

THE LION'S DEN

Bethesda Elementary / Bethesda Elementary PTA Newsletter

April 5, 2019

Seymour's Shout Out...

Dear Bethesda Families,

Spring is here and we are enjoying the warmer temperatures and hope they are here to stay! Students should make sure that they are wearing appropriate shoes for recess. Many students wear flip flops with the warmer weather, but these are not always the safest choice for running around at recess.

Next week is our annual **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Day and Night**. We hope many students will be creating projects at home to share during this day/night. There is still time for your child to participate, so be sure to check out the BE Website for more information and project ideas. If your child is participating, please have them bring their completed projects to the gym the morning of April 11th. They should not bring any display items that are fragile, as sometimes the displays are moved during the event. All families are invited to come to STEAM Night to view projects and participate in fun STEAM related activities.

Spring Break is also coming soon, just a reminder we have no school on April 17th-April 22nd. School resumes on Tuesday, April 23rd. With warmer temperatures, many families walk to and from school. Please remember that dogs, even on leashes, are not allowed on school property during arrival and dismissal. More details about the policy on dogs can be found in the BE Parent Handbook. Thank you so much for your help with this policy. Lastly, if your contact information has changed, please be sure to update it with Ms. Paz in the office. Maria_P_Velasco-galey@mcpsmd.org

Please note the dates for TESTING Gr. 3, 4, 5 for April & May: (PARCC/MCAP)

Grade 3: May 7, 8, 9 ELA & May 10, 14 Math

Grade 4: April 24, 29, 30 ELA & May 2, 3 Math

Grade 5: May 13, 15, 16 ELA & May 20, 21 Math

GRADE 5 MISA: March 18 & 19 (Science)

Kindergarten Orientation— coming soon...

Kindergarten Orientation will be held May 2nd and May 3rd. **Please note that current kindergarten students will NOT have school on these days.** If you have a rising K student for 2019-2020 (or know of any rising K students in the neighborhood) please contact the front office to start the enrollment process and sign up for K Orientation!

Arrival Traffic Pattern Reminders

During morning arrival, please do NOT pull into the bus loop to drop off. Student drop off is over by the cafeteria door. To help traffic flow better, we often allow cars to go through the bus loop and around to the traffic light to wait. Please ONLY do this if a staff member is present OR if the 3 orange cones have been placed out. It is important that we do not interfere with the flow of traffic for the buses and we keep the entrance to the bus loop OPEN at all times. Please be mindful at the stop sign, that we have staff members that come in and park in the bus loop.

Parking

Please have the make, model and tag number of your vehicle available when you sign in at the front office. This is for school monitoring of visitors only and will help us keep an eye on the use of the guest parking spots. THANK YOU!

Lisa Seymour

Mark your calendar...

April 3rd- EARLY RELEASE DAY (12:55)- End of 3rd Q

April 16th— Report Cards Distributed

April 17th -22nd- — NO SCHOOL— Spring Break

May 2nd and May 3rd— Kindergarten Orientation
NO SCHOOL for CURRENT Kindergartn Students

[Sign up for ALERTMCPS](#)

Alert MCPS is a way that you can receive text messages or e-mail from Montgomery County Public Schools during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. Alert MCPS is administered by Montgomery County Public Schools and is part of the Montgomery County Alert System. <https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832009#/signup>

Check out MCPS Quick Notes Issue:

 **QuickNotes**

<http://news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/current-issue-quicknotes/>

Save the Date for STEM Night!

WHO: All Bethesda Students (aka scientists).

WHEN: Thursday, April 11th, 2019 from 6:30 pm– 8:00 pm. Students with projects should bring them to the gym on the morning of April 11th.

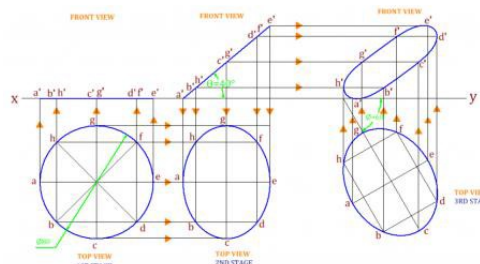
WHERE: Bethesda Elementary Gym and Cafeteria.

WHAT: STEM Night (the event formerly known as Science Fair) is a showcase of our students' scientific abilities.

Students are encouraged to participate in STEM Night by completing investigations at home as individuals or with friends, siblings, parents, etc. As in prior years, information packets with possible ideas and steps to follow to help guide scientific inquiry are posted on the BE website. <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bethesdaes/news/news.aspx?id=625651>

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. We are encouraging students to choose topics to investigate that will allow them to incorporate any and all of these areas and skills.

As a convenience to families, the BE PTA will be selling a limited quantity of tri-fold science back boards on Fridays, beginning 3/15, from 8:40 am - 8:55 am in the school lobby (\$5 each, cash only). Boards can also be purchased from most office supply and craft stores.



Yearbook Information...

Hello Bethesda Elementary, The 2018-2019 yearbooks are on sale now--and will be distributed at the end of the school year.

Here's what you need to know--

- 1) NEW this year--**we are only taking on-line orders--that means no checks/no cash--nothing getting lost in backpack mail.** Order at www.freedpics.com, password BETH1819YB. If this is an issue for you, please contact me at heidigertner@yahoo.com and I'll assist you. The cost is \$21.
- 2) Please make yourself a note as to whether or not you've ordered your yearbook(s). Last year I had maybe 30 people ask me to check if they ordered a book--this is a hassle for me--so please mark it down or save your order--so you don't need to ask.

That's it...go buy it now.

Heidi Gertner (Jason--4 DeNisco, Scott--2 Kupersmith)

Career Day — Friday, May 17th

Dear Bethesda Families,

Our school is hosting its 10th annual Career Day on Friday, May 17th from 9-11am. I am currently looking for 26 volunteers that are interested in doing a short presentation about their career. Each volunteer will make three, 30 minute presentations for three different classrooms. We hope to make the presentations informative and interactive. Feel free to bring in display items or things of interest to share. We hope you will consider volunteering; students love to have their parents or relatives speak on this day!

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in sharing their knowledge and expertise with us, please complete the form using this [link](#).

Thanks!

Marissa Fried
School Counselor

Elementary Immersion Programs...

Applications for elementary school language immersion programs in MCPS are now available.

The application deadline for the 2019–2020 school year is Friday, April 26, 2019. Elementary school language immersion programs begin in kindergarten and are offered in Chinese, French, and Spanish.

For more information about elementary immersion programs and to download the Immersion Interest Form, visit the Special Programs website: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/immersion. Forms are also available at elementary schools.

Tips for Parents and Other Adults For Teaching Pedestrian Safety to Children

SafeRoutes

National Center for Safe Routes to School



TIP SHEET

Walking is a fun and healthy way to spend time with your children while teaching them skills that can serve them well throughout life. The walk to school is a great time to use these safety tips.

Be a walking role model

Children learn through experience. Walking with parents or another caregiver is an important way for children to practice crossing real streets and picking safe places to walk. There is no magic age when children are old enough to walk without an adult. But, as a parent, you should decide when your child has the skills and experience to deal with traffic safely without you.

As you walk with your child, remember these safety tips:

- Wear bright-colored clothes, and carry flashlights or wear reflective gear if it is dark or hard to see.
- Look for traffic at every driveway and intersection. Be aware of drivers in parked cars that may be getting ready to move.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Cross the street safely:
 1. Stop at the curb or edge of the street.
 2. Look left, right, left and behind you and in front of you for traffic.
 3. Wait until no traffic is coming and begin crossing.
 4. Keep looking for traffic until you have finished crossing.
 5. Walk, don't run across the street.



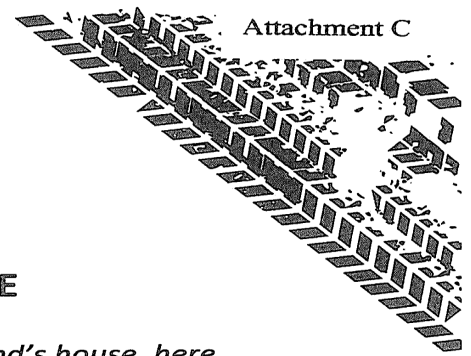
Choose the safest route to school

Select a walking route with less traffic and intersections.

- Pick places where there are sidewalks or paths separated from traffic. If there are no sidewalks or paths, walk as far from the motor vehicles as possible and, if possible, on the side of the street facing traffic.
- Limit the number of street crossings. When available, cross at a location with an adult school crossing guard.
- Avoid crossing busy or high-speed streets.

Understand your child's limitations

Children are not small adults. It will take time and practice for a child to develop the ability to deal with lots of traffic. Over time, children develop the ability to accurately judge the speed and distance of oncoming traffic. Young children may think that a car is able to stop, when in fact, it is not. Also, children may think that if they can see a driver, the driver can see them. But, children are smaller and harder for drivers to see. Get down to a child's height to experience their perspective and see what they see.



HELP US KEEP STUDENTS SAFE

Whether teens are walking to school, the park, or a friend's house, here are a few tips to make sure they get there safely.

Drive safely – drivers are often the cause of crashes!

- Slow down and watch for teens and others walking.
- Stop for people in crosswalks.
- Yield to pedestrians, especially when turning.
- Never drive distracted.

Engage your teen.

- Ask about his or her walking pattern. Emphasize the importance of looking up, listening, and making eye contact when crossing the street.
- Act out various scenarios that your teen might encounter while walking. Demonstrate that it's easy to put your phone down or take headphones off before crossing the street.
- Set a good example by putting away your phone when driving or walking.

What to say to your teen:

- Pedestrians don't always have the right of way. Cross at crosswalks and wait for the walk signal.
- Look up! Keep your head up and devices down while crossing the street.
- Make eye contact with drivers to be sure they see you.
- If you're wearing headphones, pull them down or turn the volume off before you cross the street.
- If you need to use your phone, stop on the sidewalk and find a safe area to talk or text.

Montgomery County Department of Transportation Pedestrian Safety

Safe Routes to School Resources...

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a nationwide program that aims to significantly improve safety for students who walk and bike to school. Check out the MCPS Safe Routes to School Website: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/saferoutes/>

Another great resource...MCDOT Safe Routes to School website: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-PedSafety/SRTS/Elem.html>