



The Lion's Den

Bethesda Elementary School & Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Newsletter

Issue 7

December 2, 2011

Principally Speaking...

Dear Families-

I hope you and your family had a nice and relaxing long holiday weekend. As we start off December, we at Bethesda Elementary School will be participating in activities throughout the week (Dec. 5th- 9th) in recognition of Inclusion Week. More information regarding specific grade level activities can be found in the Grade Level Newsletters.

We continue to need your help in support of the new recess activities. We need parents at all recess shifts on Tuesdays and Fridays . Please see the information below and sign up to volunteer!

Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 6th at 7:30 pm. Ms. McCord and Ms. Von Schwarz will be presenting at the PTA meeting to share information regarding the upcoming BE Science Fair.

Again we need your assistance in keeping our playground clean. As community members, if you observe others using the playground with their dogs, please remind them to keep them on a leash and to clean up after their pets. Thank you for your help!

Lisa Seymour



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Calling all Volunteers...WE NEED YOU!!!!

New Recess Activities at Bethesda Elementary!

- **Wheels Day**~ Students bring their own bikes or scooters to ride on the blacktop in the bus area. This takes place on Tuesdays at 12:30-1:00(for 2nd grade) and 1:00-1:30 (for 4th grade) and on Fridays at 12:30-1:00 (for 3rd grade) and 1:00-1:30 (for 5th grade).
- **Exploration & Drawing Station**~ Students explore and observe their environment with science and art materials. This takes place on Tuesdays and Fridays at 12:30-1:00 and 1:00-1:30.
- **Field Group Games**~ Students play with the parachute, scarf tag, walk a mile, and other games. This takes place on Tuesdays and Fridays at 12:00-12:30 and 12:30-1:00 and 1:00-1:30.

Come monitor one of these exciting opportunities! If you are interested, contact Kristine Donohue directly by email at

Kristine_L_Donohue@mcpsmd.org

Important Dates:

- Scholastic Book Fair
December 4th- 9th
BE MEDIA CENTER
- December 6th
PTA MEETING- 7:30 PM
Science Fair Information Night
- December 7th
Superintendent's Budget Meeting-
7:30 PM Richard Montgomery HS

December 26- January 2

Winter Break

Foreign Language Immersion Program Information

Parents may participate in the immersion lottery process using the Elementary Immersion Interest Form. The form and directions will be available on the Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) website www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/, at elementary schools, and by calling the Division of Consortia Choice and Application

The Foreign Language Immersion lottery process application dates are Wednesday, February 1 to Friday, April 13, 2012.

Completed immersion interest forms can be returned by U.S. mail to DCCAPS, Spring Mill Field Office, 11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902, hand carried to the above address, or faxed to 301-649-8155 by FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2012.

Save the dates...Science Fair is coming!



This year's science fair will be held on March 7th and 8th.

Science Fair packets will be sent home soon for 4th and 5th graders. Just like last year, all 4th and 5th graders will participate in the science fair. Students in every grade are encouraged to participate in the science fair and packets will be available through the BE website next week. Over winter break is a great time to get some work done on science fair projects.

For more information, feel free to attend the science fair information session on December 6th (7:30 PM) at the PTA meeting!

Inclusive Schools Week 2011

December 5th -9th

<http://inclusiveschools.org/inclusive-schools-week/>

Some activities students will be participating in throughout the week include: Reading books about differences, creating a celebration garden, classroom activities that focus on how each person is unique. See the grade level newsletters for more information on Inclusion Week activities.

Eligibility: All students in **Grades 2 through 8** are eligible to enter a **previously unsubmitted short story and/or poem written within the 2011-2012 school year**. Each entry may have only one author, and only one entry per author may be submitted for each category.



Student Guidelines

Entries must be the student's **original, own work**. Peers or adults may provide editing assistance (spelling, punctuation, etc.), but revisions should be student generated.

All entries must be submitted **double-spaced**, with no less than **12 point** font using either **Times New Roman or Comic Sans** font.

Each short story entry may range from a minimum of two (2) paragraphs to no more than three (3) typed pages.

Each poem entry will consist of a single poem, which may be any style or length.

Entries must **not** include graphics.

Submission Guidelines

All entries must include a **completed Cover Sheet** signed by the student author, parent, and sponsoring teacher. Classroom teachers will have forms available. Each school will have its own **mini-contest** and will submit a **maximum of two entries from each genre and grade**—i.e., two short stories and two poems from grade 2, two short stories and two poems from grade 3, etc..

All entries **must be submitted by school personnel following a school mini-contest**.

Deadline

Entries **must** be received by Mrs. Sanchez by **Wednesday, December 8, 2011**.

Selection Criteria

Entry meets all of the above guidelines.

Story reflects creativity and appropriate use of language and short story structure.

Poem reflects creative and appropriate use of language and imagery.

Entries of a violent nature will be deemed inappropriate and will be disqualified.

Questions?

Please contact Karen Sanchez@ Karen_G_Sanchez@mcpsmd.org

From the Superintendent...Dr. Joshua Starr

you are invited

to attend the

*Fiscal Year 2013
Operating Budget
Presentation*

by

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Joshua P. Starr

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

7:30 p.m.

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Richard Montgomery High School

250 Richard Montgomery Drive

Rockville, Maryland 20852

if you would like to use
foreign language interpreting services,
please arrive by 7:00 p.m.

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Free Parking

Child Care Available

for Children Ages 4-12

Attention 5th Grade Parents:

Westland Middle School Articulation Calendar 2011-2012

January

Westland Counselors visit elementary schools to talk to 5th graders about WMS and distribute registration materials

February 2nd

Parents attend Parent Information Night at Westland Middle School (7:00-9:00 pm)

February 10th

Students return course request sheets to elementary school teachers

April

5th and 6th graders come to Westland for Orientation Day. Students tour the building and see some program highlights

Pyle Middle School Articulation Calendar 2011-2012

Event	Date	Time
School Events		
Elementary School Visits (Pyle Staff to attend)	Nov. 30 - Dec. 23	See school for individual times
Pyle Counselors to Visit Elementary Schools	January 17- Jan. 27	See school for individual times
Parent Meetings		
Incoming 6 th grade Parent Night	January 31 <i>Snow date: Feb. 2</i>	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Arts Showcase Night	February 7 <i>Snow date: Feb. 8</i>	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
"The Mathematical Process"/Foreign Language Parent Night	February 15 <i>Snow date: Feb. 16</i>	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Deadlines		
Registration Forms Due - Incoming 6, 7, 8 Grades	February 17	2:45 p.m.

From the PTA...

Updated BE PTA website is now up



For the latest on school events, activities and membership information, check out the information on the BE PTA website.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bethesdaes/>

2011 - 2012 Yearbook Cover Contest

All 5th Grade Students are invited to submit original artwork to be used for the cover of this year's Bethesda Elementary Yearbook.

Guidelines:

1. Please create your design vertically on 8.5 x 11 paper.
2. Include the school's name (Bethesda Elementary) and the school year (2011 - 2012).
3. Great designs will be bright and colorful. You may use crayons, markers, paint, pencils, etc.
4. You may collaborate with a friend.
5. All artwork must be original.
6. Please include your first and last name and your teacher's name on the back of your design.
7. Please submit all artwork to the PTA Box in the Front office no later than Friday, December 9th.

If you have any questions, you may contact your Yearbook Committee Representative, Bridget Diaz at bridgetdiaz@me.com.

TO THE BOOK FAIR AND BEYOND!



The Bethesda Elementary Book Fair is coming to the Media Center!

From **Monday, December 5 - Friday, December 9 - from 9am-4pm**, our children will enter the Bethesda Elementary Scholastic Book Fair. The Book Fair is a wonderful fundraiser for BE, a great way to get affordable, age-appropriate books into our children's hands, and a terrific chance to contribute to the classroom libraries.

Come Shop at the Book Fair

The Book Fair is open in the Media Center:

- **Sunday, December 4 from 1-3 pm** where families can also shop and enjoy treats from the **5th Grade Bake Sale** too!
- **Monday, Dec. 5 thru Friday Dec. 9 from 9 am to 4 pm**
Thursday, December 8 from 6:30 to 8 pm

Students Enter the BE Book Fair

Each class will visit the Book Fair on Monday or Tuesday. Your child will have the opportunity to browse hundreds of titles and complete a "Wish List" of books he/she would like to read. If you choose to purchase books from the wish list, the books will come home with your child. We invite you to take this opportunity to talk with your child about the books and what they found interesting.

Books for Classrooms

The Book Fair also helps increase classroom libraries. Teachers will preview the fair on Monday morning and create **Classroom Wish Lists**. Those lists will be available for you to review at the Fair, so that you can donate books to your child's classroom in your family's name. **Be sure to look out for the Classroom Wish List display when you arrive at the Fair or watch for the Teacher Book Donation form attached to your child's wish list.**

A Special Thank You to Ms. Kohlbrenner

Thanks to Ms. Kohlbrenner, our fabulous Media Specialist, the Media Center will be transformed into the "Reading Is Out of This World Book Fair". We owe her a big Thank you for making this special space

Reading Is Out of This World!

 **SCHOLASTIC**

www.scholastic.com/bookfairs