



BRADLEY HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

240-204-5210

Great Teaching, Great Learning, Every Child, Every Day

June 1, 2017

Principal's Corner



By Karen Caroscio

This will be the final newsletter for the 2016-2017 school year. This has been a fantastic year filled with learning, great successes, and memorable experiences. Remember to have your children read and write over the summer so they can practice strategies and skills learned this year. There are links on our website to mathematics resources that they can also use to keep their skills up.

Thank you to Mary Noone, Michelle Herman, the PTA, and all parents who contributed to Staff Appreciation Week at the beginning of May. The staff thoroughly enjoyed the bagel breakfast, muffin madness, Chopt salad bar, and Cinco de Mayo luncheon. Everyone felt immensely appreciated. We are fortunate to work with such a supportive community.

Students were overjoyed at the selection at the spring Book Fair. Thank you to the book fair team, Bridget Gray, Patty Heidemann, Johnny Hsiung, Michelle Lanz, and Sara Mayman, in addition to all the volunteers who supported the effort. This got some fabulous reading materials directly into students' hands while also raising money for the PTA.

On May 4th and 5th, we welcomed over 80 new kindergarten students to the building. The new Bradley Hills students met their teachers, participated in fun activities, received a tour of the building, and ended with their first ride on a school bus. Thank you to all staff who worked to organize and support the event. Thank you as well to Bridget Gray and Jill Wiener for organizing parent support, as well as all the volunteers who came to help check parents in and answer questions for new community members.

Thank you to our Wellness Committee for a fun Rainbow Week. Students enjoyed seeing the percentage of students in each grade level who had different colors of fruits and vegetables in their lunches each day. The kids thoroughly enjoyed the healthy samples in the cafeteria, too!

On May 18th, the Green Team traveled to Sandy Point State Park to officially receive our status as a Certified Green School. Students made paper, learned how to take pedals off of bicycles, learned how trash impacts sewage pipes, and other interesting information. The school received a plaque and a flag announcing our certification. We hope to have them prominently displayed soon.



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The community had a wonderful time at the Spring Picnic on May 21st. Five Guys staff were here flipping burgers and Potomac Pizza spread the pepperonis around. Students enjoyed dancing to the D.J. Thank you to Jamie Bresnick and Felicia Schweitzer for spearheading the event.

The end of each school year brings some staffing changes. Don't miss the Fond Farewells and Warm Welcomes sections below for further details about departing and incoming staff. We have also included information about teachers who are tentatively planned to switch grade levels.

Have a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing everyone back in September!

SUMMER MAILING ONLINE

Similar to last year, we will be putting all information online later in the summer. Reducing the amount of paper we sent home is part of our work as a Maryland Certified Green School. When everything has been posted, you will receive an email to let you know where to find the information on the Bradley Hills website. Please make sure we have your updated email information!

FOND FAREWELLS

As the school year closes, we will be saying farewell to some staff members who will be beginning new adventures. Please join us in sending well wishes to our departing staff: Mr. Godinez, Ms. Hale, Mrs. Holbart, Mrs. Kambanis, Ms. Manion, Mr. Obstgarten, Mrs. Panetta, and Mrs. Van Horn. We wish each of them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Mr. Godinez: "I would like to thank all the staff and all of the students for a very special first year in this county. Bradley Hills's instrumental music students have worked hard to get a great sound on their instruments, and all of the hard work has paid off in fun times as well as my respect and admiration for everyone. I wish all of my students a great year that will be coming up, and I am very grateful for all of you as you are a milestone in my life!"

Ms. Hale: "As many of you are aware, I got married in March and my husband is stationed at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia. I will be moving to Georgia to start married life together. I am excited for this next chapter, but sad to leave my family, friends, and this community. It has been a pleasure to begin my teaching career at this school. I never expected to be able to work with such supportive and amazing staff, parents, students, and administration so early in my teaching career, but I'm thankful for every moment at this school. I'm a better teacher because of my time at BHES and I look forward to bringing everything I've learned to Georgia. Thank you so much for all the love, support, and well wishes. I will miss Bradley Hills very much!"



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Mrs. Holbert: “I had a great time teaching at Bradley Hills and will miss the new students and teachers I got to know!”

Mrs. Kambanis: “After 5 years at this amazing school, it is with mixed emotions that I let you know I am moving on to a smaller part-time position in MCPS. The Bradley Hills family has been with me for 3 of my 4 pregnancies, provided me with an abundance of love and generosity, and will absolutely be missed. I have accepted a new position that will allow me to have more time at home, as I adjust to life with 4. It will also provide me with the opportunity to work with students in a school setting (what I absolutely love to do!). I hope this is not just a fond farewell, but rather an “until I see you next time.” For those who know me well, you know I’m often spotted around the area: at a Bethesda youth sporting event, indoor cycling studio, local Starbucks, and a variety of restaurants! Please feel free to keep in touch, as good-byes are never easy. I will miss this place, the staff, the students, the families, and the many fond memories.”

Ms. Manion: “It has been a joy getting to be a part of your community the past two years when I taught music on Friday mornings. You are wonderful musicians and I hope we all cross paths again. Keep singing!”

Mr. Obstgarten: “To say that I have enjoyed my two years at Bradley Hills would be an understatement. From the moment I walked in, I knew this was a special place with a supportive community, dedicated staff, and hard-working students. While I am excited for the opportunity to continue to learn and grow as a principal intern at Harmony Hills Elementary School, I will greatly miss this community. I have learned a great deal from everyone I encountered. I hope I have been able to pay that back by making a difference for the students and staff during my time at Bradley Hills.”

Mrs. Panetta: “It is with deep regret that I inform you that I won’t be returning to Bradley Hills E.S. next year. As many of you know, my position as an IDA [Instructional Data Analyst] has been eliminated and I am seeking another position at another school in the county. I feel very fortunate and honored to have worked with such fine, hard-working individuals on the staff and the exceptional students here at Bradley Hills, not to mention the most generous and supporting parents. Thank you kindly for all your support.”

Mrs. Van Horn: “It’s been a great 11 years teaching here at Bradley Hills. I’m very sad to say I will not be returning next year. Many of you know I got married this past winter and my husband and I are now expecting a baby girl in the fall! Although I am so sad to leave the wonderful staff and families



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here, I am extremely excited to become a mom and spend the year at home with our baby. I can't thank you all enough for the great memories and experiences here at Bradley Hills. I will cherish every one of them and will miss you all."

WARM WELCOMES FOR 2017-2018

We are currently in the process of hiring new staff members. We are excited to welcome Ms. EunHee Cho as the assistant principal, Ms. Laura Batis as a special education teacher, Ms. Daniella Krohn as an instrumental music teacher, Ms. Suzanne Sugar as a general music teacher, and Ms. Patricia Touchette as an art teacher. Read about each of them below:

Ms. Laura Batis, joining the special education team: "Greetings Bradley Hills! I am so excited to be joining the Special Education team. I grew up in Montgomery County, and have been teaching in the county for four years, working in both middle and elementary schools. In my free time, I love to spend time with my family, enjoy the outdoors, bake, and read. I hope that you have a wonderful summer, and I am looking forward to meeting everyone in the fall!"

Ms. EunHee Cho, joining the administrative team as the assistant principal: "Hello! My name is EunHee Cho and I am thrilled to introduce myself as the newest assistant principal of Bradley Hills Elementary School. I started my journey in MCPS over twenty years ago and have served in a variety of roles, including ESOL teacher, staff development teacher, department chair, ESOL resource teacher, ESOL achievement specialist, assistant school administrator, and acting supervisor. I am passionate about student learning and achievement. I strongly believe that excellent daily instruction and care of the whole child lead to every student's academic success and social and emotional well-being. I look forward to getting to know each student, families, faculty, and community members of the Bradley Hills Elementary family."

Ms. Daniella Krohn, joining the arts team as an instrumental music teacher: "Hello, Bradley Hills community! I'm Daniella Krohn and I'm excited to be coming on as your instrumental music teacher for the 2017-2018 school year. This will be my fifth year teaching in MCPS. I will also be teaching at Stonegate and Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary Schools. I have taught music at all grade levels. My father happens to be a retired MCPS instrumental teacher. When I'm not in the classroom, you'll probably find me at a rehearsal or on the yoga mat. I look forward to meeting everyone in fall, so be ready to make some music!"

Ms. Suzanne Sugar, joining the arts team as a general music teacher: "Hello Bradley Hills! I will be your new part-time music teacher and this is an exciting way for me to kick off my 15th year of



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teaching! I currently also teach music at Cold Spring Elementary School. I am a Harp Performance Major from Peabody Conservatory and I love incorporating movement and play in the classroom. I hope to leave the students inspired by music!”

Ms. Patricia Touchette, joining the arts team as an art teacher: “As a former alumni, I am very excited to join the BHES community as your part-time art teacher. My love for art began at this school and I look forward to sharing this love with BHES students by developing their creativity and appreciation for the arts. I am a veteran teacher of 26 years, Nationally Board Certified in Elementary Art Education, and a mentor of University of Maryland art education majors.”

GRADE LEVEL CHANGES

Each school year sees some teachers switch grade levels. Please know that all plans are subject to change before the school year begins. Our current plans have Mrs. Kemper and Ms. Campbell moving to fifth grade, Ms. Paul moving to third grade, and Mr. Bidwick moving to 4th grade. Tentative grade level teachers are shown below:

<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>1st Grade</u>	<u>2nd Grade</u>	<u>3rd Grade</u>	<u>4th Grade</u>	<u>5th Grade</u>
Mrs. Carmen	Mrs. Davis	Mrs. Caropreso	Mr. Rodriguez	Ms. Dyer	Ms. Yasechko
Ms. Jimenez	Mrs. Jamieson	Mrs. Kim	Ms. Berger	Mr. Bidwick	Ms. Campbell
Mr. Leavitt	Ms. Mack	Mr. Muha	Ms. Lipowsky	Ms. Hicks	Mrs. DeBuchananne
TBD	Mrs. Morstein	Ms. Suggs	Ms. Paul	Mrs. Smith	Mrs. Kemper
			Mr. Sichler		Ms. Umana

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Did you know that when children read over the summer they are more likely to maintain the progress they have made throughout the school year? Did you know they could possibly get a head start on learning for next school year? Bradley Hills has signed up to participate in the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge, a free online reading program that invites children to log their reading minutes all summer. Our school goal is to read **500,000** minutes in an effort to sharpen our reading skills and earn prizes and recognition for the hard work!

What can I earn?



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- If we reach **500,000** minutes as a school, each grade level will have the chance to throw a ball at our ***dunk tank*** featuring our principal, Mrs. Caroscio! For every 100,000 minutes over 500,000 minutes we read, we earn another ball for another chance to sink her!
- The grade level that reads the most minutes will earn an ***ice cream sundae party***
- As students log their time online, they will unlock a book featuring fun activities including games, videos, quizzes and more. You will also earn digital rewards and learn about great new books to read through Scholastic
- Our school also has the chance to be recognized with a mention in the *2018 Scholastic Book of World Records!*

How do I participate?

- The fun begins **NOW** and will last through September 8th, 2017
- Use the log in and password that your teacher provides you with (passwords can be changed after logging in) to log on at scholastic.com/summer
- Log the minutes you read each day – Read on your own, read with a parent or sibling or friend, listen to reading, read on a road trip! Every minute you are reading counts toward our goal 😊
- Don't know what to read? On the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge site you will have access to free book lists across all ages. Also check out Mrs. Purdham's page on the Bradley Hills website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bradleyhillses/specials/reading/> and click on "Summer Reading Book List" for more leveled book selections.
- If your child forgets his or her username, please contact Scholastic at 1-800-SCHOLASTIC or email summerchallengehelp@scholastic.com

So, what are you waiting for?! Start reading to log your minutes and ***dunk Mrs. Caroscio!***

AN UPDATE ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 OPERATING BUDGET

The Montgomery County Council approved an operating budget for Fiscal Year 2018 on May 25. The budget allocates \$2.52 billion to MCPS—a \$62.3 million increase more than the current fiscal year. This budget will allow MCPS to manage significant enrollment growth and build the foundation and structure needed to ensure that all MCPS students are able to achieve at higher levels. The approved budget includes investments in strategic priority accelerators focused on improving student performance while narrowing achievement gaps. The Board of Education will take final action on the budget on June 13. Please visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/ for more information.



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REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CTE SUMMER CAMPS

Do you have a child in middle school that is interested in Career and Technology Education (CTE)? MCPS is hosting a series of summer camps, just for middle schoolers, to help them learn more about the district's CTE programs.

Students can cook up something delicious in the culinary arts program or get their hands dirty in the automotive technology program. They can explore pre-engineering, game design, and so much more.

The first session will run from June 26–29. The second session will run from July 31–August 3. The camps will be offered at Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Richard Montgomery high schools. Each camp includes two programs of study and the cost for each camper is \$50. Financial assistance is available for students who receive FARMS services. More information is available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/career-readiness/news/index.aspx?id=530250.

SUMMER READ AND LEARN PROGRAM STARTS JUNE 10

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) invites all students to participate in this year's Summer Reading Program, which will run **June 10 to September 10**. This year's theme is "Build a Better World."

The program features learning activities, book lists, and fun educational events to encourage learning all summer long. Prizes (while supplies last) will also be awarded upon completion of the learning activity tracks. Starting June 10, participants can sign up for the program and keep track of the books they read or have read to them. Registration will be available [online](#) and at any MCPL branch library.

UPCOMING PARENT ACADEMY WORKSHOPS

The spring season of the Parent Academy will end on **Thursday, June 15**. Be sure to take advantage of the free workshops that will be offered in the next three weeks:

Active Parenting Now (Parts 4, 5, and 6)

June 1, 8, and 15

Francis Scott Key Middle School

910 Schindler Drive

Silver Spring, Maryland 20903



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	School Events
June 1, 2017	Instrumental Music Concert – 7:30 p.m.
June 2, 2017	SGA Spirit Day - Mismatch Day
June 2, 2017	Field Day
June 2, 2017	Birthday Bash (July Birthdays) – 2:30 p.m.
June 7, 2017	Volunteer Luncheon – 12:00-1:00 p.m.
June 8, 2017	Field Day Rain Date
June 9, 2017	SGA Spirit Day - Dress-Up Day
June 9, 2017	Author's Day
June 15, 2017	Class Parties – 2:45 p.m.
June 15, 2017	Fifth Grade Promotion – 7:00 p.m. – Walt Whitman H.S.
June 16, 2017	Fifth Grade Clap Out – 12:30 p.m.
June 16, 2017	Last Day of School – Early Release – 12:55 p.m.