



## *Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary*

January 9, 2017

Office of the Principal

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles)

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

### The week ahead

<b>Mon., Jan. 9</b>	<b>Brownies, 3:50 pm, rm. 150</b> <b>Daisies, 3:50 pm, rm. 209</b> <del><b>Gr. 5 Promotion Ceremony Parent Mtg., 7:00 pm, rm. 149 (postponed)</b></del> <b>Chipotle Night, 5:00-9:00 pm</b>
<b>Tue., Jan. 10</b>	<b>Testing for students who applied to the Centers for the Highly Gifted, 9:30 am</b> <b>MSA Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym</b> <b>Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163</b>
<b>Wed., Jan 11</b>	<b>Model UN, 8:10 am, rm. 149</b>
<b>Thur., Jan. 12</b>	<b>Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163</b> <b>Skills and Scrimmages Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym</b> <b>Brownie Troop 1643, 3:50 pm, rm. 159</b>
<b>Fri., Jan. 13</b>	<b>Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm</b> <b>Daisy Troop 33042, 3:50 pm, rm. 129</b> <b>Scout Troop 585, 5:00 pm, rm. 149</b>

### A Look Ahead

<b>Jan. 16</b>	<b>Holiday, school closed</b>
<b>Jan. 17</b>	<b>Gr. 5 Advanced Class Instrumental Music Concert, 7:00 pm, APR</b>
<b>Jan. 20</b>	<b>Holiday, school closed</b>

- **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 Gr. 5 parents, you are invited to a meeting to discuss and plan the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Promotion Ceremony and end-of-year celebration, Monday, January 9, 7:00 pm, rm. 149 (Mr. Leffler's room). We welcome your input and support.**

- **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.**
- **Bells Mill Night at Chipotle is Monday, January 9, 5:00-9:00 pm. Chipotle will donate a portion of the proceeds to the PTA. Hope to see you there, and don't forget to tell them you're with Bells Mill.**
- **Yearbooks are on sale now!** Order your 2016-2017 yearbook online at [www.freedpics.com](http://www.freedpics.com) (password: BEARS1617YB). Cost is \$25, and deadline is Monday, April 3, 2017. Check backpacks for flyers. Questions, contact Lina deChiara, [lina.dechiara79@gmail.com](mailto:lina.dechiara79@gmail.com)
- **Time is running out to register your children for winter enrichment classes!** Register today to ensure that they can take part in the fun activities planned by Flex Academies for this session. Many classes are filling up and there are a few low enrollment classes that need more students to join to ensure that they will not be canceled. Classes begin the week of January 23. Register today at: [flexyourafterschool.com/BellsMill](http://flexyourafterschool.com/BellsMill) . Questions, please contact [info@flexacademies.com](mailto:info@flexacademies.com) or call 240-654-0877.
- **Save the date! Bells Mill Family Bingo Night is Wednesday, January 25, 6:30-8:00 pm, in the APR.**
- **Attention MCPS 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>
- **Superintendent Jack Smith released his \$2.52 billion operating budget recommendation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 during a presentation to the Board of Education on December 13.** The budget calls for a 2.5 percent increase in spending that will allow the district to manage significant enrollment growth and build the foundation and structure that is needed to ensure that all MCPS students are able to achieve at higher levels.

Be sure to share your ideas and views on the importance of funding the MCPS operating budget with our elected Montgomery County officials—the [Montgomery County Board of Education](#), the [County Executive](#), and the [Montgomery County Council](#)—through emails, letters, and testimonials. The Board of Education will be holding two public hearings on the budget recommendation: the first is Thursday, January 5; the second is Wednesday, January 11. Both hearings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center.

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett [will be holding forums this month](#) to seek input from residents about the county's FY 2018 budget priorities. The first two are scheduled for Monday, January 9, and Wednesday, January 11. Both forums will run from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

January 9 forum will be held at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center located at 4805 Edgemoor Lane in Bethesda. The January 11 forum will take place at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center located at 3300 Briggs Chaney Road in Silver Spring.

The three remaining forums are scheduled for January 18, 25, and 30 at locations across Montgomery County.

The County Executive will announce his Recommended FY 2018 Operating Budget on March 15. In April, the County Council will hold public hearings and approve the operating budget at the end of May.

There are a variety of ways that you can [learn more about the MCPS budget](#) and become involved in the budget process this year, including the [Budget 101 website](#); and an overview of the budget and other documents available on the [MCPS budget webpage](#). Visit the budget webpage at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/) to read more about these resources and how to make your voice heard.

- **Provide Comment on Student Transfer Policy.** The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking your comments on tentative changes to Board Policy JEE, *Student Transfers*. This policy outlines when students may be granted a transfer to attend a school other than their home or assigned school. Among the revisions to the policy is an update to the lottery system for enrollment in language immersion programs. The revised lottery would apply to students seeking to enroll in these programs for the 2018–2019 school year. **This change would not impact families with students enrolled in the immersion programs during the 2017–2018 school year.** [Policy JEE is available for public comment until Friday, February 3, 2017.](#)
- **MCPS has a new Facebook page.** Stay up to date on the latest MCPS news and events by [liking the district's new Facebook page](#)! MCPS also has a [Spanish Facebook page](#) for our Spanish-speaking parents.
- **Nominate an Outstanding Teacher or Principal.** The deadlines are nearing for several competitions to honor outstanding teachers and principals! They are—the **Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Awards**; the **Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Rising Star Teacher Award**; *The Washington Post* **Teacher of the Year Award**; *The Washington Post* **Principal of the Year Award**; the **Shirley J. Lowrie Thank You for Teaching Award**; and the **Superintendent's Annual Mark Mann Excellence and Harmony Award**. Additional information is provided on the [MCPS Website](#).

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