



The week ahead

Mon., Sept. 18	Happy Monday!
Tue., Sept. 19	7:00 pm in the APR – Meeting for families interested in Odyssey of the Mind
Wed., Sept. 20	
Thur., Sept. 21	No School for Teachers and Students
Fri., Sept. 22	Back to School Picnic, 6:00-8:00 pm

A Look Ahead

Sept. 26	7:00 pm – Principal Tea for parents of K/1 students – in Media Center
Oct. 4	7:00 pm – Principal Tea for parents of 2/3 students – in Media Center
Oct. 5	7:00 pm - Principal Tea for parents of 4/5 students – in Media Center
Oct. 6	Early Release, 1:20 pm

- **Thank you to all the families who attended our Back to School Night presentations this past week.** We had a great turn out! It is always exciting to be able to share with you the plans we have for another exciting year at Bells Mill. I am so proud of our excellent and professional staff who prepared very informative talks to share with families. Thank you for all your support in helping us have an incredible first two weeks of school.
- **REGISTRATION FOR AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT CLASSES IS NOW OPEN!** Flex Academies is excited to be offering a full schedule of enrichment activities this fall. We have made some pricing changes this year that parents will love: elimination of registration fee, lower prices, multiple class discounts, and sibling discounts. The variety of fun classes is sure to excite your children.

Register now before classes fill up! <https://flexacademiesbellsmill.jumbula.com/#/fall-2017-registration>.

- **Adopt a School in Texas - Hurricane Harvey Help – update** Many schools have been flooded and sustained damaged from hurricane Harvey. We know these teachers have poured love and effort into making their classroom a safe learning space for their students, and now many have lost all of that. While returning to school is far from many of these teachers' and

students' minds, we know that they will need supplies when they are able to return to their classrooms. Some whose schools are extensively flooded will likely attend makeshift classrooms until their school can be reopened. The SGA will be adopting **Hardin Intermediate School** in Hardin, TX that is a school in need after the hurricane. We will be collecting donations in the form of money and Amazon gift cards to send to the school. We will be starting Hurricane Harvey Help on September 11th-22nd. Students can bring donations with them to school and SGA will be collecting these daily. Our children will be reaching out and making contact with the school we are supporting. Thank you to those families who have already generously donated to this special program.

- **Just to highlight a detail from the recent Field Trip Memo concerning child abuse and neglect training for parents.**

Q7 If I already completed MCPS training in the 2016–2017 school year, do I have to do so again in the 2017–2018 school year?

A7: No. If MCPS records reflect that an individual completed MCPS training offered last year, the individual does not have to undergo additional training in the 2017 – 2018 school year. The training is required every three years. If volunteer training was taken in:

2016-2017 renew in 2020-2021

2017-2018 renew in 2020-2021

2018-2019 renew in 2021-2022

- **Attention Gr. 1-5: There will be a Parent Information Meeting for those interested in learning about the BMES Odyssey of the Mind program Tuesday evening, September 19 from 7PM-8PM in the APR.** Odyssey of the Mind 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; they learn to "think outside the box" and develop valuable skills that will be essential for success in the 21st Century. Bells Mill has a robust Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) program: last year we sent seven teams to the Maryland State Finals and four of these were invited to the World Finals Michigan. Teams of students from grades 1-5 meet weekly from fall to mid-spring under the supervision of trained parent coaches. Cost is minimal, but parent assistance is required given that OotM is an entirely volunteer program. We need coaches to lead teams and volunteers to help support the teams, with ample guidance from the OotM program. Most meetings will be held on Friday afternoons at BMES. The BMES OotM program will be coordinated this year by Geeta Daniel and Gunay Dogan, both Bells Mill parents. We are lucky to have Dominic and Trudi Benford, who led OotM for six years and successfully coached a team three years in a row to world finals, supporting us every step of the way as we continue to lead the amazing program they built.
- **Reminder for families who participate in the parent drop off each morning.** Please do not exit your vehicle when dropping off your child in the morning. There are patrols and adults in the front to assist your child in getting out of the car. Please arrange car and booster seats so that all children can exit your vehicle on the passenger side. Our goal is to have a safe arrival for all of our students each day. Thank you for your support.

- **Grade K/1 families please mark your calendars for the evening of Sept. 26.** We are hosting a principal tea in the media center. You will hear more information about grading and reporting, the future roll out of the parent portal and many other important topics concerning your child's school program. We look forward to seeing you there. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. The principal tea for grade 2/3 will be held on October 4 and the tea for grade 4/5 parents will be held on the evening of October 5.

Churchill Cluster News

- Winston Churchill High School would like to invite all of our cluster schools to join us for our fall athletics season. Come our Friday, September 15th at 6:30pm to watch our Varsity football team take on the Gaithersburg High School . The Bulldogs are led by 1st year Head Coach Willie Williams a former Pittsburgh Steeler, Offensive Coordinator Chris Samuels a former Washington Redskin, and a talented group of returning players. Come celebrate the return of school and our newly expanded concession stand menu. Also, all children under the age of 10 years old get in FREE! So come out and cheer your Dawgs onto victory.

This Friday will be a special day as CHS will be holding the baseball field dedication ceremony for legendary coach Chuck Stevens. Events will begin at 4:30 pm in the auditorium and then move to the stadium for the football game vs. Gaithersburg High School. At halftime we will honor Coach Stevens and his family with a ceremony and presentation of a plaque to be placed on the baseball field.

Monday, September 18th is the Luv U Project Night for the Winston Churchill girls soccer team. We will be honoring former Booster Club President Carolyn Mattingly with the presentation of a plaque acknowledging all of her amazing accomplishments while at Winston Churchill. Games begin with JV at 5:30p and Varsity at 7:15p.

Additional Dates to Remember:

9/28 - Varsity Football vs. B-CC: Community Night! All cluster students, elementary & middle school, get in FREE!

elementary & middle school, get in FREE!

10/13 - Varsity Football vs. Blake: Homecoming!

10/17 - Boys & Girls Soccer vs. Blair: Community Night! All cluster students, elementary & middle school, get in FREE!

students, elementary & middle school, get in FREE!

10/28 - Varsity Football vs. Frederick: Senior Night & Celebration of 1976 & 1977 Football State Championship teams.

For additional information on Winston Churchill Athletics, visit www.churchillathletics.com

MCPS NEWS

Saturday School Helps Students Succeed

The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. kicks off its 2017–2018 season of Saturday School on Saturday, September 9th. Saturday School is a low-cost tutoring and mentoring program that provides a sixth day of learning and helps MCPS students enhance their mastery of core academic subjects. Students who are in need of additional academic support can attend sessions at one of 12 locations across Montgomery County. Registration is \$40 for students who receive Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS) services and \$70 for non-FARMS students.

Visit www.saturdayschool.org/ for more information.

New Season of Homework Hotline Live!

For 32 years, *Homework Hotline Live* (HHL) has helped tens of thousands of students in kindergarten through Grade 12 by offering free after-school homework help from MCPS teachers. HHL uses the internet and cable TV to offer students live one-on-one homework help. When HHL is on TV, students can phone in questions and see and hear the teachers while working through problems together.

HHL kicked off its 2017–2018 season on September 6 by offering homework help online. *Homework Hotline Live* on TV will start Tuesday, September 26 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm on MCPS-TV. Students can call HHL for help from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays or submit online questions from 4:30 to 9:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, and 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Mondays. During the TV broadcast, all questions will be answered on-air. Questions submitted at other times will receive an online response.

Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/itv/hhl/ for more information.