



# Bells Mill Bear Post

Fall2024 **News from the Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**

**Dear Bells Mill families,**

The Bells Mill Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to making a difference in the education and quality of life of Bells Mill Elementary students. We are a stronger organization when all families and teachers join the PTA. Your membership fees and donations allow us to sponsor more than 50 activities and events each year that benefit BMES students. **Your membership and donations are critical to support Bells Mill this year and into the future.** Please join or renew at [bellsmill.org](http://bellsmill.org). When you join, you will receive a new Bells Mill car magnet!

We are proud that Bells Mill has been named a 2022-24 National PTA School of Excellence. This program supports partnerships between schools and families to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. We are one of 368 PTAs nationwide to receive this designation!

Our sincerest thanks go to the families and teachers who have joined, donated, or volunteered so far this year, and who plan to do so in the months to come. We look forward to welcoming more families to the PTA and wish all students, teachers, and families a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

The BMES PTA Board of Directors

Deb Palisin, President | Sarah Ghoddousi, Amanda Klueger, Shara Reiter, John Sorrenti, Vice Presidents  
Ying Zhang, Treasurer | Debbie Fleisher, Secretary | Erin Penfold and Becky Sorto Orellana, MCCPTA Delegates

## Our Plans for the 2024-2025 School Year

**What have we done so far?** We have partnered with the school to support the Bells Mill community.

- Offered funding to every teacher for materials
- Purchased planners for students in Grades 3-5
- Held Kindergarten Playdates, a Newcomers Playground Social, and Back to School Picnic
- Welcomed staff back with a breakfast and lunch
- Launched our Spirit Wear fundraiser and kicked off our Membership Drive

**What is next?** With your help, we will invest more than **\$46,000** in Bells Mill this year!

- Invest in academic improvement and support Bells Mill teachers and staff
- Plan school events like Bingo Night, Talent Show, STEM Night/Science Fair, International Festival, Bells Mill Bash, and more
- Support cultural arts, such as assemblies and Reflections Arts Program
- Host bi-monthly PTA meetings with parents and teachers to build a community partnership
- Remain active in Montgomery County PTA and advocate for Bells Mill and its students

## How you can help:

- 1 **Join PTA for this year!** Join at [www.bellsmill.org](http://www.bellsmill.org).
- 2 **Donate!** If you can donate, your donations go a long way!
- 3 **Volunteer!** While not required, we appreciate it! Sign up [here](#).
- 4 **Support our fundraisers!** Attend a restaurant night and buy spirit wear!
- 5 **Keep in touch!** Sign up for weekly Bear Posts at [www.bellsmill.org](http://www.bellsmill.org), email us at [info@bellsmill.org](mailto:info@bellsmill.org), like our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/bellsmill](http://www.facebook.com/bellsmill), and join the WhatsApp Bells Mill PTA Community.



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## Online School Directory and PTA Membership

We use an online directory system called [AtoZ Connect](#) to help families keep in touch and stay connected as a school community. You can also use AtoZ Connect to join the PTA.

- Returning families: Verify or update your family contact information. Add any new students and review your privacy settings. Join the PTA! ***\*This must be done each school year!\****
- New families: Create an account and enter directory information for your family (guardians and students). Set your privacy settings. Join the PTA!

[Visit www.bellsmillpta.membershiptoolkit.com to get started!](http://www.bellsmillpta.membershiptoolkit.com)

## Restaurant Night Fundrasiers

Support Bells Mill over dinner (or dessert)! Throughout the school year, we host Restaurant Nights at local restaurants where a portion of the proceeds go to the Bells Mill PTA. Be sure to mention you're from Bells Mill Elementary when you place your order!

- September 17, 4-8PM: Scoop Night at Baskin-Robbins (come see your teachers scoop ice cream from 4:30pm-6:30pm!)
- October 21-25, all day: Colony Grill in Cabin John Village (details to come)

## Spirit Wear

We are excited to offer a variety of spirit wear items for students, parents, and staff so everyone can represent the Bells Mill Bears! There is always flat rate shipping of \$4.95 and weekly promotions on hundreds of products.

Every Friday at Bells Mill is spirit day!

Place your orders online at [bellsmillspiritwear.com](http://bellsmillspiritwear.com). The fundraiser lasts all year! Email [spiritwear@bellsmill.org](mailto:spiritwear@bellsmill.org) with any questions.

Place your order online all year!  
[www.bellsmillspiritwear.com](http://www.bellsmillspiritwear.com)

OVER 200+ PRODUCTS ONLINE

Look For Weekly Promotions!

### Standard Designs



### Glitter Designs



# 2024-2025 PTA Volunteer Opportunities

**The following is our list of committees and we're looking for volunteers!** Your involvement is critical so we can continue to provide enrichment activities and support Bells Mill. This is also a great way to get to know parents, teachers, and administrators. Please indicate which committees you would be interested in supporting [using this Google Form](#). **A description of each committee can be found [here](#).** Email [info@bellsmill.org](mailto:info@bellsmill.org) with any questions or to find out more ways to help!

## School Community Events

- Back to School Picnic (September 26, 2024)
- Bingo Night (October 17, 2024)
- Eric Energy Science Show (December 7, 2024)
- Black History Cultural Program (February 2025)
- Talent Show (February 7, 2025)
- Science Fair/STEM Night (March 2025)
- Asian American Cultural Program (May 2025)
- International Festival (May 2, 2025)
- Geography Bowl (June 2025)
- Bells Mill Bash (June 5, 2025)

## Student Affairs

- NAACP Parents Council Representative
- MCCPTA Gifted & Talented Liaison
- MCCPTA Special Needs Liaison
- After School Enrichment Program Coordinator
- Recess & Wellness
- Assembly Coordinator
- Reflections Art Program (fall 2024)
- Sister School Partnership (South Lakes ES)
- Green Schools
- Yearbook Design & Sales

## Staff Appreciation

- Holiday Lunch & Cookie Buffet (Dec 18, 2024)
- Staff Appreciation Week (May 5-9)
- End of School Year Treat (June)

## Family Engagement

- Kindergarten Summer Playdates (summer 2025)
- Breakfasts with Bears (October 7, 2024 and May 13, 2025)
- Principal's Teas

## Membership and Fundraising

- Membership & Donation Drive
- Book Fair (December 6-13, 2024)
- Read-a-Thon (March 2025)

## Communication

- Photocopy and distribute flyers at school
- Room Parent Coordinator
- Bear Post/Weekly Newsletter
- Webmaster

## PTA Board/Committee Chairs

- 2025-2026 Board Members or Committee Chairs

**All volunteers must complete the REQUIRED online module about Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect. <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/>**  
**Please email the training certificate you receive upon course completion to Ms. Montecinos at [rocio\\_e\\_montecinos@mcpsmd.org](mailto:rocio_e_montecinos@mcpsmd.org).**

**Let's keep  
in touch!**



Sign up for weekly Bear Post emails at [www.bellsmill.org](http://www.bellsmill.org)



Join the WhatsApp Bells Mill PTA Community



Attend a PTA meeting



[www.bellsmill.org](http://www.bellsmill.org)



[facebook.com/bellsmill](https://facebook.com/bellsmill)



[info@bellsmill.org](mailto:info@bellsmill.org)

# BELLS MILL ES EVENTS

# 2024-2025

## AUGUST

- 8/22- Breakfast for Teachers and Staff
  - 8/22- Open House- popsicles on the blacktop!
  - 8/22- Kindergarten Meeting, 6:00pm
- Sign up/renew PTA membership for 2024-2025!!**

## SEPTEMBER

- 9/5- Back to School Night (K-2), 6-7:30pm
- 9/12- Back to School Night (3-5), 6-7:30pm
- 9/17- Scoop Night @ Baskin-Robbins, 4-8pm
- 9/26- Back to School Picnic, 5:30-7:30pm

## OCTOBER

- 10/1- PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
- 10/14- Breakfast with Bears, 8:30-9:05am
- 10/21-25- Restaurant Week- Colony Grill
- 10/31- Fall Festival costume parade

## NOVEMBER

- Food Drive for South Lake Elementary School

## DECEMBER

- 12/3- PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
- 12/6-12/13- Book Fair
- 12/7- Eric Energy Science Show (Magic & Muffins), 10:30am
- 12/18- Cookie Buffet for teachers/staff

**[Click here to join the BMES PTA!](#)**

## JANUARY

- TBD- Restaurant night

## FEBRUARY

- 2/5 and 2/6- Talent Show Rehearsals, 4:15-5:15pm
- 2/7- Talent Show
- 2/27- Academic Showcase

## MARCH

- 3/4- PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
- 3/10-3/14- Read-a-Thon Spirit Week
- 3/14- Vocabulary Parade
- TBD- Science Fair/STEM Night

## APRIL

- TBD- Restaurant Night

## MAY

- 5/2- International Festival
- 5/5-5/9- Staff Appreciation Week
- 5/6- PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
- 5/13- Breakfast with Bears, 8:30-9:05am

## JUNE

- TBD- Geography Bowl (grades 3-5)
- 6/5- Bells Mill Bash

## TBD EVENTS

- Bingo Night