



**The week ahead**

<b>Mon., Feb. 20</b>	<b>Holiday, School Closed</b>
<b>Tue., Feb. 21</b>	<b>No Head Start class Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163 Legos, 3:50 pm, rm. 125 Chess, 3:50 pm, rm. 209 MSA Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym</b>
<b>Wed., Feb. 22</b>	<b>No Head Start class Model UN, 8:10 am, rm. 149 Rec. Dept. Bricks for Kids, 3:50 pm, rm. 149 Spanish (K-2), 3:50 pm, rm. 212 Science, 3:50 pm, rm. 219</b>
<b>Thur., Feb. 23</b>	<b>No Head Start class Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163 Brownie Troop 1643, 3:50 pm, rm. 159 Scout Troop 2794, 3:50 pm, rm. 129</b>
<b>Fri., Feb. 24</b>	<b>No Head Start class Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm Daisy Troop 33042, 3:50 pm, rm. 129 Scout Troop 585, 5:00 pm, rm. 149</b>

**A Look Ahead**

<b>Feb. 28</b>	<b>Restaurant Night at California Tortilla, 5:00-9:00 pm</b>
<b>Mar. 2</b>	<b>Bingo Night, 7:00 pm, APR</b>
<b>Mar. 3</b>	<b>Early Release, 1:20 pm</b>
<b>Mar. 7</b>	<b>Science Fair Help Night, 6:30 pm, Media Center PTA Mtg, 7:00 pm, Media Center</b>

- **Head Start class will not meet all week, February 21-24. Mrs. Levine and Mrs. Ortuno will be out of the building on home visits.**
- **Unfortunately, our annual Black History Celebration has been postponed. We will announce the new date when it is available.**

- **Join your Bells Mill friends at California Tortilla on Tuesday, February 28, 5:00-9:00 pm.** Dine in or carry out, and 25% of your purchase will be donated to the PTA. Don't forget to mention Bells Mill when placing your order.
- **Science Fair Help Night will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 6:00-7:00 pm, in the Media Center.** Parents and their students who are interested in participating in the Bells Mill Science Fair are encouraged to attend Help Night for guidance in the selection of an age-appropriate project and to learn tips for science fair success. **The annual Science Fair is on Friday, May 5, 6:45-8:00 pm, in the APR.** The Science Fair is non-competitive and open to all students in Grades K-5. Participation is voluntary.
- **We are collecting names for fall kindergarten classes.** If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2017, contact Ms. Vincenty (240-740-0480) to get your child's name added to our list. Encourage your neighbors to do the same. We will announce spring Kindergarten Orientation dates as soon as they are available.
- **Registration for MCPS Prekindergarten/Head Start Programs for low-income families with children who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2017, begins March 10 for the school year 2017-2018.** Registration for a limited number of openings for Head Start eligible children, residing in certain areas of Germantown, Rockville, and Takoma Park, who will be 3 by September 1, 2017, also begins March 10. Parents may apply at Rocking Horse Center, 4910 Macon Rd, Rockville, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are available if preferred. For more information regarding required documents and registration locations and times, please contact Prekindergarten/Head Start at 301-230-0676 or check [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org) and search prekindergarten.
- **The Montgomery County Board of Education has recommended a \$2.52 billion operating budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018.** The budget includes a \$64 million increase from FY 2017, which will allow the district to manage significant enrollment growth and build the foundation and structure needed to ensure that all MCPS students are able to achieve at higher levels. The Board's budget request will be submitted to the Montgomery County Executive and the County Council. The County Executive is expected to release his FY 2018 operating budget recommendation by March 15. The Montgomery County Council will hold public hearings on the county budget in April before passing a final budget in May. Stay informed and engaged on the Board's budget request on the [MCPS Operating Budget website](#).

Find out how budget decisions are made, what the county is doing today to get ready for FY 2018 and beyond, and the opportunities residents have to influence budget decisions at upcoming budget meetings with County Councilmember Craig Rice, Superintendent of Schools Jack R. Smith, and Montgomery College president DeRionne Pollard. The meetings will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the following locations:

**March 8,** Montgomery Blair High School, 51 University Boulevard East, Silver Spring

**March 15,** Montgomery College (Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus), Catherine F. Scott Building Room 211, 7600 Takoma Avenue, Takoma Park

**March 22,** Walter Johnson High School, 6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda

**March 29,** Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville

- **Pay tribute to your child’s school counselor by nominating him or her for the School Counselor of the Year Award.** The awards honor the dedication and hard work of counselors — one each at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Parents, students, staff, and administrators can submit nominations. Counselors must be actively working as a counselor in MCPS and have worked for the system for at least three years. Nominees must show outstanding leadership; understand the individual needs of students, encourage their talents and cultivate their self-esteem; foster collaborative relationships with colleagues, students, their families, and the community; and use data to help drive decision-making. Nominations due **Friday, March 10**. Counselors may be nominated by school administrators, staff members, parents, and students. The criteria and nomination packet can be found at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-services/mental-health/counseling.aspx?id=335893](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-services/mental-health/counseling.aspx?id=335893)
- **Parents, students, educators, and business and industry leaders are invited to attend the county’s first STEM Summit from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 26.** The summit is being hosted by Montgomery County Councilmember Hans Riemer. The goal of the summit is to create a vision for an effective STEM engagement strategy for Montgomery County. The summit will be held at the Silver Spring Civic Center (1 Veterans Place). The event is free and those interested in attending can [RSVP online](#).
- **The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking nominations from the public for its Annual Awards for Distinguished Service to Public Education.** The awards are sponsored by the Board to recognize and show appreciation to individuals, including students, groups, and organizations that have made exemplary contributions to public education in Montgomery County. Up to three awards will be given in each of the following categories: Community Individual, Community Group, Business, MCPS Staff, School Service Volunteer, and Individual Pioneer. Nomination forms are available [here](#). **Completed nomination forms are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3.** \_Winners will be honored in a ceremony on May 4 in the Carver Educational Services Center auditorium.
- **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 at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/). 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.

