



This Week

- Mon., Apr. 25** Scout Troop 4093, 3:50 pm, rm. 132
 Scout Troop 2794, 3:50 pm, rm. 159
 Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym
- Tues., Apr. 26** NO SCHOOL (closed for primary election)
- Wed., Apr. 27** French, 8:00 am, rm. 154
 Spanish Intro, 8:00 am, rm. 150
 Spanish Beginner, 8:00 am, rm. 233
 STEM, 3:50 pm, rms. 120 and 124
 Chess, 3:50 pm, Media Center
 Strong Voices, 3:50 pm, rm. 164
 Street Hockey, 3:50 pm
- Thur., Apr. 28** Clay Creations, 3:50 pm, rm. 163
 Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym
 Soccer, 3:50 pm
- Fri., Apr. 29** Flag football, 3:50 pm

A Look Ahead

- May 2** Gr. 5 to Maryland Science Center
May 4 K to Rose Hill Manor
Gr. 4 Poetry Night, 7:00 pm, APR
May 5 Head Start to Potomac Library

- **Please note: New date for last day of school.** Montgomery County Public Schools will extend the 2015–2016 school year by one day and **end the year on Monday, June 20, 2016.** The MCPS request for a one-day waiver of the 180-day school year requirement was approved Monday by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The school year was previously scheduled to end Friday, June 17, and now will end with an early release day on June 20 (**Bells Mill will dismiss at 1:20 pm on Monday, June 20**). MCPS was closed for six days this winter due to inclement weather that left many roads and sidewalks in the county impassable. MCPS already had four emergency weather days built into the school calendar. With the state waiving one day from the requirement, MCPS has implemented its weather contingency calendar, which adds one make-up day to the end of the school year. MCPS initially requested that MSDE waive two days so that the school year could end June 17, 2016. MSDE rejected that request.

- **Attention parents of students in Grades 3-5.** PARCC assessments are scheduled for May 9 through May 27. Please refrain from making appointments on your child's testing dates. Have your child eat a good breakfast, be well rested and arrive on time. Check the schedule below for your child's testing dates:

Gr. 3	May 9, 10, 12 & 18--Language Arts	May 23, 24, 25 & 27—Math
Gr. 4	May 11, 12, 13 & 16—Language Arts	May 17, 20, 24 & 27—Math
Gr. 5	May 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13—Language Arts	May 16, 18, 20 & 23—Math

Students who are absent due to illness will have the opportunity to make up all or part of the assessments.

- **Order your 2015-2016 Bells Mill yearbook now.** The cost is \$22. Order online at www.freedpics.com (password: BEARS15F, then click on the "Yearbook" gallery). Check backpacks for information flyers. Questions, Lina DeChiara at lina.dechiara79@gmail.com.
- **Grade 5 panoramic photo will be taken on Thursday, May 5, 2016.** Watch backpacks for ordering information.
- **The class and individual photos are still available for online ordering.** Use the following link and password:
www.freedpics.com
password: BEARS15F
- **Please ask your child to check the lost and found area on the stage.** We have many, many hats, gloves, scarves and coats to be claimed by their owners. At the end of the school year all remaining items will be donated.
- **Attention Grade 5 parents.** Now that the last day of school has been changed to Monday, June 20, 2016, the first Grade 6 Orientation Day at Cabin John Middle School has changed from June 21 to June 22. All other Grade 6 dates will remain the same.
- **We are now registering for Bells Mill KinderCamp (for rising kindergarteners) and Camp Bells Mill (for rising 1st-5th graders).** The camps are taught by our own teachers and will be held at Bells Mill, July 11-29, 8:30 am – noon. Cost is \$500 (checks payable to Bells Mill ES). There are opportunities for tuition reduction based on financial need. For more information/registration forms, check backpacks or visit the Bells Mill website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles/news/index.aspx?id=477722>
- **Take Your Child to Work Day** is Thursday, April 28, 2016. If your child will be absent all or part of the day, please be sure to notify the office. Your child's absence is recorded as unexcused unless we hear from you.
- **Montgomery College Youth Programs offers a wide variety of summer courses/activities as well as before and after care for students in grades K-8.** To view the summer catalog and to register, please go to www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/youth.
- **Final Community Dialogue on Choice Study Is Scheduled for May 5.** MCPS wants to hear from parents, staff, students, and community members as it develops a plan to address the findings and recommendations in the recently released study of the district's school choice and other special academic programs. **Join us at the final Community Dialogue to discuss the study's recommendations and the vision for the role of choice in MCPS.** The event will be held on **Thursday, May 5**, at Walter Johnson High School, 6400 Rock Spring Drive in Bethesda, from 7–8:30 p.m.

The study examines how well these programs advance our school system's core values of excellence and equity and whether the programs are meeting their intended goals.

Free child care (ages 4 and older) and interpretation services will be provided at the meeting. Participants also will have the opportunity to talk in language-specific groups. To request a sign language interpreter, call 301-517-5539 or visit www.educationalinterpreters.com/mcps .

For more information about the *Study of Choice and Special Academic Programs*, visit the Choice website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/choice/. Comments on the report's recommendations and general feedback about the study can be provided at the link above. For additional information about the Community Dialogues, visit the Choice website or call 301-309-6277.

- **Nominations Open for Teacher, Principal ESOL Awards.** Honor an educator or administrator for their outstanding work with English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students. Nominations are open for ESOL Teacher and Principal Awards. The ESOL/Bilingual Advisory Committee (EBAC) will be presenting five awards—

Outstanding Teacher Award, which will be given to three ESOL teachers (one each in elementary, middle, and high school), who are excellent teachers and leaders, and who have guided ESOL students in learning English and adjusting to life in the U.S.

Nomination Form: <http://goo.gl/forms/TPzvfQsBE7>

Principal of the Year, which will be awarded to one principal who has provided exceptional support to the ESOL program in their school.

Nomination Form: <http://goo.gl/forms/DXCyGKOaeU>

Carol Chen Outstanding Teacher Award for Community Service, presented to one teacher who has demonstrated excellent teaching and leadership qualities in helping ESOL students learn English and adjust to the U.S.

Nomination Form: <http://goo.gl/forms/jrXWYVBI8h>

All nominations are due online by Friday, April 29. For more information, call at 301-230-0670.

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