

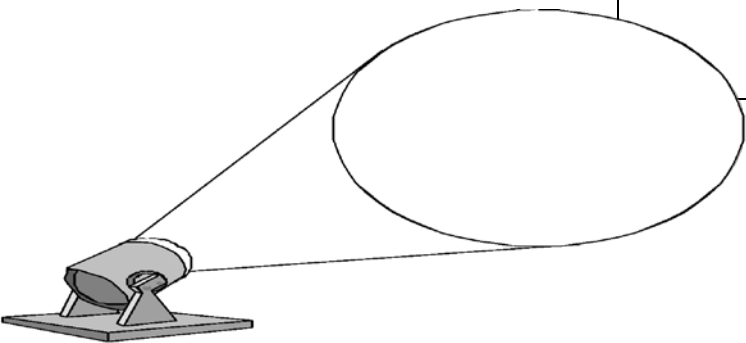
# Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary

October 23, 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., Oct. 23**            4 -5 pm MSA in gym
- Tue., Oct. 24**            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. 25**            Model UN meeting 8:15 - 9:00 am  
Grade 5 field trip to Strathmore  
4-5 pm – Crazy Chemworks (K-5)  
4-5 pm- ROBLOX Coding (Grades 3-5) Room 233  
4-5 pm – Soccer on field  
California Tortilla and Celebrity Scoop Night at Baskin-Robbins
- Thur., Oct. 26**            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. 27**            School Spirit Day -- Show your Bells Mill Bear Pride and wear blue/white  
4 – 5:30 pm Odyssey of the Minds  
Have a nice weekend making memories with your families.

## A Look Ahead

- Oct. 31**            Halloween Parade @ 2:15 and parties to follow
- Nov. 7 -**            PTA Meeting - Come and learn about our math programs in grades 3-5
- Nov. 9**            Early Dismissal at 1:20 pm
- Nov. 10**            Early Dismissal at 1:20 pm (No School for Head Start students today)

- **Wednesday, October 25** our fabulous PTA is sponsoring a family evening at California Tortilla. Please join us for dinner and then head over to the Baskin-Robbins for a great dessert. There will be celebrities scooping your delicious ice cream desserts that evening. We look forward to seeing you at this fun event.
- **Mark your calendars for our annual Halloween parade and parties.** This year we will be gathering as a school for our parade around 2:15pm in the afternoon of Tuesday, October 31. After our parade, classes will hold their Halloween parties. An early thanks to all room parents who have planned a fun event for each class. We will be moving our lunch schedule back by

15 minutes to allow the last group time to get changed into their costumes. With that said, we ask that parents send costumes in that day. Please do not have children come to school in costume. We are asking that you not send in any weapons as part of the costume. Children can include all of those extra parts when they go trick or treating that evening. We invite you to join us for the parade and of course the parties too. We ask that you park on the street. You may not park in the fire lanes in the front of the school. We also request that you not park in the bus loop so our buses can get in on time for dismissal. All parties will end at 3:30pm providing time for clean-up and an organized dismissal. Please contact your child's teacher with questions.

- **Donate Extra Halloween Candy for the Troops and First Responders!**

The BMES SGA will collect extra Halloween candy to send to deployed troops and first responders through Operation Gratitude. Please bring in unopened Halloween candy to student drop off on the mornings of November 1st-3rd. The SGA will collect candy and have materials available for students to write cards for troops. BMES is partnering with MVPSmiles, a local pediatric dentist to support the costs of shipping the candy. MVPSmiles will also donate toothbrushes to both students and the troops. Please bring in your excess Halloween candy and help support this event! More information will come home in backpacks. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Ramos at [raskinramos@gmail.com](mailto:raskinramos@gmail.com).

- **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](http://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](mailto: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!

- **November 7, at 7:00 pm is our next PTA meeting.** At this meeting we will have a panel of grade 3,4, and 5 teachers talking to you about the rigors of the elementary math program and what that looks like for your children during instruction. Please plan on joining us for this informative presentation.

## Health Room NEWS

**Head lice is a common occurrence among school children.** Currently we have had several cases reported in the third grade classes. We encourage parents to regularly check their children's heads for any sign of lice. As cold weather approaches remind your children not to share hats, scarves, etc. If discovered, the infestation should be promptly treated. Please contact the Health Room for any questions or concerns.

**Streptococcal sore throat is a common illness in childhood.** At this time we have several cases reported to us in our second grade classes. It usually occurs as a sore throat, which may or may not be red, and is commonly accompanied by a fever. Children may also present with swollen glands, headache or abdominal pains. A definite diagnosis can only be made through a throat culture done by your source of medical care. Infection is spread by direct or intimate contact through discharges from the nose, throat and skin of the infected person, who may or may not have any symptoms. Infection can also be spread indirectly through contaminated hands or objects. Symptoms appear between 1-3 days after exposure. Persons are no longer infectious 24 hours after the start of treatment. We emphasize the importance of prevention of infections through proper hand washing.

## MCPS NEWS

### **Changes Coming to Public Comments Sign-Up Process at Board Meetings**

Beginning Monday, October 23, 2017, the Montgomery County Board of Education will be changing the process to sign up to speak at Board business meetings.

Based on feedback from the community and the growing use of technology, we will be asking the community to use a Google form, located on our website, to sign up to speak. Rather than individuals calling the Board Office on the Monday before a Board meeting, please use the following Google form <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDfW4cgdgRXmep0vY9P84M80MUUMKzGtiq--VvTkLu33udOw/viewform> to use on the Friday morning before a Board business meeting until the following Monday at noon. **With this new process, telephone calls will no longer be accepted.**

Community feedback is essential to informing the Board's decisions and it is critical that the Board hear and understand the different perspectives of our community members. By changing to an online format, the Board believes it will be able to reach and hear from more individuals within the community. The Board will use many outreach platforms to communicate this change with as many people as possible. Questions may be directed to the Board's legislative aide, Patricia Swanson.

### **Sign Up for the 2017 Influenza (Flu) Vaccine Clinics**

Flu season is upon us. There are simple steps you and your child can take to stay healthy and help prevent the flu. That includes getting a yearly flu vaccine. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will conduct free, injectable flu vaccine clinics on November 9, 2017, for children ages 3 to 18 at three MCPS high schools.

The clinics will be held at John F. Kennedy, Northwest, and Rockville high schools from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. All clinics are free; however, registration is required due to limited vaccine supplies. For more information about these and other upcoming clinics, please visit the following website: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flu](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flu).

Register your child at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/resident/flu.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/resident/flu.html) or call 311 for assistance. The Flu vaccine may also be available from your health care provider.

### **Homework Help Available to all MCPS Students**

Free homework help is available from MCPS-TV's *Homework Hotline Live* (HHL). Students may call, or submit a question online, to *Homework Hotline Live* at 301-279-3234 or go to AskHHL.org. Students can watch teachers address their homework questions live on MCPS-TV from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, or get after-hours online help from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. New this year, students and parents can download the free *Homework Hotline Live* app, where you can send questions, watch live, and find more homework help resources, all from your phone (now available in App Stores for your Apple or Android device).

Ways to contact *Homework Hotline Live* for free homework help:

- Phone: 301-279-3234 (during TV broadcasts)
- Web: AskHHL.org
- Text: 724-427-5445 (7244-ASK-HHL)
- Email: [question@AskHHL.org](mailto:question@AskHHL.org)
- Snapchat (username: AskHHL)
- The new *Homework Hotline Live* phone app! (download for [Apple](#) or [Android](#))

Ways to watch *Homework Hotline Live*, from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday:

- Comcast 34 & 998(HD)
- Verizon 36
- RCN 89 & 1058(HD)
- AskHHL.org
- YouTube (search: AskHHL)
- *Homework Hotline Live* phone app

Go to AskHHL.org to learn more.

### **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. 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. Check the website for dates & locations:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/enrichedinnovative/events/>

Check the website for 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/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/applications.aspx>