



The Bear Facts

SEPTEMBER 2024

Celebrating 67 Years of Early Childhood Education



Dear Parents,

Wow! It's almost September and I am thrilled to be embarking on this new school year with you and your children. The administrators and teachers have been busy preparing for a smooth transition to the 2024-2025 school year. We promise to provide a fun, safe, and engaging environment for your child(ren) to PLAY, GROW, and LEARN.

To make the start of the school year as smooth as possible, and hopefully reduce tears, we will split classes into two sessions and shorten the length of each class. Smaller class sizes allow our teachers to better connect with and comfort your child. During these one hour classes, you are invited to join other nervous parents for breakfast and coffee from Honey Dip Delights Food Truck. This is one of many Parents' Group events that we are sure you will enjoy. See page 4 for all the details.

September is not only back-to-school time at BHP CNS; it is time again to VOTE BHP CNS as the Best Preschool in Bethesda by Bethesda Magazine. We would love to regain our Best of Bethesda honor in 2025. To do so, we need your vote. Vote for BHP CNS, and other local favorites, [HERE](#). Thank you, in advance, for your support of our school. More details on page 2.

We will continue using brightwheel to facilitate parent/teacher communication and help our school run smoothly. You should have been invited to BW and set up your account. Please download the app to your phones and be prepared to sign your child into and out of school each day via the app. Anyone dropping off or picking up your child, needs to be on the brightwheel app.

BHP CNS will be using the ASQ-3 screening tool in our program. New this year, the questionnaire will be completed online. More details to follow. We ask that you complete the questionnaire as soon as possible.

The entire BHP CNS team is looking forward to getting to know you and your child(ren) in the weeks and months to come. Thank you for sharing them with us. If at any time you have a concern or question, please reach out to me. My door is always open,

Liz Sobrino
Director

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 27th

- Orientation via ZOOM
- [9:30am](#) OR [7:30pm](#)

August 28th & 29th

- Meet & Greet

September 1st

- Tuition Due
- Voting begins for [Best of Bethesda!](#)

September 3rd

- First day of Preschool
Phase-In Schedule

September 3rd-5th

- Parents' Group
Back-to-School Parent Coffees

September 18th

- Parents' Group
[Ice Cream Social](#)
5:30-7:00pm
BHP CNS playgrounds

September 23rd

- Breakfast with Bradley Bear,
Lunch Bunch,
and Stay + Play begin

October 1st

- Tuition Due
- Back to School Night
6:00-8:00pm

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

STAY
CONNECTED





Why do we want to win Bethesda Magazine's Best of Bethesda?

For starters, we think we are the BEST preschool in our area. Beyond that, winning helps other families find our wonderful school and increases our enrollment.

You may vote more than once (using a different email address each time), but you MUST vote for at least 5 businesses for your vote to be counted.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL PHASE-IN SCHEDULE

2

MTWThF 2's

9/03: 9:00 - 10:00 AM OR 10:30 - 11:30 AM
9/04: 9:00 - 10:00 AM OR 10:30 - 11:30 AM
9/05: 9:00 - 11:30 AM

MWF 2's

9/04: 9:00 - 10:00 AM OR 10:30 - 11:30 AM
9/06: 9:00 - 10:00 AM OR 10:30 - 11:30 AM
9/09 9:00 - 11:30 AM

TTh 2's

9/03: 9:00 - 10:00 AM OR 10:30 - 11:30 AM
9/05: 9:00 - 10:00 AM OR 10:30 - 11:30 AM
9/10 9:00 - 11:30 AM

MTWThF 3's

9/03: 9:00 - 10:00 AM OR 10:30 - 11:30 AM
9/04: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

MWF 3's

9/04: 9:00 - 10:00 AM OR 10:30 - 11:30 AM
9/06: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

TTh 3's

9/03: 9:00 - 10:00 AM OR 10:30 - 11:30 AM
9/05: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

3

Pre-K

MTWThF Pre-K

9/03: 9:00 - 10:00 AM OR 10:30 - 11:30 AM
9/04: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

MWF Pre-K

9/04: 9:00 - 10:00 AM OR 10:30 - 11:30 AM
9/06: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

BREAKFAST with BRADLEY BEAR, LUNCH BUNCH, and STAY + PLAY

Programs begin Monday, September 23rd



Registration forms and additional details are on brightwheel (links below).



BREAKFAST with BRADLEY BEAR

8:00am - 9:00am



LUNCH BUNCH

11:30am - 12:30pm for Two-Year-Olds



STAY + PLAY

12:30 - 2:30pm for Two-Year-Olds



STAY + PLAY

12:30 - 2:30pm for Three-Year-Olds & Pre-K



STAY + PLAY OPTIONS for Three-Year-Old & Pre-K

MONDAY - Sports & Games

TUESDAY - Wigglin' Wizards OR
In the Kitchen with Bradley Bear

WEDNESDAY - Dance OR
In the Kitchen with Bradley Bear

THURSDAY - Where in the World is Bradley Bear?

FRIDAY - Yogi Bears



Teachers, parents, and the office will all be part of determining if/when a child is ready for additional programming.

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 BHPCNS families. All BHPCNS families are automatically members of the Parents' Group – there are no fees or commitments to join.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PARENT COFFEES

September 3rd through September 5th after drop-off

DROP YOUR CHILD OFF FOR THEIR FIRST DAY OF PRESCHOOL AND COME MEET AND SOCIALIZE WITH OTHER BRADLEY HILLS PARENTS

HONEY DIP DELIGHTS FOOD TRUCK

WILL BE AT BHPCNS FOR PARENTS TO PURCHASE COFFEE, SMOOTHIES, DONUTS, AND BREAKFAST SANDWICHES.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Wednesday, September 18th 5:30-7:00 pm

All BHPCNS families are invited. Fred's Ice Cream Truck will be back to offer sweet treats while new and returning families mingle and make new friends in the first few weeks of school!

Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly
Ice cream (one per person) is covered by the Parents' Group :)

Dinner is not provided at this event, but families are encouraged to bring a picnic and blanket to enjoy on the field, if desired!

Looking for an easy picnic option?

BHPCNS and Ledo's Westlake (by the Westfield Mall) are hosting a dine out the evening of the event! Families can pick up carry-out to eat at the school fields, or dine there before/after the event! Mention BHPCNS and 20% of sales will go to BPHCNS fundraising efforts! Order online or call 301-369-6700 and mention BHPCNS when you order between 3 & 9 pm on 9/18.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

Tuesday, October 1st 6:00-8:00pm

Back-to-School Night is an opportunity to spend time in your child's classroom and learn about a typical day from their teacher.

Arrive early and/or stay late to enjoy adult beverages, snacks, and conversation in the Rainy Day Room. Meet other parents, learn about opportunities to volunteer, and more...

Auntie Anne's DIY Pretzel Kit

Order now through September 27th
 Kits delivered at Back-to-School Night on October 1st

Mix, twist, bake and enjoy Auntie Anne's pretzels at home!



Purchase a DIY Pretzel Baking Kit to Support BHPCNS

50% of proceeds go back to the Parents' Group!

Kits include all ingredients to make 10 pretzels at home - a fun, educational, and delicious activity to do with your kid(s)!

\$25 per Kit

ORDER FORMS COMING SOON

PARENTS' GROUP PARTNERSHIPS

Still need labels for your kid's belongings? It's not too late to order and support BHPCNS fundraising efforts from these two great options:

minted.

- 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!



mabel's labels

- 20% of sales will benefit BHPCNS fundraising efforts!
- Search for: Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School



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!



Dear Parents,

On behalf of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC) and the BHPCNS Board, we want to welcome new and returning families to the 2024-25 school year! The wonderful BHPCNS staff has been busy preparing for a year in which your children will Play. Grow. Learn.

The Board is the governing body for the school and is responsible for overseeing and approving the school's finances, calendar, personnel policies, and other school operations. The Board meets every other month and is made up of BHPCNS parents, school Director, school treasurer, teacher representatives, church members, and church's Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries.

Rosanna Morrison is starting her fourth year as the Board Chair. Rosanna is a long-time member of BHPC and has enjoyed serving on a variety of church committees, including Children's Ministry, and teaching Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. Rosanna's four children are BHPCNS alumnae. Her granddaughter will be in the Pre-K program this year and her grandson is joining Cub Club.

Scott Allshouse is starting his first year as Vice Chair. Scott has served on a variety boards throughout his career. His son is in his second year at BHPCNS and will be in the 3 day Pre-K class. His daughter will join the school next year. He and his wife Suzanne knew the moment they toured BHPCNS that it was a special place and somewhere their children would thrive. Serving on the Board, he hopes to continue the legacy of BHPCNS's family feeling and commitment to learning through play.

Our first Board meeting for the school year will be on September 25 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. Board meetings are open to anyone with notification to the Board Chair through this email address at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Throughout the school year, please feel encouraged to contact the Board with your questions, concerns, or thoughts about the school via this email address or by reaching out to one of the Board members listed below.

Best wishes for the new school year!

Rosanna Morrison, BHPCNS Board Chair
Scott Allshouse, BHPCNS Board Vice Chair



2024-25 BHPCNS BOARD MEMBERS

Rachel Alderton—Current parent; BHPC member
Scott Allshouse—Current parent
Gail Polser-Brown—Past parent; past grandmother; BHPC member
Amanda Franklin—Current parent; Parent' Group Co-Chair; BHPC member
Rosanna Morrison—Past parent; current grandmother; BHPC member
Cass Price—Current parent; Parents' Group Co-President
Autumn Balentine Trevisan—Current parent

Ex-officio

Liz Sobrino—BHPCNS Director
Eileen Richards and Regina Schweitzer—BHPCNS Teacher Liaisons
Sandhya Weldon—BHPCNS Treasurer
Corinne Silva—BHPC Session Liaison
Rosanna Howard—BHPC Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

BRING THESE ITEMS TO SCHOOL EACH DAY



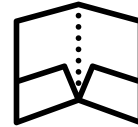
Your child will need to bring a tote bag to and from school every day to carry all their artwork, extra clothing and diapers! No backpacks please.



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 bento box. We refrigerate all lunches.



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



For your child's comfort and safety 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.

NO FANCY CLOTHING - WE GET DIRTY

DONATIONS

Before you throw it out consider donating it to BHPCNS.

- Cardboard egg cartons
- Large oatmeal canisters
- Newspapers
- Toilet paper rolls

Please bring any donations to the office.

Thank you!

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.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ellie Baynard
 Beau Boothe
 Heron Brown
 Noa Fornal
 Aubrey Frazee
 Morgan Frazee
 Jack Hansan
 Ellie Harlan



James Iwarere
 Lawson Iwarere
 Lakshmi Kasarabada
 Ella Lieberman
 Jonathan Maloney
 Jameson Morris
 William Thomas

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, on our website, and on brighwheel. 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.

STUDENT ABSENCES OR ILLNESS

If your child is ill and will be missing school, please call the office or send us an email. If your child has a communicable disease, strep throat, head lice, etc. we need to know to be able to share that information with the rest of the class. Your child will remain anonymous when informing the class. In some cases, we are obligated to share communicable disease information with the Montgomery County Health Department.

We are often asked: "How do you know when to keep a child home?"

Here are some guidelines:

- Do not send your child to school within 24 hours of a fever.
- Do not send your child to school within 24 hours of diarrhea.
- Do not send your child to school within 24 hours of vomiting.
- Do not send your child to school if they have not been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.
- Do not send your child to school if they are heavily congested and/or coughing.

Please note the 24 hour rule in the above guidelines.

We share EVERYTHING at preschool. Sometimes, even colds and viruses. The flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccines are an effective way to protect your child from these viruses. Please consider having your child vaccinated. We want to keep our Bradley Bear cubs as healthy as possible.

WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS

BHPCNS follows Montgomery County Public Schools, MCPS, emergency weather closings. To be in the know sign up for MCPS Alerts click [HERE](#).

If MCPS schools are closed, BHPCNS will be closed.

If MCPS has a two hour delay, BHPCNS will begin the school day at 11:00 am, except for Early Morning with Bradley Bear students who may arrive at 10 am. Students in the 2-year-old program may stay until 12:30 pm. Lunch Bunch will be cancelled. We will provide a hearty snack.

If MCPS closes schools early, BHPCNS will close at 11:30 for the 2s; 12:30 for the 3-year-old and Pre-K classes. Lunch Bunch proceeds as normal and Stay & Play will be cancelled.



HANDWASHING

Please take your child to the bathroom to wash hands BEFORE bringing them to their classroom. This reduces the spread of germs and allergens. Children will be taken to wash their hands several times throughout the day including before eating snack and/or lunch.

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](#) or on brightwheel. You may also request a hard copy from the office.

While we would love to accommodate all food preferences/allergies when planning our snack schedule we cannot. You are always welcome to send in your own snack for your son/daughter. Please speak with your child's teacher.



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 include foods your child is 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.

BRADLEY BEAR LIBRARY



BHPCNS is blessed to have a lending library of over 4,000 titles. Our collection covers age-appropriate material from multicultural picture books to non-fiction titles on topics such as animals, weather, feelings, and more.

Throughout the school year, the library is available for teachers, classes, and parents to host Story Time. After which, children will be able to pick a library book to bring home.

Have a favorite book and want to read to your child's class? Just let your teacher know. You and your child may also explore the library on your own and select books to check out. There will be a display of rotating books in the hall outside the library, but you are free to pick books from the library shelves as well.

Library Policies:

- If you wish to check out a book and there is no staff member in the library, please see the office staff for help.
- Books may be returned to the top shelf of the book cart in the library, or to the office.
- Please do not reshelve books you have borrowed as they must be "checked in" through our computer system.
- All books are due back in 2 weeks. Late notices will be sent via brightwheel once a month.



If you have any questions about our amazing library, please contact Jan Hauck [HERE](#)

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 Maqame Ibrahim Islamic Center (MIIC). 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

Welcome back to Nursery School and welcome to Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church!

Our church has a lot of families with kids, and we have fellowship groups, kids' choirs, Vacation Bible School, summer trips for youth, Christmas pageants, counselors on site, and all sorts of programs of education, service and worship for adults. We have communities from several faith traditions here, and many interfaith families have found our community welcoming.

We sponsor service projects for kids, like our Smart Sacks food distribution program, where children can learn about community service by helping those in need in Montgomery County. The church offers classes for families on "how to pray with kids," "how to share the Bible with children," and on the meaning of baptism and communion, etc. You don't have to be a member of the church to take advantage of the activities.

If you'd like to learn more about BHPC, our pastor, David Gray whose four children all went to Bradley Hills Nursery School, would welcome a chance to connect. You may email him [HERE](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER:

Welcome Back Brunch - Sunday, September 8th

Welcome Back Brunch after church. All are welcome as we celebrate the beginning of the fall season.

Church School - Begins Sunday, September 10 (10:45 following the Children's Message in worship). We invite children 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 Club 3-4-5!

Family Connections Lunch - Sunday, October 1st (following the service). The topic is Parenting in the 21st century and we will have a panel of experts that includes a minister, educator, health professional, and a psychologist, psychiatrist, or social worker. Parents are invited to submit questions in advance at the Welcome Back Brunch.

Weekly Church Services - We continue to have in-person Sunday worship services at 8:30am and 10:30 am.

The 10:30 service is available on-line [HERE](#).

Service Opportunity for Families - We encourage all families who are attending church to consider volunteering to help the **Smart Sacks Team** which gathers in the hallway between Memorial Hall and the Lounge after church each Sunday. Volunteers put grocery items in bags for delivery to Weller and JoAnn Leleck Elementary Schools. Smart Sacks helps bridge the gap between Friday and Monday by providing nutritious foods for children and their families who might not have another meal until after the weekend. The food is provided by Manna Food Center, a nonprofit striving to end hunger in Montgomery County

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 85+ 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. You will receive a flyer mid-September with more information on ways to donate.



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 the 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.

L'Shalom,
Rabbi Eric L. Abbott
 Spiritual Leader
 Bethesda Jewish Congregation



BACK TO SHUL CELEBRATION

September 6th at 5:30 PM

Summer is over and we're ready to welcome everyone back to BJC for another year of amazing programming! Join us for food, free ice cream, plus fun activities for the kids with a bounce house and face painting. Stay for a musical Shabbat service with Rabbi Abbott! Please let us know you're coming!



HIGH HOLY DAYS

We are excited to welcome our BJC community for High Holy Days!

Bethesda Jewish CONGREGATION		HIGH HOLY DAYS 2024-5785	
OCT 2	EREV ROSH HASHANAH	OCT 12	YOM KIPPUR
8:00 PM	Service	10:00 AM	Service
OCT 3	ROSH HASHANAH	1:15 PM	Family Service
10:00 AM	Service	2:30 PM	Torah Study
12:45 PM	Lunch (RSVP required)	3:45 PM	Musical Interlude
1:30 PM	Tashlich	4:45 PM	Reading of the Book of Jonah
2:30 PM	Family Service	5:15 PM	Yizkor/Neilah
OCT 11	KOL NIDRE	<i>L'Shana Tova!</i>	
8:00 PM	Service		

High Holy Day Services for 2024 will be in-person and also available on livestream through our YouTube channel. Masks are optional. We ask that anyone not feeling well please remain home and worship with us online.

Tickets to HIGH HOLY DAYS may be purchased [HERE](#)



FRIENDS CLUB

Friends Club is a social program designed to enhance the lives of men living with dementia.

They bring together active gentlemen in the early-to-mid-stages of dementia in a caring, safe and secure environment. Their program is specially designed to meet the social and emotional needs of men who are experiencing memory loss. They are a non-profit, non-sectarian organization.

Participants gather with highly trained staff and committed peer volunteers three days a week to socialize, share common interests and experiences and enjoy intellectual and physical activities.

Their mission is to not only enhance the quality of life for men with dementia, but also to provide respite and support for their family caregivers.

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 [email](#) or call 301-469-0070



MAQAAME IBRAHIM ISLAMIC CENTER

Maqaame Ibrahim Islamic Center (MIIC) joined the Interfaith partnership with Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church in 2019. MIIC holds weekly Jummah prayer and fellowship at BHPCC each Friday. The inclusion of the three Abrahamic faiths (Christianity, Judaism, & Islam) that pray under the same roof is a testament to our interfaith witness and hope for healing in a divided world.

