

Burnt Mills Elementary School

~Principal's Newsletter~

November 2022

Dr. Stacy Ashton, principal

Mr. Clarke, assistant principal

The Principal's Newsletter is emailed to families the first Wednesday of every month.

Burnt Mills Vision: To provide all students with a sense of hope in a culturally relevant and challenging learning environment that embraces critical thinking, values diversity, and promotes self-awareness and healthy relationships.

Burnt Mills Mission: To prepare all students to be college and career ready by expecting the best, every day!

BMES Website: <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/burntmillses>

Important Events to Remember

Date	Event
11/4	Marking Period 1 Ends
11/7	Professional Day for Teachers/No School for Students
11/8	Election Day - Schools and Offices Closed
11/9	Marking Period 2 Begins
11/15	Report Cards Distributed
11/21-22	Early Release Day @ 12:10 PM - Parent Conferences
11/23	Systemwide School Closure
11/24-25	Holiday - Schools and Offices Closed

BMES News

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Classroom teachers are contacting parents to schedule conferences. Conferences will be held between November 14 - December 2, 2022 and can be virtual or in person. The conference gives you a chance to talk with your child's teacher about your child. When parents and teachers talk with each other, each person can share important information about the child's academic progress, talents and needs. If you have not heard from your child's teacher regarding a conference, please reach out to them. Every teacher is expected to have a conference with every parent.

Here are a few tips to help you.

Before the Conference

- *Ask your child how he/she feels about school and if he/she has any questions*
- *Prepare a list of 3 to 5 things you want to share with the teacher and 3 to 5 questions to ask during the conference.*
- *Think about ways you would like to be involved in your child's learning so that you can share them with the teacher*

During the Conference

- *Log in or arrive in person on time or early*
- *Take notes*
- *Listen to what the teacher has to say and ask the most important questions first.*

After the Conference

- *Talk about the conference with your child*
- *Talk about the positive points and be direct about problems*
- *Keep in touch with the teacher during the school year*

LGBTQ+ Information: As part of Montgomery County Public Schools' commitment to equity, we are working towards cultivating inclusive environments for all of our students and families. Part of how we do this is through diversifying representation in the curriculum. Expanding our representation shows our LGBTQ+ community members that this is a place where they are welcome and included. All students deserve to see themselves in their school and classroom, including students who identify as LGBTQ+, may come from LGBTQ+ headed families, or have family members that are a part of the LGBTQ+ community. While there are no planned explicit lessons related to gender and sexuality, students may see these identities embedded throughout the work we do here at school. For students for whom some of these identities are new, questions and conversations might organically happen. Inclusive curricula support a student's ability to empathize, connect, and collaborate with a diverse group of peers, and encourage respect for all. Students who don't agree with or understand another student's gender identity/expression would never be asked to change how they personally feel about the issues. To hear a message from Dr. Monifa McKnight, superintendent of schools, click [Superintendent's Pride Town Hall Welcome Video](#)

For more information about LGBTQ+, visit the website <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/lgbtq/>

Counselor's Corner from Mrs. Domm and Mrs. Allen, school counselors

The Core Value for the month of November is Citizenship. You can reinforce this value with your children at home by discussing with them how each family member contributes to the family goals. Remind them that we can all be good citizens at home, at school, and in the community by being respectful, safe, and cooperative. This month, Ms. Allen and Mrs. Domm will be teaching MCPS mandated lessons on the topic of child abuse and neglect to every class in the school. These lessons, known as Personal Body Safety Lessons will help scholars notice and identify abuse, learn skills for self protection, learn skills for asking for help, and learn to engage in positive and appropriate interactions with adults. Parents will receive a letter with more information about these lessons. If you have any questions, please contact your school counselors at Desiree_A_Allen@mcpsmd.org or Sarah_B_Domm@mcpsmd.org.

PTA News from Dr. Tiffany Walker, President

We need YOU! **The next virtual PTA meeting is December 6th at 7:00 PM.**

Meeting ID: 86255795164 Passcode: bmes

PTA would like to thank everyone who came out and supported the Chipotle fundraiser. We raised \$280!

PTA is having an amazing fundraiser. Do you love popcorn? Well, we have the best popcorn just for you. Please support our Double Good Gourmet Popcorn fundraisers from Nov. 3-7. Check Class Dojo for more details. All proceeds benefit our scholars and staff.