

February 2019 Newsletter

The Bear Facts

Celebrating 61 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

February marks the mid-point of our school year. How have 5 months passed by so quickly? Now it's time to think ahead to Summer Camp and the 2019-2020 school year!

BHPCNS will not be raising tuition rates for the 2019-2020 school year.

2019-2020 acceptance letters were sent home in mid- January. If you did not receive your child's acceptance letter stop by the office for a copy. We are almost fully enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year. Thank you. If you have friends who are looking for next year, ask them to contact the office ASAP to tour and apply. If you have questions regarding your child's placement, contact the office. To confirm your child's space, deposits are due February 15th.

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held throughout February. Conferences are a time for the teachers to share their observations of your child in a school setting. It's a time for you to share your child's accomplishments and challenges with us. BHPCNS is here to support your child's growth each and every day. Parents, teachers, working together with me, will ensure every child is receiving the appropriate pre-school education. See page 4 for more information on conferences.

Early Bear Camp Registrations are happening now. To receive discounted pricing we must have your application by February 28th. **2 YEAR OLDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT CAMP, EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT POTTY TRAINED.** There will be a \$75 up-charge for non-potty trained campers. See additional camp details on page 5.

In honor of Valentine's Day your classroom teachers and room parents will be sending you more information on the class parties and valentines to be distributed. We will celebrate on Wednesday the 13th and Thursday the 14th.

Please know you are welcome to come in at any time to chat. Or, you may call me at the school office at 301-365-2909 or on my cell at 301-642-8166 or email me at Lsobrino@bhpcns.org to discuss any and all things related to BHPCNS.

Liz Sobrino, Director BHPCNS

Thank you for your patience with the snow days, early closings, delayed starts and then the water main break. I am hoping February is a quieter month.



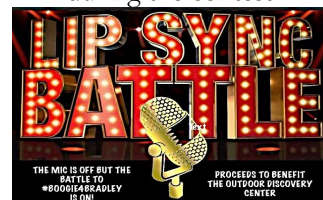
**BHPCNS WINTER GALA
MARCH 8TH AT 7:00 PM**



Bradley Bear's friends will be gathering at Bethesda Country Club on March 8th for a fun-filled evening and to raise money for our

**NEW OUTDOOR
DISCOVERY CENTER!**

There will be food, beer, wine, dancing, a live auction, a silent auction, and a **BATTLE OF THE BANDS** featuring BHPCNS teachers. Winners will be determined by votes casted during the contest.



If you can't make it to the event, there are still many ways to support our fundraiser. Consider:

- Making a cash donation
- Becoming a sponsor
- Donating wine to the wine auction

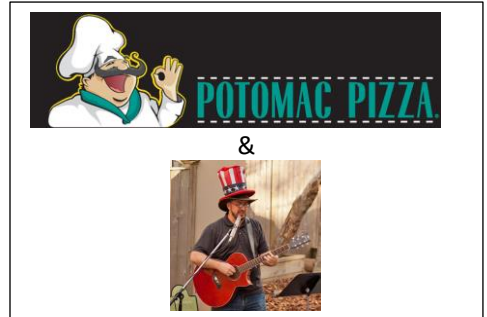
For more details see page 3 of the newsletter or contact our Gala Chairs, Claire Adams or Brigitte Koch.

PARENTS' GROUP NEWSLETTER



We have a busy few weeks coming up at BHPCNS. We're just one month out from our Winter Gala! Get your tickets, purchase sponsorships, and see more information at Bradley.givesmart.com. Our Gala Co-Chairs and Auction Committee are working hard to put together a fantastic evening for us all! Plans are coming together for the Outdoor Discovery Center, but we can't complete the project without your help!

Mark your calendars for John Henry Pizza night on **March 14th!** Kids and parents alike will love dancing the night away to John Henry's famous music, while enjoying a pizza party with friends. Look for more information to come in your child's tote bag, including how to RSVP and pre-order pizza.



Have you ever wondered if your child would benefit from Occupational Therapy, or what exactly OT is? Join us for a parent education seminar **March 26th** at 7pm for a fascinating conversation on OT led by two trained OT professionals from Stepping Stones Therapy. We'll also hear from a mental health expert on tactics for addressing childhood anxiety. More information to come on how to RSVP, along with bios and information on our wonderful presenters.

Parent Education Event: March 26th at 7:00 pm.
Topics will include the Benefits of Occupational Therapy,
How to recognize Childhood Anxiety and help your Child with their Anxiety.
BHPCNS families and their friends are welcome to attend.

We've had a chilly few weeks, but our teachers LOVE to get the kiddos outside. With more snow to come, don't forget to label those hats, boots, gloves, snow suits, etc! Check out LabelDaddy for peel and stick labels to make labeling all your child's winter play clothes so much easier! These labels are machine washable and don't require any ironing or sewing. LabelDaddy will give you 10% off your order and give 15% back to BHPCNS when you visit their website labeldaddy.com and enter code BHPCNS at checkout.

As always, thank you for the support, and stay warm!

Maggie Maloney
maggiewmaloney@gmail.com

Sarah McGovern
SarahLothrop@yahoo.com

NEWS FROM THE BHPCNS BOARD

Happy February, the month of groundhogs, snow, love, and so much more, from the BHPCNS Board! During January we will be looking ahead for the 2019-2020 school year in terms of facility improvements, programming, and budgeting. Due to several years of strong enrollment and prudent spending the BHPCNS board has not raised tuition for the 2019-2020 school year. Tuition fees will be the same as they were for the 2018-2019 school year.

The BHPCNS Board consists of parents, BHPC and teacher representatives. A list of members can be found on the Nursery School website. The Board meets bi-monthly during the school year to discuss a proactive agenda to advance the school, and respond to concerns related to the school. The Board encourages parents to engage with us directly. Email us at Board@bhpcns.org or anonymously via the online form on the Board portion of the school website. We encourage parents to join us for Board meetings. If you are planning on attending the meeting, please contact me. We are working to reschedule our January Board meeting which was cancelled due to the harsh winter weather. The date will be announced soon.

Souheil Inati, Chairman of the BHPCNS Board



BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE FOR 4 DISNEY ON ICE TICKETS IF YOU BUY YOUR GALA TICKETS BETWEEN NOW & FEBRUARY 8TH!

Buy your tickets for the Winter Gala between now and February 8th and be automatically entered to win 4 tickets to Disney on Ice at the Capital One Arena on Saturday, February 16th at 10:30 AM. Only one lucky winner will be drawn!

LET'S BOOGIE FOR BRADLEY.....

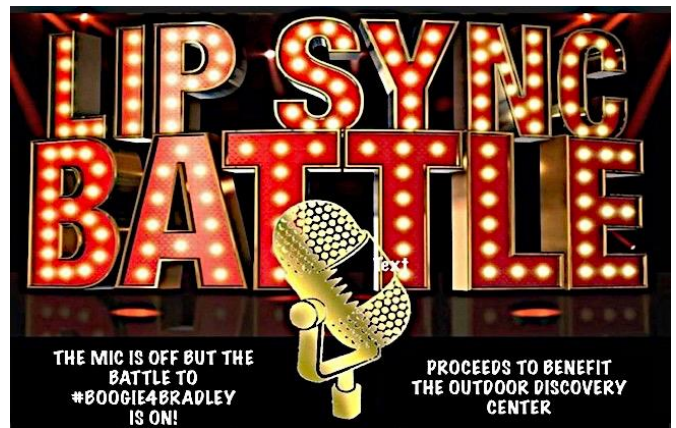
We hope you will join us for an evening to remember! Your ticket includes food, beer and wine, as well as dancing with DJ Adam. Silent and Live auction items are rolling in...getaways, a Great Zucchini birthday party, a meet and greet with the Caps, a catered cocktail party, Botox, special teacher surprises, and much, much more!

WINE & SPONSORSHIP DONATIONS WELCOME...

Sponsorship forms are available in the office. Please consider becoming a sponsor and/or donating a bottle of wine or two valued at \$30 or more a piece to our Wall of Wine live auction items. We are hoping to collect over 50 bottles of wine for people to bid on during the live auction with our very own parent emcee, Joe Maloney.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS.....

Get ready for **Battle of the Bands** put on by BHPCNS' very own fabulous teachers! Keep an eye out for sneak peek videos of the teacher lip-sync teams practicing their performances for the big night on Facebook and Instagram. You have to be in the audience to vote for the winning team. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, you won't want to miss.



WINTER GALA WONDERS

A big THANK YOU to our fabulous sponsors!

Corporate Sponsors

- Chevy Chase Pediatric Dentistry
- Smiles of Chevy Chase
- Stepping Stones Occupational Therapy
- Aruna Prasad, Speech Pathologist

Musical Elements Sponsors

- The Adams Family
- The Koch Family

Nature Art Area Sponsor

- The Hoffman Family

Amphitheater Sponsor

- Music on the Heights

Balance Beam Sponsor

- The Abod Family

Gazebo Sponsors

- The Pappas Family
- The Feyen Family
- Jackie & Don Meier
- The Brandaleone Family
- Kuang Chiang & Adam Supple (in honor of Mrs. Coulton, Mrs. Sobrino, Mrs. McCauley, and all the BHPCNS Staff)

Sensory Walkway Sponsor

- The Maloney Family
- The Callahan Family
- The Guerrero/Wolvin Family
- The Deva Family
- The Notaro Family
- The Schneck Family
- The Salcetti Family
- The Grant Family
- The Giannattasio Family
- The Tremaine Family
- Friends of Bradley Bear

Donations as of February 2, 2019

VALENTINE'S FUN AT BHPCNS FEBRUARY 13TH AND 14TH



Valentine's Day Parties will be held on:

Wednesday, February 13 for our Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes

Thursday, February 14 for our Tuesday/Thursday classes and Monday through Friday classes

Children should bring a valentine for each child in their class. Please do not address the valentines to individual children. Just sign your child's name on the cards. Include a card for your child. They like to put a card in for themselves!

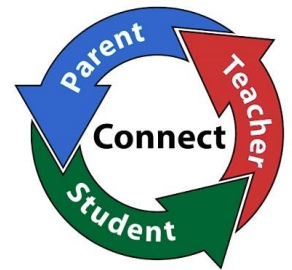
Party details will be shared with all families via your child's teacher or your room parents. Thank you in advance for making Valentine's Day so much fun!

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE TIPS

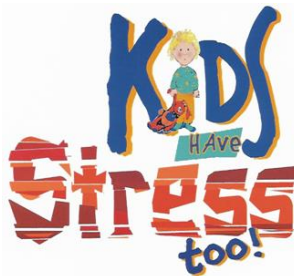
Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled throughout February. Here's some tips to get the most out of the conference experience.

- Conferences are scheduled for 15 minutes. Please be on time or notify the office if you are running late for your conference. If you think you will need more than 15 minutes, please make special arrangements with your child's teacher in advance.
- Conferences are for adults only. Classes will be held during conferences. Baby-sitting arrangements should be made for siblings.
- Conferences are an opportunity for us to share your child's strengths, concerns, readiness, with you and for you to share what's special, unique or concerning you about your child.
- As the Director of the school, I work with the teachers to ensure we are providing the best possible experience for your child. It's possible I will sit in on your child's conference to learn more about your child, support a teacher, offer ideas on your child's development. Please, do not worry if I'm at your conference. I am there as a resource, support, educator, for your child and family.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like me to participate in your child's conference. Working together as a team is important to each child's progress in pre-school.



PARENT EDUCATION EVENT ON MARCH 26TH AT 7:00 pm in COVENANT HALL



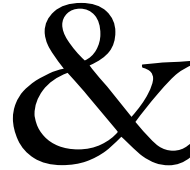
Parent Education Event: March 26th at 7:00 pm in Covenant Hall.

**Topics will include the Benefits of Occupational Therapy,
How to recognize Childhood Anxiety and support a Child with Anxiety.**

BHPCNS families and their friends are welcome to attend.

Mark your calendar and watch for more details in the next few weeks.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR POTOMAC PIZZA AND JOHN HENRY: MARCH 14th



Come out for a fun filled evening of pizza and music.

Who: BHP CNS students and their families. This is not a drop off event. Children must be with an adult.

When: March 14th

Dinner Picnic between 5:30 and 6:15

John Henry performs between 6:15 and 7:00 pm on the stage.

Where: Memorial Hall

What: Preorder from Potomac Pizza, (order forms available outside the office or attached to the email that included this newsletter) or pack a picnic dinner from home. BHP CNS will provide lemonade, water, and ice cream sundaes for dessert. Order sheets will be going home later in February.

Wanted: Volunteers to:

1. set up Memorial Hall on Tuesday morning after drop off
2. to assist with the distribution of dinner
3. to man ice cream station

If you are able to help or have questions, please contact Liz or Carolyn at info@bhpcns.org. Thank you!

2019-2020 BHP CNS ACCEPTANCE LETTERS HAVE GONE HOME!

ACCEPTANCE LETTERS

- BHP CNS has sent home, via your child's tote bag, our 2019-2020 acceptance letters. If you have not received your child's acceptance letter, contact the office, ASAP.
- For families not currently enrolled at BHP CNS acceptance letters were mailed home.
- Deposits are due back to BHP CNS by February 15th to guarantee your child's spot.

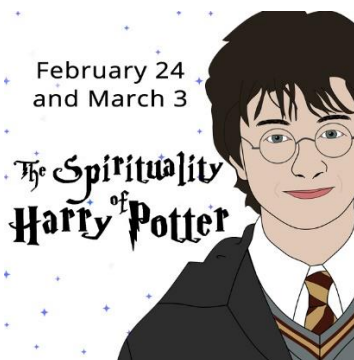


SCHOLARSHIP REQUESTS

Financial need based scholarships are available through the **Alla Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund** established by the Nursery School Board. Click [here](#) for a scholarship application. Information is strictly confidential. Scholarship amounts awarded are based on number of applicants, available funds and applicant need. The majority of allocated scholarship funds will be distributed by May 31 for the following fall, therefore it is in the applicant's best interest to submit a scholarship application no later than April 1.



BHPC SPECIAL EVENT



The Spirituality of Harry Potter

Sundays February 24 and March 3
9:20am in the Bradley Hills Lounge

Join Pastor David for a family friendly education program about the connections between themes in the Harry Potter books/movies and our Christian faith. This class will draw upon the Harry Potter knowledge of the children and youth present, and the religious knowledge of adults. For all ages, it's a chance to learn about the well-known series of books, and a chance for children and youth to make connections between the wizarding world they love and their faith.

SUMMER CAMP: JUMPIN JELLYFISH WITH BRADLEY BEAR



*Here we go a wandering!
BHP CNS
Summer Camp!*

This year our campers will be exploring all things related to camping. Our 2019 camp programming is changing a bit from previous years. There will still be lots of fun both inside and outside.

- There will be one camp session that runs for 9 days. Camp will run from Monday, June 17th through Thursday, June 27th between 9:00 am & 12:30 pm.
- There will be early morning drop off available too.
- All currently enrolled BHP CNS children, including those in our 2s' programs, may attend camp. For children not completely potty trained there will be an additional fee.
- For more details, stop by the office. Registration forms have gone home in your child's tote bag. Additional copies are available outside the office.
- Register by February 28 for an Early Bird discount.

IS THERE A RISING MCPS KINDERGARTENER IN YOUR HOUSE?



MCPS elementary schools need to know if your child will be attending their school in September 2018. To register your child, call your local elementary school. It is very helpful to the elementary schools to know the number of children attending for next fall as soon as possible. Based on projected enrollments your child's elementary school may need to add another class, add another teacher, increase class size, and/or close a class. While your child won't start school until September, the elementary schools are already making their staffing projections for the fall.

Local Elementary Schools and their phone numbers:

Ashburton: 240-740-1300

Bannockburn: 240-740-1270

Bethesda: 240-204-5300

Bradley Hills: 240-204-5210

Burning Tree: 240-740-1750

Carderock Springs: 240-740-0540

Rosemary Hills: 301-9209990

Garrett Park: 240-740-0700

Kensington Parkwood: 240-740-3700

Seven Locks: 240-740-0940

Wood Acres: 240-740-1120

Wyngate: 240-740-1080

Bells Mill: 240.740.0480

Beverly Farm: 301-469-1050

Richie Park: 301-279-8475

Westbrook: 240-740-1040

Somerset: 240-740-1100

When contacting your local elementary school ask if they are hosting any informational kindergarten meetings for parents. Several schools have monthly tours available to give you an overview of their school.

For more information about MCPS and Kindergarten, visit the MCPS website by clicking [here](#). Kindergarten orientation dates are available on the MCPS website as well.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR BHP CNS' "EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT KINDERGARTEN" INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON APRIL 3rd!

PICTURE DAYS ARE COMING: FEBRUARY 22, 26, and 27!



Picture Days will be February 22, 26, and 27th of February!

Your child's picture day will be noted on your child's classroom calendars.

Forms will be going home in your child's tote bag in early February.

In addition to individual pictures, sibling pictures may be taken. Details to follow.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR PICTURE DAYS



Parent Volunteers are Needed for Picture Days
February 22, 27 and 28th between 9:00 and 12:00
Volunteers will be given a \$50 photo credit for their time.
If interested contact the BHCNS office at
301-365-2909 or email Carolyn at CMccauley@bhpcns.org.



MORE IMPORTANT NEWS FOR BHCNS FAMILIES

Presidents' Day: February 18th BHCNS is closed!

Lost and Found Bin: The Lost and Found bin, by Room 117, is getting filled with warm jackets, hair bows, sweaters, & other lost items. Please check the bin for any missing belongings. We will be donating unclaimed items.

Boots for Outdoor Playtime: Please continue to send your children to school with boots, labeled with their name, which can be worn outside to the playgrounds. Snowy or muddy playgrounds will not keep us indoors!

BHCNS Office Number: Please add the office number 301-365-2909 to your contacts in your cell phones. This way you'll never miss a call from the office because you didn't recognize the school's phone number. You never know when the power will go out or there is some other unexpected emergency that requires us to call you.

Facebook: Friend Bradley Bear and like the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School to stay in the know!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lily Pratt
Toby Miksatko
Iris Brown
Jasper Kimball
Desi Kimball
Mihika Choudhury
Iris Brown



Valentina Chandia
Dahlia Hertig
Andrew Russell
Seraphina Conti
Ellie Barrett
Cristiano Dessardo

Happy Birthday to Our Cubs!

Reminder: If 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! If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or the office!

SPRING BREAK APRIL 13TH THROUGH APRIL 22ND



Spring Break: BHCNS will close Friday, April 12th at 12:30 pm. There will not be Stay & Play on Friday the 12th. We will reopen on Tuesday, April 23rd. Early Morning, Lunch Bunch, and Stay & Play will be held on April 23rd.

STAY AND PLAY UPDATES



**Monday:
The Artist's
Corner**
By Mrs. McCullough

ART - LOVE is in the air and in Art Stay & Play. A 3-D heart mobile will be created by cutting, painting and finally gluing. We'll finish up the month and the topic of Impressionism by printing a family portrait influenced by Mary Cassatt.

This month our scientists will continue to explore the five senses and how they work together. We will play games and conduct experiments that challenge our sense of hearing, test our sense of touch by identifying items in brain boxes, and complete our unit by investigating the sense of sight. As we continue to explore our senses, we will also talk about how our senses work together to gather information that is sent to the brain. It's fun to see, taste, hear, touch and smell the beauty in our wonderful world.

**Tuesday:
Wigglin' Wizards**
By Mrs. Myers



Monday: Cooking w/ Bradley Bear
By Ms. Senarathne



During the month of February, the Bradley Bear cubs will explore a few dishes from around the world. We will make Dumplings as an Asian dish, a sweet crêpe opened up with whipped cream and strawberry from France for the Valentine's Day week, A Savory Bread Pudding from England and Bacon Wrapped Tator Tots from the USA.

**Tuesday &
Wednesday:
Bradley Bear
Dance Co.**



Miss Lisa, of the Bethesda Conservatory of Dance, will be keeping your little dancers very busy this month. During the month of February our dancing bear cubs will combine the beats and rhythms of jazz with the story elements of ballet to begin putting together our circus themed recital. Dancers will rely on teamwork and individual focus as we put their creative moves to the rag time and swing beats of circus melodies.



Explorer Senarathne Shares:

The Bradley Bear cubs had a phenomenal time dancing to Gangnam Style in South Korea. Our Special thanks to Mrs. Choi (two-year-old class teacher) for doing a presentation about her culture. In February we will be traveling to Antarctica. The continent that is virtually uninhabited, ice-covered landmass. We will learn about arctic animals, do a science experiment of Blubber and practice waddling like male Penguins carrying eggs.

**Thursday:
Where in the World is
Bradley Bear?**

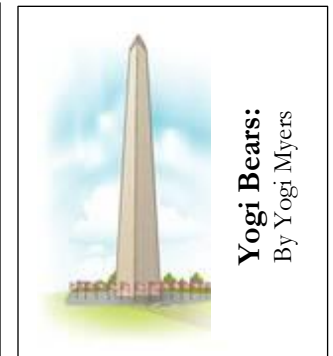
Antarctica

Barnyard
By Mrs. Myers



Our Bradley farmers are warding off the chilly February air learning about the role crops and vegetables play on a farm. From sprouting carrot tops to the different varieties of potatoes, herbs and seed growth, our month will be spent exploring the beginning of spring vegetables.

Our Yogi Bears are continuing to develop their mastery of poses, breathing techniques and mindfulness with practices celebrating the holidays during February. From an imaginary trip through a fairy forest to celebrating Chinese New Year and the year of the pig to a special Valentine's Day practice, our Yogi Bears will move and pose to celebrate and appreciate good fortune, families and love. And finally, in honor of President's Day, our Yogi Bears will take a yoga-inspired tour of the Nation's Capital, its historic landmarks and national treasures.



Yogi Bears:
By Yogi Myers

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” — Theodore Roosevelt

MONTHLY SPECIAL CLASSES UPDATES



Little Hands Music 2s, 3s, & 4s

Ms. Beth Reports:

Winter weather is REALLY here and music classes are singing, telling stories, playing instruments, and dancing all about it! Whether Or Not poem (Track #19) and Rocky Mountain song (Track #1) are the soon-to-be favorites for February!

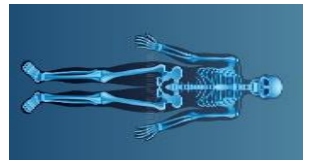
Whether it's cold, or whether it's hot

We shall have weather, whether or not!

You can hear/download them here, along with other music from "Weather or Not" album to enjoy at home or in the car! Our movement experiences have followed the concepts of high and low (mirroring the lyrics of Rocky Mountain,) as well as echoing rhythm patterns in the Whether or Not poem, and a fun movement story about a Fairy Snow Princess inviting Snow Men, Prancing Horses, and Squirrel-y-Steps to her party - following the rhythm of the words with our feet! Coming up in March - Wind and bird songs and activities. Stay tuned!

Scientist Delfin Reports:

This month in science we will learn about bones and how they make up our skeleton. We will identify the major bones in our body and their functions, look at X-rays and piece together a full picture of a skeleton and learn how to keep our bones healthy. We will use our bones for skeleton yoga and, because it is the month of Valentine's Day, we will end with an examination of how our hearts work and the bones that protect it.



Science Class 3s & 4s



Creative Movement 2s, 3s, & 4s

Mrs. Stevens Reports:

This month in Creative Movement, I will introduce the parachute for the first time this school year. Most gross motor skills develop muscles in the lower body. However, the parachute strengthens muscles in the shoulder, arm and hand muscles. Parachute play, besides being lots of fun, encourages teamwork while focusing on rhythm and listening skills. Also, the children will swirl, twirl, spin, and gallop to the song *Snowflakes Coming Down!*

Ms. Casey Sings:

What a wonderful time of year! The snowy weather has brought our songs about winter to life. For the two year-olds – and many of the three year-olds – this is their first memorable experience with snow! The twos classes have finally become comfortable with music and enthusiastically embrace our dance parties. This month we introduced our new January two's class (our tiniest people) to the music program and their response was priceless! The three's classes have the biggest learning curve at this point as they are being exposed to lots of new music. The four's classes are starting to learn more complex songs with varying verses. In the coming months, our big kids will learn the structures of songs and that everyone can be a songwriter! I am reminded daily of how fortunate I am to work with your children through music. Thank you for sharing them with us!



Music Ms. Casey 2s, 3s, & 4s



Spanish 3s & 4s

Sra. Cardoni Shares:

In Spanish we finished up our lesson on our body (cuerpo). We have learned Spanish words for our body parts and can sing Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes in Spanish (Cabeza, Hombros, Piernas, Pies) and dance the Hokey Pokey! We read De la Cabeza a los Pies (From Head to Feet) the Eric Carle book translated into Spanish. In the 4s Classes, the children are learning to speak in complete sentences answering questions about how many arms/fingers/eyes/etc. they have, their names and how olds they are. In February we will be learning about feelings (sentimientos). The children will be singing If You're Happy and You Know It in Spanish but changing the words a bit to sing if you're happy (feliz)-clap (aplaude), if you're mad (enojado)-stomp (marcha), if you're sad (triste)-cry (llora) and if you're silly (tonto)-shout (grita). We will be reading Asi Me Siento Yo (The Way that I Feel) by Janan Cain, a lovely rhyming book about feelings and Como Dicen "Estoy Enojado" Los Dinosaurios? How Do Dinosaurs Say "I'm Mad" by Jane Yolen. We continue to review all of the words we've learned and are amassing quite a vocabulary!