

## **Bells Mill Elementary School (BMES) Fifth PTA Meeting on 2/4/14**

### **BMES Media Center**

The Fifth BMES PTA meeting was called to order by PTA President, Mandy Lemar, at 7:00 p.m. at Bells Mill Elementary School. The Following PTA Board Members were present: Mandy Lemar, President, Stacy Ganz Kahn, President-Elect, Kurt Shanfield, Treasurer, Kakki Lewis, Vice President of Student Affairs, Greer Bautz, Vice President of Communications, Diana Gallagher, Delegate, and RobBee Fredricks, Secretary.

Ms. Lemar thanked Latisha Gasaway for the Winter Dance, which went really well. She also thanked Cathy Cardno and Cristin Caine for the Math and Literacy Night. It was a great night of food and games. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Club Bells Mill also went well.

The PTA is looking for someone to co-manage International Night on the night of May 2<sup>nd</sup>, as one of the chairs will be unavailable that evening. Please contact Mandy if you are interested.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kurt Shanfield reported that we are about \$3,000 ahead on revenue for the year. We have net loss of \$1,800 for the month. We have a net gain of \$23,000 for the year. We still have a lot of spending to do.

BY-LAWS UPDATE: Elizabeth Whitman, By-Laws Committee Chairwoman, was not available to attend this evening. Mandy Lemar reported that every three years the by-laws need to be amended and voted on. These revisions, which are few, are posted in the Bear Mail. We have 30 days to voice opinions on the proposed changes. We will vote to approve these by-laws at the next PTA meeting in March.

ENRICHMENT UPDATE: Kakki Lewis thanked everyone for their participation in the Winter Enrichment program. A survey will be coming soon to help plan for the Spring Enrichment program. Science Fair Help Night is March 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be a big, informational display in the lobby. Please look for that and get excited!

MCCPTA DELEGATE REPORT: Mandy Lemar reported for Lang Lin. February 13<sup>th</sup> is MCCPTA Night in Annapolis. Bus transportation to Annapolis will be provided by the MCCPTA.

The Performance Arts Festival will take place on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. This festival will be organized by the MCPS Outreach Committee. Students and outside groups are welcome to attend. More information about this will be posted on the MCCPTA website.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mrs. Oglesby requested that all attend the Community Night at Beverly Farms Elementary School on February 10<sup>th</sup>. All 5 elementary schools in our cluster have worked together to plan this evening, which will take place from 7 to 8:15. Pam Mintz from the YMCA Parenting Programs will speak on Parenting and Social skills.

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day next Friday afternoon with parties in the classrooms. We cannot allow home-made or home-baked goods because of food allergies. Fresh fruits and vegetables are always good choices. Encourage all students to give Valentines to all of the students in their class.

Mrs. Oglesby further reported that approximately 75 people came to the informational Kindergarten meeting held at BMES last week. Kindergarten Orientation will take place on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11th.

Mrs. Oglesby asked that parents please remind their neighbors to contact BMES if they are planning on attending BMES next year, whether for Kindergarten or other grades. This is important so that BMES knows who is coming, as well as for staffing purposes, too.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS (see calendar on-line for additional updates)**

- Feb 3rd -7th **Book Collection and Distribution** – Drop off used books Monday-Thursday. All kids get a “new” book on 2/7. A nice collection of books, geared toward the older students, will be donated from Cabin John Middle School's recent Book Collection.
- Feb 7th/8th **Kindergarten Open House** -9:30-11:30am – incoming Kinder's visit current BMES Kindergarten classrooms.
- Feb 8th **Movie Night/Parent Potluck** – 6-8pm – Smurfs 2 for the kids. Parents munch and mingle in the Head Start Room – sign up here to help or bring food <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BAFA922A13-ptasponsored>.
- Feb 10th **Community Parents Night at BFES w/YMCA Speaker** – 7-8:15pm - Pam Mintz from YMCA Parenting Programs present on Parenting and Social Skills.
- Feb 13th **Parent Resource Group Meeting**, 7-8pm, in the media center. Experts will form a panel to discuss the various ways you can help your child (i.e., getting assessed, local and school resources, etc.). Mrs. Diane Lurye, BMES Resource Teacher, Mrs. Amy Mounce, Educational Consultant and Diagnostician, and Miss Kelly Meissner, Special Project Coordinator from the Parents' Place in Maryland, will be in attendance. Parents will have an opportunity to participate in a question and answer session.
- Feb 14th **Valentine's Day Parties** – 2-3:15pm – classrooms.

- Feb 17<sup>th</sup>        **Presidents Day** – No School.
- Feb 21st        **Black History Celebration** – 7pm, APR.
- Feb 28th        **Early Release** – Planning day for teachers, 1pm dismissal.
- March 4th        **Science Fair parent meeting** – 6pm, Media Center – Best practices and ideas for the science fair.
- March 4<sup>th</sup>        **PTA meeting** – 7pm, Speaker – 2nd Grade Teachers – topic – Study Habits - Ways to support study habits at home. We will utilize web resources in addition to discussing methods for learning in the real world that connect to the curriculum.

### **IMPORTANT INFO**

**BMES PTA By-Laws** need to be revised and voted on every 3 years – We will vote to approve these by-laws at the March 4th PTA meeting. Please go to <http://bellsmill.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Proposed-Bylaws-2014.pdf> to view these by-laws.

**Bells Mill PTA Website** – [www.bellsmill.org](http://www.bellsmill.org),

**Friend BMES on Facebook-** [www.facebook.com/bellsmill](http://www.facebook.com/bellsmill).

**Friday is Spirit Wear Day/School Colors** – Show your BMES pride! Wear your blue and white! Email Mandy pictures of your kids in school colors if you want them posted on FB! SGA running a class spirit contest.

**Sign up for recess and lunch volunteer.** We are especially in need of Kinder/1st/4th grade volunteers. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044DAAA92AAA8-recess>.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Stacy Ganz Kahn introduced the Fifth Grade Teaching Team who discussed the various ways parents can support their children with regard to student organization, study skills, and responsibility, so that the children can be able to plan for success, problem solve, and advocate for themselves as they prepare for the transition to middle school.

Questions? Contact PTA president – Mandy Lemar – [mhlemar@verizon.net](mailto:mhlemar@verizon.net), 301-204-1393.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

RobBee Fredricks, Secretary