



**The week ahead**

- Mon., Dec. 5**            New Toy Drive starts today  
Gr. 2 InView testing  
Music, 3:50 pm, rm. 129  
Brownies, 3:50 pm, rm. 150  
Daisies, 3:50 pm, rm. 209  
Screenagers documentary film/PTA Meeting, 7:15 pm, APR
- Tue., Dec. 6**            New Toy Drive  
Gr. 2 InView testing  
Art Escapades, 3:50 pm, rm. 159
- Wed., Dec. 7**            New Toy Drive  
Gr. 2 InView testing  
Model UN, 8:10 am, rm. 149
- Thur., Dec. 8**            New Toy Drive  
Gr. 2 InView testing  
Clay Creations, 3:50 pm, rm. 163  
Tennis, 3:50 pm (last session)  
Scout Troop 2794, 3:50 pm rm. 129
- Fri., Dec. 9**            New Toy Drive  
Gr. 2 Old Object Museum, 9:45-11:20 am, APR  
MSA Flag Football, 3:50 pm (last session)  
Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm  
Daisy Troop 33042, 3:50 pm, rm. 129  
Scout Troop 585, 5:00 pm, rm. 149

**A Look Ahead**

- Dec. 14** Chorus Concert, 7:00 pm, APR  
**Dec. 16** Last day of New Toy Drive  
Muffins with Mom, 8:30-9:00 am

- *Principal Intern Update: Since July Mrs. Watson has been gradually taking over responsibilities in preparation for her role as acting principal. We have now reached the time where I am beginning to step back and Mrs. Watson is assuming more and more of the duties of the principalship. You will be seeing less and less of me even though I am still here at school. As an integral part of the principal training program Mrs. Watson will take over full leadership of the school for 6 weeks beginning after winter break. During this period I will be away from Bells Mill on a special assignment at Olney Elementary School. In my absence Dr. Townsend, Principal of Earle B. Middle School, will be here to support Mrs. Watson as she carries out her duties. Even though I am away, I will continue to*

*communicate with Mrs. Watson on a weekly basis. I know you will give Mrs. Watson all of your support as she completes this important part of her training program. Mrs. O*

- **Student portraits (including Make Up Day) are all available to view and purchase online.** A flyer containing website and password information was sent home in backpacks.
- **Monday through Wednesday, December 5-7, our Grade 2 students will take the InView assessment,** which is an assessment of cognitive abilities that measures the skills and abilities most related to academic success. We will begin testing about 9:30 am on all three days. A make-up test will be administered to students who are sick on testing days.
- **Bells Mill has been selected to screen the award-winning documentary, *Screenagers*, about what it's like to grow up in the digital age, Monday, December 5, 7:15 pm, APR.** There will be a brief PTA meeting before the screening. We encourage parents to bring their children (Grade 5 and up). For more information, [www.screenagersmovie.com/about/](http://www.screenagersmovie.com/about/). Flyers were sent home in backpacks. *Please be sure to return the RSVP portion of the flyer. The PTA meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, is canceled.*
- **The Student Government will sponsor a New Toy Drive December 5-16.** Please send in your donations of new, unwrapped toys appropriate for children ages preschool through middle school. Toys will go to local families. Students should bring their donations to their classrooms.
- **Mark your calendars for Muffins with Mom (or a grandma, aunt or special friend), Friday, December 16, 8:30-9:00 am.** Moms, grandmas, aunts or special friends can start the morning with their students. Muffins, coffee and juice will be served. Please note, since no staff members are on duty at that time, we ask that our guests provide appropriate supervision of their children. We expect a large turn out, so plan to park on the street. Please, no parking in the bus lot. That area must remain clear for arriving buses.
- **The Educational Forum for Families with Intellectually Curious Students will take place on Sunday, December 11, 9:15 am-4:00 pm, Nysmith School, 13625 EDS Dr., Herndon, VA.** This forum is free of charge and open to everyone. Families can explore educational programs, approaches and resources that support students who appreciate discovery and flexing their minds. Visit [www.scholarsearchassoc.com](http://www.scholarsearchassoc.com) for further information and to register. Questions contact Patsy Kumekawa at 860-664-3586.
- **MCPS students at all grade levels are encouraged to participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Literary Contest and Visual Arts Show.** The 2017 theme is "Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere." The essays and artwork should reflect an understanding and appreciation of the ideals of Dr. King's life, achievements, and aspirations. Literary entries should be 150 words or less and are due by **Friday, December 23.** Submit them to the MLK Essay Contest, c/o Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, 21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850 or [here](#). For visual arts entries, the contest is open to prints, posters, collages, murals, photographs, and all other two-dimensional visual art forms. Group projects are welcome. Send entries to Linda S. Adams, supervisor, Pre-K-12 Fine Arts, Carver Educational Services Center, Room 256, 850 Hungerford Dr., Rockville, MD 20850. The deadline is **Friday, December 23.**

- **Plan Ahead for the 2017–2018 School Year.** The Board of Education has approved the start and end dates for the 2017–2018 school year. The school year will begin on Tuesday, September 5, 2017, and the last day of school will be no later than Friday, June 15, 2018.
- **If you are considering holiday gifts for teachers,** an alternative way to honor a teacher is a tax deductible donation to the Bells Mill Bear Hug fund which helps families right in our community. You can send in a check made payable to *Bells Mill Bear Hug Fund* and specify the name of the teacher you wish to honor. Teachers receive a special card notifying them of your donation, and you receive a receipt for tax purposes.

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