



*Burnt Mills Elementary School
~Principal's Monthly Newsletter~
February 2020*

Dr. Stacy Ashton, principal

Mr. Troy Clarke, assistant principal

Important Events to Remember

2/3-2/14	Happy Gram Sales: Fruit Roll Ups \$1/each (Grade 5 fundraiser)
2/4	Report Card Distribution
2/6	Spanish Immersion Interest Meeting 9:30-11:00 AM
2/12,13,14	Hearing and Vision Screening
2/14	Valentine's Day Parties 2:15-3:15 PM
2/17	HOLIDAY- Schools and Offices Closed
2/18	Cultural Arts Assembly: Lesole's Dance Project: Dancing through South Africa
2/20	Black History Month Poetry Slam 6:30-8:00 PM
2/21	PTA Movie Night - Doors Open @ 5:30 PM
2/24	Kindergarten Workshop (Kindergarten Parents Only) 6:00-8:00 PM
2/27	African American Read-In Chain 10:00-10:45 AM
2/28	Early Release Day @ 12:55 PM

School News

Kindergarten Orientation 2020-2021! We will host our annual **Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, April 23 and Friday, April 24, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** for families with students who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2020. For more information and to register, visit the school website and click on the link, ***Kindergarten Registration 2020-2021***. Kindergarten Orientation focuses on creating a stress-free, informal experience for parents and incoming students. During orientation, parents will have an opportunity to meet teachers, complete registration, and learn briefly about the kindergarten program. Students will have an opportunity to work on kindergarten related tasks and to meet other incoming peers. **Classes WILL BE cancelled on April 23 and 24 for current kindergarten students in order to**

accommodate the orientation days. Please make arrangements for your kindergarten student on those days. Please note that Early Entrance to Kindergarten (EEK) applications will also be accepted for children who will be five years of age between September 2 and October 15, 2020. ***According to MCPS policy, consideration will NOT be given for children with birthdates beyond October 15. There will be NO appeal process for children with birthdates beyond the October 15 window.***

Thank You Burnt Mills Civic Association! Over the past three years, BMES has cultivated a great partnership with the Burnt Mills Civic Association. We are fortunate to have residents in the Burnt Mills community provide monetary donations to support teaching, learning and school operational needs. Because of their generosity we were able to purchase a new John Deere tractor for our building service team. Not to mention, at yesterday's PTA meeting the association presented BMES with another check in the amount of \$1905.00! We are truly grateful and appreciative...THANK YOU!

Valentine's Day Parties: Parties will be held in classrooms on Friday, February 14th from 2:15-3:15 p.m. Classroom teachers will communicate with parents regarding treats, activities and Valentine's Day cards. Please inform your child's teacher if you do not want him/her to participate in the Valentine's Day party as we will have an alternative activity (board games and popcorn) for those students. Parents are welcome to attend the parties!

Black History Month! We invite you to help us honor Black History Month by participating in our annual Black History Month Poetry Slam and 2020 National African American Read-In Chain. The Black History Month Poetry Slam will be held Thursday, February 20th from 6:30p-8:00p. This event features scholars reciting a poem, written by an African American author or poet, to fellow scholars and families. Complete and return the green permission form for your scholar to participate no later than Thursday, February 6th! The National African American Read-In Chain" is endorsed by the International Reading Association and will be held on Thursday, February 27th from 10:00a to 10:45a. This event will consist of reading a book or poem authored by an African American. Guest readers will read to scholars and share thoughts about the book afterwards. Books will be provided by the school, but if there is an appropriate book you would like to share, please let us know so that it can be approved. If you'd like to participate in this year's African American Read-In Chain please contact Ms. Bell or Ms. Quimby by Monday, February 24th.

Staff News

No Staff News at this time

Counselor's Corner from Ms. Bell and Mrs. Dommu

Classroom Guidance: This month we will continue delivering Classroom Guidance around our Core Value of the month, Fairness to Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2 and Bullying to Grade 3, Grade 4 and Grade 5. Last month, our book series "Weird" featured the target of bullying and taught students how to use courage to stand up to bullying. This month, our book will feature the perspective of the bully and teach students to use kindness to achieve happiness.

Updates:

- Small Counseling Groups from Semester 1 have officially come to an end. We will be beginning new small counseling groups for Semester 2. Please look for a permission form, if your child is invited.
- Semester 2 of the fifth-grade girls mentoring group ‘Girls Leading And Motivating’ (GLAM) Squad will begin this month.
- **February 18th through February 21st will be Zones of Regulation Week.** Students will be encouraged to wear Zones of Regulation colors and demonstrate their knowledge of each zone throughout the week as well as participate in an interactive assembly at the end of the week. Please check your child’s Wednesday Folder in the coming weeks for more details.

Reminders:

- You may still sign up for the **Weekend Meal Program**. Please email me or send your student with a note for a sign-up form.
- If your child is in need of a winter coat, please contact Ms. Bell, Mrs. Dommou or Ms. Gordon (parent community coordinator).

Spanish Immersion News from Mrs. Plawner:

Our annual immersion field trip will be held sometime in March. We will be attending a bilingual play at the Gala Theatre in DC. We will see the play “Rigoberta, ¿dónde estás? A Journey through Guatemala.” It is a play about a journey of self-discovery filled with stories, song, and dance. As always, parents who would like to join us, will be able to meet us at the theater. It’s always a great time. Specific date and time TBD.

There are some great new Scholastic books available in both English and Spanish for the spring. We will be ordering Scholastic books on **Friday, February 21**. Please, use the class code **NDR2V** so the immersion team will receive points! We will use these points to add more books to our classroom libraries in Spanish.

Please mark your calendars for our **Spanish Immersion Night 2020!** This year we are excited to announce that our immersion event will be held at Springbrook High School on May 29, 2020 from 5 – 8pm. Details will come out closer to the event date.

PTA News from Mr. Miehlf

Thanks again to all the parents and teachers helping us build a strong PTA. Do you want to have a say in the legislative priorities of the county council? Please consider attending a meeting with others with Action In Montgomery (AIM) who will meet with county council members to discuss what they want to see in Montgomery County. The meeting will be Thursday February 6 at 7 PM at People's Community Baptist Church, 31 Norwood Road, Silver Spring. Working with AIM was crucial in helping us advocate for a new school building.

Our next PTA movie night, showing "Toy Story 4" Friday February 21 with doors opening at 5:30, show time 6 PM. Admission is \$1 per person with a \$5 cap per family. Concessions will be available for purchase. Hope to see you there!

Think saving for college is just a pipe dream? At our February PTA meeting, we learned that you CAN make it a reality. The Maryland 529 program can do that for you, with a minimum initial deposit of \$25. Follow this link for more information: <https://maryland529.com> Are you interested in applying to the Spanish Immersion program? The application window just opened and will close April 24. Burnt Mills' Spanish Immersion program still has openings. Follow this link for more information and how to apply to the lottery: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/immersion.aspx>

We need volunteers to help with our Primary Election Day bake sale April 28. It is a great opportunity to meet community members and earn funds for our school. Schools are closed, and it is an opportunity for middle and high school scholars to earn service learning hours. Here is a link to the sign-up: <https://bit.ly/3beWaNe>

Please bookmark Burnt Mills PTA for our Amazon Smile purchases. Every time you buy something on Amazon, be sure to first use this link to earn a few pennies on each purchase for Burnt Mills: <https://amzn.to/37ExL1F>

Our Chipotle Night will be Wednesday February 26 from 4-8 PM at 10135 Colesville Rd, Silver Spring, MD, near Four Corners/Woodmoor. A portion of your food purchases will go towards Burnt Mills. We need to have at least \$300 in sales to earn a profit.

If you need ideas for family-friendly activities or looking for discounts at area attractions, please considering using "Cerfitifkid," a locally-owned business similar to "Groupon." If you use the promo code "BMES" at check-out for a \$20 minimum purchase, you will earn \$5 towards Burnt Mills.

Reminders

We have many unclaimed items in the Lost and Found. **Parents, please write your child's name on ALL of his/her belongings (coat, lunchbox, hat, gloves, etc.)** If we know who the items belong to, we can return them. Thank you!