

# Bright Horizons at The Harbor

## Center Buzzzz



### From the desk of the Center Director...

Greetings and happy September!

For the many new families that are joining us, we welcome you and thank you for choosing our center! There are many other early childhood schools that you could have selected; we are thrilled you have chosen us to provide care and education to your child. We are pleased to have you be a part of our Harbor community.

I am still in disbelief that the summer has come and gone and we are preparing for the Fall. Transitions seemed to have gone well! I have not had anyone stop by to share any thoughts, concerns, or give feedback. I hope to attend the October PPG meeting and I welcome any feedback regarding transitions at that time. My door is always open!

Transitions are hard for all and we do our best to make sure that we plan strategically, with the children in mind. We have very limited space but we hope to have a small transition in late December. We will keep you in the loop as we approach the winter months.

Typically, with child transitions we plan out our teacher transitions simultaneously. This year I was not able to do so. We have a few seasoned teachers that I have been working with to support their continued growth with Bright Horizons. In addition, Ms. Meagan who is in our Preschool class and has been with the company for more than six years has been interviewing for leadership positions. Ms. Meagan is talented, bright, and definitely ready for growth. I met Ms. Meagan many years ago and knew that she would be a wonderful candidate for succession planning. I am saddened yet excited to share that Ms. Meagan has accepted an Educator Coordinator position at our sister center at IRS MD! We are so happy for this achievement. We currently have been interviewing to find a new member for our Preschool team.

Ms. Brenae, who has also been with our center for many years, is also ready to take on a new adventure in a leadership. Ms. Brenae has touched many of our hearts and has taught us a great deal over the years. We have alumni always coming back to re-connect with our Ms. Brenae. Ms. Brenae is actively working with our recruiter to seek an opportunity for growth outside of our school for a leadership role. I have encouraged Ms. Brenae to broaden her horizons and seek positions within our company. Both Ms. Brenae and I are looking the right admin position for her skillset. I feel very confident that she will be successful in her search very soon.

I am very passionate about our teachers and want the best for them; I will always support their journey for growth. I have a few other teachers that are contemplating exploring other programs within our school as we have a few open positions. Typically, I would have already mapped out our staffing plans along with our transitions. Unfortunately, this year I was not able to get all the puzzle pieces to fit. I do not have a full picture at this time as we are still putting the puzzle pieces together as a team. What I know for sure is that our Two's have no movement happening. As we continue to learn more information I will continue to keep you in the loop.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and I look forward to another wonderful month here at the Harbor!

*Jacqueline Radcliffe*

### Important Dates

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Center Closed in observance of Labor Day

**September 9<sup>th</sup>:** Grandparents Day

**September 13<sup>th</sup>:** 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Round Table Discussion: Medical & Allergy Policies and Procedures

**September 16<sup>th</sup>:** National Playdough Day

**September 21<sup>st</sup>:** DC Librarian visits the Harbor

**September 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Autumn Equinox

**September 25<sup>th</sup>:** Curriculum Luncheon on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Terrace from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm

**September 26<sup>th</sup>:** K-Prep Field Trip to the Library of Congress

### Reasons to Celebrate



Pali

Dillon

Grant

Abigail

Cameron

Maeve



# READY FOR SCHOOL NEWS

## Cooking - A Family Affair

Gathering in kitchens nourishes our bodies, minds, and souls. Preparing meals together as a family enhances relationships, invites contribution, and helps children understand basic cooking principles. Also, children develop patience as they discover that delicious food doesn't just magically appear. Although cooking as a family affair is probably not as easy as adults whipping up a quick dinner, with a bit of forethought, more cooks stirring a pot can be fun and has tremendous benefits for everyone involved.

Cooking with children helps them learn about nutrition and hone basic reading, math, and science concepts. Reading recipes and learning kitchen vocabulary expands literacy skills, while counting, measuring, and fractions, foster mathematical thinking. Young chefs learn about chemistry and the physical properties of matter as they mix ingredients and watch them combine, separate, expand, change color, develop scents, and change form.

Research shows that children who help in the kitchen develop healthy eating habits because they tend to eat what they prepare. Below are a few suggestions for toddlers and preschoolers.

### Toddlers

Choose simple cooking tasks that match your toddler's skills and attention span.

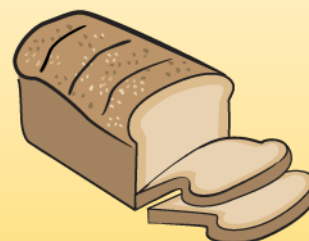
- Wash fruit and vegetables.
- Measure, pour, mix, and stir ingredients.
- Put ingredients in a crockpot or blender.
- Mash potatoes.



### Preschoolers

Discuss nutrition and why our bodies and minds need the right kind of fuel to work correctly.

- Help plan meals.
- Chop, grate, peel, and cut ingredients.
- Shuck corn.
- Crack eggs.
- Count and categorize ingredients (wet and dry items).



# BRIGHT HORIZONS NEWS

Learn about the year ahead at Curriculum Night

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Ask about our upcoming Curriculum **Luncheon event!**

**Tuesday September 25<sup>th</sup> 12:00-1:00 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Terrace**

During Curriculum Night, you will learn what we have planned for the year ahead for our center's curriculum as well as community center events. Spend time in your child's classroom, ask about the curriculum for their age group, and ask their teacher about future project plans. This event can also be a great time to connect with fellow Bright Horizons families!

Learn about our Bright Horizons educator promises. As Bright Horizons Educators, we promise to...

*Nurture* and care for the whole child

*Craft* curriculum based on expert research

*Support* and develop teachers

*Implement* an emergent and integrated approach to learning

*Cultivate* curiosity through projects, exploration, and play

*Encourage* children to be confident experimenters and problem solvers

*Build* an inclusive and respectful community

*Create* joyful places for childhood



Check out all the places you can connect with us!