



***Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary
Week of December 22, 2009 and
January 5, 2009***

www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/bellsmilles

The Week Ahead:

Mon., Dec. 22

Tues., Dec 23 **French Intro, 8:25 am**
Spanish Intro, 3:30-4:30 pm

December 24- January 4 Winter Break

Mon., Jan. 5 **Welcome back!**

Tues., Jan. 6 **French Intro, 8:25 am**
Spanish Intro, 3:30-4:30 pm
Drama Club, 3:30-4:30 pm

Wed., Jan. 7 **Spanish I, 8:10 am**

Thurs., Jan. 8 **French II, 8:10 am**
Homework Club 3:30-4:30
Mrs. Kirby's Art Club, 3:30-4:30 pm

Fri., Jan. 9 **Wear your school colors today!**
Have a great weekend!

A Look Ahead:	Jan. 10	Club Bells Mill at CJMS
	Jan. 19	NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
	Jan. 20	NO SCHOOL, Inauguration Day
	Jan. 22	Group/Class Photo Day
	Jan. 23	Second marking period ends

- **The staff and I want to wish all of our families a happy and safe winter break.** Please take time to enjoy each other, have plenty of family time, and most importantly—lots of fun. We are blessed at Bells Mill to be part of a wonderful supportive and giving community. We wish everyone a happy new year and look forward to seeing you on January 5, 2009.
- **Congratulations to our fabulous first grade teacher, Mrs. Reed!** We are proud to announce that the Potomac Gazette recognized her as the elementary school Favorite Teacher. Thanks to former BMES student Steven Dunne for nominating Mrs. Reed and thanks to everyone who voted for her. For more information on this, visit www.gazette.net/teacher/potomac.

- **We appreciate your gracious donations to the Kay Holliday Bear Hug Fund.** Your contributions enabled us to help give deserving families a brighter holiday season.
- **We'd also like to acknowledge the generosity of all who contributed to the SGA New Toy Drive.** Congratulations to the SGA members, Ms. Williams and Ms. Mayo for organizing this great way for students to be actively involved in our community.
- **The 4th/5th Grade Chorus treated students, staff and parents to three wonderful performances on Wednesday, December 17.** Thank you to Ms. Sampogna for all of her time and effort in preparing the students who were outstanding.
- **Congratulations to Mr. Gale and our instrumental music students for the marvelous program they presented on Thursday, December 18.** We have many talented young musicians! Congratulations on an outstanding performance. We are very proud of you.
- **Mrs. Kanter will be starting two lunch bunches when we return from winter break.** Feeling Groovy is a group that focuses on staying positive and building confidence. Bells Mill Friends is a group that focuses on peer issues such as making new friends and resolving conflicts. Bells Mill Friends will be offered to girls in January and boys in February. Lunch bunches meet once a week for six weeks during lunch. Please contact Mrs. Kanter if you are interested in having your child join a lunch bunch.
- **Please have your student check the overflowing lost and found bins for missing items.** These big blue bins are located in the hallway near the office. Unclaimed items will soon be donated to Goodwill.
- **Please tell your neighbors that we are now forming our list of incoming kindergarten students for next year.** We will hold an information meeting for parents of incoming kindergarteners on Thursday, January 29, 2009, at 7:00 pm in our APR or the media center at Cabin John Middle School. Additional information will sent out in the coming weeks. Additionally, we will hold open houses on February 5 and 6, 2009, from 9:30 am to noon. Incoming kindergarten students can visit classrooms and participate in a typical kindergarten morning. Please help us spread the word to our community and ask neighbors to contact the office if they have an incoming kindergartner. Our staffing is based on our projected enrollment figures, as well as the actual number of students we have pre-registered. Thank you for helping us gather accurate data.
- **If you have neighbors with a child that will be in Grades 1 – 5 next year and is coming to public school from private school, please ask them to contact the office.** This will help us better plan for next year.
- **Information about weather-related school closings is announced publicly on local radio and television stations and other media including the Internet.** If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is made no later than 6:00 a.m. (or the night before). If schools are closing early, announcements are made by 11:00 a.m.
- **Testing for students applying to the Center for the Highly Gifted at Cold Spring ES will take place on January 16.** Ms. Taylor, our Gifted and Talented Liaison, will send home information in the next few weeks.
- **The Maryland State Department of Education is conducting a survey of parents/guardians of all students who were between the ages of 6-21, and received special education services during the 2007-2008 school year.** In late December 2008, the parents/guardians of special education students will be receiving the survey regarding their satisfaction with their involvement in their child's educational program.

Thank you for being partners in your child's education.