

THE LION'S DEN

Bethesda Elementary / Bethesda Elementary PTA Newsletter

January 3, 2020

Seymour's Shout Out...

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing winter break.

Important Reminders...

WINTER WEATHER AND TEMPERATURES HAVE ARRIVED...

Please make sure students come to school dressed for the weather and OUTDOOR RECESS!

5th Grade Families...

Westland is coming next Wednesday (1/8/20) to help our 5th graders with Middle School registration. Be on the lookout for Westland Middle School information coming home next week!

Parking Lot- Drop Off and Pick Up

Please be mindful of your speed when driving in the BE parking lot. Also, please DO NOT use the handicap parking spots unless necessary as we have students and families who need access to these spots.

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 the grade level newsletters for specific information and about volunteering closer to the celebration date. Parties will begin at 2:15 for Grade 1- Grade 5 and at 2:30 for Kindergarten.

-Lisa Seymour

Mark your calendar...

January 20th- NO SCHOOL

January 23rd- Special Education Family Night (6:30 PM): More information coming soon!

January 24th- Early Release Day (students dismissed at 12:55 PM) END OF Q2

January 27th- NO SCHOOL for students

February 4th- Report Card Distribution

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 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)

[Sign up for ALERTMCPS](#)

Alert MCPS is a way that you can receive text messages or e-mail from Montgomery County Public Schools during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. Alert MCPS is administered by Montgomery County Public Schools and is part of the Montgomery County Alert System.

Special Education Family Night...

Join us on **Thursday, January 23rd, 6:30-8:30** in the **ALL PURPOSE ROOM** for Dinner and Guest Speakers Series:

- Eric Jorgensen, a certified financial planner
- Diane Flood, an MCPS Transition Services teacher

See attached flier for additional information.

ELL FAMILIES...

WIDA Access for ELL's testing... will begin Wednesday, January 8, 2020 until February 11, 2020.

All ELL's in grades 1-5 will take 3 computerized domain tests: Listening, Reading, and Speaking

All ELL's in grades 1-5 will take a writing test as well. Grades 1-2 will be on paper while grades 3-5 will use the computer to type responses.

Grade K students will test one-on-one with an ESOL teacher Your child will take no more than 1 test in a day or 2 in a week.

The testing schedule is as follows:

January 8, 9, 10- Testing for grades K, 1, 2 and 4. Listening and Reading

January 13-17, 2020- Listening and Reading for Grades 3, 4, 5

January 20- No School MLK, Jr. Holiday

January 21-24, - Speaking Tests for Grades 1, 2, and 4.

January 24- Early Release

January 27- No School

January 29-31, Speaking tests for Grades 3, 4, 5

February 3-7- Writing tests for grades 1-5

February 10-11- Writing tests for Grades 1-5

If your child is absent on a testing date, they will take the test on a make-up date.
The testing schedule is subject to change and contingent on no snow days.

Please remember to make sure your child has a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast each day!

Thank you for your support!

Mrs. Julie Petrossian

Ms. Alison Pluznik

Mrs. Vivian Hu

Grade 3 Families...

Attention Parent of Students in Third Grade!

Montgomery County Public Schools offers enriched and accelerated opportunities for rising Grade 4 and 5 students at the local elementary schools as well as in the Centers for Enriched Studies (CES) programs. The CES focuses on enrichment and acceleration in the areas of reading, language arts, science, and social studies, utilizing above grade level materials and instructional standards from gifted research. There are nine regional and four local CES sites, all of which have limited seats and eligibility based on home address.

The CES process includes a central review of all Grade 3 students. Students whose academic profile demonstrates an instructional need for enriched and accelerated instruction will be evaluated for a seat in the CES program. If your Grade 3 student is not recommended for evaluation, you may request that your student be evaluated (includes testing), for the program. Multiple criteria, which may include report card data, national and local assessments, and student voice, will be used to identify students for recommendation into the CES program. All parents/guardians of Grade 3 students will be notified of the results of this central review in early February 2020. Testing will take place at Bethesda ES on **February 25, 2020**. Selection results will be mailed in early April. Grade 3 students who are recommended for placement in one of the CES sites will have the option to accept or decline the placement for Grade 4.

For more information, parents/guardians of Grade 3 students are invited to attend an information meeting regarding the program and admission process. This meeting will be available in English and Spanish. The presentation will be streamed live on the MCPS homepage, and if connectivity issues occur, the video recording of the presentation will be made available on the MCPS website. The meeting will be held at:

Gaithersburg High School, Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
101 Education Blvd, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

For additional information:

- Visit the following website for the timeline and frequently asked questions: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/elementary/>
- Contact a team member at the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services (DCCAPS) at 240-740-2540, or DCCAPS@mcpsmd.org.