



The Bear Facts

DECEMBER 2024

Celebrating 67 Years of Early Childhood Education



Dear Parents,

December is a short school month, but very busy at BHCNS. Your children will be making surprises for their families, learning holiday songs, and exploring December as a season of giving.

In that spirit, we are asking each of our families to make a financial gift to BHCNS. No gift is too small. TOGETHER, we can build a brighter tomorrow for our children, our teachers, and our families. More details to come on Giving Tuesday, December 3rd.

Angel Gift Tree Donations: Thank you for your generosity and support of our Angel Gift Tree which will bring joy to the children of the clients of the Women's Collective in Washington D.C. Friday, December 6th is the last day to donate unwrapped gifts. Gifts donated after this deadline will be given to Toys for Tots.

Holiday Cards: We invite you to bring your family's holiday card to the office to be part of our display in the front hallway. We love seeing your smiling faces! To save money, and support BHCNS Parents' Group, consider using MINTED to print your holiday cards. See page 2 for details.

2025-2026 Registration Happens in December: Registration for children currently enrolled at BHCNS will take place December 9th through 13th (We pushed it back a week because of the Thanksgiving Holiday). Applications will be sent via brightwheel at 10am on December 9th. All the details are on page 5.

We loved seeing so many alumni at Alumni Days! We hope you had as much fun as we did. Thank you to our older alumni who helped run the stations. Special thanks to Jared Rosen ([Epic Events](#)) for providing his fabulous photo booth!

On behalf of myself, Amanda, Ilene, and Kim, and the entire staff at BHCNS we wish you and your families a joyous holiday season filled with safe travels, good friends, family reunions, and holiday traditions.

Wishing you all the best in 2025!

Liz Sobrino
BHCNS Director

December 1st

- Tuition Due

December 3rd

- Giving Tuesday - Give to BHCNS

December 6th

- Angel Gift Tree donations due

December 9th through 13th

- Enrollment for returning students for 2025-26 School Year



December 17th

- Pajama Day all TTh Classes

December 18th

- Pajama Day all MWF & MTWThF Classes

December 19th

- Sing-Along TTh 3s
- Holiday Party all TTh Classes

December 20th

- Sing-Along & Holiday Party all MWF & MTWThF Classes
- No Stay & Play

December 23rd - January 3rd

- SCHOOL CLOSED Christmas Break

January 1st

- Tuition Due

January 6th

- School Resumes
- Young 2s Classes Begin

January 8th & 9th

- Winter Cub Club Sessions Begins

[WEBSITE](#) / [FACEBOOK](#) / [INSTAGRAM](#) / [GOOGLE GROUPS](#) / [YOUTUBE](#)

STAY
CONNECTED





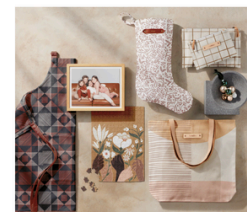
Happy Holidays everyone! We hope you all had a fantastic Thanksgiving. It's been a busy and FUN couple of weeks at BHPCNS.

We'd like to extend a big Bradley Bear shout-out to our wonderful parent volunteers for their help during Donuts with Dates. We hosted over 150 donut-eaters and the kids had the sweetest time.

We truly can't host these events effectively without the extra hands. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

It's holiday card time! MINTED partnership: 20% off for you and 15% of your purchase will go to BHPCNS! A great way to order holiday cards or custom gifts for family or teachers. Use the code [FUNDRAISEBHPCNS](https://www.minted.com) at www.minted.com



Regardless of how you print your holiday cards, please share them with the rest of Bradley Hills. Bring your card to the office to hang at the school entrance. We love seeing all your smiling faces!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR returns to BHPCNS in January

 SCHOLASTIC

BOOK FAIR

Parents' Group is happy to bring the Scholastic Book Fair back to BHPCNS. Our cubs loved seeing all the books and treasures and selecting what they wanted to buy and bring home. Just like last year, we will need parent volunteers to make this event a success.

Please stay tuned for more details.



Thank you to everyone for your continued support!

Parents' Group Co-Chairs,

Cass Price
cass.price@gmail.com



Amanda Franklin-Munson
amandanfranklin@gmail.com



Dear Parents,

We can't believe how fast the school year is going! Over the last months, the Board has been partnering with the administration and staff to make sure your children are provided with a safe, creative, and nurturing environment. Feel free to contact us at board@bhpcns.org with any questions, concerns, or thoughts about the school.

We hope you will join us this month in **"Building a Brighter Tomorrow Together"** by donating to our wonderful school. We hope everyone can participate—no gift is too small. Our teachers are the best! But even the best teachers can enhance their teaching skill with new ideas and tools. Donations will be used to pay for teacher training and development and for other resources to help all children develop their preschool skills and social-emotional health. Some of the money raised will go into the school's scholarship fund. Partial scholarships allow local families facing financial hardship to be part of the nurturing BHPCNS community. This year's scholarships are supporting 11 children from 8 families.

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church invites all interested families to the church's Advent and Christmas activities, including a Christmas Tree Lighting on December 1 from 5-6 pm and a Family Connections Luncheon and Advent Workshop on December 8 at noon after the 10:30 am worship service. On December 22, there is a Christmas Brunch with Caroling following the 10:30 am worship service. And on Christmas Eve day at 4 pm, all children are invited to participate in the church's Christmas Pageant—costumes are provided and no rehearsal necessary. Just come to Covenant Hall between 3:40-4:00 pm to get a costume 😊!

We wish each of you a happy and healthy holiday season!

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



BHPCNS ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

ANGEL GIFT TREE

Now through Friday, December 6th

At BHPCNS we celebrate December as a season of giving. The children will make "gifts" for their families. We will talk about how this season is for giving to others. During this season of giving, please talk with your child about helping others, especially those less fortunate.

The Angel Gift Tree is always a wonderful way to show your child the importance of giving to others. This year we are joining BHPC in collecting gifts that will be wrapped and given to a Wider Circle, the Women's Collective, and Arcola Elementary School.

Thank you for your generosity again this year!



GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, December 3rd

BUILDING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW TOGETHER

When you give to BHPCNS, you create change that serves our community now and in the future. Together, we can make a difference!

On December 3rd, you will receive an envelope with how to give. We would like 100% participation from our families and teachers. No gift is too small.

TOGETHER we can build a brighter tomorrow.

We see a brighter tomorrow where BHPCNS has the financial capability to:

- Give each child the support they need & deserve.
- Provide tuition assistance to families in need.
- Provide in-depth training & development for our teachers & staff.

play



learn



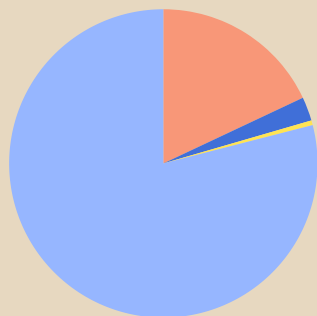
grow



give

FINANCIALS 2023-24

Revenue



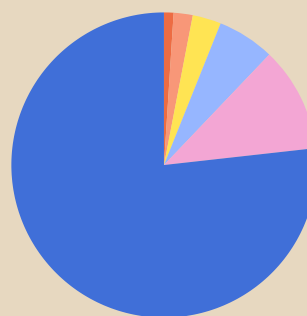
79% Tuition

18% Supplemental Programming

2.5% Grants

0.5% Donations

Expenses



76% Wages & Benefits

13% Rent & Maintenance

6% School Supplies

3% Tuition Assistance

1.5% Snacks

0.5% Professional Development

REGISTRATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

Applications for the 2025- 2026 school year for NEW STUDENTS and SIBLINGS of currently enrolled students are available online [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 9th, and end Friday, December 13th. **Applications will be linked and shared in brightwheel at 10am on Monday, December 9th.** Applications must be submitted between December 9th and December 13th 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. Based on enrollment, classroom space, and teacher availability, we will determine in early Spring if we are able to offer Cub Club and/or our Young 2s program in 2025.

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, 2025 to enroll in the 3s,
and 4 by September 1, 2025 to enroll in Pre-K.

2025-2026 PROGRAM OPTIONS



2 TWO-YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS
2 days: Tuesday & Thursday
3 days: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
5 days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

3 THREE-YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS
2 days: Tuesday & Thursday
3 days: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
5 days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

4 Pre-K PROGRAMS
3 days: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
5 days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

HOLIDAY SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR PARENTS

article from Peaceful Parent Happy Kids

Disrupted schedules, traveling with little ones, the crash and burn from all the excitement -- Holidays can easily be a recipe for tears and tantrums. Here's a baker's dozen tips to help you manage life during the holidays, so you can minimize the tears and maximize the joy.

1 The most important tip, as always in parenting, is to manage yourself so that you can stay calm.

Our most important job as parents is to keep ourselves in a good mood, so we can stay patient in the face of childish behavior and teach our kids through role-modeling how to self-regulate and relate when things are stressful. If you're anxious about everything you have to get done, your children will almost certainly begin to act out. Every day, find ways to keep your own cup full. If you're running on empty, you won't be able to help your kids stay on an even keel.

2 Remember that the holidays are actually stressful for children.

We often think that holidays are a magical time for children. And yes, they can be. But they can also be very stressful, especially if we as their parents are stressed. Your child depends on you not only to regulate their environment, but also to help them regulate their moods. When they act badly, remind yourself that they feel badly, and they need your help.

3 Give kids plenty of warning about travel and upcoming events.

At the beginning of the holidays, you might use a calendar to show your child what will happen each day. ("Then the day before Christmas we leave for Grandma's, where you'll get to play with all the cousins.") Many kids love to make a little book in advance, where each page represents a new day and they draw a picture of what will be happening. Then, sit down for a snuggle every morning and describe the day ahead.

4 Coach your kids about the social behavior you expect.

Role play with them in the car before you arrive, or make a game of it before you go.

"What do you say when Aunt Susie gives you a present?"

"What if you don't like the present?"

"What do you do when Uncle Norman wants to hug you hello?"

"What if you don't like the dinner that's served?"

"When you want to leave the table, how do you ask?"

5 Plan no more than one event per day.

If you're visiting your in-laws, don't plan the morning with the cousins and the afternoon at Aunt Betty's. Kids need downtime, just to chill out, snuggle, and do whatever relaxes them. If they don't get it, they'll melt down or get oppositional when the over-stimulation gets to them.

6 Have age-appropriate expectations.

If you're doing a lot of visiting with adults, be sure the kids have something to occupy them. If they can read, buy them a new book for the occasion, one they can't wait to get into. If they're too young to stay absorbed in a book, download a favorite movie to bring with you. Be sure your schedule includes visits to the playground or other opportunities for the kids to get some fresh air and physical activity.

7 Watch your kids' food intake in the midst of too many treats and busy schedules.

Many tantrums originate from hunger. And all parents recognize the sugar high that sends kids bouncing off walls and then crashing into tears. If necessary, speak with your relatives in advance about limiting treats. And carry small protein-rich snacks with you so your child doesn't have a melt-down while the adults are negotiating where to go to dinner.

8 Keep children on their regular schedule as much as possible.

When children are off school, the lack of structure can be liberating -- for them and for you. But unpredictability can also be stressful for kids, so many children do better if you impose a little routine during the vacation. It can be very simple, just a plan for the day so that no one is surprised by all the transitions. Don't forget to include outdoor time, physical activity, and daily roughhousing or other laughter, which all children need to stay regulated.

9 Do less, connect more!

Full article can be found [HERE](#)



HELPING CHILDREN BY USING A VISUAL SCHEDULE AT HOME



Visual schedules give kids the information they need about what is happening, when it's happening, and any changes to their routine when transitioning from one activity to another. Depending on your child's age and abilities, a visual schedule may include objects and pictures or just words.

Implementing a visual schedule can be a game-changer for your kids and for you. Using a visual schedule can help your kids mentally prepare for transitions or challenging activities throughout the day. They can help your child to become more independent.

Need help implementing a visual schedule at home? Contact Liz at lsobrino@bhpcns.org.



HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS AT BHPCNS

- TTh 2-Year-Old Classes will sing for and celebrate with their siblings, parents, grandparents, nannies, etc. in their classrooms on Dec. 19th at 11:00 am. Lunch Bunch and Stay + Play will be held as scheduled.
- MWF 2-Year-Old Classes will sing for and celebrate with their siblings, parents, grandparents, nannies, etc. in their classrooms on Dec. 20th at 10:15 am. Children will be dismissed following the classroom party. Lunch Bunch and Stay + Play will not be held.
- TTh 3-Year-Old Class will host a sing-along for their siblings, parents, grandparents, nannies, etc. in their classroom on Dec. 19th at 11:30 am. A party will follow in their classroom. Stay + Play will be held as scheduled.
- MWF & MTWThF 3-Year-Old & Pre-K Classes will sing together for their families in the Sanctuary on Dec. 20th at 9:30 am. Parties will occur in individual classrooms immediately following the performance. Children will be dismissed following the classroom party. Stay + Play will not be held.

SHARE YOUR HOLIDAY TRADITIONS WITH YOUR CHILD'S CLASS



Parents, family members, and friends are always welcome to share their family's holiday traditions with their child's classrooms.

Contact your child's teacher at any time if you or a family member would like to read a special story, bring a beloved family recipe for a class snack, make a traditional craft, or more to share with your child's class.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Logan Makumbe
Matilda Sloan
Scarlett Claunch
Ben Muir
Jacob Anderson

Miguel Gutierrez-Bogdanov
Romi Jacob
Sheridan Brodeur
Halima Meniefield
Ella Davis

Taylor Gordon
Jordan Allister
Dylan Liepa Lin
Elinor Hundt

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.

STUDENT ABSENCES OR ILLNESS

If your child is ill and will be missing school, please call the office, message us via brightwheel, or send us an email. If your child has a communicable disease, covid, 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.

We are often asked: "How do you know when to keep a child home?"

Here are some guidelines:

- Do not send your child to school within 24 hours of a fever.
- Do not send your child to school within 24 hours of diarrhea.
- Do not send your child to school within 24 hours of vomiting.
- Do not send your child to school if they have not been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.
- Do not send your child to school if they are heavily congested and/or coughing excessively.
- Any child who is absent for 3 or more days may require a Doctor's note to return to BHPCNS.

Please note the 24 hour rule in the above guidelines.

We share EVERYTHING at preschool. Sometimes, even colds and viruses. The flu vaccine, COVID, and RSV 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, their teachers, and families as healthy as possible.

WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS

BHPCNS follows Montgomery County Public Schools, MCPS, emergency weather closings. To be in the know sign up for MCPS Alerts click [HERE](#).

- If MCPS schools are closed, BHPCNS will be closed.
- If MCPS has a two-hour delay, BHPCNS will begin the school day at 11:00 am, except for Early Morning with Bradley Bear students who may arrive at 10:00 am. Students in the 2-year-old program stay until 12:30 pm. Lunch Bunch will be cancelled. We will provide a hearty snack for all 2-year-olds.
- If MCPS closes schools early, BHPCNS will close at 11:30 for the 2s, BHPCNS will close at 12:30 for 2-year-olds who participate in Lunch Bunch, BHPCNS will close at 12:30 for the 3-year-old and Pre-K classes. Stay + Play will be cancelled.



BRADLEY BEAR IS LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS



1. Do you love children?
2. Are your children growing up too fast?
3. Do you want to be part of our loving community?
4. Are you looking for a meaningful way to spend your mornings?

If you've answered yes to these questions and are interested in learning more about becoming a substitute teacher, please contact Liz or Amanda for more details.

PLAYGROUNDS at BHPCNS

The playgrounds are maintained by the Nursery School but are available to the communities surrounding BHPCNS to use at their own risk. All children and their families are welcome to use the playgrounds as long as a class or other building user is not present on the playground. Please come out and play in the afternoons, on the weekends, and during the winter holidays.

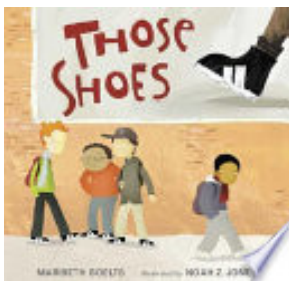


HOLIDAY FAVORITES from our LIBRARIAN - Mrs. Hauck

As the season of giving is upon us, the BHPCNS Library has many books with themes of generosity. Two outstanding books are: *Thank You, Omu!* and *Those Shoes*.



In *Thank you, Omu!* (by Oge Mora), Omu prepares a thick red stew for her dinner. As the stew is cooking, delicious smells waft through the open window. One by one, neighbors knock on Omu's door and ask for a bite of her stew. Being generous, Omu shares with all who ask. When at last it is time for Omu to eat her supper, she discovers the stew is all gone. Just as she resigns herself to going hungry there is a knock on the door. Her neighbors have arrived bringing a feast to share with her.



Those Shoes (by Maribeth Boelts) tells the story of a young boy who covets the latest style of sneakers. All the kids at school are wearing cool high tops with white stripes. Jeremy wants a pair, but Grandma says there is only money for much-needed winter boots. One day Jeremy spies the shoes in a thrift shop and uses his own saved-up money to buy them, even though they are too small and pinch his feet. Over time Jeremy realizes the shoes hurt too much and he generously gives them to a friend whose shoes are falling apart.

We welcome all to visit the school library, a collection of close to 5000 books. Please see the office staff if you need assistance finding or borrowing a book.

Also, please note that a \$10.00 replacement fee will be charged for any lost books.

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



SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

CUB CLUB (*our youngest Bradley Bears*) with Mrs. Colonna

Our Fall Session of Cub Club is coming to an end. We have loved getting to know our tiniest Bradley Bears who come to BHPCNS on Wednesday and Thursday mornings to play alongside a caregiver and Mrs. Colonna. Classes for our Winter Session begin January 8th & 9th.



MUSIC (*all ages*) with Little Hands

“The Gift of Presence”

By Beth Frook

Director of Little Hands and Certified Parent Coach

Shopping, and parties and travel, oh my! The holidays are filled with fun, giving, laughter, and making memories for our families. For children, the holidays can also be filled with changes in routine, unpredictability, and over-stimulation. What can we do as parents and teachers to help find balance this season for our children (and ourselves)?

We can give our children our presence, more than any wrapped presents, our presence will help our children co-regulate and calm their nervous system; it will help them feel safe and loved and free to enjoy new experiences.

How to do this:

- slow down
- take a deep breath together
- keep your feet on the ground
- give a hug
- allow for some quiet space and time each day

It’s a gift for all!
Presence



SINGING with Ms. Casey (*all ages*)



A chill in the air has replaced the balmy days of autumn but our hearts are warm with the gratitude that Thanksgiving lessons bring. With the leaves all fallen and the holidays in full swing, the children are hard at work learning new songs and perfecting old ones in preparation for the big holiday concert! We hope you’ll be able to join us as we celebrate Christmas, Diwali, Kwanza, and Hanukkah, along with all of the wonders that cooler climates and holidays bring. We look forward to seeing you here for our Holiday Sing-Alongs which are on Thursday, December 19th & Friday, December 20th.

BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Advent is here! We at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church wait, watch, and rejoice as we approach Christmas. Thanks to all the families who participated in the collection of gifts for Angel Gift Tree.

We have many Christmas activities this month and invite you to join any and all that appeal to your family!



Christmas
AT BRADLEY HILLS

1 December | First Sunday in Advent
Labyrinth walk at 9:15am. Tree lighting at 5pm.

8 December | Second Sunday in Advent
Family Connections Lunch & Advent Workshop

11 December | Blue Christmas
Wednesday, 1pm & 7:30pm. A service of solace.

15 December | Lessons and Carols
Musical celebration at 8:30 & 10:30 (with choir)

22 December | Worship & Christmas Brunch
Festive potluck & caroling after 10:30 worship

24 December
Christmas Eve Service

4 pm – Family Service & Pageant
Children in costume help tell Christmas story

6 pm – Candlelight Service
With section leaders

10 pm – Candlelight Service
With prelude at 9:30pm

For more Christmas events, go to:
www.BradleyHillsChurch.org/christmas



Alumni Days were so much fun! Thank you for coming back to BHCNS to spend the morning with Bradley Bear. We especially loved watching our graduates read their favorite books to their siblings entire class.

