

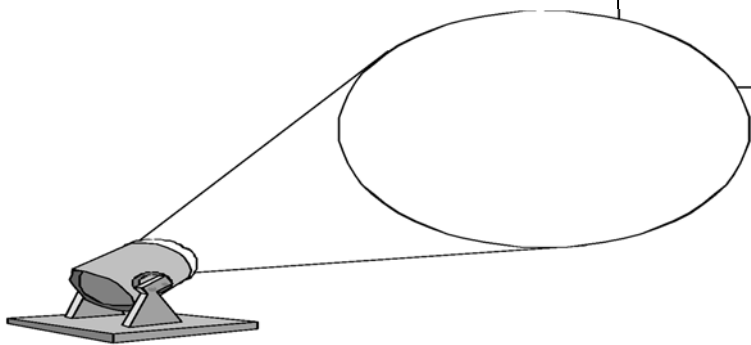
Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary

October 16, 2017

Office of the Principal

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles

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



The week ahead

- Mon., Oct. 16** 4 -5 pm MSA in gym
- Tue., Oct. 17** 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
- Wed., Oct. 18** Model UN meeting
Student Portraits will be taken today
4-5 pm – Crazy Chemworks (K-5)
4-5 pm- ROBLOX Coding (Grades 3-5) Room 233
4-5 pm – Soccer on field
- Thur., Oct. 19** 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 Brownies Troop 1643 Rm. 125
- Fri., Oct. 20** 4 – 5:30 pm Odyssey of the Minds teams meet today
Have a nice weekend making memories with your families.
Churchill High School is sponsoring Kids Night tonight 6-9 pm
Club Bells Mill will take place on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 6-8 pm

A Look Ahead

- Oct. 25** Fifth Grade Class to Strathmore Concert
Cal Tort/Celebrity Scoop Night@Baskin Robbins
- Oct. 31** Halloween Parade @ 2:15 and parties to follow

- **Interim reports are coming home today.** The grades on the interim reflect your child's performance up to the mid-point of the marking period. Please keep in mind, your child is still in the instructional cycle and may not be expected to demonstrate complete understanding of a measurement topic until the end of the marking period which occurs on Nov. 9. If you have questions regarding the report, please contact your child's teacher.
- **Thank you to all families who visited classrooms on Monday during our Open House.** We had a huge turnout of families. We hope you enjoyed your snapshot of your child's day as you observed the instructional program in action. We also were happy to see so many families visiting our annual Book Fair. I know the children have been excited about the incredible books that were available this year. A

special thank you to Mrs. Bautz and all the other parents who supported this huge event for our families. It was a great success!

- **Updates on the Parent Portal:** You should have received a letter from MCPS with a log on and a temporary password with directions on how to establish your account with the myMCPS Parent Portal. You must set up an account first and then you can log into the system. At this time you will have access to your child's emergency information, archived grades for students in grades 1-5, attendance and the SchoolBucks account. This site is still under development so additional information will be available later in the year. The staff is receiving training on the myMCPS classroom and eventually will be sending their communications out to you through the site. The Bells Mill classroom will not open until mid-November. If you have questions you can contact Mrs. O. or Ms. Taylor and we will assist you in setting up your account. Please watch for additional information as we receive further updates.
- **Churchill High School DECA group is sponsoring a Kiddie Club Night** on October 20, from 6 - 9 pm in the school cafeteria. The fee for the evening is \$20 to cover the cost of snacks and crafts. The theme for this evening is Halloween. It is open to all cluster elementary students. They encourage you to wear your Halloween costumes and join in the games, arts and crafts, snacks and the movie "Hotel Transylvania". There will be prizes and more for the students to enjoy. They can accommodate 40 students. If you are interested go to <https://goo.gl/forms/jK1rCvcmNo05DTVv1> to sign up.
- **Box Tops For Education Ice Cream Party Contest** It's time once again for our annual Box Top Ice Cream Party Contest! Last year, grades K-5 competed to see which class could bring in the most Box Tops for the year. Mrs. Tabachow's 2nd graders were the winners and won a fabulous ice cream party in June. So, let's get ready for the new 2017-2018 Box Top year! Clipping Box Tops is an easy way to help earn cash for our school. Just look for the pink Box Tops on hundreds of products. All you have to do is clip them and send them to school with your child. There is a Box Top collection bin in the entrance of the school where they can be deposited. Make sure to put your Box Tops in a Ziploc bag, envelope, or the collection sheet sent home with your child, and label which teacher you are turning them in for. Please make sure that the date on the bottom of them has not expired. For more information on Box Tops, including a list of participating products, go to BTFE.com. Be sure to sign up as a member (it's free!) so you can check out our school's earnings details and get access to coupons and bonus offers. There is even a new app for your phone to earn bonus Box Tops! If you have any questions, please contact Kellie Zuba at kelliezuba@gmail.com. Let's make our school's Box Tops for Education program a huge success this year! I'll be posting updates on Facebook about which classes are in the lead to win the contest. Thanks for your help!

Health Room NEWS

Direct Line for Health Room @BMES is #240-740-0481

FREE Injectable Flu Vaccines will be offered at school clinics (John F. Kennedy HS, Northwest HS, Rockville HS) on November 9, 2017 for children ages 3 to 18 years old. Please make an appointment at this link <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/resident/flu.html> or calling 311

Envelopes are being sent home in student backpacks this week for any students who are missing the Lead Certificate forms. Please return them to Mrs. Messina in the health room as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention to this.

MCPS NEWS

Setting the 2018–2019 MCPS School Calendar

It's that time of year again when the district develops the school calendar for the following school year. Since last year, school districts across Maryland have been discussing how best to design their school calendars given the new time constraints placed on the length of the school year. The current 2017–2018 school year is the first school year operating under these new rules, which are that school cannot start before Labor Day and must end before June 15.

MCPS has been meeting with focus groups of parents, staff, and other stakeholder groups and is seeking your feedback on how best to design the 2018–2019 school calendar. Next year, the district will have even fewer days to work with than in years past to accommodate instructional and non-instructional traditions.

For a more detailed explanation of the calendar, as well as to see various examples of how the calendar could be developed, please visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/calendar/proposed-calendar-2018-19.aspx>. If you would like to offer comment on the calendar, please do so using the <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/calendar/proposed-calendar-2018-19.aspx#comments>

NAACP Parents' Council to Hold Kickoff Meeting

The NAACP Parents' Council kickoff meeting will be held from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, October 16 at Gaithersburg High School. This event will bring together parents, MCPS teachers, and principals to share ideas on cultivating parent engagement and promoting student achievement. The event will begin with a community resource fair to highlight community services and resources of interest. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from speakers who are educational experts in the area of promoting minority student achievement and participate in breakout sessions on topics including closing the achievement gap, parent-teacher conferences, and discipline. To register for the event, visit naacppc-md.org/

Celebrate the 31st Annual Montgomery County Community Service Week

Get ready for a week chock-full of volunteer opportunities across the county in honor of Montgomery County's 31st annual Community Service Week, set for October 22-29. There will be lots of ways for students and families to help a variety of local nonprofits, schools, and government agencies throughout the week, including many projects preapproved for student service learning hours.

Check the Montgomery County Volunteer Center's online calendar of volunteer needs at <https://montgomerycountymd.galaxydigital.com/calendar/2017/10> for the latest list of projects (and check back regularly as projects are being added daily), and pick any or

all that match your interests! Schools and PTAs are planning volunteer projects as part of the service week. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/Community-Service-Week.html for more information.

Reminder: 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.

Attend Open Houses for Middle and High School Consortia Application Programs

The deadline for applications to participate in the *Choice* process is November 3. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to attend open houses to learn about the *Choice* programs scheduled in October at Northeast Consortium (NEC) and Downcounty Consortium (DCC) high schools, and at the Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) middle schools. Go to the MCPS site for dates and locations <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/enrichedinnovative/events/>

Grade 8 DCC and NEC parents/guardians will receive information about the *Choice* process in the mail in mid-October. Grade 5 families received information about the middle school options in the mail in late September.

Parents/guardians and students are also encouraged to attend information meetings to learn more about the application-only programs. Go to the MCPS links below to gather more information about the magnet programs at the elementary school Centers for Enriched Studies, Roberto W. Clemente, Eastern, and Takoma Park middle schools, and Montgomery Blair, Richard Montgomery, and Poolesville high schools. <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/enrichedinnovative/events/>
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/applications.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.