

September 2017 Newsletter

The Bear Facts

Celebrating 60 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

With the start of the 2017-2018 school year BHCNS marks its 60th anniversary as a community preschool of excellence. Originally began as a playgroup for BHPC families, the school has grown to become one of the longest tenured programs in the Bethesda area. Thank you Alla Johnson for getting the program started. Since 1957 there have been many changes to the early childhood education field. While embracing change, BHCNS has stayed true to its belief that each child learns best through play! We are excited to begin our 60th school year with your children as they PLAY, GROW, and LEARN!

Some summer highlights include:

- Playground improvements, including:
 - New fences and playground expansion
 - Adding new equipment and relocating equipment
 - BIG BLUE BLOCKS are here and stored in our new sheds
- New furnishings have been assembled and placed into classrooms
- Rooms 111, 113, 117, storerooms, and the office have been painted
- New classroom supplies and equipment has been purchased, including many STEAM products.
- The grounds surrounding the school, playgrounds, parking areas were cleared of weeds and remulched. It required over 60 man hours to beautify the property.

Communication is vital to the success of our school and your child's experience here. To stay in the know, join our Facebook page, friend's page and like our Facebook business page, join our Yahoo Group, and be sure to read the updates sent by the office and your child's teacher.

Pop in, call the office, or email any time you have a question, concern or comment. If we don't know we can't change, help, or adapt! Thank you for sharing your child with BHCNS.

Liz

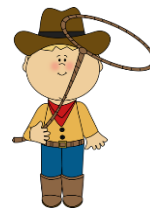
Liz Sobrino

Director BHCNS



UPCOMING EVENTS

PICNIC: SEPTEMBER 23



Our annual Back to School Picnic, sponsored by the Parents' Group will be on September 23rd between 4:00 and 6:00 pm at the playgrounds and field outside the school building. There will be a bounce house, yummy food, and lots of fun.

Rain location will be Memorial Hall.

Join new and old friends for a wonderful BHCNS tradition.

We ask that:

2's families bring a dessert to share.

3's families bring a side dish to share.

4's families bring a main dish to share.

For families with multiple children, bring a dish based on your oldest child's age!

The Parents' Group provides paper goods and drinks.

Volunteers will be needed to help with set-up and clean-up. Details will be sent out soon. Watch for a Sign-up Genius request.

Bring a blanket to spread on the ground!

Twos families will gather by the red balloons. 3's will gather by the blue balloons. 4's will gather by the yellow balloons. Looking forward to seeing everyone at this fun event!

BHPCNS PARENTS' GROUP

BHPCNS is extremely fortunate to have an amazing Parents' Group to organize social events, plan community events, coordinate our fundraisers, and so much more. The Parents' Group is completely run by volunteers. All families of BHPCNS are automatically members of the Parents' Group. There are no fees or additional commitments to families. If you would like to volunteer your time and talent to the Parents' Group, watch for more information in the coming weeks. Also, be sure to sign up for the BHPCNS Yahoo list serve. The list serve is the best way for us to get information out to you in a timely fashion!

During the first week of school we will provide coffee and snacks for the parents in the Rainy Day Room. This is a great opportunity for you to meet other parents and ask questions while you wait for your little one during the shortened schedule. Our first big event is our Back to School Picnic on September 23rd from 4:00-6:00pm. Check your emails for a signup genius requesting a bit of help!

We look forward to working with you this year!

Ashley Schneider
absilver@comcast.net

Mary Dunmire
Mary.E.Dunmire@gmail.com

VOTE FOR BHPCNS IN THE ANNUAL BEST OF BETHESDA READERS POLL



It's that time of year again, when residents of Bethesda vote for their favorite things! Please take a minute and vote for your favorite nursery school!

Vote for BHPCNS by 9-22!

It only takes a few minutes and with your support we will again be selected as a nursery school of choice!

BHPCNS 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS!



BRADLEY BEAR'S 60TH BIRTHDAY BASH!!!!

Sunday, October 22 between 2 and 5 pm.
Current BHPCNS families and our alumni are invited to celebrate Bradley's BIG day!
Mark your calendar to be part of the festivities!
Help us spread the word to our alumni too!

There will be games, rides, treats and birthday cake for everyone.
Additional details will be coming home in the next few weeks!

THE COMMUNITY AT BHPCNS

BHPCNS shares the building with the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, (BHPC,) and The Friends Club: a support group of men with early onset Alzheimer's and The Bethesda Jewish Congregation, (BJC).

BHPCNS will be closed on September 21, 2017 for BJC's celebration of their high holiday.

MORNING DROP OFF AND END OF SCHOOL DAY DISMISSAL

Morning Drop-Off:

Children are to be dropped off at their classroom doorways in the morning. The children will be greeted at the classroom by their teachers. Drop off is a time to say good morning to the teacher and good bye to your child. We ask that you keep your goodbyes, simple and sweet! If your child is crying their teachers will comfort them while you are in the Rainy Day Room. We will get you if needed.

Dismissal:

Children are to be collected at their classroom door at dismissal time. Please identify yourself and the child you are collecting to the teacher. It will take us a week or two to match children and caregivers.

Please be prompt at drop off and pickup. Drop off and pick are times to focus on your children. It is not the time to discuss your child with their teacher.



OPERATION PAPERBACK



BHPCNS is participating by collecting children's books for our military to read to their children while they are away from home.

Please consider donating your gently used or new children's books to this worthy program. Simply bring your donations to the wagon outside the office. Deadline for contributions will be October 15. Thank you for your support.

Visit the Operation Paperback website for additional details.

<http://www.operationpaperback.org/>

STAY IN THE KNOW AND SUPPORT BHPCNS

To be up to date on soccer classes, yard sales, and other great community news join the BHPCNS Yahoo group. Click here: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bhpcnsstudents/>
You will need to set up a Yahoo profile and user name.

The Yahoo! logo, featuring the word 'Yahoo!' in a purple, stylized font.

The Facebook logo, featuring a white 'f' inside a blue square.

**Find us on
Facebook**

Friend Bradley Bear at <http://www.facebook.com/bradley.bear2>

Like Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School's Page!

Do you shop on Amazon? If you do, please designate Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church as your charitable donation. It's easy:

On your first visit to **AmazonSmile** (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization from our list of eligible organizations. You can change your selection at any time. To change your charitable organization: **Sign** in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.

The AmazonSmile logo, featuring the word 'amazon' in black and 'smile' in orange, with a curved orange arrow underneath 'amazon'. Below the logo is the tagline 'You shop. Amazon gives.' in black.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

BETHESDA JEWISH CONGREGATION & BHP CNS FOOD DRIVE FOR MANNA FOOD



BHP CNS has partnered with BJC to collect food supplies for the Manna Food Center. Please consider donating by September 30th. Items needed include:
GRAINS: instant oatmeal, brown rice, whole grain pasta
PROTEIN: canned tuna, salmon, chicken in water, dry/canned beans, nut butters
FRUITS & VEGGIES: canned vegetables, canned fruit in juice, fruit cups

BHP CNS ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES & UPDATES

Tuition Payments:

Payments are due the first of each month, Sept.-May, and are considered late if not received by the 15th of the month. If your payment is not received by the 15th, a 10% late fee will be assessed.

Automated Bill Payer System:

If you have set up an automated "bill payer" system, include the words Nursery School on the check to make sure your payment is received at the Nursery School and not deposited with the Church's donations by mistake.

Classroom and Office Email Communication:

By now, you should have received at least one email from your child's classroom teacher. If you have not received an email, please email your child's teacher so they may capture your email address. (Occasionally messages land in spam/trash folders.) BHP CNS staff emails all follow the same format. The teacher's first initial and last name at BHP CNS. Example: Lsobrino@bhpncs.org.

Student Records:

We will be doing a thorough check of all our student's records. We will notify you of any missing paperwork, immunizations, etc. We ask that you submit any missing paperwork promptly. We appreciate your help in making sure our records are compliant with state regulations.

Healthy Kiddos:

BHP CNS is committed to keeping children healthy. If your child is not feeling well, please keep them home, and call BHP CNS's office to let us know that they will be out. We have a 24 hour fever free, vomiting free, rule and ask that you abide by that timeline.

Here at school we are:

- Asking you to wash your child's hands with soap and warm water before coming into the classrooms. Hand sanitizer is available but is not as effective as washing with soap and water.
- We will be cleaning and disinfecting classroom surfaces and toys regularly.
- Asking you to follow the CDC recommendations for flu vaccine and immunizations.

Label all Belongings:

PLEASE label all your child's belongings, jackets, tote bags, lunch bags, anything that they bring to school should be labeled with your child's name. You would be amazed at how many children don't recognize their own belongings and how many children have the same jackets, and bags. Lost and Found is outside of Room 117.

School Snacks:

BHP CNS has a school wide snack schedule. A calendar of the snack schedule is posted on the bulletin board outside the office and on our website. You may request a hard copy from the office. We serve 2 of the following food groups daily:

- A protein, i.e. organic vanilla yogurt, string cheese, etc.
- A fruit or vegetable, i.e. apple slices, carrot sticks, grapes, etc.
- A carbohydrate, i.e. graham crackers, gold fish, etc.

Children's Lunches:

BHPCNS provides organic 1% milk at lunch each day. Children are offered a choice of milk or filtered water at lunch time. You do not need to pack a drink with your child's lunch.

Please pack healthy, nutritious lunches for your children. BHPCNS teachers are not allowed by our licensing agency to make the children eat their "growing" foods first. If you pack a cookie and your child wants to eat that instead of their sandwich, we are technically not allowed to have them eat their sandwich first.

Children's lunches should be foods children are familiar with and should be cut into appropriate sized servings. Sandwiches cut into quarters are much easier for little ones to eat. **Gogurts are not permitted at nursery school.** We send home any easily wrapped, uneaten lunch foods. Uneaten yogurts, apple sauce cups, etc. will be tossed out. Lunch is a social time. Children like to talk and share their lives at lunch. Sometimes this gets in the way of eating their whole lunch. Don't worry as your child settles into school they will eat more of their lunch.

Donations: Before you throw it out donate it to BHPCNS

- We participate in the Ronald McDonald House Pop Tab Recycling Program. Pull off those tabs from your soda cans, cat food cans, and other cans that have one. When you've got a bunch, bring them to school and we will send them off!
- BHPCNS also collects used ink cartridges to be recycled. Drop yours by the office.
- Baby food jars are always needed to hold paint, push pins, etc. Please drop yours off in the office.
- Large oatmeal canisters to be crafted into drums.
- We can never have too many toilet paper or paper towel rolls.
- And you wouldn't believe how much newspaper we can use each month.

If your family can donate any of these items, we'd be thrilled to collect them in the office from you.

Parent's Bulletin Boards:

Across from the office is the BHPCNS' bulletin board. This space is updated regularly with our school monthly calendar, children's birthdays, and flyers about school events.

Another bulletin board by the bathrooms is used to share flyers about community programs, parenting events, sports programs, etc. that may be of interest to families. Please check these board occasionally.

BHPCNS Open Door Policy:

If at any time you have a concern or praise for something that is happening at BHPCNS, please stop by the office to share your thoughts. Without your input we don't know where we need to improve or what we are doing correctly. We value all input😊

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Zoe Greaser
Landon Schneider
Valentina D'Angelo
Colin O'Keefe
Luke Maloney
Mia Banashak
Audrey Moulton



Demi Markogiannakis
Sydney Ayers
Grace Menses
Ruka Funatsu
Jasmine McKinney
Ethan Chernyako
Max Gensch
Fiona Neabore

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

ALERT MONTGOMERY

Montgomery County has an Alert system that sends you texts or emails in the event of an emergency. You can customize the system to send alerts only about items that interest you. I strongly recommend signing up for this alert system to receive messages about Montgomery County Public Schools, MCPS, and school closings. BHCNS follows MCPS with regard to delayed openings, and school closings.

To register to have alert messages emailed or texted to you go to:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832009#/login> to set up your account.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES

September 15: Red day in the 4s' classes. Details to follow from your teacher. All ages are welcome to wear red!

September 21: BHCNS closed for BJC High Holiday

September 22: Yellow day in the 4s classes. Details to follow. All ages are welcome to wear yellow.

September 23: Back to School Picnic between 4:00 and 6:00

September 30: Deadline for donations for the food drive

October 2: Early Morning, Lunch Bunch, and Stay and Play Programs begin

October 5: Back to School Night

7:00 to 7:30 pm Tuesday/Thursday classes

7:45 to 8:15 pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes and Monday through Friday classes

(Times are tentative and may change. Classroom teachers will share more information.)

October 15: Deadline for Operation Paperback Donations

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BEAR FACTS NEWSLETTER

At the beginning of each month the office will send electronically a copy of the BEAR FACTS to every registered household. Be on the lookout for an email at the beginning of each month with the newsletter attached. It is important to read the newsletters and accompanying emails as they are filled upcoming events, important information, parenting tips, and more! To stay in the know, read your monthly BEAR FACTS and save it for future reference. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of our newsletter, return the form below.

Newsletter Distribution Preference

Name of Child: _____

BHCNS publishes a monthly newsletter to be distributed to all families. Please check if you wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter (sent home in your child's tote bag) in addition to an electronic copy.

☐ Yes, I'd like to receive a hard-copy of the BHCNS monthly newsletter

BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL

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