

**Calendar  
Notes**

**9/16-Instrumental  
Music parent  
information night  
(grades 4&5)— 7 pm  
at GREENWOOD  
ES**

**9/26—Back to School  
Night Grades 1-5  
6:30 p.m.**

**9/27-Volunteer  
Training—1:30 pm**

**9/30-No School**

**10/1—PTA Meeting**

**10/4—Early  
Dismissal; 12:55 pm**

# The Bulldog

“Learning today, leading tomorrow”



S e p t e m b e r 2 0 1 9

Dear Belmont families,

I am so happy to welcome you back to Belmont! Our students have been coming in with smiling faces ready to go! As a staff we have been working hard to ensure that we create the structure for students to come back to a safe nurturing environment that will encourage students to be safe, kind, and prepared to learn.

I am happy to report last week was a successful first week of school! Being in classrooms, at lunch and recess, and observing our students in the school day setting, I can tell we are going to have a great year!

On at least a bi-weekly basis, teachers will send parents by email, curriculum briefs describing the learning that will be happening in the classroom, as well as, sending messages from the staff and/or PTA (until we get our PTA distribution list up and running). We are happy to send home hard copies if e-mail/Internet is not an option, so please be sure your child's teacher has your preferred communication method so that you do not miss out on this information.

If you have not had a chance to do so, please complete online or in paper and return the following items:

- Student Emergency Information form
- Application for Free/Reduced Lunch form (as applicable)

Belmont is officially live on Twitter. Check us out at BelmontESOlney and me at PrincipalP\_BES. Although not our primary mode of communication, we will try our best to keep our Twitter feed live with relevant information.

Thank you for the support you provide your child every day. *Your* partnership in your child's education assists us in making sure your child meets his/her potential. Know that if there is ever a concern, you can always contact your child's teacher. I also welcome your feedback regarding great things that are happening or concerns. We appreciate the trust you place in us in providing a safe, engaging learning environment. Enjoy today!

Sincerely,

Mr. Pinkowitz  
Principal

## Core Values/PBIS Trait: Safety and Communication

### Arrival and Dismissal Notes

Please help us in keeping our children safe when dropping off students in the morning by **NOT dropping off students before 8:40 a.m.** Children dropped off before 8:40 a.m. will need to wait outside the building and will be unsupervised. Thank you for assisting us in preventing students being put in this situation.

Afternoon dismissal begins at 3:25 p.m. Buses are scheduled to depart Belmont beginning at 3:32 and have a 20 minute departure window to account for traffic, weather, and other delays. There are times when buses which usually depart early do run late. We will do our best to communicate through our messaging system if a bus departs Belmont outside the 3:32-3:52 departure window.



**ATTENTION parents whose child(ren) goes/go to Bar-T after school:** If your child is scheduled to go to Bar-T after school, and you are changing plans to have them ride the bus or be picked-up, we ask that you notify both, Bar-T AND the school office. While we closely partner, Bar-T and Belmont are two separate entities. Bar-T is a private organization that rents space at Belmont, and therefore, we cannot guarantee that the two operations will be able to communicate about changes made during the school day. Thank you for notifying both Bar-T and Belmont when plans change.

## Back to School Night (Grades 1-5)

Back to School Night (BTSN) for grades 1-5 will take place Thursday, September 26th, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. We will begin with a short whole school/PTA meeting, followed by teachers delivering two identical sessions, allowing parents with children at multiple grade levels to attend both presentations and for parents with only one child, to hear from their child's teacher during the first session. The schedule for the evening will be as follows:

- 6:30-7:00 p.m. - Whole school parent meeting—Cafeteria
- 7:05—7:45 p.m. - Session 1
- 7:50-8:30 p.m. - Session 2

## Core Value/PBIS Trait: Safe: Nut Allergies

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!:** Many students who attend Belmont have Anaphylaxis reactions to peanut products. We are asking that all students refrain from bringing to school peanuts, products containing peanut oil and peanut butter products for snack. This also includes school parties. Students *may* eat peanuts and peanut products at lunch because we are able to control student contact with peanut products. If peanut products are a staple in your child's diet, please begin thinking about alternatives for snack time. As a school community, it is important to be sensitive to the needs of all children and to do our best to ensure the safety and health of all. Thank you for your consideration!

## The Instructional Side

### New Literacy Curriculum: Benchmark Advanced

Beginning this year, Belmont is one of a cohort of elementary schools implementing the Benchmark Advanced literacy curriculum for reading and writing. This curriculum, while aligned to the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards, is structured differently than reading and writing were taught in the past. Instead of one whole class lesson followed by centers and small group instruction, there are many mini-whole class lessons, centers and small group instruction experiences that take place during the course of the daily two hour block. Additionally, the first four weeks of school focus on building routines for instruction, collaboration, transition, and participation. Therefore, even though students will receive baseline testing and teachers will be getting to know their students as readers and writers, there will be **NO GRADES FOR THE FIRST FOUR WEEKS OF SCHOOL IN READING AND WRITING**. This means that on the Marking Period 1 Interim Report, reading and writing will not have a grade. You will hear more about our new curriculum at Back to School Night!



### **Saturday School Helps Students Succeed**

Registration for The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. (Saturday School) is open. Saturday School provides academic tutoring and instruction with certified teachers in a nurturing and supportive environment. The program is in 12 school locations across Montgomery County and runs from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with breakfast provided at 8:00 a.m. For more information and to register, please visit [www.saturdayschool.org/](http://www.saturdayschool.org/).

## Core Value: Engagement

### Volunteering at Belmont

One of the special facets of Belmont is the engaged parent community we have. Thank you all for your assistance to our staff and students.



According to MCPS policy, those wishing to volunteer in schools during the student day, must complete an online training called Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect. The training **must** be completed before an individual is allowed to volunteer in a school building. This means for admittance to the building during the school day for purposes other than a school event (parties, promotion, etc.), the training must be completed (volunteer in the classroom, media center, computer lab, lunch, recess or go on field trips). The training can be found at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/>

Once the training is completed, you will receive an email confirmation that you should forward or print and submit to the office staff. Upon receiving the confirmation, the office staff will issue a Volunteer Card to the volunteer to show with their ID when signing in at the school. Please note, current MCPS employees and substitutes do not have to complete the volunteer training as they have already completed trainings. Please bring your MCPS/Sub ID when volunteering.

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In addition, Belmont will be holding trainings for parents who wish to volunteer that will cover important policies and procedures to be aware of when coming to Belmont. Even if you have volunteered with us before, we ask that you attend one of our trainings this year. Our first training is September 27th at 1:30 p.m.

## PBIS at Belmont

As we begin to build positive relationships with our students, there will be times when we discuss choices our students make with them. Sometimes this means they will receive either a minor form (reminder) or a major form (blue log). When this happens, please partner with us by speaking with your child at home about what happened and making appropriate choices. Remember, if there is a minor or major form sent home, the teacher has given out at least one (and in most cases, more than one) verbal warning about the behavior being exhibited. These are communication tools to inform you of a situation we feel needs your attention. If there are any questions, please contact the teacher who issued the minor form or Mr. Pinkowitz. We thank you for your support!