BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL

March 2020 Newsletter The Bear Facts

Celebrating 62 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

As we blow into March our thoughts and activities turn to spring. After our very mild winter it's exciting to see the daffodils blooming, the trees budding, warmer temperatures, and more outdoor playtime.

What is not so exciting is the coronavirus (COVID19). BHPCNS is following best practices guidelines as shared by the CDC, including:

- Frequent handwashing
- Disinfecting throughout the day
- Teaching children to cover their mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing
- Staff staying home when they feel ill
- Keeping the BHPCNS community updated on illnesses in the school

For updated information visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/

BHPCNS will follow all protocols as dictated by Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, the CDC, and Montgomery County Public School with regard to cancelling school or other safety measures which may be required to stop the spread of the virus.

On another safety note: Contigo has recalled nearly 6 million water bottles due to a chocking hazard. For details:

https://wtop.com/gallery/recalls/contigo-recalls-nearly-6-million-of-its-kids-water-bottles-due-to-a-choking-hazard-again/

Please check your child's water bottle to be certain it is not a hazard.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or the school office.

Another annual springtime ritual is to "spring ahead" the clocks one hour this Saturday, March 7th to gain an extra hour of daylight in the evenings.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy month of March.

Liz Sobrino, Director BHPCNS



BHPCNS PRESCHOOLERS' GUIDE TO THE GALAXY SUMMER SPACE CAMP!



This year our campers will be exploring all things related to outer space. There will be lots of fun both inside and outside.

- There will be one camp session that runs for 9 days. Camp will run from Tuesday, June 16th through Friday, June 26th between 9:00 am & 12:30 pm. each day.
- There will be early morning drop off available at 8:00 am.
- All currently enrolled BHPCNS children, including those in our 2s' programs, may attend camp. For children not completely potty trained there will be an additional fee of \$75.
- Camp is open to all 3, 4, 5, and rising 1st graders.
- 2-year-olds may attend if they are a current student.

For more details or an application, stop by the office or go on our website. Registration forms have gone home in your child's tote bag.

NEEDED for CAMP:

2 Liter Soda Bottles. Please donate your empty bottles to the office.

PARENTS' GROUP NEWS

SWEETHEART BREAKFAST! Thank you to everyone for making the inaugural Sweetheart Breakfast such a success! Over the two days, we had over 250 attendees! We hope you, your little ones, and their sweethearts had a fun morning spending quality time together.





Next up--Mark your calendars for **John Henry Pizza Night** on Thursday, March 12th! Kids and parents alike will love dancing the night away to John Henry's famous music, while enjoying a pizza party with friends. RSVP and pizza order forms were sent home in your child's tote—please don't forget to submit your Potomac Pizza order by 3/6/2020. (If needed, additional order forms are available in the office.) As a reminder, the Parents' Group will provide lemonade, water, and ice cream sundaes!

Spring is a busy time of year at the preschool—stay tuned for more Parents' Group news coming soon.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

Maggie Maloney maggiewmaloney@gmail.com

Sarah McGovern
SarahLothrop@hotmail.com



BHPCNS BOARD REPORT

Hello Nursery School Families!

The Nursery School Board continues to be very active and February was no exception. The Board did not meet this month (we meet bi-monthly), but many of the Board subcommittees were quite busy.

The Safety subcommittee is currently focused on implementing many safety upgrades to the building thanks to a grant that the school was recently awarded from the State of MD. If you have questions about the Safety subcommittee work, please reach out to Brooke Rickett at brookerickett@gmail.com.





The Long Term Planning subcommittee received the aggregated survey results. Thank you to all of the families that took the time to fill out that survey! We were very pleased with the response rate and will be using your feedback to guide our strategic plan for the school. Stay tuned for more details on that in the coming months!

If you have any questions about this or any of the work going on with the Nursery School Board please do not hesitate to reach out.

The Nursery School Board's next meeting is March 19, 2020 at 7pm. Parents are welcome to join us for the open portion of our Board meeting. Please send an email to Board@bhpcns.org to get more details.

If you have other feedback for us, please contact us via that email address or fill out an anonymous form on the Board portion of the school website.

We hope you all have a wonderful month! Missy Banashak, BHPCNS Board Chair

BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS



Upcoming activities of interest to children and families include:

- Sunday, March 8 Family Connections lunch after worship, focusing on involving our children in service to others including a hands-on opportunity. You do not need to be BHPC members to attend.
- Sunday, March 22 Lenten Day of Service. Families are invited to assemble Disaster Relief Kits for communities recovering after natural disasters. This activity will occur after 10:30 worship service in Memorial Hall and is a child-friendly service project.
- **Save the Date:** It's not too soon to plan for Vacation Bible School! This program for children aged 4 through rising 5th graders will be held August 26-29, Monday-Thursday, from 9:00 am 12:00 pm.

Adult Education, 9:15-10:15 each Sunday morning, includes:

- March 1: Care for the Poor: Economic & Social Rights Allyson McKinney Timm, Executive Director of the faith-based NGO Justice Revival, will conclude her series on the human rights of migrants.
- March 8, 15, and 22: *Proverbs: Or How Not to Rock the Boat* with Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, Ph.D. Come see what this book has to say to us today and how Lady Wisdom is linked to Torah, Sophia, and the Holy Spirit. Dr. Dombkowski Hopkins earned her Ph.D (with honors) at Vanderbilt University and has studied twice at the Ecumenical Institute for Theological Studies on the West Bank.
- March 29: "The Barabbas Doctrine." BHPC Member Bill Frick, former Majority Leader of the Maryland House of Delegates, will begin a three-part series on "The Soul of America." This session will explore how elected officials respond to the will of the people even when the people are imperfect sinners.

Music - Saturday, April 4 - Mozart Requiem, joint concert with Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

DIRECTOR'S COFFEE WITH LIZ SOBRINO: MARCH 3RD AFTER DROP-OFF AT 9:15 AM



Thank you to the parents and children who attend the Director's coffee on March 3rd. This informal gathering provided parents with an opportunity to chat with each other and Liz about all things related to BHPCNS and child rearing.

If you missed the coffee, please send your ideas, comments, and concerns to Liz via email or give her a call at 301-365-2909. Your voice is vital to the success of our school.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12: Family Night between 5:30 and 7:00 pm in Memorial Hall

March 16 and March 17: St. Patrick's Day classroom parties

March 24 and 27th: Speech Screening Assessments. If you would like you child's speech screened, contact the office.

April 2 and 3: Classroom Easter Parties

April 3: No Stay and Play Classes

April 6 through April 13: Spring Break

April 15: Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know About Kindergarten at 7:30 pm in Covenant Hall

May 11 and May 12: Transportation Days

May 14 and May 15: Muffins with Mom at 8:30 am in Memorial Hall

June 3 Under the Sea Dance Recital at 1:45 pm in Memorial Hall

June 11: End of Year Festivities for Tuesday/Thursday classes

June 12: End of Year Festivities for Monday through Friday classes and Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes

FAMILY PICNIC NIGHT AND JOHN HENRY ON MARCH 12 $^{ m TH}$







Join us for a fun-filled evening of pizza or a picnic dinner from home, & music.

Who: BHPCNS students and their families. This is not a drop off event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. When: March 12th, 2020

Dinner Picnic: Prepurchased Pizza or Dinner Brought From Home between 5:30 and 6:15 pm John Henry performs between 6:15 and 7:00 pm on the stage.

Where: Memorial Hall

What: Pre-order 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. The Parents' Group will provide lemonade, water, and ice cream sundaes for dessert.

Wanted: Volunteers to:

- 1. set up Memorial Hall on Thursday afternoon
- 2. to assist with the distribution of dinner
- 3. to serve ice cream sundaes
- 4. to clean up

If you have questions, please contact Liz or Carolyn at 301-365-2909.

Volunteers make the evening a success. Please click here to signup to help.





Do you love children? Do you love to play? Are you looking for a fun, exciting, rewarding, part-time job, then you are in luck. BHPCNS may be hiring teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. We are also looking for wonderful substitutes if you do not want a regular/consistent classroom assignment. Requirements are a love of children and a willingness to learn. If you, or someone you know, is interested in working at BHPCNS, have them contact Liz at looking-nowbhpcns.org or 301-365-2909.

ANIMAL AMBASSADORS ARE COMING TO BHPCNS MARCH 12, 13, AND 23



Wildlife Abassadors will be at BHPCNS on March 12, 13, and March 23rd. They will be bringing a variety of animals for the children to meet. Be sure to ask your child if they petted any interesting woodland animals. This unique progam always teaches the children something new about animals and to be respectful of the animals, their habitat, and nature in general.

WAS YOUR CHILD ABSENT FOR SCHOOL PICTURES?



If your child was absent for their school picture Stone Photography will take your child's picture at their studio. You need to call the studio at 301-645-3185 to make arrangements and to schedule a date for your child's school picture to be taken. Stone Photography's Studio is conveniently located at 7307 MacArthur Blvd. Suite 214, Bethesda, MD 20816. Right above the Ace Hardware at the circle of MacArthur Blvd. and Goldsboro Rd.

IS THERE A RISING MCPS KINDERGARTENER IN YOUR HOUSE?

BHPCNS Kindergarten Information Night: April 15th from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in Covenant Hall (This event is for our pre-k families to learn about kindergarten. 3-year-old families are welcome too.)

Kindergarten can be big transition for your child and your whole family. Do you have questions or concerns about what MCPS Kindergarten is all about?

- To find our more, attend our **Kindergarten Information Night** on April 15th at 7:30 pm. A current MCPS Kindergarten teacher, Maura Backenstoe from Burning Tree Elementary School, will be on hand to share her insights about Kindergarten readiness and what to expect come September.
- Parents of current or recent MCPS Kindergarteners will be attending for breakout, by elementary school, round table discussions. (If you have a child or have had a child recently attend a MCPS kindergarten and are interested in leading/facilitating one of our breakout groups, please email me at lsobrino@bhpcns.org.)
- If you have friends or neighbors who might be interested in attending, they are welcome to come as well.
- RSVP by <u>clicking here</u>. Please share with us the names of attendees and the elementary school the child will be attending. This is an adult only event.



MCPS Kindergarten Registration is Happening Now!

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

Local MCPS 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 Rosemary Hills: 301-9209990

Garrett Park: 240-740-0700

Kensington Parkwood: 240-740-3700

Seven Locks: 240-740-0940 Wood Acres: 240-740-1120 Wyngate: 240-740-1080 Bells Mill: 240.740.0480 Beverly Farm: 301-469-1050 Richie Park: 301-279-8475 Westbrook: 240-740-1040 Somerset: 240-740-1100

IS THERE A RISING MCPS KINDERGARTENER IN YOUR HOUSE? Continued....

When contacting your local elementary school ask if they are hosting any informational kindergarten meetings for parents. These events are a great way to learn more about your child's transition to your neighborhood 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.

From NAEYC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, 4 Tips Every Kindergarten Teachers Wants You to Know: http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/4-things-kindergarten-teachers-want-you-know.

Friends and neighbors are welcome to attend our Kindergarten evening. RSVP by <u>clicking here.</u> Please share this link with family and friends who may want to attend too!

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR BHPCNS FAMILIES

Speech Screenings March 24th & 27th



We will be conducting free speech screenings at BHPCNS on March 24 and 27. The screenings are conducted by ASHA certified speech pathologists who conduct a brief 10 to 15 minute screening with your child. Are you concerned about your child mispronouncing words, or is there a letter or two they can't pronounce? Let us know and we will add your child's name to our list to be screened. Please email Liz at Lsobrino@bhpcns.org with your child's name, birthdate and concern.

Hearing Screenings for BHPCNS 3 and 4 year olds, will be this Friday and a date to be determined. These free screenings are to asses a child's hearing. They are conducted by a licensed audiologist whose children are alumni of BHPCNS. If you have any questions, please contact the office. If you would like to volunteer to help with the screenings on March 6th, click the link below. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/hearing2020





Sick Kids: Thankfully the flu season seems to be winding down, but concerns over Covid-19 are ramping up and over the past few weeks many children in our program have been diagnosed with the flu, strep throat, conjunctivitis, and other communicable diseases. If your child is ill, running a fever, throwing up, has pink eye, etc. they may not return to school until they have been symptom free for 24 hours. If your child requires Tylenol or Motrin to keep their fever down to attend school, they MAY NOT be at school until they have been fever free, without medication for 24 hours. If your child will be absent, please notify the school office.

Lunch at BHPCNS: Just a reminder that the State of Maryland Department of Education requires us to put out a child's lunch in its entirety. If your child has a cookie or a piece of candy in their lunch bag we are not allowed to tell them to eat their healthy foods first. If you would like your child to eat their "growing" foods first, I'd suggest saving the treat until after school. Reminder: Lunches must be in soft bags. Bento Boxes do not fit in our refrigerators. Thank you.



St. Patrick's Day: On March 17th everyone is a little bit Irish at BHPCNS. This year St. Patrick's Day falls on a Tuesday. To not miss out on a party we will be celebrating on......



Tuesday-Thursday classes will have parties on 3-17. Monday-Wednesday-Friday and Monday through Friday classes will have their parties on 3-16. Details to follow. Everyone is invited to wear **GREEN!**

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR BHPCNS FAMILIES



Wanted: Empty 2 liter soda bottles to become jet packs!

Bradley Bear's future astronauts will be making some amazing crafts this summer at our Preschooler's Guide to the Galaxy Camp. But without a doubt their favorite camp activity will be creating their very own rocket jet packs to buzz around the galaxies. The campers and their teachers will need a large collection of 2 liter bottles to make our jet packs. If you or someone you know is a 2 liter bottle soda drinker, please empty and rinse the soda bottle and donate the empty bottles to BHPCNS to create hours of fun for our future astronauts. Thank you!

BHPCNS Spring Break Dates:

BHPCNS will be closed from Monday, April 6thth through Monday, April 13th for Spring Break.

Stay and Play will be cancelled on Friday, April 3rd.

School will resume on Tuesday, April 14th.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday.









BABY CHICKS: The incubator and baby chicks, Coco and Butterscotch have arrived Visit them outside the office.



Is there a New Baby or Not-So-New-Baby in your house. Send us a photo of your new bundle of joy for our Future Bear Cubs display outside of the BHPCNS school office.

Our 3s are Busy Bees!

Just how busy are our 3s? Check out the new bulletin board display at the bottom of the stairs by the brown doors. You'd be amazed at all our busy bees do at BHPCNS.



BHPCNS MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Rosie Moss Whitney Lunn Miori Nishikawa Ellie McGovern Evan Orchin Tessa Cavallo Reid Walk



John Shooshan Marshall Mygatt Hudson Hong Juliana Arefi Michael Greissing Milena Parker Owen Huntley

Wish these Bradley Bear Cubs a happy day!!!!!

Reminder: If sending in birthday treats or special snacks for a celebration, please send in **small** cupcakes, mini muffins, fruit kabobs, etc., keeping classroom food allergies in mind. Please send an ingredient list for any home baked or store bought treats. That way we can check labels to safe guard any children in the classroom with allergies. We share birthday treats at snack time!

TRANSPORTATION DAYS ARE MAY 11 AND MAY 12

BHPCNS IS LOOKING FOR VEHICLES OF ALL KINDS!



Transportation Days are some of the most exciting days at BHPCNS! To make this year's event the best ever, we are looking for all types of vehicles. Do you have a cool sports car in your garage? Does your firm have some big or small trucks? Are there kayaks taking up space in your garage? We would love to have any and all vehicles parked in our lots for the kids to explore.

Call the office at 301-365-2909 or contact Dorene Michael at <u>Dmichael@BHPCNS.org</u> for more information or if you have a vehicle to lend! And mark your calendar to bring friends, neighbors, younger siblings, cousins to this annual event everyone loves!

BOOT, CLEAT, SHOE SWAP MARCH 9TH THROUGH MARCH 20TH



Boots, Shoes, Cleats, Swap

Have your Bradley Bear Cubs outgrown their boots, ballet slippers, dress shoes, sneakers, or cleats? Bring their outgrown footwear: toddler through children's sizes to BHPCNS.

You do not need to bring a pair to take a pair and you don't need to take a pair to bring a pair.

We will line the hallways with boots and cleats for families to swap. Boots, Cleats, Shoes Swap: March 9th through March 20th

STAY AND PLAY UPDATES

Monday: The Artist's Corner



Artist McCullough shares:

Happy St. Patrick's Day. The classes will celebrate by making shamrocks out of quilling paper (who hasn't rolled paper strips around pencils). The next weeks we will be sculpting with air drying clay. Then painting, creating a forever masterpiece.

Scientists, Quijada and Biggs report: The most innocuous household items have some surprising effects! Whether it's toothpaste made for an elephant with a mountain of foam, a little colored sugar water showing how density creates the most vibrant rainbows, or a boiled egg getting sucked into a genie's magic bottle, this month's experiments are sure to create wonder and delight.

Monday: Wigglin' Wizards



STAY AND PLAY UPDATES

Tuesday: Bradley's Barnyard



Farmer Cardoni: Our farmers have been learning all about farm animals and things that grow on a farm this year. We will continue this theme learning about horses and chickens in March. Not only will we be learning about how chickens hatch, we will have our very own "in house" chickens that will be hatching in front of our eyes!! The incubator and eggs will be here in March and we will be monitoring the growth and hatching of the chicks. When the warmer weather arrives (did it ever leave?!) we will start planning our crops for the spring. We will plant seeds and watch the seeds grow into seedlings indoors. Once the plants are hearty enough to be moved outdoors, we will be transplanting them in the Children's Garden adjacent to the Bradley Hills playground facing Greentree Rd.

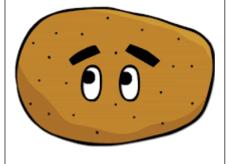
Dancer Synder Shares:

Our Bradley Bears Dancers are going Under the Sea this Spring! We have begun learning our routines as well as three step sequences across the floor. Each sequence involves a fine motor step, a gross motor step, and a sustained balance. They are expanding their movement vocabulary through fun creative activities. Dancing with scarves is our favorite movement exploration. Our Spring **Under the Sea** show is June 3rd!

Tuesday & Wednesday: Bradley Bear Dance Co.



Wednesday: In the Kitchen with Bradley Bear



Chef McCauley is Cooking Up lots of fun!

Cooking with children is not only about math and science, it is also about vocabulary as we introduce utensils and tools of which they may be unfamiliar—strainer, grater, spiralizer; measurement terminology—dry measuring cup, wet measuring cup; recipe terminology—pour, whip, stir, wrap; cooking techniques—baking, frying and so very much more! In March we will add more of these words as we explore the wonderful world of potatoes. We'll start by using our fine motor skills to make bacon wrapped tater tots. Next we'll slice our way into steak fries. Things will really get crazy when we pull out the spiralizer to make sweet potato spirals. Gratefully, we have plenty of graters on hand to help us make yummy potato pancakes at the end of the month. Bon appetit!

Explorer Biggs:

Our Bradley Bear travelers have been "exploring" Deutschland. We learned that Germany has over 20,000 castles throughout the country. The Sleeping Beauty Castle at Disneyland was inspired by the Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany. We played Topfschlagen (hit the pot) and Hupfspiel (hopscotch). We read the Brothers Grimm tale *Hans In Luck*. We, also, read the German tale *Rumpelstiltskin*. We sampled milk chocolate gingerbread, butter spekulatius (crisp butter cookies), gummy bears, and German pretzels. We listened to music by German composers as well as German accordion music. We can't wait to "fly" to our next stop, Brazil!

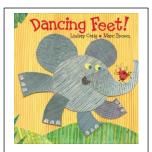




Friday: Yogi Bears

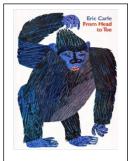
Yogi Myers: Our Yogi Bears Awaken from Hibernation at the beginning of March by stretching and working through familiar poses and learning many new ones, including a seated stretch, pigeon pose to balancing table pose. We celebrate the arrival of Spring with practices revolving around St. Patrick's Day, Springtime Animals and Easter. Throughout the month, our Yogi Bears will continue their practice of gratefulness and awareness through their yoga poses and mindful eating. We're happy to welcome the arrival of Spring! Namaste. "If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share." W. Clement Stone

MONTHLY SPECIAL CLASSES AND GUEST PERFORMERS



Little Hands Music

Dancing Feet (by Lindsey Craig and Marc Brown) and From Head to Toe (by Eric Carle) are the two springboard stories for Little Hands Sing Me a Story sessions in March. They are both superbly illustrated books that feature amazing animals. Dancing Feet teaches us "part for the whole" mystery-solving, and From Head to Toe has a "call and response" format that we will sing through as we move our bodies like the animals in the story! So much fun movement in our music classes coming up! The jazzy song, "Head and Shoulders" can be found here in the "just for you" playlist on Spotify! Try some "Head to Toe" dancing at your house this month!



2s, 3s, & 4s

Scientist Delfin Reports:

March science is all about rainbows! We will learn the colors and patterns of a rainbow as well as the primary colors that make the secondary colors within the rainbow and most importantly, the how and why we see rainbows. We will do lots of fun experiments to make our own rainbows using light to reflect and refract and then head outside for a rainbow hunt with our homemade spectroscopes!



Science Class 3s & 4s



Creative Movement 2s. 3s. & 4s

Mrs. Stevens Reports:

This month in Creative Movement the children will continue with parachute play. We will sing the song *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* as we bounce the monkeys on the parachute. We will, also, bounce farm stuffed animals on the parachute and sing *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*. The children will try to pop all the balls off the parachute to the song *Popcorn*. The children absolutely love the parachute, and it is wonderful for strengthening their arms and shoulders. We will warm up with our superhero stretches. We may even dance a jig in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

Sra. Cardoni Reports:

We wrapped up our unit on Feelings-Sentimientos and will begin our new unit on Daily Routines-Rutinas Diarias. I wake up and get out of bed-me despierto y me levanto de la cama. I put on my shirt and socks-Me pongo la camisa y los calcetines. Toward the end of the month we will start learning the names for all types of animals. We continue to review colors, body parts (we dance the Hokey Pokey in Spanish!), food, numbers, days of the week and the weather monkey.



Spanish for the 3s & 4s



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

Ms. Casey Reports:

It's hard to believe that flowers are already beginning to bloom outside our doors! This month the Snow-key Pokey and I Am A Snowman will give way to songs about pollinators and planting flowers. The theme will continue through our extended Spring as we explore the art of storytelling through music. Though it seems that the holiday season just wrapped up, the children are already starting to learn brand new songs they'll unveil at the end of the school year. The threes and fours will learn to identify patterns and parts of songs that will help them remember the wave of new lyrics. Our smallest bears will continue to explore music through movement and dance parties (our favorite!) "Music is the heart of life." – Franz Liszt