



Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary

December 15-23, 2014

Office of the Principal

- Mon., Dec. 15** **New Toy Drive Through Dec. 18**
Art Escapades K-5, 3:30-4:30, Rm. 163
Computer/Video Programming, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 148
Gr. 3 Brownies, rm. 159
Gr. 4 Brownies, rm. 128
- Tue., Dec. 16** **New Toy Drive**
MSA Basketball, 3:30-4:45 pm, gym
- Wed., Dec. 17** **New Toy Drive**
Intermediate French, 8:00-9:00 am, rm. 212
Intro to Spanish, 8:15-9:00 am, rm. 125
Art Escapades Gr. K-5, 3:30-4:30 pm, Rm. 163
Beginning Spanish, 3:30-4:30, rm. 120
Chess, 3:30-4:45 pm, Media Center
Gr. 2 Brownies, rm. 155
Scout Troop 3069, rm. 153
- Thur., Dec. 18** **Last Day for New Toy Drive**
Head Start Parent Meeting, 10:00 am
All-school Chorus Assembly, 10:15 am
Chinese, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 213
MSA Indoor Soccer, 3:30-4:30 pm
K Daisies Troop 1643, rm. 163
Chorus Concert, 7:00 pm, APR
CANCELLED—Parent Resource Meeting, 7:00 pm
- Fri., Dec. 19** **Odyssey of the Mind, 3:30, Media Center**
Wear your school colors today
Have a great weekend!
- Mon., Dec. 22** **Art Escapades K-5, 3:30-4:30, rm. 163**
Computer/Video Programming, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 148
Gr. 2 Scouts, rm. 132
K Daisies Troop 690, rm. 150
- Tue., Dec. 23** **MSA Basketball, 3:30-4:30 pm, gym**

A Look Ahead

- Dec. 24-Jan. 2** **Winter Break**
Jan. 5 **Welcome Back!**
Jan. 6 **PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm, APR**

Please note that the monthly Parent Resource Meeting scheduled for Thursday evening, December 18, has been cancelled.

- The staff and I wish all of our families a very happy winter break. Thank you for being a caring and supportive community. We hope that each of our families has a fun and safe holiday break. We will see you on January 5, 2015!
- Since many families are interested in ordering school photos for the holidays, Freed Photography continues to offer RUSH ordering with expedited delivery or pick up options. Just visit www.freedspirit.com , and enter your password. If you no longer have your password, please contact Freed at 301-652-5452.
- Please be considerate when dropping off your children in the morning and picking up in the afternoon, it is important that you pull your car all the way forward in the carpool lane. Stopping directly in front of the entrance forces drivers to go around you and causes a traffic back up on Bells Mill Rd.
- The SGA is asking for donations of new, unwrapped toys for their New Toy Drive, now through December 18. 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.
- Attention Parents of Grade 3 Students Applying to the Center for the Highly Gifted at Coldspring ES, all Grade 3 students applying to the Center for the Highly Gifted at Coldspring ES will be tested at Bells Mill ES on January 8, 2015. The test will take place during the morning. Please make every effort have your child arrive at school on time. Please try to not schedule your child's doctor's appointments during this time. An outside testing assistant from the Office of Enriched and Accelerated Instruction will be administering the test at Bells Mill. *If your child is sick the day of the test, it is the parent's responsibility to contact Mrs. Betty R. Shevitz, instructional specialist, DCCAPS, at 301.592.2040 for information on the make-up date.* Please mark your calendars.
- **Winter is here!** In the event of school closings or delayed openings due to weather conditions, all announcements are made as early as possible, generally in time for news broadcasts that begin at 5:00 am. Early release announcements are made by 11:00 am. Please tune in to local radio and television news stations or MCPS Channel 34 for information regarding school closings, delays and early releases. You may also obtain information at the Schools Out website (www.schools-out.com), the MCPS information line (301-279-3673), or the MCPS Call Center (301-309-6277).
- **If you are considering holiday gifts for teachers, please keep in mind that, according to the Montgomery County Board of Education Ethics policy, employees may not accept gifts that exceed \$20 in value. If you plan to purchase a gift from the entire class, each child's contribution should not be more than \$20.** An alternative way to honor a teacher is a tax deductible donation to the Bells Mill Bear Hug fund which helps families right in our community. You can send in a check made payable to *Bells Mill Bear Hug Fund* and specify the name of the teacher you wish to honor. Teachers receive a special card informing them that a donation was made in their honor, and you receive a letter of acknowledgement and a receipt for tax purposes.
- **Lice Reminder:** Even in winter months please be vigilant in checking your child's head for lice. Encourage your kids to not share hats and keep their belongings in their own designated space in their classrooms. Questions, contact the Health Room at 301-469-1248
- **Montgomery College Kids' College offers a wide variety of after-school and Saturday enrichment courses for students in K-12.** Winter course offerings include Art, Science, Chemistry, Math, Computer Graphics, Theater, and much more. To register and for more information, visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth or call 240-567-7264.

- **Congratulations to seven of our Gr. 4 students who recently competed in the Regional School Scrabble Fall Classic:** Vivi Liquorie and Laura Bruno (competed against 6th-8th graders in their division); Audrey Benford and Ilayda Dogan ("C" Division winners); Devesh Pande and Karim Najjar (highest scoring game winners); and Harrison Benford ("B" Division winner). Our students were among the youngest competitors and did an excellent job of representing Bells Mill.
- More Congratulations! The following Bells Mill artists will move forward to the MCCPTA level of the Reflections Arts Competition:

Dance Choreography

Intermediate Division

Maya Siegal, 3, "Swirling Colors"

Film Production

Primary Division

Opal Siegal, K, "Take Care of Animals"

Ruby Siegal, 2, "Same Cultures Different Cultures Can be Friends"

Intermediate Division

Maya Siegal, 3, "Playing at the Playground"

Austin Chen, 5, "Robbers, they Never Learn"

Literature

Primary Division

Shivali Durbhakula, K, "The World Would Be a Better Place, If.."

Zijing Wu, 1, "The World Would Be a Better Place, If..."

Allison Lin, 2, "Music, Peace & Nature"

Intermediate Division

Pavani Durbhakula, 3, "The World Would be a Better Place, If..."

Alex Lily Sonnabend, 4, "Friend to Heal the Earth"

Ilayda Dogan, 4, "To Make a Better World"

Music Composition

Primary

Opal Siegal, K, "I Love You Mommy & Daddy"

Ruby Siegal, 2, "Magical Bird"

Intermediate Division

Maya Siegal, 3, "The Winters End"

Austin Chen, 5, "Underestimated"

Harrison Benford, 4, "Pandora's Box"

Photography

Primary

Alexis Coleman-Cook, K, "Lexi's Photos"

Intermediate Division

Max Brodsky, 3, "Freetime"

Max Brodsky, 3, "Baseball Team"

Spencer Swetlow, 4, "The Dangerous, But Nice Deer"

Visual Arts

Primary Division

Zijing Wu, 1, "If I Were a Dolphin"

Jonah Ramos, 2, "Peace on Earth"

Aleeza Ali, 2, "A Little Goes a Long Way"

Intermediate Division

Avery Grace Max, 4, "Perfect"

Charlotte Caine, 5, "Just Look"

Jocelyn Norman, 5, "Walking in a Forest"

Thank you for being partners in your child's education