



Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary

January 2, 2017

Office of the Principal

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles

<http://www.twitter.com/bellsmilles>

The week ahead

Mon., Jan. 2	School closed
Tue., Jan. 3	Welcome back! MSA Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163 PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm, Media Center
Wed., Jan 4	Model UN, 8:10 am, rm. 149
Thur., Jan. 5	Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163 Skills and Scrimmages Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym
Fri., Jan. 6	Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm

A Look Ahead

Jan. 10	Testing for students who applied to the Centers for the Highly Gifted, 9:30 am
Jan. 16	Holiday, school closed
Jan. 20	Holiday, school closed

Thank you to all the families who gave holiday donations to the Bear Hug Fund. The Bear Hug Fund was established as a memorial to former principal Dr. Kay Holliday. We use your donations strictly to help Bells Mill families in need. In the past we have paid for items such as winter coats, glasses, summer camp registration, food and medication. We also use the funds to pay for class activities/field trips so that no child is ever excluded from a school activity due to financial constraints. Bells Mill Elementary is part of Montgomery County Public Schools and is therefore part of a political subdivision for federal tax purposes. Contributions to our school are tax deductible in accordance with Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Thank you for your generous support of our students.

- **Many thanks to the PTA for the staff luncheon from Gregorio's and the delicious holiday cookie bar.** What a treat! We appreciate your kindness and support.
- **Attention parents of Gr. 3 students who applied to the Centers for the Highly Gifted,** all Gr. 3 students who applied to the Centers for the Highly Gifted are scheduled to be tested at Bells Mill on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. Please make every effort to ensure that your child is in school that day and arrives on time. Testing will begin promptly at 9:30 am. If your child is sick on the day of the test, it is the parent's responsibility to contact Mrs. Betty Shevitz, Instructional Specialist, DCCAPS, at 301-592-2040 for information on the make-up date.

- **Attention parents of Gr. 5 students who will attend Cabin John MS (CJMS) next school year, you are invited to a Parent Orientation on Thursday, January 26, 2017, 7:00 pm, at CJMS.**
- **Winter is here!** In the event of weather-related school closings and delayed openings, all announcements are made as early as possible, generally in time for news broadcasts that begin at 5:00 AM. Early closing announcements are made by 11:00 AM. Please tune in to radio and television news stations or MCPS Channel 34 for information regarding school closings, delays and early releases. You may also obtain information at the Schools Out website (www.schools-out.com), the MCPS information line (301-279-3673), or the MCPS Call Center (301-309-6277).
- **Registration is now open for the Flex Academy winter enrichment session.** Go to flexyourafterschool.com/BellsMill to view the winter schedule and sign up. You can also go to flexacademies.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/BMES-F16.pdf for more information about each class being offered. Classes fill up quickly so register soon. Questions, contact info@flexacademies.com or call 240-654-0877.
- **Attention Montgomery County Public School Students, submit an entry to the Don't Be Distracted Creative Contest.** Create a 30-60 second public service announcement (PSA) video or piece of artwork about why you shouldn't walk or drive distracted and you could win an iPad Air or \$100 gift card! The first 20 entries will get a FREE movie ticket! **Deadline is February 23, 2017.** Enter today on the Montgomery County Safe Routes to School website: <http://montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-PedSafety/SRTS/Creative-contest.html>
- **Plan ahead for next school year.** The Montgomery County Board of Education has approved the calendar for the 2017–2018 school year. School will begin on Tuesday, September 5, 2017, and the last day of school is scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 2018. The Board also adopted a contingency plan that includes a total of seven identified dates that could be used as instructional days if necessary to make up school due to emergency and weather-related closings. Two of these days are the first two days of the scheduled spring break, March 26 and 27, 2018. The remaining five days would require the district to extend the school year until June 21, 2018. [The calendar can be found on the MCPS website](#) .

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