



Click here for the weekly schedule of PTA-sponsored after school activities:
<http://bellsmill.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Weekly-Enrichment-Schedule-Week-of-November-23.pdf>

This Is Spirit Week

- Mon., Nov. 23** Sport's Day (Wear sports gear from your favorite team.)
Scout Troop 4093, rm. 132
Scout Troop 2794, rm. 159
- Tue., Nov. 24** Teacher/Student Swap Day (Teachers dress as students and students dress as teachers.)
- Wed., Nov. 25** EARLY DISMISSAL, 1:20 PM (NO HEAD START AND NO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES)
Pajama Day
- Thur., Nov. 26** School Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Fri., Nov. 27 School Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

A Look Ahead

- Nov. 30** Principal's Tea for Gr. 4/5 Parents, 7:00 pm, APR
New Toy Drive begins
- Dec. 1** PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm, APR
- Dec. 3** Muffins with Mom, 8:30-9:00 am, APR (check backpacks for more info)
Make-Up Picture Day

Please note: Wednesday, November 25, is an early release day. Dismissal is at 1:20 pm. Please be sure that your students know their dismissal plans. There is no Head Start on this day, and there are no after school activities.

- **Happy Thanksgiving to our families!** We hope that you have a safe and happy holiday with friends and family. We'll see you back at school on Monday, November 30.
- **This is Spirit Week at Bells Mill.** Monday, November 23, is Sports Day when students can wear sports the colors/gear from their favorite teams. Tuesday, November 24, is Teacher/Student Swap Day when teachers dress as students and students dress as teachers. Wednesday, November 25, is Pajama Day when students

can wear their favorite pajamas. Wednesday is also an early dismissal day, and students will be released at 1:20 pm.

- **Student portraits are now available to view and purchase online.** Each student brought home a flyer with website and password information. Please check backpacks.
- **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.
- **Thanks to all families who supported our Fire Up Your Feet program.** Our students kept logs of all their physical activity. Bells Mill won second place and will be awarded \$1250.00 that will support our physical fitness and recess program. Again, thanks to everyone who remembered to send in those physical activity minutes.
- **Make-up Picture Day is Thursday, December 3,** for students who desire a retake and those students who were not photographed on Picture Day in October.
- **The Student Government's New Toy Drive runs from November 30 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.
- **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.

- **The National Institute of Mental Health offers Coping Strategies for Anxious Kids, Ages 8-17, an information session for parents on Thursday, November 19, 7:00-8:00 pm, Johns Hopkins University's Montgomery Campus, 9601 Medical Center Dr., rm. 106, Rockville.** Learn how to identify an anxious child; how to change anxious thinking; the biological roots of anxiety; and, current treatment options. To register, call 301-402-8225 or email KiDSwithWorries@mail.nih.gov.
- **MCPS parents and community members are invited to attend the Forming a Common Agenda for Black Students in Montgomery County Educational Symposium on Saturday, November 21, 2015.** The event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Universities at Shady Grove, located at 9630 Gudelsky Drive in Rockville. This free event, hosted by the Montgomery County Public Schools African American Student Achievement Action Group (AASAAG), will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to collaborate and share their personal experiences around education; learn of new trends and initiatives to address the student achievement gap; and develop an action plan to communicate and advocate for African American students. For more information about the symposium and to RSVP, please contact the MCPS Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships at 301-279-3074.
- **Developing Study Skills for Students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is a FREE workshop for parents that is offered by the MCPS Parent Academy, Monday, November 30, 7:00-8:00**

pm, Tilden MS, 11211 Old Georgetown Rd., Rockville. Parents will explore effective strategies to build solid study habits. Discussion will focus on executive functioning skills, skills that our children use to keep track of time, stay organized and finish projects. Registration is required so please visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/> .

- **Please register your Giant bonus card to help Bells Mill earn cash through the Giant A+ School Reward Program.** To designate our school, just log on to www.Giantfood.com/aplus OR call the A+ Hotline at 1-877-275-2758 for assistance. If you registered your card last year, you DO NOT need to re-register this year.
- **Head lice is a common occurrence among school children.** We encourage parents to regularly check their children's heads for any sign of lice. As cold weather approaches remind your children not to share hats, scarves, etc. If discovered, the infestation should be promptly treated. Please contact the Health Room for any questions or concerns.
- **Streptococcal sore throat is a common illness in childhood.** It usually occurs as a sore throat, which may or may not be red, and is commonly accompanied by a fever. Children may also present with swollen glands, headache or abdominal pains. A definite diagnosis can only be made through a throat culture done by your source of medical care. Infection is spread by direct or intimate contact through discharges from the nose, throat and skin of the infected person, who may or may not have any symptoms. Infection can also be spread indirectly through contaminated hands or objects. Symptoms appear between 1-3 days after exposure. Persons are no longer infectious 24 hours after the start of treatment. We emphasize the importance of prevention of infections through proper hand washing.

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