



This Week

- Mon., Jan. 4** **Welcome Back!**
Learn Music Now, 8:15 am, rm. 149
Learn Music Now, 3:50 pm, rm. 149
- Tues., Jan. 5** **Gr. 3 testing for Cold Spring Center for the Highly Gifted**
PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm
- Wed., Jan. 6** **Group, club and class photos for the yearbook**
French, 8:00 am, rm. 159
Spanish Intro, 8:00 am, rm. 150
Spanish Beginner, 8:00 am, rm. 154
- Thur., Jan. 7** **Indoor Soccer, 3:50 pm, gym**
- Fri., Jan. 8** **United Nations Model, 8:00 am, rm. 149**
Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm, Media Center

A Look Ahead

- Jan. 18** **Holiday, School Closed**
Jan. 21 **Class photos for the yearbook**
Jan. 22 **End of Second Marking Period**
Hearing/Vision Screening for K, Gr. 1 and students new to MCPS

- **Attention parents of Gr. 3 students who applied to the Center for the Highly Gifted**, all Gr. 3 students who applied to the Center for the Highly Gifted are scheduled to be tested at Bells Mill on Tuesday, January 5, 2016. Please make every effort to ensure that your child is in school that day and arrives on time. Testing will begin at 9:30 am. If your child is sick on the day of the test it is the parent's responsibility to contact Mrs. Betty Shevitz, Instructional Specialist, DCCAPS, at 301-592-2040 for information on the make-up date.
- **Many thanks to the PTA for the delicious staff luncheon from Gregorio's.** What a treat! We appreciate your kindness and support.
- **The winter session of PTA-sponsored, after-school activities begins the week of January 11.** Please be sure that you inform your child's teacher of any change in dismissal plans.
- **Freed photographers will be in the building taking pictures for the yearbook on Wednesday, January 6, and Thursday, January 21.** On January 6, they will photograph patrols, ambassadors, student

government, 4th/5th grade chorus, 4th/5th grade instrumental music, SERT, Mrs. Levine's Head Start class, Ms. Boyle's homeroom, Ms. Guthridge's homeroom and Mr. Koch's homeroom. On January 21, they will photograph the remaining K-5 homeroom classes. No order form is necessary. Parents will be notified when photos are available for online ordering.

- **The FY 2017 Operating Budget—A Call to Fund Our Future**

Interim Superintendent Larry Bowers submitted a \$2.4 billion recommended operating budget for Fiscal Year 2017 to the Board of Education on December 8. Mr. Bowers' operating budget recommendation includes investments to improve student literacy and math skills; build the cultural proficiency of staff; foster stronger partnerships with the community and our families to support students; and better organize the district to ensure every student is prepared for college and careers.

There are a variety of ways that you can [learn more about the MCPS budget](#) and become involved in the budget process this year, including the new [Budget 101 website](#); [Neighbor to Neighbor](#) small-group discussions; Parent Academy workshops; and an overview of the budget and other documents available on the [MCPS budget webpage](#). Visit the budget webpage at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/ to read more about these resources and how to make your voice heard.

Don't miss the chance to share your ideas and views on the proposed budget at two upcoming public hearings: the first is Thursday, January 7; the second is Thursday, January 14. Both hearings will be held at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center. Individuals may call the Board of Education office at 301-279-3617 to sign up to testify at the public hearings.

- **The Great Adventure Lab** is a high-quality, hands-on, one-day educational program that offers activities in science, programming and engineering, grades 4-5, Montgomery College Rockville Campus, Saturday, January 23, 2016, to register visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/youth.html .

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