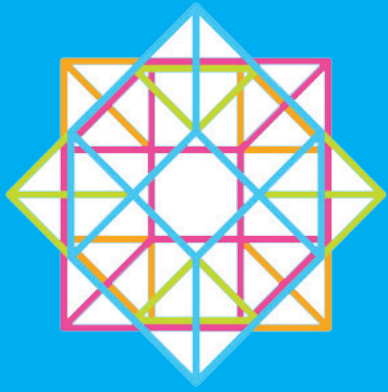




# BROOKLYN KINDERGARTEN SOCIETY

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
SINCE 1891

SUMMER 2019  
NEWSLETTER



25 CHAPEL STREET, SUITE 900  
BROOKLYN NY 11201  
718-623-9803 • [WWW.BKSNY.ORG](http://WWW.BKSNY.ORG)



BKS has remained a leader in the field of early childhood since 1891, serving numerous children and families who gain the resolve to strengthen themselves and their communities. Our generational impact is unmatched and our commitment to lifelong connections is unwavering.

While we operate centers in NYCHA developments throughout Central Brooklyn serving more than 400 children from Brownsville, Crown Heights, and Bedford-Stuyvesant, a growing number of our children come to us from outside underserved communities, the vast majority representing families impacted by cultural barriers, economic hardship and related challenges.

The Brooklyn Kindergarten Society (BKS) helps vulnerable children and their families engage in high quality early education and supportive services, setting itself apart from other providers by offering children developmentally-appropriate enrichment activities including:

- Tennis in partnership with Kings County Tennis League – all 4s/UPK students
- Bi-Lingual Music and Movement through Palante – all Toddlers and 3s
- Suzuki violin instruction in partnership with the Noel Pointer Foundation – all 4s/UPK students
- STEM instruction through Brooklyn Seeds – all students

Our future is bright and BKS will build on its solid reputation as an innovative, creative learning organization that responds to the needs of the children and families that we serve. We know that a child experiencing food insecurity, housing instability, or challenges regarding their family's immigration status often have greater needs beyond our classrooms, so we have challenged ourselves by deepening our engagement and promoting self- advocacy skills for our parents and caregivers.

This program year, BKS remains laser-focused in servicing families by providing support care coordination and case management services and promoting family stability by surfacing and resolving key barriers to mobility. We understand that a child's welfare is dependent on a strong, viable family environment. So, in partnership, we work together to raise strong, healthy and curious children.

As the landscape for early childhood education service delivery shifts in New York City, BKS will remain a leader in the field. With the support of our patrons, we will continue shaping the first years of learning and growing among children who would otherwise have limits imposed on their possibilities. BKS is strong because our partnerships are strong, our relationships are meaningful, and our leadership remains current on those issues faced by the City's most vulnerable, yet hopeful population: our children. Keeping our mission clear and our purpose focused will ensure that BKS will remain a community staple for many more years to come.

Benita R. Miller, Esq.  
Executive Director  
Brooklyn Kindergarten Society





The Brooklyn Kindergarten Society believes all children are curious, creative and competent. Children's play is a natural outgrowth of their curiosity, joy and energy. At BKS we encourage learning that allows children to construct knowledge through investigations, experimentation and new experiences.

Play is educationally and developmentally appropriate because children are still developing social-emotional strategies, fine and gross motor skills, and cognitive understandings. Our instruction is designed to promote and encourage creative play. BKS believes that:

- Through planned and spontaneous play, children have the opportunity to develop their imagination, listening and language skills.
- Play helps children develop the ability to compromise, resolve conflicts, share and build relationships.
- Play helps children take risks, persevere and become resilient. When an activity is fun children will try and try again.
- Daily outdoor play helps children's motor skills, sensory skills and independence.

Our teachers' work is to make learning fun, interesting and new. According to Maria Montessori, "play is the work of the child".



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Wanda Barbot, Director  
Education & Instructional Support

# SAYING GOODBYE TO OUR FOUR-YEAR-OLDS!



Our Moving On Ceremony for graduating four-year-old students took place at the Founder's Auditorium at Medgar Evers College on June 6, 2019. Proud Parents, Grandparents, Brothers, Sisters, and other family members watched as 126 graduating youngsters walked across the stage to receive their graduating certificates and prepare for kindergarten in the fall.

The ceremony included diverse Student Performances by graduating children from the following BKS Centers: Howard, Brevoort, Cleaveland, Nat Azarow, Tompkins, and Sumner.

This was followed by Violin Performances by graduating virtuosos who played in three groups: Sumner & Tompkins (together); Nat Azarow; and Brevoort & Cleaveland (together)



After the ceremony ended, staff from the Zillow Group/StreetEasy handed out gift bags and mini cupcakes to the graduating children and their families. BKS also wishes to thank the Zillow Group/StreetEasy for their cash donation.



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BKS is opening a sensory gym at the Weeksville Gardens Children's Center to provide occupational therapy to children enrolled in our program or at nearby centers and schools. This much-anticipated project became reality through the generous donations from the Green Foundation. Its permanence in the Central Brooklyn community will provide a tactile environment for children to express themselves in a friendly, safe haven. By providing BKS families and those in the community with access to a sensory gym and child development workshops, we will reduce the number of referrals for special services.

BKS sets itself apart from other providers by offering children developmentally appropriate enrichment activities that promote "learning through play" including:

Tennis in partnership with Kings County Tennis League- all 4s/UPK students.

"We are delighted to be working with BKS to introduce tennis and the benefits of the sport to their students. Our goal is to provide energetic sessions that focus on developing hand-eye coordination, introduce some of the basics of tennis and allow for regular physical exercise."

David Webley,  
Kings County Tennis League



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STEM instruction through Brooklyn Seeds – Young children are always looking to explore and relate to their environment. As children explore and interact they develop understandings concerning their relationships to other people, their home, school and natural environment. Brooklyn Seeds seeks to educate and provide hands on experiences with the natural world through gardening. With the supervision of our staff, children are encouraged to care for, grow and learn about plants and their benefit to humans and the planet.

Bi-Lingual Music and Movement through Palante – all Toddlers and 3s.

“I entered my classes at BKS with a large dollop of laughter. I reminded my students that we are many and that we come from a long tradition of learning. Preparing them to lead us out of this desert!”

Jose Joaquin Garcia,  
Palante Instructor

Suzuki violin instruction in partnership with the Noel Pointer Foundation – all 4s/UPK students



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## BIKING FOR A CAUSE

BKS wishes to thank all the riders who rode in the 2019 TD Five Borough Bike Tour to raise much-needed funds for our seven Children's Centers. Additionally, we want to express our deepest gratitude to all who donated on behalf of our intrepid and faithful riders, who withstood torrential rain during the tour in order to cross the finish line.

### BKS Bike Riders:

Annie Bergelin  
Yahaya Enakhimion  
Randi Gomez  
Vivienne Manas (age 7)  
George Manas (age 5)  
Norma McNeil  
Mariela Quintana  
Jeffry Rodriguez  
Josh Troy  
Lindsay Vranizan (BKS teacher)



## BKS QUIZ

1. BKS has received the rare honor of being accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.  
True      False
2. Brooklyn Kindergarten Society was founded in this year:  
a. 1961    b. 1940    c. 1891

ANSWERS:

1. (True)  
Three of our seven preschools are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the gold standard for excellence in early childhood education. In New York State, only 1% of eligible centers are NAEYC accredited.
2. (C)  
BKS was founded in 1891 in Brooklyn, and has 128 years of consecutive service to low income families and their children.



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## **CALLING ALL MARATHONERS!**

The 2019 TCS New York City Marathon will take place on Sunday, November 3, 2019 and BKS is proud to be a 2019 TCS New York City Marathon official charity partner. You can be part of it all — running through all five boroughs with fans cheering you on, crossing the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, running through the crowds of Brooklyn (Bay Ridge, Fort Greene, South Williamsburg), dipping into Long Island City in Queens, rounding First Avenue into the Bronx, striding into Central Park and just before the 26th mile re-entering Central Park to the tumultuous roar of the crowd!

But, best of all, you will be helping to put hundreds of children on the path for life success! Each Team BKS runner in the 2019 TCS New York City Marathon must raise a minimum of \$2,620. BKS has five (5) guaranteed spots.

If you are interested in running for the BKS Team or sponsoring a runner, please contact Joann Griffin at [jgriffin@bksny.org](mailto:jgriffin@bksny.org).

We ask all prospective runners to read our Terms and Conditions and to fill out the Marathon Application and Waiver.

Last year, Team BKS raised over \$16,000 for programs benefitting our children and their families. This year, we can meet that goal—and surpass it!

### **SPECIAL NOTES:**

- As our way of saying thank you, BKS Team members will receive two (2) tickets to our annual Yuletide Ball.
- Registration: **You will need to register your details with the race organizers and pay all applicable entry fees (approximately \$266).** This will ensure you receive your running number and race day information. We will let you know when registration is open. Failure to register by the deadline will mean you will not be able to take part in the race – this is outside BKS control.

For more information on the marathon, go to:

<https://www.tcsnycmarathon.org/plan-your-race/run-for-charity>

Once you've registered with NYRR, you can raise funds through our Marathon Crowdrise page:

<https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/brooklyn-kindergarten-society-nyc-2019>



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## 99<sup>TH</sup> YULETIDE BALL SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019

Brooklyn Kindergarten Society's annual Yuletide Ball raises significant funds for educational programs, enrichment activities, and family support services that are transformative for BKS children and their families.

The Yuletide Ball is the cornerstone of the Brooklyn holiday calendar, and is attended by more than 900 residents of Brownstone Brooklyn. The evening begins with dinner parties hosted throughout Brooklyn in private homes and restaurants and culminates at The Heights Casino for dancing, dessert and champagne! Dinner parties drive the success of this unique evening and we are grateful to our many hosts!

If you are interested in hosting a dinner party before the Ball, please contact Ashley Brown at [abrown@bksny.org](mailto:abrown@bksny.org)



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Benita R. Miller, Esq., *Executive Director*

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