

Bright News!



Meet
the

Denby
Family

Spreading all the holiday cheer this year is the Denby Family! This amazing crew has been a huge part of what has made Bright Star great for well-over five years and we are beyond lucky to have them here! Ryan (age, 8) currently

December
2019

visits us on holidays and we get to see Evan's handsome face in Preschool each week! We enjoyed every second of watching Ryan grow throughout our program and love having the opportunity to watch Evan do the same. Both boys have enormous hearts and truly have some of the best examples to live by in mom and dad! Samantha and Eric, we can't thank you enough for trusting us with your little guys and appreciate everything you do for our program!

Things to Know:



The Denbys' are all about the outdoors! The love, riding bikes, camping, baseball games, swimming and going to festivals

Ryan plays baseball and Evan is getting ready to start gymnastics

Their favorite vacation spot is the beach

They have 2 furry family members, Cats named Cash + June

Favorite Bright Star Memory: "Honestly I can't pick just one! The boys have always loved the on campus visits, from the farm to the fire trucks! I personally love all the different yearly class binders that the teachers put together, such great keepsakes"

Feature Teacher: Ms. Dezirae!

There are not enough words, nor enough space on this page to say all the amazing things there is to share about Ms. Dezirae. There is nothing she wouldn't do for her babies, her families, and her co-workers. After she left for a short time to go back to school, we were lucky enough to get

her back! She invests so much time into individualizing her babies' needs, making sure they receive plenty love and are also being challenged throughout the day.

Dezirae is such an asset to our program as a whole and we are grateful to have her play such an important role on our Infant Team. Thank you for all you do and continue doing to make Bright Star shine and for keeping the little ones in your classroom happy and healthy. This place wouldn't be the same without you, Dezirae!

Congratulations on receiving Teacher of the Month for December!



Inside This Issue:

<i>Holiday Open House</i>	2
<i>End of Year Ledger</i>	2
<i>Partnership for Children</i>	2
<i>Holiday Attendance</i>	3
<i>Turkey Drive</i>	3
<i>Curriculum Corner</i>	4
<i>Nurse Terry's Tips</i>	5
<i>Important Dates</i>	6

Holiday Open House!

Bright Star is excited to announce our Annual Holiday Open House on **Saturday, December 14th** from 10am-12pm! Your little shining stars have been extremely busy working with their teachers to learn about various cultures and creating beautiful works of art to celebrate holidays around the world! Bright Star would love to invite you to our Holiday Open House to come and enjoy playing in the bounce house, cookie decorating and refreshments, see Santa for a special surprise and photo, receive a holiday glitter tattoo, make reindeer food, visit your child's teacher and view the many great works of art that your child has made. This will be fun for ALL ages, so mark your calendars because this is an event you won't want to miss!!

Wishing you and your family a Happy Holiday Season, from The Bright Star Family!

Bright Star Families!

Do you have friends that don't yet attend our program but their little one(s) would love this event? If so, please invite them! The more the merrier! If your friends choose to enroll with Bright Star, you will receive \$100 off of tuition and your friends will also receive \$100 off their first full month!



End Of The Year Ledger's

As the end of the year approaches, it is important that we have ALL accounts at a **\$0 balance** by end of December. **All families will be receiving a 2019 Year End Ledger.** Families who have an outstanding balance will be notified ASAP and will be asked to have it paid by the 13th of December. Payments are due on the first of each month, or on the first day of the month that your child attends for part-time families. All tuition payments must be received no later than the 5th of each month. Payments received after the 5th will be considered late and will be subject to a **late payment fee of \$25.** If your check is returned, you will be charged a **return check fee of \$35.** A friendly reminder email, regarding tuition policies, will be sent later this month.

Partnership for

Children Holiday Wishes

Every year, Bright Star participates in **PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN HOLIDAY WISHES PROGRAM.** Your generous toy and clothing contributions help make the holidays brighter for less fortunate children. Located on the foyer window are stocking gift tags. If you would like to participate, take a tag from the window, purchase a toy or clothing item for the child that matches the age and gender on the tag and return the gift to the office *unwrapped* with the tag attached by 12/13/18.

ALL CLOTHING AND TOY ITEMS MUST BE RETURNED UNWRAPPED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH!

Any dollar amount is acceptable. However, please remember that this may be the only present they receive, so shop wisely.☺ If you are too busy to shop yourself, they will do the shopping for you! Just take a stocking tag, write a check made out to **Partnerships For Children Holiday Wishes Program** and return it to the office.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness. Your participation to this worthy cause helps make a child's holiday brighter!

Holiday Attendance Sheets



With the holidays quickly approaching, we would like to get an accurate head-count of how many children will be attending Bright Star during this celebratory time. We try to base our staffing around the expected number of children so that we can accommodate as much time off as possible for our teachers. Many of them travel for the holidays, which is also why we ask so far in advance for what your plans may look like in the coming weeks. Please be on the lookout for a reminder email and a posting of the Holiday Attendance Sheets on your child's classroom door. While we know you may not have set plans for all of the dates we inquire about, please fill them out to the best of your ability. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to celebrating the holiday season with everyone!

Thank You for Donating to Families in Need!

With your generosity, our Bright Star Family was able to raise \$205 to families in need of Thanksgiving meals. With this amount we were able to feed 10 families in the Austin area! Reveal Resources was beyond grateful for our donation and told us we were the only childcare facility in their eight years of operation, to set up a donation drive in support of their program. Being able to give back to our community is a HUGE part of what being in the Bright Star Family is all about. We appreciate your donations and feel extremely grateful to have such a warm and giving group of families. Also, a BIG Thank You to Ms. Kirstin for organizing such a wonderful opportunity for our program to give back!



CURRICULUM CORNER

Making Math Meaningful

While memorization is important, children need a stronger math foundation to be successful in the years ahead. Children may have memorized how to “count to ten,” but they may have no idea what “ten” is conceptually. *Frog Street Threes* teaches children math in a developmental sequence in which one skill builds on another. These skills are taught with materials they can touch, taste and smell as part of their daily activity. Below is a list of things you can do at home that follow the same sequence of skills your child will be learning at school:

Attributes: Discuss the colors, shapes, and sizes of various items (old keys, containers, corks, lids, etc.).

Position & Location: Talk about where things are located in a room. Point out position and location words (on, off, in, out, on top of, over, under, etc.).

Classification: Ask your child to help put away groceries, laundry or organize dishes from the dishwasher.

Patterns: Search for patterns on fabrics, clothes or furniture. Encourage children to make patterns using crackers or cookies before eating them. Also, search for patterns in nature (petals on a flower, rings on a tree trunk, stripes on a zebra, etc.).

One-to-One Correspondence: Invite your child to help match socks, or when serving food, point out that there is one serving for each person (use language such as “one piece for you, one piece for me”).

Sequence/Ordering: Encourage your child to play with nesting toys such as measuring cups or spoons.

Challenge them to organize food cans from smallest to largest or lightest to heaviest. You can also ask them to help sort laundry by clothing item.

Numeration: Practice counting objects up to five and point out numerals in daily life (look at phone numbers, addresses, license plates, etc.).

Great Reads for December

Infants:

Baby's First Christmas

That's Not My Elf

Where is Baby's Dreidel?

My First Kwanzaa

Toddler/Early Preschool:

Little Blue Truck's Christmas Tree

Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel

Santa Claus and the Three Bears

Lil Rabbits Kwanzaa

Preschool:

Snowmen at Christmas

Santa Duck

Is It Hanukkah Yet?

The Sound of Kwanzaa

Pre-K:

Fox and the Snowflake Christmas

How to Catch an Elf

Hanukkah Bear

K is for Kwanzaa

EPS/Preschool/Pre-K,

It's a Grinchy Day!

Every December, we continue the tradition of having our EPS/Preschool/Pre-K kiddos enjoy a day in their pajamas watching a holiday movie, eating Popcorn and drinking hot chocolate! This year, the children will enjoy the original 30 minute movie, “The Grinch

Who Stole Christmas!” Each class will learn the TRUE meaning of celebrating the holidays with loved ones and the importance of giving to others! EPS, PS, and PK will all have a scheduled time to go to the theater on **Wednesday, December 11th.**



Nurse Terry's Tips: 'Tis the Season To Be...SICK?

On the Jolly Side...

It is my first holiday season at Bright Star Academy Schools and I feel like I'm in the middle of a winter wonderland! The decorations multiply daily and the good cheer seems to be year-round. Every single child has touched my heart and soul, and I've never seen a more caring, dedicated set of teachers. Ms. Tonya and the Leadership Team have a vision that I see coming to life every day. Kind of a nice place to come to every day, wouldn't you say?

On the Serious Side...

Below you will find a few very common illnesses we have seen and should expect to see as the weather changes continue. Remember, you can get any of the following communicable diseases from anywhere and from anyone. GERMS ARE EVERYWHERE!

Strep Throat: A sore throat is the main symptom of strep throat. Colds and other viruses are often a cause for sore throat. One way to tell the difference is that a virus will often cause a runny nose, whereas with strep, the sore throat comes on quickly and your throat often feels raw and hurts to swallow.

Symptoms to watch for: A fever of 101 F or higher, red, swollen tonsils, white patches in the throat, tiny red spots on the roof of the mouth, appetite loss, stomachache, headache, nausea, vomiting, and/or rash

Hand, Foot, & Mouth: Painful blisters similar to cold sores can show up on the inside of your child's mouth or on his tongue, hands, feet, and sometimes bottom.

Symptoms to watch for: Early symptoms may include fever and a sore throat, rash on the palms of hands or feet, blister-like spots in the mouth, on palms of hands, feet, elbows, knees or bottom. Some or all of the symptoms may occur

Flu: Unlike a cold, flu symptoms usually come on suddenly. Another key difference is a fever, which might not happen with a cold.

Symptoms to watch for: Severe aches in muscles and joints, pain and tiredness around your eyes, weakness or extreme fatigue, warm, flushed skin and red, watery eyes, headache, dry cough, sore throat and runny nose

Stomach Virus: What is often called "stomach flu" is gastroenteritis, an infection of the stomach and intestines. Viral infections are the usual cause of gastroenteritis. The sickness usually passes in about 10 days without medication; the first few days tend to be the worst.

Symptoms to watch for: A sudden attack of diarrhea and/or vomiting, and complaints of stomach pain.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES REQUIREMENTS FOR A CHILD TO BE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL. (This is a short list of many disease exclusions).

Temperature - 100 degrees and greater. The child may return to school when fever free without the aid of fever reducing medication for 24 hours.

Diarrhea - Three or more abnormal loose stools within 24 hours. May return to school when diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of diarrhea suppressing medications.

Vomiting - 2 or more times in 24 hours, or once with any other sign/symptom of illness. May return to school when vomit free for 24 hours.

Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis) - symptoms include: red eye with discharge or crusting around eyes, burning and itching. To return to school we will need the permission issued by a physician or until symptom free.

Strep Throat/Scarlet Fever - Child may enter school after taking an effective antibiotic for 24 hours and fever free.

Influenza (Flu) - May return to school when fever free without the aid of fever reducing medication for 24 hours.

Kidshealth.org

**WASH
YOUR
HANDS**



**Cover
your
Cough**



**STOP
the
SPREAD**



December Reminders:

Partnership for Children Donations:

December 2nd - December 13th

Grinchy Pajama Day:

Wednesday, December 11th

Holiday Open House with Santa:

Saturday, December 14th

Holiday Celebrations Party:

Thursday, December 19th

Bright Star is CLOSED:

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 24th & 25th

Bright Star is CLOSING AT 12:30:

Tuesday, December 31st

Looking Forward to January:

Bright Star is CLOSED:

Wednesday, January 1st

100th Day of School:

Friday, January 11th

Preschool/Pre-K Science Fair:

Thursday, January 23rd

***Bright Star has our annual in-service tentatively scheduled for Friday, Feb. 8th and will be CLOSED!**



801 N. Vista Ridge Blvd.
Cedar Park, Texas 78613

Phone: 512-257-7827

Fax: 512-369-4091

Email: management

Connect with US!



/BrightStarAcademy



/BrightStarAcad



@BrightStarAcademySchools_Texas

Fall Fun.

