

February 2018 Newsletter

The Bear Facts

Celebrating 60 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

February marks the mid-point of our school year. How have 5 months passed by so quickly? This month is chocked full of activities at BHP CNS!

Parents: Mark your calendars to join the BHP CNS Board and me. The BHP CNS Board of Directors and I will be hosting our annual **Sweets and Treats Night on February 7th** at 7:30 in Covenant Hall. Join us to meet other parents, ask questions, and share your hopes and/or concerns for our school with the BHP CNS Board. Coffee and treats will be served.

Our 2018-2019 acceptance letters were sent home the last week of January. If you did not receive your child's acceptance letter stop by the office for a copy. We are almost fully enrolled for the 2018-2019 school year. Thank you. If you have friends who are looking for next year, ask them to contact the office ASAP to tour and apply. If you have questions regarding your child's placement, please contact the office. To confirm your child's space, deposits are due by February 23rd.

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in February. See side bar for more details and tips on how to get the most out of your conference time.

Early Bear Camp Registrations are happening now. To receive discounted pricing we must have your application by February 28th. **NEW THIS YEAR: 2 YEAR OLDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT CAMP, EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT POTTY TRAINED.** There will be a \$50 a week up-charge for non-potty trained campers.

In honor of Valentine's Day your classroom teachers and room parents will be sending you more information on the class parties and valentines to be distributed. We will celebrate on Tuesday the 13th and Wednesday the 14th.

Please know you are welcome to come in at any time to chat. Or, you may call me at the school office at 301-365-2909 or on my cell at 301-642-8166 or email me at Lsobrino@bhpcns.org to discuss any and all things related to BHP CNS.

Liz
Liz Sobrino, Director BHP CNS



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES



The following guidelines will help make your conference run smoothly:

- Conference sign-up sheets have been posted outside each classroom. If you haven't signed up yet, email your child's teacher for a time slot.
- Each conference is 15 minutes. In an effort to keep the conferences moving smoothly it is vital to adhere to the 15 minutes scheduled. Be on time or notify the office if you are running late for your conference. If you think you will need more than 15 minutes, you may make special arrangements with your child's teacher in advance.
- Conferences are for adults only and baby-sitting arrangements should be made for your child and/or siblings.
- Classes are held on conference days. Drop your child off in their classroom as usual and proceed to your conference.
- Make a list of questions and/or concerns. Bring your list with you to the conference to discuss with your child's teacher.

If you have any questions about the conference process or afterwards, contact your child's teacher or the office to discuss further or to arrange another date to meet.

PARENTS' GROUP NEWSLETTER

We hope your 2018 is off to a great start! Mark your calendars for Sweets and Treats on February 7th! You'll be able to meet board members, ask questions, or share your ideas for the future of BHP CNS.

We're also looking forward to our John Henry pizza night on March 13th! Look for information to come home in your child's tote bag! You'll be able to preorder dinner, chat with friends, and dance to John Henry!

We have such wonderful staff at BHP CNS that love to take our little ones out to play even on chilly days! Don't forget to label their warm coats, hats, mittens, and snow boots when you send them to school. Check out LabelDaddy for new peel and stick labels to make labeling all your child's winter play clothes so much easier! These labels 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 labeldaddy.com and enter code BHP CNS at checkout.

We're always looking for volunteers! Please email Ashley absilver@comcast.net if you're willing to help bring in snacks for our wonderful staff during their monthly staff meetings or if you're willing to help with Teacher Appreciation Week in the spring. We also need lots of volunteers to help run the Parents' Group next year. If you can help out once for a couple hours, that's great! If you can take on more of a leadership role, that's great too! Let Ashley know if you're willing to "help when you can" or if you're interested in being a committee chair. We'll need committee chairs for our Back to School Picnic, Casino Night, Teacher Appreciation Week, Fundraising events, and Parents' Group Presidents.

As always, thank you for your support! We can't wait to see you at Sweets and Treats!

Ashley Schneider
absilver@comcast.net

Mary Dunmire
mary.e.dunmire@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE BHP CNS BOARD

It's hard to believe that we are half way through the school year. It's always so rewarding to see smiling children engaged in their activities together. The Board has approved both the calendar and the budget for 2018-2019. I hope to see you at the next Sweet 'n Treats, February 7th, in Covenant Hall.
Souheil Inati, BHP CNS Board Chair.

***Sweets and Treats: February 7 at 7:30!**
**Your chance to meet the Board and Director. Come
and share your ideas for BHP CNS!***



VALENTINE'S DAY PARTIES AT BHP CNS



Valentine's Day Parties will be held on:

February 13 for our Tuesday/Thursday classes

February 14 for our Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes and Monday through Friday classes

Children should bring a valentine for each child in their class, but do not address the valentines to individual children. Just sign your child's name on the cards. Include a card for your child. They like to put a card in for themselves!

Party details will be shared with all families via your child's teacher or your room parents. Thank you in advance for making Valentine's Day so much fun!

**Join BHPCNS as we celebrate our
Diamond Jubilee on April 14th, 2018
Between 7:30 and 10:30 pm in Memorial Hall**

Everyone is invited. All current and past BHPCNS families, alumni, teachers, friends, and families enrolling in BHPCNS are welcome to come.

Dinner will be provided by Saffron Gourmet and Frenchman Food Trucks.
Justin Trawick & the Common Good will provide live music for dancing.

Open Bar with beer, wine, and soft drinks.

Cost: Nothing (Donations gratefully accepted.)

RSVP on or before March 16, 2018.

Attire: Smart Casual.

Help us spread the word. Call 301-365-2909 to RSVP or with questions.

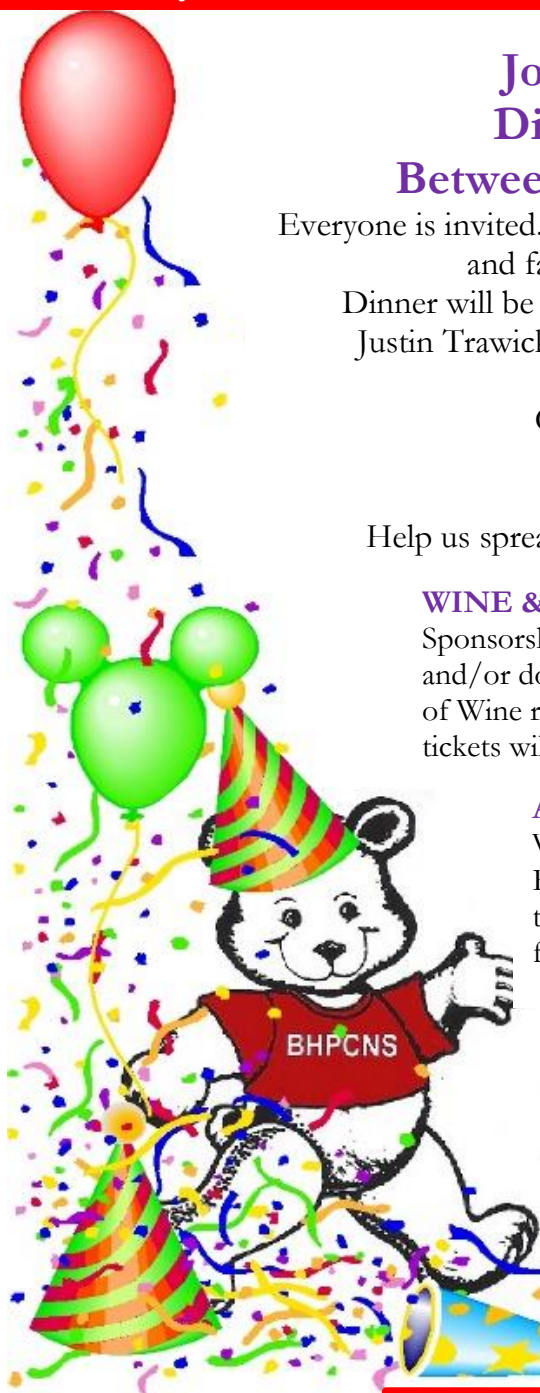
WINE & SPONSORSHIP DONATIONS WELCOME:

Sponsorship forms are available in the office. Please consider becoming a sponsor and/or donating a bottle of wine, or two valued at \$20 or more a piece to our Wall of Wine raffle. Our goal is 100 bottles of wine to raffle off to lucky winners. Raffle tickets will be available in the office beginning in March and at the event.

ANNIVERSARY MURAL:

We are calling all alumni to add their handprints to the mural in the Rainy Day Room. We have 4 beautiful trees filled with children, teacher, and alumni handprints. Thank you to Nancy McCullough for creating this lasting memory for BHPCNS.

**The Diamond Jubilee
is an adult only event.**



Thank you to our sponsors:

Coakley Williams Construction
Park Bradley Homes
Smiles of Chevy Chase
3 Anonymous Donors
Curtis and Laura O'Keefe
Gus and Allison Pappas
The Meier Family
Brooke and Kevin Guerrero
The Supple/Chiang Family
Mary and Jim Bergmann
Brian and Nicole Salcetti
Josh and Ashley Schneider

POTOMAC PIZZA AND JOHN HENRY: MARCH 13th



Come out for a fun filled evening of pizza and music.

Who: BHP CNS students and their families. This is not a drop off event. Children must be with an adult.

When: March 13th

Dinner Picnic between 5:30 and 6:15

John Henry performs between 6:15 and 7:00 pm on the stage.

Where: Memorial Hall

What: Preorder from Potomac Pizza, (order forms available outside the office or attached to the email that included this newsletter) or pack a picnic dinner from home. BHP CNS will provide lemonade, water, and ice cream sundaes for dessert. Order sheets will be going home later in February.

Wanted: Volunteers to:

1. set up Memorial Hall on Tuesday morning after drop off
2. to assist with the distribution of dinner
3. to man ice cream station

If you are able to help or have questions, please contact Liz or Carolyn at info@bhpcns.org. Thank you!

COLGATE DENTAL VAN



The **Colgate Dental Van** will be coming to BHP CNS on February 20th and 23rd to give all the children a dental screening.

Permission slips will be going home. We must have a signed permission slip for your child to participate. Please return the permission slip to your child's teacher ASAP.

2018-2019 BHP CNS ACCEPTANCE LETTERS HAVE GONE HOME!

ACCEPTANCE LETTERS

- BHP CNS has sent home, via your child's tote bag, our 2018-2019 acceptance letters. If you have not received your child's acceptance letter, contact the office, ASAP.
- For families not currently enrolled at BHP CNS acceptance letters were mailed home.
- Deposits are due back to BHP CNS by February 23rd.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUESTS

Financial need base scholarships are available through the **Alla Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund** established by the Nursery School Board. Click [here](#) for a scholarship application. Information is strictly confidential. Scholarship amounts awarded are based on number of applicants, available funds and applicant need. The majority of allocated scholarship funds will be distributed by May 31 for the following fall, therefore it is in the applicant's best interest to submit a scholarship application no later than April 1.



SUMMER CAMP: JUMPIN JELLYFISH WITH BRADLEY BEAR



Jumpin' Jellyfish with Bradley Bear

Camp flyers with registration details have been sent home. If you need another one they are in the bin outside the office.

This year our campers will be exploring all things related to the oceans and beach. Our Jumpin' Jellyfish with Bradley Bear will run daily Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 12:30 pm. There will be early morning drop off available too. Camp will be held the following 3 weeks:

June 11 through the 14th

June 18 through the 21th

June 25 through the 28th

All currently enrolled BHPCHS children are eligible to attend camp.

Early Bear Discounted fee is \$175 until 2-28-2018. After that camp is \$200 per week. For more details, stop by the office. **NEW: For campers who are not completely potty trained there will be an additional \$50 fee.**

IS THERE A RISING MCPS KINDERGARTENER IN YOUR HOUSE?



MCPS elementary schools need to know if your child will be attending their school in September 2018. To register your child, call your local elementary school. It is very helpful to the elementary schools to know the number of children attending for next 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 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

Chevy Chase: 301-657-4994

Garrett Park: 240-740-0700

Kensington Parkwood: 240-740-3700

Seven Locks: 240-740-0940

Wood Acres: 240-740-1120

Wyngate: 240-740-1080

When contacting your local elementary school ask if they are hosting any informational kindergarten meetings for parents. Several schools have monthly tours available to give you an overview of their school.

For more information about MCPS and Kindergarten, visit the MCPS website by clicking [here](#). Kindergarten orientation dates are available on the MCPS website as well.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR BHPCHS' KINDERGARTEN "EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT KINDERGARTEN" INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON 4/18!

PICTURE DAYS ARE COMING: FEBRUARY 27 AND 28



Picture Days will be February 27 and February 28th

Your child's picture day will be noted on your child's classroom calendars.

Forms will be going home in your child's tote bag in early February.

In addition to individual pictures, sibling pictures may be taken. Details to follow.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR PICTURE DAYS



Parent Volunteers are Needed for Picture Days
February 27 and 28th between 9:00 and 12:00
Volunteers will be given a \$50 photo credit for their time.
If interested contact the BHCNS office at
301-365-2909 or email Carolyn at CMccauley@bhpcns.org.



MORE IMPORTANT NEWS FOR BHCNS FAMILIES

Presidents' Day: February 19th BHCNS is closed!

February is Pediatric Dental Month: The Colgate Dental Van is coming to BHCNS (see above). And we are very excited to have Dr. Despina Markogiannakis, aka Dr. Marko or Demi's and Elena's mom, presenting dental hygiene to all our classes. Thank you Dr. Marko! Check your child's classroom calendar for exact date!

FUN FACT: Did you know that it takes only 20 seconds for bacteria in a child's mouth to convert sugar into tooth-enamel-destroying-acid, according to the dental hygiene company CLOSYS.

Lost and Found Bin: The Lost and Found bin, by Room 117, is getting filled with warm jackets, hair bows, sweaters, & other lost items. Please check the bin for any missing belongings. We will be donating unclaimed items.

Boots for Outdoor Playtime: Please continue to send your children to school with boots, labeled with their name, which can be worn outside to the playgrounds. Snowy or muddy playgrounds will not keep us indoors!

Spring Break: BHCNS will close Friday, March 23rd at 12:30 pm. There will not be Stay & Play on Friday the 23rd. We will reopen on Tuesday, April 3rd. Early Morning, Lunch Bunch, and Stay & Play will be held on April 3rd.

BHCNS Office Number: Please add the office number 301-365-2909 to your contacts in your cell phones. This way you'll never miss a call from the office because you didn't recognize the school's phone number. You never know when the power will go out or there is some other unexpected emergency that requires us to call you.

Facebook: Friend Bradley Bear and like the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School to stay in the know!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Evie Bross
Abigail Datch
Dahlia Hertig
Andrew Russell
Emma Twilley
Mihika Choudhury
Cristiano Dessardo
Tad Michael



**Happy
Birthday to
These
Cubs!**

Reminder: If 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!

STAY AND PLAY UPDATES



Monday: The Artist's Corner By Mrs. McCullough

Love is in the air and in art class, we will be creating beautiful necklaces for our Valentines. Please read the books we created, plot line and illustrations are all originals (to right of the rainy day room doors). Happy Valentine's Day!

Our Bradley Bears are fending off the frigid February weather with some comfort foods. From homemade pancakes to savory bread pudding and crepes with Nutella and fruit, our chefs will practice measuring, blending, beating and folding with an emphasis on the process. The best part is eating our delicious creations. It's always fun to cook with Bradley Bear!

Monday By Mrs. Myers **Cooking with Bradley Bear**



Tuesday: Wigglin' Wizards By Mrs. Skoff



January was all about the human body and some of its organs. We learned about the skin, the eyes, the ears, the heart and the lungs and how they work together to help us live. February will be our Physics unit. We will make a rocket balloon and learn about action and reaction which is the force that makes something move. We'll fill a glass with water, put a card on top of the glass and turn it upside down and watch the water "float" using air pressure. We'll also push a hard-boiled egg through a jar using air pressure. Finally, we'll explore the idea of balance and gravity by making a simple seesaw.

Tuesday & Wednesday: Bradley Bear Dance Co.



Miss Lisa, of Bethesda Conservatory of Dance, will be keeping your little dancers very busy this month. They are working on large gross motor movements like galloping and learning how to turn that pattern into a classical chasse. They are learning how balance turns into posse and how "A Very Hungry Caterpillar" turns into a butterfly. They are beginning to learn the port de bras and choreographic themes for the Spring Show.



In the month of February we will be celebrating friendship by making friendship bracelets, Valentine's Day by making our own heart shaped chocolates, making Strawberry scented playdough to take home and learn to care about animals by making bird feeders.

Wacky Wednesday By Mrs. Senarathne

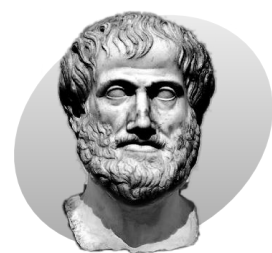


Thursday: Where in the World is Bradley Bear? By Mrs. Stevens



After spending some time in Antarctica, the children "boarded their airplanes" and "flew" to China, the world's most populous country. We talked about similarities between cities in China and the USA. We, also, talked about village life in China. The children will have the opportunity to build their own Great Wall of China out of blocks. We will conclude our visit to China with a Chinese New Year celebration where we will feast on dumplings and mandarin oranges.

As the frigid February air stills the landscape, our Yogi Bears are staying active and focused as they continue their yoga practice. From a camping adventure to a hunt for fairies, our Yogi Bears will be practicing their flow while learning some new poses. Our month of mindfulness also includes two very special classes, Valentine's Day and the Chinese New Year.
"Educating the mind, without educating the heart, is no education at all"
- Aristotle



Yogi Bears:
By Yogi Myers

MONTHLY SPECIAL CLASSES UPDATES



Beethoven

**Little Hands
Music
2s, 3s, & 4s**

Ms. Beth Reports:

We've moved from horse-and-pony-focused to dog-focused songs and activities. We met dogs of all shapes and sizes - Brownie, Rover, Bingo, and more! Drums have also been a highlight of recent classes. We explore loud and quiet, fast and slow, playing along to recorded music, and playing echo games with the drums. You can find some of the songs and poems about dogs on the album, "Ponies, Piggies, and Pups" [available here](#) to download from the Little Hands Shop.

Your child experienced the steady beat of the music while singing "Bow Wow Wow," bouncing a toy dog, and while playing resonator bars to the song. Partner dancing to "Bow Wow Wow" was also a lot of fun! This is a very simple dance that the children enjoyed in class! You might like to try it at home. Here are the steps: (holding hands, facing each other)

Bow wow wow (stomp, stomp, stomp)

Whose dog art thou? (nod, nod, nod)

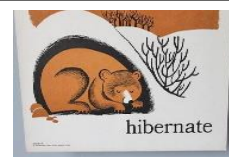
Little Tommy Tucker's dog (turn around, turn around)

Bow wow wow (stomp, stomp stomp)

Most music has "form." Verses with a repeated chorus in between is a very common form. Some music is more complicated with several parts that repeat at less predictable intervals. To help your child hear and anticipate musical form we've enjoyed a directed movement piece in class to Beethoven's *Fur Elise*. Each part of the classical song has a specific series of movements. Now it's a fun mirroring game between teacher and children, but as we repeat this activity, the children begin to recognize and anticipate the different sections of the music and move accordingly!

Scientist Delfin Reports:

Winter is cold. There is snow on the ground. People live in warm houses, but what do animals do? This month in science, we will explore how animals survive the cold winter months. Whether it is birds migrating south or snow rabbits adapting by growing new, thick, white fur or big bears storing food and hibernating in caves, animals do many amazing things to get through the winter.



Science Class 3s & 4s



**Creative
Movement
2s, 3s, & 4s**

Mrs. Stevens Reports:

This month in Creative Movement, the children will jump, gallop, swim, and splash to the song I Feel Crazy So I Jump in the Soup. The children will swirl, twirl, spin and gallop with rainbow ribbons to the song Snowflakes Coming Down. I will introduce the parachute for the first time this school year. The parachute encourages the children to work together and utilize their listening skills.

Ms. Casey Sings:

Winter is wonderful! Despite repeated requests from the children for Halloween and Christmas songs, the colder weather brings new tunes revolving around snowmen, dressing warmer and Martin Luther King! We have some new faces in the 2's program and for them live music is a lot of stimulation! It won't take long for them to recognize the songs and to begin to engaging with their bodies and voices. The 3's classes are well in the swing of learning our Bradley Hills traditional songs and grooving to Elvis, The White Stripes, and Katrina and the Waves, and The Beatles to name a few. The 4's have fully embraced their senior position as the "big kids" at the nursery school and are confidently mastering more complex music, both contemporary and the classics. I can't imagine a more beautiful way to connect to children than through music.



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



Spanish 3s & 4s

Mrs. Cardoni Shares

In Spanish we finished up our lesson on our body (cuerpo). We have learned Spanish words for our body parts and can sing Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes in Spanish (Cabeza, Hombros, Piernas, Pies) and dance the Hokey Pokey! We read De la Cabeza a Los Pies (From Head to Toe) the Eric Carle book translated into Spanish. In February we will be learning about feelings (sentimientos). The children will be singing If You're Happy and You Know It in Spanish but changing the words a bit to sing if you're happy (feliz)-clap (aplauda), if you're mad (enojado)-stomp (marcha), if you're sad (triste)-cry (llora) and if you're silly (tonto)-shout (grita). We will be reading Asi Me Siento Yo (The Way I Feel) by Janan Cain, a lovely rhyming book about feelings and Como Dicen "Estoy Enojado" Los Dinosaurios? How Do Dinosaurs Say "I'm Mad" by Jane Yolen. We continue to review all of the words we've learned and are amassing quite a vocabulary!