



## ***Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary***

**October 10, 2016**

**Office of the Principal**

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles)

<http://www.twitter.com/bellsmilles>

### **This Week**

- Mon., Oct. 10**      **SGA Food Drive continues through October 28**  
**Open House for Parents, 9:30-11:45**  
**Daisies, 3:50 pm, rm. 209**  
**Centers for the Highly Gifted Parent Info Mtg, 7:00 pm, Northwest HS**
- Tue., Oct. 11**      **Head Start Parent Meeting, 10:30 am, APR**  
**Art Escapades, 3:50 pm, rm. 159**  
**Chess, 3:50 pm, rm. 209**  
**Magic, 3:50 pm, rm. 240**  
**Hip Hop, 3:50 pm, rm. 153**  
**Legos, 3:50 pm, rm. 163**  
**MSA Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym**
- Wed., Oct. 12**      **School closed today**
- Thur., Oct. 13**      **Rockets, 3:50 pm, rm. 219**  
**Theater, 3:50 pm, rm. 233**  
**Drama, 3:50 pm, rm. 128**  
**Clay Creations, 3:50 pm, rm. 163**  
**Scrimmages Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym**
- Fri., Oct. 14**      **Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm, Media Center**  
**MSA Flag Football, 3:50 pm**  
**Have a great weekend!**

### **A Look Ahead**

- Oct. 17-20**      **Book Fair in the Media Center**
- Oct. 19**      **No Head Start**  
**Picture Day (individual pictures for yearbook)**  
**Family Portrait Night (by appointment), 5:00-7:00 pm**
- Oct. 20**      **Gr. 4 to Glen Echo Aquarium**
- Oct. 26**      **Gr. 5 to Strathmore Music Center**
- Oct. 28**      **Halloween Parade and Parties 2:10-3:30 pm**

- **Many thanks to all the families who joined us this week for the Walk to School Event.** It was so fantastic to have all of our students gathered at Cabin John Middle School and then walk to school together. It gave us the opportunity to practice safe routes to school, talk about pedestrian safety and enjoy the beautiful weather with our school family. Everyone was ready for a great day of learning after our morning exercise. I want to thank the Cabin John Staff for their support of our event (even the CJMS Cougar showed up for some fun) and the MCPS

Division of Transportation for coordinating our bus routes to meet at the middle school. It was truly a collaborative community effort!

- **Through October 28 our Student Government is collecting nonperishable food for the Kids Helping Kids Food Drive sponsored by Manna Food Center.** Students can bring their donations to school and drop off in front of Mrs. Rabin's or Mrs. McClary's room. You can learn more or donate by visiting <http://mdfoodbank.org/kids-helping-kids/>
- **Open House is Monday, October 10. Parents are invited to visit your child's classroom from 9:30 to 11:45 am.** Please enter through the main doors and sign in. **We request that younger siblings not attend. It will be necessary for you to park on the street that day.** We look forward to having you join us for morning instruction.
- **Picture Day is Wednesday, October 19.** Individual student portraits will be taken for the yearbook and will be available for online purchase. The Head Start class and children who are absent on Picture Day will be photographed on Make-Up Picture Day in November.
- **Family Portrait Night is Wednesday, October 19, 5:00-7:00 pm (by appointment).** Freed Photographers will be here for family portraits. Photos will be done outdoors (weather permitting) for a series of portraits that will be available in time for the holidays. To make an appointment visit [www.freedSPIRIT.com](http://www.freedSPIRIT.com). While you're here at school, take your family to visit the Book Fair in the Media Center (6:00-8:00 pm).
- **The Book Fair is coming!** The Bells Mill Book Fair will be open in the Media Center from Monday, October 17, through Thursday, October 20, with evening hours on Tuesday and Wednesday (6:00-8:00 pm). During the school day students will have the opportunity to browse the Book Fair and prepare a wish list to bring home and review.
- **Even though no elementary schools in our immediate area** have received any social media threats, you may have read that several MCPS schools have received vague threats via social media. These anonymous threats have been posted and shared under a "clown" alias. Similar threats have been made to several of our surrounding jurisdictions, including Prince George's County Public Schools and Frederick County Public Schools. The Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) is aware of these threats and investigating the matter. At this time, MCPD has stated that there is nothing to indicate there is any threat to public safety regarding these social media posts. MCPS is working with MCPD and will be monitoring this situation closely. If you notice anything unusual or have any information, please contact the non-emergency number immediately at (301) 279-8000. In light of this situation, it is recommended that you review safety procedures with your child, advise them to be more observant, and report any suspicious activity.
- **October is Fire Prevention Month, and the Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service is asking all families to "Take 10 on 10/10"**-- take at least 10 minutes on 10/10 to make a family escape plan, check smoke alarms to ensure they are working and practice a home fire drill. So please take 10 on 10/10. It might save a life. For more information you can visit [www.mcfrs.org/mcsafe](http://www.mcfrs.org/mcsafe) .

- **Attention parents of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, applications for the Elementary Center Program for the Highly Gifted (CPHG) were mailed directly to all parents of Grade 3 students.** If you are interested in having your child considered for the CPHG, you must complete the application and return it by November 4 to CPHG Application, Div. of Consortia Choice & Application Program Services, 11721 Kemp Mill Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20902. Please do not send the application to school. There will be two parent information meetings. Feel free to attend the one most convenient for you:  
October 10, 2016, 7:00 pm Northwest HS, 13501 Richter Farm Rd., Germantown, MD  
October 20, 2016, 7:00 pm Northwood HS, 919 University Blvd., Silver Spring, MD  
Students who submitted their applications by the deadline will be tested in school in January 2017. If you do not receive an application in the mail, please call the school.

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