

February
2015



UNITED COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Bryant Early Learning Center Newsletter

A Message from BEL



Fabulous February!
There is so much to explore this month. Dental Health and Friendship will be the focus for many classrooms. The teaching teams have been working hard to create engaging, exciting and FUN lessons. We are always eager to explore new concepts with children. Please feel free to be a part of any and all activities and

learning here at BEL! All families should have received their “Year to Date Tuition Summary” for 2014, along with our tax identification number. If you have not obtained your documents please, speak with a member of our Administrative team. As always, thank you all for your continued support of BEL!

Sincerely,
BEL Administration Team
Torria Baker,
Bridgette Hamilton,
Sindy Umanzor



Peace Through Policy

Consistency is crucial to children when it comes to learning and development. Children rely on adults to model consistency in everyday life experiences. When working in a classroom environment, consistency is key. Each classroom has a schedule of daily activities that’s followed regularly. The children have adapted to

certain expectations of how their day will unfold. It is so important to work with your child’s teacher in maintaining consistency. Children benefit greatly when home and school collaborate on the best interest of development for the child. Being consistent with things such as providing changes of clothing for your child, following center policy, and

signing your child in and out, makes the program run smoother. Consistency helps with making expectations clear!



BEL Activities and Events

RED DAY!
Friday February 13th
Wear as much **RED** as you can to celebrate American Heart Month, Love and Friendship!

REMINDER!

*** Monthly payers tuition due Friday, February 27th for the month of March
*** Weekly payers tuition due every Friday before receiving care.

Busy Bees Infant Class



This month of February we will be talking about FAMILIES and LOVE. We will be displaying different pictures of your child and staff families around the classroom for the children to look at. If you have pictures of the family, please bring them in. On February 13 we will be having a red day of LOVE. You can bring your child in with any piece of red clothing. We would also like to have an exchange of cards of love to each friend in the classroom.

We would like to welcome Kiril, Lucy and their family to the infant classroom-- WELCOME!!!!

REMINDERS:

Please wash your hands and your child's hands upon entering the classroom.

Please fill out the top of the daily sheets everyday.

Please label and date bottles and bottle tops everyday.

Please sign your child in upon entering and sign your child out upon pick up.

Please trim your child's nails for safety.

Please make sure your child has three pairs of weather-appropriate clothing.

Infant Teaching Team,

Ms.Ruth, Ms.Danielle, Ms. Shemu and our lovely volunteers, Mrs. Eileen and Mrs. Jennifer



Lively Ladybugs Toddler Class



It's Body Awareness Month!

During the month of February, the toddler class will explore the many different colors that we see daily, as well as identify the many parts that make up our bodies. We will explore these things through many fun activities such as singing and doing movements to the Hokey Pokey, and Head Shoulders Knees and Toes; completing color collages and color scavenger hunts with balls, Legos, and molding with play dough.

In addition, the toddler class will continue to build communication and language skills by reading new books to learn new words and using our words to express our wants and needs. Also we will continue to work on, our self-help skills such as **eating with a spoon, drinking from an open cup with both hands, wiping nose and washing hands after, and pulling up pants;** as well as our fine and gross motor skills by jumping on soft mats, throwing and rolling balls, jumping up and down with both feet, lacing large beads, completing four piece puzzles and much more...

Books for the month

Island Counting

Counting Colors

Baby's First Colors

I Love Colors

Big Little

We would like to welcome Ellarene to the Lively Ladybugs Toddler class!

One person's trash is another person's treasure. We are always looking for donations of old magazines, egg cartons, plastic water bottles, coffee cans, toilet paper and paper towel rolls for art projects. Also we love any donations of unwanted old shoes or clothing for prop boxes and our housekeeping area.

Reminders

Please remember to wash your hands and your child's hands upon entering the classroom.

Please sign your child in and out daily with the correct time.

Please provide a **sheet and blanket** for your child during quiet/ nap time. Remember that as the season changes, dress your child in weather appropriate clothing.

Check your child's cubby to update seasonal clothing and also to take home daily sheets and completed activities that you child has done.

Also, for your child's safety and the safety of those around them, please make sure your child's nails are trimmed on a weekly basis.

Thank you ,

Toddler Teaching Team

Ms.Latisha, Ms.Sanjeeda, Ms. Aiesha and our wonderful volunteer Ms.Lea





Budding Butterflies Early Preschool Class

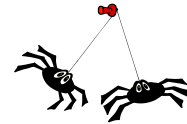
Happy Valentine's Day!! My how time flies. It is February already and we are off to a great start. January was a great month. The kids had fun learning the sound of the letter: J and finding out whose name in the classroom started with that letter. Jayson, Jacob and January. Ask your child what the letter J sounds like. We also enjoyed playing in our centers. These pictures show just how much fun we were having. For the month of February we will be learning about the letter H, the number 3, the shape heart, and colors pink and red. We will continue to work on two step directions and add taking turns in activities and conversations. As always, we ask that you help out at home by talking with your child and asking them how his/her day was. Also, we are

asking that you continue to help us assist you in potty training. We ask that you provide your child with clothing that they can easily move in and shoes that they will be able to take off and put back on by themselves. Also we would like to remind you that your child has two cubbies in the classroom. Please be sure to check the cubbies at least once a week.

Thank you for allowing us to care for your little one.

Early Preschool Teaching Team,

Ms. Judy, Ms. Cheryl



Spectacular Spiders Pre-Kindergarten I Class

Dear Families,

The New Year is here and our Spiders are continuing to make progress with our letters of the week and counting from one to twenty. We are also starting to work on our shapes and will be doing small projects that require them to use their five senses. The Spiders have completed the first half of our social/emotional curriculum, Al's Pals. The children have made great progress with Al's Pals. We will start our second half this month. Also parents, continue to look for the Al's Pals letters that we send home. Valentine's Day is coming and we would like for the class to exchange cards with each other. Parents, we ask that you help your child make or fill out Valentine's Day cards for his/her classmates for that day. A list of names will be available.

February is also Black History Month. We will read children the story of Martin Luther King Jr. We will be learning about friendship. The children will make a "Friendship quilt" and discuss "What I want to be when I grow up". We will also explore friendship through the song "Friends, Friends, 123."

Happy Birthday Aurora 2/23 and Ms. Lolita

2/23.

Reminders: Please make sure you sign your child in and out daily. Please check to make sure your child has two appropriate changes of clothes in his/her cubby.

Pre K-I Teaching Team,

Ms. Lolita, Ms. Alberta,

Volunteer Ms. Valerie



Cool Caterpillars Pre-Kindergarten II Class



Wow! 2015 is off to a fast start. The winter weather is unpredictable, with many forms of precipitation. Our center follows the decisions that govern Fairfax County Public Schools during inclement weather. We encourage you to choose a secondary provider for days when there are two-hour delay openings, early closings, or full-day closings. Planning ahead can reduce the effect of these sudden schedule changes.

Cool Caterpillars were excited for and enjoyed Pajama Day. Our class had 100% participation. Thank you to our parents for their support of this fun day!

In February, we will be learning about good oral hygiene practices such as brushing two times a day and flossing. We will also learn about good dietary habits like limiting sweets.

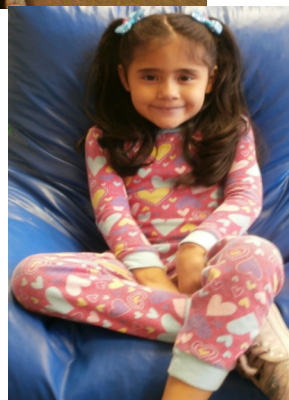
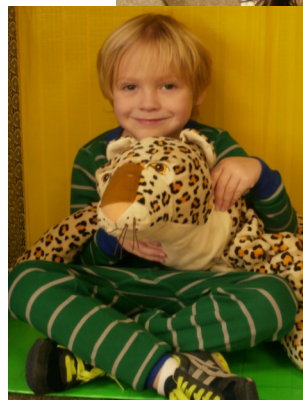
On Friday, February 13, the Cool Caterpillars will share healthy snacks

with each other. Healthy snacks include pretzels, apples, 100% juice boxes, etc.

Friendly reminder – Your child needs a weather appropriate change of clothing in his/her cubby at all times.

Pre-K II Teaching Team,

Ms. Nuella, Ms. Minnie,
Ms. Dawn

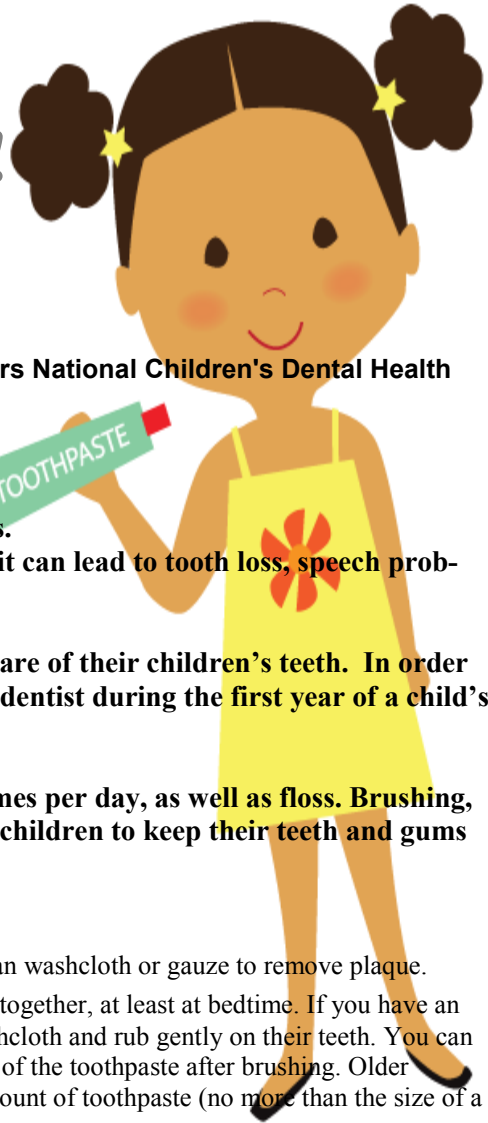




Pat's Place



Dental Health!



Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Tooth decay is the number one chronic illness in children.
- 51 million school hours are lost each year to dental problems.
- Research shows that if a child's tooth decay goes untreated, it can lead to tooth loss, speech problems, and even loss of self-esteem.

The Academy of General Dentistry encourages parents to take care of their children's teeth. In order to promote good dental health, parents are advised to visit their dentist during the first year of a child's life.

Parents and children are encouraged to brush their teeth two times per day, as well as floss. Brushing, flossing, and getting regular dental care are important ways for children to keep their teeth and gums healthy for a lifetime.

Tips for caring for your child's teeth:

- After each feeding, gently wipe your child's teeth and gums with a clean washcloth or gauze to remove plaque.
- Begin tooth brushing as soon as your child has teeth. Brush your teeth together, at least at bedtime. If you have an infant or toddler, place a small amount of non-fluoride toothpaste on a washcloth and rub gently on their teeth. You can switch to fluoride toothpaste when you are sure that your child spits out all of the toothpaste after brushing. Older children can use a toothbrush with soft, nylon bristles. Use a very small amount of toothpaste (no more than the size of a pea).
Begin flossing children's teeth when all of the primary (baby) teeth have erupted (usually around age 2 1/2).

For more info: www.nea.org/grants/National-Childrens-Dental-Health-Month.htm
www.cds.org/kids
ncdhm@ada.org



Pat Washington, Child Development Specialist