

Happy New Year!

Burnt Mills Elementary School ~Principal's Monthly Newsletter~ January 2020

Dr. Stacy Ashton, principal

Mr. Troy Clarke, assistant principal

Important Events to Remember

1/1	HOLIDAY - New Year's Day - Schools and Offices Closed
1/17	Yearbook Group Pictures
1/20	HOLIDAY - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day - Schools and Offices Closed
1/24	2nd Marking Period Ends Early Release Day for Students @ 12:55 PM
1/27	Professional Day for Teachers - No School for Students
1/28	3rd Marking Period Begins

MCPS News

Boundary Analysis: Board of Education President Shebra L. Evans and Superintendent of Schools Jack R. Smith have sent a message to the MCPS community providing clarifying information about the districtwide boundary analysis. To view the letter, please visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/community/school-year-2019-2020/boundary-analysis-update-20191211.html.

2021 School Year Calendar: The Board of Education adopted a calendar for the 2020–2021 school year during its Tuesday, December 3, 2019, meeting. The school year will begin on Monday, August 31, 2020, and the last day of school is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2021. The calendar includes 182 days of instruction, a 10-day spring break, 1 full day of planning and professional development at the end of each quarter, and 1 operational closure in September.

SERT Video Contest Open to Students and Staff: The School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) is sponsoring a video contest to raise awareness about the importance of energy conservation and responsible recycling. Entries should focus on saving energy, recycling responsibly, and/or the school's SERT team activities.

The contest is open to all MCPS students and staff. Each school may submit three entries per category. Schools are encouraged to conduct their own judging and submit their best entries. Students and staff featured in the video must all represent the same school. Entries are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2020. More information is available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/greenschoolsfocus/.

Be Safe, Be Seen Campaign Emphasizes Pedestrian Safety: MCPS is joining safety and transportation officials throughout the region to encourage everyone to exercise caution as they go to and from schools, especially during the darker hours early in the morning and in the early evening. The Be Safe, Be Seen campaign features Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that raise awareness around pedestrian safety. Other pedestrian safety resources include: [MCPS Safe Routes to Schools](#), a program that works to significantly improve safety for students who walk and bike to school, and BeStreetSmart.net, a public safety campaign of Metro, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

The Be Safe, Be Seen PSAs can be seen here at www.youtube.com/user/MCPSTV/videos.

The Spanish versions are available at www.youtube.com/user/MCPSTVespanol/videos.

Staff News

No Staff News at this time

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

Classroom Guidance: This month we will be teaching a new 3-book series titled “*The Weird Series*”. This series focuses on the perspectives of a bullying victim, a bully, and a bystander. We will be working with this series through March in an effort to inform our scholars on the effects of bullying, how to respond to a bully and how witnesses of bullying can advocate for others.

Updates:

- Current Small Counseling Groups will come to a close and we will be forming new groups this month. Please look for a permission slip for your child, should your child be recommended.
- Semester 1 of the fifth-grade girls mentoring group ‘**Girls Leading And Motivating**’ (**GLAM**) has ended. We will be beginning Semester 2 of the GLAM Squad in February.
- Our second **Burnt Mills Buddies** event ‘Cards & Cocoa’ will be this month. Buddies will sip hot cocoa and create cards for Veterans.

Reminders:

- You may still sign up for the **Weekend Meal Program**. Please email either counselor or send your student with a note for a sign-up form.

- If your child is in need of a winter coat, gloves, a hat, or a scarf, please contact Ms. Bell, Mrs. Dommou or Ms. Gordon (parent community coordinator).

Spanish Immersion News from Mrs. Plawner:

¡Feliz Año Nuevo! 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.

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.

Remind your children to use school time to practice their Spanish. They can speak English after school and on weekends, however, they should maximize the time they are in school to use as much Spanish as possible. Language needs to be processed, not memorized. The more they use the language, practice their vocabulary/grammar/pronunciation, and make mistakes, the faster they will develop the language.

PTA News from Mr. Miehlf

Happy New Year from YOUR PTA. 2020 promises to be a great year. We hope we can count on your support. We continue to grow in numbers and welcome your participation. The greater our membership, the greater our voice. You can find membership forms or join online on the PTA website: <https://burntmillses.digitalpto.com/> We are planning on another movie night in February, and look forward to your input to decide on which one to show. Also, please mark your calendar with our PTA meetings for the rest of the school year. All are Tuesdays at 7 PM: February 4, March 3, and May 5. Hope to see you there!

Reminders

Lost and Found is overflowing with unclaimed items (coats, jackets, lunchboxes, shirts, etc.). Please stop by and take a look, before the items are donated. Items will be donated in January and June.