

SUNNY'S UPDATE
JANUARY/FEBRUARY – 2008

Dear Parents,

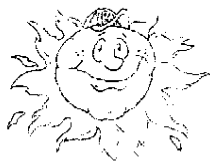
Happy New Year! Just a reminder that all children need at least two full sets of extra clothes in their cubby. Accidents do happen, and we are running out of our “extra clothes”.

Thank you for the following donations: Pansie Lilley – toys, Becky Escoe – books and puzzles, Ashley Walker – clothes, Kelli Koszut - books, puzzles, and toys, Joseph Pytel - toys Kristen Wade – clothes, Lorenzo Wallace – basketball hoop, and Heather Fleming – newspapers and bags. Donations are always accepted and appreciated!!!

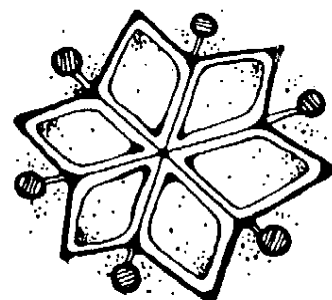
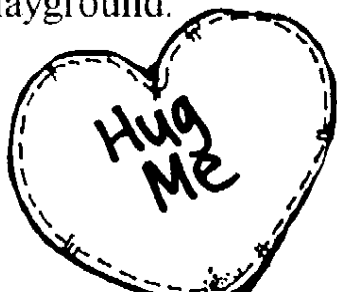
Our staff would like to thank everyone who brought in gifts this holiday season! Your generosity and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated! Special Thanks to the following: The Collin's family who brought in doughnuts and juice for our staff, Kelli Koszut who brought in a Danish, Yoti Kale who brought in candy, and Joni Lipsky and Lisa Schwer who brought in bagels, cream cheese, muffins, and quiche from Panara Bread! Thank you all so much for everything!

SUNNY'S CORNER:

Happy New Year from
Bright Beginnings Academy:



We have begun to purchase items from the monies generated by our yearly fundraiser. Thus far, over twelve hundred dollars has been used for the classrooms to buy science, mathematics and art materials. In addition, three storage bookshelves, chairs, cots, four stand up easels, and new play mats for the Toddler's room has been bought this month. In the future, we will be buying additional chairs, cots, classroom materials and a new playhouse for the small playground.



WINTER CARNIVAL: We will be having our “Winter Carnival” on Wednesday, January 29, 2008. We will have a clown to paint the children’s faces, an inflatable moonwalk to jump around in, and games to win prizes! See your child’s teacher for more information.

PRIMA DANCE ACADEMY: Ballet classes will begin on **Tuesday, January 22, 2008.** The 3-5 year olds will have class on Tuesdays from 10:00 – 10:30 a.m., and the Kindergarten & School-age will have class on Thursdays from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

DENTIST TO VISIT: Family Dental in Merrillville will be here talking to the children on the proper way to brush their teeth. Each child will receive a coupon for a **FREE** exam at their office. This demonstration will take place on **Wednesday, February 13, 2008.**

VALENTINES DAY PARTIES: See your child’s teacher for information about classroom Valentines Day parties. (Just a reminder any “goodies” brought in must be store bought, no home-made items!)

*Congratulations to the following staff on their Anniversaries:

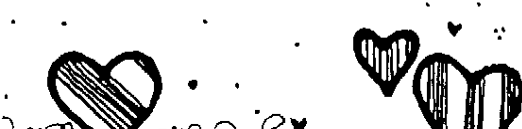
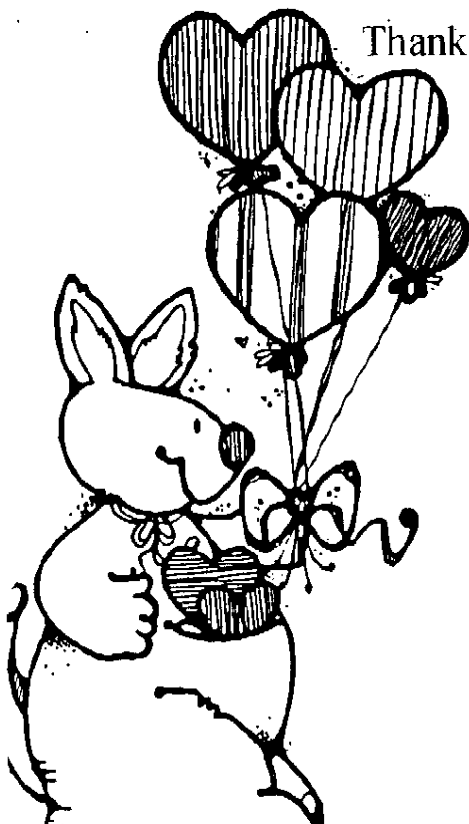
Miss Kim – 12 years, Miss Carla – 7 years, Miss Malorie – 1 year, Miss Becky – 1 year, Miss Melody – 8 years, Miss Cheryl – 1 year, and Miss Amber – 6 years... Thank you for all you do!

Thank you for choosing the Bright Beginnings Academy!

Sincerely,

Kim Brummet
Director

Marty Johnson
Administrator





Math Practice

Manipulatives From A to Z

ACCES Never throw away a deck of playing cards. They have dozens of math applications: counting, sorting, probability, and card-house engineering, just to name a few.

BOLTS Stock up at the hardware store. Nuts, bolts, and screws are perfect for counting, weighing, and sorting.

CDS Save the free ones you get in the mail. Trace for perfect circles, or challenge kids to create a giant, symmetrical design for your bulletin board.

DRUMS Play various beats and talk about rhythm, counting, and patterns. (Make your own by stretching a balloon across an oatmeal canister.)

EYE CHARTS Measure and count the letters. You can also measure the distances from which kids can read the different lines on the chart.

FLASHLIGHTS Have kids bring one from home. Then turn off the lights and play with shadows. Talk about symmetry and shape.

GOOGLE FYI, this popular search engine is also a calculator. Enter a problem (such as $5+7$) into the search field and the answer pops up.

HOLOGRAMS Pick up one or two hologram postcards and use them as a starting place to talk about 2-D and 3-D.

ICE CUBE TRAYS Use for sorting small objects, measuring, or counting by 2s (have kids put a bean in every other slot).

JUNK MAIL Try catalog math. Invite kids to calculate various purchases. Or host an engineering challenge—who can build the strongest bridge from credit card offers?

KISSES (The chocolate kind.) Not for every day, but a fun Valentine's Day treat. Estimate how many are in a jar, or do some nutrition math.

LUNCH TRAYS Borrow some from your cafeteria. Then use them as a surface to create simple graphs with string and counters.



MAGIC EIGHT BALL A fun way to talk about probability. How many possible answers are there? How many are "good" answers? How many are "bad"?

NOTEBOOKS Invite kids to keep math journals—a place to work out their thinking and keep track of what they find interesting and confusing.

ORIGAMI PAPER This stuff is bright, colorful, and cheap—and a great way to talk about 2-D and 3-D shapes, folding, and symmetry.

PHONES Bring in an old cell, handheld, or even rotary phone. Put it in your math center and invite kids to practice writing and dialing phone numbers.

Q-TIPS Use as cheap, disposable paintbrushes. Write math problems using invisible ink.

RRACE CARS Invite kids to bring in toy cars from home. See how far they can go with a gentle push. How many red cars do students own? Blue? Green?

STAMPS Cut canceled ones off your mail. Sort by color and shape, or add up how much they all cost together.

TOILET PAPER TUBES You're probably already saving these. Use them to talk cylinders or as sorting containers.

UTENSILS Plastic silverware, potato mashers, and other kitchen gizmos make for great pointers and fun tools for your math center.

VEGETABLES Sugary treats are so last century. Count tomato seeds or weigh green beans. Edamame (soybeans) are perfect counters.

WOODEN BLOCKS Endless opportunities here: Who can build the tallest tower? How many blocks tall is the teacher? How much does a block weigh?

X-RAYS Doctors and hospitals are often willing to donate old films. Count those ribs and measure that ulna!

YARN Love those craft store teacher discounts. Use yarn as a flexible ruler. Weave on a cardboard loom and make patterns. Glue onto paper to make shapes or numbers.

ZITI Pasta shapes equal hours of math learning. Make patterned necklaces, measure and pour, or build noodle sculptures. —*Hannah Trierweiler*