



The week ahead

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| Mon., Apr. 17 | School Closed |
| Tue., Apr. 18 | Head Start Parent Meeting, 10:30 am, APR
Legos, 3:50 pm, rm. 149
Chess, 3:50 pm, rm. 209 |
| Wed., Apr. 19 | Model UN, 8:10 am, rm. 149
Spanish, 3:50 pm, rm. 159
Mad Science, 3:50 pm, rm. 150 |
| Thur., Apr. 20 | Gr. 4 to Historic St. Mary's City
Brownie Troop 1643, 3:30 pm, rm. 159
Scout Troop 2794 3:30 pm (trip) |
| Fri., Apr. 21 | Last day to sign up online for Science Fair (see link below)
Daisy Troop 33042, 3:30 pm, rm. 129
Scout Troop 585, 5:00 pm, rm. 149 |

A Look Ahead

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| Apr. 24-25 | No School for Kindergarteners (Bar-T childcare available) |
| May 5 | Science Fair, 9:30-11:15 am and 7:00-8:00 pm, APR |

- **To honor the memory of Mrs. Kurt Shanfield we have established the Kurt Shanfield Math Enrichment Fund.** Please send donations to the main office (checks made payable to *Bells Mill ES*). All funds go to the purchase of math enrichment materials for the students and staff at Bells Mill. All of us loved and admired Mrs. Shanfield, and this will allow us to celebrate her life and commitment to students and their learning. Questions, Ms. DeMarino at 240-740-0480.
- **The Science Fair is Friday, May 5, 9:30-11:15 am and 7:00-8:00 pm, in the APR.** Each participant must sign up by **April 21, 2017**. Sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4aaead2caafb6-2017> Volunteers are needed, so if you can help, please sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4aaead2caafb6-20171> Questions, Jennifer Dugan jdugan.jdugan@gmail.com; Lang Lin pta.langlin@gmail.com; Jia Li jiali.lgw@gmail.com .
- **Bells Mill Stars of Tomorrow Talent Show for Grades 3-5 is on Friday, April 28, 6:30 pm, with auditions on Tuesday, April 25, 3:50-5:30 pm, and mandatory rehearsal on**

Wednesday, April 26, 3:50-5:30 pm. Students should bring an afternoon snack to the auditions and rehearsals. *No transportation is provided for these activities.* Please pick up your child no later than 5:30 pm on the audition and rehearsal days. A piano will be available for student performance. No student may participate without a permission form. Questions, contact LaTisha Gasaway at minds_in_motion@yahoo.com.

- **Congratulations to 4th grader Rohit Das who competed in the Maryland State Geo Bee and placed 5th in the state. Rohit was the only 4th grader to make the finals with most finalists being in 8th grade.**
- **Attention Kindergarten parents, there is no school for kindergarteners on Monday and Tuesday, April 24 and 25.** On these days we will hold Kindergarten Orientation for next year's kindergarteners. Bar-T is offering a full day of care at Bar-T Ranch. Permission slips were sent home in backpacks.
- **Register now for Camp Bells Mill/KinderCamp, July 10-28, 8:30 am-noon, for all Bells Mill rising kindergarteners through grade 5 students. Information letter and registration form went home in backpacks and are also attached to this newsletter.**
- **Attention parents of students in Gr. 3-5, PARCC assessments are scheduled for May 2 through May 15.** Please refrain from making appointments on your child's testing dates. Have your child eat a good breakfast, be well rested and arrive on time. Check the schedule below for your child's testing dates.

May 2, 3, 4 – English/Language Arts

May 9, 10, 12, 15 – Math

Students who are absent due to illness will have the opportunity to make up all or part of the assessments.

- **Over the next few weeks schools will convert from heating to air conditioning.** Please have your child dress with the weather forecast in mind.
- **United We Learn: Combating Hate Through the Arts Contest** Combating the elevated levels of divisiveness, prejudice, bias, and hate that have emerged in our county and across the nation is the responsibility of every community member, including students. To help our county combat hate, MCPS in partnership with the Montgomery County Faith Community Working Group, is launching a contest titled: United We Learn: Combating Hate Through the Arts. The goal of the contest is to provide students with a creative, structured opportunity to explore issues of prejudice and learn about the values of respect, diversity, and civility.

The contest is open to students from all grade levels. Students can participate by making a poster, creating multimedia, developing a performance for stage, or through writing. **The deadline for submissions is April 21** and winners will receive prizes. Additional details about the contest, including rules, are available online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/events/unitedwelearn/.

- **MCPS Parents Encouraged to Complete Engagement Survey** A random sample of families at all grade levels in each MCPS school will be asked to participate in the 2017 Parent

Engagement Survey. Parents who are selected to participate will receive information by mail and are asked to complete the survey online by June 1, 2017. The survey is about your experiences with your child's school and education. Your answers are confidential and are reported with the answers from other families. The information you provide will help schools better understand families' engagement in their children's education and improve connections between schools and families. The survey is brief and can be completed in 10 minutes.

- **The spring session of the MCPS Parent Academy has begun.** Parent Academy helps equip parents with the tips and tools they need to help their children succeed. All of the workshops are free and are held at schools and other locations throughout Montgomery County. Spring workshops include internet safety, effective parenting strategies, and understanding financial aid. Childcare and interpretation services are provided at all classes. The schedule of workshops is available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/workshops.aspx.
- **MCPS has undertaken a thorough review of the fine arts curriculum during the past year.** As part of the process, MCPS solicited feedback from stakeholders including arts educators, MCPS students, community members, university and arts organization partners, and the Curriculum Advisory Assembly. The proposed Fine Arts Curriculum Framework:
 - (a) aligns with the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS);
 - (b) builds upon the experiential knowledge of MCPS teachers and administrators over many years of implementing arts education programs; and
 - (c) is consistent with MCPS core values.

The Board of Education has tentatively approved the draft frameworks and MCPS is now seeking public comment on the draft frameworks posted below. Public comment will be open until **April 21, 2017**. The feedback will be used to make additional revisions to the Frameworks before final approval by the Board in May 2017. Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/finearts/index.aspx for more information and to provide comments.

- **MCPS parents, staff, and community members are invited to the fourth annual Special Education Summit, *Leading the Way Today, Partnering for a Better Tomorrow*.** The summit will take place from 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, at Walter Johnson High School. The summit will feature a keynote speaker, resources, and workshops for families of students with disabilities. Families also will have an opportunity to meet representatives from many MCPS offices and Montgomery County agencies and nonprofit organizations. Registration for the summit can be completed at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/special-education/events/.
- **Montgomery County Public Schools is proud to be a partner in the 2017 Gaithersburg Book Festival on Saturday, May 20, on the grounds of Gaithersburg City Hall.** The book festival has a great lineup of authors and activities for children of all ages. Several members of the MCPS community will be conducting readings at the festival and there will be many programs, workshops, and activities in the Children's Village that are designed to promote interest in reading and writing. For more information, visit gaithersburgbookfestival.org/.
- **Montgomery County summer camp programs will be extended to support families without childcare options due to the later start time of the school year.** This follows the

executive order that Governor Larry Hogan signed last fall, which required Maryland's public schools to start classes after Labor Day, beginning with the 2017–2018 school year. Montgomery County Recreation added more than 40 additional full or half-day programs to effectively serve families due to the later start date for the school year. This included six Summer Fun Centers (SFC), which are the Department of Recreation's most affordable summer day programs. Register online at www.activemontgomery.org and is also by mail or fax to 240-777-6818, or in person at most recreation and parks facilities including community recreation centers, ice rinks, tennis centers, aquatic facilities and at the Montgomery County Recreation Administrative Offices at 4010 Randolph Road in Silver Spring. For more information about summer programs call 240-777-6840.



Camp Bells Mill/KinderCamp

**Bells Mill Elementary School
8225 Bells Mill Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854**

March 22, 2017

Dear Parents,

We are offering an exciting summer adventure for your child: **Camp Bells Mill** for our students entering Grades 1-5 in the fall; and **KinderCamp** for those entering Kindergarten. The camp will be held at Bells Mill ES from July 10 to 28 and will be staffed by our own great teachers. Your student will spend three and a half hours each day having great fun with creative activities that support the MCPS curriculum. Camp hours are 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon (doors open at 8:25 am). Limited bus transportation is available. Children should bring a healthy snack and drink from home. It is important that you are able to commit to sending your child to all 15 days.

Students are offered learning opportunities through arts/crafts, physical education, technology, music, reading, math, science and social studies. All elements of the program support the MCPS curriculum.

Please note that your child must be registered as a Bells Mill student in order to attend. If your child is new to Bells Mill, this means that before your child can attend camp we need your current proof of residency, your child's birth certificate, your photo ID and an up-to-date immunization record.

The fee for attending camp is \$550 per child. There are opportunities to decrease tuition fees based on income eligibility requirements. No student will be denied attendance due to financial constraints. Please contact the office if you would like information on payment options.

Please send \$550 payment (check/money order payable to Bells Mill ES) along with the attached form by Monday, May 22, 2017. We will make room for all Bells Mill students, but it is important that you let us know if your child will be coming so that we can plan staffing and hire the appropriate number of teachers. Contact the office if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Jerri Oglesby
Principal

Keep this sheet for your information.

Attachment: registration form

Detach this sheet and return it with payment by Monday, May 22, 2017.

Please enroll my child (name) _____ in Camp Bells Mill/KinderCamp
from July 10-28, 2017.

My child is entering Grade _____.

Home address: _____

Parent phones: _____

Parent email: _____

Allergies/medical conditions we should know about: _____

Parent Signature

Date

Check one:

_____ I am attaching a \$550 check/money order to pay tuition in full.

_____ I want my child to attend camp, and I will contact you regarding tuition payment options.

Transportation Information (check one)

_____ I will drop off and pick up my child.

_____ My child will ride the bus to and from the stop at Seven Locks Rd./Scotland Dr.

_____ Other: _____

