

The Bear Facts

Celebrating 67 Years of Early Childhood Education

OCTOBER 2024



Dear Parents,

October is such a wonderful time at Bradley Hills. Our beautiful campus begins to explode with color as our trees change from summer to fall. Gentle winds blow the leaves from their branches while your children love to race around trying to catch them midair. It is cooler outside. It gets dark earlier in the day. We use this change in weather as an illustration to talk about other changes our children might be experiencing - and how these changes make them feel. Giving our children these tools, the ability to put words to how they are feeling, is essential to the connections they make with their teachers, friends, and families. Being able to talk about your feelings can help a child feel understood and reduces frustration, tantrums, and anxiety. Focusing on how we feel is an integral part of BHPCNS' social-emotional programming for our bear cubs!

Breakfast with Bradley Bear, Lunch Bunch, and Stay + Play are off to a great start! If your son/daughter is interested in joining in the fun please <u>register here.</u>

We have many exciting events happening in October! I hope you are able to join us for our Coffee & Connection sessions the week of October 7th thru 11th. This is an opportunity for you to meet with Liz and your child's teachers, ask questions, share thoughts and ideas, as well as get to know other parents in your child's class and age group. More details on page 4.

Our Parents' Group is sponsoring a <u>Potty Training Seminar</u> with Sally Neuberger. She is an expert in ALL things potty. Join us in person at 9:30am or via zoom at 7:30pm on Tuesday, October 22nd to hear advice, expertise, and ask any, and all, toilet training related questions. Friends and neighbors are welcome to attend. More details on page 2.

Seems crazy to start planning for next year, but October is the time. Sibling and New Student Enrollment begins now for our 2025-26 School Year. More details on page 8.

A big thank you to all of our parents who attended Back-to-School Night. Our teachers enjoyed getting to know you better and sharing a typical day here at Bradley Hills. Special thanks to our Parents' Group for providing snacks and drinks for everyone who attended.

As always, a big thank you for sharing your children with us,



Breakfast with Bradley Bear Lunch Bunch Stay+Play



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

October 1st

- Tuition Due
- Back-to-School Night 6:00-8:00pm

October 3rd

NO SCHOOL
 Rosh Hashanah

October 7th & 8th

• <u>2s Coffee & Connection</u> BHPC Gathering Space

October 9th

- Field Trip to Imagination Stage Pre-K classes 102 & 104
- <u>3s Coffee & Connection</u> BHPC Gathering Space

October 10th

- Field Trip to Imagination Stage Pre-K classes 111 & 117
- <u>3s Coffee & Connection</u> BHPC Gathering Space

October 11th

- <u>Pre-K Coffee & Connection</u> BHPC Gathering Space
- Wreath Orders Due
- Hat/Glove Donations Due

October 14th

- Last day to support BJC
 Manna Food Drive
- Speech Screenings

October 15th

• Speech Screenings

October 20th

• <u>Creation Club Fall Clean Up</u> 11:45am-2:00pm BHPC

October 22nd

Potty Training Seminar
 9:15 am in person
 BHPC Covenant Hall OR
 7:30 pm via zoom

October 26th

Trunk or Treat5:00 pm in BHPC parking lot

October 30th

 Halloween Party MWF Classes

October 31st

• Halloween Party TTh & M-F Classes

WEBSITE / FACEBOOK / INSTAGRAM / GOOGLE GROUPS / YOUTUBE













THANK YOU PARENT VOLUNTEERS



The Annual Back-to-School Ice Cream Social was a fun kick off to the start of the school year. It was wonderful to see so many Bradley Bear families and teachers stop by for a cool treat with friends.

The BHPCNS Parents' Group would like to extend a big thank you to parent Jared Rosen and his company, <u>Epic Events</u>, for making the evening extra fun with his photo booth and DJ! Thank you also to all the parents who volunteered their time to help with the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

POTTY TRAINING SEMINAR

Tuesday, October 22nd at 9:30 am in person at BHPC Covenant Hall OR at 7:30 pm via ZOOM

If your child is not potty trained, if potty training is in your future, or if potty training is proving difficult, please join us for our annual parent event with potty training expert <u>Sally Neuberger</u>. Many parents have effectively used her tips over the years to make what can be a tricky process a little easier.

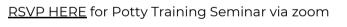
For children in our 2-year-old programs, BHPCNS works with you when it's time to master this skill. For children in our 3-year-old and pre-k classrooms, there is the expectation that your child will be potty trained during the school day. When there are extenuating circumstances our goal is to work collaboratively with you to support your child as they master this skill.



Sally is a font of knowledge on all aspects of early childhood development and is ready to help you in supporting your child with potty training and if time allows other parenting questions.



Attending Sally's seminar is a great way to help every child achieve independence in all aspects of toileting. The sentence about open to the community here...





ONGOING PARTNERSHIPS

Still need labels for your kid's belongings? It's not too late to order and support BHPCNS fundraising efforts from these two great options:



- Enter FUNDRAISEBHPCNS at check out
- 20% off and 15% of proceeds back to the school
- Parents' Group favorite: <u>clothing tag label!</u> small enough to fit onto small clothing tags, but still fits a last name and phone number; ours have survived a lot of washing!

mabels labels

- 20% of sales will benefit BHPCNS fundraising efforts!
- Search for: Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School



JOIN OUR PARENTS' GROUP



Easy access to the BHPCNS Parent network:

Are you hoping to find or suggest a fun class, sports team, childcare recommendation, or other idea to BHPCNS parents?

Click <u>HERE</u> to request to join the BHPCNS Google Group.



It's not too late to get involved!

Let us know!



We are grateful for all the support and have enjoyed getting to meet so many of you these first few weeks.

Thank you!

Amanda Franklin-Munson Cass Price amandanfranklin@gmail.com cass.price@gmail.com



Parents' Group Co-Chairs

BHPCNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Parents,

There are many great things being shared in this newsletter, and we appreciate you taking the time to read this far! The Bear Facts newsletter is helpful for understanding all that is happening and how you can support and enjoy everything that BHPCNS has to offer.

As you navigate the school year and your time at BHPCNS, if we can help in any way please let us know. Whether that is by answering any questions or listening to your feedback about the school to share with the Board. We can be reached at board@bhpcns.org

BHPCNS families are invited to join the fun at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church's Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 26 at 5:30 pm. More information can be found on the church's website at www.bradleyhillschurch.org. You can also contact Rosanna Howard, the church's Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, at rosanna@bradleyhillschurch.org

Have a wonderful Autumn season!

Rosanna Morrison, BHPCNS Board Chair Scott Allshouse, BHPCNS Board Vice Chair



COFFEE & CONNECTION

COFFEE

9:15am-10:30am BHPC Gathering Space

2s



October 7th & 8th February 3rd & 4th April 1st & 2nd

3s



October 9th & 10th February 5th & 6th April 3rd & 4th





October 11th February 7th April 7th

- Ask questions, and share ideas and thoughts.
- Spend time with Liz and your child's teachers.
- Get to know other parents in your child's class and age group.
- Celebrate successes, discuss frustrations, and brainstorm ideas on how to raise your child in today's environment.

PRE-K FIELD TRIP TO IMAGINATION STAGE

Wednesday, October 9th: Mrs. Vargas (102) & Mrs. Barnett (104)

Thursday, October 10th: Mrs. Juhaszne (111) & Mrs. Richards (117)

Everyone's favorite bear from the 100 Acre Wood is surrounded by Christopher Robin, Piglet, Eeyore, Kanga, Roo, Rabbit, and Owl in this delightful and gentle musical. Set during one busy day, there's a Heffalump to catch, Eeyore's tail to find, and a misunderstanding between Rabbit and Kanga to sort out. In the end, friendship and understanding win the day.

Thank you to all parents who have volunteered to chaperone. Show begins at 10:30 a.m. We will start loading up cars at 9:45 a.m. and leave our parking lot by 10:00 a.m. Please wear your Bradley Bear t-shirt.





EARLY INTERVENTION with specially trained therapists can make a tremendous difference in a young child's life. Children's neuropathways are very maliable during the first five years. A speech delay can impede a child's social development and their ability to communicate and play with peers. Early detection and intervention impacts and supports a child's development, play skills, family harmony, and transition to kindergarten.

SPEECH SCREENINGS

Monday & Tuesday, October 14th & 15th

BHPCNS will have a speech pathologist, Tina Gicale, at school to screen children for speech issues. These are brief, 15 minute screenings and not a formal speech assessment.

You can learn more about Tina's practice here.

We will identify children for the screenings using one or more of the following methods:

- 1. ASQ-3 Questionnaires
- 2. Teacher and Specialists Observations
- 3. Parent Requests

If your child has been referred to be screened, you will receive a letter. To have your child participate in the screening process you must sign and return the Permission Slip.

Notify Liz at <u>Lsobrino@bhpcns.org</u> by October 11th, if you would like your child to be screened. Include the reason for the screening and your child's birthdate. Reports will be sent home after the screening with any recommendations.



EARLY INTERVENTION HELPS

"During her final year at BHPCNS, my daughter participated in the speech screening and we ultimately began speech therapy once a week with Tina as a result. These sessions were beyond helpful for so many reasons. First, the little mispronunciations that we thought were cute and endearing, were actually not age appropriate anymore and could impede her ability to read and write if not corrected. Tina came to the nursery school for weekly sessions and communicated with teachers so that we could all work on the same goals together. This was convenient and because the sessions were so fun, my daughter looked forward to seeing Tina at school weekly with no disruption to her schedule. Most importantly, Tina identified potential physical health issues that may be impacting my daughter's sleep and speech. Upon evaluation by our ENT, removal of adenoids and insertion of ear tubes helped prevent hearing loss, improve overall sleep and enunciation as my daughter could hear and breathe properly. We would never have thought to return to the ENT without Tina's consult. My only regret is that we did not elect to do a speech screening earlier during our tenure at BHPCNS. I am a big proponent now of early detection and urge other parents to take advantage of the screening services offered by our wonderful school--whether recommended by a teacher or because you feel there may be a need for a second opinion. As a parent who volunteers to assist with screenings, I can attest that they are fun and quick - in fact, most students want to leave the classroom to participate." -Guinevere S.M. Seaward-Shore

SPEECH & LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Here are some general speech and language milestones that are important for a preschool child to develop to successfully communicate and interact with others. Please note that developmental milestones can vary if a child is exposed to multiple languages.

RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE (Understanding/Listening):

- Follow adult directed activities
- Follow simple and complex directions with minimal redirections
- Know some early developing concepts (body parts, colors, shapes, size, quantity)
- Understand spoken language

EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE (Talking)

- Use a wide vocabulary (nouns, verbs, pronouns, plurals, prepositions, descriptive words)
- Asks and answers questions
- Relates personal experiences

ARTICULATION (Speech Clarity):

- A 2 year old is understood by an unfamiliar listener ~ 50% of the time
- A 3 year old is understood by an unfamiliar listener ~ 75% of the time
- A 4 year old is understood by an unfamiliar listener ~ 90-100% of the time

PRAGMATIC LANGUAGE (Social Skills/ Play):

- Initiate and maintain conversation
- Makes friends and plays with children
- Attends to and participates in group activities
- Engages in pretend play with other children

Any of the below could indicate your child may benefit from a speech and language assessment:

ARTICULATION	EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE	RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE
 Poor speech clarity Difficult to understand during conversation Deleting consonant sounds at the beginning of words Deleting consonant sounds at the end of words Difficulty producing specific consonant sounds Lisp/ "slushy" speech/ Tongue thrust when producing /s/, /z/, "sh", "ch" or "j" after age of 4 	Quiet baby - limited babbling/ jargon Delayed speech Reduced verbal imitation Uses short sentences or sentences with grammatical errors. Limited vocabulary Limited use of phrases/ sentences Difficulty answering Wh-questions Difficulty initiating and maintaining conversation with adults/ peers	 Not responding to his/ her name Easily distracted Not attending to adult directed activities Difficulty following verbal directions Limited understanding of concepts - location, size, colors, quantity Has difficulty understanding who, what, where questions Short attention span

CHRISTMAS WREATH SALES TO BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES

The GFWC Metropolitan Community Club is selling beautiful double-sided balsam wreaths for \$25. These 22" wreaths come with a red bow. All proceeds support local charities.



If you would like to purchase a wreath complete an <u>order form</u> and submit payment - either Cash or Check (checks should be made payable to MCC) to the office by Friday, October 11th.



HALLOWEEN FUN AT BHPCNS

MWF classes will celebrate Halloween on Wednesday, October 30th . TTh and M-F classes will celebrate on Thursday, October 31st .







BHPCNS Classroom Parties are just for our children. Parent volunteers will help classroom teachers coordinate classroom parties with special snacks, paper plates, and napkins. Look for the "Special Snack" sign-up your teacher sent home in brightwheel.

Each class will have a parade and will gather together on the field for a sing-along.

NO COSTUMES PLEASE

Each class will make masks for the children to wear.



Sophia Brecher Lucy Cohen Rogan Allshouse Hobie Hutchins Tyler Harb Uriel Beltran
Brooks Palmer
Benson Donohoe
Anna Auerbach
James Eyler
Maeye Penfold

Kira Treen Luke Sepsakos Malone Case Alexander Edelman Mino Choi

When sending in birthday treats, please send in small cupcakes, mini muffins, fruit kabobs, etc. Keep classroom food allergies in mind. We share birthday treats at snack time! There is a snack ingredient form outside the office and on our website. Please complete the allergen form or send in a list of ingredients so we can be aware of any possible allergens. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or the office.

REGISTRATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

Applications for the 2025- 2026 school year for NEW STUDENTS and SIBLINGS of currently enrolled students are available online at here.



Parent referrals are what have kept our classrooms full for 67 years. We love meeting new families. They are welcome to tour the school and learn more about our program. Please call the office at 301-365-2909.

Children must be 2 years old by September 1, 2025 to be eligible for enrollment at BHPCNS. Siblings are given priority over families new to BHPCNS. Acceptance or Wait List notifications will be sent home in late January 2025.

REGISTRATION FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS

Registration for children currently enrolled at BHPCNS will take place starting Monday, December 2nd, and end Friday, December 6th. Applications will be linked and shared in brightwheel at 10am on Monday, December 2nd. Applications must be submitted between December 2nd and December 6th in order to be given priority enrollment. Acceptance is based on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Please recognize that children currently enrolled in our Cub Club, 2s' and 3s' programs, as well as those children who are enrolled in the Pre-K program, are guaranteed a place; however, it may not be your first choice.

Families will be notified in late January as to their child's placement for the 2025-26 school year.



BHPCNS follows Montgomery County Public Schools with regard to birthdate cut-off dates for admission.

Children must be... 2 by September 1, 2025 to enroll in the 2s, 3 by September 1, 2054 to enroll in the 3s, and 4 by September 1, 2025 to enroll in Pre-K.

2025-2026 PROGRAM OPTIONS



TWO-YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS

2 days: Tuesday & Thursday

3 days: Monday, Wednesday & Friday

5 days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

THREE-YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS

2 days: Tuesday & Thursday

3 days: Monday, Wednesday & Friday

5 days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday



Pre-K PROGRAMS

3 days: Monday, Wednesday & Friday

5 days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

NEWS FROM OUR LIBRARY

"One, two, buckle my shoe. Three, four, close the door." Many of us grew up reciting this popular nursery rhyme. Rhyming is a fun way to play with words and assist language development. The BHPCNS Library has a wonderful collection of over 500 picture books that tell stories through rhyme. Reading rhyming books with your child will help them develop a love of language, recognize repeated sounds, build vocabulary and improve listening skills.

We have many well-loved, classic rhyming books, such as the Llama Llama series (Dewdney) and The Pout-pout Fish (Diesen). The How Do Dinosaurs... series by Janet Yolen are written in delightful sing-song rhyme and also focus on aspects of behavior.





A few other wonderful titles in our rhyming collection include Moody Moody Cars (Kennedy-Moore), I Like This, You Like That (Ashman), Room for Everyone (Khan), and Rooftop Garden (Smith).

Parents, grandparents, and caretakers are welcome to visit the BHPCNS Library. Please see the office staff for assistance if you wish to borrow a book. Please note that a \$10.00 replacement fee will be charged for all lost books.

If you have any library questions, please contact Jan Hauck at jbhauck@bhpcns.org

MEET HEI-HEI & BINGO

They will spend the fall here at BHPCNS. Each classroom will take turns caring for our chickens. They will refresh their water, refill their food, relocate their coop to fresh grass, and collect their eggs to use in cooking projects.

Thank you to all the families who have volunteered to care for our feathered friends on the weekends.



CONSULTANTS AT BHPCNS

Throughout the school year there will be consultants working with BHPCNS staff and students. The consultants may include para educators, speech pathologists, occupational specialists, physical therapists, interns in the early childhood education field, and more. These specialists could be from the Montgomery County Public School system, Montgomery County Social Services, or private practices. It's possible your child will come home and share that there was an extra "teacher" in their classroom. These "extra" teachers will all be approved by the office prior to working in our school. Please let Liz know if you have any questions about consultants at BHPCNS.

STUDENT ABSENCES OR ILLNESS

We share EVERYTHING at preschool. Sometimes, even colds and viruses. The flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccines are an effective way to protect your child from these viruses. Please consider having your child vaccinated. We want to keep our Bradley Bear cubs as healthy as possible.

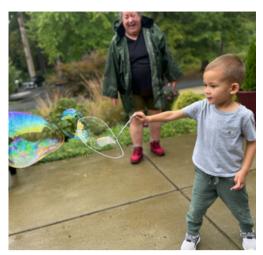
If your child is ill and will be missing school, please call the office, send us an email or a message on brightwheel. If your child has a communicable disease, strep throat, head lice, etc. we need to know to be able to share that information with the rest of the class. Your child will remain anonymous when informing the class. In some cases, we are obligated to share communicable disease information with the Montgomery County Health Department.

OPEN DOOR POLICY AT BHPCNS

BHPCNS Open Door Policy: Thank you to everyone who has popped into the office with a question or concern! If at any time during the school year, you have a concern, complaint, an idea, or suggestion, please email, text, come to the office, or call us. We truly want to know your thoughts. Your ideas, suggestions, and critiques provide us with vital information that we can use to improve our programming. No issue is too small.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

ART (all ages) & SCIENCE (3-year-old and Pre-K) with Mrs. Mac 'N Cheese



The 3 year-old and Pre-K classes had their first science lesson in September and the topic was LIGHT. We answered the questions, "Why is the sky blue?" and "Why can we see rainbows?". After many hands-on, fun experiments with kaleidoscopes, prisms, sun catchers, bubbles and shadow casting, we discovered some of the complicated answers. It was a great first science experience!

Looking ahead to October, we will learn all about scary animals (bats, owls, and spiders) that aren't so scary after all.

In art, our 3-year-old and pre-K classes will blow more bubbles (but this time, tiny ones) to create a beautiful and abstract work of art. While our youngest cubs will paint and press bubble wrap onto paper.

SINGING with Ms. Casey (all ages)

Music is in the air! Fall has officially arrived and with it Singing with Ms. Casey!.We'll kick off this month's music class with songs about the dramatically changing seasons and Ms. Casey's favorite holiday - Halloween! On the playlist are tunes about pumpkins magical metamorphosis into Jack O'Lanterns, falling leaves, sneaky black cats, and how the skeletons inside of us making jumping, running, and dancing possible.

Turn it up to 11 and let's dance the night away!



LITTLE HANDS MUSIC (all ages)



We are excited to have Little Hands Music return to Bradley Hills this year! Their mission is to bring out the song in every child.

Little Hands is an award-winning program offering music and movement classes to children and families in the Greater Washington DC area. We'll dance, sing, play instruments, tell engaging stories, and much more!

STORYTIME in the Library

Throughout the year there will be opportunities for your children to visit the library. Kids will be invited to pick a letter on the big blue rug and circle round. Teachers may choose a book from our growing collection (we have close to 5,000).

Students will then be able to check out a book to take home. Books may be kept for two weeks. Please note that a \$10.00 replacement fee will be charged for all lost books.



We are excited for this new school and church school year! We welcome all who are interested to participate in our **Sunday Church School** and worship, fellowship, family community service, as part of a friendly congregation with lots of families with kids. Please join us for our fall programs for children and families!

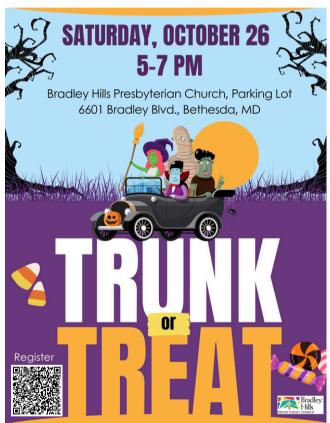
Weekly Church Services. Church School is offered during our weekly 10:30-11:30am service. This is a great opportunity for children (age 3 through grade 5) to make friends and learn about the Christian faith. During service, we offer nursery care for little ones too young to attend church school.

If you or your family are interested in raising children spiritually, Pastor David Gray, whose four children went through BHPCNS, would be happy to connect and to support you.

 $Contact\ him\ at\ \underline{david@bradleyhillschurch.org}.$

Trunk or Treat. This fun family event will be held October 26th at 5:00pm. Kids can come in costume. Families can decorate trunks and pass out candy.







Scan to submit High Holy Day tickets are still available. For the family services, it is only \$36 for the entire family. Tickets can be purchased here: <u>HIGH HOLY DAYS</u>





JOIN BJC AND MANNA TO HELP FIGHT HUNGER IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED OUTSIDE BHPCNS OFFICE

FROM OCTOBER 3RD - OCTOBER 14TH.
THANK YOU!



PLEASE NO ALCOHOL

NO FOODS CANNED/PICKLED/PRESERVED AT HOME
NO FOODS IN SHARPLY DENTED, BULGING, LEAKING, OR RUSTED CANS
NO BULK FOODS THAT HAVE BEEN REPACKAGED

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL PIZZA IN THE HUT FOR SUKKOT ON OCTOBER 18TH.



