



***Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary***  
 March 14, 2016  
 Office of the Principal  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles)  
<http://www.twitter.com/bellsmilles>

**This Week**

**Mon., Mar. 14**

**Book Drive Begins Today**  
 Learn Music Now, 8:15 am  
 Etiquette, 3:50 pm, rm. 125  
 Glee Club, 3:50 pm, rm. 164  
 Scout Troop 2794, 3:50 pm, rm. 159  
 Gr. 1 Daisies, 3:50 pm, rm. 150

**Tues., Mar. 15**

**Book Drive**  
 Gr. 3-5 Talent Show auditions, 3:50-5:30 pm, APR  
 Clay Creations, 3:50-4:50 pm, rm. 163

**Wed., Mar. 16**

**Book Drive**  
 French, 8:00 am, rm. 159  
 Spanish Intro, 8:00 am, rm. 150  
 Spanish Beginner, 8:00 am, rm. 154  
 Gr. 3-5 Talent Show mandatory rehearsal, 3:50-5:30 pm, APR  
 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., Mar. 17**

**Book Drive**  
 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  
 Gr. 5 Plays, 7:00 pm, APR

**Fri., Mar. 18**

**Wear your school colors today**  
**Last Day for Book Drive**  
 United Nations Model, 8:10 am, rm. 149  
 Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm, Media Center  
 Mad Science, 3:50 pm, rm. 163  
 Lego Minecraft, 3:50 pm, rm. 153  
 Gr. 3-5 Talent Show performance, 6:30-8:30 pm, APR (performers arrive at 6:00 pm)

**A Look Ahead**

March 21	Open House for New Kindergarteners/Parents, 9:30 am – noon
March 24	No School for Students, Professional Day for Teachers
March 25-April 1	School Closed for Spring Break
April 11-12	Kindergarten Orientation, No School for Current Kindergarteners

- **Students in Grades 3-5, get ready for the Bells Mill Stars of Tomorrow Talent Show.** If you have a talent that you would like to share, then you should consider auditioning for the talent show. Everyone who auditions will be included in the show.

**Grades 3-5 will perform on Friday, March 18, 6:30 pm (performers arrive at 6:00 pm), with auditions on Tuesday, March 15, 3:50-5:30 pm, and mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday, March 16, 3:50-5:30 pm.**

Students should bring an afternoon snack to the auditions and rehearsals. *No transportation is provided for these activities.* Please pick up your child no later than 5:30 pm on the audition and rehearsal days. A piano will be available for student performance. Permission forms went home in backpacks. No student can participate without a permission form. Questions, contact LaTisha Gasaway at [minds\\_in\\_motion@yahoo.com](mailto:minds_in_motion@yahoo.com).

- **THE BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOOK FAIR AND COMMUNITY NIGHT AT BARNES & NOBLE** – Join us after school on TUESDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> for fun treats, books, books, books and more! You can shop all day for books and entertainment for Spring Break, and we'll have activities in the upstairs children's section from 4:30pm – 8:30pm. Details on BMES celebrity readers and entertainment are coming soon. Barnes and Noble is located on Rockville Pike at Montrose Rd. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Danielle Lindholm at [dcamner@hotmail.com](mailto:dcamner@hotmail.com).
- **The Book Drive is Monday, March 14, through Friday, March 18.** Please consider sending in your gently-used, age-appropriate children's books. PTA volunteers will sort the books by grade level, and on Tuesday-Wednesday, March 22-23, all students will have the opportunity to browse and select one book to keep. Any remaining books will be donated.
- **Students in Gr. 5 will present their original plays on Thursday, March 17, 7:00 pm. Families are invited to the performance.**
- **There will be no school for kindergarteners on Monday and Tuesday, April 11 and 12.** On these days we will hold Kindergarten Orientation for next year's kindergarteners.
- **PreK/Head Start registration will begin on Monday, March 14, for prekindergarten and Head Start programs for the 2016–2017 school year.** The programs serve income-eligible families with children who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2016, including children with disabilities. Walk-in applications will be accepted Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., at Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road in Rockville. Additional information about eligibility, registration, and required documents to complete an application is available on the MCPS website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org), search “preK”, or by calling 301-230-0676.
- **If you have neighbors with children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2016, please let them know about our Kindergarten Open House on Monday, March 21, 9:30 am-noon.** They will have the opportunity to observe kindergarten instruction and activities while classes are in session. Additionally, **our Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, April 11 and 12 (by appointment).** Please urge your neighbors to contact the office in order to make an appointment. There will be no school for current kindergarteners on April 11 and 12.
- **Don't miss out! The “Slamtastic” Harlem Wizards vs. Churchill Cluster teachers basketball game is Sunday, April 17, 2016, 4:00 pm, in the Churchill HS gym.** See our own Mr. Romans and Mr. Leffler

play in the game. Tickets are limited. Purchase tickets online at [www.harlemwizards.com/schedule-tickets](http://www.harlemwizards.com/schedule-tickets) (students \$13, adults \$17 online, or \$20 at the door). Questions, email [wchsedfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:wchsedfoundation@gmail.com). For more information [www.wchsfoundation.org/events](http://www.wchsfoundation.org/events).

- **Reminder to parents/guardians of students who receive special education and related services.** Parents or guardians of children receiving special education and related services received the *Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey* from the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services during the week of February 1. Parents are asked to complete the survey and return it in the postage paid envelope by April 30, 2016. The Survey may also be completed online. Please look for details in your survey packet. Your feedback will help guide efforts to improve special education and related services in your local school system. Your voice can make a real difference for your child and many other children across the State of Maryland. To learn more, please visit <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com>.
- **Attention parents of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, in collaboration with MCPS, Saturday School offers MCPS families the opportunity to participate in *PARCC Exposure*, a series of Saturday sessions, beginning March 12, designed to help students become more familiar with taking the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exams this spring.** Beginning Saturday, March 12, students will be exposed to the PARCC assessments on computers and Chromebooks. Certified MCPS teachers will reinforce what students are learning during the week. Register for Saturday School at [www.SaturdaySchool.org](http://www.SaturdaySchool.org). Registration is \$40 for students who receive Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS) and \$70 for non-FARMS students. Parents are invited to the March 12 parent training at all 12 Saturday School centers to learn more about the PARCC assessment.
- **MCPS parents, students, and staff are encouraged to submit nominations to recognize individuals and programs that have contributed to the success and acceptance of students with special needs.** The recognitions are being given by the Special Education Committee of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA). The recognition ceremony will be held at Rockville High School on Monday, May 9. Nominations are being accepted in four categories: Staff, Programs, Parents, and Students. **Applications are due by Friday, March 18.** Nominations can be submitted by email attachment to [Jeanne Taylor](mailto:Jeanne.Taylor@mcpsmd.org), or by hard copy to the Montgomery County Council of PTAs, Upcounty Regional Services Center, 12900 Middlebrook Road, 3rd Floor, Germantown, MD, 20874. Visit the MCPS website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org), search “MCCPTA Awards” to download the nomination form.
- **Make Your Voice Heard!** Our community must begin to reinvest in education and change the way the MCPS budget has been funded for the past eight years. Together, we must achieve full funding of the budget to ensure every child has the opportunity for success. The FY 2017 Operating Budget includes resources to serve more than 2,500 additional students; **REDUCE CLASS SIZES; CLOSE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP;** improve students’ literacy and math skills; and build the cultural proficiency of staff.

It is critical that the county executive and the Montgomery County Council hear from our community about MCPS’s budget priorities. Beginning March 17, community members can call 240-777-7803 or visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/PHSignUp.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/PHSignUp.html) to sign up to testify at the County Council budget hearings. The hearings will be held at the following dates and times:

- April 5 7:00 p.m.
- April 6 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- April 7 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Additionally, Montgomery County Council Education Committee Chair Craig Rice, in partnership with MCPS and Montgomery College, is holding meetings across the county to discuss education funding. You can attend and share your perspective about education funding in our community. The remaining meetings will be held at the following dates and times:

March 16 6:30 p.m. at Colonel Zadok Magruder High School  
March 23 6:30 p.m. at Thomas S. Wootton High School

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