



**Click here for the weekly schedule of PTA-sponsored after school activities:**

**This Week**

**Mon., Nov. 30**      **Principal’s Tea for Gr. 4/5 Parents, 7:00 pm, APR**  
**Toy Drive begins**  
**Gr. 1 Daisies, rm. 150**  
**Daisies, rm. 236**  
**Legos, rm. 209**  
**Minecraft, rm. 214**

**Tue., Dec. 1**      **Cooking with Math, rm. 132**  
**Clay Creations, rm. 163**  
**PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm, APR**

**Wed., Dec. 2**      **French, 8:00 am, rm. 159**  
**Spanish Intro, 8:00 am, rm. 150**  
**Spanish Beginner, 8:00 am, rm. 154**  
**Cyber Club, 8:00 am, rm. 125**  
**Chess, Media Center**  
**Strong Voices, rm. 164**  
**Art, rm. 163**

**Thur., Dec. 3**      **Muffins with Mom, 8:30-9:00 am, APR**  
**Make-Up Picture Day**  
**Daisy Troop 1643, meeting in rm. 164 today only**  
**Mixed Media, rm. 163**  
**Minecraft, rm. 153**  
**Chorus Concert, 7:00 pm, APR**

**Fri., Dec. 4**      **Scout Troop 585, 5:00 pm, rm. 240**  
**Legos, rm. 163**  
**Odyssey of the Mind**

**A Look Ahead**

**Dec. 11**      **Gr. 2 Museum, 9:45-11:45 am, APR**  
**New Toy Drive ends**

**Dec. 15**      **Head Start Parent Meeting, 10:00 am**

- **Gr. 4/5 parents are invited to the Principal's Tea on Monday, November 30, 7:00-8:00 pm in the APR.** This is an informal evening that provides you with an opportunity to ask questions that are specific to the Gr. 4/5 programs.
- **Make-up Picture Day is Thursday, December 3, for new students, those who were absent on Picture Day, those who desire a retake, and the Head Start class.**
- **The Student Government's New Toy Drive continues through December 11.** 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 of new, unwrapped toys to their classrooms.
- **Please remember to inform your aftercare provider when your child has a change in dismissal plans.**
- **What I've Learned from Over 40 Years on Both Sides of the Table is a presentation by Rich Weinfeld, Executive Director of Weinfeld Education Group.** In addition to working with students who are considered "twice exceptional," the presenter has worked with a variety of students with special needs, including those on the autism spectrum. Presented by the Montgomery County PTA, **Monday, December 7, 6:30 pm, at the Carver Building cafeteria, 850 Hungerford Dr., Rockville. FREE, registration is not required.**
- **The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services will conduct a FREE nasal spray flu vaccine (FluMist) clinic for Bells Mill students during the week of December 14.** To sign up for an appointment, please contact Mrs. Messina in the health room at 301-469-1248. A consent form will be sent home for you to complete and return to school. You do not have to be present for your child to receive the vaccine, but please **submit the signed consent form no later than Friday, December 11.**
- **Attention Gr. 3 parents of children who applied to the Cold Spring Center for the Highly Gifted:** Testing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2016, here at Bells Mill. Please refrain from scheduling appointments on this day. Parents will be mailed a letter of confirmation at the beginning of December.
- **ATTENTION ALL GRADE 2 PARENTS:** Our school is in the process of gathering information about Grade 2 students to help make appropriate instructional program recommendations for the upcoming school year, including screening for Gifted and Talented (GT) identification. This process is referred to as SIPPI, which stands for Student Instructional Program Planning and Implementation. During the weeks of December 2–15, all Grade 2 students in Montgomery County Public Schools will be assessed using the InView™ which is an assessment of cognitive abilities that measures the skills and abilities most related to academic success.

Our Grade 2 students will take the InView on Monday, December 7 and Tuesday, December 8. We will begin testing about 9:30 AM both days. It would be very helpful if doctors' appointments were not scheduled during the morning on these two dates. If your child is sick or a doctor's appointment couldn't be scheduled for another time a make-up test will be administered to your child when he/she returns to school.

- **Helping Children Cope with Terrorism: Tips for Families and Educators** MCPS has posted a tip sheet from the National Association of School Psychologists that will help guide you in your conversations about terrorism with children. The tip sheet, *Helping Children Cope with Terrorism*, is available on the parent page of the MCPS website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/parents/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/parents/).

- **Board Approves Changes to Grading and Reporting Policy** The Board approved changes to Policy IKA, *Grading and Reporting*, which guides the process for evaluating and reporting student progress. With the approval of the revised policy, MCPS will now move forward with its plan to phase out two-hour semester final exams in high school courses next school year (2016–2017) and replace them with centrally developed marking period assessments. Under the plan endorsed by the Board, two-hour final exams will not be given in the second semester of this school year in high school courses for which there is already an external state assessment—Algebra 1, English 10, Government, and Biology. The traditional “half day” final exam schedules will remain in place for this school year and be eliminated in 2016–2017.

*Thank you for being partners in your child’s education.*