

## November 2020 Newsletter

# *The Bear Facts*

### Celebrating 63 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all the families who joined the Halloween parades and sing alongs. It was wonderful to see so many of our bear cubs in their costumes having a fun time. Manna Food Bank was very appreciative of the generous food donations. Thank you!

We hope you will be able to join us for one of our Thanksgiving "Turkey Hat" Parades, Sing Alongs, and donate a "Holiday Family Fun Night" gift donation. Full details can be found on page 4.

#### **April Reopening and why I think that's the best timeframe.**

Thank you also to everyone who completed the Interest in Enrollment survey. Your input is very important to me as I look to the future of our program. One consistent question was, "Why the school is looking to reopen in April?" There are several reasons, including April is when Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church is planning on reopening the building for their members. (The building is currently closed for all building users and services.) With the warmer spring weather we will be able to hold more of our programming outdoors for the safety and well-being of the children and our staff. In the interim, we will continue to observe other programs which have reopened to update our protocols as necessary to ensure as safe a school setting as possible. Lastly, I remain hopeful better therapeutics, potentially a vaccine for adults, and additional Covid mitigation efforts will be readily available to the community by our planned April reopening timeline.

The recently released article by the [American Academy of Pediatrics study on Covid in Child Care Settings](#) discusses how, with proper protocols and low community transmission rates, child care settings have had very low transmission rates between child to child and child to staff. This research reinforces my belief we can have a safe reopening in April.

**Enrollment Information and forms will be mailed to all families who registered for the 2020-2021 school year in mid-November. The package will include an Enrollment form for the April 6 - June 16, 2021 program, Camp Registration Information, a Camp Application, and the 2021-2022 School Year Application. These forms and applications will also be available on the school website in mid-November. Full details on these programs were attached as a separate document with this newsletter's distribution.**

**Security Update:** Over the summer BHP CNS applied for a grant from the Maryland Center for School Safety. BHP CNS has been awarded a safety and security grant in the amount of \$45,000. These funds will be used to complete the work started this past spring, using the funds from last year's security grant award, to finalize the mass communication system for all building users, adding additional security cameras, replacing the brown entry doors and the doors leading to the lower level of the building, and improving our door access control systems. The new funds will be used for exterior lighting upgrades, adding loud speakers for communicating outdoors, replacing the



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Thanksgiving Parade & Sing Along – November 23 & 24!



Join our Thanksgiving  
Fun on November 23  
or November 24.

#### December Holiday Parade & Sing Along- December 17 & 18!

Mark your  
calendars for our  
Christmas Parades  
& Sing Alongs on  
December 17 & 18



green doors, and more. The BHCNS Board's Safety and Security Committee will be working on getting estimates, identifying vendors, hiring, and overseeing these improvements.

Please contact me with any questions. [Lsobrino@bhpcns.org](mailto:Lsobrino@bhpcns.org) or call me at 301-642-8166.

Wishing everyone the happiest of Thanksgivings! Be well!

Liz Sobrino - BHCNS Director

## PARENTS' GROUP NEWS

Hello BHCNS Families!

We hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. We can't tell you how much we miss seeing you and your kiddos at BHCNS - we're keeping our fingers crossed that we can get our Bradley Bears back together again soon!

We wanted to share some exciting updates with you all. We're thrilled to be able to offer three ways of supporting BHCNS even while our beloved school isn't in session.

**1). Our Holiday Art Fundraiser is back!** Many of you have asked if we'd be offering our popular art fundraiser this year and we're SO EXCITED to be able to keep it going! Like everything else this year, this fundraiser will look slightly different than previous years. Everything will take place entirely online which should make the process easier and more streamlined. You'll be able to upload your kiddos' artwork, order from the site, and receive your completed items directly to your home! Our fundraising dates will be between **11/4 - 11/23**. This means that you can upload art and place orders any time during this window, and items will be delivered in time for the holidays. Below are a few links to resources that will help you think through which art to upload, and how to photograph the artwork to get the best quality possible. Details will be forth coming but in the meantime, feel free to familiarize yourself with the process and of course, HAVE FUN MAKING ART!

- [How to Scan/Photograph Your Art](#)
- [Video Tutorial for Uploading Art](#)
- [Catalog of Available Keepsakes for 2020](#)

**2). Minted Holiday Card Fundraiser:** We're partnering with [minted](#) again this year to share an awesome discount of **20%** on your holiday card orders, while also receiving **15%** of all purchases back to BHCNS. To redeem the promotion, simply enter the code: **FUNDRAISEBHCNS** at checkout.

**3). Amazon Smile:** Lastly, we want to remind everyone of our partnership with Amazon Smile. When buying your household essentials, holiday gifts, etc., please remember to order via [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select **Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church**. A portion of all order proceeds will be donated to BHCNS!

We hope you and your family have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving holiday! We are thankful for your wonderful support! Let us know if you have any questions.

Maggie Maloney  
[MaggieWMaloney@gmail.com](mailto:MaggieWMaloney@gmail.com)

Sarah McGovern  
[SarahLothrop@hotmail.com](mailto:SarahLothrop@hotmail.com)



Silver Graphics

## CONVERSATIONS WITH MRS. SOBRINO



with Mrs. Sobrino  
to answer your questions  
regarding BHCNS & your  
child's development.

Join Liz Sobrino and fellow parents, via Zoom, to learn more about BHCNS's reopening plans, summer camp programming, the 2021-2022 school year, and more. Please [click here to sign up](#) and share any questions, concerns, ideas, you'd like to discuss.

Here are the links to the Zoom meetings:

[November 12 at 7:30 p.m.](#) Meeting ID: 724 0634 8287

Passcode: Director

[November 18 at 7:30 p.m.](#) Meeting ID: 776 1144 1864

Passcode: Chat

Links will be resent on November 12 and November 18.

## BHCNS BOARD UPDATE

### Happy November from the BHCNS Board!

The Board is excited to have received the go ahead from BHPC to begin the planning process for an April 6, 2021 reopening. Be on the lookout for communications from Liz in the weeks to come explaining the registration process, fees, safety protocols, and more.

We are thrilled about the additional \$45,000 security grant funding to offset the completion of our security upgrades. These upgrades are state of the art and will enhance the safety and security for all building users.

Feedback from parents is very helpful to us throughout the year. You can reach us directly at [Board@bhpcns.org](mailto:Board@bhpcns.org) or fill out an anonymous form on the Board portion of the school website any time you like.

I look forward to seeing you for the November Thanksgiving parades and sing alongs. Wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Missy Banashak - BHCNS Board Chair



## BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

### Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church News

We hope everyone had a good Halloween even in these times of social distancing.

#### Weekly Virtual Church School

All children in 5th grade and younger are invited to join DCE Matt Nabinger for a time of music, Bible story, and virtual social engagement on Saturdays at 10:30 AM in November and December. Dates are: Nov 7 and 21 and Dec 5 and 19. Parents and family members of children in 5th grade or younger are invited as well! Check the church website for the Zoom link.





## BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

### Weekly Church Services

We are still holding Virtual Worship Services at 10:30 am on Sundays at the link below:

[WATCH SERVICES LIVE CLICK HERE](#)

The November 15<sup>th</sup> service will be our Interfaith Service with Bethesda Jewish Congregation and our Muslim partners.

**Service Opportunity:** As part of our Interfaith Sunday, we also provide Thanksgiving meals for 60 families in our area. You may sign up to donate a basket, a gift card or both. If you choose to donate a basket, it is very important that you include all requested items and that you place all items in a closed box or plastic container and deliver to the church office door (Door#4) on Sunday, November 8, between 11:45 am and 1:30 pm, so that the items can be organized and delivered to the National Center for Children and Families and to A Wider Circle. .

[Click here to sign up and for more details!](#)

### THANKSGIVING FUN!



November is a time to be thankful and grateful for our families, friends, and relatives. Typically at BHPCNS we would spend the month of November focusing on Family, Food & Fun, and what it means to be thankful with our bear cubs. It's always fun to hear what the children are most thankful for – of course we have to explain what it means to be thankful first. But once they understand, preschool-aged children are overwhelmingly thankful for YOU! Preschool teachers are also thankful and grateful to watch your children play, grow, and learn.

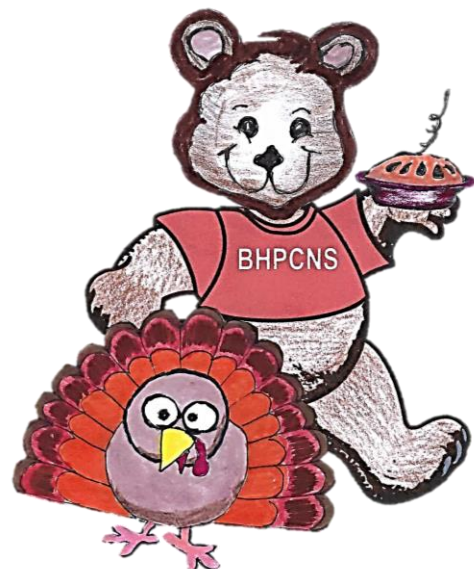
### Thanksgiving Parade & Sing Along – 2020 Style!

Join your preschool friends for Thanksgiving Parades and Sing Alongs on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> & November 24<sup>th</sup>!

Following up on the success of the Halloween parades and sing alongs, we will host 8 sessions for our fun. To be compliant with Montgomery County regulations, each session will be 25 people or less, with masks for everyone over 2, and maintaining appropriate social distancing. A temperature check will also be required.

Instead of Halloween costumes, we are asking everyone to make a turkey hat or to wear some fun Thanksgiving outfit! [Click here](#) for some fun and simple turkey hat crafts. To take the project a step further ask your child what they are thankful for and write their responses on the turkey feathers.

[Click here for full details and to sign up.](#)



### Angel Gift Tree Holiday Donations – Please consider donating!

We are asking our Thanksgiving parade participants and our families to bring a new, favorite family game, or two and some snacks to share with families less fortunate than you. These family fun packs will be part of the BHPC Annual Holiday Angel Gift Tree program. Thank you in advance for your donation. Donations can be dropped off at the parade or email Liz at [Lsobrino@bhpcns.org](mailto:Lsobrino@bhpcns.org) to arrange a drop-off.



## THANKSGIVING FUN!

### SING ALONG REHEARSALS:

To prepare for our November sing alongs, the world famous, Ms. Casey will hold two rehearsal sessions for everyone. Join Ms. Casey and BHP CNS friends on November 17 and/or November 20.

#### November 17:

Meeting ID: 789 6396 5763    Passcode: turkey

#### November 20:

Meeting ID: 722 2825 9436    Passcode: turkey



Here are some resources on how to make this Thanksgiving season meaningful, especially when extended family, loved ones, and special friends may not be able to gather as they have in past years.

For families who have been at BHP CNS these links have been shared in previous November newsletters. They contain fun ideas on how to make Thanksgiving meaningful for children and adults of all ages.

[Today Parents](#)

[National Geographic](#)

[CBS Chicago](#)

### Other fun Thanksgiving ideas include:

1. Plan a special Thanksgiving breakfast and have your child help you make it.
2. Involve your child with the Thanksgiving menu planning and where possible, have your child help with the cooking.
3. Make turkey hats labeled with what you child is thankful for. (See link above in parade description.)
4. Make special Thanksgiving placemats, table decorations, door wreaths, etc. with your children.
5. Send homemade Thanksgiving cards to those who can't be with you. Have your child tell the recipient why they are special to your child.
6. Focus on the positives of Thanksgiving this year, whatever the positives may be for your family. Preschool aged children live in the here and now. They won't remember that last year you traveled away for Thanksgiving, or there were more people over for dinner.
7. Organize a neighborhood bike, stroller, pet, marching parade. Wear costumes or not ☺ Cone off the street or use driveways to set up tables with hot cider and cookies, Thanksgiving crafts, face painting, etc. to celebrate.
8. Google Preschool Thanksgiving Crafts or Ways to Show Gratitude for many, many, more activities to do at home or at a relative's house.
9. Over Zoom or FaceTime
  - have a special someone read a Thanksgiving story to your child
  - have your child teach someone a Thanksgiving song or finger play
  - have someone teach/create a holiday craft with your child
  - simultaneously watch sports or a Thanksgiving program, maybe the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade

However you celebrate, may your Thanksgiving holiday be filled with love and gratitude.



## BRADLEY BEAR CUBS NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!!!



Wishing our November  
birthday Bear cubs a  
wonderful birthday!

Thomas Hennessey  
Juliana Chan  
Benjamin Leininger  
Edison Smink  
Ted Rabin-Rosfjord  
Charlie Jennings  
Taylor Walker

CJ Herman  
Ava Montesinos  
Sammy Hertz  
Cooper Brandaleone  
Betty Callahan  
Matthew Chen

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY RESOURCES

Montgomery County Public Libraries are full of great activities and books for the preschool set. Check out their latest virtual offerings and how to reserve and collect books [by clicking here](#).



## CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Here's a great resource for activities to support your child's on-going development at home, visit [www.IMHPromotions.ca](http://www.IMHPromotions.ca), and look for activities to support your child's physical and social-emotional development. These age-appropriate activities are fun for the whole family to play and while you are playing your children are growing, getting stronger, learning, and mastering new skills.

Gross Motor skills are also key to not only a child's physical development but their social emotional development too. Read more about how gross motor skills affect the play and development of children by [clicking here](#). Fine motor skills are needed for so many daily and educational task, eating, dressing, writing, and more. Learn more about fun ways to build fine motor skills through play by [clicking here](#).

**PLAY BASED DEVELOPMENTAL RESOURCES**

## ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD'S PRETEND PLAY

Did you know that Scholastic Books has wonderful parent resources? Here's the first paragraph of a great article about the importance of pretend play. *Young children learn by imagining and doing. Have you ever watched your child pick up a stone and pretend it is a zooming car, or hop a Lego across the table as if it were a person or a bunny? Your child is using an object to represent something else while giving it action and motion. But this pretend play is not as simple as it may seem. The process of pretending builds skills in many essential developmental areas.* [Click here](#) to access the full article.





## PBS RESOURCES FOR TALKING WITH CHILDREN ABOUT RACISM



PBS offers many wonderful resources for families with young children. They have several programs and resources designed to help parents discuss racism with their children. There are also resources for children to watch to help facilitate this important discussion. Click on these links for more information to start the conversation with your child(ren).

[For younger children:](#)

[For slightly older children:](#)

## SUPER FRIEND – A SOCIAL STORY FOR BUILDING FRIENDSHIP SKILLS!

Scripted Stories for Social Situations are used at BHPCNS to help children understand social interactions, situations, expectations, social cues, the script of unfamiliar activities, and/or social rules. As the title implies, the stories are brief descriptive stories that provide information regarding a social situation. When children are given information that helps them understand the expectations of a situation, their problem behavior within that situation is reduced or minimized.

[How to Be A Super Friend.](#) A Super Friend is a child who learns how to play and interact with his friends and family. At BHPCNS we read social stories and model appropriate behaviors to help children learn the give and take of play in a group setting. Stories also help children identify their feelings and how they can be Super Friends. Ask your child about being a Super Friend. Social stories can be easily customized. If you'd like a copy of the story for home, let me know.

**I Can Be a  
SUPER FRIEND!**



December's newsletter will introduce you to A Solutions Kit. For a sneak peek [click here](#). BHPCNS implements many of the strategies being shared with you from Vanderbilt University's Center for the Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learners, CSEFEL.

These resources are available at the [CSEFEL website](#).

Their Book Nook and Book List contain wonderful books to enhance your child's social and emotional development. Watch for profiles on these materials in the coming months. In the meantime Liz Sobrino can help you utilize these tools with your child(ren).

## SCHOLASTIC BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!



## SCHOLASTIC BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS CONTINUED

Good news Scholastic Book Club will send ordered books right to your home at no charge. They are a great source for all your holiday gifts, from stocking stuffers to boxed collections, for children of all ages.

Scholastic books have offered an affordable book store serving the needs of our children. BHP CNS and Scholastic have partnered for over twenty years. Literacy is the foundation of any type of education, promoting imagination, independence, personality, and other endless possibilities. And this year, you can shop from home!

Please use code L8HGN as your sign in code, so the nursery school will get credit for your purchase (we get free books for our sharing library). It takes three weeks for the books to arrive so order early. When you check out you'll be prompted for home address, if you don't the order will be sent to the school and we'll get the box to you. Enjoy the holidays!!

Please click on [Scholastic Book Clubs.com](https://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs/) to get started. If you have ordered before please continue to use the school code: L8HGN. If new to Scholastic go to set up an account, the next prompt will be connect to a teacher, enter the code L8HGN, a teacher name will come up as Nancy McCullough. This should get you into the site, once there you can peruse the site and order for all your children. Nothing beats quiet moments reading with your child, or watching them look at the pictures with curiosity.

Thank you!

If you place an order of \$25, you can pick a free book (up to \$5), use code: READS at checkout.

Submitted by Nancy McCullough aka Mrs. Mac-n-Cheese.

## PREVIEW OF UPCOMING PROGRAMMING & ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

### **BHP CNS Programming Information:**

- Preschool programming will be April 6<sup>th</sup> through June 16, 2021
- There will be 2 Summer Camp Sessions
  - Session 1 - June 21 and July 1, 2021
  - Session 2 - July 6 and July 16, 2021
- Registration for the 2021-2022 Preschool programs is now open for new and current students. Applications are available on the school website.

### **Spring Semester, Camp and 2021-2022 Enrollment Paperwork:**

A mailing to all 2020-2021 registered families will be sent in mid-November. The mailing will include:

1. Acceptance Letter/Enrollment Form for the April 6 – June 16 Preschool program
2. Summer Camp Registration Form
3. Application Form for the 2021-2022 Preschool program

Completed paperwork may be mailed, emailed, or returned in person in the office. Call the office at 301-365-2909 prior to making a hand delivery to confirm someone will be in the building to collect your paperwork. Applications are considered completed when the application and tuition payment 1 is received.

In order to guarantee a child's place we will need your confirmation of enrollment by December 11, 2020. After that date we will open up the program to children on the waiting list.

**All programming is subject to change based on the public health pandemic requirements as set forth by local, state, and federal governments, and Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church. BHP CNS also reserves the right to cancel programming due to low enrollment numbers.**