A MESSAGE FROM OUR MS. BROOKS

Daffodils and the tulips will soon be popping out with the other lovely signs of SPRING 2019! Safety at Bel Pre continues to be our highest priority. In March and April, we will continue to practice security preparedness through safety drills. In reference to dismissal safety, we ask for parent support to please be mindful of always signing children out in the office if picking students up at dismissal time or any other time of the school day. Students **may not go home in an alternative manner without a written note from the parents or a phone call to the office.** Due to the many phone calls just prior to dismissal, we ask for parents help to please call the office for dismissal changes prior to 2:50 pm, if at all possible. Thank you for your support of these safety practices.

**Kindergarten Orientation**

Registration is underway for Kindergarten orientation which will be held on **Thursday, May 16 and Friday, May 17, 2019.** This is an opportunity for next year’s kindergarteners and their parents to come and learn about Bel Pre and the kindergarten program as well as meet the kindergarten teachers. Parents will also begin the registration process at Kindergarten Orientation. Please call the main office, 301-287-8870, for more information and to register your child. Children must be five years old by **September 1, 2019** in order to enroll in kindergarten. Please be sure to tell your friends and neighbors who have children that age to call the school and come for Kindergarten Orientation. We look forward to meeting our future kindergarteners!
Pre-K Registration

Registration for the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Prekindergarten/Head Start Programs for low-income families with children who will be four years old by September 1, 2019, begins March 1st for the school year 2019-2020. 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, 2019, also begins March 1.

Parents may apply at Bel Pre Elementary School on April 11, 2019 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. For an appointment, call 240-740-4530. Also, parents may apply at Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, Rockville, MD 20852, 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 240-740-4530 or check the MCPS website, www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org and search prekindergarten.

Elementary Language Immersion Programs

Montgomery County Public Schools offers Spanish, French, and Chinese elementary language immersion programs. For more information about these programs, please visit the website:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms or call DCCAPS at 240-740-2540.

Students are selected using a lottery process. Applications can be submitted online at http://bit.ly/MCPS2019Immersion by April 26, 2019. If you would like a paper application, please call the Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services 240-740-2540.

ELO-SAIL Summer School

This summer Bel Pre will host only ELO-SAIL July 1st through August 2nd, 2019. Look out for flyers in Thursday folders!
### Calendar Items

Please keep in mind the following important dates for March and April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, March 1st</strong></td>
<td>Early Release. School will dismiss at 12:55 p.m. Morning Pre-K will dismiss at 10:50 a.m. There will be no afternoon Pre-K classes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Monday, March 4th - Friday, March 8th | I LOVE TO READ WEEK  
- Monday, 3/4 – Crazy Socks Day  
- Tuesday, 3/5 – Read a T-Shirt Day  
- Wednesday, 3/6 – Wacky Wednesday  
- Thursday, 3/7 – Bel Pre Day  
- Friday, 3/8 – Guest Reader Day (Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss) |
| **Tuesday, March 5** | GT Surveys are need to be returned by March 5 |
| **Tuesday, March 5** | Classroom Pictures from Lifetouch, Pre-K and Kindergarten classes |
| **Wednesday, March 6** | Classroom Pictures from Lifetouch, First and Second Grade |
| **Thursday, March 7** | Character Night @ 6:30-8:00 |
| **Wednesday, March 13th** | Math Parent Meeting  
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. |
| **Wednesday, March 27th** | Math Parent Meeting  
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. |
| **Wednesday, April 10th** | Math Parent Meeting  
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. |
| **Wednesday, April 17th – Monday, April 22nd** | Spring Break – No School |
| **Wednesday, April 3rd** | 3rd Marking Period Ends - Early Release Day |
| **Tuesday, April 16th** | Report Cards go home |
| **May 6th – 10th** | STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK |
| **May 16th - May 17th** | KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION – BY APPOINTMENT ONLY |
TOWN HALL MEETINGS
1st Semester Perfect Attendance & Super Pandas & Teachers!

Perfect Attendance K

Perfect Attendance 1st Grade

Perfect Attendance 2nd Grade

Kindergarten February Super Pandas

1st Grade February Super Pandas
From the Reading Corner: Ms. Dupree

The week of March 4th - March 8th is I Love to Read Week at Bel Pre. Each year we use this week, which coincides with Read Across America the nation’s largest commemoration to celebrate the joy of reading through the eyes of our diverse readers and to highlight the importance of reading at school and at home. Please join your child in this celebration. Each day, we will have an activity that is both fun and instructional for your child to enjoy. Our annual literacy event CHARACTER NIGHT is on Thursday March, 7 @ 6:30-8:00 PM.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon. March 4</td>
<td><strong>Crazy Socks Day</strong></td>
<td>Wear crazy socks to school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. March 5</td>
<td><strong>Read a T-shirt Day</strong></td>
<td>Wear a T-shirt that all can read!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. March 6</td>
<td><strong>Wacky Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>“Bring” mismatched clothes to school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. March 7</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Bel Pre Day!</strong> Wear green and white or your Bel Pre T-shirt to school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. March 8</td>
<td><strong>Guest Reader Day</strong></td>
<td>Wear a hat or dress up like your favorite storybook character.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Join Us for Discussions on Safety and Security

MCPS and the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) are hosting a series of community conversations on safety and security.

The meetings will feature Ed Clarke, chief safety officer for MCPS, and Dr. Christina Conolly, director of MCPS psychological services. They will discuss school safety issues, student mental health concerns, and lockdown with options protocols.

The community meetings will be held:

**Thursday, February 21, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**
Carver Educational Services Center (CESC)
(*in-person, plus live streamed*)
850 Hungerford Dr., Rockville, MD 20850

**Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**
Silver Creek Middle School
3701 Saul Road, Kensington, MD 20895

**Wednesday, March 13, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**
Paint Branch High School
14121 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866

**Thursday, March 21, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**
Northwood High School - Cafeteria
919 University Blvd., West Silver Spring, MD 20901

**Tuesday, March 26, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**
Clarksburg High School Cafeteria
22500 Wims Road, Clarksburg, MD 20871

Happy Spring Break to all of our outstanding Bel Pre families, students, and staff! Spring Break begins on Wednesday, April 17th and students and staff return to school on Tuesday, April 23rd.

---

**MEDIA MEMOS**
Mrs. Boyd, Media Specialist

Spring is just around the corner! Bel Pre Students are participating in the 2017-2018 Black-Eyed Susan Book Award Program!

The purpose of this award is to promote literacy and lifelong reading habits by encouraging students to read quality, contemporary literature. Each year children in schools across the state of Maryland have a chance to vote for a favorite book (from a list of nominated books) to receive the Black-Eyed Susan Book Award. Fifteen picture books (Gr. K-3), and ten chapter books for (Gr. 4-6, 6-9, and High School) have been nominated. Mrs. Boyd reads picture books to Kindergarten, First and Second grade classes when they come to media each week. A minimum of eight picture books must be read in order to vote. After hearing the stories,
students will have the opportunity to evaluate the book in a variety of ways, including brief written responses. After eight picture books have been read to each class, students vote for their favorite book. Students are encouraged to check-out the Black-Eyed Susan books for individual reading from the school library media center or from the public library. Committees of school library media specialists and other interested persons meet over the course of a year to determine which books will go on the lists. For a list of this year’s nominated books, visit: our school website media center page, or visit http://www.maslmd.org/; Click on Black-Eyed Susan Awards on the menu bar at the top of the homepage. Stay tuned… the winner will be announced late April/early May. Happy Reading!

____________________________________________________________________________

From the Counselor: Kymisha Johnson
Panda Praise Character Education
Bel Pre Students Are Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn
Did you know that our students and staff focus on a character trait each month as part of our PBIS program? So far this year, we have learned that being friendly, courteous, cooperative, and kind are ways to be Responsible, Respectful, and Ready to Learn. During February, we will focus on trustworthiness and in March we will focus on patience. The children can earn Panda Praise tickets by demonstrating these character traits.

In March, we will focus on Patience as a way to be ready to learn. Our weekly messages are:
I show that I am ready to learn when I am patient.
Week 1 – I show that I am ready to learn when I am patient.
Week 2 – I know it takes time for me and others to learn new things.
Week 3 – I do my work carefully even if it takes a long time.
Week 4 – I ask for help by raising my hand or saying excuse me and waiting to talk with the teacher

Many times students need patience and perseverance when trying something new or learning something hard. Learning to read, write, and do math is hard work and learning takes time. Our new curriculum encourages students to show flexibility in trying new ways of learning and creating as well as delving more deeply into thinking about what they are learning. This means that they must work carefully which requires patience and persistence. The saying is true, “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” Make a plan to encourage your child to be patient when learning something new like ice skating, swimming, art, playing an instrument, doing homework, waiting for a turn, or helping with chores.

During April, we will be encouraging our students to think about and show respect by demonstrating fairness. Questions of fairness are frequently heard in the classroom, on the playground, in the cafeteria and also at home. We hear children say, “That’s not fair!” on a daily basis. Everyone wants to be treated fairly. But what does fairness involve? Mostly, fairness involves respecting the rights, needs, and feelings of others. Fairness allows everyone to participate in setting rules which address the needs of all the group members. Once rules are set, fairness involves everyone following them. Emotions become very intense
when children feel disappointed or jealous and they might think it is because something is unfair. But because younger children are developing the ability to see things from the perspective of others it is helpful to discuss with them the difference between fairness and having it their way. We can help them see how the feelings of all group members matter and not just their feelings. You might also discuss with them how to handle situations which are unfair to others.

Our weekly messages are:
Week 1 - I show respect for others when I am fair.
Week 2 - I give everyone a turn at a game or activity.
Week 3 - I listen to everyone’s ideas.
Week 4 - I follow the rules of games and playground activities.
Week 5 - I share school supplies and playground equipment.

From the Math Content Coach: Mada Gray
Selected parents will be invited to attend the following math meetings for parents:

How do I help my child understand levels 1, 2, and 3 methods when adding and subtracting?

Session 1: March 13 at 9-11:30am
Session 1 Repeat: March 13 at 6:30-8:30pm
Session 2: March 27 at 9-11:30am
Session 2 Repeat: March 27 at 6:30-8:30pm
Session 3: April 10 at 6:30-7:30pm

Bel Pre Elementary School 301-287-8870, Room 161
Ask for Kateri Cordova-Orellana or Mada Gray

Kateri_M_Cordova-Orellana@mcpsmd.org
Mada_L_Gray@mcpsmd.org