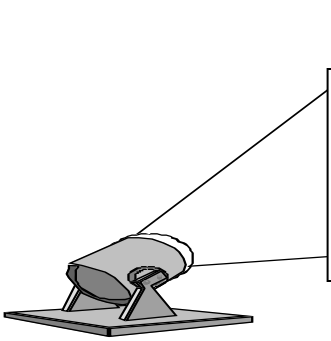

Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary

Week of February 2, 2015

Office of the Principal

This is National School Counselor Week

Mon., Feb. 2
Photoshop & Animation, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 121
Legos Engineering, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 209
Art Escapades, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 163
Gr. 3 Brownies, rm. 159

Tue., Feb. 3
Class and Group Picture Day, 9:25-3:00
Chess, 3:30-4:45, Media Center
MSA Basketball, 3:30-4:45 pm, gym
PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm, APR

Wed., Feb. 4
Intermediate French, 8:00-9:00 am, rm. 212
Intro to Spanish, 8:15-9:00 am, rm. 125
Beginning Spanish, 3:30-4:30, rm. 120
Art Escapades, Clay Creations, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 163
Chess, 3:30-4:45 pm, Media Center
Cooking and Math, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 129
Imagination Stage, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 121
Gr. 2 Brownies, rm. 155

Thur., Feb. 5
MSA Indoor Soccer, 3:30-4:30 pm
Intermediate Chinese, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 209
Tae Kwon Do, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 121
Yoga, 3:30-4:30, rm. 165

Fri., Feb. 6
Mad Science Experimentamania, 3:30-4:30 pm, 163
Legos Engineering, 3:30-4:30 pm, rm. 213
Odyssey of the Mind, 3:30, Media Center
Wear your school colors today
Have a great weekend!

A look ahead

Feb. 12 **Head Start Parent Meeting, 10:00 am**
Gr. 5 Plays, 7:00 pm, APR

Feb. 13 **Valentine Parties in classrooms, 2:00 pm**

- **Due to last week's snow day, Class and Group Picture Day has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 3**, **beginning promptly at 9:25 am**. All homeroom classes will be photographed, as well as the following groups: Patrols; Chorus; Instrumental Music; Best Buddies; Ambassadors; SERT/Recycling; and Student Government. Parents will have the option to order online. Order forms were sent home on Friday, January23. Extra order forms are available in the office**.**

- **Please help us get the message out to neighbors with incoming kindergarteners for the next school year**. We are now gathering names and contact information for next year's kindergarten class. Please ask

your neighbors to call the school if they have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2015. Parents and their future kindergarteners are welcome to observe a typical day in kindergarten at our Open House on **Friday, February 6 (snow date February 9), 9:30-11:30 am** (we ask that younger siblings not attend). Our ***tentative*** dates for Kindergarten Orientation are Wednesday and Thursday, April 1 and 2 (by appointment).

- **The Montgomery County Board of Education is considering several options for adjusting school starting and ending times (also known as bell times) allowing high school students to begin classes later in the day. Changes in bell times will impact starting and ending times for elementary schools.** Any changes to bell times will be approved on February 10, 2015. For a summary of bell times options and for information on public hearings, please visit http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/belltimes/index.aspx

- **The dates of the application and lottery process for the Elementary Foreign Language Immersion Programs are February 2 to April 2, 2015**. Parents may participate in the immersion lottery process using the *Elementary Immersion Interest Form*. The form, directions and more information on the Elementary Foreign Language Immersion Programs will be available on the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/special programs/ . Please mail completed forms directly to DCCAPS, Spring Mill Field Office, 11721 Kemp Mill Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20902, or hand deliver by April 2. Please do not return completed forms to school, as that will only delay the application process. DCCAPS will notify parents by mail of student selections.

- **Prekindergarten and Head Start registration begins the first week of March and will continue through the summer**. These programs offer a high-quality educational experience for children in order to prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond. Children must be four years old on or before September 1, 2015, and families must be income-eligible to apply. For more information about eligibility guidelines, locations, and times of community registrations or required documents to complete an application, call 301-230-0676 or visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/earlychildhood/prek/.

- **Sign up for AlertMCPS to receive text messages or emails from MCPS during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations.** You can also sign up to receive alerts specific to your child's school. AlertMCPS messages are available in both English and Spanish. Visit http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx to subscribe.

- **The George B. Thomas Saturday School works in partnership with schools to address the academic needs of students.** Students continue to be enrolled at the Saturday School's 12 locations throughout the county. There is a one-time registration fee of $50 ($30 for free and reduced-price lunch students). Payment plans are available. For registration information, please visit http://www.saturdayschool.org/programs/enroll.shtm .

- **Student Transfer Application Season begins Feb. 2, 2015.** Montgomery County parents/guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season. All COSA requests must be submitted no later than **April 1, 2015**. The *Change of School Assignment Information Booklet* contains the COSA form, describes the process and provides useful information. The COSA booklet is available on the MCPS website at http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers . The booklet is available in English and Spanish.

Thank you for being partners in your child's education