, celebrating her 1st year!

To those that celebrate, we wish you a happy Diwali!

CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

Pumpkin Decorating – **We hope you enjoyed this year's pumpkin patch.** We had a great time watching the children investigate the pumpkins on the Multipurpose Yard and find their perfect pick! Creative stickers were out for grabs to make the perfect silly, scary, or happy pumpkin face. We did hear that some children did not get the opportunity to pick a pumpkin because they were already gone. Next year we will watch a little closer to ensure families are only taking one pumpkin per child.



Read for The Record – Thank you to all of the families that took some **time out of their day to read to their child’s classroom (and to those that offered).** We really enjoy seeing parents leading activities with the children! 😊



Imagination Day Parade – This year we had another successful parade! We saw unicorns, rainbow fish, crayons, Coco characters, party animals, butterflies & bees, and so much more! We hope you enjoyed watching the children parade around the school in their homemade costumes!



EDUCATION NEWS

Learning a New Language: A Family Activity that Lasts a Lifetime

Our country is a beautiful melting pot of people from all over the world. As we know, there are many different languages spoken on earth. Being able to talk to each other is an essential path to build bridges. Also, having the ability to communicate with people who speak a different language encourages cross-cultural understandings, which opens the door to new friendships. Think about how welcome someone feels when your family smiles and says hello in their native language. Have you ever considered learning a foreign language along with your child?

Research shows that exposing young children to different languages taps into their innate ability to distinguish sounds, which enhances their growing cognitive skills. Because young children generally learn a new language more quickly than adults, your child might take the lead. There are many language learning opportunities online, from interactive exercises that teach language to watching YouTube videos. Some are even free, while others require purchasing a program. Two recommended websites:

Duolingo
www.duolingo.com offers interactive lessons in Spanish, French, Italian, German and Portuguese.

Mamma Lisa’s World of Children and International Culture
www.mamalisa.com offers poems, songs, rhymes and traditions from around the world, in over 57 languages.

As you begin learning a language together, you might delve into the culture of the countries where the language is spoken, pick up **children’s books in that language or prepare a traditional recipe from that country.**

Everything we do as a family builds a stronger, more caring, cohesive unit. Practicing a new language broadens our view of the world. **It’s fun and can be done anywhere: while taking walks, commuting, playing a game, listening to music, dancing, dining, reading bilingual books, and watching a movie.**



BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Thanksgiving Prep - Tips for Involving Kids



- 1) Make the cranberry sauce with the kids the weekend before Thanksgiving. It will keep and it allows you to include the children in the cooking process.
- 2) Have the kids make place cards together. Give them index cards, markers, crayons and stickers. Older children can write the names, inventive spelling and all, while younger children can decorate with stickers.
- 3) Try to find the easiest Thanksgiving worthy appetizers you can that the children can help prep by counting crackers, opening jars, and arranging plates.
- 4) Ask them to be taste testers and enjoy your Thanksgiving meal!

Podcasts for Parents on the Go

Did you know that Bright Horizons has a podcast? Navigate your parenting journey with our podcast series created with working parents in mind.

Tune into our podcast, *The Work-Life Equation*, to hear about parenting, caregiving, and balancing work with everyday life.

Whether you're a working or stay-at-home parent, you're likely always on-the-go. But throughout the daily hustle and bustle, you have questions, concerns, and simply need support.

Our parenting and education experts are here to help you navigate the parenting journey with an “on-the go” podcast you can listen to when convenient for you.

Browse our episode selection at <https://brighthouse.com/family-resources/podcasts>

