



Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary

March 27, 2017

Office of the Principal

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles

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

The week ahead

Mon., Mar. 27	Brownies, 3:50 pm, rm. 150 Daisies, 3:50 pm, rm. 209 MSA Soccer, 3:50 pm, gym
Tue., Mar. 28	MSA Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym (last one) Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163 (last one)
Wed., Mar. 29	Model UN, 8:10 am, rm. 149 Restaurant Night at Potomac Pizza, 4:00-9:00 pm
Thur., Mar. 30	Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163 (last one)
Fri., Mar. 31	

A Look Ahead

Apr. 3	Last Day to Order yearbooks
Apr. 4	PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm
Apr. 7-17	School Closed
Apr. 24-25	No School for Kindergarteners

- **Spring PTA-sponsored after-school enrichment activities begin next week. Please be sure your child's teacher knows about changes in dismissal plans.**
- **The last day to order yearbooks is Monday, April 3. All ordering is online at www.freedpics.com, password is BEARS1617YB .**
- **Attention Grade 3 parents, if your student applied to the Center Program for the Highly Gifted (CPHG) at Coldspring ES, the selection results will be mailed directly home by March 24. Open Houses at the select sites will be scheduled on April 3-5. Please contact Meredith Casper at 301.279.3163 if you have questions or do not receive your child's results.**
- **Bells Mill Stars of Tomorrow Talent Show for Grades 3-5 will be on Friday, April 28, 6:30 pm, with auditions on Tuesday, April 25, 3:50-5:30 pm, and mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday, April 26, 3:50-5:30 pm. Students should bring an afternoon snack to the auditions and rehearsals. *No transportation is provided for these activities.* Please pick up your child no later than 5:30 pm on the audition and rehearsal days. A piano will be available for student performance. Permission forms will go home in April. No student can participate**

without a permission form. Questions, contact LaTisha Gasaway at minds_in_motion@yahoo.com.

- **Join the Bells Mill community at Potomac Pizza on Wednesday, March 29, 4:00-9:00 pm, for good food and great company.** Dine in or carry out and 20% of your purchase will go to the PTA. Be sure to mention Bells Mill so that the PTA can receive credit for your purchase.
- **Attention Kindergarten parents, there will be no school for kindergarteners on Monday and Tuesday, April 24 and 25.** On these days we will hold Kindergarten Orientation for next year's kindergarteners.
- **Mark your calendars! Camp Bells Mill/KinderCamp is July 10-28, 8:30 am-noon, for all Bells Mill rising kindergarteners through grade 5 students. Check backpacks for registration letter.** We will have room for all Bells Mill students who wish to attend. Financial aid is available. Our own teachers will staff the camp. Thank you to Mr. Leffler who will teach the rising 5th graders.
- **Attention Grade 5 parents, as you prepare your student for advancement to middle school, please be mindful of vaccinations required for middle school students.** Please provide your student's updated vaccinations, including tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal conjugate (MCV) to the Bells Mill health room. The updated record will be included in your student's health folder which will be forwarded to middle school. Questions, Mrs. Messina at 240-740-0481. (see attached documents for more information)
- **United We Learn: Combating Hate Through the Arts Contest** Combating the elevated levels of divisiveness, prejudice, bias, and hate that have emerged in our county and across the nation is the responsibility of every community member, including students. To help our county combat hate, MCPS in partnership with the Montgomery County Faith Community Working Group, is launching a contest titled: United We Learn: Combating Hate Through the Arts. The goal of the contest is to provide students with a creative, structured opportunity to explore issues of prejudice and learn about the values of respect, diversity, and civility.

The contest is open to students from all grade levels. Students can participate by making a poster, creating multimedia, developing a performance for stage, or through writing. The deadline for submissions is April 21 and winners will receive prizes. Additional details about the contest, including rules, are available online at

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/events/unitedwelearn/.

- **Update on Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget** Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett has released his recommended operating budget for FY 2018 and is proposing a \$54 million increase in spending for MCPS. The Montgomery County Council will hold public hearings on the county executive's budget recommendation on April 4, 5, and 6. This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts with county leaders on why it is important to fully fund the MCPS budget. Those who are interested in testifying can call 240-777-7803 to sign up to speak or register online at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/PHSignup.html. Stay informed and engaged on the budget request on the MCPS operating budget website: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/. A blurb is provided below.

- **MCPS Parents Encouraged to Complete Engagement Survey** A random sample of families at all grade levels in each MCPS school will be asked to participate in the 2017 Parent Engagement Survey. Parents who are selected to participate will receive information by mail and are asked to complete the survey online by June 1, 2017. The survey is about your experiences with your child's school and education. Your answers are confidential and are reported with the answers from other families. The information you provide will help schools better understand families' engagement in their children's education and improve connections between schools and families. The survey is brief and can be completed in 10 minutes.
- **Board of Education Approves Changes to Student Transfers Policy** The Board of Education has approved changes to Policy JEE, *Student Transfers*. This policy sets the standard under which MCPS students may be granted a transfer, referred to as Change of School Assignment (COSA), to attend a school other than their home school or the school assigned to them under their Individualized Education Program (IEP). That includes the foreign language immersion lottery process.

The change to Policy JEE establishes a weighted lottery for immersion programs that now include factors such as: socioeconomic status and poverty; students who have an older sibling currently enrolled in a language immersion program and will continue to be enrolled in the year the younger sibling seeks to enroll; and other factors as identified by the superintendent of schools. The revised lottery would apply to students seeking to enroll in these programs for the 2018–2019 school year. This change would not impact families with students enrolled in the immersion program during the 2017–2018 school year. More information is available at news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mcps-board-of-education/changes-to-the-immersion-program-lottery-frequently-asked-questions/.

- **Parents are invited to the 4th Annual Special Education Summit, April 22, 2017, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm, at Walter Johnson HS in Bethesda.** The keynote speaker is Scott Anderson who will speak about living with a disability and overcoming life's challenges. Breakout sessions will include a wide variety of topics. Admission is free. Light breakfast served, and childcare provided. For more information call 240-314-4870. (see attached flyer)



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
2016–2017 IMMUNIZATION CLINIC SCHEDULE**

Immunization Clinics are for Children age 18 years or younger and one of the following:

- are enrolled in Medicaid (MA, MCHP, CFK, etc)
- do not have private health insurance
- are under-insured (have health insurance that does not cover vaccines)

A copy of the child's IMMUNIZATION RECORD must be presented to clinic staff in order to receive vaccines.

CLINIC SITES	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
GERMANTOWN HEALTH CENTER 12900 Middlebrook Rd - 2nd Floor Germantown, MD 20874 PHONE—(240) 777-3380			ONLY BY APPOINTMENT CALL 240-777-3380 FOR AN APPOINTMENT	ONLY BY APPOINTMENT CALL 240-777-3380 FOR AN APPOINTMENT	
SILVER SPRING HEALTH CENTER 8630 Fenton Street – 10th Floor Silver Spring, MD 20910 PHONE—(240) 777-3160			ONLY BY APPOINTMENT CALL 240-777-3160 FOR AN APPOINTMENT		
DENNIS AVE. HEALTH CENTER 2000 Dennis Ave. Silver Spring, MD 20902 PHONE—(240) 777-1050		ONLY BY APPOINTMENT CALL 240-777-1050 FOR AN APPOINTMENT			
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES CENTER 4910 Macon Road Rockville, MD 20852 PHONE—(301) 468-4529 (Children 3–18 years old only)	WALK-IN CLINIC 8:30–11:30 A.M.		WALK-IN CLINIC 8:30–11:30 A.M.		WALK-IN CLINIC 8:30–11:30 A.M.

EFFECTIVE June 1, 2017

ALERT

5th / 6th Grade Parents

Mandatory immunization requirements change when your child enters 7th grade

The requirements to enter 7th grade are:
Meningococcal (MCV) & Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis/whooping cough)



- **VISIT** your child's health care provider for required immunizations
- **PROVIDE** proof of immunizations to your school's health room *as soon as possible*
- **CALL** your child's middle school if you have any questions

The MCPS 4th Annual SPECIAL EDUCATION Summit for Parents



Special Education Summit

Leading the Way Today...
Partnering for a Better Tomorrow

April 22, 2017

8:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NEW Location!
Walter Johnson High School
6400 Rock Spring Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

ENGAGE IN A DAY THAT FEATURES

- **Scott Anderson, Keynote Speaker:** *“Living with Disability and Overcoming Life’s Challenges”*
- **Information from community partners and county agencies**
- **Breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics**
- **Special Presenter: Candace Whiting, Champion for people with disabilities**



FREE — No cost to sign up • Child care provided • Light breakfast

For more information call 240-314-4870

