



Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary
Week of May 27, 2013
Office of the Principal
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles
<http://www.twitter.com/bellsmilles>

Week Ahead:

Mon., May 27 NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day Holiday

Tues., May 28
Rock Guitar, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 125
Lego Cyber Robotics, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 121
Eco-Kids, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 214
Last day for Tuesday late bus

Wed., May 29
Gr. 2 field trip to National Zoo
Art, 3:30-5, rm. 163

Thur., May 30
K field trip to College Park Aviation Museum
Yoga, 3:30-4:30, gym (last session)
Earth Science (K-1), 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 213
Earth Science (2-4), 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 217
Moor Sports Soccer 3:30-4:45, fields
Last day for Thursday late bus

Fri., May 31
Scrabble, 3:30-4:30, Media Center (last session)
Popsicle Palooza, 4:30-5:30 pm, on the blacktop

A Look Ahead

June 4 Gr. 5 to U.S. Capitol
June 5 Instrumental Music Concert, 7:00 pm, APR
June 7 Bells Mill Bash! (rain date June 10)
June 11 Gr. 5 rehearsal for Promotion Ceremony, 12:45-3:00 pm, Churchill HS
June 12 Gr. 5 picnic at Inverness, 9:30 am-2:30 pm
June 13 Gr. 5 Promotion Ceremony, 7:00 pm, Churchill HS auditorium
June 14 Last day of school, EARLY RELEASE at 1:00 pm
June 25 Report Cards mailed home from central office

- **Please remember to replenish your child's lunch account.** Now is a good time to make a deposit that will cover lunches through the end of the school year. If your child owes money to the cafeteria please make a deposit to cover that amount. **The school is obligated to pay off any student negative account balances that remain at the end of the year.** Money left in your child's account will carry over to next year. If you have questions about your child's account please contact Ms. Zhou, cafeteria manager.
- **Please join us for Popsicle Palooza on Friday, May 31st from 4:30 to 5:30 at Bells Mill on the blacktop!** You and your kids can celebrate the end of a great year with their teachers and yummy ice cream treats. Tickets for treats can be purchased at the event. In exchange for your tickets, teachers will serve up cool, delicious ice cream and popsicles. As with any school or PTA event, all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

- **Final payment for Camp Bells Mill/KinderCamp is due now.** If you wish to discuss payment options please contact Mrs. Thomas at [Laticia D. Thomas@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Laticia_D_Thomas@mcpsmd.org) or 301-469-1046.
- **Check out the Lost & Found area** on the stage for your child's missing belongings. Any remaining items will be donated to charity when school ends in June. We also have many pairs of eyeglasses in the office.
- **In lieu of end-of-year gifts, teachers ask that you consider a tax deductible contribution to the Bells Mill Bear Hug Fund.** The teacher that you choose to honor will receive a card stating that a contribution has been made by you, and you will receive a receipt and letter for tax purposes. Please make checks payable to "Bells Mill Bear Hug Fund" and send to Ms. DeMarino in the office.
- **A new search feature will be launched on all MCPS school websites in the upcoming weeks.** A search box will be located on the upper-right corner of our school's homepage and will help you quickly find important information on our website. If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback on this new search function, please email webmaster@mcpsmd.org.
- **Save the date! Plan to kick off the 2013-2014 school year at the MCPS Back-to-School Fair on Saturday, August 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive in Rockville.** The fair is a great way for families to learn about school system programs and services while enjoying entertainment, children's activities and much more. Free transportation will be provided from 12 locations throughout the county. Please note that this year, backpacks will not be given out at the fair, but will be sent to schools for distribution to students in need. Visit www.mcpsbacktoschoolfair.org over the summer for updates.
- **The MCPS Give BACKpacks campaign is under way and needs your help to raise funds to purchase 50,000 backpacks filled with school supplies for MCPS students in need.** The Give BACKpacks drive will support families that cannot afford basic necessities like school supplies. A backpack filled with school supplies only costs \$10, and donors will have the option to sponsor an individual student, a classroom, a grade level or an entire school. Additional information will be posted at www.mcpsgivebackpacks.org in the coming weeks.
- **The Montgomery County Council approved a \$2.23 billion Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 operating budget for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).** The budget represents a 2.6 percent increase over the current year, the minimum increase allowed by state law. The budget will allow MCPS to manage its continued enrollment growth, re-energize efforts to narrow achievement gaps, and prepare for the future. The budget also will allow the district to invest in key areas, such as mathematics instruction, middle schools, professional learning for staff and the restoration of some positions that have been eliminated over the past several years. The Board of Education is expected to approve a final budget for FY 2014 on June 13.
- **We would like to thank the staff and teachers for supporting the Geo Bowl.** We also would like to thank the students for completing the packets, taking the quizzes, creating the cheers, and studying for the bowl. The three days of bowls were full of enthusiasm and great cheers. Congratulations to each grade level winner: Mr. Nocente's Class, Ms. Berkowitz' Class and Mr. Leffler's Class. Thanks to all parents who volunteered and came out to watch each bowl. Your help and support was invaluable.

Thank you for being partners in your child's education.