



# The Bear Post

News from the Bells Mill Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

## Supporting Our Students, Families, and Teachers this Year

The Bells Mill PTA is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to supporting the experience of our students. Now more than ever we are proud to help our students, families, and staff as we navigate this challenging time. Sincerest thanks go to the families and teachers who have joined, donated or volunteered so far this year. We look forward to welcoming more families to the PTA and wish all students, teachers, and families a wonderful school year!

**What have we done so far?** We coordinate closely with the school to support students, families, and teachers during distance learning.

- ☒ Offered funding to each classroom teacher for supplies and distance learning materials
- ☒ Provided a grant for student materials
- ☒ Purchased planners for students in Grades 3-5
- ☒ Hosted a virtual welcome for kindergarten and other new families
- ☒ Held our first PTA meeting and restaurant night
- ☒ Sponsored the Mad Science virtual assembly
- ☒ Held pumpkin carving contest (ends 10/30)
- ☒ Launched Reflections art program (ends 11/18)

**What is next?** We will invest almost **\$30,000** in academic improvement, cultural arts, student affairs, school events, and staff appreciation.

- ☐ Install Little Libraries at Bells Mill and the Scotland Community Center
- ☐ Launch Spirit Wear sales in November
- ☐ Host a PTA meeting in early December
- ☐ Build partnership with our sister school, South Lake Elementary School
- ☐ Remain active in Montgomery County PTA
- ☐ Hold a read-a-thon and other fundraisers
  - ❖ Potomac Pizza Restaurant Night on 11/25!
- ☐ Transition all our events to a virtual format, including BINGO night, talent show, and more
- ☐ Look for new ways to engage students and families during distance learning

## Have you joined the PTA yet?

Unfortunately, almost **70%** of our families have not joined the PTA yet this year! In fact, we have more than **100 fewer members** than we did this time last year.

We are a stronger organization when all families and teachers join and participate in the PTA. Your membership fees and donations allow us to sponsor more than **50 activities and events** each year that benefit BMES students. **Strong membership is critical to support Bells Mill this year and into the future.**

Please return the membership form on the other side of this page or join online at [www.bellsmill.org](http://www.bellsmill.org).

## How you can help:

- 1 Join or renew your PTA membership** (see back or join online at [www.bellsmill.org](http://www.bellsmill.org))
- 2 Support us by volunteering or donating to PTA** (sign up or donate at [www.bellsmill.org](http://www.bellsmill.org))
- 3 Keep in touch!** Sign up for weekly emails at [www.bellsmill.org](http://www.bellsmill.org), email us at [info@bellsmill.org](mailto:info@bellsmill.org), or like our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/bellsmill](https://www.facebook.com/bellsmill)

## BELLS MILL PTA 2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join the PTA online at [www.bellsmill.org](http://www.bellsmill.org) or complete the membership form below.

This year membership forms and checks may be returned to the Bells Mill PTA c/o Matthew Barlow, Treasurer, 10900 Old Coach Rd, Potomac, MD 20854.

### FAMILY INFORMATION

#### Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Parent 1 Name:

Parent 2 Name:

Parent 1 Email:

Parent 2 Email:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

#### Bells Mill Student(s):

First Name:

Last Name:

Grade/Teacher:

First Name:

Last Name:

Grade/Teacher:

First Name:

Last Name:

Grade/Teacher:

### MEMBERSHIP FEES & DONATION

**A membership to the PTA costs \$25 per family.** However, membership dues account for less than 15% of our annual budget and we ask families to consider making a donation to help us fill the gap. We **suggest a donation to \$50.** However, please select an amount that works best for your family and remember there are lots of ways to support the PTA -- either financially or by donating your time or expertise.

☐ **Membership Fee (\$25)**

\$ 25

☐ **Suggested Donation to the PTA (\$50+)**

\$                     

**TOTAL: \$                      Make checks payable to Bells Mill PTA.**

Please return form and payment to Bells Mill PTA c/o  
Matthew Barlow, Treasurer, 10900 Old Coach Rd,  
Potomac, MD 20854.

The BMES PTA is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and your donation may be tax deductible. 100% of donations go to help our children and our school.

### STUDENT DIRECTORY

We use an online directory system called A to Z Connect and ask families to update and verify their own listings for the Bells Mill directory. You will receive an email with a link to update your family information. All families will have access to the online directory. Learn more at [bellsmill.org/family-directory/](http://bellsmill.org/family-directory/).