



The Bear Facts

Celebrating 65 Years of Early Childhood Education

SEPTEMBER 2022



Dear Parents,

The administration, staff and I are happy to begin a new school year. We promise to provide a fun and safe environment for your children to PLAY, GROW, and LEARN! This school year marks BHP CNS' 65th anniversary as a community preschool of excellence. If you love us as much as we think you do; please vote for BHP CNS in Bethesda magazine's Best of Bethesda contest. Details on page 3.

Communication is vital to the success of our school and your child's experience here. To stay in the know, read updates sent by the office and your child's teacher, friend Bradley Bear and like us on Facebook, join our Google Group, and follow us on Instagram. Pop in, call, or email the office any time you have a question, concern or comment.

This year, we hope our programming remains unaffected by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue to adjust and make modifications as circumstances warrant. We appreciate your support and understanding as we strive to create a safe and healthy program.

BHP CNS will be utilizing the ASQ-3 screening tool for all children in our program. Your child's questionnaire was sent home in the folder you received at Meet & Greet. If you were unable to attend, it will be sent home the first week of school. We ask that you complete the ASQ-3 questionnaire and return it to school as soon as possible.

Now that the bathroom upgrades have been completed and the classrooms have been readied we look forward to having a wonderful school year with you and your children. Thank you for sharing your child with BHP CNS.

Liz Sobrino
BHP CNS Director

Mark
YOUR
Calendar

September 17th

- Parents' Group Annual Back-To-School Ice Cream Social! 4-5:30pm, BHP CNS playgrounds

September 26th

- SCHOOL CLOSED for Rosh Hashanah

October 1st

- Tuition Due

October 3rd

- Parent Coffee with Growing Minds Church Library on Main Floor, 9:15 am
- Early Mornings with Bradley Bear, Lunch Bunch, and Stay & Play begin

October 5th

- SCHOOL CLOSED for Yom Kippur

October 6th

- Back to School Night



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

STAY
CONNECTED



Welcome Back to School

The BHPCNS Parents' Group welcomes new and returning Bradley Bears back to school! This volunteer-run group is responsible for sponsoring and organizing parent and community events, coordinating fundraising efforts, and serving as a resource to new families to BHPCNS. All BHPCNS families are automatically members of the Parents' Group – there are no fees or commitments to join! If you would like to volunteer your time at any point, keep an eye out for emails from ParentsGroup@bhpcns.org for upcoming opportunities or get on our go-to helpers list [here](#).



BACK-TO-SCHOOL UPDATES



For BHPCNS families: **Annual Back-To-School Ice-Cream Social!**

- Saturday 9/17
- 4:00 - 5:30 PM
- BHPCNS playgrounds
- Please RSVP so we can plan to host you!
- Volunteer opportunities are also listed in the link above- many hands make light work and it's a great way to meet other parents!
- Tote and lunch bags will be available for sale at the ice-cream social.



BHPCNS Totes and lunch bags for sale!

- Available for purchase at the Playground Meet and Greets and during Parents' Coffee on the first days of school
- Families are not required to purchase BHPCNS gear, but they are a perfect and affordable option to fit artwork and papers, and have a soft-sided lunch bag for school fridge storage!



PARENTS' GROUP PARTNERSHIPS

DISCOUNTS FOR BHPCNS FAMILIES + MONEY BACK TO THE SCHOOL!

Minted.com

- Enter FUNDRAISEBHPCNS at check out
- 20% off and 15% of proceeds back to the school
- Parents' Group favorite: clothing tag label!
- small enough to fit onto small clothing tags, but still fits a last name and phone number; ours have survived a lot of washing!



Inchbug

- Enter code BHPCNS2022
- 10% off of labels*
- Parents' Group favorite: orbit water bottle label!
- Going on 3 years of usage and I still don't need to replace them- they are amazing!



**They are still ironing out their "give-back program", so no money goes to BHPCNS, but we can enjoy a discount in the meantime*

OTHER HELPFUL PARENTS' GROUP RESOURCES:

Easy access to the BHPCNS Parent network:

Are you hoping to find or suggest a fun class, sports team, childcare recommendation, or other idea to BHPCNS parents?



Click [HERE](#) to request to join the BHPCNS Google Group.



Interested in getting involved with the Parents' Group?

[Let us know!](#)

POTTY TRAINING SEMINAR

Is toilet training your child in your future?

Are you struggling with toilet training your child?

Are you thinking there must be a better way to reach this childhood milestone?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, mark your calendar for our Potty Training Seminar, sponsored by the Parents' Group on **Tuesday, October 25th at 7:30 pm** via zoom.

Sally Neuberger, the Potty Training guru, shares her expertise about all things potty:

when to train

how to train

how to deal with setbacks

and so much more!

PARENT EDUCATION COFFEE WITH GROWING MINDS

Please join us on **Monday, October 3rd from 9:15-10:30 am** for a conversation with Jill Jerome, licensed clinical social worker, from [Growing Minds](#). Jill will be here to answer parenting questions and/or challenges you are facing. She will also offer valuable information to help support your family as your child transitions to school.



- Church Library on Main Floor
- Light refreshments will be served

Dear Parents,

On behalf of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC) and the BHPCNS Board - welcome new and returning families to the 2022-23 school year! We know that our wonderful staff has many fun activities planned for this year.

The Board is the governing body for the school and is responsible for overseeing and approving the school's finances, annual budget, financial policies, and other school operation matters. The Board meets every other month and is made up of BHPCNS parents, the Director, the school treasurer, a teacher representative, the church's Director of Christian Education, and BHPC members.

Our first Board meeting for the school year will be on **September 21st at 7:30 PM**. If you have any topics you would like included on the meeting agenda, please contact the Board at board@bhpcns.org. Throughout the school year, please feel encouraged to reach out to the Board through this same email address with your questions, concerns, or thoughts about the school.

Best wishes for the new school year!

Rosanna Morrison, BHPCNS Board Chair
Vicki Petrides, BHPCNS Board Vice Chair



2022-23 BHPCNS BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman-Rosanna Morrison, alum parent, current grandmother, BHPC member

Vice Chairman-Vicki Petrides, alum parent, BHPC member

Secretary-Brooke Rickett, current parent, BHPC member

BHPCNS Director-Liz Sobrino

Current Parent-Autumn Trevisan, current parent

BHPCNS Parents' Group-Kaeli Duggan, current parent & Cass Price-McDonald, current parent

Church Member-Amy de Court, alum parent, BHPC member & Cathie Lutter, BHPC member

Ex-Officio

BHPC Director of Christian Education-Matt Nabinger

BHPCNS Staff Representative-Donna Barnett, alum parent, current grandmother

BHPCNS Treasurer-Sandhya Weldon, alum parent



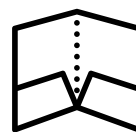
Your child will need to bring their tote bag to and from school every day to carry all their artwork, extra clothing and diapers! No backpacks please.



Your child is to bring a water bottle to school each day. We will refill as needed.



If your child is staying for lunch, they must have a small, soft-sided lunch bag. We refrigerate all lunches.



Folders, school provided, are to go to and from school each day. They will contain important information.



For your child's comfort on the playgrounds they are to wear closed-toe shoes and socks.

**PLEASE LABEL ALL BELONGINGS
WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME**

SCHOOL DAY ATTIRE



Children love to climb, swing, run, jump, skip, hop, hang upside down, and more throughout the day. Please make sure your children are appropriately dressed for the playground, weather, and sitting at circle time. Children should wear underwear at all times. And if wearing a skirt or dress, please wear a pair of shorts underneath. You'd be amazed at the things we see at nursery school.

BEST OF BETHESDA VOTING

THIS IS OUR YEAR TO WIN!

Please vote for BHP CNS in Bethesda Magazine's Best of Bethesda Readers' Poll. You may vote multiple times using different email addresses. This is your opportunity to let other families know that Bradley Hills is the BEST!

[VOTE HERE!](#)



Emmett DeGroff
 Finley Alderton
 James Iwarere
 Lawson Iwarere
 Lakshmi Kasarabada
 Emily Byskov
 Millie Castro
 Marco Mereish
 Abby Palmer



Cameron Mense
 Michael Sepsakos
 Jax Eng
 Anna Katherine Joseph
 Perry Brown
 Cyrus Claise
 Anushka Kasarabada
 Luke Baker

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.

BHPCNS ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

Tuition Payments:

Payments are due the first of each month, September through May, and are considered late if not received by the 15th of the month. If your payment is not received by the 15th, a 10% late fee will be assessed.

Classroom and Office Email Communication:

By the end of the first week of school you should have received at least one email from your child's classroom teacher. If you have not received an email, please email your child's teacher so they may capture your email address. (Occasionally messages land in spam/trash folders.) BHPCNS staff emails follow the same format. The teacher's first initial and last name at BHPCNS. Example: Lsobrino@bhpcns.org. Occasionally, a teacher may include a middle initial too.

Student Records:

Each year we undergo a rigorous inspection by the Maryland State Department of Education. To be prepared we will be doing a thorough check of all our student's records. We will notify you of any missing paperwork, immunizations, etc. We ask that you submit any missing paperwork promptly. We appreciate your help in making sure our records are compliant with state regulations.

Donations:

Before you throw it out donate it to BHPCNS.

- Large oatmeal canisters to be crafted into drums.
- Small glass jars with lids, i.e. baby food jars.

Please bring any donations to the office. Thank you!

Early Morning with Bradley Bear, Lunch Bunch, and Stay & Play Programming: Forms for these additional programs can be collected outside the office, or downloaded from our website, www.bhpcns.org. All three programs will begin on October 3, 2021. Teachers, parents, and the office will all be part of determining if/when a child is ready for additional programming.

Parent Info Board:

Across from the office is the BHPCNS' bulletin board. This space is updated regularly with our monthly calendar, children's birthdays, and flyers about school events. Please check this board occasionally to stay in the know.

School Snacks:

BHPCNS has a school-wide snack schedule. A calendar of the snack schedule is posted on the bulletin board outside the office and on our website [HERE](#). You may also request a hard copy from the office. While we love to accomodate all food prerences/allergies when planning our snack schedule we cannot. You are always welcome to send in your own snack for your son/daughter.



Children's Lunches:

- BHPCNS provides organic 1% milk at lunch each day. Children are offered a choice of organic milk or water at lunch time. You do not need to pack a drink with your child's lunch.
- Children's lunches should be foods children are familiar with and should be cut into appropriate sized servings. Sandwiches cut into quarters are much easier for little ones to eat.
- We send home any easily wrapped, uneaten lunch foods. Uneaten yogurts, apple sauce cups, etc. will be tossed out.
- Lunch is a social time. Children like to talk and share their lives at lunch. Sometimes this gets in the way of eating their whole lunch. Don't worry as your child settles into school they will eat more of their lunch.

BHPCNS Open Door Policy:

If at any time you have a compliment or complaint about something that is happening at BHPCNS, please stop by the office to share your thoughts. Your input is valued and benefits everyone in our program.

The building at 6601 Bradley Boulevard is home to many groups. The Nursery School shares the building with the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, The Friends Club (a social group for men with early onset Alzheimer's), The Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC), and the House of Abraham. Occasionally events for these groups may require closing or a change in the Nursery School Schedule.

We are happy to be part of such a wonderful community!

BRADLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are excited to be beginning a new school year! With plans for meeting outside as much as possible, we are looking forward to welcoming families back to in-person church and church school. We welcome all who are interested to participate in our Sunday Church School and worship, fellowship, family community service, as part of a friendly congregation with lots of families with kids.

Weekly Church Services - We continue to have Sunday worship services at 8:30 or 10:30. Both services are in person in the sanctuary or on-line. If you or your family are interested in a church home or resource for raising children spiritually, Pastor David Gray, whose four children went through BHPCNS, would be happy to connect and to support you. Email him at david@bradleyhillchurch.org.



Sunday Nursery Services— We offer care for young children during worship. Caregivers are fully vaccinated and boosted as well as wear N-95 masks. Windows are cracked open for ventilation. Children ages two and up are encouraged to wear a mask.

- There is a limit of six children total, for children two years old and younger.
- There is a limit of nine children total, when there are three-year-olds.
- Only adult caregivers are allowed in the nursery space.

Welcome Back Brunch: Sunday, September 11th

BHPC is holding its Welcome Back Brunch. Children's Ministry will have a table at the brunch where you can learn more about our children's programs and enroll your child(ren).

Fall Church School: Starting September 11th, we will begin fall church school. After the Children's Message in the sanctuary, all children ages 3 – 5th grade are invited to join our classes which will be held outside when possible. Children aged 3 – 2nd grade will participate in the Godly Play model of church school with experienced teachers who are trained in that model. Children in 3rd-5th grade will participate in a different curriculum geared to their age group. Masks and physical distancing are required for all participants as we encounter God's word together and respond with prayer, thanksgiving, and creative projects.

If you would like to enroll your children in fall church school, please click [HERE](#).



Partnership in Providing Coats to Families – We have appreciated the Nursery School's past support of our Coat Drive and welcome your involvement again this year. Our goal is to provide 100 coats to Arcola Elementary School in Wheaton. This Title One public school and BHPC have been closely linked through the Smart Sacks sorting and delivery of food. In past years, we have given 100 winter coats to the students. We have also remained close to them during Covid-19 by providing extra food and supplies to the 100 families personally touched by the pandemic. The school staff is deeply committed to assisting their school community.

You will receive a flyer mid-September with a Sign-up Genius to sign up for a particular age child. We will be collecting coats from September 15 - October 15. Please bring all donations to the bin at the Nursery School. We thank you in advance for your contributions.

BETHESDA JEWISH CONGREGATION

Shalom, BHPCNS! On behalf of the entire Bethesda Jewish Congregation community, I want to wish you an excellent start to your school year. May it be full of friendships, learning, and fun! I'm Rabbi Eric Abbott, the new Spiritual Leader of Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC) and I am beyond excited to continue to share space, experiences, and a sense of community with our extended BHPC family. BJC is an independent Jewish congregation that strives to be modern, egalitarian, and creative while also strongly rooted in Jewish tradition and values. We excel in full inclusion and participation of interfaith families, social action initiatives, spirituality, and a creating a welcoming atmosphere.

We are proud of our longtime covenant with BHPC. Not only do we share the building (come meet us in our office!), but we love our joint initiatives with the church and mosque. The Inter-Congregational Partnership Committee, ICPC, provides invaluable opportunities for learning, worship, and bonding, such as our interfaith Thanksgiving service and invited speakers. Keep an eye out for upcoming joint social action projects, such as a fundraiser to help migrants in the DC area.

I look forward to seeing you in the hallways and at our shared experiences!

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Eric L. Abbott
Spiritual Leader
Bethesda Jewish Congregation

FRIENDS CLUB

The Friends Club is a successful Program for older men afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. It meets four mornings each week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) under the direction of a social worker. Club members are men in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease who experience memory loss and impaired judgment but are still able to independently care for personal needs, feed themselves, converse with others, and participate actively in club activities.

A day at the Friends Club might include music, reminiscing, discussion of current events, an outing into the community, sports, games, educational programming and lunch.

For more information call 301-469-0070 or
email FriendsClub@verizon.net



HOUSE OF ABRAHAM

House of Abraham is a Muslim worshiping community which holds a weekly prayer service at 6601 Bradley Boulevard from 1:15-1:50 pm. All are welcome to join.

For more information contact David at
david@bradleyhillchurch.org.

