

December 2018 Newsletter

The Bear Facts

Celebrating 61 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

December is a short month, but a very full one at BHP CNS. The children are going to be making lots of fun surprises for their families. We invite you to bring your family's holiday card to school to be part of our display in the front hallway. Simply bring your card to the office to be displayed.

Our dance performance of the Polar Express will be on December 11 at 1:45. Our annual Christmas Sing Alongs will be on December 13 and 14. All our holiday performances will be professionally videotaped and be available to families by link. All dancers and singers will receive the link at no charge. For full details see the side bar at right.

Registration for **children currently enrolled at BHP CNS** will be December 6 and 7. That is this **THURSDAY AND FRIDAY**. Applications will be attached to the email accompanying this newsletter, available on the BHP CNS website at www.bhpcns.org, and have been sent home via tote bags.

Applications may be mailed or dropped off early, but they will not be processed until after those received on December 7 and 8. (For full registration details see page 4.)

Thank you to everyone who supported the Parents' Group Silver Graphics Fundraiser. These keepsake gifts turned out beautifully and we are grateful for your support.

On December 6th we will say goodbye to Hennifer Lopez and Birdy Bird. The children have enjoyed meeting our rented chickens and using the eggs for our cooking lessons. In the spring we are investigating hatching chicks!

On behalf of myself, Carolyn, Sue, and the entire staff at BHP CNS we wish you and your families a joyous holiday season filled with safe travels, good friends, family reunions, holiday traditions, and much happiness. Wishing you joy and happiness in 2019!

Liz

Liz Sobrino
BHP CNS Director



DECEMBER SHOWS!

Mark Your Calendars for Our
December Performances!

**The
Polar
Express**



The Bradley Hills Creative Dance Company will present excerpts from the Polar Express on December 11th at 1:45 in Memorial Hall. All are welcome to attend this magical performance. After the recital there will be refreshments.



Christmas Sing Alongs: Dec. 13 & 14

On **Thursday, December 13th** our T/TH 3s in Room 201 will perform a selection of holiday songs in Covenant Hall. The program will begin at 9:30 am.

On **Friday, December 14th** our MWF, 3s & 4s will perform in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am.

Following the performances there will be parties in the classrooms. Children will be dismissed for the winter break after their classroom party between 10:30 and 11:00 am.

Both the Dance Recital and Sing-Alongs will be professionally recorded. Each family will receive an electronic link of the show!

PARENTS' GROUP UPDATE

Happy holidays! We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving. December is a busy and fun time at BHP CNS. The children will enjoy making decorations, singing holiday songs, getting ready for holiday parties, and for many, the school concert.

We are so excited to share that the Fall Art Fundraiser was a huge hit! The orders have arrived and the final products look amazing! We can't thank you enough for making the first year of this fundraising effort such a success. We received over 135 orders and exceeded our expectations by raising just over \$2,000, which will go toward the creation of the Outdoor Discovery Center! THANK YOU!

Our online gallery will remain open for orders until June 30, 2019. Simply visit:

<https://www.silvergraphics.com/shop/> and enter access code: **BHP CNSart18** to re-order items, place new orders, and even upload NEW art. This is open to anyone in the BHP CNS community! Orders will be shipped directly to you, and BHP CNS will continue to receive a portion of the proceeds.

The Parents' Group organizes lunches for our wonderful staff during their monthly staff meetings and we need your help! We're looking for volunteers to provide a main dish, side, dessert and paper products for about 30 people for each meeting. It works best if a few families volunteer for each date to cover all the items. Lunch doesn't have to be fancy! If you enjoy cooking, you can feel free to do so, or you can cater sandwiches, pizza, etc! The staff appreciates it greatly! Please reach out to Maggie or Sarah if you are interested in helping out in this way. Remaining dates are: **Monday, January 7; Thursday, February 21; Monday, March 18; Thursday, May 2.**

It's getting chilly out! Don't forget to start labeling coats, hats, mittens, and boots. Get new peel and stick labels from LabelDaddy! 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 bhpcns.labeldaddy.com and enter code BHP CNS at checkout.

Lastly, with holiday shopping well underway, don't forget to place your Amazon orders at **smile.amazon.com** and select **Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church!**

Thank you all for your continued support of our school. As always, please feel free to contact Maggie or Sarah with any questions!

Maggie Maloney
MaggieWMaloney@gmail.com

Sarah McGovern
SarahLothrop@hotmail.com

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR THE WINTER GALA PACKET!

And mark your calendars to join in on the fun at Bethesda Country Club on **March 8th** between 7:00 and 11:00 pm for a night of **Silent and Live Auction fun with DJ Adam**. The **Winter Gala packet** is being sent home the first week of December with information regarding the **launch of the Auction website**, event details, our fundraising goals for the Outdoor Discovery Center and much, much more! Thank you to the **Auction Committee** for helping to make this year's Winter Gala the best yet! If you have any questions or want to get involved please reach out to Claire Adams at Claire.adams09@gmail.com or Brigitte Koch at Brigitte.b.koch@gmail.com.

BHPCNS BOARD UPDATE

Delightful December greetings from the Board!

The Board has updated the Philosophy and Mission Statements and the Nursery School By-Laws. These are now under final review by the Church and are on the agenda for the Dec. 18 meeting of Session. We expect to begin using the new Philosophy and Mission Statements on Nursery School communication soon, and to begin operating the Board under the new By-Laws after the New Year.

Our annual budget process for the next school year is well underway, and we continue to be in good shape financially.

At our November 29 meeting, we kicked off the long range planning sub-committee. It will be led by Missy Banashak, please reach out to Missy if you would like to participate in helping to provide long term strategic guidance for the Nursery School. We also began the formation of a safety sub-committee, tasked with taking a holistic view of the safety and security of our children and the staff. Please reach out if you would like to participate or if you have any topics that you would like this committee to consider.

The BHPCNS Board consists of parents as well as church and teacher representatives. A full list of members can be found on the Nursery School website. The Board meets bi-monthly throughout the school year to discuss a proactive agenda to advance the school and support our Director, as well as reacting to issues and concerns related to the school that may need Board attention. The Board encourage parents to engage with us directly. You can reach us directly at Board@bhpcns.org or anonymously via the online form on the Board of Directors portion of the Nursery School website. In addition, we encourage parents to join us for Board meetings. If you are planning on attending the meeting, please let me know. We want to have enough chairs at the table. The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 31st at 7:00pm.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Souheil Inati, Chair of the BHPCNS Board

FALL SPEECH AND OT SCREENINGS WRAPPED UP

Next Steps for children screened this fall:

1. For children who received a speech or OT screening, reports have been sent home. If you have not received your child's results, please contact the office for another copy.
2. If your child's report indicated they have passed, then no further action is required at this time.
3. For children whose report says to monitor their progress and rescreen in 6 months, we suggest:
 - a. Contacting your pediatrician for a second opinion.
 - b. Working with your child on the identified areas. We will be working on these skills in your child's classroom.
 - c. In 6 months we will have speech and OT screenings again to monitor the children's progress.
4. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher, or the office, or the screener.

To learn more about why BHPCNS believes in early intervention and the need to bolster fine motor skills, please read:

[Losing our grip: More students are entering school without fine motor skills.](#)

[The Importance of Fine Motor Development.](#)

[Help Your Child Build Fine Motor Skills](#)

[Fine Motor Skills and Academic Achievement](#)

HOLIDAY FUN (DON'T TELL YOUR CHILD IT'S GOOD FOR FINE MOTOR SKILLS)

Gift wrap cutting activities... Chances are your family will have lots of wrapping paper leftover after opening the gifts. Have your child use the leftover wrapping paper to cut. Some children may cut strips, others may cut out designs.

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

Did you know the CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, website has wonderful information regarding a child's development? I especially like this website because not only does it list age appropriate milestones, there are photos and videos of children performing the age-appropriate milestones as well.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/>

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Maren Adams
Ravi Hennessey
Henry Hicks
Jackie Inati
Clara Mayer
Jacob Barr
Benjamin Sherman
Ishaan Schouten
Lila Brzytwa
Aanya Weldon
Kiran Weldon
Mia Vincent



Aidan Monica
Benjamin Stern
Anna Vincent
Mila Wang
Kiarad Derakhshandi
Millie Sherman
Parker Adams
Grant D'Avignon
Fede Rodriquez Brizuela
Grayson Sullivan
Sebastian Fredriksson-Lidman

Reminder:

When sending in birthday treats, please send in **small** cupcakes, mini muffins, fruit kabobs, etc., keeping classroom food allergies in mind. IF you bring in a homemade treat, complete the allergy form located outside the office. We typically share birthday treats at snack time. If you have any questions, speak with child's teacher or the office.

WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS

BHPCNS follows Montgomery County Public Schools, MCPS, and emergency weather closings.

If MCPS schools are closed, BHPCNS will be closed.

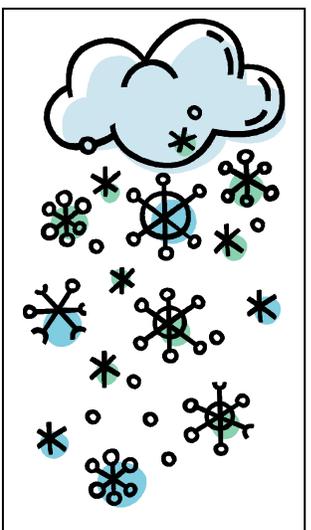
If MCPS has a 2 hour delay, BHPCNS will begin the school day at 11:00 am, except Early Morning with Bradley Bear students who may arrive at 10:00 am.

Students in the 2-year-old program may come at 11:00 am and stay until 12:30 pm.

We will provide a hearty snack. Children will be dropped off and picked up from their classrooms. Lunch Bunch is cancelled.

If MCPS closes schools early, BHPCNS will close at 11:30 for the 2s and 12:30 for the 3s and 4s. Lunch Bunch will be held until 12:30. Stay and Play will be cancelled.

Signup for Montgomery County Alerts by [clicking here](#).



REGISTRATION FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

2019-2020 Registration Information

Registration Options:

- 5 day 4s, Monday through Friday
- 3 day 4s, Monday-Wednesday-Friday
- 5 day 3s, Monday through Friday
- 3 day 3s, Monday-Wednesday-Friday
- 2 day 3s, Tuesday-Thursday
- 3 day 2s, Monday-Wednesday-Friday
- 2 day 2s, Tuesday-Thursday



Registration for Current BHPCNS Students:

Registration for the 2019-2020 school year is this week!

- Applications have been sent home, are available in the office, are attached to the email with the newsletter and are available for current students at the BHPCNS website, www.bhpcns.org under the Application/Registration tab.
- Complete an application and return the form along with the \$70 registration fee, on either December 6 or December 7. **Returning students must have their applications turned in no later than Friday, December 7 to guarantee placement.**
- Remember to indicate a first and second choice. While we guarantee placement for students currently enrolled in our 2 and 3-year-old programs and for students enrolled in the 4s' who do not meet the age eligibility for public school kindergarten, **we do not guarantee your first choice.**
- Acceptance is based on a first-come, first-served basis. The earlier you submit your application, the greater your chances of being accepted into your first choice program.
- Applications received before December 6 will be placed after those received on December 7.
- Acceptance or Wait List notifications will be sent home in late January.

Registration for Siblings Not Currently Enrolled in BHPCNS:

Applications for the siblings of currently enrolled students for the 2019-2020 school year may be submitted at any time, and are available in the office and online for your child who will be starting BHPCNS in September 2019.

New Applicants to BHPCNS:

Encourage your friends and neighbors to call the office to learn more and schedule a tour of BHPCNS. New families say they chose Bradley Hills because their friend, neighbor, co-worker spoke highly of our program. We love that you love us! Help us spread the word about what a wonderful place BHPCNS is for children to play, grow, and learn! Applications are available online for new students and may be submitted at any time.

BHPCNS follows Maryland State Department of Education guidelines with regard to birthdate cut-off dates for admission. Children must be 2 by September 1, 2019 to enroll in the 2's, 3 by September 1, 2019, to enroll in the 3's, and 4 by September 1, 2019 to enroll in the 4's. IF YOUR CHILD HAS A SUMMER BIRTHDAY AND YOU ARE CONSIDERING HAVING THEM DELAY THE START OF KINDERGARTEN PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE OPTIONS.

August Birthdays and ADHD. On November 28th there was an interesting article on August Birthdays. It states that the youngest kids in the class, tend to be diagnosed with ADHD more than the older children. To read more [click here](#).

Play,
Grow,

Learn with Bradley Bear



ANGEL GIFT TREE DONATION PROGRAM WITH BHPC



Bradley Hills Nursery School and Bradley Hills Church sponsor a toy drive each December. Toys donated will be shared with the children at the Womens' Collective, A Wider Circle, and the Amigo Program. During this season of giving, talk with your child about helping others, especially those less fortunate than they are. Donations should be geared to children between 2 and 16 years of age. Bring an unwrapped gift to the Christmas tree outside the office by December 6th. Thank you!

BRADLEY BEAR HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS



Bradley Bear Holiday Ornaments!

For just \$10 your Christmas tree can have one of a limited edition Bradley Bear ornaments. Stop by the office to purchase one today! Ornaments can be easily personalized with your child's name by writing on them with a Sharpie pen!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Please be respectful
of our performers
and our guests.

Recording and Photography of the Sing-Alongs and Dance Performance: Our performers are very young. Singing and dancing in front of an audience can be very difficult for the children. We ask that you refrain from recording and using flash photography during the performances. If you wish to record the performances, we ask that you set up your equipment at the back of the hall or in the balcony of the sanctuary. This includes recording the shows on an iPad or iPhone. There will be lots of opportunities to take pictures during the parties following the performances. Please be respectful of the children and your fellow audience members and not record or take pictures during the shows.

All our December performances will be professionally recorded.

Every family will be provided a link to the performance at no additional cost. Please share these links with family and friends and do not personally record the show.



BHPCNS Family Holiday Cards Wanted:

Please drop a holiday card off in the office to be posted on the walls when you come into the school. This annual tradition is a wonderful way for all our families to share their holiday greetings.

The children love to see their friends and families in their holiday finery and festive situations. If you have former BHPCNS friends ask them to send their cards too.

Drop In to Early Morning, Lunch Bunch, and Stay and Play: These programs are available on a drop in basis as space allows. Need an extra 2 hours one afternoon for holiday shopping? Consider dropping your 3 or 4-year-old into Stay and Play. Emergency dental appointment at 8:30 am? Consider dropping your child off at Early Morning. Two-year-olds can “drop into” Lunch Bunch too. Signup sheets are outside of the office. Tell your child’s teacher when you sign your little one up as a drop in.

December Prorated Early Morning, Lunch Bunch, and Stay and Play Fees:

Please check in the office about your child’s fees for December. For children who participate in these programs the fees will be prorated because it’s a short month. Carolyn will be available to calculate your fees.

Playgrounds at BHP CNS:

The playgrounds are maintained by the Nursery School but are available to the communities surrounding BHP CNS to use at their own risk. All children and their families are welcome to use the playgrounds as long as a class is not present on the playground. Please come out and play in the afternoons, on the weekends, and during holidays!



Emergency Clothes:

The children have all grown so much and the weather has gotten much cooler, so now is the time to swap out the summer emergency clothing with winter clothing for your child’s extra clothes in their tote bags. Please send in warmer clothing, pants, a shirt, possibly a sweat shirt, socks, and underwear. Thanks! Don’t forget to label all the items you send to school.

Future Bradley Bear Photos/Baby Pictures:

If there’s a new baby in your home we’d love a picture of them to add to our Future Bradley Bear Cub display. Please drop off a picture of your new family member in the office and we will add your picture to our display across from the office.



**Future
Bradley
Bears
Photos**



BHP CNS will close for our Christmas break after classroom parties on December 14th. We will reopen on Wednesday, January 2nd at 8:00 am for Early Drop Off and regular school hours and Stay and Play.

Register now the 2019 Bradley Hills Creative Dance Company!



If you child is not currently enrolled in our Dance Stay and Play program, please register them for the January to June session. Stay and Play will be held January 2nd through June 14th for all our classes. BUT to be sure we have enough staffing for Tuesday and Wednesday dance classes we would like you to register ASAP. Thank you. Not currently enrolled? Call the office to register. Currently enrolled and wish to withdraw, please send an email to the office.

MONTHLY SPECIALS AND GUEST READERS

Creative Movement, Music with Little Hands, and Science will be on hiatus in December to allow our classes time to prepare their holiday surprises and get ready for our Christmas concerts.



Miss Beth Reports:

Music classes will resume in January with lots of cold weather-related songs, poems and dances! We'll float like snowflakes, dance with the North Wind, and skate/waltz on our paper plate skates! Miss Jael (Mondays) and Miss Caitlin (Thursdays) along with Miss Beth and Miss Sandy wish all the Bradley Bears a very musical and happy holiday season!

**Music Class
for 2s, 3s and 4s**

Ms. Casey Reports:

It's hard to believe that the holidays are already in full swing! Leading up to Thanksgiving, our younger children enjoyed dancing to silly songs about food escaping holiday feasts and pet turkeys. In our 3s' and 4s' classes we sang about the things we're grateful for and learned that the Native American families of the Wampanoag people were not unlike our own in how we care for those we love. As the season of thankfulness and giving continues, the older children are working excitedly to prepare for one of the biggest performances of their young careers: The 2018 Christmas Program! This show is not to be missed, as much for illuminating the joys of the season as for the adorability factor. See you there!



**Singing for
2s, 3s and 4s**

Sharing Holiday Traditions



Special Holiday Story Time in the Sanctuary

Mrs. Jeanne Tustian, a former BHPCNS teacher and our Literature Lady is back to share the story of Christmas with our students. She will be reading to all the classes in the church sanctuary surrounded by a beautiful crèche. We are excited to have Mrs. Tustian back to share this special story with our children.

Share Your Family's Holiday Traditions at BHPCNS

Parents, Family Members, and Friends are welcome to share their family traditions in their children's classrooms. Contact your child's teacher if you'd like to read a story, bring a special snack, make a traditional craft, or more to share with your child's class.

Sra. Cardoni Shares:

Our last Spanish class of 2018 will be the last week of November, we'll pick up weekly/bi-weekly classes the first week of January 2019. We're taking a break for the holidays. Throughout November we learned names for family members (siblings-*hermanos*, grandparents-*abuelos*) and special foods we will see on the table during the holidays. In our last class before break, we learned a Spanish Christmas carol-*Villancico Navideño*. Feliz Navidad!!!



Spanish for the 3s & 4s

STAY AND PLAY UPDATES

Monday: The Artist Corner



Artist in Residence Mrs. Mac. 'n Cheese Reports: We'll finish making a special personal ornament for your tree, and learn an icing technique to make snowflake cookies. Have a great holiday and see everyone in the New Year!

Scientist Barnett Shares:

In science this month we will be studying crystals and convection currents. We will be making our own crystals using Borax and hot water. The crystals will form around pipe cleaners. Also, we will discover how hot water and cold water interact with each other – called convection currents. The students will watch how these temperatures interact with each other using food coloring. Have a wonderful holiday and see you in the New Year!

Monday Wigglin' Wizards



Tuesday & Wednesday Bradley Bear Dance Company

Mrs. Snyder Reports:

Our Bradley Bears Dancers are eagerly awaiting their Polar Express performance. They have been hard at work memorizing combinations, learning to process to the stage, and practicing moving as a group. In addition to the dance movements that they will be performing, Ms. Lisa has been introducing foundational movements that will develop into proper dance technique. Those posse' marches will someday be saute' and pique' turns. Your little dancers are so excited to show you what they have learned.

Mrs. Michael's Travelogue:

Where in the World is Bradley Bear?

We unpacked our ponchos, and said adios to Peru. In December, our little world travelers will be exploring Greece. We will learn about the flag, listen to the national anthem, and hear a mythological story. Before we head home for the holidays, we will learn about Ancient Greek Christmas customs and taste some wonderful Greek food. We will stamp our passports and take a break before we head to Uganda in 2019. Hope you all have a wonderful holiday.



Wednesday Where in the World is Bradley Bear?



Thursday: Bradley's Barnyard

Farmer Stevens Shares:

This month in Bradley's Barnyard, the children will force paper whites. These bulbs are a popular indoor plant for winter and the holiday season. Then, the little farmers will learn about sheep. They will try their hands at felting, and they will even get to shear a "sheep. We will then move onto exploring what winter looks like on the farm.

Yogi Myers Shares:

Our Yogi Bears started their December practice by going on an adventure to the North Pole. We practiced old poses and learned some new ones - toboggan, triangle and bow. Once again on dry land, safe and warm at BHPCNS, we ended our practice imagining we were snowflakes falling and wafting through a crisp December sky. Throughout the month our Yogi Bears will continue their practice with gratefulness and mindfulness, both in thought and action. Wishing all of our Yogi Bears and their families a safe and peaceful holiday season. Namaste.



Friday Yogi Bears