

Bells Mill Elementary School

8225 Bells Mill Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301-469-1046
301-469-1060(FAX)

Office of the Principal

August 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Each year I am amazed at how quickly the summers fly by. July and August have been filled with planning and training. Believe me, there is no truth to the rumor that teachers have their summer off. Our staff have been attending training and preparing for your children all throughout the summer. They deserve the highest regard for them and their dedication to their profession as well as their commitment to professional growth.

During the month of July we had another successful Camp Bells Mill and Kinder Camp. This year we had over 130 Bells Mill students in attendance and over 15 former Bells Mill students earning their Student Service Learning Credits by volunteering as assistants. It was an exciting and fun three weeks. I am so proud of our staff for the outstanding job they do planning and presenting such a wonderful and enriching program for our students.

We have had several staff changes over the summer. Ms. Andrea Hall-Bell decided to seek another professional experience and left our school to work at Central Office in the Student Services Division. Mrs. Kohn has taken a sabbatical to work in another professional field. Mrs. Vinson has taken a position teaching music in schools closer to home that will allow her more time with her family. We will miss our staff and know you join us in wishing them all the best as they begin new professional endeavors.

Join me in welcoming new staff members to Bells Mill. We are very happy to welcome Mr. Duane Ross as our new assistant principal. Mr. Ross is coming to us from Bradley Hills Elementary School where he was very highly regarded. We are so fortunate to have him join our school family. He will be a tremendous support to your children and to the total school community. Mr. Nicholas Sheets joins our staff as our new music teacher. Mr. Sheets was teaching music in MCPS last year at several different schools. He is excited to be based at one school and is looking forward to continuing our incredible music and choral program. This year we will have Ms. LaScola as our .1 music teacher, Mrs. Abid as our .1 art teacher and Mr. Weingard is returning as our .1 PE teacher. We lost a teaching position through staff reduction which caused the need for some reassignment on the staff. Mrs. Kemp and Ms. Harris will be joining the second grade team this year and Mrs. Snelson will be joining the fifth grade team.

We look forward to seeing all families during the Open House which will be held on Friday, August 22. The Open House will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 10:00 AM. This is an opportunity for you and your children to drop in, meet their teachers, and visit the classrooms. Immediately following the Open House there will be a **popsicle social** at 10:00 AM on the playground. Each student will receive a "welcome to my class" phone call from his/her new teacher during the week of August 18. The following pages contain important information. **Please note that our school times remain the same this year. Instruction begins for students at 9:15 AM (students in their seats and ready for class) and will end at 3:30 PM. Students may enter the building in the morning at 8:55 AM. There were changes in the lunch prices for this school year.** Please check the attached letter from food services. The bus schedule and school supply list are also included in the following pages. Please carefully review these pages and keep them handy for your information. Enjoy the rest of the summer. The staff and I are looking forward to a great 2014-2015 school year at Bells Mill.

Sincerely,

Jerri B. Oglesby
Principal

Duane L. Ross
Assistant Principal

Mark Your Calendars:

August 21 7:00 PM Kindergarten Parent Meeting (parents only)
August 22 9:00-10:00 AM Open House
August 25 First Day of School
September 1 Labor Day --- No School
September 3 Back to School Night (Gr. 3-5)
September 4 Back to School Night (Gr. K-2)

First Day Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

It is important that students begin their routines the first day of school. If your child will be riding a bus, please have your child ride the bus the first day. If your child will be dropped off each morning, then please follow the enclosed procedures. We have parking at our building, but not enough to accommodate all parents parking and walking their children in to the building. There will be all available staff on hand to assist students until they have the routines in place.

Arrival Procedures – August 25, 2014

- All walker and dropped off students will enter through the main doors at **8:55 AM**. Bus students will enter through the all purpose (AP) room doors. Bus students will be given a “ticket” as they exit the bus to hand to their classroom teacher. This will ensure that students return home on the appropriate bus.
- Kindergarten through grade 2 students will report immediately to the gymnasium where they will meet their classroom teachers and walk to class together.
- Students in grades 3 – 5 will go directly to their assigned homeroom classrooms.

Dismissal Procedures (The first few days we will begin the process a little early --- however, by Friday we will be on the regular schedule)

Safety Patrols will be dismissed at 3:20 PM to go to their posts. All other students are to remain in their classrooms.

All walkers will be dismissed at 3:25 PM. Kindergarten students will be dismissed through the gym entrance to the building to be handed off directly to parents or caregivers. All other walkers will be dismissed through the front doors.

Georgetown Hill students will be dismissed to a line-up area by the Gym door entrance, and Bar-T students will be escorted by their staff to the AP Room.

All bus students will be dismissed at 3:30 PM. The first day, bus students will be called one bus at a time. However, after the first day, students will be called directly to their buses. We dismiss bus students in the order their buses arrive at the school. Patrols will escort the kindergarten students directly to their buses.

Procedures for Dropping off and Picking up Your Children Each Day

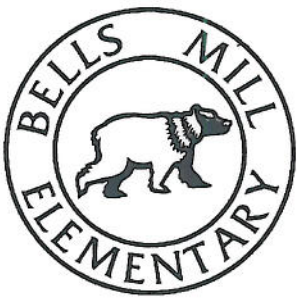
Please share the following information with your caregivers if they are the responsible for morning drop off and afternoon pick-up of your children. These rules apply during good and bad weather.

- ✓ Parking in the school lot is for staff members only. There are a limited number of visitor spaces, but not enough to accommodate all families.
- ✓ Cars are not allowed to enter or leave the school bus loop between 8:30-9:30 a.m. and between 2:45-4:00p.m.
- ✓ If you choose to drop your child off in the morning you must enter the drop off circle and pull up as far as you can along the sidewalk area in the front of the building. Your child should exit the car on the passenger side of the vehicle onto the sidewalk and enter through the front door of the building. As soon as your child has exited the vehicle, pull through the circle and exit back onto Bells Mill Rd. **The circle is for drop off only. You may not park in the fire lane. If you wish to walk your child to the front door, you may park in the lot if space is available or on the street.**
- ✓ Approved drop off and pick up points are on both sides of Bells Mill Rd. between Bells Mill ES and Cabin John MS. Please park at the corners of Bells Mill Rd. and Democracy Ln. To alleviate traffic congestion on Bells Mill Rd., other drop off locations are:
 - ❖ Either side of Democracy Ln.
 - ❖ Deborah Dr. (on the school side of the roadway)
 - ❖ Bells Ridge Terrace behind the playground (follow the walkway from the neighborhood).
 - ❖ **Please DO NOT drop students off while stopped in traffic on Bells Mill Rd.**
- ❖ **All students must enter through the front doors. All other doors remain locked for security purposes.**
- ❖ **Drop Off Safety Tips:**
- ❖ Children should always exit vehicles on the sidewalk/shoulder side of the road
- ❖ Parents and children should always walk in marked crosswalks only
- ❖ **Kiss and Walk Tips:**
- ❖ If you choose to walk your children to the building, please say goodbye on the sidewalk area and allow them to walk to their classrooms independently.

No student should cross through the parking lot. There is a walk that students may access from the Georgetown Hill pathway that leads directly to the front door area. The crossing guard will cross students directly to the sidewalk area that leads to the front door. Patrols will also be on duty to monitor and assist.

After School Pick Up

All bus students will be called directly to their buses. They will exit through the AP room doors. Kindergarten walkers will be dismissed by the teachers through the gym entrance door. All other walkers will be dismissed through the front door. It is important that parents and caregivers follow procedures to avoid confusion for students.



Bells Mill Elementary School

8225 Bells Mill Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301-469-1046
301-469-1060(FAX)

Office of the Principal

August 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians of Bells Mill Elementary Students,

Students will not be asked to pay for or provide textbooks, supplementary readers (such as anthologies, atlases, or workbooks), most materials of instruction, audiovisual aids, stationery items not commonly found in the home and required for the student to demonstrate mastery of course objectives, or building or office materials needed to operate schools.

Students may be asked to pay for materials of instruction that primarily fit into three categories as follows:

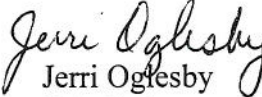
- Items eaten by the student as a part of the course (example: bread baking ingredients).
- Component parts of a product that will become student property (example: sculpting clay).
- Materials of instruction or items of personal use that become the property of the student (for example, a recorder).

Students are still expected to bring individual organizational tools and personal supplies from home. A list of those supplies for your student is enclosed with this letter. In addition, there are student fees which are not course-related but local school decisions made by the principal in collaboration with the school and parent leadership. These may include fees for class snacks, special grade-level assemblies, etc. I will discuss these decisions with our school and parent leadership this summer and will update you on this information as needed. There also may be fees related to field trips, but these will be shared each time there is a trip and not in advance as a school fee.

We are committed to providing all students, regardless of their economic circumstances, with full access to the instructional program. If you need assistance for any requested expense, or with providing the organizational tools and personal supplies, please contact your child's teacher, our counselor, or me.

Parent donations of items that enhance the classroom experience are still welcomed, either as donations from individual parents or organized by class parents or by the PTA. A list of these items also is attached to this letter and clearly titled, *Voluntary Parent Donations*. They are not required donations and no student will be expected to provide these items, but if you care to contribute, it will be appreciated.

Regards,


Jerri Oglesby
Principal


Duane L. Ross
Asst. Principal

**Bells Mill Elementary School
2014-2015 School Supplies Lists**

Dear Parents,

The following personal organizational items are recommended by teachers for the 2014-2015 school year.

Kindergarten Supply List

Backpack (no wheels)
Small Plastic School Box (no zip pouches)
Box of 24 Crayons
Sturdy two-pocket folders (no prongs)
Boxes of Sharpened #2 Pencils
Round Tip Safety Scissors
Glue Sticks

Grade 2 Supply List

Small Plastic School Box (no zip pouches)
Box of 24 Crayons
Glue Sticks
Boxes of Sharpened #2 Pencils
Green two-pocket folders
Red two-pocket folders
Composition Book (hard back 150 pg. wide rule)
Erasers-Pink Pearl

Grade 4 Supply List

Page Protectors
Highlighters, chisel tip, yellow
Sharpener for pencils and crayons
Composition Book, hard cover
Notebook, Spiral, 3-subject
3-ring Binder, 2 in.
Dividers, 5 tab pack
Box of 24 Crayons
Glue Sticks
Erasers-Pink Pearl
Box of 12 Colored Pencils
Boxes of Sharpened #2 Pencils
Pencil Pouch/Case
Notebook Filler Paper (wide rule)

Grade 1 Supply List

Box of 24 Crayons
Glue Sticks
Erasers-Pink Pearl
Red two-pocket folders (plastic, no prongs)
Yellow two-pocket folders (plastic, no prongs)
Purple two-pocket folders (plastic, no prongs)
Blue two-pocket folders (plastic, no prongs)
Plastic Pencil Box (no pouches)
Composition Books, hard back, 150-pg., wide-rule

Grade 3 Supply List

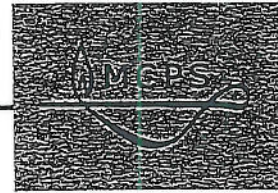
3-ring Binder, 1.5 in. (no trapper keepers)
Dividers, 5 tab pack, multicolor
Erasers-Pink Pearl
Boxes of Sharpened #2 Pencils
Box of 24 Crayons
Glue Sticks
Notebook Filler Paper (wide rule)
Box of 12 Colored Pencils
Red two-pocket folders
Purple two-pocket folders
Green two-pocket folders
Pencil Pouch or Box
Highlighters, chisel tip, yellow

Grade 5 Supply List

Protractor
Sharpener for pencils and crayons
Dividers (5-tab pack)
3-ring Binder, 2 in. (durable, for frequent use)
Notebook Filler Paper (wide rule, 200 sheets)
Boxes of Sharpened #2 Pencils
Pencil Pouch to insert in 3-ring Binder
Glue Sticks
Spiral Notebook (3-subject), 120 sheets
Spiral Notebook (1-subject), 70 sheets
Erasers-Pink Pearl
Box of 12 Colored Pencils

Voluntary Parent Donations We would gladly accept donations of the above items, as well as the following items: facial tissues; all sizes of Ziploc storage bags (especially sandwich size for the health room).

Department of Transportation



Bethesda Depot

10901 Westlake Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20852
301-469-1070 • Fax: 301-469-1030

July 1, 2014



**Customer
Delight**

Dear Elementary School Parent:

Enclosed are route schedules for buses serving your child's school. Please note the appropriate time, location, and route number for your child. Students should be ready and waiting to board the bus five (5) minutes prior to its scheduled arrival time. Route numbers are displayed on each bus, in the side window. Students who live within 1.1 miles of the school may not be eligible for transportation services if safe walking routes are available. Questions should be referred to the transportation cluster supervisor who is responsible for your school.

Bus stops previously scheduled may have been eliminated or relocated to provide economies in operation. Every effort is made to minimize inconvenience to students and parents, and provide a reasonable level of service. Saving support budget dollars provides more resources for classrooms.

When bus stops are scheduled at intersections, students should stand safely away from traffic, within 150 feet of the stop. *Parents are responsible for maintaining discipline and safety at bus stops.* This may mean that parents will have to take an active role in monitoring behavior at stops, especially where younger students are present. In some cases, parents may need to escort their child to the stop and remain until the bus arrives. Students waiting for buses may choose to stand in carports and garages for protection from the elements. This is acceptable only if: (1) it does not alter the route; (2) it does not increase the number of stops; (3) it is acceptable to all parties involved; and, (4) it is reasonably close to the regular stop (so that a substitute bus operator, not familiar with special arrangements, may easily locate the students). Please note that bus operators are only authorized to stop at designated stops. Please do not request unauthorized stops. Montgomery County Public Schools realizes a substantial fuel savings by limiting the number of bus stops.

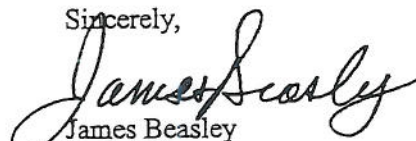
Students who wish to ride home on a friend's bus, or get off their own bus at a friend's stop must bring a note from their parent. Once approved and signed by the principal, the student should give this note to the operator of the bus they will be riding. This practice will normally be approved where space permits.

Inclement weather creates many hardships for us all. It is not possible to provide additional transportation during winter months or on rainy days, and for this reason, students should dress accordingly. In case buses are not able to reach designated stops due to snow and ice accumulation, parents are encouraged to make advance arrangements with bus operators so that students who live in these areas can board at alternate locations when necessary.

Appropriate student behavior is important to the safety and comfort of everyone. Parents are encouraged to discuss behavior with their children regularly to reinforce this message. It is important that all students follow the rules stated in "Ride by the Rules." campaign. For more information on this, please visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/transportation/> or ask your school for one of the "Ride by the Rules" pamphlets.

Student transportation can only operate effectively if we all do our part to make things work. Parental assistance and cooperation is needed to provide a safe transportation system for student riders.

Sincerely,


James Beasley
Depot Manager

JB:ac

Enclosures

Arrival Routes Report

Route: 1202 - BELLS MILL ES**First Stop Time: 8:47 A.M.**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND GRAND TETON DR
2	GAINSBOROUGH RD AND WINDSOR VIEW DR
3	GAINSBOROUGH RD AND SNUG HILL LA
4	10229 SEVEN LOCKS RD 20854
5	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND TURNING CREEK CT - RSO
6	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND MUIRFIELD CT - RSO
7	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND ORACLE PL - RSO
8	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND SEVEN HILL LA - RSO
9:05 A.M.	BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854 607 - REGULAR SCHOOL

Route: 1209 - BELLS MILL ES**First Stop Time: 8:52 A.M.**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	8500 TUCKERMAN LA - RSO
2	FOX RUN AND LAMPLIGHTER LA
3	CANDLELIGHT LA AND LOCHINVER LA
4	11333 DEBORAH DR 20854
5	DEBORAH DR AND KILLEAN WAY
6	DEBORAH DR AND LAKENHEATH WAY
7	DEBORAH DR AND LARKMEADE LA
9:05 A.M.	BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854 607 - REGULAR SCHOOL

Route: 1211 - BELLS MILL ES**First Stop Time: 8:45 A.M.**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	TUCKERMAN LA AND ANGUS PL
2	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND SCOTLAND DR - RSO
9:00 A.M.	BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854 607 - REGULAR SCHOOL

Route: 1212 - BELLS MILL ES**First Stop Time: 8:32 A.M.**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	WILLOWBROOK DR AND HARVEST SQUARE CT
2	STAPLEFORD HALL DR AND PAYTLEY BRIDGE LA
3	WILLOWBROOK DR AND CAMBRIDGE MANOR CT
4	STAPLEFORD HALL DR AND STAPLEFORD HALL CT
5	STAPLEFORD HALL DR AND STAPLEFORD HALL PL
6	8904 BELLS MILL RD 20854 - DEVELOPMENT ENTRANCE
7	GREAT ARBOR DR AND TALLYHO TRL
8	GREAT ARBOR DR AND TROTTERS TRL
9	HIDDEN HILL LA AND TIMBER HILL LA
10	TIMBER HILL LA AND CROSSING CREEK RD
11	FOX HILLS TRL AND TROTTERS TRL
9:05 A.M.	BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854 607 - REGULAR SCHOOL

Route: 1213 - BELLS MILL ES**First Stop Time: 8:53 A.M.**

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	GAINSBOROUGH RD AND POWDER HORN DR
2	POWDER HORN DR AND FOX RUN
3	FOX RUN AND LONG PINE TRL
4	FOX RUN AND HUNT CLUB DR
5	TUCKERMAN LA FROM GAINSBOROUGH RD TO DEBORAH DR

Arrival Routes Report

9:05 A.M. BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854
607 - REGULAR SCHOOL

Route: 1222 - BELLS MILL ES

First Stop Time: 8:49 A.M.

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
1	11315 FALLS RD - LITTLE ACORN DAYCARE/POTOMAC CC 301-983-4372
2	FALL RIVER LA AND STACKHOUSE CT
3	FALL RIVER LA AND SPRINKLEWOOD LA
4	FALL RIVER LA AND CRANFORD DR
5	BOLTON DR AND CRANFORD DR
6	CRANFORD DR AND HAISLIP CT
7	BELLS MILL RD AND HAISLIP CT
8	HARNESS TRL AND WILLOWBROOK DR
9	HARNESS TRL AND SLEEPY HOLLOW LA 2ND INTERSECTION
10	HARNESS TRL AND PEBBLE BROOK LA

9:05 A.M. BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854
607 - REGULAR SCHOOL

Departure Routes Report

Route: 1202 - BELLS MILL ES PM

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
3:37 P.M.	BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854
	607 - REGULAR SCHOOL
1	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND GRAND TETON DR
2	GAINSBOROUGH RD AND WINDSOR VIEW DR
3	GAINSBOROUGH RD AND SNUG HILL LA
4	10229 SEVEN LOCKS RD 20854
5	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND TURNING CREEK CT - RSO
6	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND MUIRFIELD CT - RSO
7	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND ORACLE PL - RSO
8	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND SEVEN HILL LA - RSO

Route: 1209 - BELLS MILL ES PM

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
3:37 P.M.	BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854
	607 - REGULAR SCHOOL
1	DEBORAH DR AND LARKMEADE LA
2	DEBORAH DR AND LAKENHEATH WAY
3	DEBORAH DR AND KILLEAN WAY
4	11333 DEBORAH DR 20854
5	CANDLELIGHT LA AND LOCHINVER LA
6	FOX RUN AND LAMPLIGHTER LA
7	8500 TUCKERMAN LA - RSO

Route: 1211 - BELLS MILL ES PM

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
3:37 P.M.	BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854
	607 - REGULAR SCHOOL
1	SEVEN LOCKS RD AND SCOTLAND DR - RSO
2	TUCKERMAN LA AND ANGUS PL

Route: 1212 - BELLS MILL ES PM

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
3:37 P.M.	BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854
	607 - REGULAR SCHOOL
1	WILLOWBROOK DR AND HARVEST SQUARE CT
2	STAPLEFORD HALL DR AND PAYTLEY BRIDGE LA
3	WILLOWBROOK DR AND CAMBRIDGE MANOR CT
4	STAPLEFORD HALL DR AND STAPLEFORD HALL CT
5	STAPLEFORD HALL DR AND STAPLEFORD HALL PL
6	8904 BELLS MILL RD 20854 - DEVELOPMENT ENTRANCE
7	GREAT ARBOR DR AND TALLYHO TRL
8	GREAT ARBOR DR AND TROTTERS TRL
9	HIDDEN HILL LA AND TIMBER HILL LA
10	TIMBER HILL LA AND CROSSING CREEK RD
11	FOX HILLS TRL AND TROTTERS TRL

Route: 1213 - BELLS MILL ES PM

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
3:45 P.M.	BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854
	607 - REGULAR SCHOOL
1	GAINSBOROUGH RD AND POWDER HORN DR
2	POWDER HORN DR AND FOX RUN
3	FOX RUN AND LONG PINE TRL
4	FOX RUN AND HUNT CLUB DR
5	TUCKERMAN LA FROM GAINSBOROUGH RD TO DEBORAH DR

Route: 1222 - BELLS MILL ES PM

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Stop Description</u>
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Departure Routes Report

3:37 P.M.

**BELLS MILL ES 8225 BELLS MILL RD, POTOMAC, MD 20854
607 - REGULAR SCHOOL**

- 1 HARNESS TRL AND PEBBLE BROOK LA
- 2 HARNESS TRL AND SLEEPY HOLLOW LA
2ND INTERSECTION
- 3 HARNESS TRL AND WILLOWBROOK DR
- 4 BELLS MILL RD AND HAISLIP CT
- 5 CRANFORD DR AND HAISLIP CT
- 6 BOLTON DR AND CRANFORD DR
- 7 FALL RIVER LA AND CRANFORD DR
- 8 FALL RIVER LA AND SPRINKLEWOOD LA
- 9 FALL RIVER LA AND STACKHOUSE CT
- 10 11315 FALLS RD - LITTLE ACORN DAYCARE/POTOMAC CC
301-983-4372

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2014-2015 Cafeteria News and Elementary School Meals Information

Food and Nutrition Services serves more than 14 million meals annually. We support healthy meal options for students and continually explore new ways to enhance the nutritional contribution and student acceptability of meals. For more information, visit us on the Web at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/foodserv

The cafeteria continues to offer the convenience and flexibility of a computerized cash register system. Depositing funds into a cafeteria account eliminates the need for a child to carry money every day. Students enter their Personalized Identification Number (PIN) to access their account. The PIN for students returning to the same school remains the same. New students receive their PIN on the first day of school. Any money left on a student's account last year is available for spending this year. Prepayments to a student's account may be made prior to the start of school.

To make a prepayment:

- Use **MyLunchMoney.com**, an online service to make a prepayment using a credit card. Parents can also check meal account balances, sign up for recurring payments and much more. Go to **MyLunchMoney.com** to register.
- Complete the form below and include a check payable to the cafeteria. Please put the child's first name, last name and PIN number on the front of the check.

Check Acceptance Policy

Checks used to pay for schools meals must contain an address, phone number and student PIN number. Returned checks are subject to recovery for the face value and Maryland State allowed fee of \$35 through an electronic debit or paper draft to the same account. Your payment by check constitutes your acceptance of these terms. If you have any questions concerning our check acceptance policy, please call CHECKredi at 1-800-239-1222.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEAL PRICES

Lunch Meal	\$2.55
Reduced-price Lunch Meal	\$0.40
Breakfast Meal	\$1.30
Reduced-price Breakfast Meal	\$0.00
Milk	\$0.60

Free and Reduced-price Meal Applications

Families who meet certain federal income standards are eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits. All children use a PIN number so confidentiality is maintained and no child is overtly identified as free or reduced-price meals. Applications for meal benefits are sent home with the youngest in family in the information packet given out at the start of each school year. Only one application is needed for all students in a household. A new application must be completed for any family requesting assistance this school year. **NEW THIS YEAR!** Meal benefit applications can be completed online.

To apply online go to: mcpsmd.heartlandapps.com

Foods and Beverages available for purchase in addition to breakfast and lunch

A variety of a la carte items may be available in your student's school cafeteria. All items available for sale are in compliance with JPG-RA. *Wellness: Physical and Nutritional Health*. Specific items vary at each school.

For specific information regarding items available at your child's school or to restrict the purchase of a la carte items, please contact your school cafeteria manager.

PREPAYMENT FORM

Please make the check payable to the cafeteria and include the name of your school. Checks used to pay for school meals must contain an address and phone number. Please put your child's first name, last name and PIN number on the front of the check. This check is for cafeteria purchases ONLY. Please list each student separately and bring payment to the cafeteria manager. **Thank You!**

Student Name _____ PIN _____ Amount \$ _____

Student Name _____ PIN _____ Amount \$ _____

Student Name _____ PIN _____ Amount \$ _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name _____

2014–2015 School Calendar

2014		
August 25	First day of school for students	
September 1	Holiday—Labor Day	Offices and schools closed
September 24	Early release day K–12. Planning/Grading/Interims	Students dismissed after lunch
September 25	Rosh Hashanah	No school for students and teachers <i>(Note: Yom Kippur is Saturday, October 4, 2014)</i>
October 17	MSEA Conference/MCAAP Fall Conference	No school for students and teachers
October 30	First marking period ends	
October 31	Professional day for teachers	No school for students. Some 10-month employees work
November 4	Holiday—Election Day	Offices and schools closed
November 10	Early release day K–8. Parent conferences.	Students dismissed after lunch
November 11	Early release day K–8. Parent conferences.	Students dismissed after lunch
November 12	Report card distribution	
November 26	Early release, K–12 prior to Thanksgiving Holiday	
November 27–28	Holidays—Thanksgiving	Offices and schools closed
December 24–25	Holidays—Christmas	Offices and schools closed
December 26, 29, 30, 31	Winter break	No school for students and teachers
2015		
January 1	Holiday—New Year's Day	Offices and schools closed
January 2	Winter break	No school for students and teachers
January 16	Second marking period ends	
January 19	Holiday—Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Day	Offices and schools closed
January 20	Professional day for teachers	No school for students. Some 10-month employees work
January 29	Report card distribution	
February 16	Holiday—Presidents' Day	Offices and schools closed
February 27	Early release day K–12. Planning/Grading	Students dismissed after lunch
March 26	Third marking period ends	
March 27	Professional day for teachers	No school for students
April 3	Holiday—Good Friday	Offices and schools closed
April 6	Holiday—Easter	Offices and schools closed
April 7–10	Spring break	No school for students and teachers
April 14	Report card distribution	
May 25	Holiday—Memorial Day	Offices and schools closed
June 12	Last day of school for students	Students dismissed after lunch
June 15	Professional day for teachers	
June 23	All report cards mailed	

School Contingency Calendar, 2014–2015

If the school year should be disrupted by emergencies and schools are closed, the school year will be extended.

If schools are closed...	The school year will be extended by...
5 days	1 day to June 15, 2015
6 days	2 days to June 15 and 16, 2015
7 days	3 days to June 15, 16, and 17, 2015
8 days	4 days to June 15, 16, 17, and 18, 2015
9 days	5 days to June 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19, 2015

Bells Mill Elementary School PTA

8225 Bells Mill Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854
www.bellsmill.org

Dear Bells Mill Families,

Welcome to another fabulous school year at Bells Mill Elementary School. The PTA has been hard at work planning many exciting events for the community. We will bring back popular events from the past and introduce new events that are sure to become future favorites. We are also planning a visit from a nationally-renowned speaker. Stay tuned for more details!!

This year, the PTA focus will be on strengthening our school community. There is strength in numbers --please join the PTA! Did you know that your contributions support community events, cultural arts assemblies, academic improvement, and staff appreciation events, just to name a few?

Membership dues must be renewed yearly, and are still only \$20.00 per family. What a bargain! These dues support membership in our county PTA (MCCPTA), the state PTA (MDPTA), and the national PTA. Our direct donation campaign last year was a huge success and we will continue it again this year. **We are asking that each family make a donation of \$100.00 -- or whatever you can afford, whether it is less or more!** A donation of at least \$181.00 (that's just a dollar per school day) will get you an awesome new spirit wear t-shirt. Click on the green "Join the PTA" button on the website: www.bellsmill.org

It takes a village to run the PTA and we need you to be part of that village! Volunteer positions are available for everyone. We can raise thousands of dollars, but it means nothing if we do not have volunteers to run the wonderful events that are planned. Volunteering does not just take place during the school day; we have many behind the scenes volunteer positions as well.

Make sure you sign up to receive Bear Post - the weekly newsletter that will keep you informed of all things Bells Mill, including information from Ms. Oglesby, volunteer sign-ups, calendars, links to additional information, etc. You can sign up at <http://bellsmill.org/get-involved/stay-informed/>

We are looking forward to meeting the new Bells Mill families and catching up with old friends as the school year begins. Please feel free to contact the Board at any time (<http://bellsmill.org/contact-us/>) with comments, questions and/or concerns!

Stacy Ganz Kahn
President

Kysha Pierre-Louis
President Elect

Greer Bautz
VP Communications

Traci Levine
VP Fundraising

Kellie Zuba
VP Student Affairs

Saira Aslam
Secretary

Jocelyn Ulrich
Treasurer

Lang Lin
Delegate

Diana Gallagher
Delegate

**BELLS MILL PTA
2014-2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Join our PTA and help support local, state and national efforts to improve the education of our children. Membership ensures that your voice is heard on issues affecting your child, and supports our efforts to provide valuable programs and activities for our children and staff throughout the year. Your \$20 annual membership fee includes our cost to maintain good standing in the County/State/National PTAs.

******* PTA Membership must be renewed every year *******

FAMILY DETAILS

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Information

Parent 1 Name:		Parent 2 Name:	
Parent 1 Email:		Parent 2 Email:	
Street Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	Phone:

Bells Mill Student(s) Info

First Name:	Last Name:	Grade in 2014-15:
First Name:	Last Name:	Grade in 2014-15:
First Name:	Last Name:	Grade in 2014-15:

FEES

Membership Fee
Includes a hard copy of the BMES Directory \$ 20

Extra Directories \$ _____ (\$2 each)

Voluntary donation to the PTA
The PTA is running a direct donation campaign again this year. The PTA is asking for **\$100 from each family**. Please give what you can, even if it is less (or more!) All donations are tax deductible. \$ _____

If you donate \$181 (the number of instructional days) you get a free t-shirt! (t-shirt deadline is 9/15/14)

Total: \$ _____ checks payable to Bells Mill PTA

BELLS MILL PTA DIRECTORY LISTING AUTHORIZATION

We use an online directory system that asks families to update and verify their own listings for the Bells Mill directory. You will receive an email in August with a link to the site and a password for each family.

Please check here if you prefer that this information NOT be included in our Bells Mill Student Directory

PTA COMMUNICATION

Save a tree! Please print your own flyers at home from our website, www.bellsmill.org. Also:

- **Sign up for Bear Posts**
If you have not done so, please subscribe to Bear Posts by going to <http://bellsmill.org/stay-informed/> and enter your email in the Subscribe box.
- **Like us on Facebook** - www.facebook.com/bellsmill
- **Follow Mrs. O on Twitter** - @BellsMillES

Dear #Parent 1 First Name# and #Parent 2 First Name#,

Welcome to the start of the 2014-2015 Bells Mill Elementary School Year!

Please read this entire email because it includes important information on how you can verify your directory data online, submit your grocery card numbers, pay for your PTA membership, and make a tax deductible donation to BMES PTA — all at the same time! If you have already joined the PTA and made a donation, Thank You!!! You can still update your directory information and submit your grocery card numbers.

We all know that our school is one of THE BEST. Your children have so many opportunities for enrichment activities and to take part in community events during the year, but you may not realize that most are sponsored *by the PTA*. The Science Fair, Artist-in-Residence, Reflections, Bingo Night, Club Bells Mill nights, Geography Week, Teacher Appreciation, the Bash, and various cultural arts assemblies are just a few examples of activities organized and funded **by the PTA**. The Student Directory is also brought to you by the PTA.

So how are we able to do so much? The answer is simple: It's because of YOUR membership and support of our PTA as well as your participation in the direct appeal campaign. There will be no traditional fundraisers again this year – only direct donations. The PTA is once again asking for \$100 from each family. If you donate at least \$181.00, you will get a free Spirit Wear t-shirt!

It is critical that each and every family support the PTA through membership to ensure the continued success of the programs mentioned above and so many more! *Don't have time to be active in the PTA? Your membership dues - as well as direct donations - go a long way to supporting our programs and to provide programming for those less fortunate.* This year we've made it especially convenient to join the PTA and pay your dues while verifying your directory data AND contributing to our donation campaign through an online Verification Wizard.

Please take the time RIGHT NOW, before it gets lost in the shuffle, to complete the Wizard. *Busy parents: this is the BEST WAY to help our kids and the entire BMES community! Do it NOW!*

To verify your directory data, pay for your PTA membership, and support the donation campaign, click on the "Join the 2014-2015 PTA" button on the PTA homepage (www.bellsmill.org) This button will take you to the AtoZ login page. Data verification must be done from a desktop/laptop computer.

Username: #User Login#

Password: #User Password#

Once you are in, click on the "Confirm" tabs to verify your family and student information, the "Support" tab to enter your grocery card numbers, and the "Purchase" tab to join the PTA and make a tax-deductible donation. **Remember to add each item to the cart before you check out.** (If you want to donate an amount different from the options shown, or if you want to donate in installments,

please click on the “Donate Now” button on www.bellsmill.org after you finish the verification process on AtoZ).

While on the AtoZ website, you can also buy a \$50 CalTort giftcard for only \$40!! We heard you! Some people really wanted us to bring this back, so if you want to take advantage of this awesome deal – do it now! You can buy as many as three cards. The deadline for ordering is September 15, 2014.

While verifying your data, be sure to indicate if you're interested in advertising in our directory. It's a great way to support our school and promote your business!

Once you verify your data, make sure to check out the brand new School Directory App.

PTA members will also have access to our School Directory App for free! The app is now available in the App Store and Google Play!

1. iPhones or iPads - [Click here](#) to find the school directory app in the App Store. Android devices - [Click here](#) to find the school directory app in Google Play.
2. Enter your username and password
3. Voila! You're in!

If you have any problems with the software, you can email info@atozdirectories.com and they will be sure to respond. If you have any school specific directory questions, feel free to email me by replying to this email.

Thank you!

STAY CONNECTED with MCPS



VISIT www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org



CALL 301-309-MCPS (6277)



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ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

- For information on government resources in Montgomery County, call 311 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov