



Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary
Weeks of November 25 and December 2, 2013
Office of the Principal
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles
<http://www.twitter.com/bellsmilles>

Week of Nov. 25
Mon., Nov. 25

Mini Spirit Week
Welcome back, Mrs. O!
Wear your favorite college sports team shirt or colors today

Tues., Nov. 26

Dress like your teacher today
Guitar, 3:30-4:30, rm. 165

Wed., Nov. 27

EARLY RELEASE, 1:00 pm
NO HEAD START
Dress like a celebrity today
Beginning/Intermediate French, 8:00 am, rm. 240
Spanish Intro, 8:15 am, rm. 212
Reflections arts entries due today

Thur., Nov. 28
Fri., Nov. 29

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! SCHOOL CLOSED
HOLIDAY, SCHOOL CLOSED

Week of Dec. 2
Mon., Dec. 2

Toy Drive through Dec. 13

Tues., Dec. 3

Guitar, 3:30-4:30, rm. 165
Gr. 1 Daisies, 3:30 pm, rm. 124
PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm, Media Center

Wed., Dec. 4

Beginning/Intermediate French, 8:00 am, rm. 240
Spanish Intro, 8:15 am, rm. 212
InView test for Gr. 2
Portrait Make-Ups all morning
Gr. 4 Juniors, 3:30, rm. 239
Beginning Spanish, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 235
OM Giraffes, 3:30 pm, rm. 154

Thur., Dec. 5

Kindergarten to Kennedy Center
Beginning Chinese, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 218
I9 Sports Soccer, 3:30-4:30 pm

Fri., Dec. 6

Gr. 5 class panoramic photo, 9:30 am, APR
InView test for Gr. 2
OM, 3:30 pm, Media Center

- ***Please note:*** November 27 is an early release day. Students will be dismissed at 1:00 pm. Please make sure your children's teachers know their dismissal plans. There is no Head Start on that day. Georgetown Hill will close at 12:30 pm.

- **Bells Mill Parents and Families:** I wanted to express my appreciation for allowing me to spend a few months at Bells Mill Elementary School as the acting principal during Mrs. O's absence. It has been a real pleasure to spend each of these past days with students who are such a joy to be around. The staff is outstanding, very positive and committed to teaching. Wishing all of you a Happy Thanksgiving (my favorite holiday) and a wonderful holiday season. *Lee Meiners*
- Mrs. O is eager to return to school, and we are delighted to welcome her back on Monday, November 25. Thank you to Mr. Meiners for his leadership and support during her absence. We enjoyed having him as acting principal and wish him good luck in his new endeavors.
- **Happy Thanksgiving to our families!** We hope that you have a safe and happy holiday with friends and family. We'll see you back at school on Monday, December 2.
- **Show your school spirit!** During the week of November 25, all students are invited to participate in a Mini Spirit Week. On Monday wear a sports shirt or colors of the college your parents/siblings attended or where you hope to attend. On Tuesday dress like your teacher and Wednesday dress like a celebrity.
- **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.
- **The InView is a cognitive abilities test that helps us make instructional recommendations and Gifted and Talented identification decisions. All students in Grade 2 will take the InView assessment on December 4 and 6.** To prepare for the test make sure your child eats a healthy breakfast, comes to school rested and on time. Students in Grades 3-5 who are new to MCPS will be tested later in December. Parents of new students have been notified by mail. Questions, contact Ms. Hall-Bell, Assistant Principal.
- **Congratulations to our Bells Mill Girls on the Run team for completing their 5K on Sunday, November 17.** Over 1,900 girls participated from 130 teams throughout Montgomery County. Congratulations to the girls for their amazing accomplishment of completing the Girls on the Run program! They worked hard and learned a lot - we are proud of each and everyone one of them. Please take a look at the website for more information <http://www.girlsontherunofmoco.org/>. We hope to be back in the Spring!
- **The SGA is asking for donations of new, unwrapped toys for their Toy Drive, December 2 through December 13.** The greatest need is for toys appropriate for children ages preschool through middle school. Toys will go to local families. Students should bring their donations to their classrooms.
- **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.
- **Attention Gr. 5 Parents, the class panoramic photo will be taken on Friday, December 6, at 9:30 am. Watch backpacks for order forms.**
- **Superintendent Joshua Starr is recommending that MCPS consider changing school start and end times, also known as bell times.** MCPS would like to hear from you. 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 Spring
Free 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.