



## ***Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary***

**September 15, 2014**

**Office of the Principal**

### **This Week**

- Mon., Sept. 15**      **Art Escapades K-5, 3:30-4:30, Rm. 163**  
**Cooking and Math Gr. 1-4, 3:30-4:30, Rm. 121**  
**Great Adventure Lab: Computer Programming, Gr. 3-5, 3:30-4:30 pm, Rm. 148**  
**Hip Hop Dance, Gr. 1-3, 3:30-4:30 pm, gym**
- Tue., Sept. 16**      **Head Start Parent Meeting, 10:00-11:30 am, APR**  
**Big Learning Science Gr. K-1, 3:30-4:30 pm, Rm. 129**  
**Guitar, Gr. 2-5, 3:30-4:30 pm, Rm. 165**  
**MSA Basketball\* Gr. K-5, 3:30-4:45 pm, gym**
- Wed., Sept. 17**      **Art Escapades Gr. K-5, 3:30-4:30 pm, Rm. 163**  
**Tae Kwon Do Gr. K-5, 3:30-4:30 pm, Rm. 121**  
**MSA Soccer\*Gr. K-5, 3:30-3:45 pm**  
**MSA Street Hockey\* Gr. K-5, 3:30-3:45 pm**  
**Odyssey of the Mind Gr. 1-5 Parent Information Meeting, 7:30 pm, APR**
- Thur., Sept. 18**      **Big Learning Science Gr. 2-4, 3:30-4:30 pm, Rm. 121**  
**I9 Flag Football\* Gr. K-5, 3:30-4:45 pm**  
**Bells Mill Restaurant Night at BGR, Cabin John, 4:00-9:00 pm (PTA-Sponsored)**
- Fri., Sept. 19**      **Lego Engineering Gr. K-2, 3:30-5:00 pm, Rm. 163**  
**Have a great weekend!**

### **A Look Ahead**

**Wed., Sept. 24**    **Early Release, 1:00 pm dismissal (No Head Start today)**

**Thur., Sept. 25**    **No School for Students and Teachers, Rosh Hashanah holiday**

- **Attention Gr. 1-5 Parents.** There will be a Parent Information Meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 7:30-8:30 pm, in the APR, for those interested in learning about the Bells Mill Odyssey of the Mind (OM) program. OM demonstrates that creativity can be taught, stimulated and improved with practice. Students use their artistic, theatrical and engineering skills to create new solutions to intriguing problems. Last year ten Bells Mill teams went to the

Maryland State Finals and three of these were invited to the World Finals in Iowa. Teams meet on Fridays from fall to mid-spring under the supervision of trained parent coaches and parent volunteers. Cost is minimal, but parent assistance is required. ***This mandatory informational meeting for interested parents/guardians will introduce the program to new families and orient returning ones. Children need not attend. No babysitting is provided.***

- **This is Homegrown School Lunch Week.** All this week school lunches will feature fresh, locally grown fruit and vegetables. Homegrown School Lunch Week supports Maryland's commitment to introducing local produce to students, as well as developing collaboration between schools and the community in building a healthier Montgomery County.
- **This is a reminder for all parents and students who ride their bikes and scooters to school.** Please follow safety rules and not ride on the sidewalk in front of the school. Once you reach the crosswalk, you should walk your bike or scooter the remainder of the way to the bike racks. In addition, if you are riding on the pathway beside the school, please make sure you stop and then walk your bike the remainder of the way to the bike racks. We want a safe arrival and dismissal for all of our students. Thank you for taking great care when riding your bikes and scooters to school.
- **After school activities are starting this week. Please be sure to inform you child's teacher of any changes in dismissal plans. Also, please be sure to provide the after school activities sponsors with your emergency contact information. They are responsible for your child after 3:30 pm and must be able to reach you in the event of an emergency.**
- **The Media Center is looking for a few good men and women** who are willing to commit to volunteering once a week in the afternoon between 12:30-3:30. Please contact Mrs. Floyd, Media Specialist.
- **The PTA's first Restaurant Night of the school year is on Thursday, September 18, 4:00-9:00 pm, at BGR, Cabin John Shopping Center.** Mention that you're from Bells Mill, and a portion of the proceeds goes to the PTA.
- **Montgomery College Youth Programs is offering a special one-day program for students in grades 4-6.** *Builders of the Future* offers students the challenges of invention, problem solving and creativity, Saturday, October 11, 8:30 am-3:30 pm, Montgomery College Rockville Campus. To register and for information on a wide variety of programs, visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth) or call 240-567-7264.
- **The Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) offers a wide range of classes and workshops that provide helpful tools for parents and students.** Classes are offered around the county. Visit their website for information on programs and registration, [www.pepparent.org](http://www.pepparent.org).
- **MCPS parents can receive emergency information from the school system in a variety of ways** including *MCPS QuickNotes*, Alert MCPS, Twitter, the MCPS website, MCPS TV, and a recorded telephone information line. Please visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency) for more information on how to keep in touch with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and stay informed in times of emergencies.
- **The George B. Thomas Learning Academy offers Saturday School at 12 locations throughout the county.** Saturday School begins on September 20, 2014, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$50 for the year, or \$30 for those who qualify for free and reduced price meals. See the attached flyer for details/registration.
- **Please remember to join our incredible PTA.** Go to the PTA website for information and how to sign up. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with recess and/or lunch. You can sign up on the PTA website.

*Thank you for being partners in your child's education*

