



The week ahead

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| Mon., Mar. 20 | Gr. 5 MISA, 9:45-11:40 am
MSA Soccer, 3:50 pm, gym
Science Night at Richard Montgomery HS, 7:00-9:00 pm |
| Tue., Mar. 21 | Gr. 5 MISA, 9:45-11:40 am
Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163
MSA Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym
K-2 Talent Show mandatory audition, 3:50-5:30 pm |
| Wed., Mar. 22 | Model UN, 8:10 am, rm. 149
K-2 Talent Show mandatory rehearsal, 3:50-5:30 pm |
| Thur., Mar. 23 | Art, 3:50 pm, rm. 163
Brownie Troop 1643, 3:50 pm, rm. 159
Scout Troop 2794, 3:50 pm, rm. 129
Gr. 5 Plays, 7:00 pm, APR |
| Fri., Mar. 24 | Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm
Daisy Troop 33042, 3:50 pm, rm. 129
Scout Troop 585, 5:00 pm, rm. 149
K-2 Talent Show, 7:00 pm, APR |

A Look Ahead

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| Mar. 29 | Restaurant Night at Potomac Pizza, 4:00-9:00 pm |
| Apr. 4 | PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm |
| Apr. 7-17 | School Closed |

- **Returning to Bells Mill next year?** We are already preparing for the 2017-2018 school year. Students in Gr. K-4 brought home a blue form which asks for your plans for next school year. If you haven't already done so, please complete this form and return it to your child's teacher so that we can have an accurate picture of our staffing needs for next year.
- **Get ready for the Bells Mill Stars of Tomorrow Talent Shows!** If you have a talent that you would like to share, then you should consider auditioning for the talent show. Everyone who auditions will be included in the show.

Grades K-2 will perform on Friday, March 24, 6:30 pm (performers arrive at 6:00 pm), with auditions on Tuesday, March 21, 3:50-5:30 pm, and mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday, March 22, 3:50-5:30 pm.

Grades 3-5 will perform on Friday, April 28, 6:30 pm (performers arrive at 6:00 pm), with auditions on Tuesday, April 25, 3:50-5:30 pm, and mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday, April 26, 3:50-5:30 pm.

Students should bring an afternoon snack to the auditions and rehearsals. *No transportation is provided for these activities.* Please pick up your child no later than 5:30 pm on the audition and rehearsal days. A piano will be available for student performance. Gr. K-2 permission forms went home in backpacks, and Gr. 3-5 permission forms will go home in April. No student can participate without a permission form. Questions, contact LaTisha Gasaway at minds_in_motion@yahoo.com.

- **Join the Bells Mill community at Potomac Pizza on Wednesday, March 29, 4:00-9:00 pm, for good food and great company.** Dine in or carry out and 20% of your purchase will go to the PTA. Be sure to mention Bells Mill so that the PTA can receive credit for your purchase.
- **Students in Gr. 5 will present their original plays on Thursday, March 23, 7:00 pm. Families are invited to the performance.**
- **Attention Kindergarten parents, there will be no school for kindergarteners on Monday and Tuesday, April 24 and 25.** On these days we will hold Kindergarten Orientation for next year's kindergarteners.
- **Mark your calendars! Camp Bells Mill/KinderCamp is July 10-28, 8:30 am-noon, for all Bells Mill rising kindergarteners through grade 5 students.** Informational letters/registration forms will go home in backpacks when details are available. We will have room for all Bells Mill students who wish to attend. Financial aid is available. Our own teachers will staff the camp. Thank you to Mr. Leffler who will teach the rising 5th graders.
- **Registration is open for the PTA-sponsored spring enrichment session.** To view the schedule of Flex Academies after-school activities visit <https://bmesflex.asapconnected.com/CoursesIndex.aspx>. Questions, contact Flex Academies at info@flexacademies.com.
- **MCPS, in collaboration with the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA), will host a Science Night from 7:00– 9:00 p.m. on March 20 at Richard Montgomery High School, located at 250 Richard Montgomery Drive in Rockville, Maryland.** At the event, parents and students will join MCPS science educators to learn about the Next Generation Science Standards; new testing requirements; the timeline for implementation in elementary, middle, and high schools; new high school course pathways; and college/career readiness. Attendees will have an opportunity to participate in hands-on science activities and hear from students in the district's pathways program. For more information and to RSVP, [click here](#).
- **Make Your Voice Heard!** On March 1, the Board of Education transmitted its \$2.52 billion Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget request to Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and the Montgomery County Council. The county executive is expected to release his FY 2018 operating budget recommendation by March 15. The County Council will consider the budget this spring with final approval happening in late May. It is critical that our elected leaders hear

from you about the essential role school plays in your child's life and the importance of giving students access to the opportunities and resources they need to be college and career ready.

You can testify at the Montgomery County Council public hearings on the FY 2018 Operating Budget. They will be held—

- Tuesday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 5, at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 6, at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

To testify call 240-777-7803 or visit

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/PHSignUp.html beginning March 15 to sign up. There are other ways that you can become involved in the budget process and help advocate for full funding of the MCPS budget. Visit the budget webpage at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/ to learn how you can get involved and advocate.

- **Parents or guardians of children receiving special education and related services were mailed the *Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey* from the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services.** Parents are asked to complete the survey and return it in the postage paid envelope by **May 1, 2017**. The survey may also be completed online. Please look for details in your survey packet. Your feedback will help guide efforts to improve special education and related services in your local school system. Your voice can make a difference for your child and many other children in Maryland. To learn more, visit www.mdparentsurvey.com.