



This Week

Mon., Nov. 24 This is Spirit Week (see the daily schedule below for special spirit days)
Spirit Day—wear your crazy, fun eyeglasses
Art Escapades K-5, 3:30-4:30, Rm. 163
Cooking and Math Gr. 1-4, 3:30-4:30, Rm. 121
Computer/Video Programming, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 148
PARCC Night, 6:30-9:00 pm, Gaithersburg HS (see below for info)

Tue., Nov. 25 **Spirit Day**—dress like you just got out of bed
K-1 Featured Creatures, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 163

Wed., Nov. 26 **Spirit Day**—dress like a movie star
Intermediate French, 8:00-9:00 am, rm. 212
Intro to Spanish, 8:15-9:00 am, rm. 125
NO HEAD START TODAY
EARLY RELEASE, 1:00 PM (NO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES)

Thur., Nov. 27 **HOLIDAY, SCHOOL CLOSED**

Fri., Nov. 28 **HOLIDAY, SCHOOL CLOSED**

A Look Ahead

Dec. 2 PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm, APR
Dec. 6 Skate Night at Cabin John Ice Skating Rink, 6:30-8:00 pm
Dec. 11 Chorus Concert, 7:00 pm, APR

PLEASE NOTE THAT WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, IS AN EARLY RELEASE DAY FOR STUDENTS IN K-5. DISMISSAL IS AT 1:00 PM. THERE ARE NO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND NO HEAD START ON THAT DAY.

- **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 1.
- **Attention Gr. 2 parents/guardians:** We will begin gathering information about your student to help match students to appropriate instructional placement in Gr. 3 and for Gifted and Talented (GT) identification. During the weeks of December 3-16, all Gr. 2 students will be assessed using the InView. The InView is an assessment of cognitive abilities. Each subtest takes approximately 25 minutes to complete. If your child is out sick on the day a part of the

test is administered, he/she will be able to make-up the test. Over the next few months we will continue gathering information about each student from a variety of sources, including parents.

- **The National PTA Reflections Arts Program offers all students the opportunity to create and submit their original works of art, literature, musical composition, dance choreography, film production and visual arts.** There is a special artist division for children with special needs. This year the theme is: “The World Would be a Better Place If. . .” All Bells Mill students are invited to participate. We will have a Gallery Arts Show at school in December to display all the creations submitted by our students. **The deadline for submission to the PTA is November 26.** It is important to follow the guidelines on the pink information which was sent home in backpacks.
- **The Montgomery County Board of Education has approved the calendar for the 2015-2016 school year.** The school year will begin on Monday, August 31, 2015 and is scheduled to end on Friday, June 17, 2016. Winter Break will run from Thursday, December 24, 2015 to Friday, January 1, 2016. Spring Break will run from Friday, March 25, 2016 to Friday, April 1, 2016. Students will also be off on Monday April 4, 2016 (teacher work day) and Tuesday April 5, 2016 (primary elections). You can view the full calendar on the MCPS website. As you may be aware, the Board of Education also voted to remove references to religious holidays from the school calendar. It is important to understand that this action does not change the days that students have off—MCPS will be closed for the same holidays next school year as it has been in the past. This action also does not impact the operations of our school or the instructional program in any way. For more information about the decision, please read this blog post from the President and Vice President of the Board: <http://news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mcps-board-of-education/following-the-law-on-the-school-calendar/>
View the 2015-2016 Calendar: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/calendars/future/index.aspx>
- **PARCC Nights are Coming!** If you have questions about the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments and Common Core State Standards, you won't want to miss upcoming PARCC nights. Come learn about the assessments, what they mean for your child, and how MCPS is preparing students for success on these new tests. You will be able to try your hand at a PARCC test item or two and pick up grade-level information and resources. For more information, visit the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, search “PARCC Nights,” or call 301-309-6277. The dates and locations are as follows:

Monday, November 24, 2014	Monday, February 2, 2015
Gaithersburg High School	Montgomery Blair High School
101 Education Boulevard, Gaithersburg	51 University Boulevard East, Silver Spring
6:30 pm—Resource Fair	6:30 pm—Resource Fair
7–9 pm—Program and Breakout Sessions	7-9 pm—Program and Breakout Sessions

Thank you for being partners in your child's education