

THE LION'S DEN

Bethesda Elementary / Bethesda Elementary PTA Newsletter

February 1, 2019

Seymour's Shout Out...

Planning for 2019-2020...

During the next few months our staff will take a great deal of time and care in developing our classes from the 2019-2020 school year. Our goal is to create a productive learning environment for all students. We want to ensure classes are balanced, and take into account each child's learning style and needs.

As we organize our classrooms for next school year, we would like your input about your child. **Please complete the form (see the last page of this Lion's Den) and submit by Friday, March 8, 2019. This form is not to be used as a teacher request** but rather your opportunity to describe how you see your child as a learner. This form also provides you with the opportunity to share with us what elements you believe should be included in your child's instructional environment. Completing this form is optional. This year, in an effort to "Go Green," we are trying to have all forms submitted online. **Please use the link below to fill out the form electronically.** <https://goo.gl/forms/30pMtQgoao2MaqAA3> If you would prefer to handwrite it, we have attached the sheet to this letter. Please only fill out ONE copy per child (either online or handwritten). If you have more than one child, please fill out one form per child. Thank you for your input.

Kindergarten Orientation— coming soon...

Kindergarten Orientation will be held May 2nd and May 3rd. 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!

MCPS Calendar Information—emergency closings

If the school year is disrupted by emergencies and schools are closed **three or more days**, the first makeup instructional day will be used on June 14, 2019. Other dates in 2019 identified as possible make-up instructional days include: April 17, April 18, and June 5. PLEASE note these dates on your calendar.

Lisa Seymour

Mark your calendar...

February 6th— Report Card Distribution

February 14th— Valentine's Day Celebrations (2:15 Gr. 1-5/ 2:30 K)

February 18th— NO SCHOOL

March 1st— EARLY RELEASE DAY (12:55)

[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:



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

ATTENTION GRADE 3 FAMILIES: Next week, information regarding the Center for Enriched Studies will be mailed directly to all parents of Grade 3 students in Montgomery County Public Schools. All Grade 3 students were centrally reviewed for potential candidacy for the CES. You will be notified as to whether your child will be considered for the CES. Upon notification, you will have the option of requesting or declining CES testing. Testing will occur on February 20, 2019, at Bethesda ES. Contact your child's teacher or Karen Sanchez (Karen_G_Sanchez@mcpsmd.org) if you have additional questions or concerns.

MCPS Communications UPDATES...

Share Your Thoughts on Policy KBA

The Montgomery County Board of Education wants to hear from the community on proposed revisions to Policy KBA, *Policy on Public Information*. The revised policy discusses the importance of effective communication with members of the Montgomery County community across a variety of existing and emerging media and communication channels. The revised policy also affirms the Board of Education's commitment to following all legal obligations regarding the protection and appropriate disclosure of student and employee information. You can provide comments until March 3, 2019. For more information, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/policy-for-public-comment.aspx.

Student Transfer Application Season Begins February 1 (English and Spanish)

Parents and guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season which begins on February 1. All COSA requests must be submitted no later than April 1.

Except for students in the Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC), and Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) areas, MCPS students are assigned to a school on the basis of their place of residence or their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and are expected to attend their home school. Assignment changes for students from one school to another are permitted under limited circumstances. For more information, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers.

Temporada de Solicitud para Transferencias de Estudiantes Comienza el 1ro. de Febrero

Los padres y guardianes que deseen solicitar un Cambio de Asignación de Escuela (Change of School Assignment–COSA) para sus hijos desde su escuela local a otra pueden iniciar el proceso durante la próxima temporada de transferencias de escuela que comienza el 1ro. de febrero. Todas las peticiones de COSA deben ser presentadas a más tardar el 1ro. de abril.

Excepto para los estudiantes en las zonas de Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC) y Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC), los estudiantes de MCPS son asignados a una escuela de acuerdo a su domicilio o de acuerdo con su Programa Educativo Individualizado (Individualized Education Program–IEP) y por lo tanto deben asistir a su escuela local. Los cambios de asignación de una escuela a otra son permitidos a los estudiantes bajo circunstancias muy limitadas. Para más información, visite www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers.

Honoring Contributions to Special Education

Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to submit nominations to recognize individuals who have contributed to the success and acceptance of students with special needs. The recognitions are being given by the Special Education Committee of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs, Inc. (MCCPTA, Inc.).

Nominations are being accepted in four categories: Staff, Programs, Parents, and Students. Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. Applications are due by Friday, March 22. Nominations can be submitted by e-mail attachment or in the body of an e-mail message to SpecialEd@mccpta.org. If you are unable to submit an electronic nomination, you may send a completed nomination form and a nominating statement, along with supporting statements, to the MCCPTA, Inc. office: Montgomery County Council of PTAs, Inc., P.O. Box 10754, Rockville, Maryland 20849.

The nomination form can be accessed at the following link: news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/MCCPTA-2018-2019-Special-Education-Award-Nomination-Form.pdf.

Students Can Design Their Dream Classroom in United We Learn Contest (English and Spanish)

Montgomery County Public Schools is launching the third year of its student contest, United We Learn. This year's contest, United We Learn: Schools of the Future, allows students to design their ideal learning space and challenges them to think critically about how their physical environment affects their ability to learn. The contest follows a November 2018 survey that asked students and staff about how they use learning spaces at their schools, and what they would like classrooms and schools to look like in the future. Recurring elements mentioned in the survey feedback included considerations regarding color, lighting, furniture, technology, and security. That feedback will be used to support the continuous improvement of our educational facilities. The contest tasks students to consider these same elements as they design their vision of what an ideal learning space might look like in the future. By participating in this contest, students may also have the ability to help influence future design. More details are available on the contest website: montgomeryschoolsmd.org/events/unitedwelearn/.

MCPS Communications UPDATES continued...

Los Estudiantes Pueden Diseñar el Aula de Sus Sueños en el Concurso Unidos Aprendemos

Montgomery County Public Schools está dando inicio al tercer año de su concurso para estudiantes, Unidos Aprendemos (United We Learn). El concurso de este año, Unidos Aprendemos: Las Escuelas del Futuro (United We Learn: Schools of the Future), permite a los estudiantes diseñar su entorno de aprendizaje ideal y los desafía a pensar de manera crítica sobre cómo su ambiente físico afecta su capacidad de aprender.

El concurso sigue a una encuesta realizada en noviembre 2018 que les preguntaba a los estudiantes y al personal acerca de cómo ellos usan los espacios de aprendizaje en sus escuelas, y cómo les gustaría que fueran sus salones de clase y sus escuelas en el futuro. Los elementos recurrentes mencionados en las respuestas a la encuesta incluyeron consideraciones relacionadas con color, luz, muebles, tecnología y seguridad. Esos comentarios/sugerencias serán utilizados para apoyar el mejoramiento continuo de nuestras instalaciones educativas. El concurso asigna a los estudiantes la tarea de considerar estos mismos elementos al diseñar su visión de cómo sería el espacio ideal para el aprendizaje en el futuro. Al participar en este concurso, los estudiantes también tienen la capacidad de ayudar a influenciar los diseños futuros. Hay más detalles disponibles en la página web del concurso: montgomeryschoolsmd.org/events/unitedwelearn/.

Restorative Justice Workshops Set for February 5 and April 2 (English and Spanish)

Parents, guardians, and community members are invited to attend a workshop on Tuesday, February 5, at Julius West Middle School, and on Tuesday, April 2, at A. Mario Loiederman Middle School from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to learn more about the district's restorative justice vision and how this social justice platform allows students to actively engage and problem-solve physical, psychological, and disciplinary issues that affect their lives and the community. More information can be found [here](#).

Talleres sobre Justicia Restaurativa Programados para el 5 de Febrero y el 2 de Abril

Se invita a los padres, guardianes y miembros de la comunidad a que asistan a un taller el martes, 5 de febrero, en Julius West Middle School, y el martes, 2 de abril, en A. Mario Loiederman Middle School, de 6:30 a 8:30 p.m., para conocer más acerca de la visión del distrito escolar sobre la justicia restaurativa y cómo esta plataforma de justicia social permite a los estudiantes participar activamente y resolver problemas físicos, psicológicos y disciplinarios que afectan sus vidas y la comunidad. Se puede encontrar más información [aquí](#).

Community Conversations on the Future of High School Programs (English and Spanish)

MCPS is holding a series of community conversations with Chief Academic Officer Maria V. Navarro to discuss the future of high school programs. Attendees will have an opportunity to discuss what high school programs MCPS should offer in the future to best support college and career readiness. Staff, students, parents, guardians, and members of the community are invited to attend. The forums are scheduled for:

- Monday, February 11, Clarksburg High School, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Monday, April 8, Richard Montgomery High School, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Register online at mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/community-conversation/.

Conversaciones con la Comunidad sobre Programas Futuros en las Escuelas Secundarias

MCPS está llevando a cabo una serie de conversaciones entre la comunidad y Maria V. Navarro, Jefa de Asuntos Académicos (Chief Academic Officer), para hablar sobre el futuro de los programas en las escuelas secundarias. Quienes asistan tendrán la oportunidad de hablar sobre qué programas debería ofrecer en el futuro MCPS en las escuelas secundarias para apoyar de mejor manera la preparación para la universidad y para carreras. El personal, estudiantes, padres, guardianes y miembros de la comunidad están todos invitados a asistir. Los foros han sido programados para los días:

- Lunes, 11 de febrero, Clarksburg High School, 6:30 a 8:30 p.m.
- Lunes, 8 de abril, Richard Montgomery High School, 6:30 a 8:30 p.m.

Inscríbase en línea en: mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/community-conversation/.

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)

Attention ELL FAMILIES:

ALL ELL (English Language Learner) students will take the WIDA Access for Ell's 2.0 test during the months of January and February to determine their English language proficiency level for next year. Students in grades 3-5 will take all domains of the test online; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Grade 1-2 will write in testing booklets and take the rest of the test online. Kindergarteners will take the test individually with Ms. Pluznik or Mrs. Petrossian over the course of two days. Students will take only one test per day and no more than two in a week. Testing will occur in the E.S.O.L classrooms of Ms. Alison Pluznik. Mrs. Vivian Hu, and Mrs. Julie Petrossian. Testing will usually occur during your child's regularly scheduled E.S.O.L support time.

Schedule for testing at Bethesda Elementary:

January 28-February 1, 2019- **Writing Tests** for grades 1-5, Kindergarten tests Teacher workday/no school for students – Monday, January 28, 2019

February 4-8, 11-15, 18-22, 2019- **Make-up testing as needed;** Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing

Multicultural Night:

We are so lucky at BE to have such a multicultural community and it's almost time to showcase YOUR culture at Multicultural Night - Thursday March 21st, 6:30-8PM!

The PTA is looking for parents volunteers to share their cultures traditions, crafts, music, and foods with the entire BE community.

It's very easy!

- You will have a dedicated space for a visual showcase of your country - any way you'd like : flags, costumes, crafts, fun facts...
- Then if you want, you can also have an activity for the kids : teach an instrument, a dance, a craft, a game... from your country

And you can also bring small food samples (Please note the constraints that since the food will be available in our kids' classroom with the other activities, we require only non messy samples in BITE SIZE only)

If you are interested, please sign-up on the sign-up genius link :

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090e4eaeac22a3f85-multicultural1>

If you have any questions, please contact : clothilde.mayer@gmail.com

Visiting Author– Jonathan Roth...

We are delighted that local author Jonathan Roth will be visiting Bethesda Elementary School on February 25, 2019. He will discuss his chapter book series, *Beep and Bob*, with your children. Astro Elementary is a school near Saturn attended by the bravest, brightest, most elite kids in the galaxy...and Bob. Bob never wanted to go to fourth grade in dark, dangerous space. Bob feels he couldn't be more misplaced at his school—until he meets Beep. Beep is an alien from the planet Orth who was kicked off his home world for being too small. The instant Bob finds him, Beep adopts Bob as his new mother. Soon Bob can't turn around without bumping into Beep's squishy little body. Together, they make the perfect team.

Books for this event will be distributed on February 25 but to facilitate signing we are offering the opportunity to PRE-ORDER books online. **The price reflects a 20% discount and sales tax is included.** You must follow the instructions below when ordering online to ensure your child receives their book.

Please visit the Politics & Prose website at: <https://www.politics-prose.com/school/jonathan-roth-5>

Select "pre-order a signed book" for each desired title.

Completely fill out the form that pops up to include your child's name, etc. and select "add to cart".

Please note that the 20% discount offered to students will be applied *after* you complete the pop up form.

Under "Store Pickup Options", please indicate that you would "like to pick up this order at the store".

Please note that books will be picked up and distributed by the school after the event, you don't have to come to the store!

Checkout and complete payment. Review and submit order.

Please only purchase event books this way. If you have other online Politics and Prose shopping to do, please do so in a separate transaction.

Orders must be placed online by February 4. Late orders cannot be accommodated.

Prices reflect a 20% discount and sales tax is included.

Beep and Bob: Too Much Space

\$5.08 paperback \$14.41 hardcover

In their first adventure, Bob is humiliated on a field trip to Pluto when his tongue gets stuck to the ice. Not even Beep can keep Bob from becoming the laughing stock of the school. Bob has to find a way to completely change his personality, just in time for their next treacherous field trip—to the gaping mouth of a super massive black hole!

Beep and Bob: Party Crashers

\$ 5.08 paperback

\$14.41 hardcover

Beep and his best friend, Bob, are accused of stealing guests' jewelry during Lani's birthday voyage on luxurious Starship Titanic, but things go downhill when Titanic plummets toward Neptune.

Beep and Bob: Take Us to Your Sugar

\$5.08 paperback

\$14.41 hardcover

Beep, Bob, and Lani successfully bring Halloween at Astro Elementary. However, grotesque aliens invade the school the very same day. With everyone in costume, no one can tell who's who. Beep and Bob may have saved the holiday, but can they save the school?

Beep and Bob: Double Trouble

\$5.08 paperback

\$14.41 hardcover

Beep and Bob accidentally clone themselves for the school science fair and soon discover their clones are evil in this fourth book in this hilarious, action-packed series.

Read Across America

February 25 – March 1



| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Monday |  | Hat Day |
| Tuesday |  | Silly Socks Day |
| Wednesday |  | Bring in your Favorite Book to read and/or share with your classmates. |
| Thursday |  | Wear “Zoo” Inspired/ Animal Print Clothing |
| Friday |  | Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration- Dress like your favorite Seuss Character or Seuss-Theme outfit |



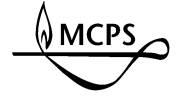
Bethesda Elementary School

7600 Arlington Road

Bethesda, Maryland 20814

240-204-5300

Lisa S. Seymour
Principal



February 1, 2019

Parent Intention Form

Dear Parents or Guardians,

We are already beginning to plan for the 2019-2020 school year. Our projected enrollment is a key factor in this planning. Please indicate your plans for your child(ren) for the 2019-2020 school year. Please complete this form and return it to your child's teacher by **Friday, March 8, 2019**.

Part 1: Current Student(S)

Child's/Children's First and Last _____

Name(s): _____

Grade(s) your child(ren) will be enrolled for 2019-2020 school year:

- ☐ 1. My child(ren) will be returning.
- ☐ 2. My child(ren) will not be returning.
- ☐ 3. We are undecided about our plans for the 2019-2020 school-year.

If you checked either items 2 or 3 above, please respond to the following questions:

- ☐ We are moving out of the Bethesda Elementary area.
- ☐ We are considering moving out of the Bethesda Elementary area.
- ☐ My child will be attending private school.
- ☐ We are considering private school for our child(ren)
- ☐ We have applied for a transfer to (list school) _____.
- ☐ We have been approved for a transfer to (list school) _____.
- ☐ Other: _____.

Part 2: New Student(s) to Bethesda ES

- ☐ I have an incoming kindergartener. Child's name: _____.
- ☐ I have registered my child for kindergarten.
- ☐ I have an incoming first grader.
- ☐ I have a child entering ____ grade from _____ school.

If you have an incoming kindergartener and have not registered him/her, please do so as soon as possible. Also, if you know of a neighbor whose son/daughter is of kindergarten age, please encourage him/her to register the child. Thank you.

Lisa Seymour
Principal