



BRADLEY HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

240-204-5210

Great Teaching, Great Learning, Every Child, Every Day

March 2, 2020

Principal's Corner



By Karen Caroscio

Spring is around the corner! If you look closely, you can see the buds on the trees and the flowers starting to peek their heads out. Please continue to watch the weather and make sure that your child is dressed appropriately every day. Weather permitting, we take our students outside for recess at every opportunity, so they are physically active. We want our students to be able to focus on their learning in the classroom.

Please ensure the school has your most up-to-date contact information, as well as a phone number for any emergency contacts that you have listed. If you have not been receiving email messages from the school administration, it probably means we do not have an accurate email address on file. You may also want to check the setting to ensure that you have not opted out from receiving emails. In case of an emergency, we want to ensure we can get in touch with you. To make any changes, contact Mrs. Donnellan at [Ruth T Donnellan@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Ruth.T.Donnellan@mcpsmd.org). Or you can make changes directly in the Parent Portal. Speaking of the Parent Portal, MCPS is changing several of their data systems this summer. The Parent Portal will also change. Stay tuned for more information about how to transition to the new system.

We had a great evening of fun at PTA Skate Night on February 1st. Many students also enjoyed themselves at the PTA Movie Night on February 21st. Thank you to all PTA volunteers who organized and helped out at these events!

The PTA also sponsored a visit by an amazing performer at a school-wide assembly on Feb 14th. Christylez Bacon is a GRAMMY® Nominated Progressive Hip-Hop artist and multi-instrumentalist from Southeast, Washington, DC. Christylez multi-tasks between various instruments such as the West African djembe drum, acoustic guitar, and the human beat-box (oral percussion), all while continuing the oral tradition of storytelling through his lyrics. For more information, visit:

<https://www.goartivate.org/product/christylez-bacon/>

<http://www.christylez.com/#media>

Thank you to the parent volunteers who made this event happen!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

The new date for the PTA general meeting is Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30 in the media center. Parents will be voting on the Nominating Committee (we are still eager to have members), and experienced volunteer PTA committee chairs will be in attendance to talk about their volunteer



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experience. I encourage parents who have thought about volunteering or taking on more of a leadership role with the PTA to come to this meeting to learn more. And for those parents with children in the younger grades (K-2) who will be around BHES for a while, the time is now! The PTA would love to have your help.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ABOUT RACE AND EQUITY: REDIRECTING MICROAGGRESSIONS (HOSTED BY WOOD ACRES ES)

Please join The Wood Acres' PTA's Minority Outreach Committee on Tuesday, March 3rd from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Wood Acres ES Media Center. The committee will sponsor another talk as a part of The Courageous Conversation series, which was started a few years ago. The topic will be: *Redirecting Microaggressions*. This workshop will explore microaggressions and how to create safe, brave, and equitable spaces to enhance and support student learning.

Together we will:

- Develop a common definition for microaggression;
- Discuss how microaggressions happen, how they are experienced, and how they impact the work that we do as educators and parents; and
- Practice the use of tools create a more equitable and inclusive community.

It would help us greatly in our planning if you would kindly complete this Google form to both rsvp and share your level of knowledge about some of the content before we meet. Click here to begin- [Tuesday, March 3rd PTA Meeting \(Discussion sponsored by The Minority Outreach Committee\) - RSVP & Survey](#)

We are delighted to have facilitator Dr. Arvenita Washington Cherry Ph.D to help lead our discussion.

Bio:

Dr. Arvenita Washington Cherry is a socio-cultural and educational anthropologist with expertise on the African Diaspora, and topics of race, ethnicity, and racism, in addition to equity and inclusion. As founder of Phoenix Cultural Resources, LLC, she has been consulting, training, and providing assessment and evaluation on social justice issues for 16 years, working with nonprofit and for-profit organizations, museums, and in philanthropy. In addition to her consulting and research, Dr. Washington Cherry has designed and taught several courses on race, racism, race relations, gender, and research methods. Dr. Washington Cherry received a Doctor of Philosophy



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degree in Anthropology with a concentration in Race, Gender, and Social Justice and with the highest honor of Distinction from The American University.

Dr. Washington Cherry earned a Master of Arts degree in Public Anthropology, also from The American University, and a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Studies from Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Washington Cherry also holds a Master of Teaching Middle/Secondary Biology and Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology from Hampton University. She has completed a competitive post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Maryland Baltimore County in the Department of Africana Studies and with the Language, Literacy and Culture Program as well as a Scholar-in-Residence Program at the Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center. She currently is faculty at both American University and the University of Maryland Global Campus.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Kenda Kittrell Chavis, chair of The Minority Outreach Committee at kenkitt2@yahoo.com. This talk is open to all members of the Wood Acres PTA, cluster schools and educators.

DATE CHANGE: GRADE 2 COGNITIVE ABILITIES TEST (COGAT®) on MARCH 17

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



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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.

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 **Tuesday, March 17, 2020**.

BHES HERITAGE NIGHT ON MARCH 19!

Your Heritage Night 2020 Trip itinerary is almost complete!

Currently we have you and your family scheduled to travel to over 25 different countries on Thursday, March 19th.

You will depart at 7:00 p.m. from the BHES All Purpose Room (APR) and gym. And there will be entertainment during your travels, a salsa expedition from Salsa with Silvia.

A few final details about your trip:

1/ If you would like to add another destination to your trip, please email bheshheritagenight@gmail.com by **Friday, March 6th**. Due to passport printing arrangements, we can not accept additional country table hosts after this deadline.

2/ If you'd like to share your favorite recipe from the country you're representing, please email Florence Kasule @florence_kasule by Friday, March 13th.

3/ We are fully booked for SSL volunteers and parent night of volunteers.

The hallways will also have student projects on display. Parents are responsible for watching their children during the evening so please don't drop off your children and leave.



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We look forward to seeing you there!

DATE CHANGE: MARYLAND INTEGRATED SCIENCE ASSESSMENT (MISA) ON MARCH 23 & 24

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. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) changed the testing window. Therefore, our fifth grade students will take the test on **March 23rd and 24th**. There is no opt out option on this assessment.

2020 MARYLAND SCHOOL SURVEY FOR GRADE 5 STUDENTS IN MARCH

Maryland requires that all public schools survey students about school climate. Last year the Maryland School Survey was administered with great success and data has been shared with schools. The purpose of the survey is to gain valuable information about the quality and character of each school's learning environment so that schools can promote a climate that supports student learning.

Students will take the survey during regular school hours on **March 27, 2020**. The survey will take about 30 minutes and will ask students about topics such as student engagement, interactions with adults and with other students in the school, the school environment, bullying, and safety. The survey will not ask about a student's personal experiences and students will not be asked to provide any information that might violate his or her privacy.

The survey is confidential and school personnel will not have access to the responses of specific students. The responses your child provides will be combined with the responses from other students in the school, and results will be reported for each school and district.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Ms. Cho at EunHee_Cho@mcpsmd.org.

ANNUAL EXTRAORDINARY MINDS IN MCPS FORUM SET FOR MARCH 18

The 12th annual Extraordinary Minds in MCPS Forum will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18 at Julius West Middle School, 651 Great Falls Road in Rockville.



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The event informs parents/guardians about public school placements and services for students across the autism spectrum in Montgomery County, and helps parents participate meaningfully as members of their child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team.

The event will be hosted by the Partnership for Extraordinary Minds. It will feature several breakout sessions for parents/guardians. Topics will include: reading comprehension strategies; organizational skills; functional behavior assessments and behavior intervention plans; transition planning; improving social skills; and the alternative learning outcomes curriculum.

Childcare will be provided at this event. Visit [this website](#) for more information and to register.

K-12 POSTER CONTEST

The month of May is officially designated as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. During that month, we learn about the history of AAPIs since their arrival in the United States in the mid-1800's, recalling their challenge and celebrating their contributions to American society.

All Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students K-12 are invited to submit artwork for a poster that features a notable Asian American and his/her contributions. The entries will be judged by community art/art performance professionals in a poster contest.

First place (\$100), second place (\$75) and third place (\$50) winners will be selected for each of the elementary, middle and high school categories for a total nine awards.

Click [here](#) for additional details, application, and consent and release form.

2020-2021 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION TO BEGIN ON APRIL 1ST

Bradley Hills ES kindergarten registration for the 2020-2021 school year begins April 1st. If you have a child who will begin kindergarten at Bradley Hills ES in the fall of 2020, be sure to stop by the office at 8701 Hartsdale Avenue to schedule an appointment for Kindergarten Orientation and pick up an information packet. Help us spread the word to neighbors if you know someone who has a child who will attend kindergarten in the fall!

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION



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This year's Kindergarten Orientation will be held on **Thursday and Friday, April 30th and May 1st**. There will be no school on those dates for current kindergarten students.

YEARBOOK SALES THROUGH APRIL 19TH

There are only seven more weeks left to order the 2019-2020 Bradley Hills yearbook. 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](mailto:Jamie_M_Kemper@mcpsmd.org).

BOARD OF EDUCATION TENTATIVELY ADOPTS FISCAL YEAR 2021 OPERATING BUDGET

The Board of Education unanimously voted Monday, February 10 to tentatively adopt a \$2.805 billion budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. This includes an increase of \$124.1 million from FY 2020. The budget will allow MCPS to manage significant enrollment growth and focus on strategic investments to address disparities in student achievement. Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/ to learn more.

EQUITY AND ACHIEVEMENT FEEDBACK FORM

MCPS parents and guardians are asked to complete a brief feedback form to share insights and recommendations on the district's allocation and use of resources to promote equity. Read the summary of the study's insights and findings [here](#). Complete the feedback form [here](#).

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM TESTING SCHEDULE

Beginning at the end of April, all students in grades three through five will take the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) English language arts/literacy and Mathematics tests. This will include four sessions of English language arts/literacy (ELA) and four sessions of Mathematics. There is no opt out option on these tests. The tests will be administered on the following dates.



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2020 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAP) Test Dates

April 20	April 21 3 rd Grade – ELA 4 th Grade – ELA	April 22 3 rd Grade - ELA 4 th Grade - ELA	April 23 Make-up Testing	April 24 Make-up Testing
April 27 3 rd Grade - ELA 4 th Grade – ELA	April 28 No School	April 29 3 rd Grade - ELA	April 30 4 th Grade - ELA	May 1 Make-up Testing
May 4 5 th Grade – ELA Make-up Testing	May 5 5 th Grade – ELA Make-up Testing	May 6 Make-up Testing	May 7 5 th Grade – ELA Make-up Testing	May 8 5 th Grade – ELA Make-up Testing
May 11 3 rd Grade - Math 4 th Grade - Math	May 12 3 rd Grade - Math 4 th Grade - Math	May 13	May 14 3 rd Grade - Math 4 th Grade - Math	May 15 3 rd Grade - Math 4 th Grade - Math
May 18 5 th Grade – Math Make-up Testing	May 19 5 th Grade – Math Make-up Testing	May 20	May 21 Make-up Testing	May 22
May 25 No School	May 26 Make-up Testing	May 27 Make-up Testing	May 28 Make-up Testing	May 29
June 1 Make-up Testing	June 2 Make-up Testing	June 3 Make-up Testing	June 4 Make-up Testing	June 5

On days your child is scheduled for a session, please ensure he/she is at school on time. **Students cannot enter a test once it has started.** Any children who arrive late will have to sit in the main office until their class has finished testing. They will also have to be pulled out from class to make up the test at a later time. Please also ensure your child comes to school well rested and having eaten a healthy breakfast and do his or her best work on the test.



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SPRING THEATER SCHEDULE

The curtain is rising on spring theater productions throughout the school system, at middle schools and high schools. Get your tickets now to see these great performances, which begin in early March and run into May. From “Mamma Mia!” and “Frozen” to “The Great Gatsby” and “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr.” there’s something on stage for everyone. Visit

news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2019%E2%80%932020-Spring-Theater-Schedule.pdf to see a list of productions.

SURVEY OPEN TO SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS

Parents or guardians of children receiving special education and related services (such as speech, physical, or occupational therapy, etc.) are asked to complete this year’s Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey. The information you provide will help guide the state’s efforts in improving special education and related services in public schools. Complete one survey for each child receiving services. The survey is anonymous and can be completed online at

www.mdparentsurvey.com/.

The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, May 15. View more information at the following links:

[Maryland Preschool Special Education Parent Involvement Survey](#)
[Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey](#)

RESPECTFEST CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

The 11th Annual [Choose Respect Montgomery RespectFEST Conference](#) will be held on Sunday, March 29, at the Wheaton Community Recreation Center. The event, which examines issues surrounding teen dating violence, will include a resource fair; yoga and self-defense demonstrations; games and activities; and interactive workshops for students, parents/guardians, educators, and youth service providers.

One in three teens in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner; this number far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence. Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.

For more information and to register visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect/.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	School Events
March 3, 2020	Gr. 3-5 Assembly – 5 th Grade Play
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 10, 2020	PTA Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
March 13, 2020	Spring Pictures
March 16-18, 2020	Vision and Hearing Screening
March 17, 2020	Gr. 2 Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) – DATE CHANGE
March 19, 2020	Heritage Night – 7:00 p.m.
March 23, 2020	Justin Beak STEM Assembly (Rescheduled due to inclement weather delayed opening)
March 23-24, 2020	Gr. 5 Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) – DATE CHANGE
March 25, 2020	Gr. 2 Bar-T Mountainside Field Trip (In-House)
March 27, 2020	Early Release Day – 12:55 p.m.
March 27, 2020	End of Marking Period 3
April 1, 2020	Kindergarten Registration Begins
April 2, 2020	Marc Nobleman Author Visit
April 2, 2020	PTA Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
April 6-13, 2020	No School – Spring Break
April 15, 2020	Report Card Distribution
April 17, 2020	Prospective Parent Open House – 9:30 a.m.
April 17, 2020	Birthday Bash – 2:30 p.m.
April 18, 2020	Variety Show at Walter Johnson High School
April 19, 2020	Last Day to Order Yearbooks
April 20, 2020	Vision and Hearing Rescreening
April 21-May 19, 2020	Gr. 3-5 – Maryland Comprehensive Assessment System: English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics
April 26, 2020	Bradley Beautiful (Green Team)
April 27-30, 2020	Spring Book Fair
April 28, 2020	No School
April 29, 2020	Gr. 5 Panoramic Picture
April 30-May 1, 2020	Kindergarten Orientation – No School for Kindergarten Students