

## February 2021 Newsletter

# The Bear Facts

Celebrating 63 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

Happy FeBEARary as we are calling February at BHP CNS! I hope you and your children had a wonderful time playing in the snow.

Lots has been happening at BHP CNS to prepare for our reopening in April, Summer Camp programs, and for the school year starting in September. One of the biggest tasks at hand is getting our enrollment numbers figured out.

Programs are filling up. If you have not registered your child, please get their registration information to us ASAP. If you have friends or family who are considering having their child(ren) attend any of the BHP CNS' programming, ask them to contact the office now for more details and to arrange a tour. We are currently offering tours to individual families.

**Spring Term (April 6-June 16):** There are limited openings in most of the spring term classes.

**Summer Camp (June 21-July 1 and July 6 – 16):** Enrollment is rolling. We have space for more children. Cousins, friends, neighbors, are welcome to attend camp. You do not need to be a BHP CNS student to attend camp.

**2021-2022 School Year:** Several programming options have been modified and the sooner an application is received the more likely your child will be accepted into your first program of choice.

**NEW for 2021-2022 – Transitional Kindergarten (Details on page 4.)**

For families who have applied for the 2021-2022 school year program, acceptance letters were mailed home in late January. If you did not receive your child's acceptance letter, please contact the office and we will mail you another letter. If you have questions regarding your child's placement, contact the office. To confirm your child's space, **deposits are due February 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

As we prepare to reopen, please know you are welcome to reach out to me with questions and concerns about our programming plans, your child's transition back to school, developmental concerns, etc. Send me an email at [Lsobrino@bhpcns.org](mailto:Lsobrino@bhpcns.org) and we can schedule a Zoom call or telephone call to get your questions answered.

Liz Sobrino - Director BHP CNS



### COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AT BHP CNS

We are continuing to monitor CDC, the state of Maryland, Montgomery County, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, for our school's COVID protocols. As the guidance is updated, BHP CNS will revise its protocols. The revisions will be shared with families and updated [on the website](#).



### Working Together will be the Key to a Safe and Successful School Re-Opening!

For the school's upcoming programming to be safe and successful, it will be imperative for the school and our families to be

- honest and forthcoming
- extra, extra cautious, with regard to possible exposures
- follow quarantine guidelines
- notify the school of any potential exposures
- share any travel plans, **see page 5 for travel protocols**
- and **keep children home when sick.**

Thank you for your support!



Did you know that BHCNS has an AmazonSmile account? To take advantage of this amazing fundraising opportunity simply go to **smile.amazon.com** from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. Then select **Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church** - you only need to select the school once! Be sure to visit smile.amazon.com for BHCNS to receive a portion of the proceeds on every purchase made!

As always, thank you for the support, and stay warm!

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NEWS FROM THE BHCNS BOARD

Happy FeBEARary One and All,

- We are excited to announce our new **Transitional Kindergarten** Program for the 2021-2022 school year. The program provides a bridge for children who would benefit from an additional year of preschool before beginning kindergarten. Liz has shared additional details in this newsletter and on the school website. She is available to discuss this new program with interested families.
- Registration for the Spring Term, Summer Camp programs, and the 2021-2022 School Year are underway. If you haven't already enrolled your child, please do so as soon as possible. We need accurate student counts to plan our programming. If you have friends or family who are interested in our programs, please have them contact the office for more information about the programs and how to register.
- If you have other feedback for us, please contact us at [Board@bhpcns.org](mailto:Board@bhpcns.org) to get more details or fill out an anonymous form on the Board portion of the school website.



Happy Valentine's Day and enjoy the Long Presidents' Day Weekend!

Missy Banashak, BHCNS Board Chair

BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church News**

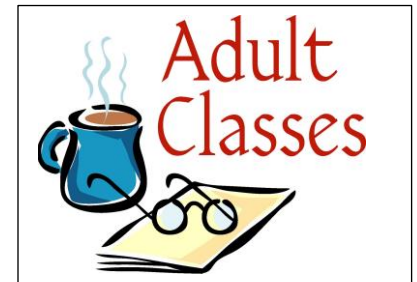
Lent begins in February this month, and we will begin the season on Ash Wednesday, February 17. We also invite you to hear from our very interesting series of speakers for Adult Education.

**Ash Wednesday** - On February 17, Ash Wednesday, we are planning to have a **5:30 p.m. Outdoor Family Service** around our new fire pits. This event is weather and COVID numbers dependent. More information will be available the week before. Please contact Matt Nabinger at [matt@bradleyhillschurch.org](mailto:matt@bradleyhillschurch.org) to let him know you will be coming. We will also have a **Virtual Service at 7:30 pm** that evening. You may pick up ashes for the service at the church office after noon on the 17<sup>th</sup>.



**Weekly Church Services** - We are still holding Virtual Worship Services at 10:30 am on Sundays at the link: [Watch Services Live Click Here](#)

**Adult Education** – On Sunday mornings at 9:15 via Zoom, join us for the following interesting speakers:  
[Click here to join the Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 857 6618 3170  
You may also call in at (301) 715-8592



**February 7:** Dr. Mitzi Smith, J. Davison Philips Professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary – [Lynching and the Crucifixion: Interpreting the Bible for Justice](#). Dr. Smith is the first African American woman to receive her PhD in New Testament from Harvard University. Her books include [Womanist Sass and Talk Back: Social \(In\)Justice, Intersectionality and Biblical Interpretation \(2018\)](#), [Insights from African American Interpretation \(2017\)](#), and [Toward Decentering the New Testament \(with Yung Suk Kim, 2019\)](#) Be prepared to have some of your perceptions challenged.

**February 14:** Ralph Buglass, Montgomery History – [Segregation in Montgomery County](#). Education, denied to slaves, was one of the highest priorities of emancipated African Americans following the Civil War. Public education was not extended to Montgomery County's Black children until a decade after it was instituted for White children. Even then, "separate but equal" schools meant anything but equal, and it was not until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century that Montgomery County had a no Black high school was built until well into the 20th century. A surprising number of our African-American schools still exist, including several erected through a partnership between Booker T. Washington and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald.

**February 21:** Adam Rothman, Georgetown Professor of History, Georgetown University – [Restitution as Resolution to Slavery](#). Professor Rothman's most recent book is [Beyond Freedom's Reach: A Kidnapping in the Twilight of Slavery](#) (Harvard University Press, 2015). He served on Georgetown's Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation in 2015-2016, and is the principal curator of the [Georgetown Slavery Archive](#). He was a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress in 2018, where he created the [African-American Passages: Black Lives in the 19th Century](#) podcast.

**February 28:** Officer Dana Stroman, Montgomery County Police Department -- [Community Policing in a Diverse Community](#). Officer Stroman is the Community Outreach Officer for MCPD's Second District, which includes Friendship Heights, Chevy Chase, Bethesda, North Bethesda, and Potomac. She has more than two decades of experience in community policing, a public safety "best practice" that uses community partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address crime, the fear of crime, and other social disorders.



## **Transitional Kindergarten at BHCNS**

BHCNS has developed a transitional program specifically geared to those children who meet the age-eligibility for Kindergarten, but would benefit from another year in a play-based, developmentally appropriate, nurturing atmosphere. Transitional kindergarten (TK) at BHCNS is designed to give children who have already completed a Pre-K or four-year-old preschool program an additional year of preparation, providing the gift of time as they continue to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Transitional kindergarten students are challenged with kindergarten-level instruction in the core subjects of language arts, math, science, and social studies. They enjoy rich peer-to-peer social interactions, role playing, and group discussion centered on social skill development. During this year, independence is fostered as students master foundational concepts needed to thrive in a kindergarten classroom.

### **Benefits of Transitional Kindergarten Include:**

#### **Academic Preparedness**

Increased literacy, language, and math skills as a child transitions to kindergarten

#### **Executive Function Skills**

Fostering positive behaviors such as self-control, flexibility, independence, and organization that are vital for successful learning.

#### **Individual Attention**

With a small class size, students benefit from one-on-one attention from teachers and staff.

#### **Successful Transitions**

Students move onto kindergarten with confidence to succeed and grow throughout their childhood and educational years.

### **Eligibility Requirements for BHCNS' TK Program**

TK is for students who are age eligible for Kindergarten (age 5 on or before September 1, 2021) and are looking for a bridge year between preschool and kindergarten.







**MD State Travel Emergency Order:** On December 10, 2020, Gov. Larry Hogan issued an emergency order requiring Marylanders to limit all travel to essential purposes only. All Marylanders who do travel outside of Maryland or any individuals who do travel to Maryland must either obtain a negative COVID-19 test result or self-quarantine for 10 days. This applies to all states, with the exception of Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, DC. Read the [governor's order](#) and the [MDH health directives](#).

Based on the Governor's order and the latest information available, BHPCNS has implemented the following travel policy for all families and staff.

**Out of State Travel:** Any out of state travel, except for those states listed above, requires a Negative COVID-19 test after returning home or a 14-day quarantine to return to BHPCNS.

**Returning to BHPCNS Programming after Traveling:** After traveling and upon your return to MD, you must follow one of the 2 options listed below, before your child may return to programming.

**Option 1:** Your child(ren) must:

1. quarantine for 4 days
2. be tested for COVID on their 5<sup>th</sup> day home, with a PCR test
3. have their results shared with the school prior to returning to campus
  - a. If the results are negative, the child(ren) may return to programming.
  - b. If the results are positive, the child(ren) will not be allowed to return to programming until their doctor provides written notice the child(ren) may return to school.

**Option 2:** Your child(ren) must:

1. quarantine at home for 14 days.  
After 14 days if your child has not experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, parents are to contact the office and you child may return to programming.

**Hosting Out-of-Town Guests:**

We ask if you are hosting out-of-town guests or family members visit your home, you apply the same level of caution as outlined in either Option 1 or Option 2.

**On-site COVID Testing at BHPCNS:**

The school is investigating providing on-site, COVID-19, PCR testing one or two days a week for the staff members to be tested weekly. Should we opt to bring testing on-site, anyone in the community, who wishes to be tested, will be able to sign up for a test. Full details to follow in the coming weeks.

**Staff COVID-19 Vaccinations:**

While not a requirement to return to work, all BHPCNS staff have been strongly encouraged to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine roll-out process in MD has not been the smoothest. As the kinks get worked out, we hope the majority of our staff to be vaccinated by the time school resumes in April or thereabouts.

## FEBREARY SING ALONGS!

Come one! Come All! To the February BHCNS Outdoor Sing Alongs on 2-18 and 2-19



Please join, Ms. Casey, Mrs. McCauley and Mrs. Sobrino to sing about Love, Black History Month, Presidents' Day and Winter! Full details are on SignUp Genius! Start practicing your songs and get ready to sing, [click here to sign up](#).

**DONATIONS NEEDED:** We ask that you bring baby diapers and diapering products which are desperately needed for Arcola Elementary School in Silver Spring, a partner with BHCNS & BHCNS to help those in need.



Practice Zoom Sessions for Sing Alongs will be Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. each day.

February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. [Click here to join meeting](#).

Meeting ID: 753 0743 4568 Passcode: sing

February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. [Click here to join meeting](#).

Meeting ID: 790 4624 6267 Passcode: sing

Reminders will be sent out as we get closer to the dates. We hope you will join us for the fun!

## WHY CROSSING THE MIDLINE IS IMPORTANT

Have you ever wondered, "What is crossing the midline and why is it important?" Here's a brief description and a link to the entire article. The term crossing midline is often used to describe the skill of moving your arm or leg across the imaginary line down the middle of your body. You'll see this term used a lot by Occupational Therapists and other professionals when they are working with children who have a decrease in fine motor skills, gross motor skills, or handwriting problems. [Click here for the whole article](#).



Here are Crossing the Midline Activities for Kids of All Ages:

1. Playing with rhythm scarves (we do this in Creative Movement and in our Music classes)
2. Playing with blocks (stacking)
3. Dancing to music
4. Dusting or sweeping
5. Playing patty-cake
6. Playing with cars on a large path
7. Playing flashlight tag
8. Washing the car
9. Painting with a large roller
10. Completing cross crawls (touching hand to opposite foot or knee)
11. Wiping off a table with a towel using one hand
12. Throwing a water balloon or bean bag or ball at a target
13. Drawing a large figure 8 on a chalkboard or sidewalk
14. Playing Simon Says
15. Playing Twister

## IS THERE A RISING KINDERGARTENER IN YOUR HOUSE?



**Kindergarten is a big step in every child's school career.**

Given the current public health crisis many alumni and current families are exploring both public and private school options for their children. Within the BHP CNS community there are families whose children attend an array of private programs such as St. Jane de Chantal, St. Bartholomew, Our Lady of Mercy, The Woods Academy, Brookwood School for Girls, Stone Ridge, Norwood School, Primary Day School, Bullis School, St. Andrews, Washington Episcopal School, are just a few of the many programs offering private-kindergarten options. If you choose to explore the private school options, contact these schools as soon as possible to inquire about your child attending. BHP CNS will provide any supporting information requested to complete a child's application.

Montgomery County Public Schools, MCPS, needs to know if your child will be attending one of their schools in the fall. To register your child, call your local elementary school. It is very helpful to the elementary schools to know the number of children attending for next fall as soon as possible. Based on projected enrollments your child's elementary school may need to add another class, add another teacher, increase class size, and/or close a class. While your child won't start school until September, the elementary schools are already making their staffing projections for the fall.

Local MCPS Elementary Schools and their phone numbers:

Ashburton: 240-740-1300

Bannockburn: 240-740-1270

Bethesda: 240-204-5300

Bradley Hills: 240-204-5210

Burning Tree: 240-740-1750

Carderock Springs: 240-740-0540

Rosemary Hills: 301-9209990

Garrett Park: 240-740-0700

Kensington Parkwood: 240-740-3700

Seven Locks: 240-740-0940

Wood Acres: 240-740-1120

Wyngate: 240-740-1080

Bells Mill: 240.740.0480

Beverly Farm: 301-469-1050

Richie Park: 301-279-8475

Westbrook: 240-740-1040

Somerset: 240-740-1100

When contacting your local elementary school ask if they are hosting any informational kindergarten meetings for parents. Several schools offer virtual tours to give you an overview of their school.

For more information about MCPS and Kindergarten, visit the MCPS website by clicking [here](#).

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

**Happy  
Birthday  
to Our  
Cubs!**

Ayan Garg  
Toby Miksatko  
Iris Brown  
Jasper Kimball  
Desi Kimball  
Ikuto Yoshitake  
Poppy Nash  
Gabriel de Raet  
Jude Rice



Ellie Barrett  
Lily Pratt  
Maddon Schneck  
Emily Walker  
Addison Sellers  
Charlie Cassidy  
Taylor Tugberk  
Arthur Alafoginis