



The week ahead

- Mon., Mar. 6** MSA Soccer, 3:50 pm, gym
Click for Kids Sweepstakes voting begins
- Tue., Mar. 7** Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163
Legos, 3:50 pm, rm. 125
Chess, 3:50 pm, rm. 209
MSA Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym
Science Fair Help Night, 6:30 pm, Media Center
PTA Mtg, 7:00 pm, Media Center
Remember to vote today
- Wed., Mar. 8** 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
Remember to vote today
- Thur., Mar. 9** Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163
Brownie Troop 1643, 3:50 pm, rm. 159
Bingo Night, 6:30-8:00 pm, APR
Gr. 5 Parent Info Mtg on Family Life Unit, 7:00 pm, Media Center
Remember to vote today
- Fri., Mar. 10** Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm
Daisy Troop 33042, 3:50 pm, rm. 129
Scout Troop 585, 5:00 pm, rm. 149
Remember to vote today

A Look Ahead

- Mar. 16 Board of Education/Churchill Meeting, 7:00-9:00 pm, Potomac ES
Mar. 17 Last day to vote in Click for Kids Sweepstakes
Mar. 20-21 Gr. 5 MD Integrated Science Assessments (MISA) both mornings

- **Attention, Gr. 2 parents, by now you should have received 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.

- **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.
- **WTOP accepted Bells Mill for participation in Click for Kids Sweepstakes!** The school has a chance to win a grand prize of \$15,000, a first place prize of \$10,000, or a second place prize of \$5,000. The top three schools that win are based on the number of votes received during the voting period. **Voting begins at midnight Monday, March 6, and continues through 5:00 pm Friday, March 17, at <http://wtop.com/contests/2017-click-for-kids-voting/> . It is extremely important that you vote within the specified voting period or Bells Mill could be disqualified.** You can also go to wtop.com and search “kids” to vote.
A person can vote ONCE per day but can only vote from one email address, so one vote per person in a 24-hour period. If anyone creates multiple email addresses to vote, those will be disqualified and the school is at risk of being disqualified. **Anyone can vote who is over the age of 13 (those are legal rules).** We encourage you to get the word out to friends, family and neighbors. The more people you tell, the greater our chances of winning. Remember voting starts at midnight Monday, March 6, and goes through 5:00 pm Friday, March 17. One vote per person per day. Winners will be announced Monday March 20.
- **Congratulations to the Bells Mill award winners of the Montgomery County PTA Art Reflections Program.**
 - **Awards of Excellence:** Yuto Teramoto (Literature and Photography); Opal Siegal (Music); and Simone Ramos (Visual Arts)
 - **Awards of Merit/Honorable Mention:** Alexis Cook (Literature and Photography); Shivali Durbhakula (Literature); Julio Cupe (Music); Jonah Ramos (Photography); and Aysha Gilmetdinova (Visual Arts)

We are proud of our award winners and all the Bells Mill students who submitted their creative works to the Reflections Program.
- **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 and use password BELLS17CC.
- **Yearbooks are on sale now!** Order your 2016-2017 yearbook online at www.freedpics.com (password: BEARS1617YB). Cost is \$25, and order deadline is Monday, April 3, 2017. Questions, contact Lina deChiara, lina.dechiara79@gmail.com .

- **Call for photos.** We are collecting photos for inclusion in the yearbook. Please send Lina deChiara (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 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 .
- **The 2016 MCPS *Annual Report to the Community* is now available online.** This review of the highlights and accomplishments of the past school year includes information about student achievement, the operational and capital budgets, and highlights of events from the last school year. View the report at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/annualreport/2016/.
- **The Board of Education adopted an updated calendar for the 2017–2018 school year at its February 27 meeting. The first day of school will be September 5, 2017, for students and the last day of school will now be June 12, 2018.** [[Vea el calendario](#)]
- **MCPS, in collaboration with the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA), will be hosting a Science Night from 7:00– 9:00 p.m. on March 20 at Richard Montgomery High School, located at 250 Richard Montgomery Drive in Rockville, Maryland.** At the event, parents and students will join MCPS science educators to learn about the Next Generation Science Standards; new testing requirements; the timeline for implementation in elementary, middle, and high schools; new high school course pathways; and college and career readiness. Attendees will have an opportunity to participate in hands-on science activities and hear from students in the district's pathways program. For more information and to RSVP, [click here](#).
- **Make Your Voice Heard!** On March 1, the Board of Education transmitted its \$2.52 billion Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget request to Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and the Montgomery County Council. The county executive is expected to release his FY 2018

operating budget recommendation by March 15. The County Council will consider the budget this spring with final approval happening in late May. It is critical that our elected leaders hear from you about the essential role school plays in your child's life and the importance of giving students access to the opportunities and resources they need to be college and career ready.

You can testify at the Montgomery County Council public hearings on the FY 2018 Operating Budget. They will be held—

- Tuesday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 5, at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 6, at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

To testify call 240-777-7803 or visit

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/PHSignUp.html beginning March 15 to sign up.

There are other ways that you can become involved in the budget process and help advocate for full funding of the MCPS budget. Visit the budget webpage at

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/ to learn how you can get involved and advocate.

- **Nominations are now open for the 2017 Special Education Awards.** Staff, parents, and students can honor individuals and programs that have contributed to the success of special needs students. The recognitions are being given by the Special Education Committee of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA). Nominations are being accepted in four categories: Staff, Programs, Parents, and Students. **Applications are due by Monday, March 20.** Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/special-education/2016-2017-SpecialEducation-NominationForm.pdf to download the nomination form.
- **Parents or guardians of children receiving special education and related services were mailed the *Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey* from the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services.** Parents are asked to complete the survey and return it in the postage paid envelope by **May 1, 2017**. The survey may also be completed online. Please look for details in your survey packet. Your feedback will help guide efforts to improve special education and related services in your local school system. Your voice can make a difference for your child and many other children in Maryland. To learn more, visit www.mdparentsurvey.com.