

# November 2018 Newsletter

## *The Bear Facts*

Celebrating 61 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

November is a time to be thankful for our many blessings. AT BHCNS we focus on Family, Food, Fun, and Thankfulness with our bear cubs.

Throughout October and into early November we have been conducting our speech and OT screenings. These screenings are important to determine if a child's speech, fine motor, gross motor, sensory motor, motor planning, and social play are all developing appropriately. The majority of screening results indicate that the children are meeting the appropriate milestones. As our screenings are brief assessments/snapshots in time, a more comprehensive evaluation may be suggested for some children to determine if interventions are needed for a child's development. Early intervention will have a positive impact on a child's ability to be successful in school, play sports, to run, ride a bike, to be able to speak and play with their peers, find coping skills for sensory issues, and so much more.

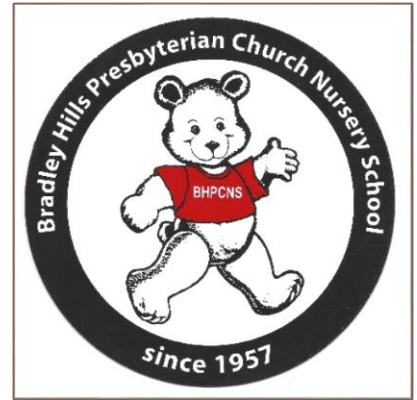
Registration for new students for the 2019-2020 has begun. Registration for **children currently enrolled at BHCNS** will be December 6 and 7.

Applications will be available on the website at [www.bhpcns.org](http://www.bhpcns.org), after November 26<sup>th</sup>. Download, complete, and return the applications to BHCNS no earlier than December 6 and no later than December 7 in order to be given priority in enrollment. (Full Registration Details on page 3.)

To recap October, our students have had fun learning our classroom routines, and beginning our Creative Movement and our Music Programs. Our 3s and 4s explored owls in Science and began Spanish classes. The halls were filled with Halloween songs, including [this favorite](#) from Spanish class.

November will be a busy time too! Bill Jenkins will introduce the children to Native American Music and drumming. Classes will be exploring what thankful means. There will be a Thanksgiving feast for our 4s, and special classroom celebrations for our 2s and 3s. Thank you to the room parents for organizing the fun! Wishing you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Liz Sobrino, Director



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### THANKSGIVING FUN

##### Thanksgiving Celebrations:

M/W and all 4s' classes will have their Thanksgiving celebrations on Monday, November 19.

T/Th classes, and our 5 day 3s' in room 108 will have their Thanksgiving celebrations on Tuesday, November 20

BHCNS will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday Wednesday November 21 through November 25.

#### THANKSGIVING LINKS

In doing some research for our school Thanksgiving celebrations I came across these links which had fun and educational ideas on how to make Thanksgiving meaningful for children of all ages.

[CBS Chicago](#)

[Today Parents](#)

[National Geographic](#)

A graphic with the words 'Happy Thanksgiving' in a large, orange, cursive font. To the right of the text is a small illustration of a turkey and several pumpkins.

## PARENTS' GROUP LETTER

We are so grateful to everyone who has volunteered to be room parents this year. Thank you for organizing parent coffees, and for being a liaison between the parents and teachers. Your help is invaluable!

Our Fall/Holiday Art Fundraiser is under way and we're LOVING the artwork that your children have produced! We've gotten orders for tote bags, water bottles, note cards, coasters, ornaments, etc.! We're so excited to see the finished products in December. Remember that each piece of art needs to be accompanied by its own order form. If you would like an extra form, please stop by the front office or email Maggie for a copy that can be printed at home. All order forms are due back to the large box outside the front office, to Maggie or Sarah directly, or to your child's teacher by Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> (or Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> for T/Th families). Please return your orders in the large brown envelopes. And don't forget that older siblings can participate too! Just make sure to include an additional order form. This is a great way to get your holiday shopping done while supporting BHP CNS!

With the cold weather approaching, now is the time to start labeling coats, hats, mittens, and boots! Check out LabelDaddy for labels that are machine washable and don't require any ironing or sewing. LabelDaddy will give you 10% off your order and give 15% back to BHP CNS when you visit their website: [bhpcns.labeldaddy.com](http://bhpcns.labeldaddy.com) and enter code BHP CNS at checkout.

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](http://smile.amazon.com) and select **Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church**. A portion of all order proceeds will be donated to BHP CNS!

We hope you and your family have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving holiday! We are thankful for your wonderful support!

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

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



Silver  
Graphics

LabelDaddy

amazon smile



## PARENTS' GROUP WINTER GALA UPDATE!

  
OUTDOOR  
LEARNING  
*The Extended Classroom*

Save the date!  
**WINTER GALA**  
**March 8, 2019**

The Winter Gala is around the corner! Keep an eye out the week of November 5th for information regarding ticket sales, fundraising efforts and your first look at the Parents' Group's "Outdoor Learning Center". We can't wait for you to see what we have been busy planning and hope you will join us in our fundraising efforts to create an outdoor, interactive, musical learning space for our children. If you would like to get involved we will be hosting our first Auction Committee meeting the evening of Thursday, November 14th. Specific details will be distributed next week by room parents. If you have any questions please reach out to the Winter Gala co-chairs, Claire Adams [claire.adams09@gmail.com](mailto:claire.adams09@gmail.com) and Brigitte Koch [Brigitte.b.koch@gmail.com](mailto:Brigitte.b.koch@gmail.com).

## BHPCNS BOARD UPDATE

The Board is making good progress on finalizing the Nursery School By-Laws and updating the school's Philosophy and Mission Statements. We are looking to have those two projects finished up by the end of the calendar year. We have begun the annual budget process for the next school year, and are in good shape financially. Lastly, we have started putting together a sub-committee to take up long range planning for the school. If you are interested in participating in this effort please reach out.

The BHPCNS Board consists of parents as well as church and teacher representatives. A full list of members can be found on the [Nursery School website](#). The Board meets bi-monthly throughout the school year to discuss a proactive agenda to advance the school and support our Director, as well as reacting to issues and concerns related to the school that may need Board attention. The Board encourage parents to engage with us directly. You can reach us directly at [Board@bhpcns.org](mailto:Board@bhpcns.org) or anonymously via a newly created online form that can be found on the Board of Directors portion of the Nursery School website. In addition, we encourage parents to join us for Board meetings. If you are planning on attending the meeting, please let me know. We want to have enough chairs at the table. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 29th at 7:00pm. We look forward to meeting many of you throughout the school year!

Souheil Imari, Chair of the BHPCNS Board

## ASQ-3 INFORMATION, ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & SCREENINGS

Thank you to everyone for completing the ASQ-3 questionnaire for your child(ren). We had a 97% return rate. The information gathered from the ASQs show that we need to increase our fine motor activities and work on children's social personal skills, i.e. independence skills, putting on a jacket, buttoning, brushing teeth and more.

Here's a great resource for activities to support your child's development at home with, visit [www.IMHPromotions.ca](http://www.IMHPromotions.ca) and look for activities to support your child's ongoing 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](#).

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY DATES

We love having your child in our classes and activities where there is lots of large group socialization. To supplement the large group experience we recommend playdates. Playdates provide children with the opportunity to play one on one with a peer, the chance to share, take turns, practice manners. These are all very important skills for our children to master. Talk with your child about who their special friends are at school and arrange a playdate at your home or the park. While a school setting provides lots of group dynamics it's important for a child to just play with a friend in an unstructured environment. For more information on playdates go to:

<http://www.education.com/magazine/article/TheImportanceofplaydates>

**Playdates are great for  
our Bear Cubs!**

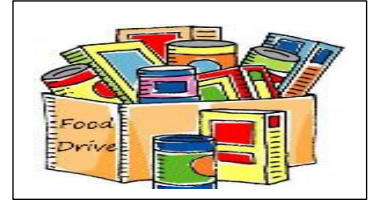


## AND HOW PLAY DATES CAN ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD'S PRETEND PLAY

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.

## THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE WITH BHPC AND BJC

BHPCNS in partnership with BHPC and BJC, are participating in a Thanksgiving food drive to feed 40 local families in need. Please drop off your non-perishable contributions in the hallway upstairs by the BJC office by Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. See flyer that was sent home for a list of suggested donations.



## LABEL YOUR CHILDREN'S BELONGINGS



### PLEASE LABEL YOUR CHILDREN'S BELONGINGS

Bradley's bear cubs go outside almost every day. As the temperatures get colder, the need for jackets, hats, and mittens, gets greater.

#### **Please label your children's belongings.**

Our lost and found, located by room 117, is filling up with items that are unmarked and we can't figure out the owners. Many children have the same jackets and without a name inside it's very hard for the teachers to keep the right child in the right jacket.

## BHPCNS LENDING LIBRARY

Have you seen our new lending library??? Located outside the BHPCNS Rainy Day Room is a new book display. Simply select the title you'd like to take home to read and bring the book to the office. Our librarian, Mrs. McCauley, will be more than happy to check out the book for your family. We ask that you keep the books for a few days and then return the book and select another. We will keep a rotation of seasonal and children's favorite books on our shelves for families to borrow. Happy Reading.



## COUGH, COLD AND FLU SEASON IS BEGINNING

**CAUTION**  
**COLD & FLU**  
**SEASON**

Cold, cough, and flu season has begun. To prevent the spread of illnesses:

1. Have all of your family members vaccinated against the flu.
2. Wash hands upon entering the building, parents, students and siblings.
3. If your child is sick, **KEEP THEM HOME** and then keep them home for 24 hours once they are no longer contagious.

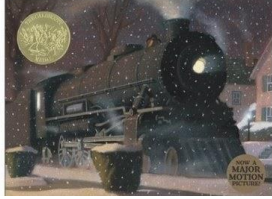
By working together we can keep the BHPCNS community as healthy as possible.

## UPCOMING EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE IMPORTANT DATES

### Bradley Hills Dance Company Families:

The dance program, the Polar Express, will be on Tuesday, **December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:45**. All parents, grandparents, baby sitters, nieces, nephews, cousins and more are welcome to attend the recital. This is a rescheduled date.

THE POLAR EXPRESS



### Christmas Sing Alongs for 3 and 4 year old classes!



Thursday, December 13 at 9:30 am in Covenant Hall for the Tuesday/Thursday 3s in Room 201.

Friday, December 14 at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary for all Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes and Monday through Friday classes. All parents are invited to attend the Sing Alongs and the classroom parties immediately following.

## ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT NEWS ITEMS

**Left over Halloween Candy:** The office will be collecting left over Halloween candy for our troops. Mrs. McCauley will take the extra candy to the USO lounge at Dulles airport where she is a volunteer.

**Angel Giving Tree:** BHP CNS will participate in the BHP C toy collection for disadvantaged children for the holidays Please consider donating an unwrapped toy for a young child in the collection bin outside the office in early Dec.

**Snack Allergen Forms:** These forms were distributed to all children via their folders at the start of the school year. Please complete this form whenever you are bringing a snack or special food item into school. Additional forms are on the website or available in the office.

**Car Magnets:** Show your BHP CNS pride with one of our fabulous car magnets. If you have lost yours, there are lots more in the office. Stop by and get one!

**Bringing Objects From Home:** We are seeing lots of children bringing in special headbands, jewelry, sweaters, etc. These items are easily lost. If they stay home then there are no tears when the items have been lost.

**Jumpstart's Read for the Record:** The week of October 22<sup>nd</sup>, BHP CNS' 3 and 4 year old classes participated in Jumpstart's Read for the Record. I loved sharing, Maybe Something Beautiful by Isabel Campoy with the classes. Our 100 plus readers joined over a million others reading the same book, on the same day, and we learned about murals and how art can make us feel joyful, which means happy!

## ACTIVE OUTDOOR WEAR

We are outside every day. Please dress your child for active play both indoors and outdoors. This includes well fitting, closed-toed shoes and socks. Shoes must stay on a child's feet when running and climbing. Loose fitting pants, leggings, sweat pants, shirts, jackets allow children to move about freely on our play equipment. For our dress loving bear cubs we ask that the children wear shorts underneath. Questions, check with your teacher or office.



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



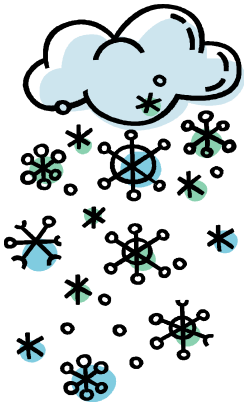
Please  
wish our  
bear cubs  
a happy  
birthday!

Jackson Favretto  
Cambria Baker  
Imogen Schneck  
Juliana Chan  
Benjamin Leininger  
Edison Smink  
Ted Rabin-Rosfjord  
Penelope Hulse

Betsy Pritchett  
Joe Saunders  
Alex Moulton  
Dylan Samantaray  
Samantha Hennessey  
Katya Phelps  
Eleanor Goldman  
Tanvee Vallum

Reminder: When sending in birthday treats, please send in **small** cupcakes, mini muffins, fruit kabobs, etc., keeping classroom food allergies in mind. We share birthday treats at snack time! If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or the office!

## WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS



BHPCNS follows Montgomery County Public Schools, MCPS, emergency weather closings. To be in the know signup for MCPS Alerts [click here](#).

In a nutshell here's what we do:

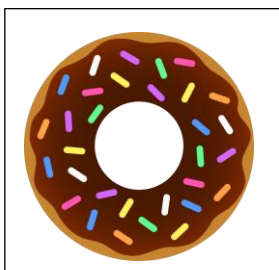
**If MCPS schools are closed, BHPCNS will be closed.**

**If MCPS has a two hour delay, BHPCNS will begin the school day at 11:00 am, except for Early Morning with Bradley Bear students who may arrive at 10 am.**

Students in the 2-year-old program may come at 11:00 am and stay until 12:30 pm. Lunch Bunch will be cancelled. We will provide a hearty snack.

**If MCPS closes schools early, BHPCNS will close at 11:30 for the 2s and 12:30 for the 3s and 4s. Stay and Play will be cancelled.**

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES! DONUTS WITH DAD AND MUFFINS WITH MOM



### Donuts with Dad was a huge success.

Thank you to all the dads and kids who came out for a special breakfast treat. Donuts with Dad is one of the children's favorite events of the year.

Thank you to the Maloney family for picking up the donuts and coffee and delivering them to school in time for everyone to have a fun morning.

**Moms!**  
**Muffins with Mom**  
**Will be May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>!**  
**Mark your calendars now!**



## 2019-2020 REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### 2019-2020 Registration Information

#### Registration Options:

5 day 4s, Monday through Friday

3 day 4s, Monday-Wednesday-Friday

5 day 3s, Monday through Friday

3 day 3s, Monday-Wednesday-Friday

2 day 3s, Tuesday-Thursday

3 day 2s, Monday-Wednesday-Friday

2 day 2s, Tuesday-Thursday

Young 2s program will be determined in spring 2019 depending on space allocations.

#### Registration for Current BHPCNS Students:

Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will soon be underway.

- Applications will be available for current students at the BHPCNS website, [www.bhpcns.org](http://www.bhpcns.org) under the Application/Registration tab after the Thanksgiving break.
- Download an application, or collect one in the office, complete the information, and return the form on either December 6 or December 7. **Returning students must have their applications turned in no later than Friday, December 8 to guarantee placement.**
- Remember to indicate a first and second choice. While we guarantee placement for students currently enrolled in our 2 and 3-year-old programs and for students enrolled in the 4s who do not meet the age eligibility for public school kindergarten, **we cannot guarantee your first choice.**
- Acceptance is based on a first-come, first-served basis. The earlier you submit your application, the greater your chances of being accepted into your first choice program.
- Applications received before December 6 will be placed after those received on December 7.

#### Registration for Siblings Not Currently Enrolled in BHPCNS:

October and November are the months to submit applications for siblings of currently enrolled students who will attend BHPCNS for the first time beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. Applications are available in the office and online for your children who will be starting BHPCNS in September 2018. Registration for currently enrolled students will begin in December. Acceptance or Wait List notifications will be sent home in January.

#### New Applicants to BHPCNS:

Encourage your friends and neighbors to call the office to learn more and schedule a tour of BHPCNS. New families say they chose Bradley Hills because their friend, neighbor, co-worker spoke highly of our program. We love that you love us! Help us spread the word about what a wonderful place BHPCNS is for children to play, grow, and learn! Applications are available online for new students.

BHPCNS follows Montgomery County Public Schools with regard to birthdate cut-off dates for admission. Children must be 2 by September 1, 2019 to enroll in the 2's, 3 by September 1, 2018, to enroll in the 3's, and 4 by September 1, 2019 to enroll in the 4's. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Play,

Grow,

Learn ..... With Bradley Bear



## MONTHLY SPECIAL CLASSES AND GUEST PERFORMERS:

### Monday: The Artist Corner



**Artist McCullough Shares:** One of my favorite art expressions is using nature to create art. We will go on a nature hunt to collect interesting foliage to paint and print our treasures! We will create leaf people with our leaves too! At the end of the month we'll start Christmas fun.

**Scientist Senarathne Reports:** In November, our Bradley Bear Cub Scientists will explore and experiment with the following fun experiments. Why do the leaves change colors in fall? Why/how do Pine Cones open and close? Building cranberry structures as a STEM activity. As is making cranberries dance to learn about carbon dioxide in fizzy drinks. Lastly, we will explore how corn pop in a bag and make a tasty treat!

### Monday: Wigglin' Wizards



### Tuesday: Cooking w/Bradley



**Chef Myers Reports:** Our young chefs will continue to practice measuring, pouring, mixing, and creating delicious recipes in celebration of this holiday season. From shoestring sweet potatoes to homemade corn muffins, sausage stuffed crescent cornucopias and "what to do with the leftovers" turkey and cheese roll ups, our chefs will follow new recipes that may even grace your table!

**Dancer Pellittier Shares:** This November we will explore one of the three fundamental elements of dance: space. We will use locomotor and non-locomotor movements, inspired by ballet and hip-hop dance steps, to move our bodies in personal and general space through high, middle, and low levels. We will use our understanding of our bodies in space as we continue to work on our routines for December recital on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:45pm.

### Tuesday & Wednesday: Dance Company



### Wednesday: Where in the World is Bradley Bear?



**World Traveler Leon Shares:** Our travelers enjoyed learning about the United States. Now, we're leaving the hot dogs and baseball behind and heading to the South American country of Peru! We will learn all about Peruvian traditions, animals, and landmarks. On our visit, we will create our own version of Machu Picchu, design mysterious Nazca lines, and try out weaving. We will also sample traditional snacks, including banana chips, Inca corn, and purple corn juice. Yum! ¡Bienvenidos a Peru!

**Farmer Skoff Shares:** This month, Bradley's farmers will learn about corn and its uses on the farm. We will learn all the parts of the corn and the stalk and how it's grown. We will see the various forms that corn turns into and its uses for feeding the animals. We'll even make a "corn maze". The latter part of the month we'll have a visiting chicken coop and actually hold the chicks, farm the eggs and feed these adorable farm animals.

### Thursday: Bradley's Barnyard



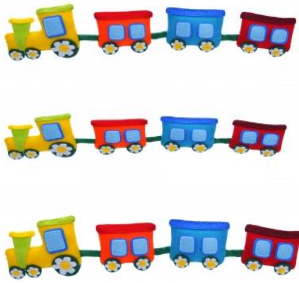
### Yogi Bears:



**Yogi Myers Chants:** With the fall finally upon us, our Yogi Bears will celebrate the season with practices focused on the weather, our friends and the gratefulness that comes with the Thanksgiving holiday. As we near the month of November, our Yogi Bears will go on a special trip to the North Pole. In addition to practicing our poses, our yogis are practicing what it means to be present in the moment through various breathing techniques and mindful eating. Namaste. "The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled" - Plutarch



## MONTHLY SPECIAL CLASSES AND GUEST PERFORMERS:



### Little Hands Music

2s, 3s, & 4s

**Ms. Beth Sings:** Little Hands Music will focus on train songs and activities this month! Listen for "This is a Choo-Choo-Train" at your house - we'll be chugging forward and back, ringing train bells, and vocally tooting whistles!

*This is a choo-choo train puffing down the track!*

*Now it's going forward, now it's going back!*

*Now the bell is ringing (ding-ding-ding)*

*Now the whistle blows (Woo-ooo-oooh!)*

*What a lot of noise it makes, everywhere it goes!*

We'll work on the railroad with sticks, as well as make trains and move with hoops! You can listen to train whistles, "This Old Hammer", on tracks 10 through 15 [here](#)) We love making music with the children and teachers at Bradley Hills!

**Scientist Delfin shares:** November weather can be so unpredictable! It's chilly in the morning and warm by the afternoon, precipitation can bring rain or snowflakes, and the wind can be so fierce it can send a chill up your back! In science this month, we will explore weather and its many forms. We'll discuss wind, rain, snow and the make-up of clouds. We'll discover what happens to the water vapor that surrounds us all the time. After this lesson, the students will be ready for the weather change!



### Science 3s and 4s



### Creative Movement 2s, 3s, and 4s

**Mrs. Stevens Reports:** All children need to run, jump, skip, bounce, gallop, and hop because gross motor movement is so important to their development. By doing these activities, the children are getting so much more than just exercise! They are, also, developing their coordination, balance, concentration and cognitive abilities! This month in Creative Movement, the children will trot, shake their tail feathers, gobble and wobble to the "Turkey Dance." Then, they will "put on" their boots, pants, suspenders, jackets, helmets and listening ears and "become" firefighters. This song is, hands down, a fan favorite!

We're so sorry October is over and we've said *Adios* to the Monstruos song! In November, we'll continue to build our vocabulary. We'll learn the names of family members (mother-*madre*, father-*padre*, siblings-*hermanos*, grandparents-*abuelos*). We'll be learning the names of the food we'll see on the Thanksgiving table. We'll also be learning a Thanksgiving song where we'll learn to show our gratitude for all we have. The fours will be learning [El Día de Acción de Gracias](#) and the 3s will be learning a Thanksgiving song based on the tune to Frere Jacques. The words will come home in a handout this month.



### Spanish 3s and 4s

### Ms. Casey Reports:

Fall is here; hear the yell! Cooler weather and thankful sentiments will punctuate the children's set list this month. The children are being reacquainted with old standards and some new songs. For many of the two's and three's this is the first they will hear of Yellow Submarine and She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain! Thanksgiving and the bounty it brings looms large at Bradley Hills. It certainly gives us something to sing about!



### Bill Jenkins: Native American Music

Bill Jenkins will be here to share his collection of Native American instruments. The children will beat drums, shake bells, and more as they sing and dance to traditional Native American music as well as some familiar nursery school songs. Bill Jenkins is a musician and educator offering hands-on programs for all ages with instruments from around the world. His extensive instrument collection has grown to over 200 and is the largest of its kind outside of a museum. We are thrilled to have Bill perform and teach our bear cubs.