



Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary

October 9, 2017

Office of the Principal

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles

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

The week ahead

- Mon., Oct. 9** **9:20 – 11:30 Open House – Parents are welcome to visit your child’s classroom**
10:45 – 1st Grade America Day in APR
4 -5 pm MSA in gym
Book Fair Opens at 11:00 am
- Tue., Oct. 10** **Book Fair is open today**
4-5 pm – Chess Club (K-5)Rm. 233
4 -5 pm – Drawing with Young Rembrandts (K-5)Art Room
4-5 pm – MSA Basketball in gym
6:00 – 8:00 pm – Book Fair is open
5-7 pm Freed Family Portraits opportunity
- Wed., Oct. 11** **Book Fair is open today**
Model UN meeting
4-5 pm – Crazy Chemworks (K-5)
4-5 pm- ROBLOX Coding (Grades 3-5)Room 233
4-5 pm – Soccer on field
6-8 pm – Book Fair is open
- Thur., Oct. 12** **8:15 – 9:15 am – Beginning/Intermediate Spanish (K-5)Room 121**
Book Fair open in the morning – closed after noon.
4-5 pm – Lower School Tennis (K-5)Blacktop
4-5 pm – MSA Soccer and Flag Football on fields
4-5 Brownies Troop 1643 Rm. 125
- Fri., Oct. 13** **Bus Evacuation Drill today**
4 – 5:30 pm Odyssey of the Minds teams meet today
Have a nice weekend making memories with your families.

A Look Ahead

- Oct. 18** **Student Portraits will be taken today**
- Oct. 21** **Club Bells Mill 6 – 8 pm**
- Oct. 25** **Fifth Grade Class to Strathmore Concert**
Cal Tort/Celebrity Scoop Night@Baskin Robbins
- Oct. 31** **Halloween Parade @ 2:15 and parties to follow**

- **Thank you to all staff, students and families who supported our annual Walk to School Day this past Wednesday.** It is always exciting to gather together as a school family and participate something

as a total school. All classes, Head Start through grade 5 participated. It was a beautiful morning and helped us start the day invigorated and ready to learn. I want to thank Mr. Romans and Ms. O'Neill who helped coordinate everyone, the Department of Transportation who ensured that all bus students were transported safely to Cabin John Middle School. I also want to express a huge thank you to Mr. John Taylor, principal of Cabin John Middle School and his staff for their continued support. They welcomed us to their campus and allowed us to hold our annual event. Cabin John Middle School is a great partner to Bells Mill that we love to collaborate with throughout the year.

- **It has been exciting to meet with parents during the principal teas.** It is our hope that you have found these meetings to be informative and have answered any questions you have had. As always Mrs. Rooke, the staff and I are always here to support you and your child.
- **Open House is Monday, October 9. Parents are invited to visit your child's classroom from 9:20 to 11:45 am.** We will have sign in tables at the front of the building. Parents will need to sign in and get a visitor badge to wear during the visit. Please plan on arriving around 9:20. Teachers prefer that you allow them time to take attendance, lunch orders and get prepared for the day prior to visiting classes. Instruction will begin at 9:25 am. **We request that younger siblings not attend. It will be necessary for you to park on the street that day.** We look forward to having you join us for morning instruction.
- **This is an exciting week at Bells Mill.** The Book Fair will be open for business on Monday afternoon. Parents who are visiting classes on Monday, please consider dropping by the Book Fair. There will be two evenings that the Book Fair will be open for families to stop in. Please refer to the calendar on the first page of the Spotlight for days and hours.
- **Freed Photography will be here on the evening of October 10** from 5 – 7 pm to offer our families the opportunity to have professional family portraits and photos taken. More information will be coming home in your child's backpack. Photos will be delivered to you in time for gift giving during the holidays.
- **Please watch the US Mail for a letter from MCPS** about the new **myMCPS parent portal.** The letter will include your log on and a temporary password. Once you receive your letter, you may go on line and create an account with MCPS. Once you have created your account and set your personal password, you will have access to your child's archived grades, attendance information, personal information and your SchoolBucks account linked to your child's lunch account. Later in the year, as teachers receive training they may begin to send out communications to you through the myMCPS classroom. If you already have an established account with an older student, you will be able to add your child to the account. Please watch the Spotlight for updates as the year progresses.

MCPS NEWS

Setting the 2018–2019 MCPS School Calendar

It's that time of year again when the district develops the school calendar for the following school year. Since last year, school districts across Maryland have been discussing how best to design their school calendars given the new time constraints placed on the length of the school year. The current 2017–2018 school year is the first school year operating under these new rules, which are that school

cannot start before Labor Day and must end before June 15.

MCPS has been meeting with focus groups of parents, staff, and other stakeholder groups and is seeking your feedback on how best to design the 2018–2019 school calendar. Next year, the district will have even fewer days to work with than in years past to accommodate instructional and non-instructional traditions.

For a more detailed explanation of the calendar, as well as to see various examples of how the calendar could be developed, please visit the [school calendar webpage](#). If you would like to offer comment on the calendar, please do so using the [drop box provided on the calendar webpage](#).

NAACP Parents' Council to Hold Kickoff Meeting

The NAACP Parents' Council kickoff meeting will be held from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, October 16 at Gaithersburg High School. This event will bring together parents, MCPS teachers, and principals to share ideas on cultivating parent engagement and promoting student achievement. The event will begin with a community resource fair to highlight community services and resources of interest. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from speakers who are educational experts in the area of promoting minority student achievement and participate in breakout sessions on topics including closing the achievement gap, parent-teacher conferences, and discipline. To register for the event, visit naacppc-md.org/

Celebrate the 31st Annual Montgomery County Community Service Week

Get ready for a week chock-full of volunteer opportunities across the county in honor of Montgomery County's 31st annual Community Service Week, set for October 22-29. There will be lots of ways for students and families to help a variety of local nonprofits, schools, and government agencies throughout the week, including many projects preapproved for student service learning hours.

Check the Montgomery County Volunteer Center's [online calendar of volunteer needs](#) for the latest list of projects (and check back regularly as projects are being added daily), and pick any or

all that match your interests! Schools and PTAs are planning volunteer projects as part of the service week. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/Community-Service-Week.html for more information.

Reminder: Come to the World of Montgomery Festival!

The World of Montgomery Festival celebrates and displays the rich cultural heritages of Montgomery County and the Washington, D.C., area. The festival will be held Sunday, October 15, at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee Street in Rockville, from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. MCPS is proud to be a partner in this year's festival. The free event includes an international village, a global kitchen with chef demonstrations of traditional ethnic food, a craft market, a Parade of Cultures, two performance stages of traditional dance and music, connections through service, traditional arts, and fun interactive activities for the whole family. For more information, visit www.worldofmontgomery.com.

Attend Open Houses for Middle and High School Consortia Application Programs

The deadline for applications to participate in the *Choice* process is November 3. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to attend open houses to learn about the *Choice* programs scheduled in October at Northeast Consortium (NEC) and Downcounty Consortium (DCC) high schools, and at the Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) middle schools. [Get dates and locations here.](#)

Grade 8 DCC and NEC parents/guardians will receive information about the *Choice* process in the mail in mid-October. Grade 5 families received information about the middle school options in the mail in late September.

Parents/guardians and students are also encouraged to attend information meetings to learn more about the application-only programs. [Get dates and locations here.](#) [Visit this website](#) for more information about the magnet programs at the elementary school Centers for Enriched Studies, Roberto W. Clemente, Eastern, and Takoma Park middle schools, and Montgomery Blair, Richard Montgomery, and Poolesville high schools.

Registration Open for New Parent Academy Workshops

The MCPS Parent Academy offers parents and community members the opportunity to attend free workshops that provide information, resources, tools, and tips to support their children's success in school. Don't miss the fall season of workshops, which will be offered on a range of topics, including college and career planning, active parenting, and cybersafety and social media. Parent Academy workshops are free. Childcare and interpretation services are provided at all sessions. A full list of courses is available online at www.mcpsparentacademy.org.