



BRADLEY HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

240-204-5210

Great Teaching, Great Learning, Every Child, Every Day

February 1, 2020

Principal's Corner



By Karen Caroscio

It is hard to believe that we have already completed the first half of the school year! Our students learned a lot academically, socially, and emotionally, and are continuing to develop their characters. As always, please spend some time with your children to reflect on what worked well and what they could improve in the second semester. We started the third marking period on January 28th and are off to a great start! We encourage parents to use the language of Growth Mindset to help their children focus on their continuous progress and improvement.

Please continue to send students with warm coats, hats, and gloves when the temperature drops. Students will be outside for recess unless temperatures are in the single digits or it is actively raining or snowing. If your child is missing any articles of clothing, please stop by the Lost and Found in the cafeteria. Many students leave articles of clothing outside at recess - even with repeated reminders to get their coats. Please talk with your children about being responsible for their belongings.

Congratulations to Ryan Mosleh for winning the 2020 BHES School Spelling Bee, and to Sahana Sehgal for coming in second. Ryan will represent BHES at the regional school spelling bee at Bullis on March 7, 2020. Feel free to come out and cheer him on! The competition begins at 10:00 a.m.

A huge thank you to Elizabeth Haile, Laurie Nadler, Veronica Velez Burgess and Narges Esfhani for all their work with organizing our school spelling bee. A special thanks to Ms. Paul for running our school spelling bee.

Our Readathon was an amazing achievement and brought us together as a community of readers! We logged 411,573 minutes, 497 students (88%) created pages, got 380 sponsors, and raised \$11,970.95! The top three classes who will get pizza parties: Ms. Kemper, Ms. Kim, and Mr. Leavitt. Congratulations to you! The Humpback Whales reading team logged the most minutes. Ms. Cho is the staff reader who logged the most minutes. She logged a stunning 8,520 minutes! The following students logged more than 5,000 reading minutes: Zoey Rees (5th grade), Dalia Rees (5th grade), Gwendolyn Goggin (4th grade), and Nina Takemoto (2nd grade). Congratulations to all classes!

Thank you to Veronica Velez-Burgess and Kit Leininger for organizing the Readathon and the Barnes & Noble Readathon event on January 9. Thank you to all parent volunteers who contributed their time at Barnes & Noble!



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EXCUSED/UNEXCUSED ABSENCES AND MISSED WORK

Our teachers strive to provide instruction that is based on data they collect daily in the classroom. For this reason, teachers have general plans a week or more in advance, but usually do not prepare specific materials too far in advance because student needs change daily. If you take a trip during the school year and your child is absent, this is an unexcused absence. Teachers cannot provide advance work for you to take with you.

There are things you can do during an absence that can help your child stay focused on school work. While your child is away, he or she can practice math facts, read for at least thirty minutes a day, and write in a journal to capture their experiences. Students can also use math games that are linked on the BHES website. We encourage families to take trips over breaks provided during the school year.

If a student's absence is excused, the teacher will help the student make up missed work. Excused absences include illness, a religious observance, or a death in the immediate family. You can view the full list of circumstances that qualify as an excused absence on pages three and four of the MCPS policy on student attendance:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/jeara.pdf>.

The Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities also provides information about excused absences, unexcused absences, and county policies on making up missed assignments:

https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/students/rights/1318%2019_StudentRightsAndResponsibilities_Web.pdf.

BHES VARIETY SHOW SIGN UP

It's one of the most popular events of the year, and act submission started on Monday, January 27th. Please keep an eye on your whale folder or look in your email for a note from Lauren Levinson and Cindy Li on how to submit an audition. And we need Parent and SSL volunteers - sign up here: <https://forms.gle/mbWXFyaXkHaoHq1F9>. For any questions, please reach out to bhesvariety2020@gmail.com. Reminder: the show is on **April 18** at **Walter Johnson High School!**

WORLD LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

MCPS offers Spanish, French, and Chinese elementary immersion programs at seven schools. Some immersion programs are based on geographic location and/or give preference to local school



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students. Some programs are total immersion, meaning all core subjects are taught in the target language, while others are only partial immersion.

Any student entering grades K–5 in the following school year may participate in the immersion lottery. Students may choose to continue into the feeder middle school immersion program.

Interested in an immersion program for 2020-21? Complete the immersion interest form available now. For more information, call 240-740-2540.

For additional information about the immersion program, visit the link below.

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/immersion.aspx>

YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW!

The 2019-2020 yearbooks are now on sale. You can **ONLY** order the yearbook online until April 19, 2020. Go to ybpay.lifetouch.com and use yearbook code **11372120** to place your order. Yearbooks are \$25.00 each for softcover. You can upgrade for \$6.00 more or purchase a package with additional items. A flyer will be sent home with all the pricing information.

Please remember, yearbooks are only available online. There will **NOT** be any copies for sale after the **April 19, 2020**, deadline. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Kemper, Yearbook Sponsor, at Jamie_M_Kemper@mcpsmd.org.

WINTER WEATHER

With the possibility of inclement winter weather, be sure to stay aware of school closures, delayed openings, and early dismissals that may occur. It is very important for each student to know in advance how they will get home in these instances.

Be sure to sign up for Alert MCPS if you have not already done so to get the latest news impacting the school system. The site also contains choices for weather and traffic alerts. Use this link to sign up: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832009#/signup>

You can also get information on school closures from:

- The MCPS website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org>
- MCPS Newsfeed
- E-mail notification through MCPS QuickNotes



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February 1, 2020

HELP IMPROVE HOW YOU GET INFORMATION FROM MCPS

How do you like to receive news and information? What MCPS news is important to you? Take this [survey](#) about your communication preferences. Your responses will be used to improve how you get new and information from MCPS.

SIXTH GRADE REGISTRATION AT PYLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Counselors from Pyle Middle School met with our fifth graders at the end of January to provide an overview of life in middle school and discuss their options. Fifth grade students should have brought a registration information packet home, and teachers have sent home additional information on how to register. Online registration for rising sixth graders is open from January 28th through February 12th.

ATTENTION INCOMING 6TH GRADE STUDENTS!

Please consider joining the award-winning Pyle Chorus by selecting 6th grade treble chorus as one of your electives! No experience necessary.

- Sing current music : Pentatonix, Hamilton, Greatest Showman, Wicked, Frozen.
- Sing a variety of music: pop, spirituals, classical, world music.
- Be part of a team and make friends in a class you will love!
- Travel. Past trips include, Broadway (NYC), Busch Gardens, Hershey Park, county and state competitions.
- Work with Broadway musicians and choral experts.
- Learn to sing in other languages.
- Compete against other choirs and win awards!
- Small homework load (just being honest...) but you will be expected to practice at home and keep a practice log!

Still unsure? Already signed up? Questions? Contact Mr. Tilkins at:
mailto:Zachary_J_Tilkens@mcpsmd.org. Instagram- pylechorus

FREE SCREENING OF DOCUMENTARY *SCREENAGERS*

The Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations, Inc. (MCCPTA) Safe Technology Committee, in partnership with Ridgeview Middle School, is hosting a free screening of the documentary *Screenagers* at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4. The screening will be held at



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Ridgeview Middle School. Parents/guardians, students, and staff are invited to this event to learn more about social media's effects on children. Please RSVP to safetech@mccpta.org.

SUPERINTENDENT SMITH RECOMMENDS \$2.8 BILLION OPERATING BUDGET

Superintendent Jack R. Smith is recommending a \$2.8 billion operating budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 that will allow the district to manage significant growth and ensure that students have the access and opportunity they need to meet their full potential. The recommended operating budget for FY 2021 is a \$121 million (4.5 percent) increase over FY 2020. Most of the recommended spending increase will be used to provide services to a growing number of students; fund ongoing salaries and benefits; and manage increasing operational costs.

The recommendation also includes \$23.7 million to expand and implement strategic key bodies of work including expansion of Head Start and full-day prekindergarten programs; increasing exposure to language opportunities; and increasing investment in support for English Language Learners.

The Board will take action on the recommended budget on February 10, 2020.

Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/ for more information.

KIDS HEART CHALLENGE (JUMP ROPE FOR HEART)

Mark your calendar, tell Alexa to remind you, do whatever it takes because our entire school is about to officially kick-off our first ever Kids Heart Challenge with the American Heart Association! Last year, we jumped rope for heart, and you better believe we're going to continue JUMPING ROPE to help those with special hearts! But this year, we have even more fun activities and ways to learn about heart health and save lives.

For more than 40 years, the American Heart Association has supported schools like ours. And in the first week of February, on Monday, February 3rd, they'll be coming to Bradley Hills ES for our school assembly to help kick-off our Kids Heart Challenge event. We will learn about the Heart Heroes, how the heart works, how exercise can be fun and how raising money can save lives. You don't want to miss it!

Visit <http://www2.heart.org/goto/bhes2020> to get a head start!

COUNCILMEMBER RICE TO HOST FORUMS ON THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY



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240-204-5210

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February 1, 2020

Montgomery County residents are invited to participate in two upcoming meetings on the state of education in Montgomery County. The forums, hosted by councilmember Craig Rice, will provide an opportunity for community members to learn about academic readiness, career pathways, and work-based learning opportunities that take our students from prekindergarten to jobs. The meetings will be held on Wednesday, March 4 at Northwood High School. Dr. Smith, Montgomery College President Dr. DeRionne Pollard, and Dr. Stewart Edelstein, executive director of the Universities of Shady Grove, will participate in the conversation.

CENTERS FOR ENRICHED STUDIES (CES) TEST FOR GRADE 3 IN FEBRUARY

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. Please find a detailed description of the process below.

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. Bradley Hills Elementary students will take the CES test on **February 20, 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 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.

ANNUAL BHES HERITAGE NIGHT ON MARCH 19



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Save the date for the annual BHES Heritage Night, which will be held on Thursday evening March 19. All returning and new table hosts are welcome!

MARYLAND SCIENCE INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT (MISA) FOR GRADE 5

Each year, fifth grade students are required to take a state science assessment. This year, students will take the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) online. This assessment will test knowledge of scientific processes, data analysis, and instructional content. The assessment consists of four sessions. Each session is forty minutes in length. Fifth grade students will take the test on March 9th and 10th. There is no opt out option on this assessment.

GRADE 2 COGNITIVE ABILITIES TEST (COGAT®)

All MCPS students in Grade 2 will participate in the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT®) online test from March 16th to March 31st. The CogAT® Screener consists of one subtest in each area: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Nonverbal Reasoning.

Cognitive assessments measure developed, not innate, reasoning abilities. The CogAT® assessment can help guide teachers to adapt instruction and provide appropriate critical thinking learning opportunities. CogAT® does not measure factors such as effort, attention, motivation, or work habits.

Verbal Reasoning

Measures flexibility, fluency, and adaptability in reasoning with verbal materials and in solving verbal problems. These reasoning abilities play an important role in reading comprehension, critical thinking, writing, and virtually all verbal learning tasks.

Quantitative Reasoning

Measures quantitative reasoning skills; flexibility and fluency in working with quantitative symbols and concepts; and the ability to organize, structure, and give meaning to an unordered set of numerals and mathematical symbols. These reasoning skills are significantly related to problem solving in mathematics and other disciplines.

Non-Verbal Reasoning

Measures reasoning using geometric shapes and figures. To perform successfully, students must invent strategies for solving new problems. They must be flexible in using these strategies and accurate in implementing them.



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February 1, 2020

CogAT® scores are reported as an age-normed national percentiles. For example, if a student scores at the 60th percentile, the student performed better than 60 percent of students of his/her age, nationally, that took this assessment. For purposes of gifted and talented identification in MCPS, an overall composite score at the 90th percentile or higher is one indicator. Bradley Hills Elementary second grade students will take the CogAT® on **March 16, 2020**.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARDS

The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking nominations from the public for its 23rd Annual Awards for Distinguished Service to Public Education. The awards are sponsored by the Board to recognize and show appreciation to individuals (including students), groups, and organizations that have made exemplary contributions to public education in Montgomery County.

Nominations will be accepted in the following categories:

- business
- community individual (which can include students)
- community group
- MCPS staff
- school service volunteer
- individual pioneer

Nominations in other categories must be of individuals (including MCPS students), groups, or organizations that have, within the past three years, provided service, support, and commitment to public education as demonstrated by:

- an outstanding contribution of time and expertise to school system programs,
- development and/or implementation of an exemplary program or project, or
- a contribution that results in systemwide benefit.

Nomination forms are available on the Board of Education website or from the Board office. Completed nomination forms must be received in the Board of Education office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 6. More information is available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/community/awards/.

NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS OPEN TO STEM TEACHERS



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The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are the highest honors given by the U.S. government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching. The awards were established by Congress in 1983.

The awards recognize teachers who have deep content knowledge of the subjects they teach and the ability to motivate and enable students to be successful in those areas. Since the program's inception, more than 4,800 teachers have been recognized for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession.

Parents/guardians, students, or members of the general public may nominate exceptional individuals who teach science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science in Grades K-6 for this award year. Applicants must hold at least a bachelor's degree and have at least five years of teaching experience. The nomination deadline is Sunday, March 1. The application deadline is Friday, May 1.

Winners receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation, along with recognition and professional development opportunities. For more information and to complete a nomination form, visit www.paemst.org/nomination/nominate.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	School Events
February 1, 2020	Skate Night – Cabin John Ice Rink – 6:30 p.m.
February 3, 2020	Heart Challenge Assembly
February 4, 2020	Report Card Distribution
February 4, 2020	PTA Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
February 5, 2020	Patrol Assembly
February 7, 2020	Prospective Parents Open House – 9:30 a.m.
February 7, 2020	Birthday Bash – 2:30 p.m.
February 14, 2020	“Human Beatbox Christylez Bacon” Assembly
February 14, 2020	Valentine’s Day Class Parties – 2:30 p.m.
February 17, 2020	No School – Presidents’ Day
February 20, 2020	Gr. 3 Centers for Enriched Studies (CES) Cognitive Abilities (CogAT®) Test
February 21, 2020	PTA Movie Night – 7:00 p.m.
February 26, 2020	Gr. 1 Field Trip – Imagination Stage
February 28, 2020	Early Release Day – Dismissal at 12:55 p.m.
March 3, 2020	Gr. 3-5 Assembly – 5 th Grade Play



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240-204-5210

Great Teaching, Great Learning, Every Child, Every Day

February 1, 2020

Date	School Events
March 3, 2020	PTA Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
March 5, 2020	Gr. 2 Field Trip – Imagination Stage
March 5, 2020	Interims Available on myMCPS Parent and Student Portals
March 6, 2020	Birthday Bash – 2:30 p.m.
March 9-10, 2020	Gr. 5 Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA)
March 13, 2020	Spring Pictures
March 16, 2020	Gr. 2 Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT®)
March 16-18, 2020	Vision and Hearing Screening
March 19, 2020	Heritage Night – 7:00 p.m.
March 23-27, 2020	Wellness Week
March 23, 2020	Justin Beak STEM Assembly (Rescheduled due to inclement weather delayed opening)
March 25, 2020	Gr. 2 Bar-T Mountainside Field Trip (In-House)
March 27, 2020	Early Release Day – Dismissal at 12:55 p.m.
March 27, 2020	End of Marking Period 3