



## 😊 Small Talk 😊

### The Monthly Newsletter of Bethlehem Preschool September 2018

Bethlehem Preschool, Inc.  
397 Rt. 9W, PO Box 4, Glenmont, NY 12077  
(518) 463-8091 [www.bethlehempreschool.com](http://www.bethlehempreschool.com)

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Welcome to our 44th school year at Bethlehem Preschool! We are looking forward to an exciting year with our friends, new and old! We would like to welcome all of the new children and parents who joined our family!

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#### **BPS Closed**

We will be closed on **Monday, October 8** for Columbus Day. Please mark your calendars.

Our BPS calendar has been handed out to each family and it is available on-line from our website [www.bethlehempreschool.com](http://www.bethlehempreschool.com).

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#### **Morning Hand Washing**

It's the beginning of a new school year, and with the new year comes a new set of germs and illnesses. In order to help minimize the spread of illness, when you and your child arrive for the day, please go directly to the sink and wash your child's hands. This procedure can be worked into your morning drop off routine. It is a great way to start the day, especially if your child begins his/her day at the table for morning snack. Thanks for helping us minimize the spread of illness!

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#### **Emergency Information**

New York State requires that we confirm the emergency contact information from our families at least once per year. Please stop by the front desk and review, correct, sign and date your child's blue registration card. Thank you in advance.

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#### **Front Door Security**

Please remember:

- **Do not share your access card or fob with anyone.** Each family has been

assigned a card or a fob to be used by the child's parents /guardians only. Do not give these cards/fobs to other family members or sitters.

- **Family members or sitters who occasionally pick up a child will be let in by someone at the front desk.** Please remind them that they will need a photo ID and please let us know they are going to pick up the child.
- **Please write a note or call with the name of the person picking up your child.** Please do not email this information, as emailed information may not get to the classroom in a timely fashion.
- **Please let the front desk personnel unlock the door for anyone without an access card.** Unless you know that the person has an access card, please ask them to use the intercom to gain access to the building.
- **Please be sure that both sides of the front door close tightly behind you.**

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#### **Peanut and Other Food Allergies**

The **Threes** class and **Pre-k 3/4s** class have children who are allergic to peanuts or tree nuts. **We ask that you do not bring foods into the Threes or Pre-k 3/4s classrooms with peanuts or tree nuts. Breakfast is available at 7am so there is no need to bring in food from home. Please refrain from bringing in food at breakfast time.**

**Please note that the Pre-k 3/4s is the early morning drop off room, so do not bring in food with nuts into that room.** Thank you for your consideration.

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## Fund Raisers

### Tools for Schools: We Need Your Help!

Bethlehem Preschool is once again participating in Price Chopper's "**Tools for Schools**," a program in which Preschool earns bonus points based on purchases at any Price Chopper. Program points are earned on your Price Chopper **AdvantEdge card**.

We currently have 88 advantage cards signed up for Bethlehem Preschool. Last year we collected over 35,000 points towards classroom equipment. Just imagine our earnings if we had every family with an AdvantEdge card participating!

If you have not yet enrolled, Preschool can enroll for you (leave your 10 digit AdvantEdge card number and your name on a note at the front desk,) or you can enroll on line at <http://www.pricechopper.com/savings/tools-for-schools>. Our school code is **18650**.

**Discount Books:** This year we are selling the discount book "**SaveAround**." The book sells for \$25. Each family will receive one SaveAround coupon book to purchase and an order form to sell the book to family, friends and co-workers. If you sell 5 books, you get 1 free!

These books will be distributed the week of **September 17** and can be sold until **October 12**. If you do not want to purchase the book, please return it to the front desk.

BPS earns \$12.50 for each **SaveAround** coupon book we sell. Thank you in advance for your help with this fund raiser.

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### Storage of items at school

The first rule is: **label, label, label!!**

**Mailboxes:** Each child has a mailbox located in his/her classroom. Your child's art work, as well as important notes from the office or your child's teacher, will be placed in the mailbox. Please remove papers from the mailbox every day.

**Blankets:** All blankets, with the exception of the Toddler's and Infant's, are stored in wooden "cubbies" located in the hallways or classrooms. Toddler blankets are stored in the

blanket bag on each child's coat hook. **The blanket must be small enough to fit in the designated spot.** A small stuffed animal is allowed, if needed, for rest time. **Pillows are not allowed.** Please remember to bring blankets home on Fridays to be laundered.

**Extra clothing:** All extra clothing must be stored in a shoe box and kept in the upstairs bathroom or downstairs storage room across from the bathroom. Clothing should not be stored on the coat hooks.

**Coat hooks:** Only coats, hats, boots, snow pants and mittens should be placed on the coat hooks. These winter items may be stored in a small bag if necessary.

**Home toys:** We discourage children from bringing toys from home. **Please have your child leave toys at home.** Thank you for your cooperation.

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### Book Orders

Scholastic Book Club order forms are distributed each month. This is an excellent way to provide your child with age-appropriate, award winning literature. It is also a wonderful school fund raiser. Each month Preschool is able to purchase books through a bonus point system based on the number of books our families order. Thanks to the bonus points, we have been able to develop an extensive children's library in each classroom.

Scholastic Book Club allows parents to place their book order on-line. Create a username and password at <https://clubs.scholastic.com/>. On the page, click the parent button at "**First time Here?**" 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. Order \$25 or more online, and get \$5 more to spend on that order. The books will be delivered to Bethlehem Preschool. This month's orders are due **September 21**. Make checks payable to "**Scholastic**" or **place your order on-line**.

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## Classroom Notes

**Infants:** Welcome to another school year at BPS!

We are excited to welcome a few new babies to our room. M and K are just starting with us, while J, E, E, F and A have been with us for the summer. We are excited to get to know each of them and their families.

Be on the lookout for pictures on our bulletin board. We add photos throughout the year and love to see the children grow! **We would love to add family photos to our photo album. Please send in photos of your family as soon as possible.**

We are ready to explore all the toys that we have in the classroom. We change them as we grow to make play interesting and challenging.

We love outdoor play. Please continue to bring in sunscreen or check your supply. **Also, please wash your child's hands in the downstairs children's bathroom when you arrive at the Preschool in the morning. This is an important part of the day! Thanks for your cooperation.**

Please also welcome Brianna to the Infant room as our assistant teacher.

Feel free to stop in with questions or concerns. We are happy to speak with you.  
~ **Michele & Brianna**

**Toddlers:** It's hard to believe the summer is over. Welcome to a new school year. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting year, as we get to know each of the children.

As we start off the school year, our art projects will be simple: coloring with crayons, finger painting and some simple glue projects. Look for the end-products hanging up in the room.

Throughout the year we would love to have parent involvement in our classroom. We encourage parents to come in to read to us or do a special activity with us.

We understand it will take a while for you and your child to become familiar with our classroom, so if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to come and talk to us.

Please check your child's mailbox everyday; they are in the back corner of the

room.

~ **Alicia, Tara & Jenny**

**Twos Room:** Welcome to the Two's. We are looking forward to a happy, loving and exciting year with all our new friends.

We begin the new year by getting to know our new friends and families. Please help us by bringing in a family photo so we can put faces and names together. We will display the photos throughout the room.

We encourage parents to be involved as much as possible. For example, if you would like to come in and read or do an art project with us, we would love it.

Our day is filled with learning, playing, hugs and kisses. We go outside, weather permitting, as much as possible. Art is a big part of our busy day, so we may get messy!

We look forward to knowing more about you and your child. It is going to be a great year! Let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

~ **Kristen, Tera & Cassidy**

**Threes Room:** Welcome to the Threes Room. It will be an exciting school year filled with exploration, imagination and observation. Throughout the year the children and teachers will work together on a variety of studies. Studies are an in-depth investigation of a topic over time that is based on the interests and background experiences of the children in our class. Our first study for September is **"Beginning the School Year."** We will focus on making friends, knowing classroom and school rules, and learning concepts such as colors and shapes.

As the children settle into the new routine of the classroom, they will practice more independence and self-help. You can help your child strengthen these abilities by encouraging them to dress themselves, use the toilet and wear underwear, and clean up after themselves. It is important for the children to have consistency in the classroom and at home to master these skills.

We would like to remind you to bring in a few photos of your family for our Family Board. We love to look at them throughout the day.

As the cooler weather comes our way,

please remember to dress your child in layers, and bring in light jackets for morning outdoor play. Also, please fill the extra clothes boxes with outfits for the new season. Thank you.

Here's to a month of imagination, exploration, and investigation!

Happy birthday to **J and P!**

~ **Jared, Ashley & Vanessa**

**Pre-K Three/Fours:** Welcome to the Pre-k 3/4s classroom!

We are excited to start the school year off with the study, **"In My Neighborhood."** This study will encourage children to share about their own families and places where they live, as well as help us explore the community around us. This will be a great opportunity for us to get to know each other and build a sense of community in the classroom. As the month continues, we will begin a study of **"Apples."** We look forward to using all our senses in learning more about this delicious fruit.

Please check out our **"Window to Our World"** bulletin board above your child's mailbox. Here you will find information about the studies we are working on, the letter and book of the week, opportunities to join us for story time, and other important announcements.

Our first field trip of the year is to Indian Ladder Farms on **Thursday, September 20** for apple picking, a petting zoo and a tour of the apple orchard and cider press. We will leave at 9:15 and return by noon. We have a sign-up sheet for drivers outside the classroom door.

**Please sign-up if you can join us.**

We are excited to start this school year journey with you and your children, and look forward to lots of laughter, learning, and fun!

Happiest birthday wishes to **Q, R and L!**

~**Maura, Stephanie, and Brenda**

**Pre-K Fours:** Welcome to the Pre-K Fours room! We are excited and looking forward to a great year!

We enjoy having parent volunteers come into the room to read (mystery reader information will be coming out soon!), share

family traditions and to tell the children about their jobs. We will be sending home more information on volunteer opportunities, including our field trips, as they come up. In fact, our first trip is to Indian Ladder Farms on **Thursday, September 20** for apple picking, a petting zoo and a tour of the apple orchard and cider press. We will leave at 9:15 and return by noon. We have a sign-up sheet for drivers outside the classroom door. **Please sign-up if you can join us.**

During the month of September, we will be busy learning about our classroom and the classroom rules. Our studies for the month will include:

- **Welcome to the 4s**
- **All About Me**
- **Apples**

We will be exploring the letters L & F, and the number "1". We will introduce patterns and four step sequences that we will work on all year.

**Please send in one or two family photos so we can hang them up in the classroom. Thank you.**

**Remember: Please do not send in toys from home. They can get lost or broken!**

We always welcome your suggestions about themes or activities. If you have something special to share with the class, please let us know.

Happy birthday to **V, T and S.**

~ **Tara, Sherry & Angie**

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## **Calendar of Events**

**Sept. 20** – Pre-K classes - field trip to Indian Ladder Farms

**Sept. 21** – **Scholastic** Book orders due.  
**Activation Code GTCDJ for on-line orders**

**Oct. 8** – **Columbus Day - BPS closed.**

**Oct. 12** - **"KidStuff"** coupon book orders due.