



## ***Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary***

**Week of March 2, 2015**

**Office of the Principal**

**Mon., Mar. 2**

**Book Drive through March 6**  
**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**

**Tue., Mar. 3**

**Book Drive**  
**Chess, 3:30-4:45, Media Center**  
**MSA Basketball, 3:30-4:45 pm, gym**  
**Science Fair Parent Information Meeting, 6:30 pm, Media Center**  
**PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm, APR**

**Wed., Mar. 4**

**Book Drive**  
**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**

**Thur., Mar. 5**

**Book Drive**  
**Head Start Parent Meeting, 10:00 am, rm. 165**  
**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**  
**Gr. 5 Parent Information Meeting on Family Life Unit**

**Fri., Mar. 6**

**Book Drive Ends**  
**Mad Science Experimentamania, 3:30-4:30, rm. 163**  
**Engineering with LEGOS, 3:30-4:30, rm. 213**  
**Wear your school colors today**  
**Have a great weekend!**

### **A look ahead**

**Mar. 10**      **K-2 auditions for Talent show, 3:30-5:30 pm, APR (no transportation provided)**  
**Mar. 11**      **K-2 rehearsal for Talent Show, 3:30-5:30 pm, APR (no transportation provided)**

- **We are proud to announce that Martin Luther King III, son of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will speak at a school-wide assembly at Bells Mill on Thursday, March 19, 2015.** Mr. King will discuss his late father's legacy and his own advocacy for human rights. Due to limited space, this assembly is for Bells Mill

staff and students only. We are planning an evening event for the community, and we will publicize details as they become available.

Mr. King's illustrated book, *My Daddy*, is for sale through the PTA. The price of the book is \$11. Mr. King will sign purchased books after the school assembly. Check backpacks for order forms or visit the PTA website. **Book orders are due no later than the end of the school day on Tuesday, March 3, 2015.** Sorry, due to time constraints, no late orders can be accepted.

- **Parents, our teachers are asking for your help. They are concerned that so many children arrive late to school.** Are you aware that doors open at **8:55**, and students are expected to be in their seats at **9:10** for morning announcements? Teachers begin instruction promptly at **9:15**. When your child enters the classroom even a few minutes late, it puts the entire class at a disadvantage in beginning the school day in an organized manner.

We have been lenient in allowing children to run straight to their classrooms if they are only a few minutes late. However, effective immediately, **any children who arrive at 9:15 or later will sign in at the office, and their unexcused late arrival will be reflected in their attendance record.**

If you drive your children to school, try to drop off a little earlier (our doors open at 8:55), and allow extra time for traffic backups especially in bad weather. It's important that you follow these established procedures so that traffic can flow quickly through the drop off lane: pull your vehicle all the way forward in the drop off lane; stay in your vehicle; have your children ready to hop out on the sidewalk; give your goodbye kisses at home. Older children are quite capable of opening their own doors instead of waiting for you or a staff member to do it for them.

With your cooperation we can improve the efficiency of drop off procedures and give our children the calm start to the school day that they deserve.

- **It's not too late! Our annual Book Drive continues through March 6.** Please continue sending in your gently used, age-appropriate books to the collection boxes located in the main hall. We need many more books so that each Bells Mill student can select and keep one book from the books collected. Any remaining books will be donated to not-for-profit organizations.
- **Science Fair Help Night will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 6:30-7:00 pm, in the Media Center. The annual Bells Mill Science Fair is on Friday, April 17, 6:45-9:30 pm, in the APR.** The Science Fair is non-competitive and open to all students in Grades K-5. Participation is voluntary. Parents and their students who are interested in participating in the Bells Mill Science Fair are encouraged to attend Help Night for guidance in the selection of an age- appropriate project and to learn tips for science fair success.
- **Get ready for the Bells Mill Stars of Tomorrow Talent Show.** If you have a talent that you would like to share, then you should consider auditioning for the talent show. Everyone who auditions will be included in the show. Due to the popularity of this event, we are having two performances.

**Grades K-2 will perform on Friday, March 13, 7:00 pm, with auditions on Tuesday, March 10, 3:30-5:00 pm, and mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday, March 11, 3:30-5:00 pm.**

**Grades 3-5 will perform on Friday, March 20, 7:00 pm, with auditions on Tuesday, March 17, 3:30-5:00 pm, and mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday, March 21, 3:30-5:00 pm.**

**Students should bring an afternoon snack to the auditions and rehearsals. *No transportation is provided.* Watch backpacks for registration/permission forms. Questions, contact LaTisha Gasaway at [minds in motion@yahoo.com](mailto:minds_in_motion@yahoo.com) .**

- **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 dates for Kindergarten Orientation are Wednesday and Thursday, April 1 and 2 (by appointment).
- **Registration is open for next year's Head Start Program.** Head Start is for income-eligible families with children who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2015. Spots fill up quickly, so early registration is recommended. For registration information call the Head Start Office at 301-230-0676.
- **Streptococcal sore throat is a common illness in childhood.** We have seen several cases of strep. It usually occurs as a sore throat, which may or may not be red, and is commonly accompanied by a fever. A definite diagnosis can only be made through a throat culture done by your source of medical care. Please review proper hand washing with your child, particularly before eating, handling food and after contact with body secretions or discharges. A strep information sheet went home in backpacks.
- **Lice** is a common condition found in preschool and elementary-age children and can occur at any time throughout the year. It is important to routinely and frequently examine the hair and scalp of family members. A lice information sheet went home in backpacks.

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