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September 2015

Dear Becky,

What is Bright Lights?

A summer learning adventure.

What do we do at Bright Lights?

Learn and have fun.

Who am I at Bright Lights?

A Shining Star!

Support Bright Lights!

Your tax deductible donation assures another child the opportunity to discover their passion through a Bright Lights class.



[See recent donors](#)

Planned Giving

Bright Lights [Celestial Club](#)
Through a planned gift during lifetime or at death, you can potentially reduce estate and income taxes while helping to educate generations of children for years to come!

Every day of Bright Lights class this summer we began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by this chant. As a new member of the staff I was pleased that we honor the program with the Pledge. In our grown-up lives, there are not many times that we begin our day with the Pledge. Most offices, hospitals, retail stores or any other businesses don't take time in the morning routine to have everybody rise and face the flag to pledge their allegiance to our country. I assume most places do not even fly a flag. But it is something we are teaching Bright Lights children to know, respect, and reverence. I am proud of this.

I also have great pride in our chant. Simple, easy words to remember. But the statement they make is powerful. What is Bright Lights? What do we do at Bright Lights? The most important question and attitude is the last - Who am I at Bright Lights? **A SHINING STAR!**

A SHINING STAR! This summer we initiated a shining star certificate. We encouraged teachers and classroom assistants to "catch" students doing something positive. Every week our

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bulletin boards were full and overflowing with all of the shining star certificates. When parents came to Friday open house the kids were anxious to show off their star on the board. We acknowledged and bragged about that child accomplishing something or impacting someone in a positive way. They were told that what they do makes a difference and they matter to us. All 1,554 students this summer are our **SHINING STARS!**

Linda Birkes-Lance

Executive Director

STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR NIGHT LIGHTS, SEPTEMBER 25



Why should kids have all the fun? In its 6th year, Night Lights gives adults a chance to experience what the Bright Lights summer learning program is all about.

Classes are fun, hands-on, and noisy! A Night Lights class can teach you how to grill the ultimate game day spread or prepare a cocktail that will 'WOW' your guests at your next tailgate. Learn how to "app" up your iGadget, or paint and decorate your very own door décor.

All of the proceeds are used to support the summer-time Bright Lights program. Event sponsors Firespring, Bettenhausen Insurance Services, U-STOP and CHI Health St. Elizabeth kicked off the fundraising!

Night Lights is this Friday, September 25th, 6:30 p.m. at Firespring, 1201 Infinity Court. Registration is \$50 per person which includes a hands-on class, appetizers, desserts, and a cash bar. Don't miss the fun!

For more information about Night Lights, visit www.brightlights.org/nightlights or contact Linda at 402-420-1115 ext. 41 or lbirkeslance@brightlights.org.

INVITATION TO SHARE IN SUMMER LEARNING

Night Lights is the kick off to the celebration of the 30th program year of Bright Lights. During this year we plan numerous opportunities to share Bright Lights' growth in Lincoln. We celebrate the changes from the early beginning of programming 28 teachers and 231 students at someone's kitchen table to where we are now.



As a highly respected non-profit organization, Bright Lights

continues to require philanthropic assistance from our many friends and supporters. Our fall direct mail's shiny blue envelope in your mailbox signals the time is now to provide for next summer's program. I hope you will consider making a gift this year through one of our options.

A **Classroom Sponsor** assists in providing the many needs of having an active classroom for one week including the teacher's salary, supplies for the projects the students create, and renting the classroom space.

Perhaps you want to be one of our many **Scholarship donors** that provide program fees for children that might not be able to attend class otherwise. We have students that attend from all over Lincoln that receive assistance because their school counselors know that they are on a free or reduced lunch program at their school. That is the perfect child for your gifts to help.

General Fund is a key component to ensuring the entire program runs smoothly. The staff works all during the school year in our office at 5561 South 48th Street. We recruit previous and new teachers, contact and schedule the classroom assistants, set up the classes and prepare the brochure informing of the opportunities for kids, order summer program T-shirts, meet with our Board of Directors, and do many fundraising activities. Three weeks in the summer take a great deal of planning throughout the rest of the year.

This year we have a new category of our **Wish List**. There are always items we need that are beyond the budget we have. Computers need to be replaced, new equipment is needed for our Robotics classes and day-camp, along with other items that we want to initiate as changes beginning in this special year.

Please consider a special gift to Bright Lights this year. If you wish you can make a [gift now](#) and make a difference in a child's life next summer. Thank you.

SUGGEST A TOPIC OR TEACHER

Fun. Creativity. Learning.

We are currently working on plans for summer 2016 classes.

Do you know someone who has a passion for teaching students during the summer, helping them to avoid the "summer slide" (losing information and skills learned during the school year)? Bright Lights may be a perfect match for them. Please tell us about someone that you feel would be a great teacher of a Bright Lights class. Our teachers do not

need to be certified, they just need to have an interesting topic to teach and the desire to share their knowledge with eager summer learners.

We are also asking for class topic ideas. What are your kids into? What do you think would make a good Bright Lights class topic? We can't use all ideas, but we consider them all!

Send all recommendations to:
teacherrecruit@brightlights.org.

BRIGHT LIGHTS - SUMMER 2016

Main Site: Holmes Elementary School
5230 Sumner St

June 6-10...June 20-24...July 11-15

brightlights.org



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