

Panther Press

Ph: 941-792-5454

November 2023

www.bcspanthers.org



PreSchool and Elementary

By Lori Yoder, PreSchool Director & Christine Bradford, Elementary Principal

The Bradenton Christian School PreSchool and Elementary School count it a privilege to provide a Christ-centered education based on God's Word. The PreSchool team welcomes 66 of our youngest learners to school every day. They learn through play and exploration. Mrs. Yoder says "We have had a fun year so far, growing and developing, all while learning about faith in Jesus." Students in our Elementary School enjoy hands on learning through off-campus field trips, on-campus field trips, special projects, and special events.

Mrs. Bradford says, "Our 368 Elementary students explore the wonder of God's world in the classroom and out of the classroom." We hope you enjoy reading in this edition about some of the highlights this Fall in our PreSchool and Elementary School.



BCS is always looking for talented, Christ-centered faculty and staff members! Please check out the link if you are interested in opportunities at BCS
<https://www.bcspanthers.org/about-us/employment-opportunities>.

If a loved one of yours wants to receive The Panther Press or you want to feature a story about BCS, please contact Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.

Panther Press Spotlight

Meet Lori Geels and EJ Smidt



Lori and EJ are no strangers to the BCS community. EJ taught at BCS for 36 years and Lori joined the staff as a 1st Grade teacher in 1977 teaching for 32 years. Both ladies have served in various capacities from teaching, coaching and volunteering, and they continue to have a heart to support BCS. EJ shares, "The Christian community of BCS is very special. It was and is a real community becoming good friends with fellow teachers and parents. Many of these connections and friendships have lasted long into retirement." This picture of "Then and Now," is not only special in the sense we can see Lori and E.J continuing to serve years later at BCS but that they are a beautiful example of how God calls us to be His hands and feet.

Jesus Christ set the ultimate example of what it means to serve others. We look to His life to learn from Him and follow His example. Every Christian is called to serve. This calling remains constant throughout our lives, even as the ways we serve evolves. Lori shares, "Having grown up in a covenantal home, the triangle concept of a Christian home, Church and School supporting each other has always been important to me. Children of Christian parents should be taught Biblical concepts in all subject areas. This can be achieved at BCS. I'm thankful for my opportunity to serve as a teacher at BCS, and will continue to support Christian education."

If you are interested in volunteering, check out the announcement section of Panther Press for the many ways you can bless our BCS community by serving.

When the "Cubbies" from Kindergarten become the "Buddies" as Seniors!



A special Panther spotlight is on a program BCS hosts, called "Cubby Buddies." Every year, we pair up our amazing Senior students (Buddy) with our adorable Kindergarten students (Cubby), creating bonds that last a lifetime. These unique friendships are the foundation for many unforgettable moments, fun adventures, and cherished memories.

A memorable "then and now" picture of this tradition featuring "then" kindergartners Allison Strite, Chloe Huth and Abigail McSwain, who are "now" our Seniors loving on their very own "cubbies."





Campus News

Bible Bears

Each month our PreSchoolers learn a different verse from the Bible. The verse is practiced using a variety of fun and engaging activities. The children enjoy friendly competitions, motions to words, and reciting the verse through the hallway with friends. At the end of the month, they are ready to recite their verse to Mrs. Lori to earn a yummy Bible Bear!



Preschool Chapel

Tuesdays are special at preschool because this is our **Chapel Day**. Mrs. Brandi and Mrs. Lori lead students in worship, Bible stories, and prayer. It's always fun to sing and dance to our favorite worship songs. We really enjoy those days when Dr. Bradford visits from the Elementary School and leads our chapel. One of the favorite pieces the children loved was acting out the story of the Red Sea with Dr. Bradford.



Campus News



Preschool Harvest Hoopla

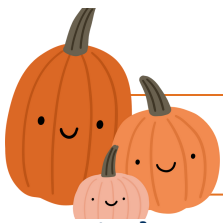
Fall is in the air and the Preschool Panthers celebrated with a morning full of fun fall activities in the gym. The children enjoyed time with friends and family as they bounced in the bounce house, picked pumpkins from the pumpkin patch, took photos at the fall photo booth, and played candy corn bowling and beanbag toss. The gigantic pile of leaves was a huge hit! Thank you to all the families who donated items and their time!



Annual Fire Safety Visit

Excitement filled the air as the BCS Kindergarteners welcomed the annual visit from the local Fire Department! Our young learners engaged in an enlightening session on fire safety, where they not only heard valuable tips but also had the chance to witness the incredible equipment designed to rescue us during emergencies. The interactive experience left the children both informed and inspired, fostering a greater understanding of fire safety and the crucial role of our local heroes in keeping us safe.

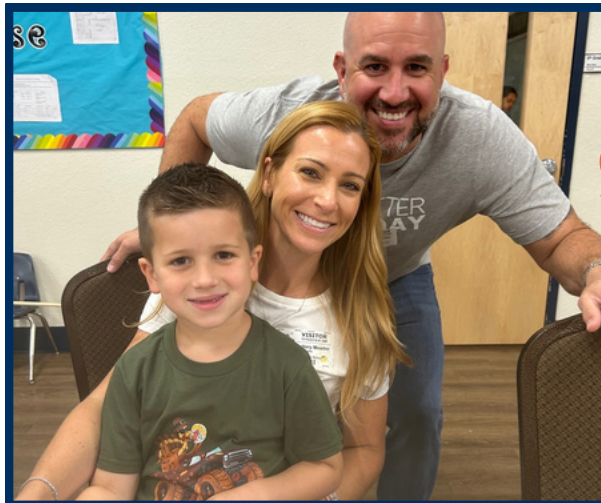




Campus News

Kindergarten Thanksgiving Breakfast

Kindergarten celebrated their annual Thanksgiving breakfast. Families joined for food, games, and fellowship. Ms. DeJong, retired BCS kindergarten teacher of 45 years, was our guest reader. We have enjoyed this tradition for the past 13 years and look forward to many more to come! We are thankful for our wonderful kindergarteners and their families!

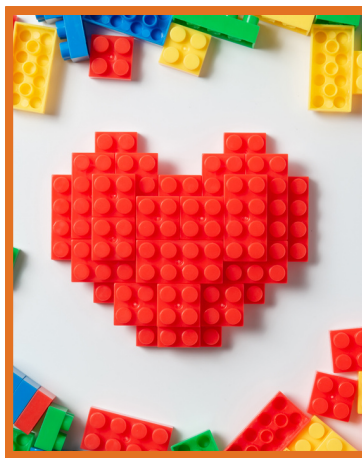


T H A N K F U L

Lego In-House Field Trip for 2nd Grade

On November 1st, 2nd grade students had a unique learning opportunity. Bricks 4 Kidz, an educational Lego STEM group, came to campus and provided an In-House Field Trip. Bricks 4 Kidz, is the largest provider of STEM-based educational enrichment programs in the world. The 2nd graders learned what an orbit is and what orbits around what in our solar system. They then learned how each planetary body moves by taking on the roles of parts of our solar system.

Once 2nd grade students understood how each planetary body moved; students created motorized orbiters out of Legos. They worked in teams of two to follow detailed directions to build and then electrify their models. The students worked well together and were able to show their cooperation and problem solving skills. Some groups were able to complete their models quickly and then added some of their own design pieces to test their own orbiters. We had a fantastic morning of building and learning.



Campus News

3rd Grade Service Field Trip

During the week of November 13th, the 3rd Grade classes attended a service project field trip at the Azinger Compassion Center in Palmetto. As a 3rd Grade team we wanted our students to truly experience “service in God’s world” as stated in our BCS mission statement.



Each class went on a different day in order to be more useful to the Center. The field trip started with a tour of the Center and an explanation of what the Center does. Students were able to learn firsthand about the organization and understand how they were helping. Students and parents then helped unload a semi-truck full of donated goods. We worked in an assembly line filling boxes with cleaning supplies to be sent to Orlando. We also broke down boxes and helped put the filled boxes onto pallets. The students really enjoyed being able to help those in need. This is a field trip we hope to continue for years to come. We feel it is never too early to start serving others.



4th Grade's Adventure at Emerson Point Preserve

Earlier this month, our students dove into nature's wonders during a memorable field trip to Emerson Point Preserve. From dipnetting in estuaries to exploring Native Floridian tools and shell mounds, the day was a hands-on lesson in Florida's rich history and biodiversity.



LET'S GO

ADVENTURE

Campus News



5th Grade Balloon Races

In 5th grade, the students start learning about the basics of physics (Newton's Laws of Motion, the Law of Conservation of Energy, etc). In order to see these laws applied in real life, they make balloon cars. They spend about two weeks learning about the process of creation. They start with an idea, learn that those ideas are not always perfect, and how they can improve on that idea. They test their final product and learn how to take accurate data, and even have a race day at the end of the unit. It was a very hands on application and the kids had a blast!



BCS Auction

Thank you for your love for BCS!

We are so thankful to report to you the blessings that were showered on Bradenton Christian School on Saturday, November 4, at our BCS Harvest Blessings Festival & Auction!

We had a wonderful Festival run by our BCS clubs/teams and local churches, yummy food and home-made desserts, great items in our Silent Auction, and a whole lot of fun at the Live Auction!

Your **generosity brought in a total of over \$160,000** from all our auctions, tickets, sponsorships, and donations... so far! Our goal we are praying for is \$180,000.

If you were unable to attend, you may still participate by donating to BCS.

1. Online here and choose the Auction and Festival gift designation:

<https://www.bcspanthers.org/get-involved/donate>

2. Or mail a check to BCS and note BCS Auction at: Bradenton Christian School, 3304 43rd Street West, Bradenton, FL 34209

thank you



FALL festival



Announcements



Interested in Volunteering?

Many hands make light work. The following verse is a famous expression of the need for Christian goodness to be visible in the world. Doing the work given by God is how His disciples distribute His light.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:15-16

Volunteering is far more than signing up for an event or completing a task. You are creating community, connecting with new families, and allowing God to shine through you.

There are many ways you may volunteer at Bradenton Christian School.

- Giving Tuesday
- All Pro Dads
- Moms in Prayer
- Check out our events that are coming up
<https://www.bcspanthers.org/get-involved>
- To volunteer please contact Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

Church Connection

Calling all BCS youth! Are you looking for a youth group or local church community to get involved with? We have information for the local youth groups and meeting times.

- **Bradenton CRC:**

Wednesday evenings at 6:45pm - 8:30pm
<https://bradentoncrc.org/ministries>

- **Bayside Community Church:**

Middle School services are during regular weekend times. High School is Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.
<https://www.mybayside.church/ministries/bayside-youth>

- **West Bradenton Baptist:**

Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm
<https://fortheneighborhood.com/students/>

- **Grace Community Church:**

Middle School services are during regular weekend times. High School meets Sunday nights from 5:30pm - 7:30pm.
<https://www.gracesarasota.com/ministry/high-school>

- **North River:**

"The Swell" takes place on Sunday evenings at 4:30pm - 7:00pm
<https://www.gonorthriver.org/students>

- **The Bridge Church:**

Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm - 8:00pm
<https://www.bridgechurchfl.com/students>

- **First Baptist Church of Bradenton:**

Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm - 7:30pm for Middle school and High school students.
<https://firstbradenton.com/>

If you would like your church featured in Panther Press for youth events, please email Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.

If you would like to speak at Middle or High School chapel services for BCS please contact Calvin Morley at CMorley@bcspanthers.org.

Announcements



Important Dates

- December 1- **No School**
- December 5- Choral Concert (Grades 6-12th)
- December 7- Strings Concert (Grades 6-12th)
- December 12- Band Concert (Grades 6-12th)
- December 12- **Late Start**
- December 19-21- Exams
- December 21- Preschool Christmas Concert
- December 21- **End of 1st Semester/ Early Dismissal 11:30**
- December 22- Jan 7- **Christmas Break**
- December 28-30- Chick-fil-A Basketball Tournament

Merry
Christmas

Late Start Details

- Start time on these Tuesdays is 9:00am for Elementary School and 9:10am for Middle and High School
- Elementary drop off begins at 8:40am, that is when supervision begins
- Students will be admitted to class at 8:55am(Elementary) and 9:00am(Middle & High)
- Parents who need to drop students off before 8:40am please register for before school care. Before school care for students in K-5 will be offered from 7:40am – 8:40am for a fee. Email mjones@bcspanthers.org or call 941-792-5454, ext. 157 for more information.



Can Food Drive

BCS Kids Can is a student led effort to serve others through our partnership with a local food pantry.

To support this effort, we are asking each BCS student to bring in **3 food items before Dec. 8th**, you may drop off items to the Elementary School.

Items the food pantry could use most are:

- peanut butter cups
- fruit cups
- granola bars
- tuna
- ramen noodles
- pudding cups
- soup cups
- cracker snacks
- mac 'n cheese
- beans with franks

Any other canned food is welcomed too. Clean out your cupboards and donate today!



Announcements

The Season of Giving Back

BCS Builders Club News

Here are our upcoming activities:

1.) Making Beds for Kids

We are excited to have the opportunity to join for the first time a Christian charity that makes bed for local children who don't have one on **Saturday, December 2nd from 9 am - noon.**

We will be drilling, sanding, and painting Bible verses on the bed slats so wear old clothes, closed-toe shoes, and bring a water bottle. We can only take 10 students (parents can also stay) so be sure to sign up quickly. If there is more than 10 interested in going, we will go again during 2nd semester.

Check out their website at beds4kids.org.



Address:
6310 209th St E
Bradenton, FL 34211



2.) Selling Christmas Trees

Mr. Jay Ellis (Mrs. Ellis's husband) is our Kiwanis Sponsor. He has also invited us to join him in selling Christmas trees to benefit the Manatee County Boys and Girls Club.

So sign up today to spread the Christmas joy and serve our community on

Saturday, December 2nd, from 3 - 6 p.m.



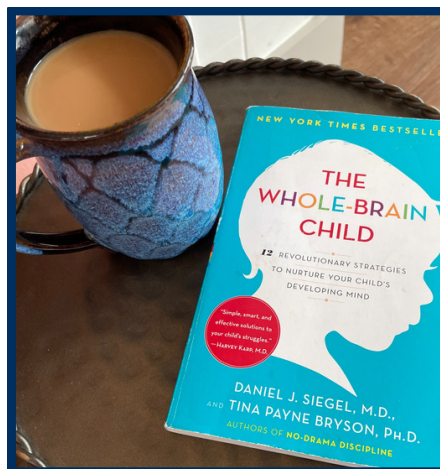
Address:
Manatee Ave W
and 43rd St W

In front of Dollar
Tree and Jesse P.
Miller Elementary



Parent Book Club

In our Elementary School, we had a wonderful turnout for our first Parent Book Club! Facilitated by our Elementary School Counselor, Mrs. Buskirk, the discussion centered around the book entitled, **The Whole-Brain Child**. It was a rich opportunity for connection and learning as we talked about how to best support and nurture our children's minds and emotions. Elementary parents, look for another book club opportunity in the spring!



Sports

Tennis Open Hits Information

Tennis "Open Hits" are open to anyone in 6th-12th grade who is interested in playing tennis for BCS this upcoming season. Students will need to find their own transportation to the courts which are located at 3635 Cortez Rd. (Behind the McDonalds near school on Cortez). Open Hits will be from 3:30-5:00 on Tuesday and Wednesday beginning Tuesday, November 7. The complete list of dates for tennis Open Hits are listed below. If you have any questions, please email Coach Meadows at rmeadows@bcspanthers.org.

3:30-5:00pm:

Tuesday 12/5

Wednesday 12/6

Tuesday 12/12

Wednesday 12/13

Wednesday 1/10



Girls Lacrosse Voluntary Field Workouts

Attention girls 6th – 12th grade who are interested in Lacrosse this spring! Every Monday and Wednesday from 3:30-4:30, after school on the baseball field Coach Wright will be hosting a voluntary practice to help prepare you for the upcoming season. If you have any questions, please reach out to Coach Wright at bwright@bcspanthers.org

Girls Weightlifting

If you are interested in weightlifting, it is not too late to join. We meet Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact head Coach Sean Riley at Sriley5775@gmail.com

To stay up to date on BCS sports, click the link below

<https://www.bcspanthers.org/athletics/teamschedules>



Thank you Sponsors

Market Your Business to the Community Through BCS!

We invite you to take the opportunity to sponsor the Panther Press. The Panther Press is a monthly publication during the school year that showcases our BCS community and all the amazing events, happenings, students and faculty. These newsletters are sent electronically which means timely delivery and accurate information. Additionally, all publications will be uploaded to our website. Imagine the exposure for your business throughout the school year for a minimal cost of \$200.

For more information contact Bobbijo Norris at bnorris@bcspanthers.org.



CHEVROLET

MAZDA

THE COX ADVANTAGE

PEACE OF MIND

30 Day Exchange Window Tint Complimentary Maintenance

COX
AUTO GROUP

Serving Manatee County Since 1926
Community Trusted. Community Loved.

Visit CoxChevy.com and CoxMazda.com

941-749-2690 941-749-2790



BEQUEST
LEGACY INVESTING

CREATE A BETTER LIFE
WITH ONE SIMPLE
INVESTMENT

OUR SERVICES

- Generate consistent and predictable monthly passive income
- Acquire and manage Real Estate & Energy assets that produce cashflow
- Lower your volatility with assets that offer a safe haven for your investment
- Have peace of mind, with an organization that has over 40 years of leadership experience

ABOUT US:
Private investment firm focused on Real Estate & Energy, located in Sarasota FL. Our main focus is offering assets that provide predictable monthly income without compromise.

DOWNLOAD A FREE COPY OF CASHFLOW DOJO TODAY



Palmetto, FL

HIT LAB

DB

HONORING GOD, LEARNING DAILY, COMPETING CONSTANTLY

hitlabbaseball.leagueapps.com

Thank you Sponsors



Thank you Sponsors



Design + Development + Technical Support

Go Panthers!

salleetech.com
O 941.500.2134 • C 941.900.9254



**SALLEE
TECHNOLOGY**

Merrill Lynch is proud to support
Bradenton Christian School



Stephen T. Jerome
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
Wealth Management Advisor
941.741.2427
1401 Manatee Ave W 7th Floor
Bradenton, FL 34205
stephen_j_jerome@ml.com

MERRILL LYNCH
A BANK OF AMERICA COMPANY

Polis Jerome Group

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (also referred to as "MLPF&S" or "Merrill Lynch") makes available certain investment products sponsored, managed, distributed or provided by companies that are affiliates of Bank of America Corporation ("Bank of America"). Bank of America is a registered broker-dealer, registered investment advisor, Member SIPC and a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of America Corporation. © 2007 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. 847557-0001 Funded by Bank of America. 10/07/07




COLD STONE
CREAMERY

Go Panthers!

BCS family owned and operated.

7476 Cortez Road
Bradenton, FL 34210

Where Exceptional Is The Rule




**MORRISH STEWART
ORTHODONTICS**

Free Initial Exam • 0% Interest Financing

Dr. Dan Stewart

msorthodontics.com

Bradenton (941) 746-2463 • Lakewood Ranch - (941) 751-0646



**A STANDARD OF
EXCELLENCE!**

Residential And Commercial
Electrical Installation And
Service

Mark Finney
EC 13006012

Cell: 941-705-1767
Email: maf5009@gmail.com

SUNCOAST ELECTRIC OF MANATEE, INC.



REHFELDT GROUP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



WWW.REHFELDTGROUPCPA.COM

3201 26TH ST W
BRADENTON, FL 34205
941.739.0920

SERVING BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUALS
THROUGH TAX PLANNING, ACCOUNTING, & CONSULTING