

April 2019 Newsletter

The Bear Facts

Celebrating 61 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

It's April! The school year continues to move along at a breakneck speed! And with Spring Break April 15th through the 22nd, this month will fly by in a blaze of spring colors and celebrations. Check out our "Spring" bulletin board in the hallway. Each class has added a special spring element to bring a little springtime to our hallways.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Brigitte Koch and Claire Adams for their hours and hours of meticulous planning, attention, and wonderful ideas, (Battle of the Bands) to make the Winter Wonderland Gala such an amazing success. Thank you to all the families and staff who contributed their time, treasure, and talent, to make the evening wildly fun and entertaining. Through everyone's many, many contributions we will be building our Outdoor Discovery Center this summer. This musical, instructional, and fun outdoor space will be a wonderful addition to our campus. Groundbreaking details coming soon!

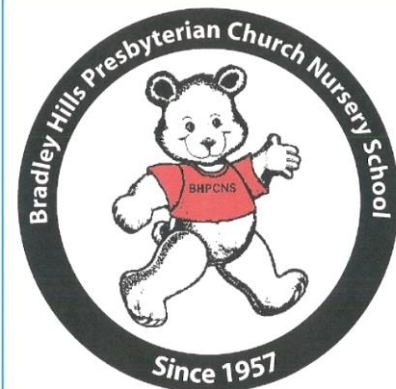
Thank you to our chicken handlers, Bowden Skoff, Dorene Michael, Anne Marie Cardoni, and Carolyn McCauley for the love and care they shared with our chicks, Daisy, Chocolate, Lucy, Ethel, Desi, Little Ricky, Velma, and Morticia. The children have really loved having these fluffy chicks!

Additional upcoming April highlights include:

- **"Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About MCPS Kindergarten"** evening on April 3rd at 7:30 pm. This informative session will feature Maura Backenstoe, MCPS' 2019 Elementary School Teacher of the Year, a Burning Tree kindergarten teacher, and conversations with families currently enrolled in kindergarten classes at local elementary schools.
- Our annual Parent Satisfaction Survey will be landing in your inboxes during April. Please complete the survey. Your opinions and comments are important to me as I strive to make BHP CNS the best preschool for your family and our whole community.

In addition to the information you provide on the Parent Survey, please know that the office door is always open. Stop in anytime or... call me on my cell at 301-642-8166 or email me at Lsobrino@bhpcns.org any time to talk about all things BHP CNS.

Liz
Liz Sobrino
BHP CNS Director



HERE WE GO A WANDERING!
BHP CNS'
SUMMER CAMPING CAMP



This year our campers will be exploring all things related to camping. There will be lots of fun both inside and outside.

- There will be one camp session running for 9 days. Camp dates are: 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 of \$75.
- 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.
- Registration is filling up fast. Get your child's application into the office ASAP!

PARENTS' GROUP UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Pizza and John Henry Night a few weeks ago. We had an amazing turnout and everyone had a blast! A HUGE thank you to the teachers and staff who volunteered and made the evening possible.

We wanted to share an exciting update on plans for the Outdoor Discovery Center. We have received permission from Property Management to relocate the ODC from its current spot between the parking lots to the grassy area between the two existing playgrounds along the black fence. We are thrilled to be able to use this space to create a fun, educational and safe play area for BHP CNS kiddos and children within the Church community and surrounding neighborhoods. We will receive revised plans for the new location at the end of this month which we will share with everyone once finalized. We hope to be able to break ground in early to mid-summer. Stay tuned for more updates in the coming weeks!

Thanks to our phenomenal Gala Co-chairs, Claire Adams and Brigitte Koch, our March 8th Winter Gala was a huge success. We crushed our initial fundraising goal and raised an amazing \$48,000! A majority of these funds will be used to build our Outdoor Discovery Center. The funds that remain will go toward social and community events, parent education programming, teacher appreciation and more! Thank you to everyone who made the Gala such a success - it was a very fun evening, for a very exciting project!



If your child is headed to Kindergarten next year, we hope you can make it to Kindergarten Night on April 3rd! MCPS Kindergarten teacher (and MCPS Teacher of the Year Finalist!), Maura Backenstoe, will join us to share everything you need to know to get ready for Kindergarten. We also have families with older children joining us who will share the inside scoop about many of the individual schools in smaller breakout sessions.



Spring is a busy and fun time at BHP CNS! Keep an eye out for fun ways to support our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week in early May. We are also looking for a few volunteers to provide lunch and snacks for the May 2nd staff meeting; please reach out to Sarah and/or Maggie if you'd like to volunteer to help.

Let us know if you have any questions, and as always, thank you for the support!

Maggie Maloney
MaggieWMaloney@gmail.com

Sarah McGovern
SarahLothrop@hotmail.com

BHP CNS BOARD UPDATE



Happy Spring from the Nursery School Board! The Board had a productive meeting this month where we were pleased to welcome our newest Board member, Vicki Petrides. Vicki is a Bradley Hills Church member and parent of BHP CNS graduates. Starting in the fall, the Board will be forming subcommittees to address various issues including the long term planning for the Nursery School. If you have interest in being more involved in this work please reach out to the Board and we can share more information on the subcommittees. You can reach the Board via email at Board@bhpcns.org. If you'd prefer to contact the Board anonymously you can fill out an online form on the Board portion of the school website. Our next Board meeting is May 30th at 7:00pm. Parents are welcome to join for these meetings. If you are planning to join please let us know. We hope you all enjoy the longer days and warmer weather!

WINTER GALA WAS A ROARING SUCCESS – THANK YOU!



The Winter Gala was a roaring success resulting in the BHP CNS' Parents Group raising a profit of nearly **\$48,000** for the Outdoor Discovery Center!

How did we do it? With a LOT of help from the entire community! Our fabulous BHP CNS teachers raised \$1725 with their amazing Battle of the Bands performances and nearly \$2500 with their silent and live auction donations. Way to go, teachers! A huge thank you to Mrs. Sobrino and Mrs. McCauley for supporting our fundraising efforts and vision. Your support was invaluable.

Thank you to Joe Maloney for getting the crowd involved with your humor, excitement and love for BHP CNS - you rocked the mic all night long. The night was truly stunning. Thank you to the Alafoginis family for transforming the evening into an outdoor playground with your gorgeous flower baskets and décor. The event would not have been the same without you.

The auction committee worked tirelessly selling tickets, gathering auction items and helping to set up for the evening. This event would not have been a success without their hard work and effort – thank you, thank you, thank you!

Last but definitely not least, a huge thank you to our generous sponsors, donors, attendees and everyone who participated in helping us not only achieve but exceed our goal. The BHP CNS community outshined our wildest dreams!

The playground will break ground this summer and we are excited for everyone to be able to enjoy it. Thank you to Maggie Maloney and Sarah McGovern for designing the Outdoor Discovery Center and helping make our dreams a reality.

See you at the Outdoor Discovery Center!

Our sincerest thank you,
Claire Adams and Brigitte Koch
Winter Gala Co-Chairs



BHP CNS will close on Friday, April 12th
at 12:30 pm (there will be no Stay and
Play classes on April 12th) and reopen on
Tuesday, April 23rd.
Have a safe and fun Spring Break!



WINTER GALA WAS A ROARING SUCCESS – THANK YOU!

WINTER GALA WONDERS

A big **THANK YOU** to our fabulous sponsors!

Corporate Sponsors

- Coakley Williams Construction
- The Meier Law Firm
- The Ford Agency
- 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
- The Brzytwa/Chasko Family
- The Venkataraman Family
- The Anthony Family

Balance Beam Sponsor

- The Abod Family
- Colleen Snyder and Robert Buber

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)
- The Inati Family
- Aarti Mathur and Murray Ramanathan
- The Herman Family

Flower & Décor Sponsors

Thank you to the Alafoginis family for the beautiful décor!

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
- The Shooshan Family
- The Sullivan Family
- The Eisinger Family
- The Banashak Family
- The McGovern Family
- The Orlikowski Family
- The Sousa Family
- The Favretto Family
- The Castellanos Family

PIZZA NIGHT WITH JOHN HENRY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS! THANK YOU!

Pizza and John Henry was so much fun! Thank you to the Parents' Group for funding John Henry for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to the Parents' Group and Mrs. McCauley for coordinating the event. The evening was a wonderful opportunity to introduce several new incoming families to the BHPCNS community. The evening would never have happened without our amazing volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped! Last but not least, thank you to everyone who helped break down and clean up at the end of the evening. You made cleanup really easy!



AND



FINANCIAL AID REQUESTS FOR 2019-2020 ARE DUE ASAP!

Financial Aid Requests for 2019 - 2020 School Year:

If you are in need of financial aid for next school year, the paperwork can be found on the BHPCNS website under tuition or by [clicking here](#). Applications for financial aid are due April 12, 2019 and will be reviewed at the BHPCNS April Finance Committee meeting. Applicants will be notified shortly thereafter. Please contact the office if you have any questions.



EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT KINDERGARTEN: APRIL 3 7:30 PM

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?

- To find out more, attend our **Kindergarten Information Night** on April 3rd at 7:30 pm. A current MCPS Kindergarten teacher, Maura Backenstoe from Burning Tree Elementary School, will be on hand to share her insights about Kindergarten readiness and what to expect come September.
- Parents of current or recent MCPS Kindergarteners will be attending for breakout, by elementary school, round table discussions. (If you have a child or have had a child recently attend a MCPS kindergarten and are interested in leading/facilitating one of our breakout groups, please email me at lsobrino@bhpcns.org.)
- If you have friends or neighbors who might be interested in attending, they are welcome to come as well.
- RSVP by [clicking here](#). Please share with us the names of attendees and the elementary school the child will be attending. This is an adult only event.



MCPS Kindergarten Registration is Happening Now!

MCPS elementary schools need to know if your child will be attending their school in September. To register your child, call your local elementary school. It is very helpful to the elementary schools to know the number of children attending in the 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 MCPS Elementary Schools and their phone numbers:

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

When contacting your local elementary school ask if they are hosting any informational kindergarten meetings for parents. These events are a great way to learn more about your child's transition to your neighborhood 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.

Friends and neighbors are welcome to attend our Kindergarten evening. RSVP by [clicking here](#). Please share this link with family and friends who may want to attend too!



ADDITIONAL PARENT

NAEYC or the National Association for the Education of Young Children, <http://www.naeyc.org/> is an organization for people involved in early childhood education. While designed as a resource for those in the

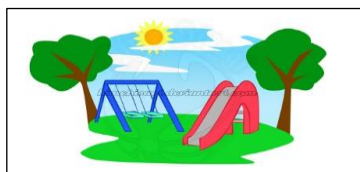
industry it is full of parenting advice and tips on all kinds of information. Want to know more about the Common Core or the benefits of play-based education, click on their Topics tab. There you will find articles and information on all types of topics relevant to raising children in today's fast paced society. Highlighted articles on the website from NAEYC's publications are terrific resources on many child development topics.

From NAEYC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, **4 Tips Every Kindergarten Teachers Wants You to Know:** <http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/4-things-kindergarten-teachers-want-you-know>

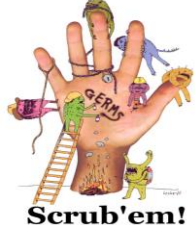
WETA KIDS, <http://www.weta.org/kids> is an entire channel dedicated to providing quality programming such as Sesame Street, Curious George, Wondergirl, for children. These programs promote academic, social, and emotional growth in a fun, engaging, and developmentally appropriate manner.

BHPCNS REMINDERS AND UPDATES:

BHPCNS Playgrounds: The BHPCNS playgrounds are open to the public. We love that our cubs play on the playgrounds throughout the year. We ask that you return the playground the way you found it, covering sandboxes and putting away the sand toys is very much appreciated.



Germ Farm



Hand Washing Prevents the Spread of Germs: A quick reminder to wash your child's hands as they enter school every morning. We had a lot of sick children and staff in March. Many cases of the flu and strep have been reported to the office. Please help keep everyone healthy by washing your child's hands when you enter the school. Thank you! If your child is sick, please contact the office in the morning. Reminder, a child must be healthy, without pain medication or fever reducing medicine, for 24 hours before they are allowed to return to school to prevent the spread of germs.

No Parking in the Fire Lane: The yellow line between the sidewalk and the driveway is to keep cars from drifting onto the sidewalk. This is also a fire lane. Parking is not allowed on this strip of pavement. Please park in a parking space when dropping children off in the morning or collecting them in the afternoon. Please share this information with everyone who drives your child.



Boots for Outdoor Playtime: Please continue to send your children to school with boots that can be worn outside to the playgrounds. Muddy playgrounds will not be keeping us indoors as the temperature rises!

Lost and Found Bin: The Lost and Found bin, by Room 117, is getting filled with warm jackets, hair bows, sweaters, and other lost items. Please check the bin for any missing belongings. Uncollected items will be donated to needy children in April.



BHPCNS VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEST!

BHPCNS welcomes all parents, caregivers, nannies, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and even family pets into our classrooms. If you or someone your child loves has a special talent, a favorite book, a family tradition, a cultural

experience, a craft, a love of unique creatures, a hobby, please check with your child's teacher about a time to come to school and treat the class to a special event. This year we've had families share their Chinese/Lunar New Year traditions, their Hanukkah traditions; numerous siblings and grandparents have come to read and even a puppy came to school one day.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist with school events, that would be wonderful too! Just pop into the office to discuss options.



**Thank you to all our volunteers,
past, present, and future!**

**The children and the school benefit
from your support!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING BHPCNS EVENTS!



Transportation Days

May 13 and May 14

If you have a vehicle to share contact the office at 301-365-2909.

We love trucks, construction equipment, fancy cars, etc...

Friends and family are welcome to come and see the vehicles.

Bradley Bear Dance Troupe Spring Performance

June 5th at 1:45 pm



Everyone is invited to our show!



**Everything You've Ever
Wanted to Know about
Kindergarten!**

April 3rd 7:30 to 9:00 pm

*Please Take My
Survey*



Parent Satisfaction Survey will be emailed to all families in April. Completing the survey really lets us know how we can improve our school and programming.

Muffins with Mom in May!

Everyone's favorite breakfast is back! May 16th and May 17th all moms, and/or other important person in your child's life are invited for breakfast starting at 8:15 in Memorial Hall.



TEACHERS WILL SOON BE SENDING OUT SIGN-UP LINKS FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR:



JAMBOREE

If you'd like to volunteer, please be on the look-out for more information from your child's teacher. If you need more information about an upcoming event, please reach out to the office for more details.

ADDITIONAL END OF YEAR EVENT DATES!

April 3: Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know About Kindergarten at 7:30 pm in Covenant Hall

April 4: Hearing Screening for Children in T/Th Room 201

April 11 and 12: Classroom Easter Parties
 April 12: No Stay and Play Classes
 April 15 through April 22: Spring Break
 April 24, 25, and 26: Ryan the Bugman for all 4s' classes
 May 13 and May 14: Transportation Days
 May 15: Otto the Auto for the 4s' classes
 May 16 and May 17: Muffins with Mom at 8:30 am in Memorial Hall
 May 21: 3s' Jamboree Rooms 108 and 201
 May 22: 3s' Jamboree Rooms 107 and 201
 May 23: Room 108's Field Trip to the Audubon Center
 May 24: Room 201's Field Trip to the Audubon Center
 May 27: Closed for Memorial Day
 May 29: All 4s' Classes Field Trip to Imagination Stage
 May 30: Room 201's Field Trip to the Audubon Center
 May 31: Room 107's Field Trip to the Audubon Center
 June 5: Dance Recital at 1:45 pm in Memorial Hall
 June 12: End-of-Year Festivities for Monday/Wednesday and Friday classes
 June 13: End-of-Year Festivities for Monday through Friday classes and Tuesday/Thursday classes; Last day of school

DID YOU KNOW??????



Bradley Bear is now on Instagram!!!!

Follow us @Bradley_Hills_Bear or search Bradley Hills Nursery School

Join to see photos, updates, and more....

Another way to keep informed about all things nursery school.



**Free
OT Screenings**

Throughout April, TLC, will be offering FREE Occupational Therapy Screenings. Limited appointments are available. To schedule an appointment call 301-424-5200. OT screenings and therapy are wonderful for children who cover their ears with loud noises, who are always on the go or fidgety, bothered by tags, cuffs, socks, annoyed by messy hands, is clumsy, and has challenges with large or small motor tasks. For more information [CLICK HERE.](#)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Michael Bross
 Clara Callahan
 Klara Mydlarz
 Eduardo Sousa
 Keegan Coakley
 Warner Shafran



JR DeKlotz
 Keegan O'Brien
 Kenzie Bolla
 Mateo Benavides
 Summer Bolla
 Avery Maloy
 Jade Saidi

Wish these Bradley Bear Cubs a happy day!!!!

Reminder: If sending in birthday treats or special snacks for a celebration, please send in **small** cupcakes, mini muffins, fruit kabobs, etc., keeping classroom food allergies in mind. We share birthday treats at snack time!

STAY AND PLAY UPDATES



Mondays: The Artist's Corner By Mrs. McCullough

April is a short month for Art. The first two weeks we'll be making Easter placemats. Mixed materials will be applied to a woven pastel mat and then encased in plastic. After break we have two weeks for our Mother's Day surprise. Hoppy Spring!!

In science this month we will experiment with vinegar. The students will be amazed at what happens to a penny in vinegar. Volcanoes will explode. Also, we will be talking about April showers and what happens to the rain water. Have a great and fun spring break!!!

Mondays: Wigglin' Wizards By Mrs. Barnett



Tuesdays: In the Kitchen By Mrs. Biggs



What comes first the chicken or the egg? We only have 3 classes this month. In our first class we will create chicken pockets and then we will move onto deviled eggs. We will round out the month with an eggceptional celebration for Kenzie's and Summer's birthdays with egg quiches. Wishing you an EGGCEPTIONAL Spring Break.

This month we will continue to practice for our spring recital, "*Bradley Bear's Circus*." Just like the professionals, preparing for a performance requires taking class regularly and spending weeks or months simultaneously in rehearsal. Our classes start with a fun warm-up to get our brains and bodies ready to dance. This includes stretching and breathing; upbeat, rhythmic coordination; and fundamental dance positions and vocabulary. Then we get to use our body knowledge in freestyle and improvisation activities that reinforce creative instinct in a playful, yet structured format. This month's focus is spatial awareness in personal and general space. (Very important for dancing in groups onstage!)

Tuesdays & Wednesdays: Bradley Bear Dance Co. By Ms. Lisa



Wednesdays: Where in the World is Bradley Bear? By Mrs. Michael

We said good-bye to the lush greenery and rolling hills of Ireland, and decided to take March out like a lion or Siberian Tiger! For the next few weeks, the Bradley Bear Cubs will explore the frozen coastline of Russia. As in all the countries we visit, we will make our own Russian flag. There will be many things to discover about the largest country in the world. We will maybe play a game of ice hockey, and learn about one of Russia's more popular symbols: the traditional Russian nesting dolls. May you all have a wonderful, and adventure-filled spring break!



Bradley's Barnyard by Mrs. Skoff: Our Bradley farmers are sad to say goodbye to Daisy and Chocolate and the new little chicks. We had so much fun watching them grow and hatch. Seeing that March is going out like a lamb, this means great farming weather for April. We will be planting pumpkins and learn about how they grow, we will be transplanting our lettuce plants into the garden, right next to our carrots and radishes, and we will have a visit from Bradley Bears own apiarist, Mrs. Casey. She will be bringing one of her hives and we will watch these pollinators in action and taste their yummy honey.



Every week our yogis learn new poses and revisit old favorites. In April, our classes will practice sequences of poses that remind us of Easter, dinosaurs, and different forms of transportation! We always include a mindfulness exercise at the end of each class to leave our yogis feeling rested and relaxed after a busy week at school.

Yogi Bears By Mrs. Leon

Mindfulness



MONTHLY SPECIAL CLASSES

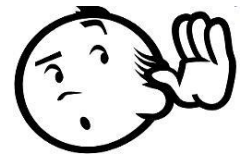


Music Class
2s, 3s, & 4s

Music ignites all areas of child development and skills for school readiness, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor, language, and overall literacy. It helps the body and mind work together. Although people have always been instinctively attracted to music, modern research is showing us how music education and exposure can have a profound effect on your preschooler's development. In one recent study, researchers found that music education is a great way to teach preschoolers emotional regulation. This is the term used to describe how children manage emotionally challenging environments. A child with well-developed emotional regulation is better able to deal with stress, changes, and other normal parts of life.

Scientist Delfin Reports:

This month in science we will explore the science of sound. We will learn how sound travels by vibrations called sound waves. We will vibrate rubber bands, jump ropes and paper to show sound waves in action and watch particles of sand dance on a speaker. We'll discover pathways for sound travel using the old-fashioned telephone on a string and learn about echos and echolocation through a game of Marco Polo.



Science Class
3s & 4s



Creative Movement
2s, 3s, & 4s

Mrs. Stevens Reports:

Happy Spring! The children flapped their blue bird, ladybug, and butterfly wings, buzzed like bees, and hopped like frogs to the song "Spring Is Here." With all of the excitement in the air about the chicks, we just had to do the Chicken Dance. They enjoyed flapping their chicken wings, shaking their tail feathers, clapping their hands and skipping or galloping in a circle. Finally, to top things off, the children did the Bunny Hop!

Sra. Cardoni Reports:

We will begin April singing about verbs and mimic the movement with a song by Sra Sara—Pizza Pizza Daddy O. We learn many new verbs (swim-nadar, walk-caminar, paint-pintar, sleep-dormir, etc.). Mid-month we begin a lesson on animals. We will sing the Itsi Bitsi Araña and Los Pollitos (a song sheet will be sent home). We will practice speaking to each other, learn what to say when meeting new people and learn how to ask someone's name and age. We will continue to review all of the words and songs we've learned thus far!



Spanish 3s & 4s



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

Ms. Casey Reports:

Spring is finally here! Thanks to warmer climates (and chasing after leprechauns!) the children are alternately bursting with energy and exhausted! It's a lovely combination that affords the kids the attention to learn new songs, dance, and alternately lay down on the ground and actively listen to Louis Armstrong and Bob Marley, to name a few. Our 2s are shifting from tandem to interactive play and music is a natural conduit that brings them together. The 3s continue to tackle the large catalog and wide variety of songs and gestures from our school "playlist." I'm so very proud of them. Our 4s are learning more complex songs with alternating verses. They're also learning some ASL (American Sign Language) to augment their songs! Combining motor skills with singing improves memory, strengthens communication skills and encourages self-expression.