



Week Ahead:

Mon., Sept. 7 **Holiday --- Labor Day --- No School**

Tues., Sept. 8 **Welcome Back! Hope you had a great weekend with your family!**
Ledo's Night, 5 – 9 pm

Wed., Sept. 9 **Back to School Night, 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Thurs., Sept. 10

Fri., Sept. 11 **All Instrumental Music Forms are due to Mr. Gale today.**
Show Your Bear Pride! Wear your school colors today!
Have a great weekend!!!!

A Look Ahead:

Sept. 14 Room Parent Meeting in Media Center, 7:30 pm

Sept. 16 Read-a-thon Kickoff Assembly

Sept. 17 First Day of Instrumental Music Instruction

Board of Education Community Forum ,7:00 pm Quince Orchard High

- **What a great first week of school!** The children and staff had an exciting week as we started the new school year. You should be so proud of your children and their teachers! Thank you for always sending your children to school ready to learn. Please remember that our instructional day begins at 9:15 am so children should be in their classrooms by 9:10. Students may arrive no earlier than 8:55 am.
- **With the beginning of school I have a few gentle reminders.** During arrival and dismissal you may drive into the drop off circle. This is a kiss and drop area. I appreciate all parents who are following the procedures. In doing so you are helping us provide a safe area for student arrival and dismissal. I appreciate parents who have established a waiting area to meet your children in the afternoon. Thank you for not congregating at the front door. This allows for a safe exit for all walkers. We are asking that you not walk your dogs to school when bringing or picking up children. Many of our students are fearful and or allergic to dogs. Even though I know all of your pets are well-behaved, we ask that you honor this request. There is also a county ordinance that prohibits dogs on school property during school hours. Thank you for your help in providing a safe school environment for our children.
- **We appreciate your patience as we work with transportation** to speed up the arrival and dismissal of bus students. Mr. Larry Musson, from the Bethesda depot, has been here every morning and afternoon taking counts of students on buses, as well as timing the arrival run and departure times. He is making

some minor changes of stops and pick up times for students. You will receive information if your child's bus route is altered in any way. Again, we appreciate your patience as we finalize routes.

- **This week you received many forms that need to be returned to school.** Please take time to complete all forms as soon as possible. It is also important that we have accurate contact information for you. We need to be able to contact you in case of an emergency situation. Thank you for completing all paperwork to your child's teacher. A special note on the new *Race and Ethnicity Identification Form*: If you indicate refusal to identify the race and ethnicity of your student, then the school is obligated to complete the information at the bottom of the form.
- **Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services** will offer free seasonal flu mist (nasal) vaccine to Bells Mill students on **October 1, 2009**. This is **not the vaccine for H1N1(swine flu)** which will be available later in October. Please check your child's backpack for the information letter and the consent form. If you answer "yes" to any of the questions on the consent form your child may not be eligible to receive FluMist. In that case, the school nurse will contact you to obtain your consent to provide a flu vaccine injection if indicated. Please read the consent form and information carefully and **return to school by September 11, 2009**. Please contact our health tech or health nurse with questions.
- **Please plan on attending this year's Back to School Night on Wednesday evening.** We will begin at 7:00 pm in the AP room with a brief meeting. Following the meeting you will be asked to go to your child's classroom to learn about your child's educational program. This is the agenda for the evening:

7:00 PM	General Meeting in AP Room	8:00 PM	Classroom Presentations
7:25 PM	Classroom Presentations	8:35 PM	Good Night
7:55 PM	Transition time		

All teachers will be making their primary presentation during the first timeframe. They will provide a second presentation for those families who have two children and need to attend two separate classes. Teachers of Grades 2 – 5 will follow a different schedule that allows parents to meet all teachers and follow their child's daily schedule. The art, music, PE and media specialist will also be in one location to share information about their programs and how they support classrooms. All other teachers will also be available to explain their programs and how they support your children. You will learn about the grade level instructional program, homework, and classroom routines. Teachers will not be available for individual conferences. You may contact the teacher to schedule an individual appointment to discuss your child. Teachers will have sign up sheets for volunteering opportunities and November conferences. We look forward to meeting with you on Wednesday evening.

- **Our neighbors are very happy that we are back in our beautiful new building.** Please be considerate of them by not blocking their mailboxes or driveways when you park on the street for school events. Thank you for helping us build positive relationships with our community.
- We'd like to acknowledge Balducci's generosity for donating a teacher breakfast during pre-service week. We would also like to thank the PTA for the fabulous breakfasts and other goodies that they provided to the staff. Your thoughtfulness helped us through our preparation for the new school year.
- **On Tuesday, September 8, 2009, our students will watch President Obama's televised speech on the importance of education.** Please inform your child's teacher if you do not want your child to view the speech. An alternate activity will be provided to the students who do not view the telecast.

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