

News from the Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Bells Mill Bear Post

— Fall 2025 —



Dear Bells Mill families,

The Bells Mill Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a non-profit, volunteer-led organization committed to enhancing the education and well-being of every student at Bells Mill Elementary. Our strength comes from families and teachers working together, and we encourage all to join the PTA. Membership fees and donations directly fund more than **50 programs, events, and activities** each year that enrich our students' experiences. Your support is essential to sustaining these efforts now and in the years ahead. Please consider joining or renewing your membership at bellsmill.org. As a thank you, each member will receive a new Bells Mill car magnet!

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We are also proud to share that Bells Mill has been recognized as a 2022–2024 National PTA School of Excellence—one of just 368 PTAs across the country to earn this honor. This designation reflects our shared commitment to building strong family-school partnerships that foster academic success and student well-being.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the families and teachers who have already joined, donated, or volunteered this year, and to those planning to contribute in the months ahead. We look forward to welcoming even more families into our PTA community and wish everyone a rewarding and successful school year!

Sincerely,
The BMES PTA Board of Directors

Amanda Klueger, President | Jenna Cooper, Shara Reiter, Zina Segal, John Sorrenti, Vice Presidents | Claire Andrews, Lauren Koubek, Natalie Malloy, Danielle Somers, Committee Chairs | Lis Patterson, Treasurer | Erin Penfold, Secretary | Nathalie Babou, Adam D'Angelo, MCCPTA Delegates

What have we done so far?

- Collaborated with the school to support the Bells Mill community through meaningful engagement and shared commitment
- Purchased planners for students in Grades 3-5
- Held Kindergarten Playdates and are currently planning the Back to School Picnic
- Welcomed staff back with snacks, breakfast, and lunch
- Launched our spirit wear fundraiser and kicked off our Membership Drive
- Coordinated before and after school enrichment opportunities

Our plans for 2025-2026

- Invest in academic improvement and support Bells Mill teachers and staff
- Plan school events like Back to School Picnic, Bingo Night, Talent Show, STEAM 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.bellsmillpta.membershiptoolkit.com.
- 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](#), email us at info@bellsmill.org, like our [Facebook page](#), and join the [WhatsApp Bells Mill PTA Community](#).

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, update your child(ren)'s teacher(s), and review your privacy settings. **Join the PTA! *This must be done each school year!***
- **New families:** Create an account, enter directory information for your family (guardians and students), select your child(ren)'s teacher(s), and set your privacy settings. **Join the PTA!**

Visit www.bellsmillpta.membershiptoolkit.com to get started!

Restaurant Night Fundraisers

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 15-21, all day:** Colony Grill in Cabin John Village. Join us on September 17 @ 6-7:30 to meet the PTA Board.
- **October 9, 4-8pm:** Scoop Night at Baskin-Robbins (come see your teachers scoop ice cream from 4:30pm-6:30pm!)



**We've got spirit
yes we do!
We've got spirit,
how 'bout you?**

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 are always weekly promotions on hundreds of products. **Every Friday at Bells Mill is spirit day!**

Place your orders online at www.bellsmillspiritwear.com.
The fundraiser lasts all year!
Email fundraising@bellsmill.org
with any questions.

2025-2026 PTA Volunteer Opportunities

We are excited to share our list of committees and are looking for volunteers to join us. Your participation is essential in helping us continue to provide meaningful enrichment activities and strong support for the Bells Mill Community. Volunteering is also a wonderful way to connect with other parents, teachers, and administrators. Please let us know which committees you would be interested in supporting using this Google Form. A description of each committee can be found here. If you have any questions or would like to know about additional ways to get involved, please email info@bellsmill.org.

School Community Events

- Back to School Picnic (September 25, 2025)
- Trunk or Treat (October 25, 2025)
- Bingo Night (November 6, 2025)
- Saturday Book Fair Event (December 6, 2025)
- Black History Cultural Program (February 2026)
- Talent Show (February 6, 2026)
- Science Fair/STEAM Night (March 22, 2026)
- International Festival (April 17, 2026)
- Asian American Cultural Program (May 2026)
- Geography Bowl (June 1-3, 2026)
- Bells Mill Bash (June 4, 2026)

Student Affairs

- NAACP Parents Council Representative
- MCCPTA Gifted & Talented Liaison
- MCCPTA Special Needs Liaison
- After School Enrichment Program Coordinator
- Assembly Coordinator
- Reflections Art Program (fall 2025) **(OPEN)**
- Sister School Partnership (South Lakes ES)
- Green Schools
- Yearbook Design & Sales

Staff Appreciation

- Holiday Lunch & Cookie Buffet (Dec 17, 2025)
- Staff Appreciation Week (May 4-8, 2026)
- End of School Year Treat (June)

Family Engagement

- Kindergarten Summer Playdates (summer 2026)
- Breakfasts with Bears (October 13, 2025 and May 12, 2026)
- Principal's Teas

Membership and Fundraising

- Membership & Donation Drive
- Book Fair (December 5-12, 2026)
- Read-a-Thon (March 2026)
- Restaurant Night Fundrasiers

Communication

- Photocopy and distribute flyers at school
- Room Parent Coordinator **(CLOSED)**
- Bear Post/Weekly Newsletter
- Webmaster **(CLOSED)**
- Social Media- Facebook and Instagram **(OPEN)**

PTA Board/Committee Chairs

- 2026-2027 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.

Let's Keep
in Touch!



Sign up for weekly
Bear Post emails



facebook.com/bellsmill



Attend a PTA meeting



www.bellsmill.org



Join the WhatsApp
Bells Mill PTA
Community



info@bellsmill.org



BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EVENTS

 = PTA-SPONSORED EVENT



2025-2026







AUGUST

- 8/21- Breakfast for Teachers and Staff
- 8/21- Kindergarten Meeting, 6pm
- 8/22- Open House

SEPTEMBER



- 9/4- Back to School Night (preK-2), 6-7:30pm
- 9/11- Back to School Night (3-5), 6-7:30pm
-  9/15-21- Colony Grill fundraiser
-  9/25- Back to School Picnic, 5:30-7:30pm

OCTOBER

-  10/7- PTA Meeting, 6:30pm, APR
-  10/9- Scoop Night @ Baskin-Robbins
-  10/13- Breakfast with Bears, 8:30-9:05am
-  10/25- Trunk or Treat, 4:30-6pm
- 10/31- Fall Festival costume parade and party







NOVEMBER

-  Food Drive for South Lake Elementary School
-  11/6- Bingo Night, 5:30-7pm




DECEMBER

-  12/2- PTA Meeting, 6:30pm, Zoom
-  12/5-12/12- Book Fair
-  12/6- Book Fair Event, 10:30am
-  12/17- Cookie Buffet for teachers/staff






ALL YEAR

-  Cultural arts in-school assemblies throughout the school year




JANUARY

-  1/31- Talent Show Rehearsal at CJMS (TBD)


FEBRUARY

-  2/1- Talent Show Rehearsal at CJMS (TBD)
-  2/4 and 2/5- Talent Show Rehearsals at BMES, 4:15-5:15pm (TBD)
-  2/6- Talent Show, 6pm, CJMS

MARCH




-  3/3- PTA Meeting, 6:30pm, Zoom
-  3/2-3/6 Read-a-Thon Spirit Week
 - 3/6- Vocabulary Parade
-  3/22- Science Fair/STEAM Night, 4:30-6pm

APRIL

-  4/17- International Festival, 6-8pm



MAY

-  5/4-5/8- Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
-  5/5- PTA Meeting, 6:30pm, APR
-  5/12- Breakfast with Bears, 8:30-9:05am

JUNE

-  6/1-6/3- Geography Bowl
-  6/4- Bells Mill Bash, 5:30-8pm



Join the PTA



Volunteer



Spiritwear

