



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

<http://bellsmill.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Winter-Weekly-Enrichment-Schedule-Week-of-January-11.pdf>

This Week

Mon., Jan.11 Learn Music Now, 8:15 am, rm. 149
Scout Troop 4093, 3:50 pm, rm. 132
Gr. 1 Daisies, 3:50 pm, rm. 150
Scout Troop 2794, 3:50 pm rm. 159
Daisies, 3:50 pm, rm. 236
Learn Music Now, 3:50 pm, rm. 149
Basketball, 3:50-4:45 pm, gym

Tues., Jan. 12

Wed., Jan. 13 No Head Start today
French, 8:00 am, rm. 159
Spanish Intro, 8:00 am, rm. 150
Spanish Beginner, 8:00 am, rm. 154

Thur., Jan. 14 Tae Kwon Do, 3:50-5:00 pm, rm. 129

Fri., Jan. 15 United Nations Model, 8:00 am, rm. 149
Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm, Media Center
Mad Science, 3:50-4:50 pm, rm. 163
Scout Troop 585, 5:00 pm, rm. 240

A Look Ahead

Jan. 18 Holiday, School Closed
Jan. 20 Instrumental Music Concert, 7:00 pm, APR
Jan. 21 Class photos all day
Jan. 22 End of Second Marking Period
Jan. 22&26 Hearing/Vision Screenings for all K-1 students and those new to MCPS

- The winter session of PTA-sponsored, after-school activities begins this week. At this time we do not have a complete listing of activities, so please check your registration confirmation for dates and times. It is important that you inform your child's teacher of any change in dismissal plans.

- **Vision and Hearing Screenings will take place on January 22 and 26 for all students in K-1 and those new to Montgomery County.**
- **Parents have requested that I provide a gentle reminder about morning drop off.** Most of our families are great about following the procedures we have established for drop off. However, if even one family does not follow this procedure, it can cause a huge backup that spills out on to Bells Mill Road. Please have your children prepared for drop off when you arrive in the car area. Your children should always exit your vehicle on the passenger side. This is to ensure that your child is not in danger of being hit by another car or have to cross between vehicles. Please pull your vehicle up to the farthest point in the driveway before allowing your children to exit your vehicle. Do not wait for your child to enter the building. This is a kiss and drop area. If you have the need to watch your child walk down the hallway, then you must park your vehicle and escort your child to the door. I know that all of us have the same goal, to have your children arrive safely and ready for school. Please follow these procedures every morning. Thank you.
- **On a related note, we are seeing an increase in tardy arrivals.** Students are expected to be at their desks and ready to learn by 9:20 am. Promptly at 9:25 the main doors are locked and instruction begins. Students who arrive after 9:25 must sign in at the office, and their tardy arrival is entered in the attendance record. Arriving even a few minutes late interrupts the class and denies your child an organized and calm start to the instructional day.
- **On Thursday, January 21, Freed photographers will be in the building taking K-5 homeroom photos.** These are group photos, not individual portraits. Ms. Levine's, Ms. Guthridge's, Ms. Boyle's and Mr. Koch's homerooms were photographed on January 6. 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 a public hearing on Thursday, January 14, 7:00 pm, 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.