

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS
PRESCHOOL
brightbeginningsva.com

1/16/2015

Mark your Calendars!

Mon-Fri, January 19-23rd- Winter Teacher Welcome Calls

Monday, January 19th & 26th- Open House for prospective families- 6:30

Monday, February 2nd- Milk & Cookie Open house for prospective families- 6:30

We are expanding!!



Our Bright Beginnings family is growing and we are so excited to announce the opening of our new toddler room. Our new Hippo class will open on Monday, January 19th.

With the school growing we have also made some other changes. The Pelican and Kangaroo classes have also moved to new rooms this week. Thank you so much for your patients during this transition. All of the children seem to really be enjoying their new classrooms.

Signs will be posted on classroom doors this week to help direct you where to go. Also, look for your child's classroom flag.

FROM THE FRONT DESK



Attention Parents: We are missing a jacket. A light weight baby blue jacket is missing from our Bunny room. If you have a child in the Bunny, Peacock or Rooster room can you please check to see if you took home the wrong coat? The child's name should be written on the inside of it.

Outdoor Play Policy- Dress for the weather!!!

We know young children need plenty of fresh air and sunshine. They love to play outside even in cold weather. We'd like to give our students the opportunity to be active

outdoors, even if for a short time, even in cold weather. PLEASE parents, dress your child to play outside daily. We will go outside (for at least a few minutes) during our designated playground time, twice a day. Unless of course there is a danger as indicated with a weather temperature or wind advisory. We think this will help provide our preschoolers a more balanced day by giving them the opportunity to run and jump the wiggles out!

Thanks for helping us make our preschool a FUN and SAFE place!

What's Cooking!

We have many fun cooking projects planned for this

month. This week our friends really enjoyed making French toast casserole. Please see the sign-up sheets on your child's classroom door.

Tax Time

Bright Beginnings Tax ID is 54-1529854. Individual Summaries will be provided before January 31 and placed in your child's cubby.

PLEASE HELP YOUR TEACHER BY:

-Labeling all items brought to school (clothing, snack/lunch, gloves, toys). ALL lunch boxes must have a first and last name on them.

-Only sending toys to school on SHOW and TELL days.

-Only sending non-breakable, inexpensive SHARING items.

-Checking the "Lost and Found" periodically.

-Sending your child to school in play clothes and play shoes. We do lots of messy activities and do not want to ruin good clothes. We do go outside each day, weather permitting.

-Dressing your children in play shoes rather than sandals or flip-flops. Please no fancy patent-leather party-type shoes for girls. They are very slippery.

NEWS FROM THE ADMISSIONS DESK

Our January curriculum is fully underway! This week we have been learning about Vincent Van Gogh, Sugar Cube math, toddler gymnastics and more! We've got guest speakers lined up and have had over 15 new students start this week alone! Our program is

growing - we've been locally owned for over 30 years and we pride ourselves on preparing your children for kindergarten and beyond.

Don't forget to "like" our Facebook page for daily curriculum updates,

recipes, crafts, photos and more!

This month as new families enroll we are entering them into a contest to win a big screen TV just in time for the super bowl. Did you know that if you refer a family we're giving you \$100 towards your tuition!

It's an easy way for you to tell your friends about your favorite preschool, the teachers that you love and how great our curriculum is! \$100 just for telling your friends about us is an easy way to start saving in the New Year!

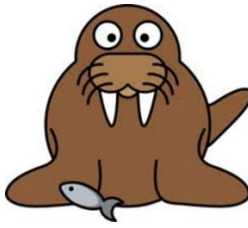
Our Giraffe classroom and Pelican classroom just won a classroom item of their choice for our door decorating contest. We love our staff as much as we love our parents.

Do your friends have questions about enrollment? Have them call Lisa at 434-973-8414 with any questions or email lisa@brightbeginningsva.com.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Insufficient Fund Fee and Policy: Any check written to Bright Beginnings that is returned for insufficient funds will be assessed a service charge of \$50. It is expected that the unpaid tuition is remitted immediately along with the insufficient fund fee. Any family that has more than one check returned will be required to permanently

pay by credit card or money order.



Hi,

We hope everyone had a fantastic week and stayed warm. This is going to be a fun week of learning. We are going to play with refrigerated toys, build trust with words, and play with colors shapes and textures. We are also going to be focusing on fine and gross motor skills. I hope everyone has a great weekend. We are getting ready to say Good-bye to a few of our friends as they start their journey into our new toddler classroom. We are so proud of them!

Love,

The walrus class



We are going climbing this week! Up and down the ladder, pretending that it is a mountain. We are trying to see if we can get to the other side without sliding back down. Finn, Lucy, Torrence and Indie had to hold onto our hands to keep from falling. We enjoyed walking backward and forward to see if we could keep up with friends. Andrew, Raven, Remi and Tucker would fall down on top of each other and laughed because they thought it was so funny.

In art this week we got to rip up paper and put it on top of whip cream to make snow art. Sam and Quinn ate most of the cool whip but we did get the snow on the paper.

As our gross motor, we had so much fun balling up paper to make snowballs! Snowball fights are the best!

Music and Movement consisted of lots of dancing and singing this week



Hey Pelican Family and Friends!

This week was a very cold, yet exciting week for us! We officially moved classrooms, and now we have more space and direct access to the potty! We're really excited to have our new classroom (:

For our fine motor activities this week, we tore tissue paper for our tissue penguins, assembled geometric puzzle, and had a snow ball fight with recycled paper! The surprise snowfall pushed our cooking project back to a later date, but we made use of the snow and engaged in a sensory activity where we collected snow, dyed it, and observed its texture, temperature and some of us were even convinced that it was snow cone filling!

Gross motor was fun this week, too. We've learned some of our directions – up, down, backward and forward, and we practiced rocking on a sled (hopefully, we'll get to use

this with the snowfall we'll get this winter!)

Some of our favorite practical living activities were being mommy and daddy, washing the dishes, and dressing up for the winter. We practiced putting on our mittens and gloves properly-- sometimes it can be really hard for us to get all of our fingers in the right spot! Nonetheless, we prevailed and were able to scoop up the snow on Wednesday and keep our hands warm, too!

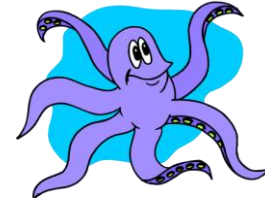
We really love to sit down for our library time, and Ms. Ari picked out some books we really enjoy! Our favorite this week was Whistle for Willie. She tried to teach us how to whistle – right now we know how to hold our lips, but we're still working on getting the sound to come out without screaming it! We'll get it one day!

We hope you have had the chance to see some of our artwork from this week, too! We have stamped snowflakes for a snow scene, put together some really cool paper penguins

and painted with frozen paint!

Hope you have a great weekend!

<3 The Pelicans



Hello again Octopus families! We had a very busy week full of joy and fun activities and now we are ready to share our news with you.

We always have so much to do during our morning meetings and we are so proud to tell you how much we learn and know! This week we talked about the weather and seasons of the year. Lexie said the weather was wet on Monday and we decided that we don't like gray clouds that bring us rain. We tried to remember the name of the month we are in, learned about opposites with the help of our favorite flash cards. The Octopi are doing a great job saying their first and last names, parents' and siblings' names and telling

their age! And, of course, every morning we sing all our favorite songs and review ABC's, colors and numbers.

For fine motor skills this week the Octopus class enjoyed playing with pine cones, sorted small shapes, made stars from play-dough and had so much fun to playing with shaving cream trying. We tried to create snow scene, and even made a snowman from it! On Thursday everybody enjoyed yummy French toast casserole that we cooked all together. All the little Octopi love going to our big kitchen. Everybody did a great job holding their partner's hand and were very quiet while we walked through the hallway!

Art time was also fun this week. All our friends love creating art project. On Monday we painted snow in the night using drip and splash technique. The friends were happy to splash paint with a brush not only on their paper but all over the table, too! Later this week we also created cup of hot chocolate with marshmallows in it. As a

class we made a big snowman and made some beautiful stars for our classroom.



This week we focused on the letters U and V. We worked hard on our journals and freehand writing the letters on the LEA board. 'U' also presented some fun gross motor activities like "Up and Under" where we all crouched down then exploded upwards and "Jump Up," one of our favorite indoor energy burners. In this game each child gets a chance to pick whether they want to dance or jump while the class sings and pats their legs.

For art this week we painted with water colors in keeping with our January art appreciation of Van Gogh. It was a lot of fun, although some of us were more interested in painting with the water than with the actual paint! We also did a Flag craft for

USA, painted an umbrella complete with fingerprint raindrops, made vegetables, and (unseasonable but v-appropriate) valentines.

For Social Awareness this week we discussed conversational etiquette with the use of a puppet show. I never knew I could be so hilarious! We also talked about how we live in the United States and in the state of Virginia.

One of the concepts presented in math this week was graphing. We talked about the v-word 'Voting' and how it is an important concept in our society. The children then voted on some very important issues like "what is your favorite vegetable" and "what is your favorite toy on the playground." We then tallied the answers and decided together which had 'more' and which had 'fewer' votes.

It was a great week all around and we are all anxiously awaiting Ms. Heather's return next Monday!



Happy Friday Peacock Families!!

I hope your week was as wonderful as ours! It is a brand new year, time to start fresh.

We started the week off creating a new class constitution and class rules. Throughout the year, there need to be adjustments made and a few reminders. Olivia and Graciela were excited to sign their name to the constitution.

Your Peacock is learning manners, especially yes/no mam and yes/no sir. They are learning not only to speak to their teachers with manners, but to speak to any adult using manners. I hope you are seeing this at home.

For Language Arts, we are working on letter Aa. Aubrey was very excited about this letter; her name starts with letter Aa!! For art, friends made "a" corns. Even though you find acorns in the fall, it was still

a fun art project to do. Peyton and Eli enjoyed mixing white paint to brown paint to make a light brown! Gabin could not wait to paint his letter A with blue paint. I love seeing the excitement on their faces!!! Friends have been working on name writing and recognition. Keep practicing name spelling and writing at home; that is an important step before going into Ms. Margaret's Pre-K class. Noah loves writing his name; he is so focused and so happy with himself!! Maggie has been practicing writing lowercase e; she loves to show me her hard work!

For Math, we began our work with numbers, starting with #1. Urijah said baby Ryder is almost 1. Sean said baby Molly is less than 1 and her birthday is in October.

Our color of the month is Blue. Emma was so excited for this; her favorite color is blue!!! Jillian loved creating her own shade of blue to paint the #1; she wanted light blue so she added more white paint. Beck and Peter used

regular blue to paint with apples. Blue is also their favorite color!

With the weather getting so cold, the Peacocks discussed how the ground freezes and gets hard with the cold weather. We talked about how it makes it hard for birds to find worms and bugs in the ground to eat. Our Project Green project is to make bird feeders. We need your help. We are looking for used water bottles, washed out. If you have any to spare, we would love them. The plan is to make enough bird feeders for each friend to take home and to put around our school. We appreciate all the donations, thank you!!



Have a great weekend. See you Monday!

Mrs. Summer



This week we have had a lot of fun despite the weather! Our Group meetings have been so enjoyable! We have been discussing the art of conversation and the fact that much of our interactions with other people are done verbally. We talked about the art of conversation and why it is important to speak clearly and face the person we are speaking to so we can be sure they are hearing us correctly and cut down on misunderstandings. We also talked about the importance of actively listening (not just viewing the other person's comments as filler until we get to speak again) as conversation is a two way street. Really hearing what our friends are saying and not interrupting are skills that will help throughout a lifetime!

For Math we worked on Patterning! We patterned

by color with unifix cubes, by size, by shape and by length using our rulers. We also worked through a patterning sheet and our M&M math was patterning as well. The children love this exercise and everyone is very good at it! Good Job Roosters!

Language Arts was naturally Journaling and we are half way through the alphabet! We listened carefully during Group and during the day to compile our Mm list. The children were very excited when they heard an Mm word we had not yet put on the list! We are still working on our ABC song by letter sounds and are improving daily as well as giggling a lot as the song DOES sound pretty funny done this way! Rhyming as the LA theme this week which fits in beautifully with letter sounds and is also a chance to get silly and laugh as some of the rhyming words we joined make funny mental pictures such as the Cat sat in the Hat.

For Science we talked about winter as a season and whether it depended on the time of year or the weather.

We talked about migration and hibernation and the animals that did either one and the animals that did neither. We talked about how enjoyable it was to have bird feeders so we could watch the beautiful birds while helping them out during these cold months and how animals forage for food.

In Art we worked on cutting snowflakes which was so popular it spilled over into the next day's art! It is a tricky, difficult cutting exercise and well worth spending several days on as it is great practice cutting with scissors and requires some planning ahead to avoid my personal bug-a-boo cutting on the wrong side and getting TWO half snowflakes instead of one lovely one! So, the children are not the only ones who need practice at this! We made Seed Art with a nod to birdfeeders and will be making birdfeeders and hanging them outside soon as this was a very popular idea!

We had a very fun cooking project this week and made French Toast Casserole that

was very yummy!

Naturally, we had to talk about kitchen science while we were at it and use the measuring as a Math moment! Next week we are making Hot Chocolate on a Stick! The ingredients are simple and few and the sign-up is on our door!

Thanks to everyone's generosity for making these fun moments possible for the children!

Hoping everyone has a warm, enjoyable weekend and returns refreshed for Nn week!

<3 Ms. Margaret and the Roosters