



Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary
Week of November 18, 2013
Office of the Principal
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles
<http://www.twitter.com/bellsmilles>

Week Ahead:

- Mon., Nov. 18** K Daisies, 3:30 pm, rm. 236
 Gr. 3 Brownies, 3:30 pm, rm. 132
- Tues., Nov. 19** Last Day for Food Drive
 Guitar, 3:30-4:30, rm. 165
 Gr. 1 Daisies, 3:30 pm, rm. 132
 Gr. 2 Brownies, 3:30, rm. 124
- Wed., Nov. 20** Beginning/Intermediate French, 8:00 am, rm. 240
 Spanish Intro, 8:15 am, rm. 212
 Beginning Spanish, 3:30-4:30, rm. 235
 OM Giraffes, 3:30, rm. 154
 Gr. 4 Juniors, 3:30, rm. 239
- Thur., Nov. 21** Gr. 2 to Strathmore Concert
 Head Start Parent Meeting, 10:00 am, rm. 165
 Beginning Chinese, 3:30-4:30, rm. 218
 I9 Sports Soccer, 3:30-4:30
- Fri., Nov. 22** Intermediate Spanish, 8:00 am, rm. 239
 Play-Well TEKnologies Lego, 3:30, rm. 163
 OM, 3:30 pm, Media Center

A Look Ahead

- Nov. 27** Early Release Day, dismissal at 1:00 pm (NO HEAD START)
Nov. 28 & 29 Thanksgiving Holiday, school closed
Dec. 4 Portrait Make-Ups all morning
Dec. 6 Gr. 5 class panoramic photo, 9:30 am

- **Please donate nonperishable food items to the Gr. 2 Brownie Troop 2794 food drive for A Wider Circle, a non-profit organization to benefit families in need. The drive ends on Tuesday, November 19.** A donation bin is located near the main office door. Most needed items are whole grain pasta, cereal, beans and canned fruits and vegetables, but all donations are welcome.

- **Students in Grades K-5 can explore the arts by participating in Reflections, an arts program sponsored by our PTA in conjunction with the National PTA.** This year’s theme is “Believe, Dream, Inspire.” Interested students may create an original work in any of the following categories: dance, film, music, literature, photography and visual arts. **Deadline for entries is November 27.** For details contact Stefie Heideman, Bells Mill PTA Reflections Chair, at stefie@artescapades.com.

- **Portrait Make-Up Day is Wednesday, December 4, 2013, for those students who were absent on picture day and those who desire a retake. Photographers will be here until 11:30 am.** Extra order

forms are available in the office, but no order form is necessary for students who desire a retake. Just return the original portrait package directly to the photographer at the time of retake.

- **We had great fun at Bingo Night. Thank you to Debbie Oblon and the volunteers who organized this popular event.**
- **Thank you to Katey Roberts. She kindly delivered a carload of last year's lost-and-found clothing to A Wider Circle, a local non-profit that helps families in need.**
- **Register now for Saturday School.** The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy is a small local nonprofit known to most as Saturday School. Each Saturday morning their staff and volunteers provide tutoring and mentoring support to thousands of students. Saturday School is offered now through May at 12 locations throughout the county. Registration fee is \$50, \$30 for students receiving free/reduced price meals. For more information visit www.saturdayschool.org, or pick up a form in the Bells Mill office.
- **Tune in for an Education Town Hall, Thursday, November 21, 7:00-8:00 pm, on Maryland Public TV.** Get an informative look at the new Common Core State Standards, and learn how students are being prepared in today's classroom for college, career and the workplace of tomorrow.
- **Superintendent Joshua Starr is recommending that MCPS consider changing school starting and ending times, also known as bell times.** Dr. Starr is recommending that high schools start 50 minutes later, middle schools start 10 minutes earlier, and that the elementary school day be extended by 30 minutes. MCPS would like to hear from you on this proposal. The district will provide various opportunities for members of the community to provide input, including community forums, focus groups, surveys, Neighbor-to-Neighbor discussions, and email (belltimes@mcpsmd.org). Upcoming forums are as follows:
 - Monday, December 16:** Richard Montgomery HS, 250 Richard Montgomery Dr., Rockville
 - Monday, January 6:** Seneca Valley HS, 19401 Crystal Rock Dr., Germantown
 - Monday, February 10:** Montgomery Blair HS, 51 University Blvd., East, Silver SpringFree child care (ages 4 and older) and interpretation services will be provided. For information about the bell times proposal and ways you can provide input, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, search "bell times."

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