

Calendar Notes

10/1—PTA Meeting-7pm

10/4-Early Dismissal-
12:55 pm

10/9—No School

10/10—Author Assembly-
grades 3-5

10/10—Interim reports
posted on parent portal

10/14-10/16-Book Fair

10/14—Open House 9:00-
11:30 a.m.; Volunteer
Training-11:30 a.m.

10/15-Fall Picture Day

10/15-PTA International
Night and Book Fair
Night

10/24—Gr. 5 Field Trip
to Strathmore

10/31—Fall
Celebrations—2:15-3:20

The Bulldog



“Learning today, leading tomorrow”

October 2019

Dear Belmont families,

What a great first month of school we have had getting to know our students, enjoying outdoor recess, and setting in structures and routines for the school year! A BIG thank you to our boy scouts for continuing to beautify our school landscaping!

With the coming of October, we are reaching the middle of the first marking period. Interim grades are scheduled to be posted to the parent portal on October 10th to provide you with information on how your child is progressing this quarter. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

I want to thank all our parents who were able to make it out for our Back to School Night. We hope you left with a good understanding of what your child will be learning this year and an enthusiasm for all that lies ahead for them...AND, we hope to see you back at Belmont tonight for our first PTA meeting of the school year, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Also this month, we have our book fair running from October 14th -16th and on the evening of the 15th, the book fair will be open late. Please note that students will not be called out of class to attend the book fair. Parents who want to shop the fair with their child(ren) should come during the class scheduled time, recess period, or to our night event. Also on the evening of October 15th, our PTA will host International Night. We hope to see everyone come out for the beautiful evening celebrating our community's diversity.

With our second month of school comes the starting time for our school volunteers. Thank you to anyone who attended our first training. We will hold another volunteer training for all volunteers on October 14th at 11:30 a.m. following our Open House. Also, see more information about county-wide volunteer training later in this newsletter.

Montgomery County Public Schools is taking an active role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect through early prevention and intervention education. This month, our school counselor, Mrs. Padilla, will be presenting lessons on the topic of child abuse and neglect. The lessons are known as Personal Body Safety Lessons and their purpose is to help students to develop knowledge, decision making skills, and behaviors which promote safe living in the home, school, and community; learn skills for self-protection and identifying child abuse and neglect; learn skills for asking for help for self and others and practice reporting to a trusted adult; and engage in positive and appropriate interactions with peers and adults. If you have any questions or concerns about the topics that will be covered, please contact me or the school counselor.

I look forward to the many opportunities to see you out and about at Belmont this year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Pinkowitz
Principal

Core Value: Engagement

Volunteering at Belmont Elementary School

Each school year there is a training session for families who wish to volunteer at Belmont ES. Each session will cover important policies and procedures to be aware of when volunteering at Belmont ES, as well as a short tour of our workroom and adult restrooms. We invite you to join us for our last session, hosted by Ms. Butler, our Administrative Secretary. The training will last approximately 1 hour and will be held on:

Monday, October 14, 2019 – 1:30 PM

How do I become a volunteer? All volunteers who *regularly* support schools and school sponsored activities must complete the MCPS online *Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect* online training at

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-leadership/volunteer.aspx>



This training requirement also applies to student teachers and interns; volunteers who regularly help in the classrooms, with school dismissal or recess; and those who attend field trips and chaperone outdoor education. The online training is provided in English, Spanish, Chinese, French, Korean, Amharic, and Vietnamese.

If I previously completed the required training prior to September 2019, do I have to take it again? If MCPS records show that you completed the online MCPS Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect training in the 2017-2018 or 2018-2019 school year, you do not need to repeat the training for the following school year. However, individuals are required to complete the training at least *once every three years* to continue volunteering. For example:

- If you completed training in 2016-2017, you must renew training in 2020-2021 (one-year extension)
- If you completed training in 2017-2018, you must renew training in 2020-2021
If you completed training in 2018-2019, you must renew training in 2021-2022

What procedures do I follow when volunteering? To best support school staff and students, volunteers are expected to follow these procedures each time they volunteer:

Sign-in and out of the building using the Visitor Management System (VMS).

Wear the VMS produced volunteer identification name tag at all times while on school property.

Volunteers may not access confidential student or personnel records, and should otherwise respect the confidentiality of all student information.

When working with students, volunteers must be within view of other MCPS staff members and avoid unsupervised, one-on-one student contact.

Volunteers may not discipline students and should report behavior concerns to the supervising staff member.



MCPS Open House

Monday, October 14th, we invite you to visit our classrooms for the entire morning in order to get a sense of what your child(ren) experience on a daily basis. To make your visit a success, we ask that upon arrival you sign in and that you have a photo ID with you. All who arrive prior to 9:15 a.m. are asked to gather in the cafeteria. Please make sure your phone is on silent/vibrate and be aware that photos are NOT permitted in order to maintain the learning environment. While some activities are better observed on this day, others are open for your participation with your child. Please follow the classroom teacher's lead. For our Kindergarten, 2nd, and 4th grade parents, we invite you to join your child for recess and lunch beginning at 11:20/11:30 a.m. We hope you enjoy your visit!

Here Comes Halloween!



In keeping with school tradition, we will be celebrating the fall with our annual parade on Wednesday, October 31st beginning at 2:15 p.m. Classroom parties will follow. Student costumes should not contain weapons or be extremely scary (or have scary make-up) that could upset our younger students. Additionally, students must be able to change into their costumes independently or the costume must go over their clothing. All kindergarten costumes must be able to go over clothing. Parties will be arranged by Room Parents under the guidance and consultation of the classroom teacher. For students who do not celebrate Halloween, we are happy to offer alternate activities during this time. Please let your child's teacher know if you would not like your child to participate in the parade and party.

CORE VALUE: SAFETY

During arrival and dismissal, please be mindful to follow the Crossing Guards directives to keep students coming to and from school safe. We ask for your patience during this time, that you keep car speeds low, and follow all traffic laws regarding speed limits and parking. Thank you!

MCPS Updates and Information

Saturday School

The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. kicked off its 2019–2020 season of Saturday School on Saturday, September 21. Saturday School is a low-cost tutoring and mentoring program that provides a sixth day of learning and helps MCPS students enhance their mastery of core academic subjects. Students who are in need of additional academic support can attend sessions at 1 of 12 locations across Montgomery County. Classes began on **Saturday, September 21** and will end in May. For more information visit www.saturdayschool.org.

Stay Informed with *MCPS QuickNotes* (English and Spanish)

MCPS QuickNotes is a bimonthly newsletter that provides MCPS families with important news and information about MCPS programs and activities, plus emergency information. *MCPS QuickNotes* is offered in seven languages: English, Spanish, French, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Amharic. Visit news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/ to read the latest edition.

Core Value: Engagement

Belmont is composting at lunch! The students **Stop, Smile and Sort** their lunch trash each day into paper, plastic, trash and now, compost. Thank you, so much to Jen Rusiecki and the Belmont Green team for helping our students out with sorting during our first two weeks of lunch and working with the Girl Scouts to create visual posters to label the different bins. Thank you also to our SERT team for helping out at lunch as the compost crew. The compost is picked up each week by Key City Composting and saved from the landfill. We thank you all for your help in reducing our impact on the earth.

Forum for Equity and Excellence Set for October 15

The Black and Brown Forum for Educational Equity and Excellence will be held on Tuesday, October 15. The event, which is being hosted by the NAACP Parents' Council and Identity, is set for 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Boulevard in Gaithersburg.

The forum will bring together Montgomery County education stakeholders, advocacy partners supporting the Black and Brown Educational Equity Coalition, and other community leaders for a discussion of evidence-based solutions to create better educational outcomes for students of color in MCPS.

Parent Academy

The MCPS Parent Academy invites parents/guardians and members of the community to participate in free workshops that provide information, resources, tools, and tips to support your child's success in school. Don't miss this season of workshops, which will be offered on a range of topics, including college and career planning, mental health, cybersafety, active parenting and positive communication.

Parent Academy workshops are free. Childcare and interpretation services are provided upon request. A full list of courses is available on the [Parent Academy website](#).

Student Rights and Responsibilities and Code of Conduct

In order to ensure a safe, productive, and positive learning environment, MCPS publishes two documents that help students, parents/guardians, and staff understand school rules and regulations; the expectations for student conduct; and the possible consequences for violating the rules. *A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities* is an overview of the rights and responsibilities students enjoy in MCPS and a summary of the laws and regulations that affect students. The *MCPS Code of Conduct* provides an overview of discipline procedures and protocols and the range of consequences students could face for violating various policies, regulations, and rules. The guide also discusses the MCPS philosophy to discipline. All families received a copy of these documents and are encouraged to review them with your child(ren). The documents are available online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students/rights/.

Seeking Musical Instruments

Do you have a musical instrument sitting in your basement or attic collecting dust? Please consider donating it to the Belmont Elementary School Instrumental Music Department.. We will clean it up and do minor repairs.. You can use your donation as a tax write-off and feel great knowing that a Belmont Bulldog is getting the opportunity to participate in the instrumental music program because of your generosity!

Financial Aid Workshops

If you've started wondering about college and how to pay for it, learn more during free financial aid workshops that will be held throughout the fall at MCPS high schools. During these sessions, parents/guardians and students will learn what financial aid is, what kinds of financial aid are available, and how students can apply for need-based financial aid. Contact your child's school for more information. The schedule of workshops is available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter/financialaid/workshops.aspx.