
August 27, 2016



What's Blossoming at the Hill?

Blossom Hill Country Day School

22 Allerton Road. Lebanon, NJ 08833

www.blossomhillcountrydayschool.com T: 908-735-0888

office@blossomhillcountrydayschool.com

Dear Blossom Hill Parents,

Thank you for choosing Blossom Hill Country Day School. We are excited to begin the new school year with your children.

Please remember there is a Back to School Night on August 31st at 5:00 pm. Your children are welcome to come. You will be able to meet your teacher and see the classrooms. We will be happy to answer any questions.

As we begin the year, you might notice a change in our program. We are integrating more of a child directed program. This means the teacher will observe her student's interests and develop learning opportunities around these interests. We have also made some changes to our afternoon program. We will be offering enrichment in the afternoons such as Finger Play, Music Mania, culture appreciation, art and library.

We will also have enrichment in the mornings. Mondays we have music and Tuesdays we have athletics.

Morning routine will be a little different this year. After you sign your child in, you will walk your child to his/her room for drop off. This will give you the opportunity to see the teacher and your child's room on a regular basis.

Our first unit of study

Our first study will be on the topic of family. We are asking families to provide us with pictures to place on a piece of paper. We will

Important Announcements

For safety reasons, please remember to keep the school door closed and do not open the doors for anyone. Each teacher/student family has a code.

Donations:

We are in need of some extra clothing for students who do not have an extra pair of clothing. If you are discarding your child's clothing, please consider donating it us. We are in need of boys and girl's pants, shorts, t-shirts, shoes and boots.

Also, if you have scraps of material you would like to donate, please let us know.

laminated it and keep it in the classroom. This way, we can talk about our families and see others as well.

New Developmental Screening process

We will also be sending home a screening form to all students. This screening is a developmental screening and will help us identify what areas we need to focus more time on with your children.

We will also offer 2 parent teacher conferences during the school year.

Our Teachers:

Karen Lawton- 4's & 5's Class

Hi! My name is Karen Lawton and I have been teaching at Blossom Hill Country Day School for the past year. I have my degree in Elementary education and English, as well as my Lutheran Teacher diploma and certification. I am a NJ certified teacher and have working in early childhood for more than 20 years, as both a Head teacher and a Program Director. When I am not teaching, I help our family farm, where I also live, here in beautiful Hunterdon County. My other loves are my two grown children, cooking, reading and American History. I am looking forward to exploring, learning, creating and spending time with your children every day.

Jaime McDonald- 3's Preschool Class

Hello! My name is Jaime McDonald and I have been teaching preschool here for about a year and a half. I have a teaching degree in English and taught eighth grad language arts for seven years before I started my family. During my last couple of years in public school, I had the opportunity to also teach basic skill to early elementary students. It was during this time that I realized my passion for teaching younger children. Once my own children went off to full day school, I had the opportunity to pursue my interest in early childhood education, which is how I can teach at Blossom Hill country Day School. It has been an enriching and deeply rewarding experience teaching preschool. I love all the laughter, insights and joy your children bring to me every day. Thank you for trusting me to care for and teach them every day!

When I am not teaching, I am a full-time mom to two elementary-aged boys. If I'm not feeding them or driving them to sports practices, I try to squeeze in time for some of the things I love: being

outdoors, gardening, cooking, and reading. It is a busy but fun and happy life!

Rachel Pinto- Toddler Class

Welcome to September! My name is Rachel Pinto and I am the toddler teacher here at Blossom Hill Country Day School. A little background information about myself - I've been teaching early childhood education for over 5 years now. Of my 5 years in this field, I have spent over 3.5 years as a head toddler teacher. In addition to working with the toddlers, I have spent a brief time as a head preschool teacher, a pre-k teacher and have worked with infants. Besides my teaching background, I have a background in the medical field involving both the people (Phlebotomy, EKG, personal training, rehabilitation specialist) and animal population (veterinary technician).

When I'm not with the kids here at Blossom Hill, I'm always busy doing something. There is never a dull moment - for example every day, mainly in March through November, my time is spent either coaching or playing on highly competitive sports teams, playing in or traveling to tournaments all over the east coast on the weekends, spending time with my 2 dogs, and some days I even try to do all of that at the same time. On those rare days where I actually do have a chance to relax, I spend as much time as I possibly can outside - nothing better than being outdoors!

Jeanette Nolan- Toddlers

Hello Parents,

Hope all had an awesome summer and are ready for a rockin' new school year. My name is Jeanette Nolan and I will be one of the toddler teachers this school year. I am a mother of 3 and received my Associate degrees in Early Childhood Education as well Elementary and Secondary Education. I came to Blossom Hill last November as a Teacher's Assistant and then became a toddler teacher in January. Before coming to Blossom Hill, I was a Teacher's Assistant at a daycare and before that a Paraprofessional for 2 years.

I look forward to helping your children learn and grow. Please feel free to contact me at any time at the schools phone number or email me at jeanette@blossomhillcountrydayschool.com.

Thank you so much and hope you and your children have a great school year.

Keri McNally- Assistant afternoon teacher

My name is Keri McNally and I just turned 20 this summer. I've been at Blossom Hill for about six months now while also going to school to get my degree in childhood education. When I'm not at work or school, I can usually be found out on a hike somewhere or finding something new and exciting to cook or bake! I look forward to getting to know all of you and your children this school year!

Stephanie Mangarelli- Assistant Director/Teacher

Welcome! My name is Stephanie Mangarelli and I am happy to be a new member of your Blossom Hill Country Day School family. Let me tell you a little about myself. Prior to moving to Clinton, NJ and getting married, I gained valuable experience in both accredited childcare programs and private home based care in Pennsylvania. I first earned my national child development associate credential and then continued to achieve an Early Childhood Education degree from Bucks County Community College. In those years, I learned a great deal about the importance of a safe, nurturing and enriched environment in helping young children grow, experiment and learn. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions, ideas and feedback. I can be reached via email:

stephanie@blossomhillcountrydayschool.com or call 908-735-0888.

Claudia Roose- Preschool 3's 4's and 5's

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. My name is Claudia Roose, I have been a preschool teacher for nineteen years and I am happy to start my second year here at Blossom Hill. I will be the afternoon teacher for the PreK class. I have planned lots of fun activities and projects for this year. I encourage open communication so please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns, my email is <mailto:claudia.r@comcast.net>

Let the fun learning begin!

Mary Tapia- Assistant Teacher 3's class

Hello! My name is Miss Mary and I am very excited to be teaching at Blossom Hill Country Day School this year!

I recently graduated from Rutgers University with a psychology degree. After working at an early intervention center for a few years, I decided to become a teacher. In the fall, I will be continuing my education at the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University. My master's degree will focus on Special Education and Elementary Education K-5th grade. I am looking forward to having a wonderful school year with both you and your child!

Blossom Hill Parent Committee:

Dear BHCDS Parents-



We need volunteers! If you are interested in being a member of our parent committee group, please contact

[mailto:parents@blossomhillcountrydayschool.com?subject=Parent committee volunteer](mailto:parents@blossomhillcountrydayschool.com?subject=Parent%20committee%20volunteer)