

September 2016 Newsletter

The Bear Facts

Dear Parents,

In the blink of an eye summer has flown by. BHP CNS is thrilled to have over 185 children enrolled for the 2016-2017 school year. We are all excited for a school year filled with playing, learning, and growing!

Some summer highlights include:

- Redesigning our classroom spaces. Beginning last spring we worked with a consultant on how to optimize our classroom spaces. We've created wonderful new learning centers and layouts in the classrooms. We hope you and your child like our "new" look.
- New windows that have transformed our classrooms. We now have insulated windows and window screens in each room.
- New furnishings have been assembled and placed into classrooms. They include: 3 reading nooks, 2 easels, 2 storage units, 5 bookcases, 1 play kitchen, 1 kitchen hutch, 4 presentation carts, 11 classroom tables, 4 craft tables, 4 sandboxes, 3 cabinets, a file cabinet, and 4 picnic tables.
- There are new classroom rugs in every room.
- Rooms 107, 105, 103, and the Rainy Day Room have been painted.
- New classroom supplies and equipment has been purchased, including many STEM products. I love the new light tables!
- The snack closet has been rebuilt with Elfa to store our snacks and paper supplies.
- The grounds surrounding the school, playgrounds, parking areas were cleared of weeds and mulched. It required over 60 man hours to beautify the property.
- New door handles and locks on all the classroom doors.

Communication is vital to the success of our school and your child's experience here. To stay in the know join our Facebook page friend's page and like our Facebook business page, join our Yahoo Group, and be sure to read the updates sent by the office and your child's teacher.

Pop by or call the office or email any time you have a question.
Thank you for sharing your child with BHP CNS.

Liz
Liz Sobrino
Director BHP CNS



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 17



Our annual Back to School Picnic, sponsored by the Parents' Group will be on September 17th, between 4:30 and 6:30 pm at the playgrounds and field outside the school building. There will be a bounce house, yummy food, and lots of fun. Rain location will be Memorial Hall.

Join new friends and old for a wonderful BHP CNS tradition.

We ask that:

2's families bring a dessert to share.

3's families bring a side dish to share.

4's families bring a main to share.

For families with multiple children, bring a dish based on your oldest child's age!

The Parents' Group provides paper goods, and drinks.

Volunteers will be needed to help with set-up and clean-up. Details will be sent out soon.

Bring a blanket to spread on the ground! Twos families will gather by the red balloons. 3's will gather by the blue balloons. 4's will gather by the yellow balloons. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

BHPCNS PARENTS' GROUP

BHPCNS is extremely fortunate to have an amazing Parents' Group to organize social events, sponsor our spirit wear, plan community events, coordinate our fund raisers, and so much more. The Parents' Group is completely run by volunteers. All families of BHPCNS are automatically members of the Parents' Group. There are no fees or additional commitments to families. If you would like to volunteer your time and talent to the Parents' Group, watch for more information in the coming weeks. Each month they will share their news in this space.

Exciting events to look forward to include, Back to School Picnic, Pizza Dinners with Entertainment, Donuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom, and some fun events for just parents too!

For the 2016-2017 the Parents' Group Co-Presidents are Ashley Schneider and Mary Dunmire. Ashley may be reached at absilver@comcast.net and Mary's email is Mary.E.Dunmire@gmail.com.

The Parents Group is looking for volunteers to help with the Back to School picnic. If you are available please contact them. Thank you in advance.

BHPCNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I am Julie Hunter, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Nursery School. My daughter attended BHPCNS. I hope that your children have as great an experience as she did. The Board is responsible for establishing the overall direction of the Nursery School as well as the selection of the Director who is responsible for day to day management of the school. Our members include Liz as Director of the nursery school as well as current and past parents of children in the nursery school and church members. Additionally, there are several ex-officio members consisting of 2 staff members of the nursery school, the Director of Education Ministries for the church, and the Treasurer of the nursery school. We share a commitment to continuing BHPCNS tradition of excellence.

Our meetings are typically the first Monday of each month between 7:00 and 9:00 pm. All members of the BHPCNS community are welcome to attend. If you have an item for the agenda we ask that you notify Liz at Lsobrino@bhpcns.org or myself at bjahunter@aol.com two days prior so we may include your request in our agenda.

TALKING WITH CHILDREN ABOUT SCARY STUFF IN THE NEWS

**Talking with Your
Children &
Grandchildren
About Scary Stuff in
the News**



Talking with Your Children About Scary Stuff in the News

Thursday September 22 at 7:30pm in the Lounge

With terrorism, zika, racial and religious division and violence and other issues in the news, this is a challenging time. Join our new Pastoral Counselors Caroline Bernhardt-Lanier and Tory Joseph, professional counselors and Certified Parent Educators with the Parent Encouragement Program, for a discussion of talking with our young people about the challenging things we are hearing in the news. This will be our first in a series of family and intergenerational focused resources and classes this year.

RSVP to Pastor David Gray at david@bradleyhillschurch.org.

THE COMMUNITY AT BHPCNS

BHPCNS shares the building with the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, BHPC, and The Friends Club: a support group of men with early onset Alzheimer's and The Bethesda Jewish Congregation, BJC.

BHPCNS will be closed on October 3 and October 13 for BJC's celebration of their high holidays.

BHPCNS ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES & UPDATES

Tuition Payments:

Payments are due the first of each month, Sept.-May, and are considered late if not received by the 15th of the month. If your payment is not received by the 15th, a 10% late fee will be assessed.

Automated Bill Payer System:

If you have set up an automated “bill payer” system, include the words Nursery School on the check to make sure your payment is received at the Nursery School and not deposited with the Church’s donations by mistake.

Classroom and Office Email Communication:

By now, you should have received at least one email from your child’s classroom teacher. If you have not received an email, please email your child’s teacher so they may capture your email address. (Occasionally messages land in spam/trash folders.) BHPCNS staff emails all follow the same format. The teacher’s first initial and last name at BHPCNS. Example: Lsobrino@bhpcns.org.

Student Records:

We will be doing a thorough check of all our student’s records. We will notify you of any missing paperwork, immunizations, etc. We ask that you submit any missing paperwork promptly. We appreciate your help in making sure our records are compliant with state regulations.

Healthy Kiddos:

BHPCNS is committed to keeping children healthy. This year it is especially important that we all are committed to keeping everyone healthy. We have a family with a child with a compromised immune system. Working together we can keep this little one and all our students healthy.

If your child is not feeling well, please keep them home, and call BHPCNS’s office to let us know that they will be out. We have a 24 hour fever free, vomiting free, rule and ask that you abide by that timeline.

Here at school we are:

- Asking you to wash your child’s hands with soap and warm water before coming into the classrooms. Hand sanitizer is available but is not as effective as washing with soap and water.
- We will be cleaning and disinfecting classroom surfaces and toys regularly.
- Asking you to have your child vaccinated against the flu annually.
- We will be reimbursing teachers for flu vaccinations for all teachers and staff.

Label all Belongings:

PLEASE label all your child’s belongings, jackets, tote bags, lunch bags, anything that bring to school should be labeled with your child’s name. You would be amazed at how many children don’t recognize their own belongings and how many children have the same jackets, and bags.

School Directory:

The school directory will be coming home in the middle of October. Please make sure you have verified your contact information with your child’s teacher ASAP. If you have a change in address or phone number we ask that you notify the office immediately so we may update our records.

School Snacks:

BHPCNS has a school wide snack schedule. A calendar of the snack schedule is posted on the bulletin board outside the office and on our website. You may request a hard copy from the office. We serve 2 of each of the following food groups daily:

- A protein, i.e. organic vanilla yogurt, string cheese, etc.
- A fruit or vegetable, i.e. apple slices, carrot sticks, grapes, etc.
- A carbohydrate, i.e. graham crackers, gold fish, etc.

Children's Lunches:

BHPCNS provides organic 1% milk at lunch each day. Children are offered a choice of milk or water at lunch time. You do not need to pack a drink with your child's lunch.

Please pack healthy, nutritious lunches for your children. BHPCNS teachers are not allowed by our licensing agency to make the children eat their "growing" foods first. If you pack a cookie and your child wants to eat that instead of their sandwich, we are technically not allowed to have them eat their sandwich first.

Children's lunches should be foods children are familiar with and should be cut into appropriate sized servings. Sandwiches cut into quarters are much easier for little ones to eat. Gogurts are not permitted at nursery school. We send home any easily wrapped, uneaten lunch foods. Uneaten yogurts, apple sauce cups, etc. will be tossed out. Lunch is a social time. Children like to talk and share their lives at lunch. Sometimes this gets in the way of eating their whole lunch. Don't worry as your child settles into school they will eat more of their lunch.

Donations: Before you throw it out donate it to BHPCNS

- We participate in the Ronald McDonald House Pop Tab Recycling Program. Pull off those tabs from your soda cans, cat food cans, and other cans that have one. When you've got a bunch, bring them to school and we will send them off!
- BHPCNS also collects used ink cartridges to be recycled. Drop yours by the office.
- Baby food jars are always needed to hold paint, push pins, etc. Please drop yours by the office.
- Large oatmeal canisters to be crafted into drums.
- We can never have too many toilet paper or paper towel rolls.
- And you wouldn't believe how much newspaper we can use each month.

If your family can donate any of these items, we'd be thrilled to collect them in the office from you.

Parent's Bulletin Boards:

Across from the office is the BHPCNS' bulletin board. This space is updated regularly with our school monthly calendar, children's birthdays, and flyers about school events.

A second bulletin board by the bathrooms is used to share flyers about community programs that may be of interest to families. Please check these board occasionally.

BHPCNS Open Door Policy:

If at any time you have a concern or praise for something that is happening at BHPCNS, please stop by the office to share your thoughts. Without your input we don't know where we need to improve or what we are doing correctly. We value and all input😊

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Landon Schneider
Colin O'Keefe
Luke Maloney
Phoenix Van der Horst
Amelia Gogarty
Max Gensch
Lucy Ganiats
Amy Ganiats



Peyton Sternberger
Aiden Gulati
Jude Nelson
Demi Markogiannakis
Sydney Ayers
Gabriel Figura
Ruka Funatsu

Reminder: When sending in birthday treats, please send in **small** cupcakes, mini muffins, fruit kabobs, etc., keeping classroom food allergies in mind. We share birthday treats at snack time! There is a snack ingredient form outside the office. Please complete this form so we can be aware of any possible allergic complications. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or the office.

ALERT MONTGOMERY

Montgomery County has an Alert system that sends you texts or emails in the event of an emergency. You can customize the system to send alerts only about items that interest you. I strongly recommend signing up for this alert system to receive messages about Montgomery County Public Schools school closings. BHP CNS follows MCPS with regard to delayed openings, and school closings.

To register to have alert messages emailed or texted to you go to:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832009#/login> to set up your account.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES

September 16: Red day in the 4s' classes. Details to follow from your teacher. All ages are welcome to wear red!

September 17: Back to school picnic between 4:30 and 6:30

September 19: Early Morning, Lunch Bunch, and Stay and Play Programs begin

September 23: Yellow day in the 4s classes. Details to follow. All ages are welcome to wear yellow.

September 29: Back to School Night

7:00 to 7:30 pm Tuesday/Thursday classes

7:45 to 8:15 pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes and Monday through Friday classes

(Times are tentative and may change. Classroom teachers will share more information.)

October 3 and October 12: BHP CNS closed

