



***Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary***  
**Week of February 9, 2015**  
**Office of the Principal**

- Mon., Feb. 9**      **Photoshop & Animation, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 121**  
**Legos Engineering, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 209**  
**Art Escapades, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 163**  
**Gr. 3 Brownies**  
**Gr. 2 Scouts, rm. 132**  
**K Daisies Troop 690, rm. 150**
- Tue., Feb. 10**      **Chess, 3:30-4:45, Media Center**  
**MSA Basketball, 3:30-4:45 pm, gym**
- Wed., Feb. 11**      **Intermediate French, 8:00-9:00 am, rm. 212**  
**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**  
**Scout Troop 3069, rm. 153**
- Thur., Feb. 12**      **Head Start Parent Meeting, 10:00 am**  
**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**  
**K Daisies Troop 1643, rm. 163**  
**Gr. 5 Plays, 7:00 pm, APR**
- Fri., Feb. 13**      **Book Drive begins (through Feb. 27)**  
**Valentine Parties in classrooms, 2:00 pm**  
**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**  
**Wear your school colors today**  
**Have a great weekend!**

**A look ahead**

- Feb. 10**      **No Head Start**  
**Feb. 16**      **Presidents' Day Holiday, School Closed**  
**Feb. 20**      **Black History Celebration, 7:00 pm, APR**

- **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).

- **Attention parents of students in Grades 3, 4 and 5, PARCC assessments will take place in March.** The schedule is as follows:

<b>Gr. 3</b>	Mar. 2, 3 and 4	9:30-11:50 am	Reading
	Mar. 9 and 10	9:30-11:50 am	Math

<b>Gr. 4</b>	Mar. 2 and 3	1:30-3:15 pm	Math
	Mar. 16, 17 and 18	9:30-11:30 am	Reading

<b>Gr. 5</b>	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 at the end of the school year.

- **Our annual Book Drive is coming, February 13 to February 27. This year's theme is *For the Love of Books*, and the kickoff coincides with our Valentine's Day parties.** What better way to celebrate the love of books than during Valentine's celebrations? Before proceeding to your child's classroom party, drop your book donations in collection boxes located in the main hall. The Book Drive is a terrific opportunity to recycle age-appropriate, gently used books. Donations of new books are welcome too. On **March 2**, 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.
- **The MCPS Parent Academy offers a variety of workshops that give parents tips to help their children succeed in school.** For a complete listing of topics and registration information please visit [www.mcpsparentacademy.org](http://www.mcpsparentacademy.org) or call 301-517-5940. Workshops are **FREE** and located at various schools throughout the county. Childcare and interpretation services are available.
- **The Montgomery County Board of Education is considering several options for adjusting school starting and ending times (also known as bell times) allowing high school students to begin classes later in the day. Changes in bell times will impact starting and ending times for elementary schools.** Any changes to bell times will be approved on February 10, 2015. For a summary of bell times options and for information on public hearings, please visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/belltimes/index.aspx>
- **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/](http://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/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/earlychildhood/prek/).

- **Student Transfer Application Season begins 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.
- **By agreement with MCPS, Schaeffer Piano Co. is offering our families an opportunity to purchase a piano or keyboard at an especially low price.** This sale is not open to the public, and will be held on Saturday and Sunday, February 14 and 15. Call 301-424-1147 for an appointment. The sale open to the general public on Monday, February 16, 10:00 am-6:00 pm, and no appointment is needed on that day.

*Thank you for being partners in your child's education*