



😊 Small Talk 😊

The Monthly Newsletter of Bethlehem Preschool March 2019

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Happy Spring, we hope soon!

Taxpayer Identification Number

Our Taxpayer Identification Number is **14 -1569614**. 2018 year-end statements are available upon request.

Kudos to BPS!!

We are extremely proud to announce that Bethlehem Preschool has once again earned **5 STARS** in the **QUALITYstarsNY** rating system. QUALITYstarsNY is a voluntary "rating system" that indicates the quality of an early care and learning program. The system looks at all aspects of a program: the environment, staff qualifications and experience, parent interactions, curriculum, physical well-being and health, and administration. The BPS staff will continue to work hard to bring our families a program that will help each child grow to their potential. Please watch this short video for more information about QUALITYstarsNY: <https://youtu.be/VYVnY5ebph8>.

We would also like to recognize several individual staff member achievements:

- **Stephanie Bradley & Ashley Bagley** have both recently earned a Child Development Associate credential (CDA) in Preschool Age children.
- **Maura Tarantino** will complete her AAS in Early Childhood Administration from HVCC in May and will continue her studies toward a bachelor's degree.
- **Kristen Mirable** has recently renewed her CDA in Infants and Toddlers.

- **Vanessa Vaccarino** has been accepted into a master's degree program in social work at SUNY Albany.

Congratulations to all!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

We are again offering an opportunity for parents to discuss your child's development and progress with classroom teachers. If you haven't already, you will receive a "Family Conference Form" in early March. The form will report on your child's strengths in a wide range of developmental touchpoints.

We use the "Creative Curriculum Gold" assessment system which provides observations and assessments in up to 38 Objectives for Development and Learning. The system uses daily observations, developmental checklists and portfolios to follow children's progress and achievements.

The system also relies on input from parents to develop social, educational, physical and literacy goals for your child. We will continue to ask for your input throughout the school year.

Once you have received the "Family Conference Form," please speak to your child's teacher to arrange a meeting time that is convenient for you. We look forward to our discussions.

Summer Plans

Please begin to think about your summer child care needs. We will ask you to complete a summer planning sheet late in March, but we would like you to be aware that

families **who wish to withdraw their child for the summer will not be guaranteed a fall placement.** Please speak to a director if you have questions regarding this long-standing policy.

Staff Training Day - March 22 - Close at 1PM

We would like to remind you that Bethlehem Preschool will **close at 1 PM on Friday, March 22** for an afternoon of staff training. Please make plans to pick up your child by 1PM. Thanks.

Scholastic Book Orders

This month's Scholastic Book Orders are due on **Wednesday, March 13.** Please make checks payable to **Scholastic Reading Club**, or order on-line at www.scholastic.com using our code school code **GTCDJ.**

Classroom Notes

Infants: Wow, winter is almost over! But please continue to bring in warm outdoor clothes and check your child's clothing box and supplies for appropriate items. We will get outside more often with the warmer weather.

Our friends are growing and changing every day. We love to explore different art and craft activities. Did you notice our foot print rainbow hanging in the front entryway? We also love investigating new sensory experiences: hard and soft, loud and quiet. We are learning so much!

Illnesses are still active in the school, so please wash hands upon arrival!

We enjoy talking to each of you in the mornings or evenings, so feel free to bring up any issues to us at that time.

Happy birthday to **R.**
~ **Michele & Brianna**

Toddlers: March is finally here. Hopefully spring is right around the corner.

For the week of March 4 – 8 we will be celebrating Dr Seuss with a different craziness each day. Please see the note outside the class room for each day's event.

During March, we will be talking about **"Babies."** We love playing with babies, so we

will turn it into all sorts of fun: bathing babies, feeding babies, reading baby books to our babies! We can't wait!!

We love visitors, so please come in and read a book or do a special activity with us one morning or afternoon this month. Ask one of us for some ideas of projects you could do with us.

All the children are getting so big! It is fun to watch them grow.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all and a very happy birthday to **B & F.**
~ **Alicia, Tara & Jenny**

Twos: Wow the month of February has flown by. We had so much fun using our 5 senses. We enjoyed ice skating in dress-up, making cookies, and bringing snow inside. Despite all of the winter fun we have had, we are looking forward to the spring and warmer weather.

During March we will be learning about **"Farm Animals and Farming."** Dress-up will be transformed into a barn so we can play with farm animals. We will learn what grows on a farm and how it gets to our grocery stores and our kitchens.

With the weather changing, please keep bringing in snow gear. We need it for the wet playground.

Happy birthday to **M, T, T, O & L.**
~ **Kristen, Cassidy & Tera**

Threes: February has come and gone, but it was full of love and learning. We can't believe how beautiful the weather has been. We have enjoyed our time outdoors in the fresh air.

This month we will start our "Dr. Seuss" theme. We will have our Wacky Wednesday celebration on March 6 and we will honor Dr. Seuss' birthday on Friday, March 8 by having our Seuss Celebration. For the remainder of the month we will learn about "Weather" and "The Post Office."

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the classroom so far this year! We love having special baked treats brought in to share, and guests come in to read or do an activity with us. If you are interested in joining us for a morning or afternoon of fun, please sign up on our parent activity calendar for a day and time that works for your schedule.

Please continue to bring in your child's winter gear to school. We will continue to wear boots because of the muddy mess outdoors even after the snow is melted.

Happy birthday to **P**.

We are looking forward to an exciting month ahead!

~ **Jared, Vanessa & Ashley**

Pre-K 3/4s: February was a month filled with love, letter writing, and learning about the post office. Thank you to all of the families that generously donated supplies to help support our study. The children especially enjoyed writing and drawing letters to deliver to their classmates' mailboxes.

We ended February by beginning our unit on construction and building, and look forward to experimenting with a variety of building materials and tools. Soon we will have a classroom full of busy builders!

We will also begin a scientific study about weather, and explore the many changes we can observe first hand in nature. We will chart and graph the changes we can see and determine if March will come in like a lion and go out like a lamb!

We have a field trip on **Friday, April 5**. Please join us for our trip to Proctors Theater. Check your calendar to see if you are able to come with us! We need 10 drivers.

The school year is flying by and we are so proud of the growth we have seen in our 3/4s since September.

Happy birthday to **H**.

~ **Maura, Stephanie and Brenda**

Pre-K 4s: We are going to have a great Dr. Seuss week (March 4 – 8.) Be ready to get crazy!

Monday	Crazy Hat Day
Tuesday	Crazy Sock Day
Wednesday	Wacky Wednesday
Thursday	Green Day
Friday	PJ Day

Other themes in March are "**Fairy Tale Week,**" and "**Rainbows/St Patricks Day.**"

We have a field trip on **Friday, April 5**. Please join us for our trip to Proctors Theater. Check your calendar to see if you are able to come with us! We need 10 drivers.

Thank you to all our Mystery Readers in February. The kids loved each reader! Please sign up for a March date.

Happy birthday to **K, A, O, A, & G**.
~**Tara, Sherry & Angie**

Important Dates

Mar. 13 - Scholastic Book Orders Due

Mar. 22 – **BPS Closes at 1PM**

April 5 – Pre-k Classes Field Trip to Proctors Theater
