



The week ahead

- Mon., Dec. 12** **New Toy Drive continues through Friday**
Music, 3:50 pm, rm. 129
MSA Indoor Soccer, 3:50 pm, gym
- Tue., Dec. 13** **New Toy Drive**
Head Start Parent Meeting, 10:30 am, APR
Art Escapades, 3:50 pm, rm. 159 (last session)
MSA Basketball, 3:50 pm, gym
- Wed., Dec. 14** **New Toy Drive**
Model UN, 8:10 am, rm. 149
Chorus Concert, 7:00 pm, APR
- Thur., Dec. 15** **New Toy Drive**
Clay Creations, 3:50 pm, rm. 163
Brownies Troop 1643, rm. 159, 3:50 pm
- Fri., Dec. 16** **Last day of New Toy Drive**
Muffins with Mom, 8:30-9:00 am
Odyssey of the Mind, 3:50 pm
Daisy Troop 33042, 3:50 pm, rm. 129
Scout Troop 585, rm. 149, 5:00 pm

A Look Ahead

- Dec. 26-Jan. 2** **School Closed**
Jan. 3 **Welcome Back**
Jan. 10 **Testing for those who applied to the Centers for the Highly Gifted, 9:30 am**

- **Please note: Last spring the school phone number was changed to 240-740-0480. Phone calls to the old number are no longer being forwarded. It is necessary to dial the new number to reach the school.**
- **If you are considering holiday gifts for teachers, an alternative way to honor a teacher is a tax deductible donation to the Bells Mill Bear Hug fund which helps families right in our community. You can send in a check made payable to *Bells Mill Bear Hug Fund* and specify the name of the teacher you wish to honor. Teachers receive a special card notifying them of your donation, and you receive a receipt for tax purposes.**

- **The Gr. 4/5 Winter Chorus Concert for families is Wednesday, December 14, at 7:00 pm.** Chorus members should meet in the gym no later than 6:45 pm and should be dressed in white tops and black or dark blue bottoms.
- **The Student Government New Toy Drive continues through December 16.** Please send in your donations of new, unwrapped toys appropriate for children ages preschool through middle school. Toys will go to local families. Students should bring their donations to their classrooms.
- **You are welcome to join Superintendent Jack R. Smith as he delivers the FY2018 Recommended Operating Budget presentation, Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 pm, Gaithersburg HS Auditorium.** Free child care (ages 4 and older) and interpretation services will be provided. Overflow parking will be available at the Bohrer Park Activity Center, 506 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg.
- **Mark your calendars for Muffins with Mom (or a grandma, aunt or special friend), Friday, December 16, 8:30-9:00 am.** Moms, grandmas, aunts or special friends can start the morning with their students. Muffins, coffee and juice will be served. Please note, since no staff members are on duty at that time, we ask that our guests provide appropriate supervision of their children. *We expect a large turn out, so plan to park on the street. Please, no parking in the bus lot. That area must remain clear for arriving buses.*
- **Attention parents of Gr. 3 students who applied to the Centers for the Highly Gifted,** all Gr. 3 students who applied to the Centers for the Highly Gifted are scheduled to be tested at Bells Mill on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. Please make every effort to ensure that your child is in school that day and arrives on time. Testing will begin promptly at 9:30 am. If your child is sick on the day of the test, it is the parent's responsibility to contact Mrs. Betty Shevitz, Instructional Specialist, DCCAPS, at 301-592-2040 for information on the make-up date.
- **Winter is here!** In the event of weather-related school closings and delayed openings, all announcements are made as early as possible, generally in time for news broadcasts that begin at 5:00 AM. Early closing announcements are made by 11:00 AM. Please tune in to radio and television news stations or MCPS Channel 34 for information regarding school closings, delays and early releases. You may also obtain information at the Schools Out website (www.schools-out.com), the MCPS information line (301-279-3673), or the MCPS Call Center (301-309-6277).
- **MCPS students at all grade levels are encouraged to participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Literary Contest and Visual Arts Show.** The 2017 theme is "Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere." The essays and artwork should reflect an understanding and appreciation of the ideals of Dr. King's life, achievements, and aspirations. Literary entries should be 150 words or less and are due by **Friday, December 23.** Submit them to the MLK Essay Contest, c/o Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, 21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850 or [here](#). For visual arts entries, the contest is open to prints, posters, collages, murals, photographs, and all other two-dimensional visual art forms. Group projects are welcome. Send entries to Linda S. Adams, supervisor, Pre-K-12 Fine Arts, Carver Educational Services Center, Room 256, 850 Hungerford Dr., Rockville, MD 20850. The deadline is **Friday, December 23.**

- **Registration is now open for the Flex Academy winter enrichment session.** Go to flexyourafterschool.com/BellsMill to view the winter schedule and sign up. You can also go to flexacademies.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/BMES-F16.pdf for more information about each class being offered. Classes fill up quickly so register soon. Questions, contact info@flexacademies.com or call 240-654-0877.