



## 😊 Small Talk 😊

### The Monthly Newsletter of Bethlehem Preschool November 2018

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#### Welcome to November!

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#### BPS Harvest Feast

Our classes will celebrate the autumn harvest on **Tuesday, Nov. 20**. Our goal is to establish a feeling of community within the Preschool by allowing each class to contribute to the feast. Each room will be preparing a dish to be shared at our annual "Child-made Luncheon." Parents are welcome to join us. If you have a family recipe you would like to share, please feel free to speak to a teacher or a director. If you are interested in attending please tell your child's teacher by **Friday, Nov. 16**. We hope to see you there.

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#### Holiday Caring and Sharing Programs

Bethlehem Preschool is once again participating in the Bethlehem community **Holiday Caring and Sharing Program and the Toys For Tots Program**. We are waiting for more information on this year's program, and will pass on this year's giving opportunities as soon as we have more information. The Toys for Tots collection box will be available mid-November. Thank you for your generosity in advance.

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#### School Calendar for November 2018

BPS will **CLOSE early** on **Monday, November 12** for a half day training session for the staff. **Please pick up your child by 1 PM.**

We will be **CLOSED** on Thursday, **Nov. 22 AND Friday, Nov 23** in observance of Thanksgiving.

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#### SaveAround Coupon Books - \$25

We have had a very successful fall with our SaveAround Coupon Book fundraiser! Thanks to everyone for your efforts!

**We still have several books available for sale. They also offer out of town books for many other cities. These make a great holiday gifts. Please see Mary or Cathy if you would like to make a purchase.**

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#### Label, Label, Label!

Please put your child's name on all the items you bring into Preschool! This includes coats, boots, snow pants, hats, mittens, blankets, and nap time sleep buddies.

Toys from home can easily get broken or lost, so please leave them at home.

Thanks for your cooperation.

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#### Scholastic Books

This month's orders are due **November 13**. Consider placing your book order on-line. Create a username and password at [www.scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs). On the parent page, click the "**Don't have a user name and password?**" link, and register for your own username and password. When prompted, enter the one-time **Class Activation Code** for Bethlehem Preschool, **GTCDJ**. Follow the instructions for ordering the books. The books will be delivered to Bethlehem Preschool along

with our “paper order.”

Make checks payable to **Scholastic Reading Club, or order on-line.**

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### Upcoming Parent / Teacher Conferences

Teachers in all of our classrooms use a curriculum and assessment system written by the company “Teaching Strategies.” The system has 38 objectives for learning and development.

The children are observed on a daily basis; these observations are recorded monthly. The “Family Conference Form” is completed at the end of each 3 month period. Your child’s fall summary form will be available in early December. You will also receive your child’s developmental information in March and June.

The Family Conference Form is a summary of development & learning. It is intended to give parents an idea of your child’s strengths, and to develop an individual plan for your child’s development and learning. The report is intended to include parental input establishing goals for each child. We welcome you to discuss your child’s goals with classroom staff members.

Please look for sign-up sheets to schedule an appointment to discuss the Family Conference Form. . Of course, you are welcome to request a conference at any time.

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### Upcoming Family Educational Workshops

We are planning several workshops over the next few months on topics that may be of interest to your family:

**Potty Training Basics** – This workshop is geared for families getting ready for the potty training phase of their child’s development. We will discuss such topics as “How to know if my child is ready,” and “How do we accomplish this?” We will explore the importance of home and school cooperation. The workshop will be **Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.** Childcare is available. Please sign up on the sheets upstairs.

**The Next Step: Becoming a Kindergartener** – This workshop is geared for parents of the Pre-K ¾s and Pre-K 4s children who will enter

kindergarten in the fall of 2019. Topics of discussion will include kindergarten screening, kindergarten standards, transitioning to a new school, and preparation at BPS for Kindergarten. The meeting will take place in **January.**

**The Preschool Experience: Working Towards Kindergarten Readiness** – This workshop will be presented to the parents of current 3s and Pre-K 3/4s children who will attend Bethlehem Preschool pre-kindergarten in the fall of 2020. Topics of discussion will include curriculum in both Pre-K rooms. Parents will have the opportunity to understand kindergarten preparation and ask any questions that they may have. This workshop will take place in **May.**

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### Classroom Notes

**Infants:** November is here! So-long to summer. We go outside as often as possible, so please make sure your child has warm outside clothes, including hats and mittens.

The babies are very active and busy every day. We love to color with crayons, explore in our sensory table, and climb on our soft cushions.

We will be sending home a special bag with a book and a friend for you to share with your child. We encourage you to take a photo and tell us about your time reading with your child.

Happy birthday to **F and E**, and a happy and safe Thanksgiving to all!  
~ **Michele & Brianna**

**Toddlers:** November already?! Time is going by fast.

Please remember to bring in hats, mittens and heavy coats. We go outside every day we can. It is one of our favorite activities!

During November our theme is **“Caring and Sharing.”** We will explore books on being a good friend and practice playing nicely with each other.

We love visitors. Please talk to one of the teachers if you would like to come into the class to do something special with the children.

Our Harvest Feast is on November 20. Parents are welcome to join us. Please let us

know if you are interested in sharing this experience with your child.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Happy birthday to **M and J M.**

~ **Alicia, Jenny & Tara**

**Twos:** It feels like winter is around the corner. Please make sure your child has hats, gloves and a warm jacket. We love to go out to exercise and play. Also, check extra clothes to make sure they are for colder weather.

We had a lot of fun with our October activities: carving our “sad” pumpkin, sponge painting, doing apple prints, and, especially, making applesauce.

We hope you are enjoying the “Take Home Bag.” If you haven’t received it yet, no worries, you will.

We look forward to November fun. We will talk about “**Turkeys**” and “**Giving Thanks.**” We will do all sorts of fun art projects and read lots of turkey stories!

We are off to a great start this year. As always, parents are welcome to come in to the class at any time to read to the children or do a simple project. Please speak to one of us if you are interested.

~ **Kristen, Tera and Cassidy**

**Threes:** Fall is in full swing and the Threes class has enjoyed many seasonal activities that come with the cool weather: leaf raking and jumping, apple baking, and pumpkin carving. Autumn is awesome! With the weather starting to cool down please be sure to bring all coats and cold weather gear labeled with your child’s name.

To begin the month, we will start our study of “**Shapes and Colors.**” We will be having a “rainbow week” where we will wear a different color of the rainbow each day. We will send out an announcement soon. We will end the month by learning about “**Giving Thanks / Family / Friendship.**”

We would love to have visitors this month. Please sign up on our parent activity calendar on the parent information board if you are interested in reading a story or joining us for a craft.

Here’s to another month of investigation, imagination and exploration.

Happy birthday to **T and J.**

~ **Jared, Ashley & Vanessa**

**Pre-K 3/4s:** Now that fall is in full swing, please be sure to dress your child appropriately for the weather, as we try to go outside daily. Also, please be sure all of your child’s outerwear is labelled and stored in their cubby in the hallway. We are encouraging all students to be responsible for their own belongings, and work to dress themselves in their coats, hats mittens, etc. At home, you can make it a challenge and time your child to see how fast they can dress themselves.

October was a busy month studying pumpkins and nocturnal animals. We especially loved ending the month with a pajama day!

In November, we will start with a study of colors and shapes, and end by studying families and traditions. We will send home a letter soon asking each family to send in a special family recipe. We will compile the recipes into a classroom cookbook.

We are so proud and impressed with how hard the children in the Pre-k 3/4s have been working, and how much they have accomplished during the first 2 months of school. We look forward to another month of growth, exploration and fun!

Happy birthday to **B, S, A and S.**

~ **Maura, Brenda & Stephanie**

**Pre-K 4s:** Our November field trip is to the Saratoga Children’s Museum on November 6. Please sign up to drive! We will leave BPS at 9am.

Please check your child’s extra clothing box. The weather is changing quickly, and some boxes still have summer clothes in them.

Fall is here, so please bring in hats and gloves. We go outside every day!

This month we continue to work on sequences and patterns, as well as letter writing and learning the sounds of each letter. Our studies for the month are “**Corn & Scarecrows**” and “**Food & Sharing.**”

Keep an eye out for a special take-home project that you can do with your child. We can’t wait to see the results of your efforts!

Mark your calendars for our Harvest Feast on **Tuesday, November 20.** We will be preparing a delicious dish to share with the other rooms and look forward to eating what

every class has made.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

~ **Tara, Sherry & Angie**

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### **Important Dates**

**Nov. 12** - BPS Closes at 1pm for staff training

**Nov. 13** - Scholastic Book Orders Due

**Nov. 20** - BPS Community Harvest Feast

**Nov. 22 & 23** - **BPS Closed** for **Thanksgiving**

**Nov. 27** - Potty Training Seminar