

# THE LION'S DEN

Bethesda Elementary / Bethesda Elementary PTA Newsletter

February 7, 2020

## Seymour's Shout Out...

### Planning for 2020-2021..

During the next few months our staff will take a great deal of time and care in developing our classes from the 2020-2021 school year. Our goal is to create a productive learning environment for all students. We want to ensure classes are balanced, and take into account each child's learning style and needs.

As we organize our classrooms for next school year, we would like your input about your child. **Please complete the online form and submit by Friday, March 6, 2020. This form is not to be used as a teacher request** but rather your opportunity to describe how you see your child as a learner. This form also provides you with the opportunity to share with us what elements you believe should be included in your child's instructional environment. Completing this form is optional. **Please use the link to complete the form:** [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzH2W0TiW5OuJaYBV4H542TDGW58e4LitMnb2sGYGhuzdy3g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzH2W0TiW5OuJaYBV4H542TDGW58e4LitMnb2sGYGhuzdy3g/viewform?usp=sf_link) . Please only fill out ONE per child . Thank you for your input.

**Please see the last page of the Lion's Den to provide additional information** regarding your plans for your child(ren) for the 2020-2021 school year.

### Kindergarten Orientation– coming soon...

**Kindergarten Orientation** will be coming this spring! If you have a rising K student for 2020-2021 (or know of any rising K students in the neighborhood) please contact the front office to start the enrollment process and sign up for K Orientation!

### BCC-WJ Cluster Site Selection Online Survey...

MCPS is seeking input on the new school site selection for the Bethesda Chevy Chase (BCC) and Walter Johnson (WJ) Clusters, through the use of an online survey - available February 4, 2020 until February 25, 2020. The intent of the survey is to gauge participant opinion in relationship to potential new sites to relieve overcrowding in the BCC and WJ clusters.

Within this link you will find:

- the link to the survey -<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/98BY8JF>

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/construction/project/bccwjesclusterstudy.aspx>

- pros and cons for each site

- site specifications Link for the presentation of the sites in the survey: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/facilities/construction/project/BCCWJClusterStudyNewSitePresentation.pdf>

There is also a meeting scheduled for February 18, 2020 at 7:00p.m. at North Bethesda Middle School. Additional information regarding the Capacity Study can be found on the MCPS website:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/construction/project/bccwjesclusterstudy.aspx>

-Lisa Seymour

### *Mark your calendar...*

February 14th– Valentine's Day Celebrations (in class celebrations Gr. 1-5 @ 2:15 PM and Kindergarten @ 2:30 PM)

February 17th– NO SCHOOL

February 28th– Early Release Day (students dismissed at 12:55 PM)

March 7th– BEPTA Skate Night (Cabin John Ice Rink)

March 27th– Early Release Day (students dismissed at 12:55 PM) END OF Q3

April 6-13– NO SCHOOL— SPRING BREAK

April 14– Return to school

April 15– Report Card Distribution

April 28th– NO SCHOOL

May 25th– NO SCHOOL

June 15th– LAST DAY OF SCHOOL– EARLY RELEASE DAY (students dismissed at 12:55 PM)

# Grade 2 & 3 Families...

## Grade 2 SIPPI Screening

All Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Grade 2 students participate in universal screening as part of the Student Instructional Program Planning and Implementation (SIPPI) process. This process involves gathering information about students to plan instruction for the upcoming school year and for gifted and talented designation. The process gathers information from a variety of sources, including parents, school staff, student performance on district assessments, and a cognitive abilities assessment.

School staff will consider the following information in the SIPPI process:

- Parent Input Form
- Staff Advocacy Survey
- Homeroom Teacher Survey
- Reading Oral Records
- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Mathematics

Cognitive Abilities Test™ (CogAT®)

Grade 2 students will complete Cognitive Abilities Test™ (CogAT®) in March. The three subtests of the assessment measure: verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and nonverbal reasoning.

You have the opportunity to observe your child in a different setting and may notice special skills or qualities that may or may not be evident in the classroom. School staff wants to consider information you can provide to plan your child's instructional program. **You will receive the Parent Input Form in the mail during the week of February 24, 2020. Please complete and return the form to school within two weeks of receiving it.** Our school staff will use this information to plan your child's instructional program for the 2020–2021 school year, and to determine gifted and talented designation.

Screening at Bethesda Elementary will be held on March 20, 2020.

In June, you will receive a letter from our school indicating your child's instructional recommendations for the 2020–2021 school year and whether they met the MCPS criteria for gifted and talented designation. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Sanchez. [Karen\\_G\\_Sanchez@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Karen_G_Sanchez@mcpsmd.org)

## Upcoming Testing Opportunities for Students in Grade 3

Each student new to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) in Grade 3 has the opportunity to be screened for gifted and talented (GT) identification, and to determine his/her ability or potential to participate in accelerated and enriched instructional programming at their local school. If your child was recommended to participate in the rescreening process for gifted and talented (GT) identification in grade two, as part of the SIPPI Screening, they can be rescreened in February. Letters were sent in backpacks on January 31, 2020.

During this process we gather information about your child from a variety of sources, including a parent survey, homeroom teacher survey, school staff survey, performance on district mathematics and reading assessments, and a \*cognitive assessment that will be administered at school on February 25, 2020. If your child is absent on the date of the assessment, a make-up date will be provided by the school that is within the testing window of February 26-28, 2020.

Information will be sent from MCPS regarding the testing for the Centers for Enriched Studies screening. The testing is scheduled for February 25, 2020.

If you have questions or concerns, contact Karen Sanchez at [Karen\\_G\\_Sanchez@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Karen_G_Sanchez@mcpsmd.org) or by calling 240-204-5300.

# BE Updates...

## Safe Routes to School Program...

We have been working together with the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Safe Routes to School Program to improve pedestrian safety around the school. Below are changes that have been put in place thus far...

- The county recently adjusted signal timing along Arlington Road at Moorland in Fall 2019. MDOT is currently coordinating with the County regarding any additional signal timing adjustments that can be moved forward at MD 187 at Arlington Road.
- The speed limit reduction limits extended from MD 187 (Old Georgetown Road) to MD 191 (Bradley Boulevard). The speed limit along MD 188 was reduced from 30 MPH to 25 MPH in spring 2019.
- MDOT established a School Zone along MD 188 (Wilson Lane) from Clarendon Road to MD 187 (Old Georgetown Road)/Arlington Road, a distance of approximately 650 feet. Appropriate school signage was also installed.
- Half of the Continental Crosswalks at MD 187 at MD 188 and Arlington Road intersection were installed and the remaining ones will be done later this month weather permitting.

## MCPS TIP LINE...

The Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line is an anonymous reporting system used to report threats to the safety and/or well-being of students. Students, parents, faculty, staff, and members of communities throughout Maryland may use this service to make authorities aware of any situation that may be harmful to students or schools.



**833-MD-B-SAFE**

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mainstory/story/610966/Safe-Schools-MD/>

## Valentine's Day...

Classroom Celebrations- Friday, February 14th , Valentine's Day. **Due to activities and limited space, only party coordinators are invited to the classroom celebrations.** Please check with classroom teachers for specific information and about volunteering. Parties will begin at 2:15 PM for Grade 1– Grade 5 and at 2:30 PM for Kindergarten.

## **A note from Wonders...**

### WONDERS SUMMER CAMP ENROLLING NOW

Wonders Summer Camp continues its long tradition of offering a fun-filled camp experience for rising Kindergarten - 6th grade children. We love summer! Our experienced and talented counselors make each camp day welcoming, exciting, and engaging for all campers. Campers will enjoy field trips to MD and DC area sights, friendships that last throughout the year, games, arts + crafts, gardening + cooking, water and pool days, special guests and the popular Washington Mystics Game. Our two summer camp locations for 2020 are Wonders Summer Camp at Horace Mann, within walking distance of American University and Wonders Summer Camp at Little Falls (located in St. Dunstan's Church on Massachusetts Ave.).

Wonders Summer Camp Open House will be held on Saturday, March 21, from 10 am- 12 pm, at Horace Mann Elementary School, 4430 Newark St., NW, Washington, DC. Come enjoy summer camp activities, face painting, games and meet our Summer Camp Counselors.

Please visit our website for more information about enrollment options, tuition and discounts, and registration. <https://wonderslearning.org/camp2020/> . Questions can be directed to Summer Camp Coordinator, Gerald Bolden at [gbolden@wonderlearning.org](mailto:gbolden@wonderlearning.org) or 301-654-7914.

## **Mark your calendar...**

### **BEPTA Skate Night!**

When: March 7, 2020

Where: Cabin John Ice Rink

More information coming soon!



# Bethesda Elementary School

## Parent Intention Form

February 7, 2020

Dear Parents or Guardians,

We are already beginning to plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Our projected enrollment is a key factor in this planning. Please indicate your plans for your child(ren) for the 2020-2021 school year. Please complete this form and return it to your child's teacher by **Friday, March 6, 2020**.

### Part 1: Current Student(S)

Child's/Children's First and Last \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s) your child(ren) will be enrolled for 2020-2021 school year:

\_\_\_\_\_

1. My child(ren) will be returning.
2. My child(ren) will not be returning.
3. We are undecided about our plans for the 2020-2021 school-year.

If you checked either items 2 or 3 above, please respond to the following questions:

- We are moving out of the Bethesda Elementary area.
- We are considering moving out of the Bethesda Elementary area.
- My child will be attending private school.
- We are considering private school for our child(ren)
- We have applied for a transfer to (list school) \_\_\_\_\_.
- We have been approved for a transfer to (list school) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 2: New Student(s) to Bethesda ES

- I have an incoming kindergartener. Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_.
- I have registered my child for kindergarten.
- I have an incoming first grader.
- I have a child entering \_\_\_ grade from \_\_\_\_\_ school.

If you have an incoming kindergartener and have not registered him/her, please do so as soon as possible. Also, if you know of a neighbor whose son/daughter is of kindergarten age, please encourage him/her to register the child. Thank you.

Lisa Seymour  
Principal