



BAYARD RUSTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
332 West Edmonston Drive Rockville, MD 20852

January 20, 2023

Good morning Bayard Rustin families,

I hope this message finds you well as we head into the weekend. Thank you to the many families who joined us last night for our annual Family Fitness and Wellness Night! We had a blast sweating it out to Zumba, Orange Theory, and Master Method Karate, then finding our zen with Mrs. Eig's yoga and in the mindfulness zen garden, before noshing on healthy treats shared with love by Nourish Now. This special event would not have been possible without our amazing wellness committee and planning team, Mr. Lightman, Ms. Rushin, Mrs. Eig, Mrs. Sobieralski, Mrs. Oliva, Ms. Glass, Mrs. Karakashian, Mrs. Cohen, Ms. Lin, Mrs. Baillie, Mrs. Goldenhorn, and Ms. Slater! Thank you for showing our students the value of health and wellness!

Next week our students will come together in the spirit of kindness! The [Great Kindness Challenge](#) is recognized nationally January 23rd-27th! At BRES, we'll elevate kindness with a fun spirit week, where in addition to fun unity days (ie., pajama day) students are also provided with challenges to elevate acts of kindness.. Throughout the month, students will engage in lessons related to incorporating kindness into every day life, and how they can create warm and inclusive spaces for their peers. For a sneak peak at the spirit days, or to preview the content students will review, check out these slides: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15gMfJqfpylWi86UHQV0bBXm8NwpSt8JPPzSOU-PRsW8/edit?usp=sharing>

Also happening next week is one of our most beloved school traditions—our annual Lunar New Year assemblies! Near the end of the month, BRES will celebrate Lunar New Year with special assemblies on Thursday, January 26. Assembly times are as follows:

- 9:45 - 10:30 am : K, 1st, PEP AM
- 11:15 am -12:00 pm: 4th & 5th
- 2:15 - 3:00pm: 2nd, 3rd, PEP PM

You're welcome to join us for a dragon dance, performances from our Chinese Immersion classes, and a lion dance from a visiting dance troupe! Can't make it out in person, but want to enjoy the show from afar? Join our second performance from 11:15-12:00pm via live streamed webinar [here](#) (Password: bres). Check out the event flier on Class Dojo, and let Ms. Gan, CI coordinator, know if you have any questions!

Looking for additional ways to celebrate Lunar New Year, officially observed this year on Sunday, 1/22? Check out this list of wonderful community events curated by Ms. Gan spanning the next few weekends for a fun way to celebrate LNY as a family! https://docs.google.com/document/d/17IQ4cwNtkGBjWcP-7lt8ZuxerlKKN717RbAnA_xT00I/edit?usp=sharing

As a reminder, there is no school for students next Friday, 1/27, while teachers engage in finalizing grades for marking period 2. Looking for something for your child to do when school is out on Friday, Jan. 27? How about a day of fun and supervised activities by Montgomery County Recreation. All MCPS students can receive a free scholarship by using the code MCPSkid2022 during registration. Activities run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit ActiveMontgomery.org or call 240-777-6840 for more information and locations.

The Latino Student Achievement Action Group (LSAAG), in partnership with PODER Educators and the MCPS Office of Strategic Initiatives, will hold virtual meetings on 1/23 to share information and listen to feedback from Hispanic/Latino students and families about the MCPS Antiracist System Audit Report. Students will meet from 5:30-6:45 p.m., and a parent meeting will be held in Spanish from 7-8:15 pm. Students and parents can register [here](#).

Please take some time to review this newsletter in its entirety, and let me know if you have any questions. We're looking forward to a wonderful week of learning! Enjoy your weekend and we will see you at school soon!

Fondly,

Mrs. West

Kathryn_c_west@mcpsmd.org

School Calendar, Events and Updates

Click [HERE](#) to access the MCPS School Year Calendar.

Click [HERE](#) to access the BRES website

Click [HERE](#) to access the Lunch Menu

Date	Description
January 23	Kindness Spirit Day: DREAMING of KINDNESS (Pajama Day) ACCESS Testing Grades 3 & 5
January 24	Kindness Spirit Day: PEACE, LOVE, and KINDNESS (Tie Dye Day) MAP Make-Up Testing ACCESS Testing Grades 2 & 4
January 25	Kindness Spirit Day: WILD for KINDNESS (Red Fox Day) MAP Make-Up Testing ACCESS Testing Grade 5

<p>January 26</p>	<p>Kindness Spirit Day: CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR (Wear Red Day) Principal's Coffee, 8:15am, BRES Media Center Lunar New Year Assemblies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:45 - 10:30 am : K, 1st, PEP AM ● 11:15 am -12:00 pm: 4th & 5th, Live Streamed by Webinar, Join here (Password: bres) ● 2:15 - 3:00pm: 2nd, 3rd, PEP PM <p>MAP Make-Up Testing ACCESS Testing Make-Ups Last Day of Marking Period 2</p>
<p>January 27</p>	<p>No School for Students, Grading & Planning Day for Teachers Kindness Spirit Day: HATS OFF to KINDNESS (Hats at Home Day)</p>

January

Tues 25 3rd Marking Period Begins

Tues 31 Dine Out at Ledo's, 4-9pm

[Full Annual Calendar Linked Here](#)

BRES Bricks Campaign

Looking for a great way to contribute to BRES while commemorating your child's experience at our awesome school?! Buy a brick and etch your school pride in stone! Check out our flyer [here](#), and then place your order online at <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/bayardrustines>

Order a Yearbook Today!

Our amazing yearbook team is curating a beautiful new edition for the 2022-2023 yearbook! Order yours today to take advantage of early bird pricing: <http://yearbooks.classic-photo.com/BbayardRustin/home3/Bookstore.jsp>

Winter Afterschool Clubs Session

We are so lucky to have a robust slate of extracurricular offerings at BRES, and so thankful to our programming team for coordinating these opportunities for our students. PTA is happy to announce that registration for clubs and activities is now open! Programs before and after school will begin in January 2023. Scholarships are available for some activities. Click [here](#) to learn more and register today!

Head Lice

As the cold weather moves in to stay, schools nationwide note an uptick in the spread of head lice. Please take a moment to review the CDC's guidance on the prevention and treatment of head lice [here](#). As well, learn more about the MCPS regulation on head lice [here](#).

Testing Season

Testing is in full effect at BRES as we kick off our [winter assessments](#), complete with MAP testing as well as ACCESS for EML's.

- Homeroom teachers will administer the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment to serve as our mid-year diagnostic tool. This diagnostic assessment is designed to inform instruction, recovery and intervention and account for learning loss, as well as determine the present performance levels of students on math and literacy standards. MCPS will be using the results from the MAP assessment to monitor each student's progress throughout the school year as well as progress from one school year to the next. Teachers and school staff utilize the MAP scores to inform instruction, personalize the learning as well as to measure the performance and growth of students. MAP scores are one data point of many that teachers utilize to inform teaching and learning on a whole class, small group and individual basis. As an overview to understand the MAP assessment, an overview of how MAP works, what it measures, and common questions you may access [this resource](#) from the NWEA website, the creator of the MAP assessment.
- ACCESS for ELLs is a suite of English language proficiency assessments for students in kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as English language learners (ELLs). Each assessment covers the four language domains of Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. Each assessment has some form of built-in adaptivity and stops testing as students reach the extent of their current language abilities. These assessments will be given to all EML's by certified ELD teachers.

Donate Your Old Clothes to Our Bin!

As the weather shifts to colder temperatures, it's time to clean out those closets and bag up clothing that no longer fits your child. Did you know that you can upcycle clothing and textiles by depositing them in our BRES Clothing Bin near our entrance? Our school makes money for every pound of clothing added to the bin each month! You help save the planet, and help our school—win win!

Health Reminders

It is officially cold and flu season, and BRES is noting a spike in student absences related to flu-like symptoms. COVID-19 and influenza case rates have increased in Montgomery County, so it is important to remain vigilant in best practices to reduce the spread of germs. As a reminder, please reference this [guidance](#) on when to keep your child home from school. When in doubt, please call our office for additional guidance or to speak with our health tech or school nurse. Check out fact sheets from

the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), and MDH's resource pages for [influenza](#) and [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\)](#).

Reporting Absences

A few parents have reached out with questions regarding how and when to report their child's absences. On the school website you can record your absence by clicking the link [Report a Student Absence](#). If taking a half day, click the box for "today only" and not the time out in the notes section. If this form is completed, no other note is necessary as this counts as written documentation noting why the child was absent. Based on the reason for absence, the absence may be deemed excused (ie., sick, doctor's appt, religious observance, etc.) or unexcused (ie., visiting a family friend, trip to Lego Land, etc.). In lieu of a note, the school can also accept a written note when the child returns to school so that the absence code (excused or unexcused) can be updated. Please note that even if you send advanced notice (ie., we will be out on Tuesday for a religious holiday) you will still receive an absence call from the attendance system, as these are auto populated. We encourage parents to check in ParentVue 3-5 days after the absence, and let the office and the teacher know if there is an error.

Apply Online Now for Free and Reduced-Price Meals Benefits

Families of students who may qualify for free or reduced-price meals can now apply for assistance for school meals. Eligibility is based on family size and gross income. Students in Maryland who qualify for reduced-price meals will receive free breakfast and lunch meals.

[Apply here.](#)

[Learn more about the program.](#)

As a reminder, breakfast and lunch have returned to paid/charged status for the 2022-2023 school year. Negative balance reports will begin coming home if your student has accrued a balance with the BRES cafeteria. You may load funds to your child's lunch account by visiting www.myschoolbucks.com. Thank you to all who have completed their FARMS forms already for the school year. If you have not already done this, please do so immediately at www.myschoolapps.com. If you are approved, any negative balance will be cleared automatically.

Sign Up For ParentVUE to Stay in Touch With Our School

Families new to MCPS are encouraged to sign up for a [ParentVUE account](#) at the beginning of the school year. ParentVUE is the online parent portal that serves as the primary communication vehicle for schools to share information regarding grades, attendance, scheduling, access to myMCPS Classroom and more.

ParentVUE provides a way to view school-related information and data for students. Register for athletics, special programs, communicate with teachers and verify your student information annually.

ParentVUE also allows access to Canvas/MyMCPSClassroom, a digital learning platform. Parents and guardians can view instructional information and resources, and get alerts about assignments and grades.

School Cash Online

Thank you for your patience and feedback in signing up for School Cash Online. MCPS has been working to iron out all of the kinks, and shared that SCO PIN notifications were sent via email and USPS mailer this week. The email was sent to all parent/guardian email addresses on file and came from SCOPinProcess@mcpsmd.org.

Directions on signing up for SCO are available in English [here](#), and in Spanish [here](#). If this process still does not work, even after receiving the email and directions, please email communitytechsupport@mcpsmd.org for assistance.

Join the PTA!

If you have not already done so, please visit the BRES PTA website: www.brespta.org

Here, you will find opportunities to get connected and support our school and your child's class. If you haven't already done so, join the PTA today by clicking [here](#).

By joining the PTA, you can...

- Get and stay connected—find out what's going on at our school and receive a printed directory of family contact information.
- Advocate —speak up on behalf of our children and the school and have your voice heard.
- Enhance education — help fund school assemblies, field trips, and other educational opportunities.
- Make connections—support school-wide and family events.
- Partner—support the teachers and staff to enhance experiences and strengthen the school.

We hope you'll join today to support our school and your child!