



**The week ahead**

- Mon., Feb. 27**            **Daisies, 3:50 pm, rm. 209**  
**Brownies, 3:50 pm, rm. 150**  
**MSA Soccer, 3:50 pm, gym**
- Tue., Feb. 28**            **Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163**  
**Legos, 3:50 pm, rm. 125**  
**Chess, 3:50 pm, rm. 209**  
**MSA Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym**  
**Gr. 3 Math Info Mtg. for parents, 7:00-8:00 pm, Media Center**  
**Restaurant Night at California Tortilla, 5:00-9:00 pm**
- Wed., Mar. 1**             **Model UN, 8:10 am, rm. 149**  
**Rec. Dept. Bricks for Kids, 3:50 pm, rm. 149**  
**Spanish (K-2), 3:50 pm, rm. 212**  
**Science, 3:50 pm, rm. 219**
- Thur., Mar. 2**            **Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163**  
**Bingo Night, 6:30-8:00 pm, APR**
- Fri., Mar. 3**             **Early Release, 1:20 pm**  
**No After School Activities**

**A Look Ahead**

- Mar. 7**                    **Science Fair Help Night, 6:30 pm, Media Center**  
**PTA Mtg, 7:00 pm, Media Center**
- Mar. 9**                    **Gr. 5 Parent Info Mtg on Family Life Unit, 7:00 pm, Media Center**

- **Join your Bells Mill friends at California Tortilla on Tuesday, February 28, 5:00-9:00 pm.** Dine in or carry out, and 25% of your purchase will be donated to the PTA. Don't forget to mention Bells Mill when placing your order.
- **Attention Grade 3 parents, you are invited to a math meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 7:00-8:00 pm, in the Media Center.** We will review the MCPS math key messages and goals for all students; explain the plan for math acceleration; examine the rigors of the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grades math courses; and, review the courses that lead to college and career readiness.
- **Attention, Gr. 2 parents, this week you will receive the Parent Input Form in the U.S. mail.** Please return the completed form to your child's teacher within one week of receiving it. If you do not receive your parent input form by March 6, 2017, please contact your child's

teacher, and we will send one home. Our school staff will use this information in planning your child's instructional program and class placement for the 2017-2018 school year.

- **Bingo Night is Thursday, March 2, 7:00-8:30 pm, in the APR.** The charge is \$5.00 per person (\$5.00 covers bingo card, 2 pizza slices, bottled water, and raffle ticket). Student volunteers can earn SSL hours. Questions, email [lcmathews@verizon.net](mailto:lcmathews@verizon.net) . To volunteer go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044EACA6292-family> .
- **Science Fair Help Night will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 6:00-7:00 pm, in the Media Center.** Parents and their students who are interested in participating in the Bells Mill Science Fair are encouraged to attend Help Night for guidance in the selection of an age-appropriate project and to learn tips for science fair success. **The annual Science Fair is on Friday, May 5, 6:45-8:00 pm, in the APR.** The Science Fair is non-competitive and open to all students in Grades K-5. Participation is voluntary.
- **We are collecting names for fall kindergarten classes.** If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2017, contact Ms. Vincenty (240-740-0480) to get your child's name added to our list. Encourage your neighbors to do the same. We will announce spring Kindergarten Orientation dates as soon as they are available.
- **It's not too late to order class, group/club and Gr. 5 panoramic photos.** Please visit [www.freedpics.com](http://www.freedpics.com) and use password BELLS17CC.
- **Yearbooks are on sale now!** Order your 2016-2017 yearbook online at [www.freedpics.com](http://www.freedpics.com) (password: BEARS1617YB). Cost is \$25, and order deadline is Monday, April 3, 2017. Questions, contact Lina deChiara, [lina.dechiara79@gmail.com](mailto:lina.dechiara79@gmail.com) .
- **Call for photos.** We are collecting photos for inclusion in the yearbook. Please send Lina deChiara ( [lina.dechiara79@gmail.com](mailto:lina.dechiara79@gmail.com) ) photos from school events such as Halloween and Valentine class parties, Movie Night, winter chorus, band concerts, etc.
- **Registration for MCPS Prekindergarten/Head Start Programs for low-income families with children who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2017, begins March 10 for the school year 2017-2018.** Registration for a limited number of openings for Head Start eligible children, residing in certain areas of Germantown, Rockville, and Takoma Park, who will be 3 by September 1, 2017, also begins March 10. Parents may apply at Rocking Horse Center, 4910 Macon Rd, Rockville, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are available if preferred. For more information regarding required documents and registration locations and times, please contact Prekindergarten/Head Start at 301-230-0676 or check [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org) and search prekindergarten.
- **The Churchill Cluster Board of Education Meeting is coming up, Thursday, March 16, 7:00-9:00 pm, at Potomac Elementary School.** Each high school cluster only gets these meetings every few years, so it's very important to attend, voice your questions, ideas, concerns, and share your feedback with the decision makers who impact your child's

education. These meetings are critical to BOE decisions. Meet your Board of Education Members. The meetings are free and open to everyone in the cluster, but you must RSVP so they have an accurate head count. To RSVP go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4dabae2aa5f49-boechurchill> . If you are unable to attend but would like to ask a question or share input, then send an email to [churchillecluster@gmail.com](mailto:churchillecluster@gmail.com) .

- **The Montgomery County Board of Education has recommended a \$2.52 billion operating budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018.** The budget includes a \$64 million increase from FY 2017, which will allow the district to manage significant enrollment growth and build the foundation and structure needed to ensure that all MCPS students are able to achieve at higher levels. The Board's budget request will be submitted to the Montgomery County Executive and the County Council. The County Executive is expected to release his FY 2018 operating budget recommendation by March 15. The Montgomery County Council will hold public hearings on the county budget in April before passing a final budget in May. Stay informed and engaged on the Board's budget request on the [MCPS Operating Budget website](#).

Find out how budget decisions are made, what the county is doing today to get ready for FY 2018 and beyond, and the opportunities residents have to influence budget decisions at upcoming budget meetings with County Councilmember Craig Rice, Superintendent of Schools Jack R. Smith, and Montgomery College president DeRionne Pollard. The meetings will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the following locations:

**March 8**, Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Boulevard East, Silver Spring

**March 15**, Montgomery College (Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus), Catherine F. Scott Building Room 211, 7600 Takoma Avenue, Takoma Park

**March 22**, Walter Johnson High School, 6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda

**March 29**, Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville

- **The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking nominations from the public for its Annual Awards for Distinguished Service to Public Education.** The awards are sponsored by the Board to recognize and show appreciation to individuals, including students, groups, and organizations that have made exemplary contributions to public education in Montgomery County. Up to three awards will be given in each of the following categories: Community Individual, Community Group, Business, MCPS Staff, School Service Volunteer, and Individual Pioneer. Nomination forms are available [here](#). **Completed nomination forms are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3.** \_Winners will be honored in a ceremony on May 4 in the Carver Educational Services Center auditorium.

