

THE LION'S DEN

Bethesda Elementary / Bethesda Elementary PTA Newsletter

May 3, 2019

Seymour's Shout Out...

Dear Bethesda Families,

It was great seeing so many of you at Arts Night this week. Thank you to all the staff who made this happen, especially Ms. Calomiris and Ms. LaGrave. Hopefully you were able to stop by the Green Team's "Plant Sale" to purchase plants for your garden. Special thank you to Ms. Coyle for organizing this great event.

This weekend many BE Community Members will be supporting the BCC Rescue Squad at the BCC Rescue1Run on Sunday. We hope to see many of you out to support this great cause. Special thank you to Ms. Levine for helping to gather support for this event and organizing last week's BE Spirit Week.

Spring is here and we are enjoying the warmer temperatures and hope they are here to stay! The AC is on and working to cool our building. Just a reminder, your child might want to bring a sweatshirt to wear during class, in the event their classroom is a little cool.

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, we really appreciate everyone following the morning arrival traffic patterns and procedures. Thank you for helping to keep our students safe by traveling at a safe speed.

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: TESTING COMPLETE

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

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...

May 17th - Career Day

May 18th - PTA School Sponsored May Movie Madness 4:00-8:00

May 22nd - Spring Concert 6:30 pm

May 27th - No School

May 30th - K-2 Field Day

May 31st 3-5 Field Day

June 6th - K-2 Field Day
RAIN DATE

June 7th - 3-5 Field Day
RAIN DATE

[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/>

MCPS Communication Updates

Equity Accountability Model Now Available

The MCPS Equity Accountability Data Dashboard provides information on the strategies the district is using to monitor and report student achievement. MCPS created the Equity Accountability Model to provide a way to look at the impact of a school specific to the achievement of all students. You can view the dashboard and learn more at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/evidence-of-learning-framework/equity-accountability-model.aspx.

Reminder: 2019 Special Education Parent Involvement Survey (English and Spanish)

Parents or guardians of children receiving special education and related services are asked to complete the 2019 Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey over the next few weeks. The information you provide will help guide the state's efforts in improving special education and related services in public schools. The survey is anonymous and can be completed online. The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, **May 17**. Visit www.mdparentsurvey.com/ to complete the survey.

June 5 Inclement Weather Make-Up Day

Inclement weather forced MCPS to close schools on four days. As a result of these closures, MCPS will use two designated make-up days to ensure that it meets the state required number of days. The school year will now be extended to June 14 and schools will now be open on June 5, which was a previously scheduled professional day for staff and a no school day for students. Please share this important information with your school community. A blurb is provided below.

REMINDER: Special Education Summit Set for April 27

MCPS staff, parents/guardians, and community members are invited to the sixth annual Special Education Summit, *Leading the Way Today, Partnering for a Better Tomorrow*, on Saturday, April 27, at Quince Orchard High School. A blurb is provided below.

Latino Parent Forum Set for April 30

MCPS parents and guardians are invited to attend the second MCPS Latino Community Forum for the 2018–2019 school year. This community forum will provide Latino families with an opportunity to engage in an important conversation about enrichment opportunities for Latino students. The forum will be held on Tuesday, April 30 at Forest Oak Middle School. To RSVP online visit docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfLVlb2HnMQhuS1MeHcHHRsVjCpaepKsgPP0CkJK3kMIKiow/viewform. A blurb is provided below.

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)

Recess Volunteers

While the school year is coming to a close, you can still volunteer at recess. The warmer temperatures make recess a great excuse to soak up the sun! Please see the link below for volunteer guidelines and how to volunteer. Remember, you must complete the required trainings prior to volunteering.

Thanks!

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/bethesdaes/news/BE%20Volunteer%20GUIDELINES%202018-2019.pdf>

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

Contact Information

While the school year is coming to a close, we want to make sure we have your updated contact information for summer correspondence. If your contact information has changed, please be sure to update it with Ms. Paz in the front office: Maria_P_Velasco-galey@mcpsmd.org

You can double check what information we have on file, by logging into your MCPS Parent Portal account. Did you know, you can also view grades and other student information in the portal? Contact the front office, if you need information about accessing your account.

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.



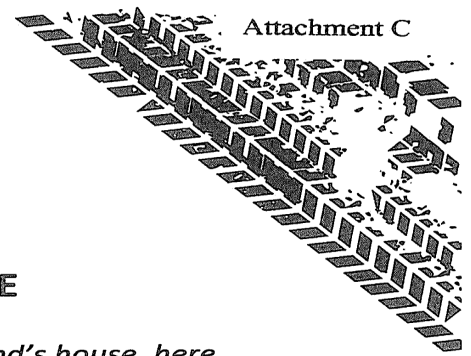
Choose the safest route to school

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>