



The week ahead Sunday, March 12, 2017, **2:00:00 am**, clocks are turned **forward** 1 hour to **3:00:00 am** local daylight time

Mon., Mar. 13 **Gr. 5 MD Integrated Science Assessments (MISA)**
MSA Soccer, 3:50 pm, gym
Daisies, 3:50 pm, rm. 209
Click for Kids Sweepstakes voting all week

Tue., Mar. 14 **Gr. 5 MD Integrated Science Assessments (MISA)**
Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163
Legos, 3:50 pm, rm. 125 (last session)
Chess, 3:50 pm, rm. 209 (last session)
MSA Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym
Remember to vote in Click for Kids Sweepstakes

Wed., Mar. 15 **Model UN, 8:10 am, rm. 149**
Rec. Dept. Bricks for Kids, 3:50 pm, rm. 149 (last session)
Spanish (K-2), 3:50 pm, rm. 212 (last session)
Science, 3:50 pm, rm. 219 (last session)
Remember to vote in Click for Kids Sweepstakes

Thur., Mar. 16 **Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163**
Board of Education/Churchill Cluster Meeting, 7:00-9:00 pm, Potomac ES
Remember to vote Click for Kids Sweepstakes

Fri., Mar. 17 **Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm**
Last day to vote in Click for Kids Sweepstakes

A Look Ahead

Mar. 20-21	Gr. 5 MD Integrated Science Assessments (MISA) continue
Mar. 21-22	K-2 Talent Show Auditions/Rehearsals, 3:50-5:30 pm, APR
Mar. 23	Gr. 5 Plays, 7:00 pm, APR
Mar. 24	K-2 Talent Show, 7:00 pm

- **PLEASE NOTE:** As a result of several traffic incidents, I must remind drivers to heed the 4-way stop at Bells Mill Rd. and Democracy Ln., and pay special attention to pedestrians in the crosswalk. Community members who witness traffic violations are encouraged to note the license number and contact police. For the safety of our children, be extra vigilant during the morning and afternoon rush. Additionally, if you drop off your child on Bells Mill Rd., it is important that children exit the vehicle from the

passenger side and proceed to the crosswalk. Never allow your children to exit your vehicle into the traffic lane.

- **Returning to Bells Mill next year?** We are already preparing for the 2017-2018 school year. Students in Gr. K-4 brought home a blue form which asks for your plans for next school year. Please complete this form and return it to your child's teacher so that we can have an accurate picture of our staffing needs for next year.
- **Get ready for the Bells Mill Stars of Tomorrow Talent Shows!** If you have a talent that you would like to share, then you should consider auditioning for the talent show. Everyone who auditions will be included in the show.

Grades K-2 will perform on Friday, March 24, 6:30 pm (performers arrive at 6:00 pm), with auditions on Tuesday, March 21, 3:50-5:30 pm, and mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday, March 22, 3:50-5:30 pm.

Grades 3-5 will perform on Friday, April 28, 6:30 pm (performers arrive at 6:00 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. Gr. K-2 permission forms went home in backpacks, and Gr. 3-5 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.

- **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 now. If you did not receive your input form, 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.
- **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. **The voting period continues this week 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 ends at 5:00 pm Friday, March 17. One vote per person per day. Winners will be announced Monday March 20.

- **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.** Informational letters/registration forms will go home in backpacks when details are available. We will have room for all Bells Mill students who wish to attend. Limited opportunities are available for middle and high schoolers to earn SSL hours (contact Ms. DeMarino). Financial aid is available. Our own teachers will staff the camp. Thank you to Mr. Leffler who will teach the rising 5th graders.
- **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 churchillcluster@gmail.com .
- **The PTA-sponsored spring enrichment session begins soon.** To view the schedule of Flex Academies after-school activities visit <https://bmesflex.asapconnected.com/CoursesIndex.aspx> Registration begins at 9:00 am on March 13. Classes fill up quickly. Questions, contact Flex Academies at info@flexacademies.com .
- **Montgomery College Youth Programs presents Black Rocket, Saturday, April 29, Germantown Campus, for all students in Grades 4-7.** This is a unique enrichment and educational program that offers activities in Creative Sciences, Digital Arts, and Leadership. For information and registration, www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth or phone 240-567-7264.
- **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.**
- **MCPS, in collaboration with the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA), will host 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/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.