



This Week

Mon., Sept. 8

Tue., Sept. 9

Wed., Sept. 10

Thur., Sept. 11

Fri., Sept. 12

Back to School Picnic, 5:30-7:30 pm

Have a great weekend!

A Look Ahead

Wed., Sept. 17 Odyssey of the Mind Gr. 1-5 Parent Information Meeting, 7:30 pm, APR

Wed., Sept. 24 Early Release, 1:00 pm dismissal (No Head Start today)

Thur., Sept. 25 No School, Rosh Hashanah holiday

- **After-school activities start soon.** It is important that you inform your child's teacher of any changes in your child's dismissal routine.
- **Remember to report your child's absence.** Please call the office at 301-469-1046 to report your child's absence. If you prefer email, please send a message to [Christine M Demarino@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Christine.M.Demarino@mcpsmd.org) *and* [Marie M Vincenty@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Marie.M.Vincenty@mcpsmd.org). We make every effort to account for all students.
- **If you haven't already done so, please complete and return the white Student Emergency Information form and the pink Authorization to Release form that were sent home in backpacks.** Although they may seem redundant, they are needed for different purposes. In the event of an emergency, it is essential that we have your child's current information on file.
- **All students brought home the Bells Mill Discipline Policy.** Please review this packet with your child, sign the tear-off portion on the front page, and return it to your child's teacher. **Keep the packet for your information.**
- **The Back to School Picnic is Thursday, September 11, 5:30-7:30 pm.** Please come, bring a blanket and catch up with friends new and old! Food will be for sale from various vendors.
- **Please consider joining the PTA.** They offer many events throughout the school year that support the school and the school community. The PTA provides cultural arts assemblies, enrichment activities, guest speakers, and staff appreciation just to name a few. Visit the PTA website to find out how to join, <http://bellsmill.org/>.

- **Attention Gr. 1-5 Parents. There will be a Parent Information Meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 7:30-8:30 pm, in the APR, for those interested in learning about the Bells Mill Odyssey of the Mind (OM) program.** OM demonstrates that creativity can be taught, stimulated and improved with practice. Students use their artistic, theatrical and engineering skills to create new solutions to intriguing problems. Last year ten Bells Mill teams went to the Maryland State Finals and three of these were invited to the World Finals in Iowa. Teams meet on Fridays from fall to mid-spring under the supervision of trained parent coaches and parent volunteers. Cost is minimal, but parent assistance is required. ***This mandatory informational meeting for interested parents/guardians will introduce the program to new families and orient returning ones. Children need not attend. No babysitting is provided.***
- **Congratulations to the Bells Mill staff for accepting the Woodfield Elementary staff's ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.** Last Friday, as all classes watched, our teachers and administrators took the challenge. View the video on YouTube, <http://youtu.be/cLMdBbJcv8w> . Now we challenge the staffs of Carderock Springs ES and Judith A. Resnik ES. Thanks to all families who supported us by donating to ALS.
- **Parent Academy workshops give parents tips and tools to help their children succeed in school.** Workshops are free and held at various locations in the county. Babysitting and interpretation services are available. Watch for information brochures in backpacks or visit www.mcpsparentacademy.org for information on this valuable opportunity.
- **The Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) offers a wide range of classes and workshops that provide helpful tools for parents and students.** Classes are offered at various locations around the county. Visit their website for information on programs and registration, www.pepparent.org .
- **The George B. Thomas Learning Academy offers Saturday School at 12 locations throughout the county.** Saturday School begins on September 20, 2014, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$50 for the year, or \$30 for those who qualify for free and reduced price meals. See the attached flyer for details/registration.

Thank you for being partners in your child's education