A MESSAGE FROM MRS. BREWER
Well, I spoke too soon in last week’s newsletter as we did NOT have a 5-day week! Better luck next week I guess!

There are several announcements this week!

Our next parent advisory meeting will be Feb. 9 at 10:30 am. We will discuss quarterly research projects, PARCC and other pertinent school items. All are welcome!

When children have a change in their afternoon dismissal routine, we will now require an email from the parent confirming the change. The secretaries will be asking for this verification when they take calls to the school. Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to upgrade our safety procedures.

The PTA is hosting a “Love of Reading Night!” on Feb. 3. Several of our teachers will be guest readers, and a new line of spirit wear will be on display! Come enjoy cookies, hot cocoa and a good book!

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART IS COMING!
SAVE THE DATE: FEB. 18

Thanks to Mrs. Welichko for organizing this annual event!

Our NAACP Poetry night is coming up as well...please join us!

Parents are invited to learn more about the new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments at the next PARCC Night on Monday, Feb. 2, 2015. The event is co-sponsored by Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA), and the Montgomery County NAACP Parents’ Council.

The event will be held at Montgomery Blair High School on Monday, Feb. 2 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The school is located at 51 University Boulevard East in Silver Spring.

At the event, parents will learn about PARCC and how MCPS is preparing students for success on these new assessments. Parents will have an opportunity to take sample quizzes, attend breakout sessions and pick up grade-level information and resources. MCPS staff will...
be available to answer questions.

*Free child care (ages 4 and older) and foreign language interpretation will be provided.*

Visit the MCPS website or call 301-309-6277 for more information.

In the event of a 2 hour delay, the school day starts at 10:50. Students should not arrive before this time. It can be difficult to make arrangements but we cannot be responsible for students prior to the start of the school day. Also, remember that on delayed opening days, breakfast is NOT served to students. Thank you!

**A message from Mr. Burd:**

The SERT Watt’s up? Energy Conservation & Recycling Poster Contest is an excellent way to keep students engaged in resource conservation. Student in Grades K-12 as well as staff members are encouraged to enter. Posters can be hand drawn or digitally made and should motivate others to save energy or recycle responsibly. Deadline for posters to be submitted to Mr. Burd is Friday, February 27th, 2015.

- Enjoy guest readers, a book swap, hot chocolate and cookies!
- Learn about the poetry slam to be held later in the month!
- Bring a comfy blanket, a book to read, 2 books to swap!
- Books to swap should be grade level appropriate, in good gently used condition- no missing, pages, tears or writing in the book, and most definitely FUN to read!

**We hope to see you there!**

**New line of Sherwood spirit wear!**

Coming home next week will be an order form for the new collection of Sherwood apparel!

The line includes long sleeve shirts, athletic T's, sweatshirts, yoga pants, pj bottoms and youth hats and shorts!

We will have samples to try on and see at Tuesday's Love of Reading Night and PTA meeting. We will also have the clothes during lunch times so the students can see what styles they like and we can help with sizing.

**MORE NEWS!**

Some reminders...

Please remember when you bring your child to school late, you MUST enter the building with them and sign them in. Many times, students are dropped off and walk in alone after the school day has started. This is for
their safety as well as our attendance records. Thank you for your cooperation!

Also, when your child has alternate plans in the afternoon that cause them to change their dismissal routine, PLEASE call the office and let us know so that all students make it to their destination safely. When we have to make calls in the afternoon to verify plans, we often hold all buses, therefore, EVERY child is delayed while we check on changes to dismissal plans for one student.

Please make sure all parent contact information remains up to date. It is important that we are always able to reach parents in the event of an emergency.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**
- Feb. 3 – PTA meeting/Love of Reading Night 6:30 pm
- Feb. 5 – SIP Meeting – 8 am
- Feb. 9 – Parent Advisory Meeting 10:30am
- Feb. 13 – Valentine’s Day Parties – 2 pm
- Feb. 26 – AA Reading Night

**MCPS NEWS**
The Montgomery County Board of Education will host two public hearings next week on options for adjusting school starting and ending times—also known as bell times. The hearings will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2015, in the auditorium of the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive in Rockville. The hearings will run from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Those wishing to provide testimony at the hearings should call 301-279-3617 during business hours to reserve a slot. All speakers will be given 3 minutes. Feedback can also be submitted in writing to belltimes@mcpsmd.org. Please submit written comments by February 2, 2015.

The Board is considering several options for changing bell times so that high school students could begin classes later in the day. The options fall into five general categories:
- Shift all start times 20 or 35 minutes later;
- Start elementary school first;
- Modify a previously considered proposal from October 2013;
- Split the high school day; and
- Make no changes to bell times and explore other options to provide flexibility for high school students.

The Board heard a presentation on these options at its January 13, 2015 meeting and approved an additional option that modifies the proposal to shift all start times 20 or 35 minutes later. The Board’s option would shift start times for middle and high school students 20 or 35 minutes later and start times for elementary school students 10 or 25 minutes later.

See the options the Board is considering MCPS Bell Times website