



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

**September 25, 2017**

**Office of the Principal**

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

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

### **The week ahead**

- Mon., Sept. 25**                    **Happy Fall!**
- Tue., Sept. 26**                    **4-5 pm – Chess Club (K-5)Media Center**  
**4 -5 pm – Drawing with Young Rembrandts (K-5)Art Room**  
**4-5 pm – MSA Basketball in gym**  
**7:00 pm in the Media Center – Principal Tea for K/1 Parents**
- Wed., Sept. 27**                    **4-5 pm – Crazy Chemworks (K-5)(tentative)**  
**4-5 pm- ROBLOX Coding (Grades 3-5)Room 233**  
**4 -5 pm – Drawing with Young Rembrandts (K-5)Art Room**  
**4-5 pm – Bricks for Kids Rm. 149**  
**Restaurant Night at Potomac Pizza 4 – 9 pm**
- Thur., Sept. 28**                    **8:15 – 9:15 am – Beginning/Intermediate Spanish (K-5)Room 121**  
**4-5 pm – Lower School Tennis (K-5)Blacktop**  
**4-5 pm – MSA Soccer and Flag Football on fields**  
**4-5 pm – Brownie Troop 1643 meet in room 125**
- Fri., Sept. 29**                    **Have a nice weekend making memories with your families.**

### **A Look Ahead**

- Oct. 4**                    **Walk to School Day at Bells Mill ES (information to come)**  
**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**
- Oct. 9**                    **Open House 9:30 – 11:30 am    Book Fair open Mon.- Thurs.**

- **If you are the parent of a kindergarten or first grade student, please join us on Tuesday evening.** We will be meeting at 7:00 pm in the Media Center. Two topics we will be discussing are the new grading and reporting procedures as well as sharing information on the new MCPS Parent Portal that will soon be operational. Of course we will also respond to questions you may have about the program at Bells Mill. We are looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday evening.
- **AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT CLASSES Begin this week.** If you have signed up for one of the fun and exciting enrichment activities, please make sure your child and the

classroom teacher are aware of this schedule change. We want to make sure all students arrive to their activities on time.

- **We are in need of a parent volunteer who would be willing to be our Volunteer Coordinator.** This volunteer will assist in obtaining volunteers to help out at lunch/recess, in the classrooms and other places in the building. They will also log in our volunteer hours each month. Please contact Mrs. O. if you are interested in this opportunity. There will be MCPS training provided.
- **Our first community restaurant night is on Wednesday evening at Potomac Pizza.** Please consider dropping by for dinner, or order take-out that evening. The PTA will receive a percentage of the proceeds from the sales that evening. This is a great way to support our wonderful PTA and activities provided for your children by the PTA.
- **Adopt a School in Texas - Hurricane Harvey Help – update** Our campaign to support Hardin Intermediate School in Liberty, Texas ended on September 22. I am very proud of our children and the community. As of Wednesday, September 20 our community has raised \$1400.00 in Amazon Gift Cards in support of our adopted school to replace damaged materials and supplies. We will provide the final tally of monies raised in next week's Spotlight. Thank you for your generosity and kindness to this hard-hit school in Texas.
- **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. **Attention Gr. 1-5: The registration for Odyssey of the Mind is open. Please register by Friday, October 6th, at the following link:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/bellsmillodysseyregistration17>

## Churchill Cluster News

**WCHS is sponsoring a Hurricane Relief Drive** – they will be collecting supplies at the Thursday, Sept. 28 football game. Moyer and Sons Moving and Storage, inc. will be filling up 2 tractor trailers to deliver donations to Texas and Florida. ALL DONATIONS will be distributed to local donation centers and food banks in the affected areas from the hurricanes. Items needed are: bottled water, non-perishable foods, toiletries, bug spray, baby products, cleaning supplies, and school supplies.

- **Winston Churchill High School Dates to Remember:**  
9/28 - Varsity Football vs. B-CC: Community Night! All cluster students, elementary & middle school, get in FREE!  
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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!  
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](http://www.churchillathletics.com)

## MCPS NEWS

### **Study Released on Career and Technology Education Programs in MCPS**

MCPS has released its comprehensive study of Career and Technology (CTE) programs. The study was commissioned by the Board of Education to assess the district's current programs and efforts to prepare all students for non-remedial postsecondary education and high-demand fields of employment.

Over the next several months, MCPS will engage with the community to discuss the report's findings and recommendations and will map out a short- and long-term implementation strategy for the superintendent and Board's consideration.

To read the report, visit: [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/career-readiness/MCPSCareerReadinessReport9-12-17.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/career-readiness/MCPSCareerReadinessReport9-12-17.pdf)

### ***myMCPS* Portal for Parents and Students**

The new *myMCPS* Classroom portal is a 21st century digital learning environment designed to meet the needs of staff, students, and parents of MCPS! The *myMCPS* Parent Portal is replacing Edline as the primary home-to-school communication vehicle for schools to share information regarding grades, attendance, scheduling and more. Letters with information on how to create a *myMCPS* Parent Portal account have been mailed home to parents. The Parent Portal is live for secondary students and families. The Portal for elementary families will be implemented on a staggered schedule. For more information, visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mymcps-classroom/index.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mymcps-classroom/index.aspx).

### **Registration Open for New Parent Academy Workshops**

The MCPS Parent Academy offers parents and community members the opportunity to attend free workshops that provide information, resources, tools, and tips to support their children's success in school. Don't miss the fall season of workshops, which will be offered on a range of topics, including college and career planning, active parenting, and cybersafety and social media. Parent Academy workshops are free. Childcare and interpretation services are provided at all sessions. A full list of courses is available online at [www.mcpsparentacademy.org](http://www.mcpsparentacademy.org).

### **Come to the World of Montgomery Festival!**

The World of Montgomery Festival celebrates and displays the rich cultural heritages of Montgomery County and the Washington, D.C., area. The festival will be held Sunday, October 15, at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee Street in Rockville, from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. MCPS is proud to be a partner in this year's festival. The free event includes an international village, a global kitchen with chef demonstrations of traditional ethnic food, a craft market, a Parade of Cultures, two performance stages of traditional dance and music, connections through service, traditional arts, and fun interactive activities for the whole family. For more information, visit [www.worldofmontgomery.com](http://www.worldofmontgomery.com).

### **Walk and Bike to School on October 4!**

Looking for a healthy way to start the day? Jump start it by walking or biking with your child to school! Join hundreds of students and parents in Montgomery County in celebrating International Walk to School Day on **Wednesday, October 4**. International Walk to School Day was founded in 1997 as a way to bring community leaders and children together to build awareness for communities to be more walkable. It is celebrated by thousands of schools across the nation and in more than 40 countries worldwide.

Walking and biking to school are great ways to promote health, identify safe routes for walking and biking, and improve air quality. International Walk to School Day is a great opportunity for you to help your child learn and practice safe walking or biking skills. If you live too far from your child's school to walk, drive part of the distance, then park and walk the rest of the way!

For more information, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/saferoutestoschool](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/saferoutestoschool).

### **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/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/itv/hhl/) for more information.