



Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary
Week of February 16, 2015
Office of the Principal

- Mon., Feb. 16** **Presidents' Day Holiday, School Closed**
- Tue., Feb. 17** **No Head Start all week**
Book Drive through March 6
Chess, 3:30-4:45, Media Center
MSA Basketball, 3:30-4:45 pm, gym
- Wed., Feb. 18** **No Head Start today**
Intermediate French, 8:00-9:00 am, rm. 212
Intro to Spanish, 8:15-9:00 pm, rm. 125
Beginning Spanish, 3:30-4:00 pm, rm. 120
Art Escapades, Clay Creations, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 163
Chess, 3:30-4:45 pm, Media Center
Cooking and Math, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 129
Imagination Stage, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 121
Gr. 2 Brownies, rm. 155
Scout Troop 3069, rm. 153
- Thur., Feb. 19** **No Head Start today**
MSA Indoor Soccer, 3:30-4:30 pm
Intermediate Chinese, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 209
Tae Kwon Do, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 164
Yoga, 3:30-4:30, rm. 165
Chemistry, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 121
Parent Resource Meeting, 7:00 pm, Media Center
- Fri., Feb. 20** **No Head Start today**
Mad Science Experimentamania, 3:30-4:30 pm, 163
Legos Engineering, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 213
Odyssey of the Mind, 3:30, Media Center
Black History Celebration, 7:00 pm, APR
Wear your school colors today
Have a great weekend!

A look ahead

Feb. 27 **Early Release, dismissal at 1:00 pm**

- **The Montgomery County Board of Education voted Feb. 10 to change school starting and ending times in MCPS for the 2015-2016 school year—moving middle and high school start times 20 minutes later and elementary school start times 10 minutes later. This change will not affect the order in which students go to school, but will lengthen the elementary school day by 10 minutes. We will share more information as it becomes available.**

- **Please help us get the message out to neighbors with incoming kindergarteners for the next school year.** We are now gathering names and contact information for next year's kindergarten class. Please ask your neighbors to call the school if they have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2015. Our *tentative* dates for Kindergarten Orientation are Wednesday and Thursday, April 1 and 2 (by appointment).
- **The 2015 Parent Engagement Survey will be sent via U.S. mail from MCPS to a random sampling of parents/guardians.** The survey questions focus on parents' perceptions of their children's school and education. Your responses will help administrators and staff improve connections between schools and families. The survey is short, available online or paper, and can be completed in less than 10 minutes. Questions, contact Mrs. Cynthia Loeb, Office of Shared Accountability, at 301-279-3848.
- **Attention parents of students in Grades 3, 4 and 5, PARCC assessments will take place in March.** The schedule is as follows:

Gr. 3	Mar. 3, 4 and 5	9:30-11:50 am	Reading
	Mar. 9 and 10	9:30-11:50 am	Math
Gr. 4	Mar. 2 and 3	1:30-3:15 pm	Math
	Mar. 16, 17 and 18	9:30-11:30 am	Reading
Gr. 5	Mar. 11, 12 and 13	9:30-11:30 am	Reading
	Mar 16 and 17	1:00-2:30 pm	Math

It is important that children arrive at school on time, be well rested and have a good breakfast. Please refrain from making doctor's appointments on testing days. Students will take more PARCC assessments after spring break.
- **Our annual Book Drive continues through March 6.** Please send in your gently used, age-appropriate books to the collection boxes located in the main hall. On March 6, each Bells Mill student will have the opportunity to select and keep one book from the books collected. Any remaining books will be donated to not-for-profit organizations.
- **Attention Grade 2 Parents, we are in the process of gathering information about your student to plan for the upcoming school year, including screening for gifted and talented programming.** We gather information from a variety of sources, including parents, student performance, and InView cognitive assessments. During the week of March 2, Grade 2 parents will receive an input form in the US mail. **Please return the completed form to your child's teacher within a week of receiving it.** Before the end of the school year, you will receive information from our school indicating instructional placements for Grade 3, as well as your child's performance on the InView Cognitive Assessments.
- **The dates of the application and lottery process for the Elementary Foreign Language Immersion Programs are February 2 to April 2, 2015.** Parents may participate in the immersion lottery process using the *Elementary Immersion Interest Form*. The form, directions and more information on the Elementary Foreign Language Immersion Programs will be available on the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special_programs/. Please mail completed forms directly to DCCAPS, Spring Mill Field Office, 11721 Kemp Mill Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20902, or hand deliver by April 2. Please do not return completed forms to school, as that will only delay the application process. DCCAPS will notify parents by mail of student selections.
- **Prekindergarten and Head Start registration begins the first week of March 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, 2015, 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/.

- **Student Transfer Application Season began Feb. 2, 2015.** Montgomery County parents/guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season. All COSA requests must be submitted no later than **April 1, 2015**. The *Change of School Assignment Information Booklet* contains the COSA form, describes the process and provides useful information. The COSA booklet is available on the MCPS website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers> . The booklet is available in English and Spanish.

Thank you for being partners in your child's education