

April 2022 Newsletter

The Bear Facts

Celebrating 64 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

It's April! A time to celebrate warmer weather, more sunlight each day, the return of dandelions, leaves, flowers, and more! During April our classes will be taking advantage of the outdoors as much as the weather allows. Please continue to send in rain boots and jackets for our cubs to play in the April showers!

April also includes Spring Break! BHP CNS will close on Friday, April 8th at 12:30 pm. There is NO Stay and Play on Friday, April 8th. School will resume on April 19th at 8:00 am for Early Bear and 9:00 am for all other students. If you are looking for some fun Spring Break activities to do with your children, see page 6.

Review sidebar for Safety Measures required for all children and staff before returning to school after Spring Break. Please contact Liz if you have any questions about the testing and/or masking requirements to return to school.

When we return from Spring Break several classes will be dismissing from outdoors. Your child's teacher will share her specific classroom plans as we get closer to April 19th!

The past few weeks have been extremely busy at BHP CNS. Thank you to all the parents who've helped with picture days, speech screenings, hearing screenings, OT screenings, and more. Your help is greatly appreciated.

For families with rising kindergarten students, mark your calendars for our "Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Kindergarten" on Tuesday, April 26th at 7:30 pm. See additional information on Kindergarten on page 5 of this newsletter.

Wishing everyone a wonderful April, and a safe and happy Spring Break!

Liz
Liz Sobrino
BHP CNS Director



COVID PROTOCOLS FOR CHILDREN & STAFF TO RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER SPRING BREAK

For the safety of the BHP CNS community the following protocols **MUST** be followed for children and staff to return to school.

1. All children and staff are required to have a rapid antigen test administered on Monday, April 18th or a PCR test administered so results are received before the child(ren) return to school.
2. The test results are to be emailed to your child(ren's) teachers.
3. If you do not email a photo of the test results to your child's teacher by their first day back to school, the child(ren) will be required to wear a mask indoors at school through Friday, April 22nd.
4. If you choose not to test your child, the child will be required to wear a mask indoors, while at school, through Friday, April 22nd.
5. If you do not choose to test your child and you do not want your child wearing a mask indoors, while at school, you may keep your child home from school until Monday, April 25th.

Questions, please contact Liz at Lsobrino@bhpcns.org.

PARENTS' GROUP UPDATES!

Thank you, Bradley Bear families, friends & alumni for your generosity in supporting Brackets with Bradley Bear. To date we've raised over **\$3,500** for the **Alla Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund (AJMSF)**. In addition to watching some very exciting basketball on the court, the competition continues to heat up off the court in our bracket challenge as we head into the NCAA Championship Game on Monday, April 4th. Who will take first place and claim bragging rights?!!

To close out the tournament please join us for a **Ledo's Dine Out on Monday, April 4th (4:00 – 9:00pm) @ Westlake Ledos**. Order all your game night faves for dine in or take out. 20% of all proceeds will go to the AJMSF.

Thank You!



**Fund -
Raiser
Monday
April 4**

**BAKE
SALE**

'Back by popular demand the Parents' Group is offering **Spring Cookie Kits** for your kiddo(s) to take home and decorate. Each cookie kit comes with 8 spring themed cookies, 2 bags of icing and 2 toppings for decorating (\$25 per kit). The Parents' Group will deliver the cookie kits to your child's class on May 4th. **Please complete this form by April 19th to order – <https://forms.gle/1eaXM52DcYCuVW39A>**

Mark your calendars for **April 25th & 26th** – it's **MUFFIN MANIA!** Children are invited to come with a parent or any other special person for an outdoor breakfast with muffins, drinks, fruit and more before school (8:30-9:00). Please register for the breakfast via the sign-up links below. *MWF students are encouraged to attend Monday, 4/25; TTH students are encouraged to attend Tuesday, 4/26; and MTWTHF students can sign up for either day.*

Monday Breakfast Sign Up –

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eacac2babf58-muffin>

Tuesday Breakfast Sign Up-

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eacac2babf58-muffin1>

*The Parents' Group is still in need of **volunteers** to help with **Muffin Mania**. It's a light time commitment (8:10 – 9:15am) on April 25th and/or April 26th.*

Please fill out this short form if you can assist -

<https://forms.gle/T8XHhr2ZLSRtEsL66>



**Sign Up
Today**

**We're
Searching for
Volunteers**

**Parent
Happy Hour
May 4th!**



Looking for a fun night out to mingle with other Bradley Bear Parents!? **Please join us for a Parents Only Happy Hour on Wednesday, May 4th (6:00 – 9:00PM) at the World of Beer** located at 7200 Wisconsin Ave in Bethesda. There will be a cash bar, happy hour specials and more!

PARENTS' GROUP UPDATE CONTINUED!

Save the Dates...

Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2-6th – Information on volunteer opportunities coming soon!

Bradley Bear Summer Send Off – Thursday, May 26th (5:30 – 7:00PM)

An evening of outdoor fun at BHP CNS to celebrate the close of the school year with live music, food & much more. Details coming soon.



Kaeil Duggan and Nicole Urbanczyk
Parents' Group Co-Chairs



BHP CNS BOARD UPDATE

Dear Parents,

We hope you and your children are enjoying the beautiful blossoming trees that grace our neighborhoods during these spring days. We want to wish everyone a fun-filled Spring Break. The BHP CNS Board thanks you in advance for your support and compliance with the Covid protocols for returning to school after Spring Break. These protocols are designed to protect the children and the greater BHP CNS community.



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church invites any interested families to our Palm Sunday (April 10) and Easter Sunday (April 17) services. On Easter, there will be two identical worship services at 9:15 am and 11:15 am. At 10:30 am, the church is offering an outdoor family worship service, followed by an Easter egg hunt. More details about the church's Holy Week services can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Looking ahead to May, we hope you will join us and other Board members for "office hours" on Tuesday, May 3 and Wednesday, May 4 from 9 to 10 am. Please stop by for coffee, donut holes, and conversation. We plan to find an outside spot on the church property to meet. We will meet inside if the weather doesn't cooperate.

If you can't make the coffee times, as always you can share your comments and questions for the Board by contacting us at board@bhpcns.org

Happy Spring to all!
Rosanna Morrison, BHP CNS Chair and Vicki Petrides, Vice Chair



THERE WILL BE NO YOUNG 2S PROGRAMMING 2022-2023



Due to an overwhelming number of children applying for the regular Tuesday/Thursday 2-year-old programming, we will be running 3 classes of 2-year-olds beginning in September and we will not have a classroom available to hold a Young 2s program beginning in January 2023.

If you were considering enrolling in the Young 2s program, please let Liz know. We will compile a list of interested families and share the list. Hopefully, families will be able to form play dates, to sign up for other programming together.



Reminder:

Stay and Play classes are cancelled on the Fridays before major holidays, Spring Break, Memorial Day and the last day of school.

**Stay and Play Classes
are cancelled on the following
Fridays,
April 8 & May 27, & June 3**



April showers bring May flowers! And this April there will also be chicks and butterflies hatching at BHPCNS. These activities are some of the most awaited programs of the school year!



**Magic
Bunny
Fun!**

Magic Bunny:

In the days leading up to spring break, the Magic Bunny will be appearing at BHPCNS. While the children are playing out of their classrooms, the Magic Bunny will arrive with treats for the children to take home!

Dates to remember:

April 4 – Ledo Pizza Night
April 8 – No Stay and Play Classes
April 11-18 – Spring Break
April 25 & 26 – Muffin Mania
April 26 – Everything You’ve Ever Wanted to Know About Kindergarten – Zoom Meeting at 7:30 pm
May 4 – Parent Night Out
May 25 – Under the Sea Dance Recital
May 26 – John Henry Picnic Event
May 27 – No Stay & Play Classes
May 30 – School Closed
June 2 – Concert for the T/Th 3-year-old classes & Last Day of school for 2-year-olds
June 3 – Concert for MWF & M-F 3, Pre-K and TK classes & Last Day of school for 2 – year-olds

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**



MCPS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION & ORIENTATION FOR FALL 2022

Now is the time to register for Montgomery County Public Schools 2022-2023 School Year. If your child turns 5 before or on September 1, 2022, they are eligible to attend kindergarten in September. It is important to register your child as soon as possible so the school system can determine their staffing for next year.

[Visit MCPS](#) for additional information.

Contact Information for MCPS local Elementary Schools:

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



Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know About Kindergarten!

If you have a child entering kindergarten and you have questions on how it all works, please join Ms. Maura Backenstoe, kindergarten teacher at Burning Tree Elementary School and fellow BHPCNS parents, for a fact and fun filled evening on **April 26th at 7:30 pm.**

Ms. Backenstoe will give a brief overview of the kindergarten curriculum, a typical classroom day, how lunch and the bus work, (start practicing how to open lunch containers and yes, your child should ride the bus the first day – you can always follow behind in your car), school communication, and more.

Fellow BHPCNS parents, who've already had a child attend kindergarten will be part of the discussion to share their experiences, the good, the bad, and possibly the ugly, with the rising kindergarten families.

Mark your calendar for **April 26 at 7:30 pm.** Additional information will be shared as we get closer to the date. Parents of rising pre-k students are welcome to attend too.

Please RSVP at Signup Genius by [clicking here](#).

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77184396780?pwd=rI8KokMUfiZw0VwiUO6gOzfw_75aT4.1

Meeting ID: 771 8439 6780

Passcode: BHPCNS

Kindergarten Destination: If you are a parent of a rising kindergartener please email Liz at Lsobrino@bhpcns.org where you anticipate your child attending come the fall. The responses will be compiled into a list of schools and shared with families.

Attending Kindergarten is a big step in your child's life. However, there are still more than 5 months before the big day. Take your child's lead. If they ask about kindergarten answer their question in a positive way. For example, don't tell them how frightened you were, tell your child what you liked best about kindergarten!

SPRING BREAK FUN TO DO AT HOME!

Jan Hauck's Pre-K Class does this experiment annually. Here's how you can do it at home!

Supplies:

White egg
White vinegar
Karo syrup
Food coloring
Toothpick
Glass jars



Step 1: Place raw egg in white vinegar, to cover (clear jar best so you can see the bubbles). Leave in vinegar for about 2 days (the shell should disappear and egg gets large and rubbery).

Step 2: Take egg from above and cover with light Karo syrup (again, clear glass jar works best). Leave in Karo for at least 12 hours (I usually do 24 hours). Observe what happens.

Step 3: Take egg from step 2 and place it in glass jar filled with water and a lot of food coloring. Leave for 24 hours. Continue observations.

Step 4: Take egg from step 3, put on old clothes, go outside and place toothpick in top of egg. Water should gush out like a volcano!

Mrs. Hauck does this experiment with several eggs at once, because Step 4 is so much fun!

How to make Bunnies & Chicks!



Toilet Paper Roll Easter Baskets (Bunnies and Chicks)

Supplies: toilet paper rolls, paint or colorful paper, scissors, glue, markers. We are making two white bunnies and two yellow chicks.

1. Paint paper rolls, one with white paint and the other with yellow. Or glue colorful paper on rolls.
2. Cut rolls in half. So we have 4 baskets to make.
3. Cut long strips of paper and glue it on the inside of the tip roll for a handle of a basket.
4. Cut the wings and a beak for the chicks. Cut long ears for bunnies. Glue them on the baskets.
5. Draw eyes, whiskers, mouth, etc.
6. Put colored Easter eggs in baskets.

Springtime Flower Experiment:

One of our favorite experiments is to find a white flower and change its color. Give it a try at home.

Here is what you'll need: White flowers, tall glass, scissors, water, and food coloring.

Step 1: Fill glasses with water and add food coloring to each one. **Step 2:** Cut the stems of the flowers. **Step 3:** Put the flowers in the glass and leave it overnight.

If you have an extra flower try this next part.....**Step 1:** Take another flower and split the stem with scissors up toward the flower head. **Step 2:** Put one half of the split stem in one color and the other half in a different color. Does the flower change colors?

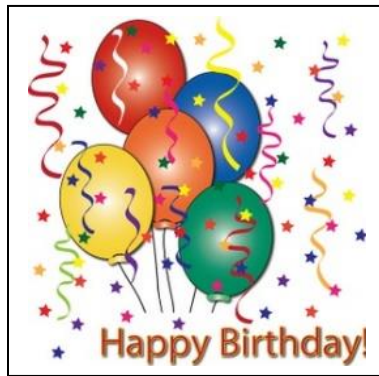
The cut flowers drink up the water and moves from the stem to the leaves. This process is called capillary action.

For more information, [Click Here.](#)



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Shane Young
Hari Ganguly
Orson Tu
Josephine Pittman
Sebastian Cardenas
Rebecca Joly
Max Chomiak



Zoe Waldo
Noah Weisflog
Charlie Franklin
Annie Hertz
Charlotte Andrews
Braden Woodside
Lucy Chang

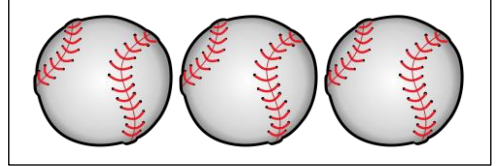
Wishing our Bradley Bear Cubs a happy birthday day!!!!

STAY AND PLAY & SPECIAL PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Sports and Games by Coach Cardoni

"Play Ball!" is there a phrase that encompasses the fun of spring better than baseball? During April our star athletes will learn to run bases, toss and catch a ball and hit the ball off a baseball T. Each week we warm up our bodies by stretching, playing games and improving coordination and agility. Soon our bear cub athletes will be ready for "The Show"!!!

Mondays Sports and Games



Tuesdays Wigglin' Wizards



Scientist Ms. Frid Reports:

March may have come in like a Lion and gone out like a Lamb but here comes April and all the interesting weather to go with it! Get ready for the science behind weather! Lightning, tornadoes and rain clouds, oh my! We will discuss the conditions that take place at exactly the right time to produce these weather phenomena. And we will try to recreate them ourselves! The perfect conditions for fun with science!

Lead Dancer Mrs. Snyder Shares:

The Bradley Bear Dance Company is going *Under the Sea* this Spring! We are working hard on our ballet shapes and positions, locomotor skills like posse marches and chasse, and movement retention while memorizing our choreography. We are working on motor planning skills through leaping (one foot to one foot) vs jumping (two feet to two feet) as well as learning to modulate the movements as small, medium, and as large as possible. We are all giggles and smiles in dance class and so excited to share what we have learned next month.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays Bradley Bear Dance Troupe



Wednesdays Arts and Crafts



Artist Mrs. Juhaszne Reports:

We are getting all excited about Spring Crafts at the Artist Corner!! Spring is definitely in the air and with that we love to start thinking about garden crafts, planting things, flowers, blossoms, and butterflies. There are so many heart-lifting things that Spring brings our way.

We are going to make Paper Mosaic Easter Eggs, Blossom Tree using materials from nature, and other fun art projects in April.

STAY AND PLAY & SPECIAL PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Travel Agent Mydlarz Shares: Fasten your safety belts as we make a stop on the island of Japan. We will see what a day in the life of Japanese children entail, learn about 'children's day' and make our own koinobori, listen to some taiko drum music and learn of the gift of the cherry blossom trees in DC from the Japanese government as we recreate these beautiful blossoms in our own artful way. After the spring break we will take new destination and head to the land of Nile River, pyramids and pharaohs, Egypt. We will not only learn about ancient Egyptian topic, but also will see how kids there are going to school, playing sports, listening to music, and sharing meals and snacks with their families.

Thursday Where in the World is Bradley Bear?



Fridays Yogi Bears

Mindfulness



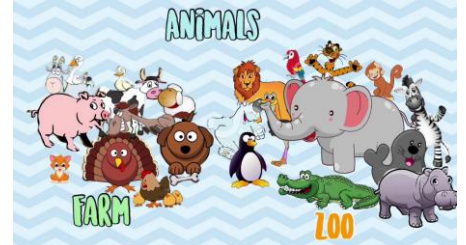
Yogi Bears by Mrs. Cardoni:

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, Earth Day and Dinosaurs. 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.

Sign Language Guru Mrs. Goodstein Shares:

This month is ASL we will take a trip to the farm & the zoo. There are so many, many animals! Some of the animals are big and some are small but we will learn to sign them all. It is sure to be fun. Ask your child how to sign their favorite animal.

American Sign Language



Ms. Casey reports:

Winter is holding on but in music class we're already celebrating the changes around us through song. Along with the shifting weather, we'll sing of birds, insects, and the budding trees and flowers. The youngest children are engaging in the simplest of listening exercises using freeze dances and "races", where the best listeners win instead of the fastest runners, which will aid them in learning new songs, signs, and melodies. The older children are diving deeper by learning that the words in a song, or "lyrics", tell a story - just like the books they read. For Valentine's Day we listened to our hearts (in more ways than one!) beating and are now listening for beats in songs and how different beats can make us feel. Last month everyone became a musician as instruments entered the classroom. Actively creating music and listening to others is a wonderful introduction to collective music and great way to prepare for the year end concert. Spring forth!

Spring is here, and we celebrate together! Easter is April 17, and we will have a short family worship time and egg hunt outside beginning in the Labyrinth at 10:30 and concluding around 11:00 am. We look forward to having time outside with everyone and returning to one of our favorite Easter activities for children and families! There will also be a children's message in each worship service on Easter.



Palm/Passion Sunday, April 10
8:30 and 10:30

Worship with us in person or online. David preaching.

Maundy Thursday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday celebrates Jesus's gift of the Lord's Last Supper, and commandment to His disciples to love one another. Denise preaching.

Good Friday, April 15 at noon

Devotional service, in Sanctuary only, with focus on the Passion of Christ.

Good Friday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Buxtehude: *Membra Jesu Nostri*

Join the Bradley Hills Section Leaders and guests for a performance of Dieterich Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostri*. A musical stations of the cross, this work beautifully considers various parts of Christ's body. With five singers, gambas (an archaic instrument resembling a cello), organ, cello, and more, this is sure to be a delight!



Easter Sunday, April 17
Identical Services
at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

in the Sanctuary

Music preludes at 9:00 and 11:00

Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with us!

Join us on Easter Sunday at worship
in-person and online.

Two identical services.

Special music. David preaching.

Sunday, April 24, 8:30 am: **Blessing of the Animals** - Bring your pets for a pet friendly outside family service and blessing for animals! Children's Church during 10:30 worship will do a service project helping to beautify our church grounds by **planting annuals** in the planters outside of Door 14 (between Memorial Hall and the Lounge).



Weekly Church Services - We continue to have Sunday worship services at 8:30 or 10:30. Both services are in person in the sanctuary or on-line. 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@bradleyhillchurch.org. We also offer "Children's Church" in person for ages 3- fifth grade during the service.

[Watch Services Live Click Here](#)

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!



ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education in April

Sessions begin at Sundays at 9:00 am, but we open the Zoom meeting at 8:45 for fellowship. Bring your own coffee - no need to dress up! [Click here to Join the Zoom Meeting each Sunday](#)

April 3: Dr. Sarah Azaransky, Associate Professor of Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary: *Relations between Black American Christians and Indian Civil Rights Activists in the 1960s.*

April 10: Katherine Rehberg, Vice President of Programs at Church World Service (CWS), *The Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine.* Ms. Rehberg will bring an up-to-the minute view of the situation on the ground and how we can help address the worst humanitarian crisis in Europe in 75 years.

April 17: Easter – A time to participate in the many activities that BHPC offers that day.

April 24: On Earth Care Sunday, Dr. Neelu Tummula, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at the George Washington University Hospital, speaking on *Climate Change and Individual Health*

Service Opportunity for Families: Providing Toiletries for Arcola Elementary School Community
The Arcola Elementary School's students and families in Wheaton need toiletry items. There are two ways you can help during **April 10 through May 1**.

1. One is to provide items that will be distributed to students during the school's "Health and Wellness Week" in May, that will focus on the social, emotional, mental, and physical health of the Arcola Community. Educational information will be provided to students, samples will be distributed, and there will be demonstrations, a field-day, and interactive activities. **You can support Arcola's students by ordering online from Arcola's Amazon wish list, and your ordered items will be delivered directly to the school:** https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/TLR8P4YQTSD5?ref=wl_share

2. Arcola families continue to need the following toiletry items. **Please bring your purchases to Bradley Hills, and place them in the bins outside the church's exterior door to Amy de Court's office (door #5 on the office side of the church building).** Fran Weaver and Myla Williams will be picking them up and delivering them to the school. Anything you can provide would be greatly appreciated!

- Diaper (Sizes 4,5,6)
- Baby formula
- feminine pads
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Soap
- Toilet paper



Your
donation
is greatly
appreciated

Thank you to the many families who generously donated items to the collections for the refugee families. Your generosity made it possible for a family to furnish a new home and make it a welcoming place for their new baby.



Thank
You



Manna Food Drive

Help us combat Food insecurity

April 1-8th

Blue Bins Located in Parking Lot

List of Most Needed Items

Grains

- Instant oatmeal packets, original flavor
- Brown rice (16 oz)
- Whole grain pasta (16 oz)

Protein

- Tuna, Salmon or Chicken, in water
- Dry or canned beans (low sodium)
- Natural nut butters

Fruits & Vegetables

- Canned vegetables (low-sodium)
- Canned fruit (in juice)
- Fruit cups

Other Healthy Items

- Shelf-stable, individual milk boxes
- Cooking oils & spices
- Infant formula & baby foods

July 2016