

March 2022 Newsletter

The Bear Facts

Celebrating 64 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

We have sailed into March with warm days, cool days, windy days, wet days, and everything in between. Please continue to send your child(ren) to school with weather appropriate clothing, including boots as our play areas can get muddy!

March Madness – strikes BHP CNS!

Get ready to make your predictions and complete a NCAA Men's College Basketball bracket! The Parents' Group will be sharing the details as we get closer to the tournament! All proceeds raised will support the Alla Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund providing financial assistance to families in need.

Summer Camp: Camp planning is well underway. We are currently accepting camp registrations. Camp is open to all children currently enrolled in our 2s' program and ages 3 through rising 1st graders. Friends, cousins, neighbors are all welcome. Campers do not need to be currently enrolled BHP CNS students (with the exception of 2-year-olds). Current students who are not potty trained may attend camp for an additional \$85 fee. [Click here](#) for the camp application. For more details or questions, call the office at 301-365-2909.

Morning Drop-off Changes: With the return to indoor drop-off we are asking all parents/caregivers to wash children's hands before taking to their classroom door at 8:55 am. Thank you for helping keep the germs at bay for all our students and staff.

MCPS Kindergarten Sign-Up: If you have a child who will turn 5 before September 1, 2022, they are eligible to attend Montgomery County Public Schools, (MCPS) in September. It's time to register.

Happy March Everyone!

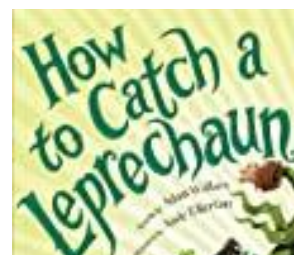
Liz
Liz Sobrino
Director BHP CNS



ST. PATRICK'S DAY FUN!



St. Patrick's Day is celebrated at BHP CNS with a "Can you catch a leprechaun?" activity. This is a fun and easy activity to do at home. Find an old shoebox, some string, pipe cleaners, maybe something golden, markers, etc. and have your child(ren) design a leprechaun trap. Then set your trap and wait to see what happens. We've never caught a leprechaun here but they always come by and mess up our classrooms and leave a surprise!



[Click here](#) for a wonderful book to inspire your leprechaun hunt.

Don't forget to wear your green on March 16 & 17!

IT MAY BE MARCH BUT WE ARE PLANNING FOR CAMP!

Happy March! May March roar in like a lion and leave like a lamb!



- Registration for Summer Camp programs, and the 2022-2023 School Year are underway. If you haven't already enrolled your child, please do so as soon as possible. We need accurate student counts to plan our programming. If you have friends or family who are interested in our programs, please have them contact the office for more information about the programs and how to register.



PARENTS' GROUP NEWS



Hello BHP CNS Families!



Thanks to everyone who enjoyed delicious Ledo's Pizza during our dine out and fun cookie kits from Henry's Sweet Retreat in February! Your participation makes a huge difference, while also supporting local businesses! While it may not feel like you're "giving back" simply by enjoying the deliciousness, you are actually making a big impact: we were able to raise over \$700 for the school through those two partnerships all thanks to your participation!!

Volunteers needed for MUFFIN MANIA:

The Parents' Group is in search of 4 parents to help run point for Muffin Mania April 25 & 26 8-9:15am (setting up a couple of tables, handing out muffins, and clean up).

Please email kaelihelps@gmail.com if you're able to lend a hand in the morning on either day!



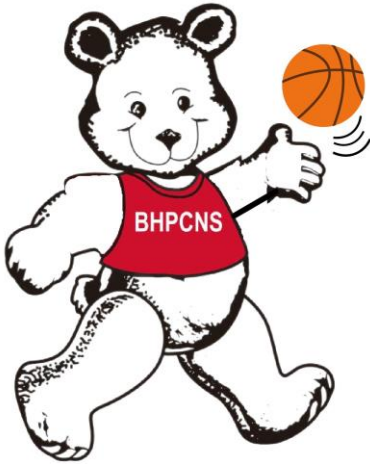
Mark your calendars for Muffin Mania on April 25th and 26th. Children are invited to come with their parents, or any other special person in their lives for an outdoor breakfast with muffins, drinks, fruit, and more.

April

January	February	March	April	May	June
		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			

PARENTS' GROUP NEWS – MARCH MADNESS IS COMING!

WHAT'S NEXT, YOU ASK!?



March Madness and Brackets with Bradley Bear!!

BHPCNS is going to get lucky in March by hosting a March Madness-themed raffle. The proceeds raised will support the Alla Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund, (AJMSF) - there will also be a prize-winning bracket or two! The AJMSF is an important mission to BHPCNS, as it provides financial aid to all children and families in need at BHPCNS.

Stay tuned for details and how to participate! Even if you aren't a basketball fan, it will be easy and fun for **all members** of the family (and your friends!) to get involved.

From a festive tracker on the walls, to jersey days, to tracking your brackets online in hopes of a winning prize - we can't wait to kick things off in the coming weeks!

Kacil Duggan and Nicole Urbanczyk
Parents' Group Co-Chairs



BHPCNS BOARD REPORT

Dear Parents,

We hope this newsletter finds you and your family well and looking forward to warmer spring weather.

Lenten Journey for Families with Pre-Schoolers:

Wednesday, March 2 begins the season of Lent—a time of preparation for Easter's promise. Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church invites any interested families to join us on our Lenten journey. Of special interest may be our online family Lenten worship services offered throughout Lent. These 20 to 30-minute services are designed for families with children in preschool and elementary school.

The services will be held via Zoom at 9:30 am on March 6 and 13 and on April 3 and 10. Here is the link: [Click here](#) to join.

For more information—or if you have any questions—please email the church's Director of Christian Education, Matt Nabinger at matt@bradleyhillchurch.org



BHPCNS BOARD REPORT CONTINUED.....

BHPCNS SCHOOL BOARD MEETING **March 16 at 7:30 pm**

The BHPCNS Board's next meeting will be on March 16, 2022 at 7:30 pm. If you have any topics you would like included on the meeting agenda, please contact <mailto:board@bhpcns.org>

This email address can be used to share questions, comments, and ideas with the Board throughout the year.

If you have other feedback for us, please contact us at Board@bhpcns.org to get more details or fill out an anonymous form on the Board portion of the school website.

Rosanna Morrison, BHPCNS Board Chair
Vicki Petrides, BHPCNS Board Vice Chair

SPRING FORWARD IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.....

Spring Forward 2022
Sunday, March 13th at 2:00 a.m. for an extra hour of daylight!

A good night's sleep is so important to having a successful day. Spring Forward as wonderful as it is to have extra day light at the end of the day can wreak havoc on a child's sleep schedule. To prepare your little ones for this upcoming event, [click here](#) for more information on how to gradually prepare your little one for this change to their schedule.



IMPORTANT BHPCNS UPDATES



Spring Time is Screening Time at BHPCNS:

Speech Screenings – March 29 & April 1

Occupational Therapy Screenings – early April Dates TBD

Screenings are available for all ages. Teachers and parents will recommend students for speech and OT screenings. Parents will be notified in advance and a signed permission slip will be required for all speech and OT screenings. Many of the screenings are recommended rescreens from the screenings done in the fall.

Hearing Screenings – March 30 & 31 All 3-year-old, Pre-K, & TK students will be screened.

Teacher Professional Day – March 24th – No School for Students

BHPCNS will be closed to students on Thursday, March 24th for a staff professional day. There will be a 3 hour training session on anti-bias practices in a preschool setting and opportunities for the staff to prepare for the remainder of the school year.



IMPORTANT BHPCNS UPDATES

School Routines:

Morning Drop-Off:

With the return to indoor drop-off, children are welcome in classrooms at 8:55. Do not drop your child off before 8:55 as teachers are still preparing for the day.

Handwashing at Morning Drop-Off:

All children are to have their hands washed upon arriving at school and before entering their classroom. This simple task cuts down on the transmission of germs and keeps everyone healthier.

Pick-up Times:

Please be prompt when picking up your child at the end of the school day. We allow for a 10 minute grace period, but after that time, your child will be in the office for you to pick them up.



Thank you for following our school routines! Contact the office with any questions.



MARCH 15, 16 & 17 – are school picture days.

[Stone Photography](#) will be on site to take our school pictures.

March 15 – all Tuesday/ Thursday classes

March 16 – all Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes

March 17 – all Monday through Friday classes

Proofs will be sent home and parents may select to purchase.

Sibling photos for siblings in BHPCNS may be arranged. Contact the office for details.

For Picture Day Tips – [click here.](#)



**Washington
Gas™**
A WGL Company

Washington Gas subcontractors will be onsite replacing a gas line into the BHPC building. The work is expected to take place in mid-March. While the work is being completed, access to doors 13 and doors 14 will be blocked. All children, staff, and families will have to use door 15 to enter and exit the building. Thank you for your understanding.

Spring Break:

BHPCNS will close on Friday, April 8th at 12:30 pm.

There will be no Stay and Play on Friday, April 8th.

Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 19th.

The school office will have limited hours during spring break.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15, 16, 17: School Picture Days

March 24: School Closed – Teacher Professional Day

March 29 & April 1: Speech Screenings

March 14: March Madness Brackets Duel!

March 30 & 31: Hearing Screenings

April 8: No Stay and Play Classes

April 11-18: School Closed – Spring Break

April 19: Classes Resume

April 20: chicken eggs & 2 baby chicks arrive for hatching

April 25 & 26: Muffin Mania

May 25: Dance Recital at 1:45 pm

May 30: School Closed – Memorial Day

June 2: End of Year Sing Along & Parties for T/Th 3s' classes

June 2: End of Year Parties for T/Th 2s' classes

June 3: End of Year Sing Along for all MWF & M-F classes

June 3: End of Year Parties for all MWF 2s' classes

Camp Programming: Session 1 - June 7 – 17 Session 2 – June 20 – June 30

BHPCNS MARCH BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

McCully Brown
Connor Dill
Veena Hennessey
Oliver Martinez
Andrew Gropper
Landis Burch
Scott Sherman
Lauren Natelli



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. Please send an ingredient list for any home baked or store bought treats. That way we can check labels to safe guard any children in the classroom with allergies. We share birthday treats at snack time!

IS THERE A RISING MCPS KINDERGARTENER IN YOUR HOUSE?

**Please register your
kindergarten age
children ASAP!**



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
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. 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 often available on the MCPS website as well.

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>.

STAY AND PLAY – MUSIC – AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE



Mondays: Sports & Games – Coach Cardoni

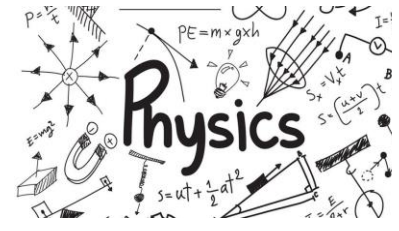
We throw off our dancing shoes and start a new unit on Hockey. We will be working drills to improve hand eye coordination with the hockey stick and "pucks" through dribbling skills and shooting techniques. We finish March with a unit on Lacrosse. The bear cubs will be learning to control the ball in their lacrosse stick while running through a series of obstacles, passing a ball to a teammate and ultimately shooting on a goal. Throughout the month we will work on teamwork and agility.



Tuesdays: Wigglin' Wizards – Scientist Biggs

In March, our Wiggling Wizards will learn about air pressure and air flow. Balloons will fly like rockets. Eggs will squeeze into glass bottles without cracking. Then, we'll make water float.

Is it magic? Nope. It's Physics!!!!



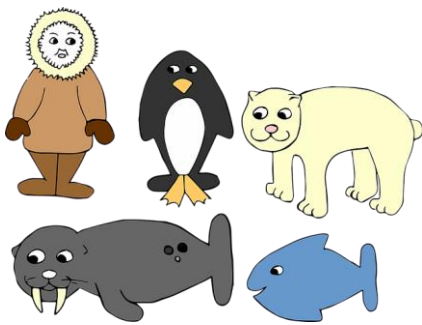
Wednesdays: Arts & Crafts – Mrs. Barnett

The crafts during the March stay and plays will be celebrating Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick's day and the welcoming of spring!

Let's hope that the weather cooperates so we can continue our outdoor program. Looking forward to seeing you then.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays: Bradley Bear Dance Troupe

Our dancers are having a wonderful time dancing the weeks away! As they leap, spin, twist, and practice their moves, they are preparing for our spring Under the Sea show. When our dancers aren't dancing they are busy crafting to create the most amazing under the sea scene!



Thursdays: Where in the World is Bradley Bear? – Mrs. Biggs

Our Bradley Bear travelers loved their trip through Korea, with Mrs. Choi as their tour guide.

Now, it's time to put on our snow suits and fly to the southernmost continent of the world - Antarctica. Even the name sounds frrrrigid. Brrrr!

We'll learn how both animals and people live in the coldest, iciest, driest, windiest place on earth. What do animals do in all that snow? How do they stay warm? Do people live in Antarctica? Did they ever? Where are their homes? And so much more! Antarctica has lots to teach us.

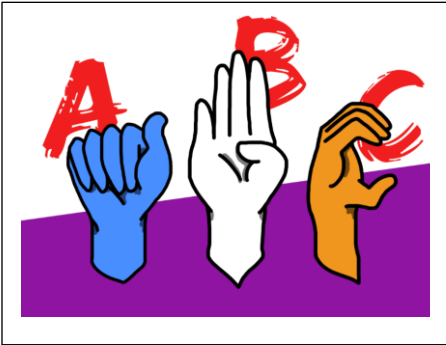
Fridays: Yogi Bears – Mrs. Cardoni

We celebrate the arrival of Spring with practices revolving around Life Cycle of a Butterfly, St. Patrick's Day, Springtime, and Life Cycle of a Frog. Throughout the month, our Yogi Bears will continue their practice of gratitude and awareness through their yoga poses and mindful eating. We're happy to welcome the arrival of Spring! Namaste.

"If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share." W. Clement Stone



STAY AND PLAY – MUSIC – AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE



American Sign Language - Mrs. Goodstein

In March, we are going to take a visual walk around a neighborhood and learn signs related to our playgrounds, library, fire station, post office, grocery stores, gas stations, etc. We are also going to learn many signs we use here at Bradley Hills including playing, painting, drawing, singing, laughing, learning, and having fun.

We continue to build on our alphabet. Soon, we will all be able to spell our first name. Which is AMAZING! I am very impressed by the memory, effort, and fine motor skills of our cubs. I am looking forward to our upcoming lessons.

Music with Ms. Casey

It is a splendid thing to have our hearts to keep us warm through the year's coldest month. In February we danced our way through songs performed by Bob Marley and Big Mama Thornton, revving up our body's pump and feeling it beat. We shared the very personal experiences of what it means to be scared and put Maya Angelou's poem Life Doesn't Frighten Me at All to music. We also had a glimpse of spring that will ramp up in March as we start to see the world around us grow green with new life. Our songs will focus on changes we see in the natural world and we'll burn off some the energy that the season invariably brings. Here's to warmer weather and time spent outdoors!



BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS



We welcome the longer days and milder weather and hope the Nursery School is able to be outside, enjoying the church grounds!



FAMILY WORSHIP



We are planning special **Family Worship** sessions for Lent that will be offered online on Sunday, March 6 and 13 as well as April 3 and 10 at 9:30 am. Join via the Zoom Meeting link below:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84350700172?pwd=VGM5Y0U3R1dQdVpDMGxjQnVkakZsQT09>

Save the Date: We have begun planning for Vacation Bible School this summer from Monday, August 22 to Thursday, August 25. Put it on your calendar. More details will follow!



LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

Wordle



**Children's
church**

Weekly Church Services

We will continue to have Sunday worship services at 8:30 in-person, in Covenant Hall. There will be a second service at 10:30 during this sacred season of Lent. The 10:30 service will be in-person in the Sanctuary and is available online.

We are going to be playing theological Wordle at BHPC this Lent.

We'll also have special music, new members joining, communion, baptism, and confirmation of junior high students during March.

If you or your family are interested in a church home or resource for raising children spiritually, Pastor David Gray, whose four children went through BHPCNS, would be happy to connect and to support you.

Contact him at david@bradleyhillschurch.org. We also offer "Children's Church" in person for ages 3- fifth grade during the service.

[Watch Services Live Click Here](#)

Service Opportunity for Families: One service opportunity BHPC families with school age children have enjoyed is being part of the **Smart Sacks Team** which gathers in the hallway between Memorial Hall and the Lounge after church each Sunday (around 11:30 am -11:45 am).

Volunteers put grocery items in bags for delivery to Weller and JoAnn Leleck Elementary Schools. Smart Sacks helps bridge the gap between Friday and Monday by providing nutritious foods for children and their families who might not have another meal until after the weekend. The food is provided by Manna Food Center, a nonprofit striving to end hunger in Montgomery County.



Community Service

