



The Bear Facts

MARCH 2025

Celebrating 67 Years of Early Childhood Education



Dear Parents,

In like a lion, out like a lamb. We welcome March, especially after this long, cold, and snowy winter. We can hardly wait for winter to wind down and we welcome warmer gentler days ahead.

March Madness at BHCNS!

Get ready to make your predictions and complete a NCAA Men's & Women's College Basketball bracket! All proceeds will go back to the Parents' Group to provide funding for special events and parent education and outreach. More information on page 2.

Layoffs, Furloughs, Economic Uncertainty?

As we navigate these uncertain times BHCNS is here to support you and your children. Should your family be impacted by a layoff, please contact me. The school has a scholarship fund that supports families when there is an unexpected change in financial circumstances. Our goal is to continue to provide your child(ren) with the continuity of their school programming as you plan your next steps.

Additionally Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Zoom event for people impacted by lay-offs or the uncertainty of their employment on Monday, March 3, 2025 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. You do not need to be a member of the BHPC congregation to participate. This will be a time to connect, to share thoughts, advice, strategies, and to support each other. David Gray and Venus Masselam will co-lead the group. Zoom link can be found [HERE](#).

MCPS Kindergarten Registration.

If you have a child who will turn 5 before September 1, 2025, they are eligible to attend Montgomery County Public Schools, (MCPS) in August 2025. Now is the time to register your child and check your local schools for Parent Orientation events. See page 7 for additional details.

Teacher Professional Day.

BHCNS will be closed on Monday, March 31st. Our teachers will participate in an all day training facilitated by Growing Minds that will guide our teachers through what to do when faced with challenging behaviors. We thank you for your support of teacher professional development during our annual fundraising campaign.

The March winds are blowing. We will have 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. Be sure to label everything! Sending in an extra pair of dry pants, socks, and shirts would be helpful too.

Happy March Everyone!


Liz
Liz Sobrino
Director BHCNS

March 1st

- Tuition Due

March 3rd

- BHPC employment uncertainty 6:30-7:30pm via [ZOOM](#)



March 5th

- Hatchlings delivered

March 10th & 11th

- Speech Screenings

March 12th, 13th, & 14th

- Picture Days

March 13th & 17th

- St. Patrick's Day Parties
- 13th TTh Classes
- 17th Young 2s, MWF, & MTWThF Classes

March 20th

- Parents' Group Brackets w/Bradley Bear Brackets DUE at NOON
- Hearing Screenings

March 26th

- Hearing Screenings
- Board Meeting 7:30pm

March 31st

- BHCNS Closed
- Teacher Professional Day

April 1st & 2nd

- Coffee & Conversation for 2s 9:15-10:45 Gathering Space

April 3rd & 4th

- Coffee & Conversation for 3s 9:15-10:45 Gathering Space

April 7th

- Coffee & Conversation for Pre-K 9:15-10:45 Gathering Space

[WEBSITE](#) / [FACEBOOK](#) / [INSTAGRAM](#) / [GOOGLE GROUPS](#) / [YOUTUBE](#)

STAY
CONNECTED



UPCOMING EVENTS



MARCH MADNESS BRACKETS with BRADLEY BEAR

March 16th brackets open - Brackets must be completed by noon on March 20th

BHPCNS is going to get lucky in March by asking families and relatives of the school to participate in our very own March Madness pool: Brackets with Bradley Bear!! For those who are new to BHPCNS this year: this is always such a fun way to engage the whole family, win bragging rights and small prizes, while also supporting the school.

Our bracket is through CBS Sports and will be named Brackets with Bradley Bear. It is easy to participate whether you are a basketball fan or not and fun to track your progress!

Be on the lookout for emails from the Parents' Group to get your brackets locked in, follow our wall tracker to see if your picks are advancing, wear your favorite jersey on our jersey days and track your brackets online in hope of a winning prize - we can't wait to kick things off in the coming weeks!



Proceeds raised will go back to the Parents' Group to help support their special events and parent education and outreach.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We want to thank everyone one more time for supporting this year's Scholastic Book Fair. We exceeded Scholastic's expectations for a school of our size, and raised over \$1,400 in funds which will greatly impact our library! We will use this money to purchase new books, purchase additional copies of popular titles, and pay for our annual online card cataloging system. As a reminder, our library is open to all our families and students. Please stop by and check out a book or two. We have resources for parents too. We look forward to hosting another book fair next January!

We are so grateful to everyone who came by and made memories with their kiddos. We are also incredibly grateful to our volunteers who made time to make it happen each day. THANK YOU Jan Hauck, Kaeli Duggan, and Maggie Maloney for chairing this event. And thank you to our many volunteers: Mariana Bailey, Kathryn Boothe, Hanna Brecher, Ashley Cohen, Anna Fleming, Shivonne Jones, Margaret Makumbe, Molly Natelli, Erin Penfold, Guin Seaward, Anne Simoneau, and Melissa Toufanian - we couldn't have pulled this off without you.



Parents' Group Co-Chairs,

Cass Price

cass.price@gmail.com



Amanda Franklin-Munson

amandanfranklin@gmail.com



Dear Parents,

One of the statements I have heard over and over again during my four years as Chair of the BHPCNS Board is that BHPCNS is more than a preschool, it is a community. And I have seen that this true. Communities support each other in challenging times. The Board wants to reiterate Mrs. Sobrino's message to contact her if your family is affected by a layoff or another financial setback. The school has a scholarship fund that can provide assistance to families facing unexpected changes in their financial circumstances.

Later this month, the Board will hold its third meeting of the school year on March 26 at 7:30 pm. If you have any topics you would like added to the agenda, please email the Board at board@bhpcns.org. Board meetings are open to anyone with notification to the Board Chair through this email address at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Throughout the school year, please feel free to reach out to the Board with your questions, concerns, or thoughts about the school via this email address, or by speaking with one of the Board members listed below.

March is the month to hopefully exchange mittens and snow boots for rain jackets and rain boots. We hope you are also getting your basketball team picks ready for the Parents' Group's March Madness fundraiser: Brackets with Bradley Bear.

Rosanna Morrison, BHPCNS Board Chair
Scott Allshouse, BHPCNS Board Vice Chair



2024-25 BHPCNS Board members

Rachel Alderton—Current parent; BHPC member
Scott Allshouse—Current parent
Gail Polser-Brown—Past parent; past grandmother; BHPC member
Amanda Franklin—Current parent; Parent' Group Co-Chair; BHPC member
Rosanna Morrison—Past parent; current grandmother; BHPC member
Cass Price—Current parent; Parents' Group Co-President
Autumn Balentine Trevisan—Current parent

Ex-officio

Liz Sobrino—BHPCNS Director
Eileen Richards and Regina Schweitzer—BHPCNS Teacher Liaisons
Sandhya Weldon—BHPCNS Treasurer
Corinne Silva—BHPC Session Liaison
Rosanna Howard—BHPC Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

BHPCNS ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

SCHOOL ROUTINES

Morning Drop-Off: Children are welcome in classrooms at 8:55am. Please do not drop your child off before 8:55 am as teachers are still preparing for the day.

Handwashing at Morning Drop-Off: All children are to be taken to the bathroom by a caregiver 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 allergens 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 waiting in the office for you to pick them up. You may be charged a late fee if you are chronically late to pick up your child.

SPRING AHEAD

Sunday, March 9th at 3:00am



Spring Forward for an extra hour of daylight! A good night's sleep is so important to having a successful day. As wonderful as it is to have an extra hour of day light, it can wreak havoc on a child's sleep schedule. Click [here](#) for more information on how to gradually prepare your little one for this change to their schedule.



PICTURE DAYS

March 12th, 13th, & 14th

We are excited to be working with Stone Photography again for our school pictures. Individual, classroom, and sibling photos will be taken. Sibling photos (*for siblings ages 1 and up who can sit independently*) will begin at 9:15am each day. Please email Mrs. Jones at jjones@bhpcns.org if you'd like to have sibling photos taken.



PICTURE DAY SCHEDULE:

- CUB CLUB Mrs. Colonna - Wed, March 12th
- CUB CLUB Mrs. Colonna - Thu, March 13th
- YOUNG 2s Mrs. Javers - Fri, March 14th
- ROOM 102 Mrs. Vargas - Fri, March 14th
- ROOM 103 MWF Mrs. Choi - Wed, March 12th
- ROOM 103 TTh Mrs. Choi - Thu, March 13th
- ROOM 104 MWF Mrs. Barnett - Wed, March 12th
- ROOM 105 Mrs. Biggs - Thu, March 13th
- ROOM 107 Mrs. Quijada - Wed, March 12th
- ROOM 108 MWF Mrs. Cardoni - Wed, March 12th
- ROOM 108 TTh Ms. Wilson - Thu, March 13th
- ROOM 111 Mrs. Juhaszne - Thu, March 13th
- ROOM 113 Mrs. Kebler - Fri, March 14th
- ROOM 117 Mrs. Richards - Fri, March 14th



HEARING, SPEECH & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SCREENINGS

Classroom observations, ASQs, and parent requests are used to recommend a Speech or Occupational Therapy screening to help determine if a child's skills are age appropriate. BHPCNS works with experts in our area to conduct Speech and OT screenings twice a year and Vision and Hearing screenings once a year. These screenings are all provided at no additional cost to parents. BHPCNS feels strongly that early intervention can have an enormous positive impact on a child's immediate and long-term development.

The Speech and Occupational Therapy Screenings, while a snapshot in time, help BHPCNS identify whether a child's skills are age-appropriate, should be reassessed in 6 months, or should be examined more comprehensively. BHPCNS does not receive compensation for referrals made to outside organizations for more comprehensive assessments. We value the feedback from screenings and assessments and use this information to make adjustments to our programming to better meet the needs of every child in our program.

HEARING SCREENINGS

- March 20th & 26th for all 3-year-old and Pre-K Classes

SPEECH SCREENINGS

- March 10th & 11th for all ages
- Complete Speech Permission Slip [HERE](#)



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SCREENINGS

- April 28th, 29th, & 30th
- Complete OT Permission Slip [HERE](#)



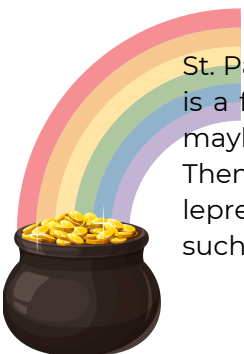
Teachers and parents may recommend students for speech and OT screenings. A signed permission slip will be required for all speech and OT screenings. Many of the screenings are recommended rescreens from those completed this past fall.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

March 13th (TTh Classes) & March 17th (MWF, MTWThF, & Young 2s Classes)

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated at BHPCNS 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. In our 67 years of creating elaborate leprechaun traps, we've yet to catch one. But we must be pretty close because they leave in such a hurry and drop gold coins and treasure for us to discover.

[HERE](#) is a wonderful book to inspire your leprechaun hunt.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Ellie Eng

Jemma Desai

Molly Monaghan

Will Monaghan

Lielle Parker

Oliver Poitevin

Emma Poitevin

George Sharkey

Dylan Dewan

Niko Corcoros

Matthew Brecher

James Thomas

Anna Kildea

George Eyler

When sending in birthday treats, please send in small cupcakes, mini muffins, fruit kabobs, etc. Keep classroom food allergies in mind. We share birthday treats at snack time. There is a snack ingredient form outside the office and on our website. Please complete the allergen form or send in a list of ingredients so we can be aware of any possible allergens. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or the office.

SPRING BREAK

April 14th - 21st

BHPCNS will close Friday, April 11th at 2:30 pm. We will reopen on Tuesday, April 22nd at 8:00am. Early Morning, Lunch Bunch, and Stay & Play will be held on April 11th.

DENTIST DR. MARKO VISITED BRADLEY HILLS



A BIG THANK YOU to Dr. Marko from Smiles of Chevy Chase for coming to Bradley Hills and teaching all our cubs about dental hygiene.

We learned all about our teeth:

- How, why and when to brush.
- Why we go to the dentist.
- How many teeth we have as children.
- How many teeth we have as an adult.



We scrubbed sugar bugs off teeth, practiced flossing playdough from between teeth, painted with electric toothbrushes, and made smiles out of mini marshmallows.

ALWAYS learning through PLAY at Bradley Hills!



RYAN - THE BUGMAN VISITED BRADLEY HILLS



We were curious! We were BRAVE! We were amazed! And we learned :

- Bugs aren't dangerous or scary.
- Bugs use color & shape to scare off predators.
- Bugs are the foundation of our ecosystem.
- Bugs are a source of food for a multitude of animals.
- Bugs are pollinators for the reproduction of plants & flowers.
- Bugs are AWESOME!

Thank you Ryan Bridge for sharing your beautiful bugs with us!



OPEN DOOR POLICY AT BHPCNS

BHPCNS Open Door Policy: Thank you to everyone who has popped into the office with a question or concern! If at any time during the school year, you have a concern, complaint, an idea, or suggestion, please email, text, come to the office, or call us. We truly want to know your thoughts. Your ideas, suggestions, and critiques provide us with vital information that we can use to improve our programming. No issue is too small.

Heigh-ho, Heigh-ho It's off to camp we go. This year Bradley Bear is going camping! We will pitch tents, learn how to make fires, study wildlife, and eat lots and lots of smores. We put our camping skills to use in the second session and visit several National Parks. Camp Registration has begun and is open to all children currently enrolled in our 2s' program and ages 3 through rising 1st graders. Friends, cousins, neighbors are welcome. Campers do not need to be currently enrolled BHPNS students (with the exception of 2-year-olds). Current students who are not potty trained may attend camp for an additional \$85 fee. The camp application is on brightwheel.

BHPCNS SUMMER CAMP 2025 BRADLEY BEAR GOES CAMPING!

Ages Children enrolled in our 2, 3, and Pre-K programs are invited to attend (as well as, recent BHPNS graduates).**

TWO NINE DAY SESSIONS OF SUMMER CAMP:

JUNE 2 - 12

JUNE 16- 27 *no camp June 19th*

**\$495* PER
SESSION**

**REGISTER
ON
BRIGHTWHEEL**



9:00 am - 12:30 pm

**Campers will be served a mid-morning snack provided by BHPNS.
Campers bring a lunch from home.**

Early Drop-off:

**Campers may be dropped off at 8:00 am for an additional \$150 per camp session.
Drop-in rate is \$20/day. Light snack provided by BHPNS.**

Stay & Play:

**Campers may stay until 2:30 pm for an additional \$280 per camp session.
Drop-in rate is \$35/day. Light snack provided by BHPNS.**



**An additional \$85 fee for any child who is not fully toilet trained. BHPNS considers a child fully potty-trained when the child is able to articulate their need to go to the bathroom, can manage their clothing, and does not have recurring accidents at school.*

*** Must be currently enrolled at BHPNS for the 24-25 school year and two by December 31, 2024.*

IMPORTANT KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

MCPS Kindergarten Registration Has Begun!

MCPS elementary schools need to know if your child will be attending their school in late August. 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 late August the elementary schools are already making their staffing projections for the fall

Ashburton: 240-740-1300
 Bannockburn: 240-740-1270
 Bells Mill: 240-740-0480
 Bethesda: 240-204-5300
 Beverly Farms: 240-740-0200
 Bradley Hills: 240-204-5210

Burning Tree: 240-740-1750
 Carderock Springs: 240-740-0540
 Chevy Chase: 301-657-4994
 Garrett Park: 240-740-0700
 Kensington Parkwood: 240-740-3700
 Ritchie Park: 240-740-6310

Rosemary Hills: 301-920-9990
 Seven Locks: 240-740-0940
 Somerset: 240-740-1100
 Westbrook: 240-740-1040
 Wood Acres: 240-740-1127
 Wyngate: 240-740-1080



Liz's Kindergarten Tips:

When contacting your local elementary school ask if they are hosting any informational kindergarten meetings for parents. Schools should be offering tours or parent coffees.

For more information about MCPS and Kindergarten, visit the MCPS website by clicking [here](#).



KINDERGARTEN NIGHT

April 24th 7:00pm at BHPCNS

Meet Maura Backenstoe, a Burning Tree Kindergarten Teacher for a brief presentation about what MCPS kindergarten is all about. Then, break out into small groups and connect with other families from BHPCNS who will attend the same kindergarten program as your child. Small group discussions will be led by a parent from each elementary school. Adult beverages and snacks will be served starting at 7:00pm. Kindergarten presentation will begin at 7:30pm.

If you have children at a local elementary school and are available to lead a table discussion, please reach out to Liz.

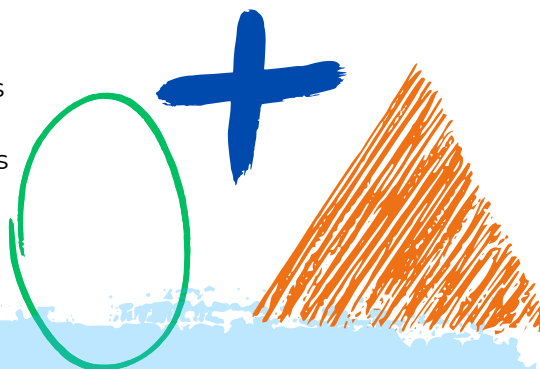
PRE-WRITING SKILLS

From NAEYC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children,
4 Tips Every Kindergarten Teacher Wants You to Know

Pre-writing skills are the lines and strokes kids need to master and know **BEFORE** learning how to print the alphabet. Each of these lines are developed in a sequence, based on how old the child is.

This developmental sequence is:

- Vertical Line – Age 2 imitates, age 3 copies/masters
- Horizontal Line – Age 2 1/2 imitates, age 3 copies/masters
- Circle Shape – Age 2 1/2 imitates, age 3 copies/masters
- Cross Shape (+) – Age 3 1/2 imitates, age 4 copies/masters
- Square Shape – Age 4
- Right/Left Diagonal Line – Age 4 1/2
- X Shape – Age 5
- Triangle – Age 5



Fun Ways to Work on Pre-Writing Skills

Since the typical age for children working on pre-writing lines is ages 2-5, it is a good idea to focus on fine motor skills that promote learning these lines and shapes instead of using paper and pencils/crayons. Your child will need the fine motor strength these activities provide in order to have good pre-writing lines and later good letter formations.

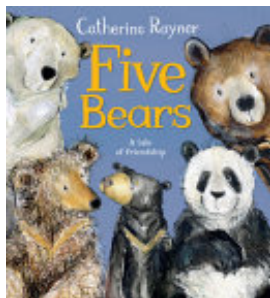
Activities to try at home:

- [10 Hands-On Ways to Work on Pre-Writing Lines](#)
- [6 Pre-Writing Activities for Kids](#)
- [12 Fun Ways to Practice Handwriting with Kids](#)
- [On The Farm Pre-Writing Packet for Preschoolers](#)
- [Basics of Pre-Writing Skills for Kids](#)



SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

WINTER PICKS from our LIBRARIAN - Mrs. Hauck



Librarian Hauck reports:

New books in the Library...

Five Bears, by Catherine Rayner, is a story of diversity and friendship. Five bears learn to be friends, despite their physical differences.

Just Like Millie. by Lauren Castillo, is a book about how a very shy girl learns to overcome her anxiety with the help of a friendly rescue dog.



Porcupine Had a Fuzzy Sweater, by Jody Jensen Shaffer, is about a porcupine who is sad because he lost the fuzzy red sweater his grandmother knit for him. He tries to come up with solutions to the lost sweater, without telling his grandmother the truth. In the end, Porcupine decides it is best to be honest.

Thank you to all the families who donated books to our school during the Scholastic Book Fair. Parents, grandparents, and caretakers...you are welcome to visit the BHPCNS Library. Please see the office staff for assistance if you wish to borrow a book.



Questions? Feel free to email me: jbhauck@bhpcns.org

-Jan Hauck
Librarian



ART (all ages) SCIENCE (3-year-olds and Pre-K) with Mrs. Mac 'N Cheese



In March our artists will make prints. They will practice transferring images from found objects onto a sheet of paper. Each edition is a group of identical prints made from the same surface but I am willing to bet no two prints we make will be identical.

Our scientists will help ready our garden for Spring. We will plant seeds, learn about the germination process, and talk about plants:

- How plants produce the oxygen we breathe.
- How plants remove carbon dioxide from the air.
- How plants provide food for animals and humans.
- How plants help cool the earth.
- How plants provide habitats for wildlife.

We will care for these seeds over the next few weeks and when the weather turns warmer plant our seedlings in our children's garden.

SINGING with Ms. Casey (all ages)

The cubs come MARCHing two by two, hurrah, hurrah! This month we'll be transitioning from winter to spring songs as we watch the natural world around us change. Though it seems like the new year was just yesterday, we only have 13 weeks left in the school year! In preparation, the children will be learning new songs and practicing the classics in preparation for the year end concert. Encouraging music at home and in the car is a great way to connect to our kids. So put on your favorite tunes and turn it up to 11!



MUSIC (3-year-old & Pre-K) with Little Hands

In March, Little Hands Music will continue with the "Weather or Not" theme.

We'll explore many wind and rain activities this month, focusing on the concepts of long and short sounds and movements - "staccato and legato". Children will play patterns of rain with the short sound of sticks and drums, and make long sounds with triangles and wind chimes, and dance smoothly like the wind with scarves! The poem set to music "This Little Wind" will give us an opportunity to countdown from five on our fingers. It has a windy melody. (The song is included in the playlists linked below.)



This little wind blows silver rain,
 This little wind drifts snow.
 This little wind sings a whistled tune,
 This little wind moans low.
 And this little wind rocks baby birds, tenderly to and fro.

[Weather or Not music on Spotify](#)

[Weather or Not music on YouTube Music](#)

All music is compiled and recorded for you, and will be fun to share at home with your child!
 We LOVE making music with Bradly Bears!



COMMUNITY AT 6601 BRADLEY BOULEVARD

BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Help Your Family Prepare for Lent with BHPC! Make sure to visit the table outside of Rosanna Howard's office to gather supplies for your family to use before and during Lent to help children understand this special season in the church.

Monday, March 3 - Family Lenten Small Groups begin from 5:30-8:00 pm with dinner for the whole family in the Lounge and childcare during the adult small group discussion time. Contact [Rosanna Howard](#) to sign up.

Friday, March 14 - Friday Night Lights from 8:00-10:00 pm, Sardines at the Church!

Sunday, March 16 - Confirmation Sunday. Confirmation will occur during the 10:30 service. Confirmands will be celebrated with a special coffee hour in Memorial Hall after worship.

Sunday, March 23 at 9:15 am - Milestone Workshop for 4th Graders on Psalm 23 in Room 303

Sunday, March 30 is Youth Sunday

Service Opportunity for Families: We encourage all families who are attending church to consider volunteering to help the Smart Sacks Team which gathers in the hallway between Memorial Hall and the Lounge after church each Sunday. Volunteers put grocery items in bags for delivery to area 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.

We invite you and your family to join us as we celebrate spring break and Easter later this Spring. Stay tuned for details about Easter worship and our annual outside egg hunt!

BETHESDA JEWISH CONGREGATION

Bethesda Jewish CONGREGATION

PURIM CARNIVAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 8
1:00- 3:00 PM

**HAMENTASHEN • COTTON CANDY
POPCORN • GAMES • INFLATABLES
AND MUCH MORE**

6601 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda, MD

**INDIVIDUAL TICKETS- \$7 INCLUDES ADMISSION
AND 1 SNACK TICKET**

**FAMILY PACKAGE- \$30 FOR UP TO 5 PEOPLE,
INCLUDES ADMISSION AND 5 SNACK TICKETS**

**ENROLLED RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FAMILIES-
FREE ADMISSION PLUS 2 SNACK TICKETS FOR
EVERY ENROLLED STUDENT**

**GET YOUR TICKETS AT
WWW.BETHESDAJEWISH.ORG**

Purim Carnival



Join us at BJC for

FAMILY SHABBAT

5:30 PM TOT SHABBAT SERVICES

6:00 PM PIZZA DINNER, NO CHARGE

**6:45 PM FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES
BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS**

FAMILY SHABBAT IS THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

RSVP for dinner at bethesdajewish.org

Family Shabbat

