



**This Week**

- Mon., Feb. 15** School Closed for Presidents’ Day Holiday
- Tues., Feb. 16** No Head Start All Week  
 Clay Creations, 3:50-4:50 pm, rm. 163  
 Basketball, 3:50-5:00 pm, gym
- Wed., Feb. 17** No Head Start Today  
 French, 8:00 am, rm. 159  
 Spanish Intro, 8:00 am, rm. 150  
 Spanish Beginner, 8:00 am, rm. 154  
 STEM, 3:30 pm, rms. 120 and 124  
 Chess, 3:50-5:15 pm, Media Center  
 Lego Robotics, 3:50-5:00 pm, rm. 124 and 120
- Thur., Feb.18** No Head Start Today  
 Mixed Media 3:50-5:00 pm, rm. 163  
 Strong Voices 3:50-5:00 pm, rm. 164  
 Indoor Soccer, 3:50-5:15 pm, gym
- Fri., Feb. 19** Wear your school colors today  
 No Head Start Today  
 United Nations Model, 8:10 am, rm. 149  
 Class Photos for K-5 and yearbook candid  
 Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm, Media Center  
 Mad Science, 3:50-4:50 pm, rm. 163  
 Lego Minecraft, 3:50-5:30 pm, rm. 153

**A Look Ahead**

- Feb. 23** Head Start Parent Mtg., 10:00 am, APR  
 Family Life Info Mtg. for Gr. 5 Parents, 6:00-7:00 pm, Media Center
- Feb. 26** Early Release, dismissal at 1:20 pm  
 Black History Celebration, 7:00 pm, APR

- **Board of Education Conditionally Appoints Dr. Jack R. Smith as Superintendent.** The Montgomery County Board of Education has identified a finalist for the position of superintendent of schools—[Dr. Jack R. Smith](#), who is currently the interim state superintendent of Maryland schools and former superintendent of schools in Calvert County. Dr. Smith has more than 30 years of experience as an educator and administrator. Community engagement was a crucial part of the search for the superintendent of schools. Dr. Smith met with a community panel of Montgomery County stakeholders to provide feedback to Board members and

help them arrive at a decision on the appropriate candidate. In the coming weeks, a contingent of the Board will be in touch with stakeholders and Dr. Smith's colleagues. Based on the outcome of this feedback, contract negotiations, and obtaining state approval, the Board plans to hire Dr. Smith as the next superintendent of MCPS effective July 1, 2016. A series of public meetings will be scheduled in the near future for parents and the community to meet Dr. Smith.

- **Our annual Black History Celebration is on Friday, February 26, 7:00 pm.** This year's event is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Bette Thompson, life-long Scotland resident and community activist. Please join us for a special evening of entertainment. Dinner is provided. Admission is FREE. Thank you to Minds In Motion and Scotland community members for hosting this event.
- **K-5 class photos are rescheduled for Friday, February 19, 9:30 am-3:00 pm (Head Start, Ms. Boyle's, Ms. Guthridge's and Mr. Koch's classes have already been photographed).** Please use the order forms that were sent home in January or prepay online at [www.FREEDpics.com](http://www.FREEDpics.com) . On this day photographers will all also take candid photos for publication in the yearbook.
- **Our Book Fair is on Tuesday, March 2, 4:30 pm to closing, at the Barnes and Noble located at Rockville Pike and Randolph Rd.** A portion of the evening's sales will benefit the PTA. Special activities for kids will take place upstairs in the children's section from 4:30pm – 8:00pm. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Danielle Lindholm at [dcamner@hotmail.com](mailto:dcamner@hotmail.com).
- **Attention, Gr. 2 parents,** our school is in the process of gathering information about students in order to plan instruction for the upcoming school year, including screening for gifted and talented identification. You have the opportunity to observe your child in a different setting and may notice special skills or qualities that may or may not be evident in the classroom. **You will receive the Parent Input Form in the U.S. mail during the week of February 29, 2016. Please return the completed form to your child's teacher within one week of receiving it. If you do not receive your parent input form by March 4, 2016, please contact your child's teacher, and we will send one home.** Our school staff will use this information in planning your child's instructional program and class placement for the 2016–2017 school year.
- **The dates of the application and lottery process for the Elementary Foreign Language Immersion Programs are February 2 to April 8, 2016.** Parents may participate in the immersion lottery process using the *Elementary Immersion Interest Form*. The form, directions and information on are available on the at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/immersion.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/immersion.aspx) . Mail completed forms directly to DCCAPS, Spring Mill Field Office, 11721 Kemp Mill Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20902, or hand deliver by April 8. ***Please do not return completed forms to school, as that will only delay the application process.*** DCCAPS will notify parents by mail of student selections.
- **Stay Informed About the MCPS FY 2017 Operating Budget.** The Montgomery County Board of Education has recommended a \$2.5 billion operating budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. The budget request includes a \$180.2 million increase from FY 2016, which will allow the district to make targeted investments to close the achievement gap; improve students' literacy and math skills; reduce class sizes; foster stronger partnerships with the community and families to support students; and accelerate efforts to improve and diversify the workforce. The Board's budget request will be submitted to the Montgomery County Executive and the County Council. The County Executive is expected to release his FY 2017 operating budget recommendation by March 15. The Montgomery County Council will hold public hearings on the county budget in April before passing a final budget in May. Stay informed and engaged on the Board's budget request on the [MCPS Operating Budget website](#).

Be sure to share your ideas and views on the importance of funding the MCPS operating budget with our elected Montgomery County officials—the [Montgomery County Board of Education](#), the [County Executive](#), and the [Montgomery County Council](#)—through emails, letters, short videos, and testimonials.

Five Education Budget Meetings, presented by Montgomery County Councilmember Craig Rice, MCPS Interim Superintendent Larry Bowers, and Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard, are scheduled for February and March. Find out how budget decisions are made, what the county is doing today to get ready for FY 2017 and beyond, and the opportunities residents have to influence budget decisions. The meetings will take place from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

February 17, Montgomery College (Germantown Campus), BE Building, Room 151, 20200 Observation Drive, Germantown

February 24, Albert Einstein High School, 11135 Newport Mill Road, Kensington

March 9, Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Blvd., Gaithersburg

March 16, Col. Zadok Magruder High School, 5939 Muncaster Mill Road, Rockville

March 23, Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Pkwy., Rockville

- **A Summer Opportunities Fair Is Set for March 2.** Parents can explore a wide range of summer opportunities for school-age children at a fair on Wednesday, March 2. Local and regional providers will be available to talk about summer camps, programs, and activities. During the fair, parents can meet program staff, pick up applications, and get information on financial assistance. The fair will be held from 7:00-8:30 pm at Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Dr. in Rockville. To register for the fair: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/parentacademyregister.aspx> .
- **Nominations Now Open for Counselor of the Year Awards.** Parents can pay tribute to their child’s school counselor by nominating him or her for the MCPS School Counselor of the Year Award. The award will recognize one outstanding counselor from elementary, middle, and high school. Nominations are due **Friday, March 6**. The deadline to submit an application is 4:00 pm on **Thursday, April 2**. Counselors may be nominated by parents and students. Visit the MCPS webpage at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/) and search “School Counselor Award” for the criteria and nomination packet.

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