



Week of Feb.17

Mon., Feb. 17 **School Closed for Presidents' Day Holiday**

Tues., Feb. 18 **Group and Class Photos**
Big Learning for K-1, 3:30-4:30, rm. 159
Art Escapades, 3:30-4:30, rm. 163
Guitar, 3:30-4:30, rm. 165
Chess, 3:30-4:45 pm, media center
MSA Basketball, 3:30-4:45 pm, gym

Wed., Feb. 19 **Group and Class Photos**
Beginning French, 8:00 am
Intermediate French, 8:00 am
OM Giraffes, 3:30 pm, rm. 154
Fitness Fun, 3:30-4:30, rm. 103
Chess, 3:30-4:45 pm, Media Center

Thur., Feb. 20 **Head Start Parent Meeting, 10:00 am, rm. 165**
Beginning Chinese, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 218
Big Learning for 2-4, 3:30-4:30, rm. 148
Art Escapades, 3:30-4:30, rm. 163
Adventure Theater, 3:30-4:30, rm. 128
Tae Kwon Do, 3:30-4:30, rm. 120
i9 Basketball, 3:30-4:45 pm, gym

Fri., Feb. 21 **Wear your Bells Mill Spirit Wear today!**
Intermediate Spanish, 8:00 am, rm. 239
Class Valentine Parties, 2:00 pm
OM, 3:30 pm, Media Center
Play-Well TEKnologies Legos, 3:30-5:00, rm. 163
Black History Celebration, 7:00 pm, APR

A Look Ahead

Feb. 24-28 **No Head Start classes all week**
Feb. 28 **Early Release, dismissal at 1:00 pm**

- *In the event school is closed on Friday, February 14, Valentine Parties will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2:00 pm.*
- **Class and group photos are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, February 18 and 19.** Order forms were sent home in backpacks. Extras are available in the office.

- **We need your help.** We received complaints about students' actions as they leave school grounds. Please remind your children to practice good citizenship by being considerate of our neighbors and their property. It's important for the school to maintain a mutually respectful relationship with our neighbors.
- **Goodbye to Ms. Hutton, and welcome back to Mrs. Vinson.** We enjoyed having Ms. Hutton as the long-term substitute in general music and wish her luck as she begins a new assignment at Sequoyah ES. We also wish to welcome back Mrs. Vinson who is returning after the arrival of her new baby girl.
- **The 5th annual Bells Mill Black History Celebration will be held on Friday, February 21, 7:00-8:30 pm, in the APR.** Students will present Black History facts, original poetry and step, jazz and African dance performances. Dinner will be provided. FREE! Please come and help us celebrate the diversity of Bells Mill.
- **Attention parents of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, your child will take the Maryland State Assessments (MSA) in March .** We encourage students to eat a healthy breakfast, come to school on time, and be well-rested for testing. Testing will last all morning. Students who are absent due to illness will have the opportunity to make up all or part of the tests. Parents, please refrain from making appointments for your students during these important testing dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Subject</u>
March 3 & 4	3 rd & 4 th	Reading
March 5 & 6	5 th	Reading
March 7 & 10	3 rd & 4 th	Math
March 11 & 12	5 th	Math
April 1 & 2**	5 th	Science

****These two dates are a change from what was printed in last week's Spotlight.**

- **Mark your calendars! July 7-25, 2014, we will again offer Camp Bells Mill for students entering grades K-5.** This is our popular summer learning camp taught by our own teachers which prepares students for next year. In March students will bring home letters containing registration/tuition information.
- **Prekindergarten and Head Start registration begins on March 3 and will continue through the summer.** These programs offer a high-quality educational experience for children in order to prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond. Children must be four years old on or before September 1, 2014, and families must be income-eligible to apply. For more information about eligibility guidelines, locations, and times of community registrations or required documents to complete an application, call 301-230-0676 or visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/earlychildhood/prek/.
- **Superintendent's Book Club event is set for Feb. 19.** You are invited to join Superintendent Joshua Starr at a Book Club discussion on Wednesday, February 19, at 7:00 pm in the auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville. The Book Club will discuss *Making Hope Happen* by Dr. Shane Lopez, a senior scientist with the Gallup organization, who will join Dr. Starr for the discussion. The book introduces readers to the scientific study of hope, its power, how to create it, and how to teach it to others to lead happier, more successful lives. Parents, staff, students and community members who wish to be a part of the studio audience for this free event are asked to RSVP to pio@mcpsmd.org. Those watching online or on MCPS TV (Comcast Channel 34) can participate in the conversation by sending questions via Twitter (using the hashtag #mcpsbookclub) or by sending an email to ask@mcpsbookclub.org. Visit the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org and search "Book Club" for more information.

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