

## **Bells Mill Elementary School (BMES) Third PTA Meeting on 12/3/13**

### **BMES Media Center**

The third BMES PTA meeting was called to order by PTA President, Mandy Lemar, at 7:00 p.m. at Bells Mill Elementary School. The Following PTA Board Members were present: Mandy Lemar, President, Stacy Ganz Kahn, President-Elect, Kurt Shanfield, Treasurer, Kakki Lewis, Vice President of Student Affairs, Cristin Caine, Vice President of Fund Raising, Greer Bautz, Vice President of Communications, Lang Lin, Delegate, Diana Gallagher, Delegate, and RobBee Fredricks, Secretary.

TRESURER'S REPORT: Kurt Shanfield reported that there are currently 698 PTA members. Payment of \$633 was made from A to Z Directories. \$795 was brought in from the Family Bingo Night. Net income for the month was \$807.

FUNDRAISING REPORT: Cristin Caine reported that a Math and Literacy Night will be held on January 16<sup>th</sup> (Time to be determined). This will be a really fun night where kids can play grade-level games based on math and literacy skills. Dinner will be provided and then students will break into different rooms by grade-level to play these fun games. \$700 will be budgeted for dinner and \$500 will be budgeted for new games, which will go back into the classrooms.

Ms. Caine also proposed amending the budget to include re-investment in the following three areas:

- 1) Supply the school with a cart of 10 mobile laptops for \$7,500. Mrs. Ogelsby is willing to match this donation.
- 2) Supply the Health Room with "Henry the Hand" to teach children about hand-washing and hand awareness. Additional supplies, such as band-aids and hand sanitizers, will also be purchased. \$400 will be re-invested here.
- 3) Supply the library with the research software programs, Pebble Go Social Studies and Pebble Go Biographies. These two programs cost \$345, which would need to be renewed yearly.

The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

MCCPTA DELEGATE REPORT: Diana Gallagher reported on the MCCPTA (Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations) Delegate Assembly. The MCCPTA is in the information gathering stage regarding Dr. Star's initiative to extend the Elementary School day. MCCPTA wants to get the word out about this proposal and for parents to understand what is being proposed. Parents can go to the MCCPTA website and can write comments there. Dr. Star will visit each High School in the cluster to address this issue. He will be at Richard

Montgomery High School on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The BMES PTA is not taking a formal stand on this issue.

Ms. Gallagher also reminded everyone that the Parent Resource Group's next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8pm in the Media Center. Speaker Kelly Meissner, Special Project Coordinator from the Parents Place of Maryland, will discuss available resources both state-wide and in the county.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mrs. Hall-Bell reported for Mrs. Oglesby, who was not able to attend due to a death in the family. Mrs. Hall-Bell said that Mrs. Oglesby was happy to be back and is getting caught up on everything that is going on at Bells Mill. She further reported that Inview Testing starts tomorrow for second graders and those third, fourth, and fifth graders who need to be re-screened (parents have been notified if their child is to be re-screened). This testing will reveal which students qualify for gifted and talented programs. Results will come this spring.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS (see calendar on-line for additional updates)**

- Dec 7 PTA Sponsored Ice Skating Social, 6:30-8pm, Cabin John Ice Rink
- Dec 12 Parent Resource Group Meeting, 7-8pm, media center – *Speaker - Kelly Meissner, Special -Project Coordinator, from the Parents Place of Maryland*
- Dec 14 PTA Sponsored Club Bells Mill, Winter Wonderland, 6-8pm
- Dec 23 – Jan 1 Winter Break, No School
- Jan 2 Back to School
- Jan 7 PTA Meeting #4 –Ms. Hall-Bell and Mrs. Kanter- Presenting on Social Emotional Learning
- Jan 9 Parent Resource Group Meeting, 7-8pm, media center – topic – TBA
- Jan 10 PTA Sponsored Winter Dance – Save the Date!

#### **IMPORTANT INFO**

- Volunteer to help with BMES Skate night by contacting Sean Twombly at sean.twombly@gmail.com
- Volunteers needed for CBM on Dec 14th. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4CAEA69-December>
- SGA Toy Drive runs December 2 through December 13. If you would like to help, bring new unwrapped toys to your classroom.
- Winter Enrichment classes start Jan 13th. Watch Bear Posts and website for class announcements
- Bells Mill PTA Website – [www.bellsmill.org](http://www.bellsmill.org), Friend BMES on Facebook [www.facebook.com/bellsmill](http://www.facebook.com/bellsmill)
- Friday is Spirit Wear Day/School Colors – Show your BMES pride! Wear your blue and white! Email Mandy pictures of your kids in school colors if you want them posted on FB! SGA running a class spirit contest.
- Sign up for recess and lunch volunteer. We are especially in need of Kinder/1st/4th grade volunteers. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044DAAA92AAA8-recess>

GUEST SPEAKER: Kakki Lewis introduced Patti Cancellier, Director of Education for the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP). Ms. Cancellier spoke on the topic: *Raising Responsible Children (aka this is not a hotel and I am not your maid)*. You can find more information at [www.pepparent.org](http://www.pepparent.org).

Questions? Contact PTA president – Mandy Lemar – [mhlemar@verizon.net](mailto:mhlemar@verizon.net), 301-204-1393.  
Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

RobBee Fredricks, Secretary