



BRADLEY HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

240-204-5210

Great Teaching, Great Learning, Every Child, Every Day

October 1, 2023

Principal's Corner



By Karen Caroscio

Our students and teachers had a great first month of school in September. Everyone is getting to know each other, learning new routines, classroom procedures, and school rules. It has been wonderful to have students in the school building every day and feel the energy of the school!

We are in the process of finishing up the beginning of the year testing so that we have data for grouping students into small groups. Our Back to School Night was held on September 8th. We were so happy to welcome new and previous families into the building to learn about their child's teacher and the upcoming school year.

We also wanted to thank everyone who helped make the Back to School Carnival a huge success! Despite the rain, a good time was had by all who attended! We saw many smiling faces and some of us even got to dodge the dunk tank due the rain and lightning! There's always next year!

On October 31st, we will have an outdoor Halloween parade beginning at 2:00 p.m. weather permitting. Family members can line up anywhere around the block. We will block off areas near the front door so students have enough room to enter and exit the building. The parade will proceed out the front door and to the right. We will proceed down the front walkway, make a right on Folkstone and continue around the block.

Classroom parties will begin at 2:30 p.m., with a limited number of parent volunteers in each classroom: six in kindergarten and four in first through fourth grades. The fifth grade party will be held in the All Purpose Room and be limited to about ten parents. Contact your child's room parent for more specific information.

Please make sure that your children have all the parts of their costumes in the morning when they arrive at school. It is difficult to deliver items during the school day. Remember, fake weapons that are part of costumes should be kept at home.

The BHES PTA would like to thank the 210 families that are now signed up as members! Remember, your membership dues are what makes it possible for the PTA to put on and pay for the many events and programs throughout the year.

Don't forget to register to become a member! For more details, please see:

<https://www.bhespta.com/how-to-help>

One final note, parent conferences are scheduled to occur in November. Parents can request in person or virtual conferences. If it is more convenient for you to attend virtually, please let your child's teacher know.



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WEATHER REMINDERS

The fall season has begun, and even though we have been enjoying the warm weather in the last several weeks, it has been getting colder. Please have your children dress appropriately for the weather, as we will continue to have outdoor lunch and recess unless it rains. We want our children to be dressed in warm clothing when they are outside in cold weather, so they do not experience discomfort.

PERSONAL BODY SAFETY LESSONS

Montgomery County Public Schools is taking an active role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect through early prevention and intervention education.

During the first semester, our counselor will be presenting lessons on the topic of child abuse and neglect. The lessons are known as Personal Body Safety Lessons and their purpose is to help students:

- Develop knowledge, decision making skills, and behaviors which promote safe living in the home, school, and community;
- Learn skills for self-protection and identifying child abuse and neglect;
- Learn skills for asking for help for self and others and practice reporting to a trusted adult; and
- Engage in positive and appropriate interactions with peers and adults.

If you have any questions or concerns about the topics that will be covered, please contact the school counselor, [Ms. Vicki Pike](#).

SIGN UP FOR MCPS QUICKNOTES

MCPS QuickNotes is a bimonthly newsletter that provides MCPS families with important news and information about MCPS programs and activities, plus emergency information. *MCPS QuickNotes* is offered in seven languages: English, Spanish, French, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Amharic. Visit news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/ to read the latest edition.

ENHANCED SAFETY MEASURES FOR MCPS ATHLETIC EVENTS

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) began to implement a number of enhanced security measures at athletic events at the end of last September. MCPS is committed to the safety and security of students, families and community members who want to enjoy various athletic contests, and will not tolerate violent or disruptive behavior during athletic events. The updated guidelines for the 23/24 school year can be found [here](#).



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OCTOBER FOOD DRIVE

BHES is participating in Manna Food Center's Kids Helping Kids (KHK) campaign this October! KHK mobilizes Montgomery County schools to raise food and funds for their hungry peers across the county. Participation in this program teaches children valuable lessons about hunger, engages them in giving, and shows them that they have the power to make a difference in their community.

BHES is having both an in-kind food drive from October 2nd to 20th as well as a virtual food drive during the entire month of October.

Virtual food drive - Please visit our school page to make online donations:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/kidshelpingkids2023/team/938852/>

In-kind donations can be dropped off at Manna collection boxes located in the front foyer of BHES.

Most-needed shelf-stable items include:

GRAINS:

Instant oatmeal packets, original flavor
Brown rice (16 oz)
Whole grain pasta (16 oz)

PROTEIN:

Tuna, Salmon, or Chicken (in water)
Dry or canned beans (low sodium)
Natural nut butters

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Canned vegetables (low-sodium)
Canned fruit (in juice)
Fruit cups

OTHER HEALTHY ITEMS:

Shelf-stable, individual milk boxes
Cooking oil & spices
Infant formula & baby foods

To volunteer for this effort and for more information, contact Ivy Lin xiverano@gmail.com or 484.866.7539 (text or call).

Thank you for joining this county-wide effort to fight hunger!

BHES PTA Community Service Committee

<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/kidshelpingkids2023/team/938852/>



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SAFETY DAY

On Friday, September 22, we hosted a very successful safety day where the students participated in the following drills; lockdown, shelter in place, drop cover, and hold, severe weather, and evacuation. The students had a lot of good questions and you may want to talk to them about what they learned and answer any other questions they may have.

Here are the [safety videos](#) that were shared with the students if you would like to view them.

REPORT CARD AND INTERIM DATES

2023-2024 Report Card and Interim Dates							
Marking Period	# of Days	INTERIMS		REPORT CARDS			
		Teacher Grades Due by 5:00 p.m.	Interims Distributed ¹	End of Marking Period	Teacher Grades Due by End of the Duty Day	Report Card Available in Synergy ²	Report Cards Distributed
1	44	9/28/2023	10/5/2023	10/31/2023 ³	11/1/2023	11/9/2023	11/9/2023
2	51	12/11/2023	12/18/2023 ³	1/26/2024	1/29/2024	2/5/2024	2/5/2024
3	43	3/4/2024	3/11/2024	4/9/2024	4/10/2024	4/17/2024	4/18/2024
4	44	5/15/2024	5/22/2024	6/13/2024	6/14/2024	6/21/2024	6/24/2024

Notes:

¹ Both elementary and secondary interim grades will be available on StudentVUE/ParentVUE. Also, interims will be mailed home to non-activated ParentVUE households.

²Schools will also have access to the electronic copy of report cards in Synergy.

³Report cards will be mailed centrally according to the schedule above.

Elementary school mid-quarter progress reports and marking period grades for Marking Periods 1-3 will be available for parents and students on StudentVUE/ParentVUE on the following dates listed above. Just a reminder that the first four weeks of reading instruction does not have any grades as teachers build routines within the classroom.

If a parent does not have a ParentVue account, their interim will be mailed home centrally.



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*Report cards will be mailed centrally.

Important to know for interims:

- You will have either Social Studies grades or Science, but not both.
- You may not have Benchmark Reading grades yet
- Learning Skills should be reported

Did you know that A, B, C, D in elementary school does not mean the same as grades in middle and high school? Elementary schools use a rubric to determine a student's understanding of the content. Students are then assigned a letter grade that corresponds to their understanding of the grade level standard. There are several different kinds of grades: assignment grades, measurement topic grades, and final grades. Assignment grades are provided on assignments that are graded.

The meaning of assignment rubric scores is:

Grade	Interpretation of the Assignment Grade
A	Demonstrates <i>thorough</i> understanding of the grade-level standard.
B	Demonstrates a <i>general</i> understanding of the grade-level standard.
C	Demonstrates <i>partial</i> understanding of the grade-level standard.
D	Demonstrates <i>limited</i> understanding of the grade-level standard.

Measurement topic grades are a combination of assignments that align to standards that were taught that quarter. The overall grade is an average of measurement topic grades and provides information about how students are doing overall within the content area (e.g. math, reading). The descriptions for the measurement topic and the overall grade are below.

Teachers meet weekly to discuss student work and plan for instruction. If you have questions about your child's grades, contact your child's teacher. And remember, the students should complete their work as independently as possible to ensure we have a good idea about what support they may need now and in the future.



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Grade	Description
A	The student <i>consistently</i> demonstrates mastery of the grade level standards taught this marking period.
B	The student <i>frequently</i> demonstrates mastery of the grade level standards taught this marking period.
C	The student <i>occasionally</i> demonstrates mastery of the grade level standards taught this marking period.
D	The student <i>rarely</i> demonstrates mastery of the grade level standards taught this marking period.
M	Missing data – no grade recorded.
NEP	Not English Proficient – no grade recorded. Students is at the beginning level of English language proficiency. NEP may be used for level 1 or 2 ESOL student for no more than two marking periods.

TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

Helping your child at home is more than just homework help! Besides practicing the academic skills they learned in school, students are also learning organization, planning, time management and study skills. Parent involvement in homework has shown to have a positive influence on student

achievement. The amount of homework varies based on the age of the child. This year, Bradley Hills' homework policy includes the following time allotments: No more than 30 minutes per day for students in K-Grade 2 and no more than 45 minutes per day for students in Grades 3-5. In addition to homework, reading at home is equally important. The more children read, the better readers they become! Each child should spend 20 minutes with a book: either reading to themselves or listening to someone read to them.

Following are some tips to help your child:

1. **Set up a homework routine.** This includes a quiet location, access to needed materials, time of day, a plan to complete homework. This work space should be clear of other distractions to help the child be organized.
2. **Make sure kids do their own work.** If your child has a question, help him or her through it, but don't do the work. It's okay for students to make mistakes. They will learn how to overcome mistakes, ask for help in school, be independent and demonstrate to the teacher if they need more support in a specific area.
3. **Set a good example.** While your child is doing homework, you might be doing activities related to those skills: balancing a checkbook, reading a book.
4. **Praise their effort and work habits.** The teacher will support the students if they are struggling with a specific skill. Your job is to help them persevere through difficult tasks and keep going without giving up.



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5. **Stay in touch with the teacher.** If you see your child continually struggling over something, contact the teacher. Together, you can come up with a plan to help your child be successful.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

In order to ensure a safe, productive, and positive learning environment, MCPS publishes two documents that help students, parents/guardians, and staff understand school rules and regulations; the expectations for student conduct; and the possible consequences for violating the rules. *A*

Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities is an overview of the rights and responsibilities students enjoy in MCPS and a summary of the laws and regulations that affect students.

The *MCPS Code of Conduct* provides an overview of discipline procedures and protocols and the range of consequences students could face for violating various policies, regulations, and rules. The guide also discusses the MCPS philosophy toward discipline.

All families received copies of these documents and are encouraged to review them with their child(ren). The documents are available online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students/rights/.

WAYS TO REPORT BULLYING, HARASSMENT

Bullying, harassment (including sexual misconduct and sexual harassment), intimidation, hazing, incidents of hate-bias, and concerning issues involving student gender identity are not tolerated in MCPS. We are committed to ensuring our students feel safe, valued, and respected in our schools.

Please see the multiple ways you can file a report below.

- To file a Bullying Form online, click [HERE](#)
- To file a Child Abuse & Neglect Form online, click [HERE](#)
- To contact the MCPS Title IX Coordinator, click [HERE](#)

How You Can Report

- ✓ Contact the school principal, counselor, student welfare liaison, or any MCPS staff member.
- ✓ Contact the Montgomery County Police Department, 301-279-8000.
- ✓ Submit [MCPS Form 230-35, Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form](#).
- ✓ Contact the **MCPS Title IX Coordinator** at TitleIX@mcpsmd.org. Reports and allegations concerning MCPS employees will immediately involve the Department of Compliance and Investigations. They can be reached at DCI@mcpsmd.org.
- ✓ [Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line](#) is an anonymous reporting system used to report threats to the safety and/or well-being of students. Call 1-833-MD-B-SAFE or download the App.
- ✓ Contact the [Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program \(VASAP\)](#) for support. VASAP provides information, referrals and advocacy, as well as crisis and ongoing counseling for victims of sexual assault.



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- ✓ Contact the **Montgomery County Hotline** at 240-777-4357. A trained staff member or volunteer will provide supportive listening and information, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- ✓ Send a text to **EveryMind** hotline telephone number, 301-738-2255, daily between noon and midnight.
- ✓ Use the MCPS Student Reporting Phone Application (*Currently In Development*)

FAMILY FALL FOUNDATION SOCIAL

The Bradley Hills Education Foundation will be hosting a family social on Monday, October 9th from 2-5pm at the Gudelsky's home. We look forward to this community building event for all parents, students (siblings welcome) and BHES staff. There will be games, treats and a bar. A good time will be had by all!

Gudelsky's Address is 5504 Lambeth Road Bethesda. Street parking is available but we encourage guests to walk and bike if you can.

Event is free to attend with a suggested donation of \$20 per family. We appreciate your continued support.

Please visit our website to learn more and donate

<https://www.bradleyhillseducationfoundation.org/fallfamilysocial>

Please RSVP to meghangudelsky@gmail.com by Friday, Sept. 29th. Event is rain or shine.

On behalf of the entire BHEF Board, who work diligently year round to make improvements and enhance our children's experience, we look forward to meeting all new families and reconnecting with old friends.

Meet Your Board:

- Kit Leininger - President
- Meghan Gudelsky - VP
- Sylvia Favretto - Treasurer
- Katie Iverson - Secretary
- Alison Berman, Member
- Jessica Castleberry, Member
- Michelle Feld, Member
- Carolyn Figoten, Member
- Erinn Tobin, Member
- Jennifer Stiebel, Member
- Jen Villani, Member



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We will consider educational interests, operational needs, mandated school closures by state law, compliance with minimum instructional days and credit hour requirements, contingencies for inclement weather and other emergencies, staff professional days and early release days, alignment with assessment schedules, etc.

MCPS provides a school year calendar that allows for effective use of time for teaching and learning, for professional growth opportunities, and planning instructional strategies focused on improving student achievement, while maintaining our lens of equity for all students and commitment to community engagement in the MCPS Antiracist Audit Action Plan.

Please limit to one response per person.

- MCPS Calendar 2024-2025 [English Version](#)
- Calendario escolar de MCPS 2024 - 2025 Comentarios [Spanish Version](#)
- MCPS 校歴 2024 - 2025 年反饋 [Chinese Version](#)
- MCPS 학교 일정 2024 - 2025 피드백 [Korean Version](#)
- Calendrier scolaire de MCPS 2024-2025 [French Version](#)
- Calendário Escolar MCPS 2024 - 2025 Feedback [Portuguese Version](#)
- Phản hồi về Lịch học MCPS 2024 - 2025 [Vietnamese Version](#)
- የMCPS ትምህርት ቤት የቀን መቁጠሪያ 2024 - 2025 ግብረመልስ [Amharic Version](#)

THE SCIENCE FAIR IS BACK

The BHES Science Fair will be held on Thursday, November 9 this year, so start thinking of your projects! Science fair project presentations will occur in 2 sessions:

6:30-7:15 pm for students in grades K-2

7:30-8:15 pm for students in grades 3-5

How to participate:

- 1) Check out [ScienceBuddies.org](https://www.sciencebuddies.org) for project ideas by grade level and topics of interest.
- 2) [Register your science fair project](#) by October 23.
- 3) Apply the scientific method while you do your project.
- 4) Summarize your project on a tri-fold poster board. Describe all aspects of the scientific method on your poster, including the Research Question, Background, Hypothesis, Materials & Methods, Results, and Conclusion.
- 5) Practice telling people about your project.
- 6) Present your project at the Science Fair on November 9!

We need judges! No scientific expertise needed, just a willingness to talk to students about their projects!



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If you're interested in volunteering as a judge for the Science Fair, please email Jen Villani at jenvillani@gmail.com or Colleen Fahey at cefahey@yahoo.com

2023-24 Bradley Hills SCIENCE FAIR



Thursday, November 9

6:30-7:15pm: students in Grades K-2

7:30-8:15pm: students in Grades 3-5

Students will do their project at home and then summarize their project on a tri-fold poster board. During the Science Fair, students will present their project to a judge during their assigned session.

Awards will be announced for:

- Most Innovative Research Project
- Best Independent Research Project
- Most Useful Project to Students
- Best Visual Presentation

TEACHER-LED CLUBS (4TH & 5TH GRADERS)

The PTA is excited to once again offer after school and before school enrichment opportunities for students. This year, our teachers will be running clubs for 4th and 5th graders before and after school. Clubs include Student Government, Dungeons and Dragons, Math Olympiad and Yearbook (5th grade



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only). More information is available in the flier below.

All before and after school enrichment programs (including clubs and the after-school enrichment classes described below) are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Montgomery County School Board, the Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools, or Bradley Hills Elementary School. Email Natalie Ram at natalie.ram@gmail.com or Laurel Keating at laurel.keating@gmail.com with any questions.

Teacher –Led Clubs Bradley Hills Elementary School

Student Government Association

Who: 4th and 5th graders

Provided by: Ms. Howell

When: Monthly Tuesday meetings from 7:55 - 8:55am

Dates: 10/3, 10/24, 11/14, 12/5, 1/9, 2/6, 3/5, 4/2, 4/30, 5/21

Cost: Free

We will brainstorm and work on activities to make the school experience even better, come up with spirit days, fundraisers, and more! It will be an interactive and creative organization. Students must complete an application and be approved to join. Students can get an application from Ms. Howell or their 4th or 5th grade teachers. Applications will be accepted Monday, September 11 through Friday, September 22.

Dungeons and Dragons

Who: 4th and 5th graders

Provided by: Mr. Sichler

When: Weekly Tuesday meetings from 3:30-4:45pm

Dates: 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 11/7, 11/14, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19

Cost: \$100

Are you looking for a fun and engaging way to empower your child to become more confident, tackle challenges head-on, and learn perseverance? Let them explore the Forgotten Realms through critical-thinking exercises playing the Dungeons & Dragons roleplaying game. Kids do not need prior knowledge of D&D to join, but experienced players are welcome. All it takes is a set of dice, imagination, and a collaborative spirit! Join us this Fall as we play through Dragons of Stormwreck Isle. Will you survive an ancient war among dragons? Come lend your sword to the party! Spaces are limited so please sign up as soon as possible! Registration will be open on A to Z on Tuesday, September 26 and remain open through Tuesday, October 3, or until all allotted spaces are filled (whichever comes first).

Math Olympiad

Who: 4th and 5th graders

Provided by: Ms. Dyer and Mrs. Swinehart

When: Weekly Thursday meetings from 7:55-8:50am

Dates: 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, 1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 2/29, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21

Cost: \$110

4th and 5th grade students are invited to participate in problem solving activities and contests through Math Olympiad, a program designed to foster love of math, problem solving ability, mathematical flexibility and creativity. Spaces are limited so please sign up as soon as possible! Registration will be open on A to Z on Tuesday, September 26 and remain open through Tuesday, October 3, or until all allotted spaces are filled (whichever comes first).

Yearbook

Who: 5th graders

Provided by: Ms. Nolek

When: Biweekly meetings Friday from 7:55 - 8:55am

Dates: 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 12/8, 1/12, 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/8, 3/22

Cost: \$90

In this club, students will gain skills in one or more of the following areas: page design, publishing techniques, editing, photography, record keeping, time management, teamwork, marketing, and leadership skills while producing a creative, innovative yearbook which records school memories and events. 5th grade students are invited to pick up an application outside Ms. Nolek's room. Spaces are limited so please pick up an application and then sign up as soon as possible! Sign up runs through Friday, October 13, or until all allotted spaces are filled (whichever comes first).



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BINGO NIGHT

Bingo Night is Back **IN PERSON** for 2023 and it's 80's themed! Come dressed in your favorite 80's wear on Thursday October 26, from 6-7:30pm in the Pyle Middle School Cafeteria. Be sure to buy your bingo boards ahead of time, as well as order your pizza!

Use this [link](#) to order everything you need!

More info to come on BHES 80's themed swag!

Have questions? Reach out to Michelle Feld (michelle.feld@me.com)



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	School Event
October 3, 2023	General PTA Meeting (7:30 p.m in the Media Center)
October 5, 2023	Interims Distributed
October 6, 2023	Whalemart 8:45-9:00 a.m. Sharp - BHES Blacktop
October 9, 2023	Indigenous People Day - No School for students
October 9, 2023	Foundation Social: 2:00-5:00 p.m. - Gudelsky's Home
October 12, 2023	Five Guys Fundraiser: 5:00-9:00 p.m.
October 13, 2023	October Birthday Bash 2:30 PM in the APR
October 23, 2023	Deadline to register for the BHES Science Fair
October 26, 2023	BHES Bingo Night at Pyle MS 6:30 p.m.
October 31, 2023	Halloween Parties and Parade: Parade begins at 2:00 p.m.
October 31, 2023	End Marking Period One
November 1, 2023	First Day of American Indian Heritage Month
November 2-7, 2023	Scholastic Book Fair
November 3, 2023	Whalemart 8:45-9:00 a.m. Sharp
November 6 -10, 2023	STEM Week
November 9, 2023	Science Fair
November 7, 2023	Election Day
November 10, 2023	Veterans Day
November 12, 2023	Diwali
November 20-21, 2023	Early Release 12:55 p.m. - Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 22-24, 2023	System Wide Closure - Schools and Offices Closed
November 28, 2023	2nd Grade COGAT Testing Window Opens