

*Burnt Mills Elementary School*  
*~Principal's Monthly Newsletter~*  
*September 2019*

*~~Welcome Back to School~~*

*Dr. Stacy Ashton, principal*

*Mr. Troy Clarke, assistant principal*

*Important Events to Remember*

**Scholastic Book Fair 9/9-9/13**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 9/3  | First Day of School   |
| 9/5  | Back to School Bash 5:00-7:00 PM  |
| 9/10 | <b><u>Back to School Night: Parent Only Event</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Pre-K Back to School Night 5:30-6:30 PM</li><li>● Instrumental Music Information Meeting (Grade 4 and 5 parents only) 5:45-6:15 PM (APR)</li><li>● Grades 1-5 Back to School Night 6:30-8:30 PM</li></ul> |
| 9/27 | PTA Movie Night Doors open at 5:30 PM   |
| 9/30 | No School for Teachers and Students   |

*School News & Information*

- **Our Learning Focus 2019-2020:** Our learning focus is to prepare all scholars to thrive in their future by providing them with unlimited access and opportunity to quality instruction in a culturally diverse and academically rigorous learning environment where critical thinking, creative problem solving and a strong sense of self are the standard. This is who we are, this is what we believe for all students!
- **Back to School Bash (BTSB)** - This year our Bash will be held on Thursday, September 5th from 5:00-7:00 PM on the field/playground area. The BTSB is an exciting opportunity for families to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. We are looking forward to a fun-filled time with games, music, face painting, food and more. Please bring your favorite snacks, lawn chair, blanket and plenty of water. We will provide hot dogs, chips, and a beverage, free of charge until we run out. Ice cream will be for sale.
- **Back to School Night** - Back to School Night is our first opportunity to begin building relationships and developing home-school connections with you. We always look forward to this special event.
  - ★ **Pre-K:** Back to School Night will be Tuesday, September 10th from 5:30-6:30 PM in Room 21.
  - ★ **Grades 1-5:** Back to School Night will be Tuesday, September 10th from 6:30-8:30 PM (see agenda below).

**NEW THIS YEAR...**

**Spanish Immersion Parents** will report to their child's classroom to view a Welcome Message from MCPS, administration, PTA, and the school counselor. After the welcome messages, the teacher will share the Back to School Night presentation.

**English Academy Parents** will report to the location below to view a Welcome Message from MCPS, administration, PTA, and the school counselor. After the welcome messages, the grade level team will share the Back to School Night presentation.

- Grade 1 parents report to Room 10
- Grade 2 parents report to room 15
- Grade 3 parents report to Room 1
- Grade 4 parents report to the APR
- Grade 5 parents report to Room 18

**Back to School Night Agenda**

*6:30-6:40 - Arrival (parents report to designated location) Welcome Message begins promptly at 6:40 PM.*

*6:40-7:05 - Welcome Message from MCPS, Burnt Mills and PTA*

*7:05-7:40 - Back to School Night Teacher Presentation Session I*

*7:40-7:50 - Transition Time*

*7:50-8:25 - Back to School Night Teacher Presentation Session II*

*8:30 - Dismissal*

**Important Notes:**

**\*\*To accommodate families with more than one child, there will be two Back to School Night classroom presentations.**

**\*\*The Arts Team** (Art, Music, P.E., Media) will present and have information about their programs in Music Room.

**\*\*The Special Education Team** will have information and resources to share in Room 11A - please stop by.

**\*\*The ESOL Team** will have information and resources to share in Room B4 - please stop by.

- **Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) Applications** - Applications were sent home on the first day of school. Families interested in receiving free or reduced price meals for 2019-2020 school year should apply online at [www.MySchoolApps.com](http://www.MySchoolApps.com) or complete a paper application. If you completed an application online, please DO NOT submit a paper application. You may submit an application at any time during the school year. The information you provide is confidential. For assistance or questions, please contact our Parent Community Coordinator, Ms. Gordon at (301) 649-8192.
- **Purchasing School Meals** - The school cafeterias use a computerized cash register system. Every student in Montgomery County schools has an account to use. All students have a PIN (personalized identification number). To access the account at mealtime, a student enters his/her PIN on a keypad. When a cashier rings up breakfast, lunch or a la carte items, the total amount of the sale is deducted from the prepaid balance in the account. When a student owes money, or does not have enough on the account, the student may pay

with cash at the time of purchase. To eliminate carrying lunch money every day, parents can deposit money onto their child's account using the My School Bucks website. MySchoolBucks.com is an optional service for parents to view recent purchases and make prepayments to your child's cafeteria account for breakfast, lunch and a la carte meals via the Internet with a credit/debit card. This service is offered as a convenience for interested families. By creating a secure online account, parents can manage their child's account. I encourage parents to visit the site and register their child today.

### [Counselor's Corner](#)

#### **Counselor's Corner from Ms. Bell & Ms. Domm**

Greetings Burnt Mills Families! Beginning this school year, Burnt Mills will have two school counselors! Our former counselor, Ms. Bell will still be here full time and serve Kindergarten, Grade 3 and Grade 4. We are also welcoming Mrs. Domm, who will be here every day, part time (70% of the time) and serve Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 5. Each counselor will deliver classroom guidance lessons, run small groups and provide individual counseling to their respective grades. Please feel free to reach out to either counselor with any concerns regarding your child.

This year, we are taking our **Mindfulness and The Zones of Regulation** initiatives to the next level! We will have school-wide mindful moments to both start and end our day and individual classes will participate in mindful practices throughout the day. Every grade level will work hard to earn **Green Zone Days**- demonstrating readiness to learn each and every day! This month Ms. Bell & Ms. Domm will visit each classroom to remind students of counseling procedures, teach our conflict resolution program: Kelso's Choice and to review The Zones of Regulation.

**The Weekend Meal Program** will begin Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Women Who Care Ministries, a local non-profit agency is offering a "Helping Kids Eat Weekend Meal" Program. The program is free of charge to you and discreetly provides your child a bag filled with kid-friendly, nonperishable, vitamin-fortified and easily consumed food items. Please email me for a sign-up form and I will send one home with your child. All previous students will continue to be a part of the program. New students and Kindergarteners will be provided a sign-up form in their Wednesday folders.

Please visit the Counselor's Corner linked to the Burnt Mills website to find more information about the counseling program as well as counseling updates! Feel free to contact our counselors via phone (301.649.8192) or email (Ashley\_M\_Bell@mcpsmd.org, Sarah\_B\_Domm@mcpsmd.org) at any time. We look forward to another fun and exciting year!

### [Spanish Immersion News](#)

Welcome back, Immersion families! It has been so great seeing all the smiling faces these past few days. I am so impressed at how much Spanish many students remember as they get back into their routines. **Our 1st Quarter Parent Meeting will be on Thursday, October 24 from 6 – 7 pm.** If

you have any specific questions about immersion learning or the immersion program, please send me a message to [Gloria\\_B\\_Plawner@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Gloria_B_Plawner@mcpsmd.org).

### *PTA News*

Welcome back to a new school year! The PTA has a treasure trove of activities planned and we need your help to make it happen. First and foremost, please be sure to renew your membership or join the PTA. By joining the PTA, you join a group of caring parents and teachers who want the best for their scholars. A common misconception is that in order to join the PTA you are required to go to PTA meetings or volunteer a set number of hours. That is simply not true. You make your PTA membership work for your schedule and time commitments. We make use of our online resources so you can be a part of PTA anywhere you have an internet connection.

As we start the new year, it's important to mark your calendars so you can be aware of important PTA-sponsored events. **Our first movie night is Friday September 27 from 5:30 - 8 PM in the APR. Our first PTA meeting is Tuesday October 2 at 7 PM.** The other PTA meetings are also Tuesdays, December 3, February 4, 2020, March 3, and May 5. Child care is available for school-age children. We will likely have a "spirit wear" fundraiser in October to help defray the costs of our PTA-sponsored "Pumpkin Patch," so stay tuned! Our Cocoa Run fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday November 2. This important fundraiser helps us support teacher appreciation, teacher mini-grants, field trips, and other expenses to support our school community. Of course, we continue to advocate for a new building. Our first PTA meeting in October will be focused on these efforts. If you have any questions, feel free to reach us at [bmespta5@gmail.com](mailto:bmespta5@gmail.com).

### *Reminders*

- **Check out our school website.** We work really hard to keep our school website updated and current with school news and information. Please check out our site and if you have Twitter, send me a tweet. I always upload pictures and share great things that are happening at Burnt Mills.
- **Scholars are not allowed to bring toys to school.** Please make sure your child does not bring toys to school as they are a distraction to the instructional day. Thank you for your cooperation.
- **Birthday Celebrations;** Celebrations are allowed; however, **they must be very simple and last no longer than 15 minutes.** If you would like to acknowledge your child's birthday at school, please notify the teacher first. Birthday celebrations are allowed the last 15 minutes of the school day or during the lunch period. Small treats such as store bought brownies or mini cupcakes are allowed. Balloons, large cakes, goodie bags, and juice boxes are not allowed. Thank you for understanding.