



BRADLEY HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

240-204-5210

Great Teaching, Great Learning, Every Child, Every Day

January 4, 2021

Principal's Corner



By Karen Caroscio

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a chance to disconnect from the screen and spend time with their families. I am sure we are all happy to put 2020 behind us. We hope that 2021 will usher in much needed improvements to the health metrics, so that we can start bringing our students back in the building. Regardless of the challenges of our current situation, we hope that all of our students will continue to do his/her best to be engaged in learning, connect with the learning community, and thrive.

Bradley Hills ES partnered with Manna Food Center's Kids Helping Kids Campaign. It contributed \$2,346 to this virtual food drive, which will generate roughly 94 meals for families in need in Montgomery County. We look forward to partnering with Manna on future campaigns to end food insecurity for thousands of our neighbors. A huge thank you to Becky Trent and Veronica Velez-Burgess, for organizing a very successful virtual food drive to benefit Mana Center's Kids Helping Kids. Special thanks to our BHES Community!

Thank you to Bradley Hills families who donated to the PTA Community Service warm clothing drive for our sister school, Weller Road Elementary. A special thanks to our sorting/bagging student helpers. On December 10th, we delivered two stuffed SUV's worth of clothing and filled the shelves of the storage room at Weller Road. These clothes will be distributed through the Linkages program and through a network of school counselors.

Exercise Your Brain (EYB) Whale Pods continue to meet virtually. Students make projects at home and sign up to share their work with peers. Past EYB presentations include hand-sewn doll's clothes, a bamboo and palm leaf teepee/reading nook, Star Wars helmet and costume made from toilet paper rolls and silver tape, a wooden foosball table, a movable jellyfish box scene, a slide show presentation about Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and a slide show with instructions on how to draw a ghost, among other creative hand-made crafts. EYB pods are facilitated by the PTA Enrichment Committee.

On December 23, Mrs. Swinehart led a first virtual Winter Sing Along. Students, families, and staff joined in virtually and sang our favorite winter holiday songs. Kudos to our fifth grade students who did a fantastic job introducing the songs! Thank you to Mrs. Swinehart and congratulations for another successful sing along! And thank you to Mrs. Park for her technical expertise.

BRADLEY HILLS READATHON



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The virtual Readathon will take place until January 10th, 2020. The purpose of the Readathon is to motivate students to reach reading goals, to bring our community together in celebration of literacy, and to raise funds for our PTA and our community service programs.

To encourage friendly competition, we created two teams composed of two classrooms per grade: Blue Whales and Humpbacks. We are using Read-a-thon.com for students to track reading minutes and share achievements with sponsors.

The virtual Reading Trivia Game Show with teacher contestants will take place on January 13th. BHES's Barnes & Noble Book Fair raises funds to purchase books for BH and Weller Road.

The Readathon is a chance to cozy up to read over winter break, log minutes, and share reading progress with grandparents, family, and friends, and get excited about reading goals and supporting BHES!

COMPETITION OPEN TO ARTISTIC CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCATES

Montgomery County is hosting a competition for artwork to be featured in its climate action plan.

The competition is open to students and county residents of all ages.

Submissions can be photos, drawings, poems, videos and original memes that invoke the need to protect the community from climate change.

Artists may submit work in any of the following categories:

- **Engage!**—What is the connection between community and climate?
- **Sound the Climate Alarm!**—Capture the emergency of climate change.
- **Adaptation and Resilience**—How can our community adapt to a rapidly changing world?
- **Environmental/Climate Justice and Racial Equity**—Capture the inequalities exacerbated by climate change and highlight the voices of the historically marginalized.
- **Future Vision of Montgomery County**—What will the county look like in 2035 if it meets the greenhouse gas reduction goals in an equitable way? The contest encourages submissions of digital art to create future landscapes, concept art and your utopias.

The deadline is Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021. Winners will receive \$100 and their work may be featured on the county's climate change plan and in other materials.

More information, including contest rules, are available [here](#).

YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW!



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The 2020-2021 yearbooks are now on sale. You can order the yearbook online ONLY. Go to **ypay.lifetouch.com** and use yearbook code **11372121** to place your order. Yearbooks are \$25.00 each for softcover.

Yearbook orders must be placed by April 25, 2021. Don't delay- order your yearbook today!

DON'T FORGET TO ACTIVATE YOUR PARENTVUE ACCOUNT

ParentVue is the brand new, powerful, single location for all information about how your child is doing in school. ParentVUE also is a new tool we use to stay connected with you.

When you are logged into ParentVUE you can:

- See your child's schedule;
- Check your child's grades (and report card);
- Check your child's assignments;
- Send a message to your child's teacher; and
- Update your contact information.

Soon, you will even be able to see a report on Student Service Learning Hours (SSL). If you haven't yet activated your account, please be on the lookout for an e-mail and/or a notification via U.S. mail because MCPS will send you a new activation letter. Once you've received your activation letter, simply visit www.MCPSParentVUE.org to activate your account.

SUPERINTENDENT RELEASES RECOMMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2022 OPERATING BUDGET

Superintendent Jack R. Smith is recommending a \$2.713 billion operating budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 that will allow the district to provide a continuation of key services and reflects the significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on operating costs and projected revenues.

This budget recommendation is a decrease of \$42.6 million and a 1.5 percent decrease compared to the current fiscal year.

Watch the Superintendent's Operating Budget Video [Presentation](#)
See the FY 2022 Budget Highlights [One-pager](#)



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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MCPS has experienced a significant change in enrollment as a result of families selecting other sources of education. The district's official enrollment as of Sept. 30, 2020, is 160,564, which is more than 3,600 fewer kindergarten through grade 12 students than were enrolled in 2019. Based on state law, this would result in a decrease of \$39.8 million in local contribution revenue from Montgomery County for FY 2022. The district anticipates that the majority of these families will re-enroll in MCPS next school year.

“The MCPS operating budget recommendation for FY 2022 is the work we must do for our students and staff,” Smith said. “This operating budget is a moral document and a reflection of our values and the high expectations we have for ourselves in support of our students; it is what our community expects for Montgomery County Public Schools.”

Additional areas of concern for the FY 2022 budget:

- Decreased revenue projections for both the state of Maryland and Montgomery County
- Potential loss of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan Commission funding)
- Projected post-pandemic enrollment return of 2,500-3,000 students
- Post-pandemic surge in employee health care costs due to delayed medical procedures

Other important considerations driving this budget request:

- Maintaining critical staffing levels for students returning to MCPS
- Providing mental health and social-emotional supports for students and staff
- Providing additional supports to combat learning loss and assist struggling learners
- Making needed investments in technology to support continued virtual learning where appropriate

The recommended FY 2022 operating budget continues the focus on students, classrooms and schools and is centered on the MCPS core purpose of preparing all students to thrive in their future.

The MCPS operating budget for FY 2022 will be revisited throughout the budget season as more becomes known about state and local factors.

The full recommended budget will be posted on the [MCPS website](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/).
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/>

The timeline for the FY 2022 operating budget is:



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- Monday, Jan. 11: Operating budget public hearing
- Thursday, Jan. 14: Operating budget work session
- Tuesday, Jan. 19: Operating budget public hearing
- Thursday, Jan. 21: Operating budget work session
- Monday, Jan. 25: Operating budget work session
- Late February: Tentative adoption of recommended operating budget
- Monday, March 15: County Executive to release recommended operating budget
- Thursday, May 20: Montgomery County Council approves operating budget
- Thursday, June 10: Board of Education to adopt final FY 2022 operating budget

Ask an operating budget [question](#).

NO THIRD GRADE COGAT TESTING THIS YEAR

Due to the pandemic and the ongoing remote instruction setting, MCPS and other school districts in Maryland have decided not to administer the COGAT this year. The challenges to administering the assessment include test security and equity and access issues that arise with various remote testing conditions.

In order to get a picture of each student's academic profile, MCPS will use data collected pre-Covid and in 2020. This set of data will provide a holistic view of students and their academic needs. Placement for the Center for Enriched Studies at Chevy Chase ES will use both a central office expert panel committee and a lottery. The lottery pool will consist of students who demonstrate a need for enriched and accelerated instruction. All students who are in the lottery pool will either be placed in regional (CCES) or local enriched programming (BHES Enriched Literacy Class).

There will be an information meeting on January 13th. No information about the meeting is available at this time. The universal review will take place in February 2021. Families will be notified of their status in March 2021. Families of third graders should receive information from MCPS today regarding this process.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	School Events
January 1, 2021	Winter Break
January 5, 2021	PTA Meeting (Virtual) – 7:30 p.m.
January 10, 2021	BHES Readathon Ends



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Date	School Events
January 14, 2021	Principal Q&A – 7:00 p.m.
January 18, 2021	Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed
January 21, 2021	Whitman Cluster Concert – 6:30 p.m.
January 29, 2021	Professional Day for Teachers – No School for Students
January 29, 2021	End of Marking Period 2
February 9, 2021	Report Cards Available in ParentVUE
February 10, 2021	Valentine’s Day Class Parties – 9:45 a.m.
February 12, 2021	Professional Day for Teachers – No School for Students
February 15, 2021	No School – Holiday
March 1-5, 2021	Read Across America Week