

May 2021 Newsletter

The Bear Facts

Celebrating 63 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

It's official! Bradley Hills Nursery School is back in business. April was an exciting time for our students, staff, and families! Our ever evolving, outdoor programming has seen cold, dreary days, beautiful spring days, some extra hot summer-like days, and some blow-you-all-the-way-to-Kansas windy days, and through it all everyone has been happy and having fun! Next up, Mother Nature will be adding a slew of cicadas for us to explore. 😊

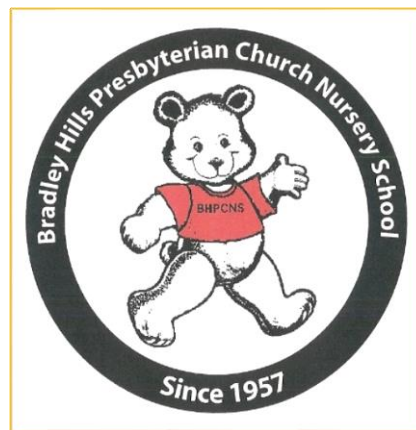
See sidebar for more on cicadas and BHP CNS programming.

The school would not be operational without your children and continued support. Thank you for your assistance with the daily health screenings, sending in boots, and extra clothing, applying sunscreen and bug spray, and masking up. The school is following mask and Covid guidance as it evolves. In Montgomery County everyone over the age of 2 is required to wear a mask, even those who are fully vaccinated. **Please continue to mask up, at all times, when on the BHP CNS campus and have your children wear masks too.**

Thank you to Maggie Maloney and Sarah McGovern, BHP CNS' Parents Group Reps and all the parents for a wonderful week of treats and surprises in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. Maggie and Sarah will be retiring as Parents' Group chairs. I will be forever grateful for the privilege of working with them on so many fun activities for our families. They will be missed!

In May we celebrate Teachers and Mothers and remember those who have served our country. Thank you to all the amazing moms who are part of the BHP CNS extended community. Thank you to the best staff imaginable. Without our moms and our teachers our days wouldn't be as bright! Thank you to the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country!

Liz
Liz Sobrino
BHP CNS Director



BHP CNS & CICADAS



As the ground warms we will begin to see cicadas everywhere. One classroom has already watched a cicada molt in front of their very eyes.

BHP CNS will be welcoming the arrival of the cicadas by learning all about them. We have books, stories, life cycle props, and more to explain this unique 17-year phenomenon to the children.

I ask that you embrace this rare and unique opportunity and explore the cicadas for the wonder of nature their life cycle will present to the children. The classes will continue to meet outdoors and we want the children to be curious and not afraid of these non-stinging, non-biting, fascinating creatures. Who knows how many future epidemiologists the cicadas will inspire!?

[CLICK HERE](#) for
BHP CNS' CICADA 2021
Booklet filled with lots of
amazing cicada facts!

BHPCNS BOARD UPDATE

The BHPCNS Board continues to support the Nursery School's administration plan for reopening for the 2021-2022 school year with a blend of indoor and outdoor programming.

We would also like to acknowledge the hard work and effort the teachers put in daily to make the school so wonderful.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Board Chair, Missy Banashak at Missy.banashak@bhpcns.org.

Happy
Teacher
Appreciation
Week!

PARENTS' GROUP UPDATE



Thank you so much for everyone who participated in the Auntie Anne's fundraiser and made it such a success! We will use the funds raised to show our appreciation to our amazing teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 3rd-May 7th).

For those families that are new to BHPCNS this year, the Parents Group typically hosts a Kindergarten Sneak Peek evening with a current MCPS Kindergarten teacher. While MCPS continues to formulate plans for the 2021-2022 school year, we are still planning to host a general information session **Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom** to give parents of rising Kindergarteners the opportunity to learn more about what makes a successful Kindergarten year. Please keep an eye out for additional information to come home in your child's tote bag.

[Click Here to Access Kindergarten Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 781 6975 2270

Passcode: kinder



And, finally, did you know that BHPCNS has an AmazonSmile account? To take advantage of this 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 BHPCNS to receive a portion of the proceeds on every purchase made!



As always, thank you for the support, and enjoy the warmer weather! If you have any questions about the above, please let us know!

Thank you,
Maggie Maloney
MaggieWMaloney@gmail.com

Sarah McGovern
SarahLothrop@hotmail.com

MCPS 2021-2022 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION & ORIENTATION INFORMATION



**Montgomery County
Public Schools**

MCPS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION & ORIENTATION FOR FALL 2021

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will hold the 2021 Kindergarten Orientation Program in two parts. MCPS will kick off orientation with a registration drive in April. Formal visits to the school or opportunities to hear more specifics about your child's kindergarten experience will occur with each local school in August, 2021 when the plans for the fall are complete. [Visit MCPS](#) for additional information.

Contact Information for MCPS local Elementary Schools

Ashburton: 240-740-1300
Bannockburn: 240-740-1270
Bells Mill: 240.740.0480
Beverly Farm: 301-469-1050
Bethesda: 240-204-5300
Bradley Hills: 240-204-5210
Burning Tree: 240-740-1750
Carderock Springs: 240-740-0540
Garrett Park: 240-740-0700

Kensington Parkwood: 240-740-3700
Richie Park: 301-279-8475
Rosemary Hills: 301-920-9990
Seven Locks: 240-740-0940
Somerset: 240-740-1100
Westbrook: 240-740-1040
Wood Acres: 240-740-1120
Wyngate: 240-740-1080



KINDERGARTEN NIGHT – TUESDAY, MAY 18TH at 7:00 P.M.

Kindergarten is a big transition for your child and your whole family. Do you have questions or concerns about what MCPS Kindergarten is all about?

- A current MCPS Kindergarten teacher, Maura Backenstoe from Burning Tree Elementary School, will host a ZOOM meeting to share her insights about Kindergarten readiness looks like for rising kindergarteners.
- If you have friends or neighbors who might be interested in attending, they are welcome to participate as well. Simply share the Zoom link with them,
- Parents of our younger Bradley Bear cubs are welcome to attend too.

Meeting Information:

[Click Here to Access Kindergarten Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 781 6975 2270

Passcode: kinder





Lunch Time at BHPCNS

- Lunch is a communal time at BHPCNS. The children and their teacher sit together and discuss the day and other exciting topics. Because of the stimulating conversation and lots of distractions, it's not unusual for a child to not finish their lunch.
- Manners are reinforced and polite rules of meal time are shared.
- Please pack child and weather friendly lunches. We've had some windy days where things have blown away. Child friendly lunches include containers your children can open with minimal assistance – unless they are really young – and lunches that are easy to eat. For example, sandwiches cut into triangles are easier to eat than cut into 2 halves.
- Please pack healthy lunches and keep treats to a minimum.
- As the temperatures go up, even though we refrigerate lunches as quickly as possible, chocolate will quickly melt when it gets outside.

Thank you for your help!

Labelling all Items: Please label all your child's belongings. It doesn't need to be anything fancy. Simply writing their name with a sharpie or marker will make it so much easier for everyone to go home each day with the right, clothes, lunch box, water bottle, boots, etc. You'd be amazed at how many children don't recognize their belongings and how many children have the same boots, jacket, lunch box, and more!

**Label all your
child's
belongings!**



Greenhouse Project: Thank you to everyone who has donated water bottles. Unfortunately, the greenhouse project has been cancelled. Never fear, we will use the water bottles to make cicada noises 😊

Turn Off Cars when in the Parking Lots: Once you have parked your car, please turn off the engine. When you idle the air we all breathe becomes filled with fumes.



ASQ-3 Questionnaires: Thank you to everyone who has returned their child's questionnaire. Results are going home in your child's tote bag. Please contact Liz at Lsobrino@bhpcns.org if you have any questions or concerns.

BHPCNS UPDATES CONTINUED:

**WHAT TO DO
IF YOU FIND
A TICK ON
YOUR CHILD**



Outdoor Programming and Ticks: Being outside means the possibility of ticks. It's important to check your child daily for ticks. [Click here](#) for more information on ticks and children.

Bug Spray and Sunscreen: Please apply bug spray and/or sunscreen at home or prior to coming to school.



Statements for Balance Due will be mailed home in the coming weeks. If you have a balance due, please remit payment. Thank you.

Memorial Day: BHPCNS will be closed on Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day.



MAY BEAR CUB BIRTHDAYS

Aakash Patel
Liam Morales
Bo Davis
Siena Paoli
Zara Cope



Linus Yang
Will Swain
Oliver Weidinger
Luca Paoli

Wishing our Bradley Bear Cubs a very happy birthday!!!!

FUN ACTIVITIES TO DO AND CREATE AT HOME!

The following activities were shared in the April 2020 newsletter. I hope you will enjoy these ideas this year too!

Relaxation Activity!

This is a fun and relaxing breathing technique that can be practiced indoors with a house plant or outside with a leaf from a tree.



TROUBLE OR WORRY ROCKS BY MRS. JACOB AND MRS. HARRINGTON*

Mrs. Jacob retired from BHP CNS at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. This was one of her favorite projects.

Social Emotional Value: The "trouble rock" gives children an outlet for talking about their problems and frustrations. In addition, it encourages them to think about what they can do to solve their own problems.

You will need:

- Go on a nature walk and find a rock about the size of your fist with a nice flat bottom.
- Paint or markers
- Wiggly eyes
- Yarn or feathers for hair
- Elmer's Glue-All

Directions:

1. Begin by telling about a problem that you might be dealing with in your life, or about a frustration you had when you were a child. Ask your child to share troubles that they might have too.
2. Let your child suggest what they might do when they have a problem. Brainstorm ways to solve problems.
3. Explain that sometime we might not be ready to talk to someone else about a problem. A "trouble rock" is the perfect solution, because it won't tell anyone else!
4. Decorate your rock with paint or markers, "hair" and wiggly eyes. Ask your child to think of a name for his/her rock.
5. If you have a little piece of felt, glue it to the bottom of the rock to prevent the rock from scratching your furniture.

6. Bonus: One day, take your rock to College with you.



BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITES



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church News

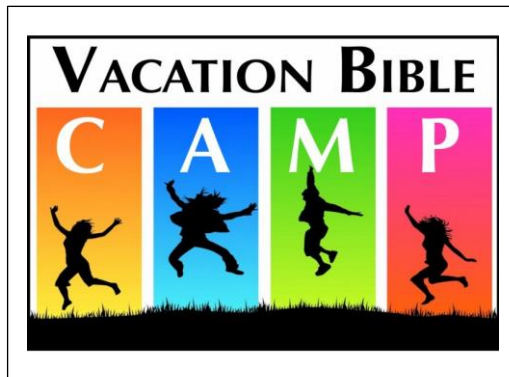
Welcome Back! We at BHPC are delighted the Nursery School is back in session and look forward to being back soon ourselves!

Please join us for a **Blessing of the Animals and Family Service** held outdoors on Sunday, May 23, at 8:30 am.



You may also be interested in the May 2 **Confirmation Service** or the May 16 **Youth-led Service**, both virtual at 10:30 am.

SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, August 23 – Thursday, August 26! All children age 4 through 5th grade are invited to participate. More details to come.



BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITES



Weekly Church Services - We are still holding Virtual Worship Services at 10:30 am on Sundays at the link below. We are also holding outdoor services at 8:30 am through May 23.

[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

May 2, 9, and 16: BHPC Elder Steve Burns – *Heaven and Hell: Contemplating the Afterlife*. What are the origins of Christian thinking about the afterlife? How has the depiction of life and death evolved in the Biblical narrative? How do we react to the narratives of heaven and hell and judgment in the Bible?

May 23: Interim Associate Pastor Eunice Yang – After a year of living with pandemic, witnessing personal and national tragedies, and still struggling with many questions and the problem of evil, let us explore the psalms of lamentation, lament together, and see how God can speak to us amid the darkest moment of our lives.

May 30: Jonathan Lacock-Nisly, *Interfaith Power & Light – Speaking Out Faithfully for Strong Climate Policy* will speak about how environmental and energy legislation fared in the 2021 Maryland legislative session, as well as an overview of exciting opportunities to speak out for strong federal climate action coming up on Capitol Hill. Jonathan's photo and bio are [here](#).

Service Opportunity

BHPC mission partner Linkages to Learning is again requesting donated items for the Arcola Elementary School community. Donations can be dropped off in the bins outside door number 5 on the office side of the building any time on Wednesday, May 5 and Thursday, May 6. BHPC member Sally Fowler will then deliver them.

Please donate items **only** from this list:

- Baby wipes
- Toothpaste and new toothbrushes
- Bars of soap
- Sanitary pads for girls
- New or gently used clothes, including shoes, **only** for children - any season accepted
- Toys, games, and puzzles in **good** and complete condition

