



Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary
March 7, 2016
Office of the Principal
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles
<http://www.twitter.com/bellsmilles>

This Week

Mon., Mar. 7

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

Tues., Mar. 8

Gr. 5 Maryland State Assessments/Science, 9:30-11:30 am
K-2 Talent Show auditions, 3:50-5:30 pm, APR
Clay Creations, 3:50-4:50 pm, rm. 163
Basketball, 3:50-5:00 pm, gym

Wed., Mar. 9

French, 8:00 am, rm. 159
Spanish Intro, 8:00 am, rm. 150
Spanish Beginner, 8:00 am, rm. 154
Gr. 5 Maryland State Assessments/Science, 9:30-11:30 am
K-2 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. 10

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., Mar. 11

Wear your school colors today
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
Scout Troop 585, rm. 240, 5:00 pm
K-2 Talent Show performance, 6:30-8:30 pm, APR (performers arrive at 6:00 pm)

A Look Ahead

March 15 Gr. 3-5 Talent Show auditions, 3:50-5:30 pm, APR
March 16 Gr. 3-5 Talent Show mandatory rehearsal, 3:50-5:30 pm
March 18 Gr. 3-5 Talent Show performance, 6:30-8:30 pm, APR (performers arrive at 6:00 pm)
March 21 Kindergarten Open House for new parents, 9:30 am – noon
April 11-12 No school for current kindergarteners for Kindergarten Orientation

- **Attention Gr. 5 parents, your child will take the Maryland State Assessment (MSA) in Science on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 8 and 9.** It is important that children arrive at school on time, be well rested and have a good breakfast. Please refrain from making doctor's appointments on testing days.
- **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. Due to the popularity of this event, we are having two performances.

Grades K-2 will perform on Friday, March 11, 6:30 pm (performers arrive at 6:00 pm), with auditions on Tuesday, March 8, 3:50-5:30 pm, and mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday, March 9, 3:30-5:00 pm.

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.

- **THE BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOOK FAIR AND COMMUNITY NIGHT AT BARNES & NOBLE** – Join us after school on TUESDAY, MARCH 22ND 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.
- **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, 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.
- **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 3rd, 4th and 5th 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, in addition to the strong literacy and math support teachers deliver, students will be exposed to the PARCC assessments on computers and Chromebooks. Certified MCPS teachers will use publicly released items as part of their literacy and math tutoring sessions to reinforce what students are learning during the week.

Your child can be a part of this exciting opportunity by registering for Saturday School at 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.

The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, also known as Saturday School, is a low-cost tutoring and mentoring program that provides an extra day of learning and helps MCPS students enhance their mastery of core academic subjects. Students in Grades 1 through 12 who are in need of additional academic support can attend sessions at one of 12 locations across Montgomery County.

- **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, search “MCCPTA Awards” to download the nomination form.
- **The 2015 *Annual Report to the Community* tells the story of MCPS**—the factors that are driving change in our district; the strategies we are using to close the achievement gap and prepare our students for success in the 21st century; and the operational and student performance data we use to monitor our progress. The online report features photos, charts, and video and audio segments that help portray how MCPS is fulfilling its vision and mission. Read the report at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org (search “Annual Report”) to learn more and meet some of the district’s outstanding students and staff.
- **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 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 meetings will be held at the following dates and times:

- March 9 6:30 p.m. at Gaithersburg High School
- 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.