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# BRADLEY HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

240-204-5210

*Great Teaching, Great Learning, Every Child, Every Day*

May 1, 2017

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## Principal's Corner



*By Karen Caroscio*

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Spring is definitely here! As the weather warms up, everyone is excited to spend more time outside. Please help your student remember that there is still a lot of learning to come. They should do their best to remain focused, work hard, and always try their best. The last marking period is just as important as the first.

We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing Spring Break while coming back re-energized for the rest of the year. Even though April is a short month, it was filled with exciting events:

At the beginning of April, students had a blast participating in STEM Week. They participated in two assemblies that included a toilet paper lift experiment, a hovercraft, and an airzooka! Ask your child what he or she learned about gravity, drag, lift, and thrust. In the classroom, students in kindergarten through second grade created safety devices to keep an egg safe for the Egg Drop Challenge while older students in grades three through five participated in the Crash Car Challenge. Older and younger students even paired up to collaborate on the Skyscraper Challenge. The designs the students came up with showed creativity and ingenuity. We have a lot of future scientists and engineers in this building!

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, students in grades three through five joined for an assembly to meet some heroes. These heroes just happened to be furry with tails. Students had a enjoyed learning about Hero Dogs! Thank you to Ms. Gaum and Ms. Tanowitz for organizing the event. You can visit <http://www.hero-dogs.org/> to learn more about the organization.

The Variety Show on April 22<sup>nd</sup> was a lot of fun for all involved. Our students certainly have a lot of varied talents! A huge thank you to Ms. Gunster, Ms. Bresnick, and Ms. Jiang for organizing the event. Thank you as well to the staff who were a part of the show, Mrs. Knight, Mr. Dayton, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Applewhaite, Mrs. Purdham, Ms. Yasechko, Mrs. Morstein, and Ms. Dyer. We are already planning for next year's event and trust me when I say it won't involve yogurt.

On Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, students had the opportunity to learn hula hoop tricks from Ms. Powers. Ms. Powers brought high quality hoops, dazzled students with her ability, and taught them some fun tricks they could do, too! Thank you to our wellness committee, Ms. Haile and Ms. Mandell, for arranging this fun experience for the students. This was a great opportunity for students to learn a different physical activity during recess.



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### **BRADLEY HILLS IS A CERTIFIED MARYLAND GREEN SCHOOL!**

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We are thrilled to announce that Bradley Hills is now a certified Maryland Green School! Maryland Green Schools are part of a national and international community of sustainable schools. Our students are becoming better stewards of our Earth's natural resources and developing a better understanding of their own local environment. Please check the announcements section of our website for the full press release. This achievement would not have been possible without the hard work of Mr. Bidwick and his Green Team, Ms. Altman, and Ms. Flack. Thank you for all your efforts to help Bradley Hills earn this remarkable designation!

On a related note, thank you to the Green Team for organizing events during the week leading up to Earth Day. The entire school participated in Power-Play Thursday, where all overhead lights were turned off for an hour to enjoy natural sunlight. Students also participated in Trash-Free Friday where they packed lunches in reusable containers. Other highlights included morning announcements and a pledge tree in the front hallway where students wrote ideas about how they can help the earth.

### **FIELD DAY POSTPONED**

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Field Day, which was originally scheduled for Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> will be postponed until later in the year. We will send a message to all families when we have determined a new date.

### **PARCC TESTING**

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At the beginning of May, all students in grades three through five will take the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests. This will include four sessions of both mathematics and English/Language Arts (ELA). The schedule is below.

These assessments give both parents and the school helpful information about how students are progressing. Please encourage your child not to stress about it, but to try their best. Encourage them to show how much they know!

On days your child is scheduled for a session, please ensure they arrive to school on time. Students cannot enter a test once it has started. Any children who arrives late will have to sit in the main office until their class has finished testing. They will have to be pulled out of class to make up the test at a later time. Please also ensure your child comes to school well rested and having eaten a good breakfast in order to help him or her show their best work.



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Many versions of the test have a video component. Students will need to use headphones or earbuds. While we have some extra at school, our supply is limited. If students have their own headphones or earbuds, they are encouraged to bring them for testing days.

	<b>Grades 3 &amp; 5</b>	<b>Grade 4</b>
Monday, May 1 <sup>st</sup>	ELA – Unit 1 – 9:15 a.m.	
Tuesday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	ELA – Unit 2 – 9:15 a.m.	
Wednesday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>		ELA – Unit 3 – 9:15 a.m.
Thursday, May 4 <sup>th</sup>		
Friday, May 5 <sup>th</sup>		
Monday, May 8 <sup>th</sup>	ELA – Unit 3 – 9:15 a.m.	
Tuesday, May 9 <sup>th</sup>	ELA – Unit 4 – 9:15 a.m.	
Wednesday, May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Math – Unit 1 – 9:15 a.m.	Math – Unit 1 – 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Math – Unit 2 – 9:15 a.m.	Math – Unit 2 – 1:30 p.m.
Friday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Math – Unit 3 – 9:15 a.m.	Math – Unit 3 – 1:30 p.m.
Monday, May 15 <sup>rd</sup>	Math – Unit 4 – 9:15 a.m.	Math – Unit 4 – 1:30 p.m.
May 16 <sup>th</sup> – May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Make-up tests	

Please visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/parcc/> to find additional parent resources, a recording of a webinar, and frequently asked questions. Resources can also be found at: <http://www.parconline.org/resources/parent-resources>

### SPRING BOOK FAIR

The Spring Scholastic Book Fair will be held May 1-5 in the BHES Media Center. The Book Fair will be open:

- May 1: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- May 2: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (and before the PTA meeting 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.)
- May 3: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ("Donuts with Dads" event 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)
- May 4: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- May 5: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Students will have the opportunity to visit the Book Fair with their classes.

Parents are welcome to bring their child to the Book Fair before or after school. However, students who are brought to the Book Fair before school must be directly supervised by a parent until 8:45. Students who come to the Book Fair after dismissal must also be supervised by a parent.



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Families can also visit the Book Fair online at:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/homepage.do?method=homepage&url=bradleyhillselementarysch&appesp=CPT/ib/20120101///txtl/FairFindertoHomepage>

### **PREKINDERGARTEN/HEAD START REGISTRATION**

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Parents who want to register their child for an MCPS prekindergarten or Head Start class for the 2017–2018 school year can now do so. Children must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2017, and families must be income-eligible to apply.

For more information about eligibility guidelines, location and times of community registrations, or required documents to complete an application, call 301-230-0676 or visit the [MCPS website](#).

### **KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION**

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This year's Kindergarten Orientation at Bradley Hills will be held on Thursday and Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be no school on those dates for current kindergarten students. If you have a child who will attend kindergarten in the fall of 2017, be sure to stop by the office to register for orientation if you haven't already. There are only a few days left to do so.

The sessions—[scheduled at every MCPS elementary school between April 3 and May 26](#)—are for children who will be five years old by September 1, 2017, and their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians should call their home school to make an appointment to register for that school's specific date(s). Parents/guardians who are not sure which elementary school serves their area should contact the Division of Long-range Planning, at 240-314-4700 or access the [School Assignment Locator](#) on the MCPS website. For more information, call the Division of Early Childhood Programs and Services at 301-230-0676.

### **APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ELEMENTARY IMMERSION PROGRAMS**

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Elementary school language immersion programs begin in Kindergarten and are offered in Chinese, French, and Spanish. Applications for students entering Kindergarten through Grade 5 in the 2017–2018 school year are now available. For more information about elementary immersion programs, visit [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/) to download the *Immersion Interest Form*. The application deadline for the 2017–2018 school year is **Friday, May 5**. Notification letters will be mailed to parents in May. For more information, contact the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services, at 301-592-2040.



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### **MCPS PARENTS ENCOURAGED TO COMPLETE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY**

A random sample of families at all grade levels in each MCPS school will be asked to participate in the 2017 Parent Engagement Survey. Parents who are selected to participate will receive information by mail and are asked to complete the survey online by June 1, 2017. The survey is about your experiences with your child's school and education. Your answers are confidential and are reported with the answers from other families. The information you provide will help schools better understand families' engagement in their children's education and improve connections between schools and families. The survey is brief and can be completed in 10 minutes.

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### **PARENT ACADEMY OFFERS NEW WORKSHOPS**

The spring session of the MCPS Parent Academy has begun. Parent Academy helps equip parents with the tips and tools they need to help their children succeed. All of the workshops are free and are held at schools and other locations throughout Montgomery County. Spring workshops include internet safety, effective parenting strategies, and understanding financial aid. Childcare and interpretation services are provided at all classes. The schedule of workshops is available at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/workshops.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/workshops.aspx).

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### **DON'T MISS THE GAITHERSBURG BOOK FESTIVAL**

Montgomery County Public Schools is proud to be a partner in the 2017 Gaithersburg Book Festival on Saturday, May 20, on the grounds of Gaithersburg City Hall. The book festival has a great lineup of authors and activities for children of all ages. Several members of the MCPS community will be conducting readings at the festival and there will be many programs, workshops, and activities in the Children's Village that are designed to promote interest in reading and writing. For more information, visit [gaithersburgbookfestival.org/](http://gaithersburgbookfestival.org/).

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### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS EXTEND SUMMER PROGRAMS DUE TO LATER START DATE OF SCHOOL YEAR**

Montgomery County summer camp programs will be extended to support families without childcare options due to the later start time of the school year. This follows the executive order that Governor Larry Hogan signed last fall, which required Maryland's public schools to start classes after Labor Day, beginning with the 2017–2018 school year. Montgomery County Recreation added more than 40 additional full or half-day programs to effectively serve families due to the later start date for the school year. This included six Summer Fun Centers (SFC), which are the Department of Recreation's most affordable summer day programs. Registration is available online at [www.activemontgomery.org](http://www.activemontgomery.org) and is also available by mail, fax to 240-777-6818, or in person at most recreation and parks facilities



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including community recreation centers, ice rinks, tennis centers, aquatic facilities and at the Montgomery County Recreation Administrative Offices at 4010 Randolph Road in Silver Spring.

For more information about summer programs call 240-777-6840.

### CONNECTING STUDENTS TO CAREERS

MCPS is partnering with WorkSource Montgomery and the Montgomery County Government on a new program that will provide rising juniors and seniors with enriching summer career development experiences through local Montgomery County businesses and nonprofit organizations. Through Summer R.I.S.E. (Really Interesting Summer Experience), students will participate in a three-week career exploration that will introduce them to the structures of businesses, technical skills, the role of technology, and the importance of customer service. More information is available at: [worksourcemontgomery.com/Summer-Rise/](http://worksourcemontgomery.com/Summer-Rise/).

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	School Events
May 1-15, 2017	PARCC Testing
May 1-5, 2017	Book Fair
May 2, 2017	Fifth Grade Picture – 2:00 p.m.
May 4-5, 2017	Kindergarten Orientation – No School for Kindergarten Students
May 5, 2017	SGA Spirit Day - College Day
May 8-12, 2017	Rainbow Week
May 12, 2017	SGA Spirit Day - Crazy Sock Day
May 12, 2017	Birthday Bash – 2:30 p.m.
May 16, 2017	Patrol Picnic
May 19, 2017	Interims Go Home
May 21, 2017	Spring Picnic
May 26, 2017	SGA Spirit Day - Dress for Your Future Career
May 26, 2017	Birthday Bash (June Birthdays) – 2:30 p.m.
May 29, 2017	No School – Memorial Day
June 1, 2017	Instrumental Music Concert – 7:30 p.m.
June 2, 2017	SGA Spirit Day - Mismatch Day
June 2, 2017	Instrumental Music Concert for Students in Grades 3-5 – 10:00 a.m.
June 2, 2017	Birthday Bash (July Birthdays) – 2:30 p.m.
June 9, 2017	SGA Spirit Day - Dress-Up Day
June 9, 2017	Author's Day
June 15, 2017	Class Parties – 2:45 p.m.
June 15, 2017	Fifth Grade Promotion – 7:00 p.m. – Walt Whitman H.S.



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<b>Date</b>	<b>School Events</b>
June 16, 2017	Fifth Grade Clap Out – 12:30 p.m.
June 16, 2017	Last Day of School – Early Release – 12:55 p.m.