



The Bear Facts

JANUARY 2025

Celebrating 67 Years of Early Childhood Education



Dear Parents,

It's 2025 and BHCNS is ready for the New Year!

The holidays have always been celebrated at BHCNS as a season of giving. Thank you for the many wonderful holiday treats for the office, teachers, and staff at BHCNS. We are grateful for your help with class parties and donations to BHC's Thanksgiving Basket, Angel Tree toy drive, and our year-end fundraising campaign. We appreciate all that you do for our school and the greater community.

Your generosity during our Build a Brighter Tomorrow Together is so appreciated. Over half our families and staff members have participated and TOGETHER we have raised over \$12,500! This money will help fund our scholarship program, our staff trainings, and provide additional support for our students. It's not too late to make a donation. We are striving for 100% participation. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in the life of the school. Even a \$1.00 donation "buys" a brick for our wall. Please help us Build a Brighter Tomorrow at BHCNS!

Throughout January, your child's teachers will be busy creating a snapshot of your child's development at BHCNS. Teachers Observational Reports will build off the ASQ-3 questionnaire you completed in the fall and provide another snapshot of your child's overall growth and development. These playful activities are done in a fun and engaging manner. Our observations will be shared with parents during Parent/Teacher conferences scheduled for February. See page 6 for complete conference schedule.

We look forward to the Scholastic Book Fair returning to BHCNS the last week of January. It's so much fun for kids to browse and bring home a new and exciting book (or two). Thank you to our Parents' Group for bringing this event back to BHCNS. All the details, including ways to volunteer, are on page 2.

Thank you, most of all, for your children. They are an amazing gift that you share with us each day.

Liz Sobrino

BHCNS Director

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

STAY
CONNECTED



January 1st - Happy New Year!

- Tuition Due

January 6th

- Welcome Back from Winter Break
- Young 2s Program begins

January 20th

- SCHOOL CLOSED
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 21st

- Board Meeting
- 7:30pm

January 22nd & 23rd

- Vision Screenings

January 27th-January 31st

- Parents' Group Book Fair
- Volunteer [HERE](#)

January 29th

- Dance Recital
- 1:45 pm (Memorial Hall)

February 1st

- Tuition Due

February 3rd-4th

- 2s Coffee & Connection
- 9:15am-10:30am BHC Gathering Space

February 5th & 6th

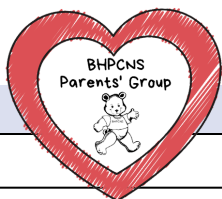
- 3s Coffee & Connection
- 9:15am-10:30am BHC Gathering Space

February 7th

- Pre-K Coffee & Connection
- 9:15am-10:30am BHC Gathering Space

February 4th - February 13th

- Parent/Teacher Conferences



Happy New Year from the Parents' Group!
We hope you had a relaxing and wonderful holiday season.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR returns to BHPCNS

January 27th thru January 31st



We hope you will come and pick out some wonderful books at our Scholastic Book Fair. Jan Hauck, our Bradley Bear Librarian, is working with Scholastic to make sure we have a great selection of books for our cubs.

If you are interested in helping out, please [add your information to this list ASAP](#) so we can share information about times/roles as things are solidified. We will need plenty of volunteers to do easy jobs for small windows of time: set-up of book fair displays, run the cash register, help kiddos find books, and so on - we are excited to bring the Book Fair back again! *Thank you for your continued support!*

Parents' Group Co-Chairs,

Cass Price

cass.price@gmail.com



Amanda Franklin-Munson

amandanfranklin@gmail.com



BHPCNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! The BHPCNS Board and Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church welcome BHPCNS staff, children, and parents back for the second half of the school year. We hope everyone had a fun-filled winter break.

On behalf of the BHPCNS Board, we want to add our thanks to all the families who contributed to the school's inaugural annual fundraising campaign, supporting "Building a Brighter Tomorrow Together." I'm also excited to share the news that BHPCNS is a recipient of funds raised through Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church's Alternative Giving Holiday Program. We will know the final totals in early January and will share them with you in our next update. The combined generosity from these fundraisers will help us continue to provide an amazing preschool experience for our cubs!

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 21 at 7:30 pm. Agenda items include approving the 2025-2026 preliminary budget and setting tuition for the upcoming school year. If you would like a topic included on the meeting agenda, please contact 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 encouraged to reach out to the Board with your questions, concerns, or thoughts about the school.

Best wishes for 2025!

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



BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW TOGETHER

We begin 2025 filled with gratitude for the generous support from over 85 families and staff members. **Thank you!** It's not too late to make a donation! Contact the office for information on how to donate and have a brick added to our wall. *TOGETHER*, we have raised over \$12,500! *TOGETHER*, we will make a difference!

BHPCNS will use this money to:

- Help give each child the support they need and deserve.
- Provide tuition assistance to families in need.
- Provide in-depth training & development for our teachers & staff.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 BHPCNS graduates).

TWO NINE DAY SESSIONS OF SUMMER CAMP:

JUNE 2 - 12

JUNE 16- 27 *no camp June 19th*

\$495* PER SESSION

REGISTER HERE



9:00 am -12:30 pm

Campers will be served a mid-morning snack provided by BHPCNS. 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 BHPCNS.

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 BHPCNS.



**An additional \$85 fee for any child who is not fully toilet trained. BHPCNS 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 BHPCNS for the 24-25 school year and two by December 31, 2024.*

COFFEE AND CONNECTION WITH THE BHPCNS DIRECTOR

Liz will talk mainly about what we are doing to best prepare your child for the next year in their education and things you can be doing to help. Of course, all topics are open for discussion. Please mark your calendars and RSVP so we know how much coffee to brew.

COFFEE CONNECTION

9:15am-10:30am BHPC Gathering Space

2s



February 3rd & 4th
April 1st & 2nd

3s



February 5th & 6th
April 3rd & 4th

PreK



February 7th
April 7th

- Discuss ways to prepare your child for their next year at BHPCNS and beyond.
- Ask questions, and share ideas and thoughts.
- Spend time with Liz and your child's teachers.
- Get to know other parents in your child's class and age group.
- Celebrate successes, discuss frustrations, and brainstorm ideas on how to raise your child in today's environment.

WINTER 2025 ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS



Social-Emotional Learning and Beyond!

Facilitation of play, friendship, growth-mindset and social-emotional skills development with Growing Minds' Early Childhood Specialists



Ages 3-5

Thursdays from 2:30-3:30pm at BHPCNS

Classes will begin late January

Exact dates and registration information coming soon

Children engage in social-emotional, fine and gross motor development, and problem solving through playful experiences together. Each weekly session involves an opportunity to collaborate and problem solve together. Participants practice planning, taking turns, compromising, communicating, and expressing their feelings.

CALMING RETURN TO SCHOOL ROUTINES

Returning to school after a break, especially one filled with family time and lots of fun can be difficult for children. Click [HERE](#) for suggestions from the Child Mind Institute on how to help your child overcome any back to school anxieties. If you don't have time to read the whole article, please read the brief summary below for some suggestions on how to ease any back-to-school worries (for you or for your child). The most important part of transitioning back-to-school is to develop and practice a good-bye routine which will help your child know what to expect at drop-off. When you arrive at school, visit the bathroom, wash hands, put their water bottle in the bin and lunch boxes in the other bin, hang up jackets and tote bags, and do your goodbye routine. Leave promptly and don't look back. We will update you on your child's progress as soon as possible.

TAKE YOUR OWN TEMPERATURE - tips from Dr. Rachel Busman, PsyD, ABPP

Make sure you're not passing on your stress to your kids. To help you manage your stress, Dr. Busman recommends, not taking on more commitments that you and your family can comfortably handle.


LISTEN TO WORRIES

When kids express anxiety about going back to school — listen seriously. Rather than dismissing these fears ("Nothing to be worried about! You'll be fine!) listening to them and acknowledging your child's feelings will help them feel more secure. And if they want to, you can bolster their confidence by helping them strategize about how to handle things they're concerned about.

LET YOUR TEACHER KNOW IN ADVANCE & ARRANGE FOR A HAND-OFF

If you think your child will be reluctant to separate, it's very helpful to have someone primed to meet and engage them when you arrive. You want that person to not to talk about or dwell on their anxiety, she explains, but to engage your child in some activity. Asking the child for help is a good way to do that — "Can you help me carry all the magnet tiles over to this bin?"

WHEN SEPERATION PROBLEMS PERSIST

Leaving a child who is crying or whining at school is a tough thing for any parent to do. "But most kids are pretty resilient," Dr. Busman notes, "and we don't want to underestimate their ability to cope. Most kids recover quickly once mom or dad leaves."

If your child's teacher reports that they bounce back and participate enthusiastically in activities during the day, the best way to help them get more confident about separating from you is not worrying too much about their complaints.

"It's not being a bad parent to ignore a little bit of whining or reluctance," says Dr. Busman. "It will actually help a child move beyond it if you give more attention to things that you do want to see them do." You want to give specific praise for brave behavior. For example, remind them you will be back to get them and tell them things like, "Great job coming to preschool today. When I pick you up, I hope you'll tell me something fun you did."

PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES



Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for:

- ROOM 102 Ms. Vargas - Wednesday, February 12th & Thursday, February 13th
- ROOM 103 MWF Mrs. Choi - Wednesday, February 5th
- ROOM 103 TTh Mrs. Choi - Tuesday, February 11th
- ROOM 104 Mrs. Barnett - Monday, February 10th
- ROOM 104 Ms. Frid - Tuesday, February 6th
- ROOM 105 Mrs. Biggs - Tuesday, February 11th
- ROOM 107 Mrs. Quijada - Wednesday, February 5th
- ROOM 108 Mrs. Cardoni - Monday, February 10th
- ROOM 108 Ms. Wilson - Tuesday, February 11th
- ROOM 111 Mrs. Juhaszne - Wednesday, February 12th & Thursday, February 13th
- ROOM 113 Mrs. Kebler - Tuesday, February 4th
- ROOM 117 Mrs. Richards - Tuesday, February 4th

Your child's teacher will be sending out a SignUpGenius Link for you to select your conference time. For families with more than one child we will work with you, as best we can to have conferences for both your children on the same day.

Here are some tips to get the most out of the conference experience.

- Conferences are scheduled for 15 minutes. Please 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, please make special arrangements with your child's teacher in advance to have a longer discussion.
- Prior to conferences a parent survey will be sent home for families to share topics they would like to cover at the conference.
- Conferences may be in person or set up as a phone/conference call. Please indicate your preference when you sign up.
- Conferences are for adults only. All BHPCNS classes will be held during conferences. Babies are welcome to attend a sibling's conference, however baby-sitting arrangements should be made for older siblings.
- Conferences are an opportunity for BHPCNS to share your child's strengths, concerns, readiness, with you and for you to share what's special, unique or concerning you about your child.
- Working together as a team is important to each child's progress in preschool. Please, do not worry if Liz is at your child's conference. She is there as a resource, support, educator, for your child and family and will offer ideas on your child's development.
- Please let Liz know if you have any questions or would like her to participate in your child's conference.

WINTER DANCE RECITAL

January 29th at 1:45 pm in Memorial Hall



It's Almost Snow Time for the Bradley Hills Dance Company!

Our Bradley Bear Dancers have been working hard to prepare for their big performance! Our dance moves will have you smiling from ear to ear and our art projects will transform the stage and walls of Memorial Hall into a Winter Wonderland. All are welcome to attend this must see event!

Our next session of Dance Stay & Play begins Tuesday, February 4th. Don't miss out on the fun! Register your child [HERE](#).



SCHOOL PICTURE DAYS

March 12th, 13th, & 14th

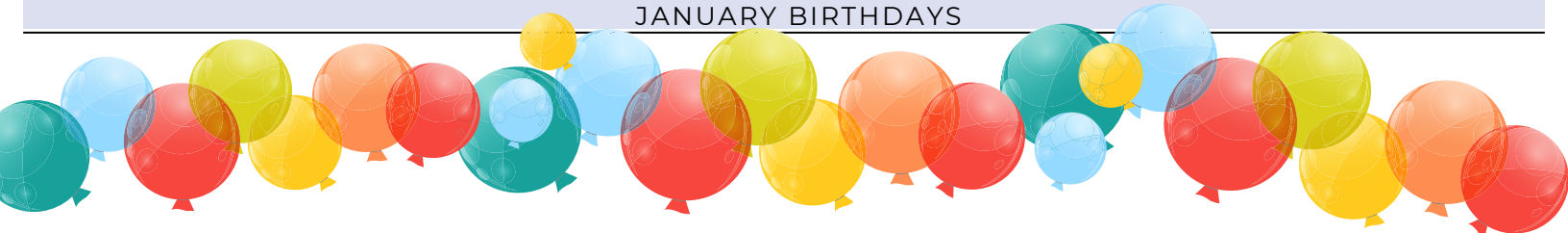
Schedule those haircuts & shine those shoes for Picture Day fun!

We are excited to be working with Stone Photography again. Individual, classroom, and sibling photos will be taken.

More details to come in February.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Shane Gordon
Asher Henderson
Murphy Esterque
Daphne Potolicchio

Nora Vernon
Hallie Schrader
Oliver Wonlaw
Hudson Tase
Ted Rahm

Nell Barrett
Lucy Brown
Sage Thompson
Madison Price-McDonald

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.

WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL CLOSINGS

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

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 stay until 12:30 pm. Lunch Bunch will be cancelled. We will provide a hearty snack. Cub Club will be held from 11:00am until 12:30 pm.

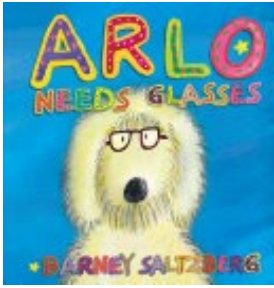
If MCPS closes schools early, BHPCNS will close at 11:30 for the 2s; 12:30 for the 3-year-old and Pre-K classes. Lunch Bunch proceeds as normal and Stay & Play will be cancelled.



LOST & FOUND BINS

The Lost and Found bin in the hallway is getting filled with warm jackets, hair bows, sweaters, and other lost items. Please check the bin for any missing belongings.

WINTER PICKS from our LIBRARIAN - Mrs. Hauck



This month students will participate in vision screenings. The BHPCNS Library has two great books about visiting the eye doctor and needing glasses.

Arlo Needs Glasses by Barney Saltzberg

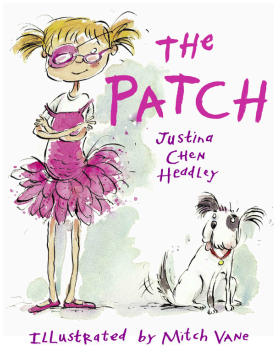
Arlo, the dog, could no longer catch his ball. So, his owner took him to the eye doctor, and they discovered Arlo needs glasses. Simple text and charming pictures take the reader through the process of visiting the eye doctor and picking out glasses.

The Patch by Justina Chen Headley

Five-year old Becca visits the eye doctor and is upset when he tells her she needs to wear glasses and an eye patch. Becca uses her imagination and her brother's pirate costume to become Becca the Ballerina Pirate with purple glasses and a pink eye patch. At school, all of Becca's classmates decide they want to wear eye patches too.

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.

If you have any library questions, please contact Jan Hauck at jbhauck@bhpcns.org.



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.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

ART (*all ages*) with Mrs. Mac 'N Cheese

In January, our artists will get creative with the cold weather! They will paint a masterpiece with ice cubes.

How you ask?

Mrs. Mac 'N Cheese will create colorful ice cubes with popsicle sticks as handles for them to use as their paint brushes. As children move the colorful ice cubes over the paper, and the ice cubes melt, a beautiful painting remains.

SCIENCE (*3-year-old & Pre-K*) with Mrs. Mac 'N Cheese

Our cubs will look to the weather for inspiration in January. We will study different winter habitats and the animals who live in them. What parts of the world are covered in snow? What animals live there? What survival skills have these animals developed? Who feels like hibernating?



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

Little Hands winter music semester, "Weather or Not" focuses on musical and meteorological opposites...rain, sun, wind, snow, and more! "Whether it's cold, or whether it's hot, we shall have weather, whether or not!"

In January, we'll explore the concept of silence with our "Snow Fell Softly" poem. Using sign language for snow and silence, along with other hand symbols during the poem, we say the poem quietly, ending with "did not make a single sound" and a short time to "listen to the silence." It's a great exercise to practice being completely still and quiet!

"The snow fell softly through the night, It made a blanket soft and white. It fell on houses, flowers and ground, and did not make a single sound." (recording in the links listed below)

"Five Little Snowmen"(singing and melting away in the sun) is a great counting backwards song. Moving from standing high to melting low, we've melted ourselves, while singing in a descending pattern to mirror the movement. We'll also talk about melting when Peter brought his snowball indoors in the book "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats.

We'll go skating on paper plates, and play along with various small percussion instruments copying the steady beat and matching the patterns in many instrumental recordings.

Here's a link to the Weather or Not music [on Spotify](#) and here's one on [YouTube Music](#). All music is compiled and recorded for you, and will be fun to share at home with your child!



SINGING with Ms. Casey (all ages)

Happy New Year!

Our hearts are still all aglow from the holiday concert and classroom sing-a-longs. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who was able to carve out time for our little rockstars. In December we learned that there are many different ways to celebrate the holidays - Diwali, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza - all of them centering family, love, community...and lights!

With the holidays behind us and winter in full swing the new year gives us a chance to look ahead, a new concept for many of our young students. Songs about the cold and fun in the snow will keep us warm and active in the coming months. In January we'll have our own New Year's dance party, sing about the importance of the friendships we've made, and acknowledge the life and spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our resolution for keeping warm in the new year? Keep on singing and dancing!



HUGE thanks to Ms. Casey for working all fall with our cubs and teaching them so many songs and corresponding signs. The holiday Sing-Along was heartwarming! Special thanks to Jinha Park, of Levine Music for volunteering her time, and immense talent, to accompany our cubs on the piano. If someone in your house is interested in learning how to play an instrument, Levine Music offers a free introductory lesson at their convenient Strathmore Location. More details can be found [HERE](#).

The performance was professionally recorded; and the recording link was shared via brightwheel on 12/30.



BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Amazing to think it's 2025!

We were excited at the many families who participated in the Advent Workshop and Christmas Tree Lighting in December and invite you to join in our January activities!

Family Connections: Scavenger Hunt – Sunday, January 26 at noon. Join in a fun scavenger hunt and lunch for families and their children. Starting in Memorial Hall,, clues will be given out to find objects and places in the church. Enjoy joining in with the little ones as they scamper through the halls and learn about our church and Bible stories. A great, family-fun way to spend a cold winter's day! Lunch will be provided as you gather in fellowship with other families. All are welcome.

Second Graders Worship Workshop – January 26, February 2, and February 9. In this three-session workshop, led by Corinne Silva and Rosanna Morrison, children and parents learn together about the sacraments of baptism and communion, how our worship service is organized, the special place where we worship, and how we praise God through song. On February 9, Bradley Hills will give the children who participated in the workshop their own hymnal at the 10:30 am worship service. Please contact Corinne Silva corinnesilva@gmail.com or Rosanna Morrison rmmorrison@comcast.net to RSVP or if you have any questions.



Lenten Small Groups - beginning in March. As we gradually move into the new year, do you find yourself making promises and resolutions to do better in 2025: slowdown, get more rest, spend more quality time with family and friends, stop overspending and overcommitting? If you would you like to let go of those things that are robbing you of a more joyful life and embrace those things that nourish you physically, mentally, and spiritually, Lenten small groups is for you! More information can be found [HERE](#).

