

January 2018 Newsletter

The Bear Facts

Celebrating 60 Years of Early Childhood Education

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! I hope your holidays were filled with fun!

Thank you for wonderful holiday treats for the office, teachers and staff at BHP CNS. Your generosity with the class parties, your gifts to teachers, and your donations to the Angel Giving Tree, were amazing and we appreciate all that you do for our school and the greater community. Thank you also to the Parents' Group and

Ashley Schneider for the beautiful poinsettias that were delivered to the entire staff in December.

January will be another busy month at school. We are excited to welcome 12 new "Little Twos" to our program beginning January 9th. We will be closed on January 15th for the Martin Luther King holiday. Vision Screening for all our 3s and 4s classes will take place on January 24th and 25th. We will wrap up our Hearing Screenings in January.

During January the teachers will be busy assessing your child's development at school. Teachers will be using a developmentally age appropriate checklist of tasks/milestones with your child. These assessments are done in a fun and playful manner. The results will be shared at our Parent Teacher conferences. See sidebar for more details. These assessments are a snapshot of your child in their school setting.

Our 2018-2019 school year registration process is well under way. Classes are filling up! If you have not yet submitted an application, please get one into the office ASAP. For the applications we have received we are busy processing them and will be getting acceptance and wait list letters sent home in late January. If your child will be applying to a private school for the 2018-2019 school year, please submit your requests for letters of recommendation or evaluations to your child's teacher or the office ASAP so we have ample time to prepare the necessary information and return it to the school you are applying to in a timely fashion.

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

Liz
Liz Sobrino,
BHP CNS Director



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES



Parent/Teacher Conferences will be scheduled in February and March. More details will be coming from your child's teacher and the office as we get closer to conference time. Guidelines:

- Sign-up sheets will be placed on each classroom door. If you do not drop your child at school, please have your caregiver sign up for a conference time slot for you or email your child's teacher for a time slot.
- Conferences are scheduled for 15 minutes. In an effort to keep the conferences moving smoothly it is vital to adhere to the 15 minutes scheduled. Be on time or notify the office if you are running late for your conference. If you think you will need more than 15 minutes, please make special arrangements with your child's teacher in advance.
- For families with multiple children in the school we will work with you to schedule your conferences back to back whenever possible.
- Conferences are for adults only and baby-sitting arrangements should be made for your child and/or siblings.

BHP CNS is blessed with a truly remarkable staff who want to share their experiences with your child with you. If you have any questions, contact your child's teacher or the office.

PARENTS' GROUP NEWS

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday break! A big thank you to all the teachers and staff for working with our children to put on an amazing Christmas sing-a-long. Thank you to the room parents for organizing teacher gifts and holiday treats!

Don't forget to start labeling coats, hats, mittens, and boots with the arrival of the cold weather. 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.

We'll need to start filling Parents' Group positions for next year. Please email Ashley absilver@comcast.net if you're interested in helping with our fundraisers, Casino Night, organizing staff lunches, or something else! We need all the volunteers we can get to ensure a successful year. It doesn't need to be a major role, all time, talent, and treasure is appreciated.

We need a couple more families to help organize teacher lunches for this year. Please email Ashley absilver@comcast.net if you're willing to contribute to a teacher luncheon during their monthly staff meeting. As always, thank you for your support! Stay warm!

Ashley Schneider
absilver@comcast.net

Mary Dunmire
Mary.E.Dunmire@gmail.com

BHP CNS 60TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY ON APRIL 14TH!



Thank you to our sponsors:
Coakley Williams Construction
Curtis & Laura O'Keefe
Gus & Allison Pappas
The Meier Family
Brooke & Kevin Guerrero
The Supple/Chiang Family
Mary & Jim Bergmann
The Boland Family
Nicole and Brian Salcetti
The Schneider Family
2 Anonymous Donors
For your continued support!

60th
**Anniversary
Celebrations**

60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION April 14th!

Mark your calendars to join current and past BHP CNS friends as we gather on April 14th between 7:30 and 10:30 pm! The band, Justin Trawick and the Common Good will be here for your dancing pleasure. There will be food trucks and libations for your eating and drinking pleasures. You will want to be part of the Wall of Wine raffle. The winner will have lots of wine to fill their cellar.

DONATIONS WELCOME: Sponsorship forms are coming home next week. Please consider becoming a sponsor and/or donating a bottle of wine, or two valued at \$20 or more a piece to our Wall of Wine raffle.

ANNIVERSARY MURAL: Lastly, we are calling all alumni to add their handprints to the mural in the Rainy Day Room. Thank you to Nancy McCullough for creating this lasting memory of BHP CNS.

BHP CNS BOARD NEWS

Welcome back. I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. The Board is currently finalizing next school year's budget as well as revisions to our By-Laws. Our next meeting will be on Thursday January 25th at 7:00pm. As always, we welcome any member of the school community to attend the meeting. If interested, notify Liz at Lsobrino@bhpcns.org or me at Souheil.inati@gmail.com at least two days prior to the meeting so that we can include your request in the agenda.

Best wishes for a happy New Year! Souheli Inati, BHCNS Board Chair

BHCNS JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Maia Folio
Claire Houlding
James Mense
Amanda Meier
Griffin Rickett
Leo Hoopes
Brandon Ritland



Johnny Pratt
Tad Michael
Saheli Senarathne
Avery Teeters
Marcus Chaudhry
Audrey Chua
Molly Davis

Wish these Bradley Bear Cubs a happy day!

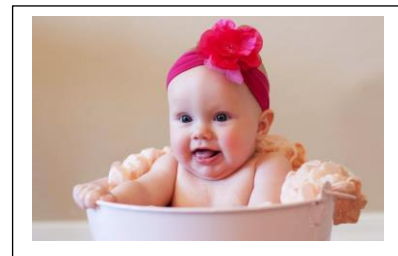
Reminder: When sending in birthday treats, please send in small cupcakes, mini muffins, fruit kabobs, etc. Remember to label the treats with the ingredients used so we can keep everyone safe at school. We typically share birthday treats at snack time! If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or the office!

BHCNS FUTURE BRADLEY BEAR PHOTOS



Is there a baby in your house?

Send a picture of your little one to the office and we will post the picture on the bulletin board outside the office for all to see our Future Bradley Bears.



WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS AND DELAYED OPENINGS

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

If MCPS schools are closed, BHCNS will be closed.

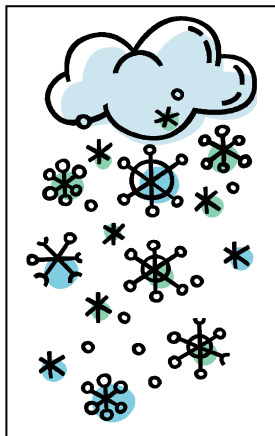
If MCPS has a 2 hour delay, BHCNS will begin the school day at 11:00 am, except Early Morning with Bradley Bear students who may arrive at 10:00 am.

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. Lunch Bunch is cancelled for that day.

Stay and Play will be held at its regular schedule.

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

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



VISION AND HEARING SCREENINGS FOR BHCNS STUDENTS

Hearing Screenings: For all 3 and 4 year old classes will continue in January and be wrapped up in February by a licensed audiologist.



Vision Screenings: For all 3 and 4 year old classes will take place on January 24th and 25th. The Society for the Prevention of Blindness will perform the screenings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the office and let us know. Thank you.

2018 SUMMER CAMP: JUMPIN' JELLYFISH! BRADLEY BEAR IS GOING TO THE BEACH!



Jumpin' Jellyfish with Bradley Bear

Details will soon be available for BHP CNS' annual summer camp. This year our campers will be exploring all things under the sea. Our ocean themed camp will run each day, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 12:30 pm. There will be early morning drop off available too. Camp will be held the following 3 weeks:

June 11 through the 14th

June 18 through the 21th

June 25 through the 28th

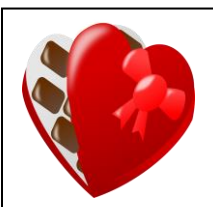
All currently enrolled BHP CNS children, including those in our 2s' programs, may attend camp. All children must be potty trained to participate in camp.

For more details, stop by the office. Registration forms will be available shortly. There will be an early registration discount.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 15: BHP CNS Closed: Martin Luther King Holiday

February 7: Sweets and Treats Night



BHP CNS Annual Sweets and Treats Night

Everyone is invited to come out to meet the BHP CNS Board, and BHP CNS Director Liz Sobrino for an evening of sweet treats and discussions about BHP CNS. Come to ask your questions about the school, share ideas for the future, other BHP CNS and to meet other parents. We will meet at 7:30 pm in the Lounge.

February 19: BHP CNS Closed: Presidents' Day

MORE IMPORTANT NEWS:

Car Magnets: Show your BHP CNS pride with one of our fabulous car magnets. If you have lost yours there are lots more in the office. Stop by and get one!

Lost and Found Bin: The Lost and Found bin, outside room 117, is getting filled with warm jackets, hair bows, sweaters, and other lost items. Please check the bin for any missing belongings.

Playgrounds at BHP CNS: 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 and on the weekends.

Emergency Clothes: Now is the time to swap out the summer emergency clothing with winter clothing for your child's classroom emergency clothes. Please bring in warmer clothing and take home their summer shorts and shirts.

Transportation Days:



Transportation Days are coming in May. If you have any cool vehicles for land, air, water, construction equipment, fancy cars, horses, motorcycles, drones, etc. we'd love to have them be part of our transportation display. The dates are May 15th and 16th. The children love to explore, ask questions, and learn all about transportation!

DONATIONS NEEDED

Ink Cartridges: BHP CNS recycles used ink cartridges. Drop your empty cartridges by the office for recycling.



Consignment Shop Donations:

Are you cleaning out closets? Drop your extra items off in the office and we will take them to the consignment shop. All proceeds will benefit BHP CNS directly.



Eye Glasses Needed: Donate a pair to the Prevention of Blindness Society in the box outside the office.

NEW YEAR, NEW GOALS!



Does parenting sometimes make you feel like pulling out your hair and screaming???
Concerned about how to best use that new iPad your parents gave your child???

Do your 2018 resolutions include being a better parent? Maintaining your cool when your children push your buttons? Wanting your children to be better listeners? Providing positive redirection when your child is not cooperating? Check out some of these local resources to help support you to be the best parent you can be!

Dr. Rene is a local early childhood developmental psychologist. She provides blogs, parenting workshops and more to parents and preschools in the area. Check out her website by [clicking here](#). Enjoy these sample blogs from her recent newsletter.

Here's an excellent [blog from Dr. Rene](#) on how to get your children to listen without repeating yourself.

Check out this blog [from Dr. Rene](#) on how to give children positive directions. For example, say, walk instead of don't run.

PEP: [Parenting Encouragement Program](#) is another excellent resource for parents to help navigate the highs and lows of parenting. They have online classes, in-person classes, seminars, speakers, and more.

Technology and Preschoolers:

Did you receive new tablets, phones, computers this holiday season? Are you wondering how best to use these technologies with your children? Are you trying to figure out how much time your child should be on a device?

[Read here](#) for an article on should your child or preschooler be using an iPad and how to use it safely and effectively with your child.

[Click here](#) for some game/activities apps for your new technology that you and your child may enjoy.

Washington Parent and Family Magazine are available outside the office in the NEWS wall. They are always filled with helpful articles on parenting, local child-friendly activities, camp and school information, and much more. I loved this article on [Playful Parenting](#). I found the article matched our Purposeful Play philosophy well.

Lastly, if you have concerns or questions, stop by the office. We are happy to support our families in any and all ways possible.

STAY AND PLAY NEWS:



Monday: The Artist Corner

Mrs. McCullough Reports:

January Art will be a first (and maybe a last), where each child will create their own book. The student will supply the plot and the teachers will transcribe and help create the pages. Then the students will illustrate their thoughts. Look for Scholastic to come knocking at our doors.

Chef Senarathne Reports:

During the month of January we will be making comfort food to help keep us warm and cozy during the cold weather. Our first class will be making chicken fingers. Followed-by other yummy, child-friendly foods. We can't wait to see the Bradley cub chefs back in Bradley Bear's Kitchen.



Monday In the Kitchen with Bradley Bear



Tuesday: Wigglin' Wizards

Chief Scientist Mrs. Myers Reports:

After a fantastic fall of hypotheses, experiments, conclusions, and "aha" moments of fun and discovery, the Bradley Bear scientists will be moving to a new unit on the five senses. We'll start with taste and learn how different spots on the tongue determine whether something is sweet, salty, sour or bitter. Later, we will focus on the sense of smell. We will blindfold the children and see if they can guess what's in the jar. The third week will be touch. They will use their hands to determine the shape of various objects in a bag. At the month's end, we will investigate the sense of hearing by playing a game where the children are once again blindfolded and have to point to the direction where the sound came from. We will also talk about how and why we rely on our senses; the roles each plays; their interdependence and what may happen when one sense is removed.

Mrs. Snyder Reports:

The Bradley Bears Dancers did a great job on their Nutcracker Performance. The children will begin expanding their movement vocabulary and moves. They will be moving from skipping to proper posse' marches, from balancing on one foot to arabesque. The concepts of plie', releve', and turn-out, will be reinforced this semester as they work toward acquiring the dance phrases needed for the Spring Show on May 23rd at 1:45. Mark your calendars now!



Tuesday & Wednesday Bradley Bear Dance Company



Thursday Where in the World is Bradley Bear

Artic Explorer Senarathne Reports: We will board a "plane" for our next adventure: the vast frozen continent, Antarctica. We will stay on this virtually uninhabited continent for the next three weeks. Did you know that not only does Antarctica have the highest elevation of all the continents but it is considered a desert with annual precipitation of only 8 inches along the coast and far less inland? We will learn about all of the animals that inhabit this vast area and do an experiment that will teach us how their blubber allows them to survive. We'll find out about its location, its climate, its animals and plants, and how it was discovered.

Yogi Leon Meditates: Every week, our yoga class focuses on a different theme. In January, we will use our yoga poses (asanas) and games to become Winter Olympians, Circus performers, and Superheroes. Finally, we will celebrate winter with our poses. We also continue to practice mindfulness by thinking about our breathing and eating mindfully. Yoga is a great indoor activity to keep our bodies active in the cold weather. Come practice with us!



Friday: Yogi Bears

MONTHLY SPECIALS



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

Ms. Beth Sings:

Miss Sandy (Thursdays) and Miss Beth (Mondays) are looking forward to music in the farmyard this winter! (January through March.) ***Ponies, Piggies and Pups*** songs and activities will include a pony named "Macaroni," a dog named "Rags" and another named "Brownie, as well as many galloping horses, a few donkeys, sheep, ducks and chickens! We'll explore the concepts of loud and quiet, and be working with rhythms and tonal patterns through all the fun!

To hear or download any of the music, you can access it [here](#). (or <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/littlehands5>)

Chief Scientist Delfin Reports:

In Science, we will learn about gravity, push and pull, forces and how they affect our daily lives. Through hands on experiments and observation, we will discover the rate at which different items fall to the ground. We will make predictions and practice using gravity with our own 2 legs! We'll discover the force that keeps paper airplanes in the sky and keeps our feet on the ground.



Science Class
3s, & 4s



Creative Movement
2s, 3s & 4s

Mrs. Stevens Reports:

This month in Creative Movement, we will be assessing the children's gross motor skills in preparation for the Parent/Teacher conferences. Of course, we will do this in a fun way! We will hop on one foot, skip and walk backwards to the Freeze Dance. The 3 and 4 year olds will throw a bean bag to hit a target. They will do the Beanie Bag Dance in order to demonstrate their ability to follow directions. All the children will get a chance to drive the firetruck, climb the ladder, and squirt the water to their favorite Creative Movement song, "Hurry, Hurry Drive the Firetruck!"

Señora Cardoni Reports:

Feliz Año Nuevo! (Happy New Year!) In January, we will wrap up our lesson on food where we learned how to say Yo quiero (I want) and Yo tengo (I have). We played a matching game with different foods where the children answered my wishes in Spanish. They love playing the matching game! We will also review numbers, colors, weather, food and family and then start our new topic on body parts. We will learn several new songs including Mi Cuerpo (My Body) and Cabeza, Hombros, Piernas, Pies (Tune of Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes).



Spanish 3s, & 4s



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

Ms. Casey Shares:

What a miraculous holiday program! The children worked very hard in preparation for this seasonal tradition. Over 140 children performed 12 songs while enduring more than 300 distractions! I am incredibly proud of them. The two's classes have been dancing and clapping along to these holiday favorites which will help them when we revisit the season in 2017. The New Year offers a well-deserved break, where we can enjoy new songs and relish in the sights and sounds of the winter months. I am so tickled to hear that some of your kids are singing around the house. Thank you for encouraging such creative expression in your homes. Wishing you a peaceful New Year filled with hope and music!