



The week ahead

- Mon., Apr. 3** **LAST DAY TO ORDER YEARBOOKS**
Brownies, 3:50 pm, rm. 150
MSA Soccer, 3:50 pm, gym (last one)
- Tue., Apr. 4** Legos, 3:50 pm, rm. 149
Chess, 3:50 pm, rm. 209
MSA Basketball, 3:50 pm (last one)
PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm
- Wed., Apr. 5** Model UN, 8:10 am, rm. 149
Spanish, 3:50 pm, rm. 159
Mad Science, 3:50 pm, rm. 150
Gr. 4 Historic St. Mary's field trip permission form/payment due today
- Thur., Apr. 6** Gr. 3 pizza making, 2:30 pm
No Scotland Story today
Brownie Troop 1643, 3:50 pm, rm. 159
- Fri., Apr. 7** No school for students

A Look Ahead

- Apr. 10-17 School Closed
Apr. 18 Head Start Parent Meeting, 10:30 am, APR
Apr. 20 Gr. 4 to Historic St. Mary's City (permission forms/payment due Apr. 5)
Apr. 24-25 No School for Kindergarteners

- Spring PTA-sponsored after-school enrichment activities begin this 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 .
- To honor the memory of Mrs. Kurt Shanfield we have established the Kurt Shanfield Math Enrichment Fund. Please send donations to the main office (checks made payable to Bells Mill ES). All funds go to the purchase of math enrichment materials for the students and staff at Bells Mill. All of us loved and admired Mrs. Shanfield, and this will allow us to celebrate her life and commitment to students and their learning. Questions, Ms. DeMarino at 240-740-0480.

- **We have seen several cases of diagnosed streptococcal (strep) throat infection. If your child complains of sore throat, commonly with fever, swollen glands, headache or abdominal pains please contact your healthcare provider.**
- **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 this week. No student can participate without a permission form. Questions, contact LaTisha Gasaway at minds_in_motion@yahoo.com.
- **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. Information letter and registration form went home in backpacks and are also attached to this newsletter.**
- **Congratulations to first grader Nicholas Lindholm who submitted a creative writing essay to the annual Bethesda Literary Festival.** His entry, "If I Had a Time Machine," won first place among first graders. In April Nicholas will read his essay at the winners' ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda.
- **Attention parents of students in Gr. 3-5, PARCC assessments are scheduled for May 2 through May 15.** Please refrain from making appointments on your child's testing dates. Have your child eat a good breakfast, be well rested and arrive on time. Check the schedule below for your child's testing dates.

May 2, 3, 4 – English/Language Arts May 9, 10, 12, 15 – Math

Students who are absent due to illness will have the opportunity to make up all or part of the assessments.

- **Over the next few weeks schools will be converting from heating to air conditioning.** Please have your child dress with the weather forecast in mind.
- **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)



Camp Bells Mill/KinderCamp

**Bells Mill Elementary School
8225 Bells Mill Road
Potomac, Maryland 20854**

March 22, 2017

Dear Parents,

We are offering an exciting summer adventure for your child: **Camp Bells Mill** for our students entering Grades 1-5 in the fall; and **KinderCamp** for those entering Kindergarten. The camp will be held at Bells Mill ES from July 10 to 28 and will be staffed by our own great teachers. Your student will spend three and a half hours each day having great fun with creative activities that support the MCPS curriculum. Camp hours are 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon (doors open at 8:25 am). Limited bus transportation is available. Children should bring a healthy snack and drink from home. It is important that you are able to commit to sending your child to all 15 days.

Students are offered learning opportunities through arts/crafts, physical education, technology, music, reading, math, science and social studies. All elements of the program support the MCPS curriculum.

Please note that your child must be registered as a Bells Mill student in order to attend. If your child is new to Bells Mill, this means that before your child can attend camp we need your current proof of residency, your child's birth certificate, your photo ID and an up-to-date immunization record.

The fee for attending camp is \$550 per child. There are opportunities to decrease tuition fees based on income eligibility requirements. No student will be denied attendance due to financial constraints. Please contact the office if you would like information on payment options.

Please send \$550 payment (check/money order payable to Bells Mill ES) along with the attached form by Monday, May 22, 2017. We will make room for all Bells Mill students, but it is important that you let us know if your child will be coming so that we can plan staffing and hire the appropriate number of teachers. Contact the office if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Jerri Oglesby
Principal

Keep this sheet for your information.

Attachment: registration form

Detach this sheet and return it with payment by Monday, May 22, 2017.

Please enroll my child (name) _____ in Camp Bells Mill/KinderCamp
from July 10-28, 2017.

My child is entering Grade _____.

Home address: _____

Parent phones: _____

Parent email: _____

Allergies/medical conditions we should know about: _____

Parent Signature

Date

Check one:

_____ I am attaching a \$550 check/money order to pay tuition in full.

_____ I want my child to attend camp, and I will contact you regarding tuition payment options.

Transportation Information (check one)

_____ I will drop off and pick up my child.

_____ My child will ride the bus to and from the stop at Seven Locks Rd./Scotland Dr.

_____ Other: _____



**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

