

## **Bells Mill Elementary School (BMES) PTA Meeting on 10/1/13**

### **BMES All Purpose Room**

The first BMES PTA meeting was called to order by PTA President, Mandy Lemar, at 7:10 p.m. Ms. Lemar introduced the members of the PTA Board, all of whom were present: Stacy Ganz Kahn, President Elect, Kurt Shanfield, Treasurer, Greer Bautz, Vice President of Communications, Kakki Lewis, Vice President of Student Affairs, Cristin Caine, Vice President of Fundraising, Lang Lin, Delegate, Diana Gallagher Delegate, and RobBee Fredricks, Secretary. Ms. Lemar reviewed the success of the direct fund raising campaign and the increased PTA membership this year. She briefly described some of the planned PTA sponsored events and the non-fundraising, community nights (e.g., Walking Clubs, Fro-Yo Night, Math Nights, etc.). Ms. Lemar explained that school safety and security will be highlighted this year. Parents are welcome to e-mail Ms. Lemar directly with questions or concerns, or to put suggestions in the PTA box located in the school office.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kurt Shanfield reported that the budget is currently \$1,500 over in revenue; however, spending for the year has not yet begun. The budget has been amended to pay for renting the space for babysitting services during the monthly PTA meetings. Ms. Shanfield proposed a motion to further amend the budget to include an Appreciation Fund (to benefit those who go above and beyond for the PTA). The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Membership Chairwoman, Kurt Shanfield, reported that there are 669 PTA members, which is a 25% increase from last year. The BMES PTA has won the Gold award from the Montgomery County Council Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA)!

FUNDRAISING REPORT: Cristin Caine reported that the fundraising goal has been met for this year. As a "Thank You" to all of the families for their contributions, a night of celebration has been planned at Orange Leaf Yogurt, this Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 p.m. until close. Bells Mill Families will be receiving 20% off their purchases for saying, "Bells Mill Rocks!" If you interested in helping the PTA organize any of the fun, community events we have planned for this year, or if you have ideas for others, please contact Ms. Caine.

SPIRIT WEAR REPORT: Spirit Wear Chairwoman, Cristin Caine, reported that spirit wear pre-orders will no longer be accepted. At this point, only the merchandise that remains will be sold. Current t-shirt styles were displayed (\$15 each). Sweat pants, as well as a few of the t-shirts and shorts from last year, are also still available. Spirit wear can be ordered on-line from [www.bellsmillpta.org](http://www.bellsmillpta.org). Don't forget that Fridays are Spirit Wear/Colors day.

WALK FOR THE HOMELESS REPORT: Ms. Caine reported that the Walk for the Homeless will take place at BMES on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> to benefit the Stepping Stones Shelter, which is located in Rockville, Maryland. Registration costs \$20, and can be completed on-line at [http://www.hthwalks.org/site/TR/Walk/General?team\\_id=20390&pg=team&fr\\_id=1839](http://www.hthwalks.org/site/TR/Walk/General?team_id=20390&pg=team&fr_id=1839). Every dollar goes directly back to the Stepping Stones Shelter. All students will be walking, whether or not they have registered. Parent volunteers are needed on the day of the walk to both cheer the students on and to remind them of why they are walking. Individually, registered students will receive a t-shirt the day of the walk (to be worn on the walk). Students who have registered as a family will only receive one t-shirt per family. If this presents as a problem for your family, please contact Ms. Caine.

ENRICHMENT REPORT: Chairwoman Kakki Lewis introduced herself and her co-chair, Elizabeth Whitman. Ms. Lewis urged all parents to complete any surveys received about Enrichment activities. This feedback is greatly appreciated to help guide the future of the various Enrichment activities. In addition, Ms. Lewis requested that parents please be respectful of the front office staff when they arrive to pick up their children. The office staff continues to buzz visitors in until 4:30 p.m. Arriving slightly before 4:30 will allow the office staff to buzz all visitors in, in a timely manner.

MCCPTA DELEGATE REPORT: Lang Lin reported on the MCCPTA Delegate Assembly. Mr. Lin announced that BMES was officially declared the winner of the PTA Membership Challenge! BMES won a 5 lbs pound chocolate bar, which was sliced and served in the back of the All Purpose Room for all to enjoy. Mr. Lin urged all parents to fill out the Multi-Cultural survey from MCCPTA. He also announced that there are openings for the Nominating Committee for the Legislative Board of the MCCPTA.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Acting Principal, Mr. Lee Meiners, introduced himself and gave a brief update on Mrs. Ogelsby. He plans on staying at BMES for another month. Mr. Meiners has enjoyed being at BMES and observing the positive atmosphere of the school. He is impressed with the many after-school programs.

Mr. Meiners reported that Mrs. Kirby, art teacher, will be relocating to New York at the end of the month. He also said that BMES will receive a salad bar in about a week and a half. The salad bar will be offered to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders initially, but will eventually be offered to all grades. The salad bar can be substituted for a side dish, or can be an a la carte option (paid for by the ounce).

Mr. Meiners requested that parents refrain from picking up their children at 3:00. It is a very difficult time of day to coordinate the various, individual pick-ups with the regular end-of-the-day events. Please try to wait until 3:30, if possible, or come prior to 3:00.

Mid-marking period reports will be coming home on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, for 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

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|------------|--|
| Oct. 3     | BMES Fundraising Party, 20% off – Orange Leaf Yogurt, 3pm-close- Say “Bells Mill Rocks!” |
| Oct. 5     | PTA Sponsored Club Bells Mill #1 – Dude Ranch/Reptiles Alive show – APR 6-9pm            |
| Oct. 14    | Parent Visiting Day 9:15am-11:30am   |
| Oct. 14-17 | PTA Sponsored Scholastic Book Fair (see website for hours)                               |
| Oct. 17    | Walk for the Homeless 2:30pm   |
| Oct. 23    | Principal Tea - grades K-1 7pm-8pm   |
| Oct. 31    | Halloween Parade and Parties 2:00pm  |
| Nov. 1     | No School – Professional Day   |
| Nov. 5     | Nov PTA Meeting 7pm – Stacy King/Young athletes and injury prevention                    |

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Please visit the Bells Mill PTA Website – [www.bellsmill.org](http://www.bellsmill.org), to: sign up for Bear Mail, join the PTA (it's the only way to get a directory,) donate to our direct donation campaign, purchase Spirit Wear, and/or register for Walk for the Homeless
- Friend us on Facebook
- Volunteers are needed for Club Bells Mill #1: Please go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4CAEA69-october>
- We need recess volunteers. Please go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044DAAA92AAA8-recess>
- Please fill out surveys from MCCPTA and Enrichment Chairs
- Every Friday is Spirit Wear Day/School Colors – Wear your blue and white!
- Email Mandy Lemar at [mhlemar@verizon.net](mailto:mhlemar@verizon.net) with pictures of your kids if you want them posted on Facebook!
- Questions? Contact PTA president – Mandy Lemar – [mhlemar@verizon.net](mailto:mhlemar@verizon.net), 301-204-1393

GUEST SPEAKERS: Stacy Ganz Kahn introduced safety and security guest speakers, Mr. Meiners, Mrs. Hall-Bell, and Mr. Mike Harting. Mr. Meiners reviewed the safety measures in place at BMES (e.g., locked front doors, student accountability re: hall passes, lunch/recess procedures, checking parent identification, etc.). Mrs. Hall-Bell explained the 3 drills that have already taken place at BMES (i.e., a weather drill, a shelter drill and a lock-down drill). Mr. Harting discussed safety procedures to be used during Enrichment Activities.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

RobBee Fredricks, Secretary