



The Bear Facts

FEBRUARY 2025

Celebrating 67 Years of Early Childhood Education



Dear Parents,

That was some January! We had a LOT of snow and freezing cold temperatures. Thank you parents for sending your children to school with lots of warm layers so we could play outside together.

If you weren't able to attend the Scholastic Book Fair in January, do not fear. The Parents' Group has opened an online shop through February 9th. You can shop from hundreds of titles with proceeds going back to help fund our wonderful library.

This February, we welcome another series of morning Coffee & Conversation. The topic will be centered on how to prepare your child for the next steps in their education. Liz will be there to answer any and all questions you have regarding Bradley Hills. Please RSVP so we know how much coffee to brew (see page 4 for details).

Our cubs will celebrate Valentine's Day on February 13th & 14th. Children should bring a valentine for each child in their class. Sign your child's name on each card (but leave the to: part blank). Include a card for your child. Kids love handing out valentines to each of their classmates and like to put a card in for themselves. Thank you in advance to all our amazing room parents for making Valentine's Day so much fun!

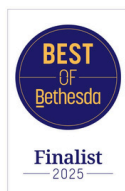
We will be closed on February 17th in honor of Presidents' Day.

Ryan Bridge, the Bugman, returns to BHP CNS! This is a unique opportunity for your child to learn more about bugs and the role they play in our ecosystem. It is also an opportunity to be brave and hold (or gently touch) a giant beetle, tarantula, or scorpion. This is a favorite experience for our teachers and students year after year!

February is a time to remind those who are important to us how much they are loved. The staff and I love and adore your children. Thank you for sharing them with us and thank you for all you do to make us feel loved including taking the time to vote for BHP CNS in BEST of BETHESDA. We are happy to have been named Finalists again in 2025.

Stay warm and well!

Liz Sobrino



January 31st-February 9th

- [Shop Online](#) Scholastic Book Fair

February 1st

- Tuition Due

February 3rd & 4th

- [2s Coffee & Conversation](#)
9:15-10:30am BHPC Gathering Space
- Vision Screenings

February 4th -13th

- Parent/Teacher Conferences

February 5th & 6th

- [3s Coffee & Conversation](#)
9:15-10:30am BHPC Gathering Space
- Dental Hygiene with Dr. Marko

February 7th

- [Pre-K Coffee & Conversation](#)
9:15-10:30am BHPC Gathering Space
- Last day to order [DIY Cookie Kits](#)

February 13th

- Valentine's Day Party
TTh Classes

February 14th

- Valentine's Day Party
MF, MWF & MTWThF Classes

February 17th

- SCHOOL CLOSED
Presidents' Day

February 18th - 20th

- Ryan the BUGMAN visits BHP CNS

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

STAY
CONNECTED



UPCOMING EVENTS



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Shop Online - Now thru February 9th



Thank you for supporting the Scholastic Book Fair. We hope you found some new books that spark the joy of reading. If you weren't able to make it to Memorial Hall to shop in person, there is still time to shop ONLINE!

Shop online with proceeds going to support our fabulous library at BHPNS.



Thank you to all of our book fair volunteers!

DIY COOKIE DECORATING KITS

Order by February 7th (while supplies last)

COOKIE KITS

The Parents' Group has partnered with local business, @thecookiemackster, to offer valentine cookie kits for your kiddo(s) to take home and decorate over President's Day Weekend.



\$28 per kit

Each cookie kit comes with 8 baked and ready to decorate heart-themed cookies, 2 icings, and 2 toppings for decorating.

**Order by February 7th
(or while supplies last!)**



Parents' Group Co-Chairs,

Cass Price
cass.price@gmail.com



Amanda Franklin-Munson
amandanfranklin@gmail.com



Dear Parents,

Happy February! On behalf of the entire Board, we wanted to take this opportunity to share our appreciation to all the staff and families who participated in our first ever "Building a Brighter Tomorrow Together" campaign. Your contributions provided funds that will help the school continue to thrive and offer the children an exceptional experience at BHPCNS.

To that end as well, the Board approved the tuition rates for the 2025-26 school year at our January meeting. We are proud of the school and our shared commitment with all of you in focusing on a meaningful and nurturing learning experience during this special time in the children's lives.

Our next Board meeting is Wednesday March 26th at 7:30pm. If you have any questions, concerns or thoughts about the school, please reach out to the Board at board@bhpcns.org or talk to a Board member.

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day!

Rosanna Morrison, BHPCNS Board Chair

Scott Allshouse, BHPCNS Board Vice Chair



BHPCNS ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for:

- ROOM 102 Ms. Vargas - Wed & Thu, Feb 12th & 13th [Room 305]
- ROOM 103 MWF Mrs. Choi - Wed, Feb 5th [BHPC Library]
- ROOM 103 TTh Mrs. Choi - Tue, Feb 11th [Room 305]
- ROOM 104 Mrs. Barnett - Mon, Feb 10th [Room 305]
- ROOM 105 Mrs. Biggs - Tue, Feb 11th [BHPC Library]
- ROOM 107 Mrs. Quijada - Wed, Feb 5th [Room 305]
- ROOM 108 Mrs. Cardoni - Mon, Feb 10th [BHPC Library]
- ROOM 108 Ms. Wilson - Tue, Feb 11th [Crib Room 201]
- ROOM 111 Mrs. Juhaszne - Wed & Thu, Feb 12th & 13th [BHPC Library]
- ROOM 113 Mrs. Kebler - Tue, Feb 4th [Crib Room 201]
- ROOM 117 Mrs. Richards - Tue, Feb 4th [Room 305]



Your child's teacher has sent out a SignUpGenius link via brightwheel for you to select your conference time.

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.
- A parent survey has been sent home for families to share topics they would like to cover at the conference. Please message the office or your child's teacher if you would like another parent survey.
- 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.

COFFEE & CONNECTION WITH THE BHPCNS DIRECTOR

Join Liz to talk about what BHPCNS is 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.

2025-2026 ACCEPTANCE LETTERS



It may be only February, but the 2025-2026 school year acceptance letters have been sent home via your child's tote bag. Please be on the lookout for an envelope containing your child's acceptance letter.

To confirm your child's space, submit your child's deposit by February 28th and also review the 2025/26 Parent Handbook and sign the "Acceptance of Policies" form, both of which will be shared with you via brightwheel.



Thank you for continuing to have your child PLAY, GROW and LEARN at BHPCNS!

IMPORTANT KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

Kindergarten

2025-26 Online Registration begins February 3rd; In person Registration begins March 17th.

Many BHPCNS alumni and current families are exploring both public and private school options for their children. Liz is happy to make introductions to families who currently have kids attending a school of particular interest. Please reach out if you would like her assistance.

Montgomery County Public Schools:

The majority of BHPCNS families' children will enroll in Montgomery County Public Schools. MCPS needs to know if your child will be attending one of their schools in the fall of 2025. To register your child for MCPS, 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. Please register your child before March 18th.

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

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

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

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

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



Private School Options:

There are many BHPCNS families whose children attend an array of private programs in our area, including but not limited to: St. Jane de Chantal, St. Bartholomew, Our Lady of Mercy, The Woods Academy, Norwood School, Primary Day School, Bullis School, St. Andrews, and Washington Episcopal School. To explore private school options, contact these schools as soon as possible to inquire about your child attending. BHPCNS will provide any supporting information requested to complete a child's application.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Stella Polles
 Luke Glass
 Wynne Potolicchio
 Soren Claise
 Kayla Howell

Camden Williams
 Rhys Kheradi
 James O'Toole
 Maddie Bailey
 Mariana Coffey

Avery Sellers
 Ella Charvatova
 Alexis Simoneau
 Emily Simoneau
 Dansei Yamaguchi

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.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAYS

March 12th, 13th, & 14th

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



PICTURE DAY SCHEDULE:

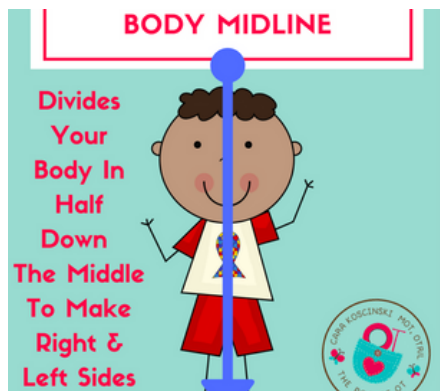
- CUB CLUB Mrs. Colonna - Wed, March 12th
- CUB CLUB Mrs. Colonna - Thu, March 13th
- YOUNG 2s Mrs. Javers - Fri, March 14th
- ROOM 102 Mrs. Vargas - Fri, March 14th
- ROOM 103 MWF Mrs. Choi - Wed, March 12th
- ROOM 103 TTh Mrs. Choi - Thu, March 13th
- ROOM 104 MWF Mrs. Barnett - Wed, March 12th
- ROOM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



WHY CROSSING THE MIDLINE IS IMPORTANT

Have you ever wondered, "What is crossing the midline and why is it important?" Here's a brief description and a link to the entire article. The term crossing midline is often used to describe the skill of moving your arm or leg across the imaginary line down the middle of your body. When children can cross the midline, they are using both sides of their brain to coordinate smooth, controlled, complex movements. It is important to combine movement patterns across the body for daily tasks such as reading, writing, tying a bow, and many other life skills.

Click [here](#) for the entire article.



Here are Crossing the Midline Activities for Kids of All Ages:

1. Playing with rhythm scarves
2. Playing with blocks (stacking)
3. Dancing to music
4. Dusting or sweeping
5. Playing patty-cake
6. Playing with cars on a large path
7. Playing flashlight tag
8. Washing the car
9. Painting with a large roller
10. Completing cross crawls (touching hand to opposite foot or knee)
11. Wiping off a table with a towel using one hand
12. Throwing a water balloon or bean bag or ball at a target
13. Drawing a large figure 8 on a chalkboard or sidewalk
14. Playing Simon Says
15. Playing Twister



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
ON
BRIGHTWHEEL**



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.

WINTER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

BUILDERS and MAKERS

Ages 3-5

\$330 for 6 Wednesdays

2:30 - 3:30 pm at BHPCNS

February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, and April 2nd



Children engage in social-emotional, fine and gross motor development, and problem solving through playful experiences of building together. Each weekly session involves an opportunity to use a variety of materials to build a collaborative structure based on a story or problem that your child can help solve. Participants practice planning, taking turns, frustration tolerance, compromising, and communicating.

ENROLL TODAY!

SPRING BREAK

April 14th - 21st

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

WINTER PICKS from our LIBRARIAN - Mrs. Hauck

The BHPCNS Library recently added to our collection several books from Tom Percival's series: Big Bright Feelings. Each book covers a social/emotional topic with tender stories and beautiful bright illustrations. They are perfect for little ones learning about big emotions.

"Bea's Bad Day" – Bea deals with her disappointment when her birthday party does not go as planned.

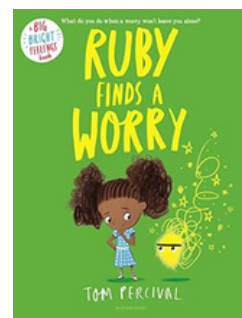
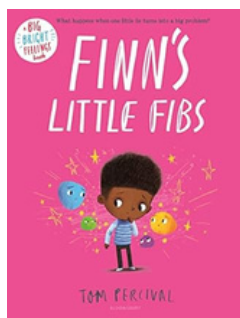
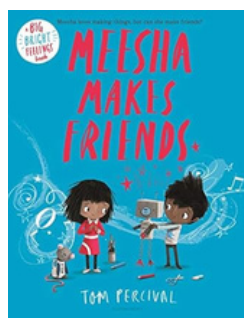
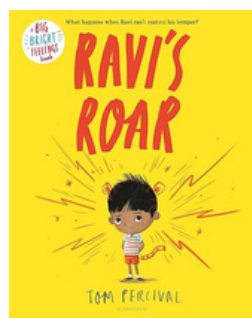
"Finn's Little Fibs" – Finn learns to be brave and tell the truth after he has lied to his grandmother.

"Milo's Monster" – Milo's jealousy grows and grows when his best friend begins playing with a new neighbor.

"Perfectly Norman" – After growing a pair of wings, Norman finds the confidence to embrace his differences.

"Tilda Tries Again" – Tilda perseveres and accepts change in her life.

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



In February, our artists and scientists will learn all about magnets. They will conduct experiments to determine what materials a magnet is attracted to, push objects away with like poles, and test the strength of magnets. In art class, students will use magnets to paint.

How do magnets work? Electrons in most materials spin randomly, but in magnets electrons spin in the same direction. This creates a magnetic field that flows out from the north and south poles of the magnet. Magnets with opposite poles attract one another; while magnets with like poles repel each other.

SINGING with Ms. Casey (*all ages*)

In January we talked about new beginnings and resolutions. Looking ahead is a fascinating concept for children so adept at living in the moment but many have expressed a desire to travel to exciting places, learn new skills, and work at honing ones they have (olympic hopes, anyone?) This winter we have the added pleasure of a winter landscape to sing about! Some of our older kids will talk and sing about Martin Luther King and the message of peace and equality he preached. Love is in the air this month and we're learning of all of the ways you can show you care for and love the people around you. From the smallest gestures - like opening doors and helping around the house - to the grandest musical overtures. Get your boom boxes out and raise them high!



MUSIC (*all ages*) with Little Hands



Little Hands winter music semester, "Weather or Not" focuses on musical and meteorological opposites...rain, sun, wind, snow, and more! In February, we'll explore many bird poems and activities, as well as the concepts of "same and different." We recommend the book "No Two Alike" by Keith Baker to discover that we are the same in many ways, and different in other ways, just like birds. We'll continue with LOTS of small percussion instruments and discover what's the same and different in a wide variety of bells. The poem set to song "North Wind Doth Blow" will give us an opportunity to "read" the story with picture cards (attached here) that help us remember the sequence and reinforce "symbol for sound" pre-reading. We LOVE making music with Brady Bears!

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!



COMMUNITY AT 6601 BRADLEY BOULEVARD

BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Happy New Year! 2025 marks the 70th Anniversary of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, and we are celebrating in many ways.

During January thru May, we will honor the people, events, and activities of our past. We kick off our 70th celebrations on Sunday, January 12th with a special presentation at worship and adult education on the spiritual significance of the architecture of Bradley Hills.

The highlight of our year-long festivities will be a wonderful Dinner Celebration on the evening of Saturday, May 3, 2025. We will gather together in Memorial Hall — elegantly decorated for the occasion — to share a delicious meal.

Family-Friendly Service Opportunity:

Smart Sacks is back in operation at 11:30 am each Sunday morning. We fill bags that provide supplemental food to families in Montgomery County who are food deficient over the weekends. All ages are welcome to help!

