

# *Bells Mill Elementary School*

8225 Bells Mill Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-469-1046  
301-469-1060(FAX)

*Office of the Principal*

August 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year. We hope that you and your children have had a fun-filled summer and are looking forward to beginning a new school year. A very successful Camp Bells Mill was held during the month of July. We had over 130 Bells Mill students in attendance. This was our biggest camp to date! The children had a great time working with their teachers on reading, math, social studies and science. A great time was held by all! We also held a very successful ESY program. I want to congratulate and thank all the staff and students who participated in both of these programs.

We have been very busy planning for the great year ahead! Many of our staff members have been involved in educational opportunities as they increase their own knowledge of best practices in education. Some staff members have attended conferences, system-wide training and university educational courses. You should have the highest regard for our staff and their dedication to their profession as well as their commitment to professional growth.

We are welcoming several new staff members. They are as follows:

- Ms. Malena Boyle is joining our staff on the autism team. Ms. Boyle has been teaching in the Chicago Public School System. We are very fortunate to have her expertise on our staff.
- Ms. Susan Schindler is officially joining our staff as a .4 speech pathologist. Ms. Schindler has worked at other schools in MCPS and will be working specifically with the students and staff in our autism program.
- Mr. Fred Teneyck, Jr. will be our long term substitute in Mrs. Childress' fourth grade class while she is on childcare leave. Mr. Teneyck is an experienced long term substitute in MCPS. He comes very highly recommended and brings great enthusiasm and experience to the position.
- Ms. Lauren Greenbaum will be our long term substitute for Mrs. Kemp's fifth grade class while she is on childcare leave. Ms. Greenbaum grew up in the Wootton High School cluster and has teaching experience in the Chicago charter school system.
- Ms. Jasprit Saini joins our staff as a para-educator. She comes to us from a previous position at Ritchie Park Elementary School.

We are happy to announce that Charlotte Ann Kemp was born on July 3 and Olivia Ann Childress arrived on August 1. Both families are healthy and happy as they welcomed their new additions this summer. Our Bells Mill family continues to grow.

This will be a very unique and special year at Bells Mill. As you may know, the assistant principal position is a training position. Typically a person will spend two years at one school to train with a principal and then moves to another school in order to complete the intern year of training to become a principal. This year we have been given a wonderful opportunity to keep Mrs. Thomas at Bells Mill while she completes her internship and the last stage of her training program. That means that she and I will begin the year sharing the duties as principal at Bells Mill. As the year progresses, I will begin to turn more and more of the responsibilities of the principalship to Mrs. Thomas. At the end of December, I will be leaving Bells Mill and go on special assignment at another MCPS school while Mrs. Thomas completely takes the management of the school. In my absence, another principal from another school will be on special assignment at Bells Mill. Mrs. Thomas will run the building. At the end of the six week period, I will then return to Bells Mill and we will begin the transition of me taking over the management of the building. During the year, Mrs. Thomas will be meeting with many executive staff members and will be completing her training in preparation for being able to then apply and interview for a school of her own. This is a very exciting process and one that I am looking forward to.

This school year, our school library media center will transition to an exciting new centralized K-12 resource management tool. This tool will help our library media center work more efficiently while engaging and collaborative learning environments promote and support student achievement. The new system is called *Destiny Library Manager (Destiny)*.

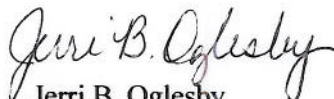
The implementation of *Destiny* will enable a stronger library media program –classroom connection and support the library media specialists’ role in helping students develop 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills. Throughout the school year our library media staff members will guide students in using the next-generation searching tool for today’s digital natives. *Destiny* contains powerful tools to conduct research of print and digital resources.

As our school community acclimates to this new resource, I look forward to a stronger library media program-classroom connection that will help our students increase their 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills.

We look forward to seeing all families during the Open House which will be held on Friday, August 24. The Open House will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 10:00 AM. This is an opportunity for you and your children to drop in, meet their teachers, and visit the classrooms. Immediately following the Open House there will be a **popsicle social** at 10:00 am on the playground. Each student will receive a “welcome to my class” phone call from his/her new teacher during the week of August 20. We appreciate the input that you provided to assist us in creating classes for the upcoming year. We can assure you that we devoted great thought, time and energy to creating balanced classes. In addition, we took great care in selecting the best class groupings as possible. We appreciate your support of all staff. We feel that we have a very dynamic staff with many talented teachers.

The following pages contain important information. **Please note that our school times remain the same this year. Instruction begins for students at 9:15 AM (students in their seats and ready for class) and will end at 3:30 PM. Students may begin arriving in the morning at 8:55 am. There were no changes in the lunch prices for this school year.** The bus schedule and school supply list are also included in the following pages. Please carefully review these pages and keep them handy for your information. Enjoy the rest of the summer. The staff and I are looking forward to a great 2011-2012 school year at Bells Mill.

Sincerely,

  
 Jerri B. Oglesby  
 Principal

  
 LaTricia Thomas  
 Principal Intern

**Mark Your Calendars:**

- |              |                                                   |             |                                      |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| August 23    | 7:00 PM Kindergarten Parent Meeting(parents only) | August 24   | 9:00-10:00 AM Open House             |
| August 27    | First Day of School                               | August 29   | PTA Picnic                           |
| September 3  | Labor Day — No School                             | September 5 | Back to School Night<br>(Grades K-2) |
| September 12 | Back to School Night (Grades 3 -5)                |             |                                      |

**Menu for First Week of School  
 2012-2013**

ELEMENTARY				
MONDAY 8/27/12	TUESDAY 8/28/12	WEDNESDAY 8/29/12	THURSDAY 8/30/12	FRIDAY 8/31/12
+Chicken Nuggets w/ Tater Tots	Personal WG Pizza ^Cheese or *Pepperoni	Soft or Crunchy +WG Taco w/ Corn	+Mesquite Bone-In Chicken w/ Carrots	WG Pizza ^Cheese or *Pepperoni
OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
^WG Grilled Cheese Sandwich w/ French Fries	*Hot Dog w/ Baked Beans	^WG Mini Pancakes w/ Yogurt	Penne Pasta w/ Meat Sauce	*Spicy Chicken Sandwich w/ Seasoned Potatoes

## **First Day Arrival and Dismissal Procedures**

It is important that students begin their routines the first day of school. If your child will be riding a bus, please have your child ride the bus the first day. If your child will be dropped off each morning, then please follow the enclosed procedures. We have parking at our building, but not enough to accommodate all parents parking and walking their children in to the building. There will be all available staff on hand to assist students until they have the routines in place.

### **Arrival Procedures – August 27, 2012**

- All walker and dropped off students will enter through the main doors at **8:55 AM**. Bus students will enter through the all- purpose room doors. Bus students will be given a “ticket” as they exit the bus to hand to their classroom teacher. This will ensure that students return home on the appropriate bus.
- Kindergarten through grade 2 students will report immediately to the gymnasium where they will meet their classroom teachers and walk to class together.
- Students in grades 3 – 5 will go directly to their assigned homeroom classrooms.

**Dismissal Procedures** (The first few days we will begin the process a little early --- however, by Friday we will be on the regular schedule)

Safety Patrols will be dismissed at 3:20 PM to go to their posts. All other students are to remain in their classrooms.

All walkers will be dismissed at 3:25 PM. Kindergarten students will be dismissed through the gym entrance to the building to be handed off directly to parents or caregivers. All other walkers will be dismissed through the front doors.

Georgetown Hill students will be dismissed to a line-up area, and Bar-T students will be escorted by their staff to the AP Room.

All bus students will be dismissed at 3:30 PM. The first day, bus students will be called one bus at a time. However, after the first day, students will be called directly to their buses. We dismiss bus students in the order their buses arrive at the school. Patrols will escort the kindergarten students directly to their buses.

July 1, 2012



**Customer  
Delight**

Dear Elementary School Parent:

Enclosed are route schedules for buses serving your child's school. Please note the appropriate time, location, and route number for your child. Students should be ready and waiting to board the bus five (5) minutes prior to its scheduled arrival time. Route numbers are displayed on each bus, in the side window. Students who live within 1.1 miles of the school may not be eligible for transportation services if safe walking routes are available. Questions should be referred to the transportation cluster supervisor who is responsible for your school.

Bus stops previously scheduled may have been eliminated or relocated to provide economies in operation. Every effort is made to minimize inconvenience to students and parents, and provide a reasonable level of service. Saving support budget dollars provides more resources for classrooms.

When bus stops are scheduled at intersections, students should stand safely away from traffic, within 150 feet of the stop. *Parents are responsible for maintaining discipline and safety at bus stops.* This may mean that parents will have to take an active role in monitoring behavior at stops, especially where younger students are present. In some cases, parents may need to escort their child to the stop and remain until the bus arrives. Students waiting for buses may choose to stand in carports and garages for protection from the elements. This is acceptable only if: (1) it does not alter the route; (2) it does not increase the number of stops; (3) it is acceptable to all parties involved; and, (4) it is reasonably close to the regular stop (so that a substitute bus operator, not familiar with special arrangements, may easily locate the students). Please note that bus operators are only authorized to stop at designated stops. Please do not request unauthorized stops. Montgomery County Public Schools realizes a substantial fuel savings by limiting the number of bus stops.

Students who wish to ride home on a friend's bus, or get off their own bus at a friend's stop must bring a note from their parent. Once approved and signed by the principal, the student should give this note to the operator of the bus they will be riding. This practice will normally be approved where space permits.

Inclement weather creates many hardships for us all. It is not possible to provide additional transportation during winter months or on rainy days, and for this reason, students should dress accordingly. In case buses are not able to reach designated stops due to snow and ice accumulation, parents are encouraged to make advance arrangements with bus operators so that students who live in these areas can board at alternate locations when necessary.

Appropriate student behavior is important to the safety and comfort of everyone. Parents are encouraged to discuss behavior with their children regularly to reinforce this message. It is important that all students follow the rules stated in "*Ride by the Rules.*" campaign. For more information on this, please visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/transportation/> or ask your school for one of the "*Ride by the Rules*" pamphlets.

Student transportation can only operate effectively if we all do our part to make things work. Parental assistance and cooperation is needed to provide a safe transportation system for student riders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Candy Mason". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Karen Candy Mason  
Depot Manager

KCM:lh

Enclosures

## Arrival Routes Report

**Route: 1202 - BELLS MILL ES****First Stop Time: 8:52 A.M.**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	GAINSBOROUGH RD AND WINDSOR VIEW DR
2	GAINSBOROUGH RD AND SNUG HILL LA
3	10229 SEVEN LOCKS RD 20854
4	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND TURNING CREEK CT - RSO
5	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND MUIRFIELD CT - DOOR SIDE
6	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND ORACLE PL - RSO
7	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND SEVEN HILL LA - RSO
<b>9:05 A.M.</b>	<b>BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854 607 - REGULAR SCHOOL</b>

**Route: 1209 - BELLS MILL ES****First Stop Time: 8:50 A.M.**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	11614 SEVEN LOCKS ROAD - BEVERLY FARMS DAYCARE MCCA @ BEVERLY FARMS ES @ IVYMOUNT
2	8500 TUCKERMAN LA 20854
3	FOX RUN AND LAMPLIGHTER LA
4	CANDLELIGHT LA AND LOCHINVER LA
5	11333 DEBORAH DR 20854
6	DEBORAH DR AND LAKENHEATH WAY
7	DEBORAH DR AND LARKMEADE LA
<b>9:05 A.M.</b>	<b>BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854 607 - REGULAR SCHOOL</b>

**Route: 1211 - BELLS MILL ES****First Stop Time: 8:45 A.M.**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	TUCKERMAN LA AND ANGUS PL
2	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND SCOTLAND DR - RSO
<b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854 607 - REGULAR SCHOOL</b>

**Route: 1212 - BELLS MILL ES****First Stop Time: 8:46 A.M.**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	WILLOWBROOK DR AND HARVEST SQUARE CT
2	STAPLEFORD HALL DR AND PAYTLEY BRIDGE LA
3	WILLOWBROOK DR AND CAMBRIDGE MANOR CT
4	STAPLEFORD HALL DR AND STAPLEFORD HALL CT
5	STAPLEFORD HALL DR AND STAPLEFORD HALL PL
6	9204 BELLS MILL RD 20854
7	8904 BELLS MILL RD 20854 - DEVELOPMENT ENTRANCE
8	GREAT ARBOR DR AND TALLYHO TRL
9	GREAT ARBOR DR AND TROTTERS TRL
10	TIMBER HILL LA AND CROSSING CREEK RD
11	FOX HILLS TRL AND TROTTERS TRL
<b>9:05 A.M.</b>	<b>BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854 607 - REGULAR SCHOOL</b>

**Route: 1213 - BELLS MILL ES****First Stop Time: 8:53 A.M.**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	GAINSBOROUGH RD AND POWDER HORN DR
2	POWDER HORN DR AND FOX RUN
3	FOX RUN AND LONG PINE TRL
4	FOX RUN AND HUNT CLUB DR
5	TUCKERMAN LA FROM GAINSBOROUGH RD TO DEBORAH DR

Arrival Routes Report

9:05 A.M. BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854  
607 - REGULAR SCHOOL

Route: 1222 - BELLS MILL ES

First Stop Time: 8:52 A.M.

Seq

Stop Description

- 1 11315 FALLS RD - LITTLE ACORN DAYCARE/POTOMAC CC  
301-983-4372
- 2 FALL RIVER LA AND SPRINKLEWOOD LA
- 3 FALL RIVER LA AND CRANFORD DR
- 4 BOLTON DR AND CRANFORD DR 20854
- 5 CRANFORD DR AND HAISLIP CT
- 6 BELLS MILL RD AND HAISLIP CT
- 7 HARNESS TRL AND WILLOWBROOK DR
- 8 HARNESS TRL AND SLEEPY HOLLOW LA  
2ND INTERSECTION
- 9 HARNESS TRL AND PEBBLE BROOK LA

9:05 A.M. BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854  
607 - REGULAR SCHOOL

## Departure Routes Report

**Route: 1202 - BELLS MILL ES PM**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
3:37 P.M.	<b>BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854</b>
	<b>607 - REGULAR SCHOOL</b>
1	GAINSBOROUGH RD AND WINDSOR VIEW DR
2	GAINSBOROUGH RD AND SNUG HILL LA
3	10229 SEVEN LOCKS RD 20854
4	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND TURNING CREEK CT - RSO
5	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND MUIRFIELD CT - DOOR SIDE
6	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND ORACLE PL - RSO
7	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND SEVEN HILL LA - RSO

**Route: 1209 - BELLS MILL ES PM**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
3:37 P.M.	<b>BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854</b>
	<b>607 - REGULAR SCHOOL</b>
1	DEBORAH DR AND LARKMEADE LA
2	DEBORAH DR AND LAKENHEATH WAY
3	11333 DEBORAH DR 20854
4	CANDLELIGHT LA AND LOCHINVER LA
5	FOX RUN AND LAMPLIGHTER LA
6	8500 TUCKERMAN LA 20854
7	11614 SEVEN LOCKS ROAD - BEVERLY FARMS DAYCARE MCCA @ BEVERLY FARMS ES @ IVYMOUNT

**Route: 1211 - BELLS MILL ES PM**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
3:37 P.M.	<b>BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854</b>
	<b>607 - REGULAR SCHOOL</b>
1	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND SCOTLAND DR - RSO
2	TUCKERMAN LA AND ANGUS PL

**Route: 1212 - BELLS MILL ES PM**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
3:37 P.M.	<b>BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854</b>
	<b>607 - REGULAR SCHOOL</b>
1	WILLOWBROOK DR AND HARVEST SQUARE CT
2	STAPLEFORD HALL DR AND PAYTLEY BRIDGE LA
3	WILLOWBROOK DR AND CAMBRIDGE MANOR CT
4	STAPLEFORD HALL DR AND STAPLEFORD HALL CT
5	STAPLEFORD HALL DR AND STAPLEFORD HALL PL
6	9204 BELLS MILL RD 20854
7	8904 BELLS MILL RD 20854 - DEVELOPMENT ENTRANCE
8	GREAT ARBOR DR AND TALLYHO TRL
9	GREAT ARBOR DR AND TROTTERS TRL
10	TIMBER HILL LA AND CROSSING CREEK RD
11	FOX HILLS TRL AND TROTTERS TRL

**Route: 1213 - BELLS MILL ES PM**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
3:37 P.M.	<b>BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854</b>
	<b>607 - REGULAR SCHOOL</b>
1	GAINSBOROUGH RD AND POWDER HORN DR
2	POWDER HORN DR AND FOX RUN
3	FOX RUN AND LONG PINE TRL
4	FOX RUN AND HUNT CLUB DR
5	TUCKERMAN LA FROM GAINSBOROUGH RD TO DEBORAH DR

**Route: 1222 - BELLS MILL ES PM**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
------------	-------------------------

Departure Routes Report

3:37 P.M.

**BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854**

**607 - REGULAR SCHOOL**

- 1 HARNESS TRL AND PEBBLE BROOK LA
- 2 HARNESS TRL AND SLEEPY HOLLOW LA  
2ND INTERSECTION
- 3 HARNESS TRL AND WILLOWBROOK DR
- 4 BELLS MILL RD AND HAISLIP CT
- 5 CRANFORD DR AND HAISLIP CT
- 6 BOLTON DR AND CRANFORD DR 20854
- 7 FALL RIVER LA AND CRANFORD DR
- 8 FALL RIVER LA AND SPRINKLEWOOD LA
- 9 11315 FALLS RD - LITTLE ACORN DAYCARE/POTOMAC CC  
301-983-4372





# MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

MARYLAND

August 2012



Dear MCPS Families:

I am excited to tell you about continuing upgrades to the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) elementary school curriculum that will better engage our students and help them develop the skills they need to be successful in school and beyond.

During the past three years, we have been rolling out an upgraded curriculum—called Curriculum 2.0—one grade at a time, starting with kindergarten. In the coming school year, Curriculum 2.0 will be fully implemented in kindergarten through Grade 3 classrooms at all schools. We also will improve our report card in these grades to better align with the curriculum and give you more information about what your student knows and is able to do.

Curriculum 2.0 is based on a strong body of research and is designed to provide a well-rounded education for students, while also developing the critical and creative thinking skills that are so important for success in academics and in life. In mathematics, reading, and writing, the curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards, the new internationally driven standards adopted by Maryland and 45 other states. At the same time, Curriculum 2.0 allows for more instructional focus on the arts, information literacy, science, social studies, and physical education—areas that have been crowded out at times during the past decade. We know that Curriculum 2.0 will help give our students a strong educational foundation in elementary school and lead to greater success in middle and high school.

The improved “standards-based” report card in kindergarten through Grade 3 will provide you with information about how students are progressing in specific areas of the curriculum and how they are performing in relation to grade-level expectations. We have been piloting standards-based report cards in 25 schools for the past six years and have had positive feedback from parents, teachers, and administrators. Report cards in Grades 4 and 5 will not change this coming year.

Our MCPS team believes Curriculum 2.0 will help improve teaching and learning in every elementary classroom. You will hear more about Curriculum 2.0 at the beginning of the school year from your principal, but you may access additional information now by visiting our website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/). If you have questions, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

Joshua P. Starr, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

# MCPS CURRICULUM 2.0

*Empowering Students • Connecting Content • Fostering Creativity*

For the past three years, we have been implementing Curriculum 2.0, our upgraded elementary school curriculum. Curriculum 2.0 is designed to make sure students have not only the academic knowledge they need, but also the important skills required for success in the 21st century.

## **New internationally driven standards in mathematics, reading, and writing**

### **Renewed focus on teaching the whole child**

- Nurtures skills that build confidence and success
- Engages student beyond reading and mathematics, to spark greater interest in science, social studies, information literacy, art, music, physical education, and health

### **Integrates thinking, reasoning, and creativity for a lifetime of learning**

- Enhances learning by connecting subjects

### **Communicates student progress through an improved “standards-based” report card**

- Provides parents with more information about what a student knows and is able to do in relation to grade-level expectations.

**MCPS CURRICULUM 2.0** is built around developing students' critical- and creative-thinking skills, as well as essential academic-success skills, so that students are well prepared for a lifetime of learning. We are upgrading the existing MCPS curriculum for the elementary grades in a way that will better engage students and teachers, and dedicate more learning time to subjects such as the arts, information literacy, science, social studies, and physical education. By blending these subjects with the core content areas of reading, writing, and mathematics, students will receive robust, engaging instruction across all subjects in the early grades—in short, we are building a stronger foundation at the elementary level.



To learn more—[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/)

**Bells Mill Elementary School PTA**  
**8225 Bells Mill Road**  
**Potomac, Maryland 20854**  
**[www.bellsmill.org](http://www.bellsmill.org)**

Dear Bells Mill Family:

Welcome to a new year at Bells Mill Elementary School! We are looking forward to a fantastic school year and would like to invite you to join us in the Bells Mill Parent-Teacher Association for the 2012-2013 academic year.

In order to help our children and our teachers, the Bells Mill PTA advocates for our children and sponsors numerous programs in the areas of academic improvement, cultural arts, school events, staff appreciation and student affairs. This organization is an exciting way for parents to take an active role in making a difference in the education and success of our children. And by active, we mean there is something for everyone – full time working parents, families with their first child in kindergarten and “legacy” parents sending their last family member to 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

When you become a member of the Bells Mill PTA, you are taking a big step toward being more involved in your child’s formal education. From supporting teachers to planning community-wide events, the PTA is an integral part of our community. Our dues are \$18 per family for this school year. This tax-deductible fee allows you to attend and vote at all PTA meetings, and provides membership in our county PTA (MCCPTA), our state PTA (MDPTA) and the national PTA.

We are proud to announce a new and improved PTA [website](http://www.bellsmill.org) (<http://www.bellsmill.org>), where you can become a member of the PTA, and easily stay updated on news and events. The following are a few highlights that we hope will make joining and keeping informed easier than ever:

- **Join Online!** When you join online, you may pay \$18 for the membership alone, or you can get your membership for *free* when you buy a \$50 gift card for California Tortilla. You must buy the gift card through the PTA, not at the restaurant. If you choose not to pay online, the traditional membership form is also available for download on the site.
- **Bear Mail is now Bear Post.** The weekly newsletter to keep you informed about all things Bells Mill PTA will now be sent directly from the website. This means that all information, including volunteer sign ups, calendars or links to additional information, will live on the PTA website and will be sent to you in a newsletter format weekly. It is essentially the same thing as our beloved Bear Mail, but allows you to find the newsletters online and sign up for emails and/or RSS feeds, depending on your preference. The website also allows calendar sync for events, directly from Bear Post.
  - **How to get Bear Post** – If you are already signed up for BearMail you will get a confirmation email from Bear Posts, **which requires no further action** (except if you wish to modify your subscription).
    - If you are **new to BearMail/Bear Posts**, please **go to the homepage and sign up.**
    - If you are not sure whether you are in the system, **sign up again!!**

We look forward to an exciting school year. Please join us in working together to ensure that every child at our school has the best opportunity to learn and be successful.

Eris Norman  
PTA President

Mandy Lemar  
PTA President-Elect

**Upcoming PTA Events:**

**-Kindergarten Parent Orientation** on 8/23, 7pm - 8pm: Parents of incoming Kindergarten students should join the Kindergarten teachers and administrators for a back-to-school and get-acquainted session.

**-BMES Open House** on 8/24, 9am - 10am: See your new classroom and meet your teacher!

**-BMES Playground & Popsicle Social** on 8/24, 10am – 12:00pm: Join your friends on the playground for popsicles and fun after you meet your new teachers at the Open House.

**-BMES Family Picnic** on 8/29, 5:30pm – 7:30pm: Meet your classmates and their families for a fun evening picnic! Bring a blanket and a picnic dinner or buy dinner from one of the many food vendors that will be there.

**-First PTA Meeting** on 10/2, 7pm – 9pm: Please join us for our first meeting of the school year, where we will vote on the final budget for the 2012-2013 academic year.

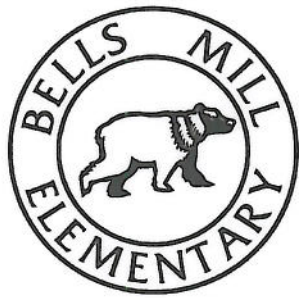
***Just a few things the Bells Mill PTA does for our community:***

Help teachers purchase needed supplies for their classrooms \* arrange parent volunteer programs during recess and to support teachers and staff in the classroom \* provide lunch and event funds for Kids In Need \* sponsor cultural arts assemblies and after-school activities \* organize and sponsor community events such as International Night, Club Bells Mill, Ice Skating Night, Movie Night, Family Fun/Bingo Night and the Bells Mill Bash \* show appreciation to our staff with classroom support \* distribute a free annual directory of students to all Bells Mill families \* and much, much more!

Remember to go check out the new PTA [website](http://www.bellsmill.org) today!!

**<http://www.bellsmill.org>**





# *Bells Mill Elementary School*

8225 Bells Mill Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-469-1046  
301-469-1060(FAX)

*Office of the Principal*

August 2012

Dear Parents:

Students will not be asked to pay for or provide textbooks, supplementary readers (such as anthologies, atlases, or workbooks), most materials of instruction, audiovisual aids, stationery items not commonly found in the home and required for the student to demonstrate mastery of course objectives, or building or office materials needed to operate schools.

Students may be asked to pay for materials of instruction that primarily fit into three categories as follows:

- Items eaten by the student as a part of the course (example: bread baking ingredients).
- Component parts of a product that will become student property (example: sculpting clay).
- Materials of instruction or items of personal use that become the property of the student (example: recorder).

Students are still expected to bring individual organizational tools and personal supplies from home. In addition, there are student fees which are not course-related but local school decisions made by the principal in collaboration with the school and parent leadership. These may include fees for class snacks, special grade-level assemblies, etc. There also may be fees related to field trips, but these will be shared each time there is a trip and not in advance as a school fee.

We are committed to providing all students, regardless of their economic circumstances, with full access to the instructional program. If you need assistance for any requested expense, or with providing the organizational tools and personal supplies, please contact your child's teacher, our counselor, our assistant principal, or me.

Parent donations of items that enhance the classroom experience are still welcomed, either as donations from individual parents or organized by class parents or by the PTA. A list of these items also is attached to this letter and clearly titled, *Voluntary Parent Donations*. They are not required donations and no student will be expected to provide these items, but if you care to contribute, it will be appreciated.

## Bells Mill Elementary School 2012-2013 School Supplies Lists

Dear Parents,

The following personal organizational items are recommended by teachers for the 2012-2013 school year.

### Kindergarten Supply List

Backpack (no wheels)  
Small Plastic School Box (no zip pouches)  
Box of 24 Crayons  
Sturdy Pocket Folders (no prongs)  
#2 Pencils  
Round Tip Safety Scissors  
Glue Sticks

### Grade 2 Supply List

Pencil Box  
Box of 24 Crayons  
Glue Sticks  
Boxes of Sharpened Pencils-#2  
Green Pocket Folders  
Red Pocket Folder  
Composition Book (hard back 150 pg. wide rule)  
Composition Book (hard back 100 pg, wide rule)

### Grade 4 Supply List

3-ring Binder, 1 in.  
Dividers, 5 tab pack  
Box of 24 Crayons  
Glue Sticks  
Red Pocket Folder  
Green Pocket Folder  
Boxes of Sharpened Pencils-#2  
Pencil Pouch/Case  
Notebook Filler Paper (wide rule)

### Grade 1 Supply List

Box of 24 Crayons  
Glue Sticks  
Erasers-Pink Pearl  
Red two-pocket folders (no prongs)  
Yellow two-pocket folders (no prongs)  
Blue two-pocket folders (no prongs)  
Purple two-pocket folders (no prongs)

### Grade 3 Supply List

3-ring Binder, 1.5 in. (no trapper keepers)  
Dividers, 5 tab pack, multicolor  
Erasers-Pink Pearl  
Boxes of Sharpened Pencils-#2  
Box of 24 Crayons  
Glue Sticks  
Notebook Filler Paper (wide rule)  
Red Pocket Folder  
Purple Pocket Folder  
Pencil Pouch or Box  
Box of 12 Colored Pencils

### Grade 5 Supply List

3-ring Binder, 2 in. (durable, for frequent use)  
Notebook Filler Paper (wide rule, 200 sheets)  
Boxes of Sharpened Pencils-#2  
Pencil Pouch to insert in 3-ring Binder  
Glue Sticks  
Spiral Notebook (120 sheets, wide rule)  
Spiral Notebook (150 sheets, wide rule)  
Large Erasers  
Box of 12 Colored Pencils  
Dividers (5-tab pack)  
Protractor

**Voluntary Parent Donations** We would gladly accept additional donations of the above items, as well as the following items: colored pencils; highlighters; facial tissues; all sizes of Ziploc storage bags (especially sandwich size for the health room).

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2012-2013 Cafeteria News and Elementary School Meals Information

Food and Nutrition Services serves more than 14 million meals annually. We support healthy meal options for students and continually explore new ways to enhance the nutritional contribution and student acceptability of meals. For more information, visit us on the Web at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/foodserv](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/foodserv)

The cafeteria continues to offer the convenience and flexibility of SNAP, a computerized cash register system. Depositing funds into a cafeteria account eliminates the need for a child to carry money every day. Students enter their Personalized Identification Number (PIN) to access their account. The PIN for students returning to the same school remains the same. New students receive their PIN on the first day of school. Any money left on a student's account last year is available for spending this year. Pre-payments to a student's account may be made prior to the start of school.

<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEAL PRICES</b>	
Lunch Meal	\$2.50
Reduced-price Lunch Meal	\$0.40
Breakfast Meal	\$1.30
Reduced-price Breakfast Meal	\$0.00
Milk	\$0.60

To make a prepayment:

- Use **MyLunchMoney.com**, an online service to make a prepayment using a credit card. Parents can also check meal account balances, sign up for recurring payments and much more. Go to **MyLunchMoney.com** to register.
- Complete the form below and include a check payable to the cafeteria. Please put the child's first name, last name and PIN number on the front of the check.

### **Free and Reduced-price Meal Applications**

Families who meet certain federal income standards are eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits. All children use a PIN number so confidentiality is maintained and no child is overtly identified as free or reduced-price meals. Applications for meal benefits are sent home with the youngest in family in the information packet given out at the start of each school year. Only one application is needed for all students in a household. A new application must be completed for any family requesting assistance this school year.

### **Check Acceptance Policy**

Checks used to pay for schools meals must contain an address, phone number and student PIN number. Returned checks are subject to recovery for the face value and Maryland State allowed fee of \$35 through an electronic debit or paper draft to the same account. Your payment by check constitutes your acceptance of these terms. If you have any questions concerning our check acceptance policy, please call CHECKredi at 1-800-239-1222.



### **PREPAYMENT FORM**

Please make the check payable to the cafeteria and include the name of your school. Checks used to pay for school meals must contain an address and phone number. Please put your child's first name, last name and PIN number on the front of the check. This check is for cafeteria purchases **ONLY**. Please list each student separately and bring payment to the cafeteria manager. **Thank You!**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ PIN \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ PIN \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ PIN \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_