

Burnt Mills Elementary School

~Principal's Newsletter~

October 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
10/5	Non-instructional Day - No School for Students and Teachers
10/11	PTA Meeting @ 7 PM (virtually): Social Emotional Wellness Presentation Meeting ID: 862 5579 5164 Passcode: BMES
10/19	Wear Pink Day in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness
10/20	Classic Photography Fall Picture Day
10/24	Professional Day for Teachers/No School for Students
10/25	Pumpkin Patch Day
10/28	Grade 5 to Strathmore Concert Harvest Parties (PreK-4) 1:15-2:15 PM
10/31	Grade 1 to Clark's Elioak Farm 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Grade 5 Harvest Parties 1:15-2:15 PM

BMES News

Open House at Burnt Mills

Traditionally, MCPS held a school-based Open House for parents/guardians in October on a federal holiday. This year, in an effort to keep everyone healthy and safe and due to limited parking at the Fairland Center, Burnt Mills **will not** have the traditional Open House where everyone visits the school on the same day. Instead we are offering parents the opportunity to visit their child's classroom anytime during the month of October. We are calling it ***Open House in October!*** All you need to do is email or send a class dojo message to your child's teacher requesting a day and time to visit during the month of October. The teacher will reply to arrange a day and time that works for everyone. If you are unable to honor the visit on the scheduled day, please inform your child's teacher immediately. Also, please do not visit the school unannounced or bring siblings as we want to limit the number of people in the classroom at one time. We look forward to welcoming parents to the schoolhouse to celebrate ***Open House in October.***

Classroom Connections

Do you want to know what' going on in your child's classroom? Please visit our school website and click on Classroom Connections at the top of the page. Here is the link <https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/burntmillses/classroom/>

Fall Festivities

- **BMES Pumpkin Patch will arrive on Tuesday, October 25th!** That's right, the magical Pumpkin Patch, with 600 pumpkins, will appear on our playground lawn on the 25th! The Pumpkin Patch has become a tradition at BMES and it's an exciting day for our scholars. PTA will purchase the pumpkins and supervise the patch on the 25th. **Thank you PTA!!**
- **Harvest Parties:** At BMES, we do not have Halloween parties and scholars are not allowed to dress up in costumes. We have *Fall Harvest Parties!*
 - ★ Fall Harvest parties (PreK-5) will be held in classrooms on Friday, October 28th, from 1:15-2:15 PM for grades PreK-4) and Monday, October 31st from 1:15-2:15 PM for grade 5.
 - ★ Due to limited classroom space and parking, we will have to limit the number of parents who can attend the party. No more than 2-4 parents in each classroom. Teachers will let you know if you are selected. If you are not selected, you will have a chance to attend the Valentine's Day party. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.
 - ★ During the party, scholars will eat sweet treats and engage in some fun activities such as arts/crafts or pumpkin carving.

- ★ Party treats must be store bought and a balance of healthy sweets/treats. If you are purchasing treats, there will be a drop off table in the main lobby on the day of the party.
- ★ Classroom teachers will contact parents with more information about Fall Harvest Parties.
- ★ Scholars who cannot participate in the fall harvest party due to religious reasons will gather in the media center to watch a movie.
- ★ Remember, park legally and safely. DO NOT park in the bus lane.

Parent Volunteers Needed for Lunch & Recess

If you are interested and available to volunteer during lunch and/or recess, please click the link below. We could use the help. Thank you!
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Mrkklw2U8xJ1RXLy-edjzZAsESV6ZViywABc3pY9hk/edit#slide=id.p>

George B. Thomas Saturday School:

Saturday School is OPEN! Saturday School provides academic tutoring and instruction with certified teachers in a nurturing and supportive virtual environment. The program is aligned with the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) curriculum. **MCPS students Grades K through 12 may attend after registering for Saturday School for \$85 per year (\$40 for students who receive FARMS).** <https://saturdayschool.org/>

Wear Pink Day on October 19th:

Many of you may not know, but I am a breast cancer survivor. This year, I celebrate my 15th year cancer free! Since I've been principal, every year we recognize breast cancer survivors who are fighting the good fight, survived the good fight or fought the good fight to the very end. **October 19th is Wear Pink Day! Staff and scholars wear pink on this day to celebrate and recognize breast cancer awareness month.**

Title 1 Funds:

Our school is fortunate to receive supplemental funding through Title I, a federal grant program for schools that serve communities with students who have high economic needs. The federal legislation that establishes Title I regulations is known as the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA). ESSA requires Montgomery County Public Schools to inform you that you have the right to request information about the professional certification qualifications of your child's teacher, long-term substitute teacher, or paraeducator (formerly titled instructional assistant). If you wish to request certification information about your child's teacher, paraeducator, or long-term substitute

teacher, please submit a written request to the principal at your school. Your written inquiry may include information about the following qualifications:

Degree status and subject area of certification. State of Maryland certification status, including conditional certification status. Qualifications of paraeducators or long-term substitute teachers who may be working with your student. Your request will be forwarded to OHRD and you will receive a written response from that office within thirty (30) business days.

Student Attendance:

We are closely monitoring student attendance. Parents should call the school by 7:30 a.m. on the day your child will be absent. Students will be recorded as absent for the morning (half-day absence) if they arrive at school more than two hours late. Students will be recorded as absent for the afternoon (half-day absence) if they leave school more than two hours before the end of the day. If students are absent from school for more than two hours, but less than four hours, they will be recorded absent for a half-day.

Students who are tardy (after 8:15 a.m.) must report to the main office to receive a tardy slip. **Parents/guardians must accompany their child into the building. Please do not drop off your child in the bus loop and have him/her walk into the building unsupervised. Parents must accompany their child into the building and sign them in for the day.**

Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) Applications:

Applications were sent home on the first day of school. Families interested in receiving free or reduced price meals for the 2022-2023 school year should apply online at www.MySchoolApps.com. The information you provide is confidential.

For assistance or questions, please contact our Parent Community Coordinator, Ms. Gordon at (240) 550-3894.

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

The Core Value for the month of October is Caring (*bondadoso*). Be the person that makes others feel special by showing that you care. Be kind, show thankfulness, forgive others, and help those in need. Be sensitive to people's feelings. Never be mean or hurtful. Think about how your actions will affect others.

During the week of October 10th-14th, Burnt Mills will be celebrating **Mental Health Awareness Week with "Be Kind to your Mind" week!** Each day, teachers will be leading students in various strategies that they can use to support their mental health. Learn more about the themes for each day [here](#).

October is also **Bullying Awareness month**. School Counselors will be joining each class this month to discuss ways to "Be a Buddy" by standing up for students who are being teased or hurt by speaking up or telling an adult.

School Counseling groups will also be beginning this month. School Counseling groups are focused, goal driven small groups formed around a specific Social Emotional Learning topic. Students are referred to counseling groups by their teachers. All students who are placed in a group will bring a permission slip home for parents/guardians to review and sign or decline. Students will not participate in a group unless permission is given by parents or guardians.

If you have any questions about the counseling program, please reach out to your school counselor at Sarah_b_Dommu@mcpsmd.org or Desiree_A_Allen@mcpsmd.org.

Spanish Immersion News from Mrs. Plawner, Immersion Coordinator

We are celebrating **Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept 15 – Oct 15!** Here are some videos you can enjoy with your children about the many Hispanic Americans who have influenced our culture and country. We even have a few videos made by our own BMES teachers! Enjoy!

Overview of Hispanic Heritage Month: What is Hispanic Heritage Month & Short History of Latin America (stop at 3 mins 25 sec)<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwUj65XXT9U>

Hispanics vs Latinos & Some Famous Hispanics (5 mins):https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ly_tmYSIXz9a_SlvvHVJQZRKfvE1ByRV/view?usp=sharing

Teacher Videos:

Tamales Video by Senora Guzman (1 min 30 sec):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FYEYhII96MDL8BoHPpWyWpJc16siMNVa/view?usp=sharing>

Honudras Video by Señora Guzman (1 min 30 sec):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bdkcf9I-VGjQxfueonhfRO1tMBc2kdc/view?usp=sharing>

Ecuador Video by Señora Plawner (2 mins):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15SRQFUWwTImOwZp4R87f3HARXOIgNExz/view?usp=sharing>

PTA News from Dr. Tiffany Walker, President

The Burnt Mills PTA would like to welcome you to Burnt Mills for another great year. The PTA strives to help make the school year as fun, educational, and productive as possible. We are a resource for the school and we welcome your involvement. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join the PTA and attend our meetings.

Our first Virtual PTA meeting of the year is October 11th at 7 PM. The Burnt Mills Wellness Team will introduce themselves and present on the Social Emotional Wellness Program at Burnt Mills. Please plan to attend. **Zoom Information: Meeting ID# 862 5579 5164 Passcode: BMES** If you have not done so already, please don't forget to join by visiting: <https://bmespta.memberhub.com> In the meantime, we need all the support we can get. If you have any questions, you can email us at bmespta5@gmail.com.

We are having a **Chipotle Fundraiser on Tuesday, October 18th from 4-8 PM at 12060 Cherry Hill Rd. Silver Spring, MD.** 33% of event sales get donated to BMES! Please come out and support!