



**This Week**

**Mon., Sept. 12** No School for Students, Professional Day for Teachers  
**Tue., Sept. 13** Welcome back, students  
**Wed., Sept. 14** K-2 and Head Start Back to School Night, 7:00 pm (childcare available)  
**Thur., Sept. 15** Gr. 3-5 and Autism Program Back to School Night, 7:00 pm (childcare available)  
**Fri., Sept. 16** Back to School Picnic, 6:00-8:00 pm

**A Look Ahead**

**Sept. 28** Restaurant Night at Potomac Pizza, 4:00-9:00 pm  
**Sept. 30** Early Release, dismissal at 1:20 pm  
**Oct. 3** School Closed

- **Important!** MCPS has initiated for the 2016-2017 school year **mandatory** child abuse and neglect training for all volunteers. All volunteers who regularly support schools need to complete the online module, “Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect for Volunteers and Contractors” which is accessed on the MCPS website. Lunch/recess, field trip, media and classroom volunteers MUST take the training. Once you have completed the 30 minute module, you will receive a confirmation of completion. We are requesting that you forward this to Mrs. Vincenty in the main office. We encourage all families to take the training in anticipation of your future volunteering at school. This new expectation will help us to ensure that all children are safe. Thank you for your attention to this important request. This is the link to the training module. <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/>
  - **Back to School Night for Parents of Gr. K-2, and Head Start: Wednesday evening, September 14, 2016, is your Back to School Night.** We ask that you meet with us in the All Purpose Room at **7:00 pm** to kick off the new school year. Following a very brief meeting filled with important announcements, you will go to classrooms for information sessions with your child’s teachers. You will hear about routines and procedures as well as information about the curriculum expectations. Session 1 will run from 7:20 – 8:00 pm, and session 2 will run from 8:05 until 8:35 pm. We look forward to seeing you at this very special evening. **Bar-T will provide on-site childcare for Bells Mill students. Cost is \$3.00 per child (proceeds will be donated to the Bells Mill PTA).**
  - **Back to School Night for Parents of Gr. 3-5, and Ms. Ventura’s, Ms. Guthridge’s and Ms. Collins’ Parents: Thursday evening, September 15, 2016, is your Back to School Night.** We ask that you meet with us in the All Purpose Room at **7:00 pm** to kick off the new school year. Following a very brief meeting filled with important announcements, you will go to classrooms for information sessions with your child’s teachers. You will hear about routines and procedures as well as information about
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the curriculum expectations. Session 1 will run from 7:20 – 8:00 pm, and session 2 will run from 8:05 until 8:35 pm. Mr. Chris Allen, Instrumental Music Teacher will be here that evening to speak to parents of children in grades 4 and 5 who are interested in participating in the Instrumental Music Program. We look forward to seeing you at this very special evening. **Bar-T will provide on-site childcare for Bells Mill students. Cost is \$3.00 per child (proceeds will be donated to the Bells Mill PTA).**

- **We are fortunate to have had Dr. Recess visit us this past week.** On Tuesday K-5 students attended an assembly and learned fun, safe games for outdoor recess. Throughout the week Dr. Recess also visited recesses to demonstrate tips for play. Thank you to the PTA for providing this program to help keep our children active and safe.
- **Please be sure to read two notices from the health room that can be found at the end of this newsletter.** The first notice includes information about when to keep a child home from school and what happens when a child becomes sick at school. The second notice contains advice on how to treat and avoid head lice in your children.
- **The media center is seeking 5 volunteers who are each willing to commit to working 1 afternoon a week.** Please contact Mrs. Floyd ( [Joann.H.Floyd@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Joann.H.Floyd@mcpsmd.org) ) in the Media Center if you are interested.
- **Attention Gr. 1-5 Parents: There will be a Parent Information Meeting for those interested in learning about the BMES Odyssey of the Mind program, Tuesday evening, September 20, 7:00-8:00 pm, in the APR.** Odyssey of the Mind demonstrates that creativity can be taught, stimulated and improved with practice. Students use their artistic, theatrical and engineering skills to create new solutions to intriguing problems; they learn to "think outside the box" and develop valuable skills that will be essential for success in the 21st Century.
- **Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) workshops and seminars target issues that matter most to parents.** These classes offer effective strategies and tools for effective parenting of tots to teens. Meetings are offered at locations throughout the area. To view a listing of topics and for registration information, please visit [www.PEPparent.org](http://www.PEPparent.org) .
- **A Day of Writing with Authors** is an opportunity for 5<sup>th</sup> graders who love to write, offered by Montgomery College Youth Programs, Saturday, October 22, 2016, 8:30 am-3:30 pm, Rockville campus. Cost is \$150, but partial scholarships may be available for students who demonstrate financial need. Information/registration, [www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth) .

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

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**Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services  
School Health Services  
401 Hungerford Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(240) 777-1550**

## **WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL**

When your child is sick, keep him/her home from school. This not only benefits your child but other children and staff in the classroom at school.

### **WHAT ARE IMPORTANT SIGNS OF ILLNESS**

Some important signs of illness are:

1. A temperature of more than 100° orally
2. Nausea or vomiting
3. Stomachache
4. Diarrhea
5. Pale or flushed face
6. Headache
7. Persistent cough
8. Earache
9. Thick yellowish discharge from nose
10. Sore throat
11. Rash or infection of the skin
12. Red or pink eyes
13. Loss of energy or decrease in activity
14. Open sores/lesions that involve secretions that can not be contained by covering.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHILD HAS ANY OF THESE SIGNS?**

If your child has any of these symptoms when it is time for school, it is best that he/she stay home. Most childhood illnesses are over soon and no cause for worry. But, if the symptoms are severe or persist for more than 24 hours, you should contact your private source of medical care. Children sometimes use illness as an excuse to miss school. On the other hand, some children

force themselves to go to school even though they are sick. There may be times that your child does not show signs of the above-noted symptoms but may be ill. It is up to you to be alert to your child's health and to decide when it is best to send him/her to school.

### **WHEN MAY MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER AN ILLNESS?**

Generally, your child may return to school when he/she is free of signs of illness. However, there may be times when it is necessary for your child to see your source of medical care before returning to school. Please call your school nurse if you have any questions regarding a specific condition.

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MY CHILD BECOMES ILL AT SCHOOL?**

If your child complains of being sick or does not look well after he/she reaches school, we will contact you. Therefore, it is important that you provide the school with up-to-date information and phone numbers to call in case it is necessary to contact you.

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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES  
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES  
401 Hungerford Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(240) 777-1550**

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## **HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS)**

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**WHAT ARE HEAD LICE?**

Lice are small/grayish-tan wingless/cylindrical insects about the size of a sesame seed. They lay creamy yellow to gray colored oval eggs called nits. These can be distinguished from dandruff because dandruff can be combed out while nits will remain firmly attached to the hair.

**WHERE ARE HEAD LICE FOUND?**

Lice and their nits are usually found on the hairs at the nape of the neck and behind the ears but they may be found anywhere on the scalp. Lice can live for up to 48 hours off the body.

**WHO GETS LICE?**

Anyone can get head lice. Head lice is a condition that affects all socio-economic groups and all ages. School-age children are most susceptible due to their close contact with each other. A large percentage of those affected are children under 12. Lice are spread through close physical contact and by activities such as sharing hats, brushes or combs. They are also spread indirectly by coming in contact with pillows, backs of chairs, or car seats used by an infested person. Lice do not hop, jump, or fly.

**WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF LICE?**

The first sign of lice is often the tickling feeling of something moving in the hair. Intense itching may occur because of a reaction to head lice biting the scalp. The lice and eggs, which are firmly attached to the hair near the scalp, may be seen. Skin irritation or infection may occur as a result of repeated scratching.

**WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IF LICE ARE DISCOVERED?**

Treatment should be initiated as soon as live lice or nits less than 1/2" from the scalp have been identified. Consult your private source of health care for advice about using a special over-the-counter medicated creme rinse or shampoo for lice control. The school nurse is available to answer questions or provide referrals for health care. Use the creme rinse or shampoo exactly as directed. A clean, fine tooth comb should be used after treatment to remove nits located less than 1/2" of the scalp. All nits may be removed to avoid confusion between old and new head lice infestations.

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The entire family and others who have close contact with an infested person should be inspected and undergo treatment, if necessary. Wash all clothing and bed linens which have been in contact with the infested person in hot water and place in a hot dryer for 20 minutes. Dry cleaning also kills lice. Items which cannot be washed can be sealed in plastic bags at least for two weeks.

Upholstered furniture, car seats, mattresses and other areas in contact with hair should be thoroughly vacuumed. Vacuum cleaner bags need to be emptied immediately into a zip lock bag and disposed of. Wipe surfaces with a damp cloth to remove loose hair that may have nits attached and dispose of the cloth. Do not use fumigant sprays. They are not necessary to control lice and may be toxic if inhaled.

**Check all family members weekly thereafter until all signs of lice disappear. If lice reappear at a later date, repeat process described above.**

Animals do not carry human head lice, so there is no need to treat family pets.

**COULD A STUDENT  
BE EXCLUDED  
FROM SCHOOL  
BECAUSE OF HEAD  
LICE?**

A student will be sent home if found to be infested with head lice and may return after she/he has been treated and no longer has live lice or nits less than ½” of the scalp.

**HOW CAN LICE BE  
PREVENTED?**

Education is the best method for prevention. Teach children to avoid head to head contact with others and not to share clothing, hats, combs and other personal items. Check family members periodically.  
**TREAT IMMEDIATELY AND NOTIFY YOUR SCHOOL'S HEALTH ROOM OF AN INFESTATION!**

