

The Bear Facts

Celebrating 66 Years of Early Childhood Education

MAY 2024



Dear Parents,

In May, we celebrate the people we love the most. Thank you to all the amazing moms who are part of the BHPCNS extended community. Thank you to the best staff imaginable. And thank you to the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, our country.

The last day of school is Friday, May 24th. BHPCNS will close on Friday, May 24th after our sing-along and goodbye fun to prepare for camp. We are looking forward to wet and wild water fun as Bradley Bear heads to the Beach for Session 1 starting June 3rd. Session 2 begins on June 17th. There are still a few spots remaining in Session 2 if you'd like to register-but hurry-they are going fast! New this summer, we are offering Cub Club during Summer Camp Sessions. See page 4 for details.

I want to give a special shout-out to our Parents' Group co-chairs, Kaeli Duggan and Cass Price, for all their time, energy, and enthusiasm throughout the year. They have done so much to support our staff and school, create a welcoming community for our parents, help others in need, and organize events we will forever remember. We are excited to welcome Amanda Munson as the new co-chair of the Parents' Group. She will replace Kaeli in the fall of 2024-25 school year.

This will be my last newsletter until September. On behalf of everyone at BHPCNS, I want to thank you for trusting us to provide a loving school environment for your child(ren). We have had an amazing year! We have one last month to play, grow, and learn together. We will miss those families not returning next year and hope they will add BHPCNS to their holiday card list or drop us a note now and again. We love to receive updates from all our alumni families.

For many families, we look forward to seeing you again during summer camp or when school resumes in September. I wish everyone a safe, healthy and fun-filled summer!



Liz Sobrino BHPCNS Director

P.S. Carolyn's last day at BHPCNS is Wednesday, July 31st. Please be sure and stop by the office to wish her well or send her a note and let her know how much you will miss her.

May 1st

• Tuition Due

May 1st-20th

• Field Trips to Woodend Sanctuary

May 6th

- Parent Coffee w/GROWING MINDS
- SLEEP CHALLENGES
- 9:15 am in Gathering Space

May 6th - 10th

• Teacher Appreciation Week

May 12th

• Mother's Day

May 15th

- Dance Recital 1:45 pm in Memorial Hall
- Board Meeting 7:30pm

May 22nd

Summer Send-Off
 5:30-7:00 pm on BHPCNS Field

May 23rd

• Last Day of School Parties for TTh Classes

May 24th

 Last Day of School Parties for MWF & MTWThF Classes Details on page 6

June 3rd - 14th

• Summer Camp Session 1

June 17th - 28th

• Summer Camp Session 2 No camp Wednesday, June 19th

July 31st

• Carolyn's LAST day at BHPCNS

<u> WEBSITE / FACEBOOK / INSTAGRAM / GOOGLE GROUPS / YOUTUBE</u>

STAY CONNECTED











UPCOMING EVENTS

TEACHER /STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

May 8th thru 12th

We're so grateful for their dedication and commitment to our children.

A huge thank you to all Bradley Bear staff
from our parents' group community.

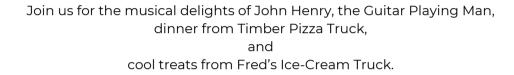
An extra thanks to BHPCNS parent, Kelsey Brown, for handling the coordination of this amazing week.

And thank you to all of our parents who are chipping in! Tell us how you can help <u>HERE</u>.



ANNUAL SUMMER SEND-OFF PARTY

Wednesday, May 22nd from 5:30-7:00pm



Pizza from Timber Pizza will be available for pre-order/purchase..

Order forms coming soon!

Please <u>RSVP</u> - Your help is needed to make this event a success!



SILVER GRAPHICS ORDERS

Father's Day is Sunday, June 16th

To order, follow this link and enter BHPCNS Access Code: BHP23Art



From there, you can upload art and/or photos or select art from your personal account.



SilverGraphics keepsakes are perfect for Father's Day, teacher gifts, grandparent gifts, and special occasions of all sorts! All orders benefit the school and our private shop will be open until June 30, 2024.

BRACKETS with BRADLEY BEAR

Thank you! Together, we raised over \$2,000 towards new flooring in the Rainy Day Room.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS:

Women's Pool: Rob Shore Men's pool: Regina Schweitzer

Winners received an authentic, Roy Hibbert autographed basketball!



BHPCNS PARENTS' GROUP CONTINUED

PJ + BAGEL BREAKFAST

What a wonderful turnout and fun way to start the day!

Special thanks to our parent volunteers, who helped make this event a success.









Thank you parents for a wonderful year! We are grateful for your contributions to fundraising efforts; your attendance and assistance at social, educational and community-building events; your time and energy as room parents; and your generosity and support of our amazing teachers. You are one of the MANY reasons BHPCNS is so special!



Kaeli Duggan

Cass Price

Parents' Group Co-Chairs

kaeli.duggan@gmail.com

cass.price@gmail.com



BHPCNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Parents,

The 2023-24 school year has flown by! Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church joins the BHPCNS Board in thanking the wonderful BHPCNS staff for another great year helping the children you entrust to our care to Play... Grow... Learn.

The last Board meeting for the year will be on May 15 at 7:30 pm. If you have any topics you would like included on the meeting agenda, please contact the Board at <u>board@bhpcns.org</u> Board meetings are open to anyone with notification to the Board Chair through this email address at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Each year, the BHPCNS Executive Board meets with Liz to review her performance over the past year. Parent input is a key component of the review process. Please check your email accounts for an email from the Executive Board with a link to a survey where you can reflect on the 2023-24 school year and share your thoughts. The survey is completely anonymous unless you choose to provide identifying information. Survey results are compiled by the Executive Board and shared with Liz in an aggregate manner without parent names attached. We appreciate you completing the survey by Sunday, May 19.

On Sunday, June 9, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church is recognizing Carolyn McCauley's 28 years as a valued member of BHPCNS. As is true for all Sundays, families are welcome to attend the 10 am worship service and join the church in thanking Carolyn for her service to the school and wishing her a happy retirement.

Best wishes from the Board to BHPCNS families and staff for a summer of rest and time together and new adventures!

Rosanna Morrison, BHPCNS Board Chair Gail Polser-Brown, BHPCNS Board Vice Chair



BHPCNS BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

We are recruiting new Board Members for 2024-25 School Year. The BHPCNS Board is responsible for determining BHPCNS' mission and vision, approving the annual budget, evaluating the BHPCNS Director, recruiting and orienting new board members, setting major policy and other responsibilities required for the smooth operation of BHPCNS. Board Meetings occur every other month. If you are interested in joining the board, please contact Liz.

SUMMER CAMP FOR CUB CLUB





CUB CLUB FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9:00-10:30am with Ms. Colonna



Come and spend the morning with Bradley Bear! This is a great opportunity for both caregivers and children to play with peers in a comfortable setting together.

- Unstructured play
- Storytime
- Music
- Creative Movement
- Arts & Crafts

One caregiver per child. Enrollment will be limited to 10 students. Application available <u>HERE</u>.

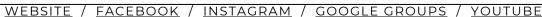
YOUNG TWOS RETURNS IN JANUARY OF 2025!

Mondays & Fridays from 9:00-11:30am

Get excited! We are bringing the Young Twos Program back to Bradley Hills starting January 2025. This class is drop-off and is a great introduction to Bradley Hills for any child who will turn two between September 2, 2024 and December 31, 2024. Enrollment will be limited to 12 students.

Application available <u>HERE.</u>





PARENT COFFEE with GROWING MINDS

Monday, May 6th from 9:15-10:30am

SLEEP CHALLENGES

BHPCNS & GROWING MINDS

Parent Gatherings

MONDAY, MAY 6TH

9:15-10:30AM

BHPC GATHERING SPACE

IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

Sleep impacts alertness and attention, cognitive performance, mood, resiliency, vocabulary acquisition, learning, and memory.



IS YOUR CHILD GETTING **ENOUGH SLEEP?**

A child that's short on sleep can swing between being grumpy and hyperactive. Sleepiness can also affect your child's ability to pay attention.

HAVE YOU ESTABLISHED A BEDTIME ROUTINE?

Research shows that a consistent bedtime routine is helpful for making sure your child gets enough sleep. Try to do the same routine each night in the same order so your child knows what to expect.

SLEEP PROBLEMS

Events like a new sibling, teething, an illness, a new caregiver, a change in schedule, or minor complaints like allergies, colds, and ear infections can all take a toll on your child's sleep.

Join other parents & GROWING MINDS to discuss sleep issues and techniques that encourage healthy sleeping.

All are welcome to attend. Childcare will be provided in the adjoining nursery.



FIELD TRIPS

Woodend Sanctuary

THURSDAY, MAY 2nd

Mrs. Biggs (105) & Mrs. Lakas (108 TTh)

MONDAY, MAY 6th

Mrs. Cardoni (108 MWF) & Mrs. Kebler (113)

MONDAY, MAY 13th

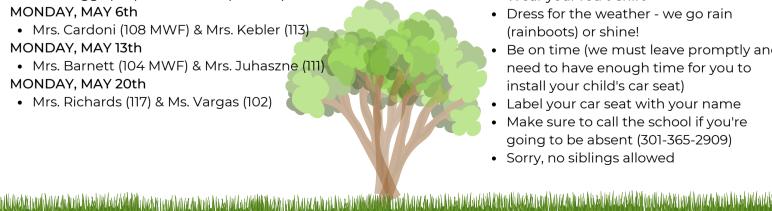
Mrs. Barnett (104 MWF) & Mrs. Juhaszne (111)

MONDAY, MAY 20th

• Mrs. Richards (117) & Ms. Vargas (102)

FIELD TRIP REMINDERS

- Wear your red t-shirt
- Dress for the weather we go rain (rainboots) or shine!
- Be on time (we must leave promptly and need to have enough time for you to install your child's car seat)
- Label your car seat with your name
- Make sure to call the school if you're going to be absent (301-365-2909)
- · Sorry, no siblings allowed



DANCE RECITAL

Wednesday, May 15th at 1:45pm

The Bradley Hills Dance Troupe will present Bradley Bear's Under the Sea dance performance at 1:45 pm in Memorial Hall. Doors will open at approximately 1:30 pm. All are welcome to attend this delightful performance complete with all sorts of magical sea creatures!

Dancers and their families are invited to stay after the performance for refreshments.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS



TTh classes will have their end of year celebrations on Thursday, May 23rd at 11:00 at your child's classroom. There will be singing, a special end of the year party, and lots of hugs. Family members are invited to attend.

Children will be dismissed at 11:30.

Lunch Bunch will be held.

Stay + Play will be held.

MWF and MTWThF classes will have their end of year celebrations at 10:00 on Friday, May 24th at your child's classroom. There will be songs, an end of the year party, and lots of hugs! Family members are invited to attend.

Children will be dismissed after their party between 10:30 and 11:00.

Lunch Bunch and Stay + Play will not be held.

TTh class will perform a selection of their favorite songs on Thursday,
May 23rd in our amphitheater. The program will begin at 11:30 am. Following the
performance, there will be a party in the classroom. Family members are invited to attend.

Children will be dismissed after their party at 12:30.

Stay + Play will be held.

MWF and MTWThF classes will perform their favorite songs outside the main church doors at 9:30 am on Friday, May 24th. Following the performance, there will be class parties.

Family members are invited to attend.

Children will be dismissed after their party between 10:30 and 11:00.

There will be no Stay + Play.





MWF and MTWThF classes will perform their favorite songs outside the main church doors at 9:30 am on Friday, May 24th. Following the performance, there will be class parties. Family members are invited to attend.

Children will be dismissed after their party between 10:30 and 11:00.

There will be no Stay + Play.

The May 15th Dance Performance and both the May 23rd & May 24th Sing-Alongs will be professionally recorded.

Downloadable links will be sent out mid-June for everyone to revisit the end of year fun.

BIRTHDAYS



Arav Garg Aurora Einstein Nora Grimm William Natelli Julia Sharbaugh Elena Chun Mateo Arce Gualana Lewis Horowitz Cooper Kroner Willem Straatman Kian Dewan Piper Jones Graham Lieberman Ruby Rosen Sarah Swanzey Julian Canning Ryan Penfold Mina Patel Teddy Dixon Serafina Munson Cyrus Odulio Leandro Rivera

Charles Babcock-Liu Sydney Leininger Teddy Barker Juno Choi Louise Duggan Luke Meltzer Graham Price-McDonald Gravson Rickett Wesley Wong Weeks White Lucas Lunn George Brown Phoenix Brevil Leonie Straatman Yuhi Mori Gemma Bottegal Sloane Gallagher Lionell Magere

Olivia VanStekelenburg

Finn Haney
Elizabeth Joly
Wyatt Sloan
Rhodes Case
Beckett Nolen
Linus Pal-Goetzen
Ruby Sciolli
Josephine Munson
Jimmy Davis
Ben DePaz
Vani Ganguly
Adam Aberg
Rosemary Jennings
Arthur Sloan

Erinne Tase
Kinsley Fauquier
Leyla Toufanian
Will Forbes
Taylor Caine
Elizabeth DePaz
Perry Fager
Caroline Kroner
Melina Waldo
Harry Sharkey
Alivia Esema
Lucas Fauquier
Parker Price-McDonald

PLAYGROUND ATTIRE & TIPS



As the weather gets warmer, our cubs spend more and more time outdoors enjoying our fabulous campus.

Shoes and Socks

To be able to run and play on the playgrounds children need to have on closed toed shoes with socks to keep the mulch and sand out and their feet from getting hurt.

Shorts under Dresses and Skirts

When wearing dresses and skirts, children should wear shorts underneath for modesty sake when climbing and swinging. Shorts also make it more comfortable when playing in the sandbox or mulch.

Sunscreen and Bug Spray

Warm weather also brings sunburns and bug bites. Protect your child by applying sunscreen and bug spray before coming to school. If you would like us to re-apply, complete this <u>FORM</u>.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS



Summer office hours will be Monday through Thursday between 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. The office will be closed most Fridays during July and August. Amanda and Liz will be checking phones, email, brightwheel messages, and snail mail throughout the summer. If you have an urgent matter to discuss, please don't hesitate to call or message Liz directly on her cell phone.

During June, the office will be sending out information about the upcoming school year and forms that need to be completed.

Returning students do not need to complete the medical forms. They will need to complete new allergy forms if they have any allergies.

1,000 BOOKS TO READ BEFORE KINDERGARTEN



Montgomery County Public Libraries: 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Many of these titles are favorites of our Bradley Bear cubs. Books are a wonderful way to teach children about the world around them and to start meaningful discussions at home. These titles are new and old favorites for kids and adults. Happy Reading! For additional resources visit HERE.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS BRADLEY BEAR?

Be on the lookout for "Flat Bradley". He will be coming home in your child's tote bag soon.

Going to Grandma and Grandpa's? Going to the pool? Going across the country, the world? Take "Flat Bradley" with you!

Send us pictures of your family or child with Bradley Bear enjoying your summer. We will print and post the pictures in our hallway for everyone to see when school resumes in September.

Feel free to post your pictures on Facebook and Instagram, too (tag Bradley Bear!)

Email your photos to <u>kgoodstein@bhpcns.org</u>.



SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (3-year-old & Pre-K) with Mrs. Goodstein

Mrs. Goodstein reports: In May, we will learn many signs for words that are opposites. And we will put our letter signs to use and learn to sign our own names. I will send each child home with a printout so they can practice the entire alphabet all summer long.

I am so very proud of all you have learned this year. Have a wonderful summer!



MUSIC (3-year-old & Pre-K) with Little Hands



It's the conclusion of another wonderful school year with the Bradley Bears and we LOVE making music with your children and their teachers! We'll enjoy more bugs this month with the addition of Caterpillars, Butterflies, Ladybugs and Fireflies! Circling, creeping, flitting, flying and other movement "motifs" are the themes "inching" through our songs and activities.

Musically, we learn about moving to the musical cues of Caterpillar to butterfly changes, fine motor finger/ladybug moving up and down along the other hand's fingers/flowerbed with the ladybug poem and song, as well as moving to the patterns in the circle song, "Our Boots." We'll play along with many rhythm instruments and sing along with the ukulele in class!

Bugs, Bees, and Butterflies album by Little Hands, which includes the songs and poems listed below.

Happy Singing and Dancing at home! See you in September!

Feel free to contact us at admin@littlehands.com for more musical resources throughout the summer!)

SINGING with Ms. Casey (all ages)

Ms. Casey Shares: April showers have finally given way to May flowers! The emerging season gives us reason to celebrate the wonders of spring through music. The children have grown so much this past year and have started taking notice of their surroundings more than ever before. Planting seeds to grow flowers, caterpillars morphing into butterflies, and bees purposefully searching for pollen and nectar are some of the changes that songs teach us to be more mindful of. With most of the school year behind us, the kids are hard at work learning new songs and sign language in preparation for the big year-end concert. We can't wait to share what we've learned with you!



NEW BOOKS from our Librarian - Mrs. Hauck

The library has three wonderful new books about problem solving and conflict resolution.

That Fruit is Mine by Anuska Allepuz. Five jungle elephants discover a delicious fruit high up in a tree. As they compete to see who can get it first, a group of mice work together and share the fruit.

The Marvelous Moon Map by Teresa Heapy. Mouse wants to go to the moon. He relies only on his moon map, initially rejecting help from his friend Bear. Eventually Mouse realizes some adventures are better with the help of a friend.

A House in the Woods by Inga Moore. Two little pigs build houses for themselves in the woods. While they are out Bear and Moose accidentally destroy these houses. Rather than get angry, the little pigs decide to work with Bear and Moose to build a large house they can all live in together.

As we near the end of the school year, please remember to return your library books. 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

MONDAYS

sports & games



Coach Cardoni Shares:

"Love" is in the air...for Tennis that is! The Bear Cubs will be finishing up the Baseball unit and then learning all about tennis. As always, we will be sure to warm up our bodies to prepare for learning a new sport. We will be working with an agility ladder to build speed in our lower bodies. We will also be learning how to hold the racket and practice drills with bean bags, scarves and finally a tennis ball. Each week the children are also learning how to take turns, cheer on their teammates and work together. The last class of the year we will revisit sports we covered earlier in the season; basketball, line dancing, gymnastics, lacrosse and/or baseball. It's been a great season!

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

dance

The Bradley Bear Dance Troupe is busy wrapping up their 2023-2024 dance season. Our dancers have been busy working on their dance moves and have been very busy crafting and creating beautiful accoutrements to decorate Memorial Hall for their end-of year-dance performance on Wednesday, May 15th at 1:45 pm.

We are very grateful to Colleen Snyder and the Bethesda Dance Conservatory for all their dance expertise. Thank you to the BHPCNS dance teachers for providing such a great time for our dancing cubs!



TUESDAYS

science



Scientist Vargas writes:

For our last month of Stay & Play, we will conduct experiments that are bursting with fun. Our cubs will learn how to make their very own bubble solution. We will talk about density and demonstrate with a simple science experiment using oil and water. For our last class, our Wigglin' Wizards will make colorful elephant toothpaste and watch an explosive experiment featuring a bottle of soda and a Mentos mint chew.

WEDNESDAYS

cooking

We have had such a fantastic time cooking with our little chefs! It's hard to believe that we are entering our last few weeks of culinary school.

For May, we are bringing back a kid (and grown-up!) favorite—Coffee Cake. We'll then learn how to use fresh vegetables to make a salad. Our last recipe of the month will be dill pickles which will be sent home to finish the pickling process in your refrigerator for a couple weeks.



What a great journey we've had slicing, dicing and more—don't let those skills grow stagnant over the summer! Bon Appetit!

THURSDAYS

geography

We will be jetting down under to the only country that can call itself a continent; Australia. With an abundance of rich culture, wildlife, and terrain, there will be plenty to learn about this beautiful country. Boomerangs, marsupials and Waltzing Matilda, here we come! Our final stamp on our passport will come from Argentina.

It has been so much fun traveling the world together!

FRIDAYS



yoga

Yogi Cardoni Wraps up our Yoga Practice: The Yogi Bears continue adding to their repertoire of yoga poses in May. The themes during May include Ocean, Camping and Gratitude. The Yogi Bears begin each session with a deep breathing exercise they move on to sun salutation, yoga poses and finally reflect during Savasana. Weekly, the yogis practice mindful eating and end each session appreciating and acknowledging the light in each of their friends. Namaste!

COMMUNITY AT 6601 BRADLEY BOULEVARD

BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

It's hard to believe the school year is nearing its close. It was great to have several nursery school families participate in our spring break activities. We are happy to share some family-oriented end-of-year activities you may want to participate in!

Upcoming Events in May/June:

May 5th from 5:00-7:00 pm, on the church grounds. Bring your entire family and get to know members of the other faith congregations that share our space at 6601 Bradley Blvd. Come to the Interfaith Family Food Truck Event and enjoy dinner together, games, face painting, and lively cultural discussions!

May 12th from 9:15-10:00 am, we are inviting children to come to Memorial Hall to make a craft and decorate cookies while parents are encouraged to join Adult Education in the Lounge. Then, from 10:00-10:30 we will host our Mother's Day Tea. Children and mothers are invited to come together for a special tea to enjoy refreshments in Memorial Hall before the service on Mother's Day.

June 2nd from 11:15am -1:30 pm, All Church Picnic. Plan to attend the picnic with games for children and food for all ages!

Monday, August 19th through Friday, August 23rd, we will have Vacation Bible School at BHPC. For the second year in a row, we will be partnering with Geneva Presbyterian Church. Cali Bronkema, Director of NextGen Ministries at Geneva, will co-lead the program with our Director of Christian Education, Rosanna Howard. We are encouraging early registration.

Register by May 26th: \$80/child Register by June 30th: \$95/child Register by August 5th: \$110/child

Scholarships are available for any family who needs one. Look for the registration coming soon in a separate email and flier!

Service Opportunity for Families: We encourage all families who are attending church to consider volunteering to help the Smart Sacks Team which gathers in the hallway between Memorial Hall and the Lounge after church each Sunday. Volunteers put grocery items in bags for delivery to Weller and JoAnn Leleck Elementary Schools. Smart Sacks helps bridge the gap between Friday and Monday by providing nutritious foods for children and their families who might not have another meal until after the weekend. Manna Food Center, a nonprofit striving to end hunger in Montgomery County, provides the food.

Please reach out to Rosanna Howard <u>rosanna@bradleyhillschurch.org</u> if you would like to find out more about programs for young children at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church.

Carolyn's last day at BHPCNS will be July 31, 2024. We are REALLY going to miss her!

Who will give relevant parenting advice to parents and teachers alike? Who will keep our pantry and fridge stocked with sparkling water, boo boo bunnies, and our favorite treats? Who will manage the substitutes, lunch reliefs, and teacher coverage for parent meetings, staff trainings, and last-minute illnesses? Who will process tuition, pay our bills, balance our books, plan our financial future? Who will plan and execute every special event we have at BHPCNS (there are SO many)? Who will have a themed and amazing outfit that coordinates with every special event? Who will put the children we care for at the center of every decision we make-be it financial, strategic, or otherwise? Who will demonstrate day in and day out the kind of person we all hope to be each day (kind, compassionate, selfless, fun loving, smart, and fashionable)?

Well... it's going to take many of us to tackle what Carolyn has managed to do day in and day out for the past 28 years. And although we feel confident we can handle her workload, we will never be able to replace her wonderful personality, incredible knowledge, and generous spirit.

We happily welcome Amanda Frid to the office full time starting this summer. She has been an amazing teacher here at Bradley Hills for the past eight years. We are excited to have her in the office to take on the bulk of Carolyn's responsibilities. Please stop by and welcome her to her new role!

Ilene Jones will continue making sure we are compliant with State Licensing requirements, student and staff paperwork is complete, and Health and Safety regulations are met.

Kim Goodstein will continue publishing our monthly newsletters, flyers, social media posts, classroom calendars, and maintaining our website.

Liz will continue to make certain BHPCNS provides the best experience for every child in our program.







We are so grateful for her 28 years of guidance, patience, understanding, expertise, and love.

Please be sure and stop by the office to wish her well or send her a note and let her know how much you will miss her.