

# March 2021 Newsletter

## *The Bear Facts*

Celebrating 63 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

**Reopening:** The past 12 months have been unlike any other in the history of BHCPCNS. This newsletter brings us full circle from when we closed our program last March to our reopening in just 5 weeks. The entire BHCPCNS staff and I are so excited to be reopening our doors and returning to some semblance of normalcy on April 6<sup>th</sup>. We are expecting over 125 children and 30 staff members to be part of our Spring Term. To the families who are new to our program, we cannot wait to meet you and your children. To our returning families, we are looking forward to seeing how much you've grown. To the families maintaining their bubbles and pods, or have moved onto other programs we will miss you and hope you will come and play on the playgrounds☺ **Reopening information is on page 4.** I have tried to address many of the questions I have been asked of late. Parent Orientation will be another opportunity to ask questions. The full BHCPCNS COVID-19 Protocols can be reviewed by [clicking here](#). Revisions are in yellow.

**Summer Camp:** Camp planning is well underway. We are currently accepting camp registrations. Camp is open to all children currently enrolled in our 2s' program and ages 3 through rising 1<sup>st</sup> graders. Friends, cousins, neighbors are all welcome. Campers do not need to be currently enrolled BHCPCNS students (with the exception of 2-year-olds). Current students who are not potty trained may attend camp for an additional \$75 fee. [Click here](#) for the camp application. For more details or questions, call the office at 301-365-2909.

**2021-2022 School Year Registration at BHCPCNS:** Classes are filling up. If you haven't registered your child for our fall programming, please do so as soon as possible. We are excited to announce a new **Transitional Kindergarten Program** for children who are taking a "gap year" between pre-K and Kindergarten. More details are on page 7.

**MCPS Kindergarten Sign-Up:** If you have a child who will turn 5 before September 1, 2021, they are eligible to attend Montgomery County Public Schools, MCPS, in September. It's time to register. See information on page 8.

Happy March Everyone!

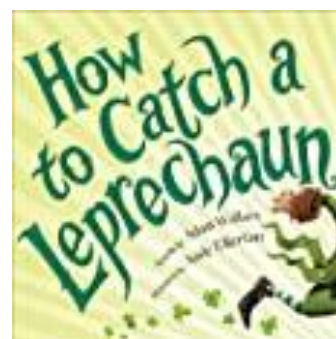
Liz  
Liz Sobrino  
Director BHCPCNS



### ST. PATRICK'S DAY FUN!



St. Patrick's Day is celebrated at BHCPCNS by everyone wearing green and our annual "Can you catch a leprechaun?" activity. This is a fun and easy activity to do at home. Find an old shoebox, some string, pipe cleaners, maybe something golden, markers, etc. and have your child(ren) design a leprechaun trap. Then set your trap and wait to see what happens. We've never caught a leprechaun here but they always come by and mess up our classrooms and leave a surprise!



[Click here](#) for a wonderful book to inspire your leprechaun hunt.

## PARENTS' GROUP NEWS

Hello BHPCNS Families!

We are so excited to see you and your children back on our beloved BHPCNS campus in April! The Parents' Group is busy planning for an exciting return to school. Stay tuned in the coming weeks for information on Bradley Bear totes/lunch box sales, (safely distanced) outdoor gatherings, and other fun events.



**Label Daddy**

**When we return to school all items will need to be clearly labeled with each child's name!**

As you prepare to send your kiddos back to school, don't forget to start labeling all your child's clothing and personal items. With our program moving almost entirely outdoors, your child might be bringing even more items to school than normal (rain jackets/boots, extra masks, etc). We encourage you to label everything you send with your child to avoid lost items! We have an ongoing partnership with Label Daddy, which makes machine washable, stick-on labels that don't require any sewing. LabelDaddy will give you 10% off your order and give 15% back to BHPCNS when you visit their website [labeldaddy.com](http://labeldaddy.com) and enter code **BHPCNS** at checkout.

We can't wait to see you all soon! Please feel free to reach out to either Sarah or Maggie any time with any questions.

Maggie Maloney  
[Maggiewmaloney@gmail.com](mailto:Maggiewmaloney@gmail.com)

Sarah McGovern  
[SarahLothrop@hotmail.com](mailto:SarahLothrop@hotmail.com)

## BHPCNS BOARD REPORT

Happy March! May March roar in like a lion and leave like a lamb!



- 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 Daylight Savings Time!

Missy Banashak, BHPCNS Board Chair



**Spring Forward:  
Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 a.m.  
for an extra hour of daylight!**



There are signs of spring here in early March! Lent has begun and Easter is the first Sunday in April this year.

**Lent Family Services:** Matt Nabinger will lead three family services at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings in Lent (March 14, 21, and 28). We will also have our usual Holy Week services on Palm Sunday, March 28; Maundy Thursday, April 1; Good Friday, April 2; and Easter, April 4.

**Weekly Church Services** - We are still holding Virtual Worship Services at 10:30 am on Sundays at the link below:

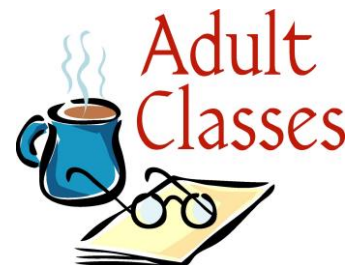
[Watch Services Live Click Here](#)

**Adult Education:** On Sunday mornings at 9:15 am via Zoom, join us for the following interesting speakers:

[Click Here to Join the Meeting Each Sunday](#)

Meeting ID: 857 6618 3170

You may also call in at (301) 715-8592



**March 7, 14, and 21:** Dr. Marcia Riggs, Columbia Theological Seminary – *Reimagining Beloved Community in a Polarized Church and Society*. In this special three-week Lenten series, Dr. Riggs will examine how people of faith respond in an age of protest and polarization. Questions guiding the series will be:

- Why are we so afraid and angry?
- What is moral courage?
- What is moral advocacy?

**March 28 (Palm Sunday):** Father David Grenier ofm, Vicar and Secretariat of the Franciscan Monastery, Washington, DC -- *History and Responsibilities of the Franciscans as Custody of the Holy Land*. What better day to visit the holy sites of Jerusalem than Palm Sunday? Few can offer a tour as authoritative as Father Grenier, who has lived in the Holy Land for several years caring for the sites that are central to our faith.

### **BHPC Service Opportunity:**

Volunteers are needed to provide dinners to the 16-18 men at Dorothy Day Place, a long-term residential facility for single adults suffering homelessness in Montgomery County. For many years, Bradley Hills members and friends have been delivering dinner to the shelter the second Monday of each month. Gourmet cooking is not required, just a wholesome meal, delivered before 5:30 p.m. to the shelter (may be delivered on Sunday for the next day). This is ideal for a family mission project, or a project with another family.

Please sign up using [this link](#), or contact Kate Picard [k8picard@gmail.com](mailto:k8picard@gmail.com) or Jennifer Kline ([Jennkline3019@gmail.com](mailto:Jennkline3019@gmail.com)) for the details and for menu suggestions or directions.



**Cooking Service  
Project for Dorothy  
Day Place!  
Volunteers Needed!**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPRING TERM & CAMP EVENTS

**March 4:** Email from BHCNS Office with Forms and Reopening Information – including Stay and Play, Early Morning and Lunch Bunch Registrations.

**March 15:** Class Lists will be Emailed

**March 18 and 19:** Playground Orientations – Schedule for Individual Classes to Follow

**March 24:** Parent Orientation via Zoom with Liz Sobrino – Parents are asked to attend one session.  
Session 1 at 9:30 a.m.; Session 2 at 1:30 p.m.; Session 3 at 7:30 p.m.

**March 25 and 26:** Zoom calls with Classroom Teachers – Schedule for Individual Classes to Follow

**April 6:** First Day of School for M-F classes & T/Th classes\*

**April 7:** First Day of School for M-W-F classes

**May 24:** Parent-Teacher Conferences for M-F and T-Th classes  
No school for students in M-F and T-Th classes

**May 28:** No Stay and Play Classes Held

**May 31:** School Closed, Memorial Day

**June 2:** Parent-Teacher Conferences for M-W-F classes  
No school for students in M-W-F classes

**June 15:** Last day of Stay & Play

**June 16:** Last day of school for students

**June 21-July 1:** Camp – Session 1: – A Preschoolers Guide to the Galaxy!

**July 6 – July 16:** Camp – Session 2: – Bradley Bear's Beach Bonanza!

\*During the initial, shortened school days, parents will be able to meet on the far side of the building to chat while their child spends an hour.

\*\*calendar may be subject to change



## BHCNS SPRING TERM REOPENING UPDATES

### Parent Orientation with BHCNS Director Liz Sobrino:

At least one parent from each family is required to attend one of our Parent Orientation sessions scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>. Please select the best meeting time for you and add the zoom information to your calendar.

#### 9:30 a.m. Session

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76270850088?pwd=VE05YXM3WDZIVDA1dWtwWkZpRFc1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 762 7085 0088 Passcode: parents

#### 1:30 p.m. Session

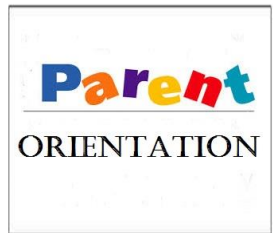
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72019907938?pwd=d0RsWUdxcWsvRWFFZ2VCaXppN29Wdz09>

Meeting ID: 720 1990 7938 Passcode: Parents

#### 7:30 p.m. Session

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79550028883?pwd=U252djJWQll3Ri80M0dlVDVtUVVGUT09>

Meeting ID: 795 5002 8883 Passcode: Parents



### Revised BHCNS COVID-19 Re-Opening Protocols:

[Click here](#) to review revisions made to the BHCNS COVID-19 Re-Opening Protocols. Revisions are highlighted in yellow. New CDC guidelines are expected on March 4<sup>th</sup>. We will share any applicable changes with you.

### Face Coverings/Masks Will be Worn by Everyone: Staff, Children, Parents

All children and staff will be required to successfully wear face masks inside and outside while attending the Spring Term. If your child is having a hard time wearing a mask, please notify the school office at 301-365-2909 as soon as possible. Resources to help a child understand how and why to wear a mask include:

[Pediatrician Mom](#) and [ProMedica HealthConnect](#) and [Healthy Children](#).





## Outdoor Or Indoor Drop-off & Pick Up????

In the event of bad weather an email blast/text blast will be sent with details.



**Outdoors:** BHPCNS plans to hold our school programming outdoors as much as possible. Children will be dropped off and picked up at their outdoor classroom tent each day. At drop off the children will have their temperature taken by their parent or caregiver who is dropping them off. The adult present will complete a series of questions. If the child is cleared to enter programming, they will join their classmates in the tented area.

**Indoors:** If it is pouring down rain, drop-off and pick-up will occur either at a child's classroom or in Memorial Hall. Each classroom will have a specific entry/exit point into and out of the building. Health screenings will be conducted in the hallways prior to entering the classrooms. When indoors all classrooms will have open windows and doors for increased air circulation and ventilation.

Because our programming will be primarily outdoors children need to be outfitted for all kinds of weather. It's important to dress your child in layers, especially as the days become warmer. Each child should have: (links are for reference only – I am not endorsing one product over another)

1. [Rain jacket](#) – shorter jackets are easier for a child to play in than a long rain coat
2. [Waterproof pants](#) or [water proof overalls](#) or [rain suit](#)
3. [Boots](#)- should fit well and preferably tie to stay on
4. [Closed toe sneakers/shoes with socks](#)
5. [Fleece jackets](#) are easier for a child to climb than a coat. Hoods are handy for colder days.
6. [Sweat pants](#) and/or [leggings](#) are much easier to play in than straight legged pants/jeans. **Dresses should always be worn with leggings or shorts underneath.**

Questions, contact the office at 301-365-2909.

## School Supplies

**Each child should bring to school each day:**

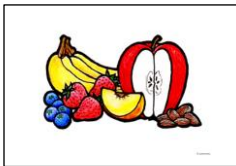
1. Tote bag – No backpacks. Tote bags are easier for a child to use.
2. Water bottle
3. Lunch in a soft sided lunch bag
4. A set of extra clothes
5. Extra masks

The Parents' Group will be selling BHPCNS tote and lunch bags during the first week of school. You DO NOT need to use BHPCNS bags!

**ALL ITEMS MUST BE LABELED WITH A CHILD'S NAME!**

## SNACK AND LUNCH AT BHPCNS DURING SPRING TERM

Snacks and lunches will be eaten outdoors, as the weather allows. Children will be spaced apart and there will be no sharing of food. Should lunch be held indoors, children will be spaced throughout the classroom and will eat facing in the same direction. Full details are available in Re-Opening Protocols.



**SNACKS:** BHPCNS will provide a daily morning snack for all children and a daily afternoon snack for the children who stay for Stay and Play. A snack calendar will be published on our website.

**LUNCHES:** Parents will pack a lunch for their child. Lunches need to be in soft sided lunch bags. Please no bento boxes. Lunches are refrigerated during the morning.

**Lunch at BHPCNS:** Just a reminder that the State of Maryland Department of Education requires us to put out a child's lunch in its entirety. If your child has a cookie or a piece of candy in their lunch bag we are not allowed to tell them to eat their healthy foods first. If you would like your child to eat their "growing" foods first, I'd suggest saving the treat until after school. Reminder: Lunches must be in soft bags. Bento Boxes do not fit in our refrigerators. Thank you.



## CURRENT BHPCNS COVID-19 TRAVEL POLICY & UPDATES



**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.

**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. Slowly, but surely, the majority of the BHPCNS staff has been able to get vaccination appointments and are hopeful the staff will be immunized prior to the start of the Spring Term.



Wishing all our families who celebrate the Easter Season a joyous holiday. If you will be travelling or having house guests we ask that you follow the COVID-19 information outlined above. Thank you in advance.



## **Transitional Kindergarten at BHCPCNS**

BHCPCNS 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 BHCPCNS 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 BHCPCNS' 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.



## IS THERE A RISING MCPS KINDERGARTENER IN YOUR HOUSE?



### MCPS Kindergarten Registration is Happening Now!

MCPS elementary schools need to know if your child will be attending their school in September. To register your child, call your local elementary school. It is very helpful to the elementary schools to know the number of children attending in the 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. These events are a great way to learn more about your child's transition to your neighborhood school. For more information about MCPS and Kindergarten, visit the MCPS website by clicking [here](#). Kindergarten orientation dates are often available on the MCPS website as well. (When I checked on March 1, the website had not been updated for the 2021-2022 school year. However, many of the resources listed will apply for the fall.)

From NAEYC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, 4 Tips Every Kindergarten Teachers Wants You to Know: <http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/4-things-kindergarten-teachers-want-you-know>.

## BHPCNS MARCH BIRTHDAYS

McCully Brown  
Whitney Lunn  
Ellie McGovern  
Veena Hennessey  
Quinn Williams



Connor Dill  
Reid Walk  
Michael Greissing  
Adrian Riquelme

We wish these Bradley  
Bear Cubs a happy  
day!!!!

## THANK YOU- THANK YOU – THANK YOU!!!!

As the excitement builds towards reopening there are many people I would like to thank for their support over the past 12 months. First you, our parent community who have supported our reopening plans. Thank you to Carolyn McCauley, who has worked tirelessly to facilitate a smooth reopening. Thank you to Ken McCauley for designing and building our outdoor storage racks. Thank you to Nancy McCullough for all the amazing new Bradley Bear logos. Thank you to the BHPCNS staff for meeting, meeting, and meeting again to work out all the reopening logistics. Thank you to Jackson Biggs for cleaning, unpacking, packing, classrooms and supplies. Thank you to Ilene Jones and Sandy Kebler for moving our school library. Thank you to the BHPC and BHPCNS Board for their support and guidance in forming our reopening plans.

