

Burnt Mills Elementary School

~Principal's Newsletter~

September 2022

~~Welcome Back to School~~

Dr. Stacy Ashton, principal ~ Mr. Troy 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 Dates to Remember

Date	Event
9/5	Holiday - Schools and Offices Closed
9/6	Back to School Night (K-2) 6-8 PM
9/7	Back to School Night Grade PreK @ 5:00 PM Back to School Night Grades 3-5 @ 6-8 PM
9/14	Early Release Day @ 12:10 PM
9/26	No School for Students and Teachers
9/30	Early Release Day @ 12:10 PM

BMES News

YOU MATTER Schoolwide Expectations: At BMES, all students matter! Please click the link to view the **YOU MATTER** presentation shared the first week of school with all scholars (K-5). At Burnt Mills, we expect all scholars to come to school every day, ready to give their very best!

YOU MATTER Schoolwide Expectations Please review the slideshow at home with your children.

Parent Volunteers Needed for Lunch & Recess: If you have time and would like to volunteer your time during lunch and/or recess, we would love to have you! Please click the link to learn how. [☑ volunteers needed](#)

Personal Mobile Device (PMD) Policy: Montgomery County Public School allows elementary students to bring cellphones to school. MCPS Policy/Regulation on Cell Phones can be found at the following webpage:

<http://ww2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/cogra.pdf>

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eowlLog5Wly9828YtyFwRXF_wySghvAF/view

Students are not allowed to use cell phones on campus for any purpose, including receiving calls, taking pictures, recording videos, or text messaging. If you desire that your child carry a cell phone for non-school time emergency purposes, the phone must be turned off and kept, at the student's risk, in his or her backpack at all times. Any cell phone found on a student will be confiscated and parents will be contacted. Below are our cell phone guidelines. Please review them with your child.

Burnt Mills' Cell Phone Guidelines:

- A student is allowed to have a cell phone in his/her possession on campus.
- Parents and students must complete the cell phone permission slip and return to the school. [Cell Phone Permission Slip](#)
- During the school day (from the time a student arrives on campus until the end of school) the cell phone must be turned off and cannot be visible.
- While students are riding MCPS buses the cell phone policy is in effect just as if the student was in a classroom during the school day.

If a student violates MCPS's cell phone policy, we will use the MCPS's Student Code of Conduct to determine an appropriate consequence. If you would like to review the level of consequences, you can go to the webpage provided:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students/rights/>. If you have questions regarding the cell phone policy, please contact me at Stacy_A_Ashton@mcpsmd.org or Mr. Clarke, assistant principal, at Troy_D_Clarke@mcpsmd.org

Car Line Safety Rules: Click the link to read the car line safety rules. If you choose to use the car line, please adhere to the safety rules. Thank you for your cooperation.

[☰ Car Line Safety Rules](#)

[New Kiss & Ride Car Line Process:](#) Click the link to read the new car line process

NEW "Kiss & Ride" Car Line Process

[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.

[Scholastic Book Fair](#)

The Fall Scholastic Bookfair 2022 will run from Tuesday, September 6 - Monday, September 12 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m for scholars only. Classroom teachers will reach out to parents via Class Dojo to share dates and times. Scholars should only bring money on the day their class is scheduled for a visit.

[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.

[Registration](#)

- **Registration Hours are from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Monday - Friday.** Not sure what documents are required, go to our school homepage, click [Registration Information](#) under Quick Link and everything you need to know is there.
- Your child will not be officially enrolled until the school receives ALL the required registration documents. Thank you for your cooperation.

[Celebrations](#)

Parties: We have three celebrations at Burnt Mills: Harvest Party and Pumpkin Patch in October, Valentine's Day Party in February, and End of Year Party in June. Classroom teachers will share information about parties in the coming weeks.

Birthdays: Scholars may celebrate birthdays with a store bought treat/snack (i.e., brownies or cookies) donated by the parent of the birthday child. Parents must contact the teacher directly to make arrangements. Celebrations are no longer than 10-15 minutes and are held at the end of the school day. At school, birthday celebrations are simple and easy, **please do not bring balloons, sheet cakes, party favors, etc. to celebrate your child's birthday during the school day.** A simple store bought treat is the only treat allowed. Thank you for your cooperation.

Medication and Health Room

Medication distribution is not permitted in school without the parent's/guardian's written permission and a physician's statement. Medical forms are available in the health room and are required for each episode of illness and for each medication ordered. **Staff members are not permitted to administer any medication, including aspirin or Tylenol.**

Meeting with Teachers During the School Year

Should you require a meeting with a staff member, please email or call to schedule an appointment. **Please do not stop by before, during, or after school for an unannounced visit or conference; this includes dropping off and picking up your child from daycare.** Teachers are often in meetings, planning sessions or preparing for the school day. ALL visitors and volunteers must sign in at the main office where they will receive a visitor's sticker. We appreciate your cooperation.

Release of Children

For a safe and orderly dismissal, it is requested that parents who wish to pick up their children to attend afternoon appointments do so before 2:00 p.m. Picking up students between 2:00 – 2:40 p.m. is very disruptive to the dismissal process. When picking up students prior to 2:00 p.m., parents must sign them out in the front office. The students will be called from the classroom to the office. For safety reasons, students will not be released directly from the classroom. If an **emergency** should arise during the day which changes the dismissal plan for your child, please call the school as soon as possible, but **no later than 2:00 p.m.**, to ensure adequate notice for your child.

If there is a scheduled change in your child's regular dismissal plan, please send a note in the morning or call the school no later than 2:00 p.m. at (240) 740-7320. **Without written notification, your child will follow their normal dismissal plan.** Please review the dismissal plan with your child and remind him/her that they should never leave school during the day without the permission from the front office and the teacher.

Students Being Picked Up by Someone Other Than the Parent:

In keeping with MCPS policy, only parents and/or persons authorized in writing by parents may pick up a child from school. If it is necessary for a student to be picked up by someone other than the parent, the school must receive **written permission from the parent.** Parents may designate these individuals on the yellow emergency information form completed at the beginning of each school year.

Please make sure your emergency contact information is updated. Parents may send the school a note authorizing a specific individual to pick up their child. **Persons will be asked to show a photo identification card before releasing the student.**

Visitors

All visitors will be asked to show identification. If you are planning to visit, please make sure you have your driver's license or a personal identification card. All visitors will be given a

visitor's sticker, which must be worn at all times.

Social/Emotional Wellness News from Mrs. Domm, Mrs. Allen, and Ms. Ware

Our student Wellbeing Team is excited to welcome our Burnt Mills Scholars back to school! This year, we have two new members of our team! Please welcome Ms. Ware, our Student Support Teacher and Ms. Allen, our K-2 School Counselor. Ms. Domm is returning this year and will primarily serve grades 3-5.

This month, our scholars have been learning and thinking about what it means to get and give respect! You can follow up with your scholars at home by discussing what respect looks like in your family. In addition, we are excited to implement well-begin classes this school year! Ms. Ware will meet with each class every other week and bring engaging lessons that will foster social-emotional development. This month, wellbeing classes are focusing on "How to Be a Successful Student?" Students will learn relationship-building skills, seeking and giving support, and social-emotional goal setting.

If you would like to set up a meeting with your School Counselor or Student Support Teacher, please email us at:

Ms. Allen (K-2 Counselor) Desiree_A_Allen@mcpsmd.org

Mrs. Domm (3-5 Counselor) Sarah_B_Domm@mcpsmd.org

Ms. Ware (Student Support Teacher) Meghan_Ware@mcpsmd.org

Spanish Immersion News from Mrs. Plawner, Immersion Coordinator

Bienvenidos to all our BMES families. It is so great to see returning faces and many new ones as well. We would like to give a big Eagle Welcome to our new immersion profesoras: Maestra Soni Santos (K), Senorita Mary Thomas (2nd), Senora Beri Tata (5th reading), and Senora Esly Marshall (5th math). They are coming to us from varying Spanish backgrounds and experiences and we are so excited for all they have to add to our program. If you have any questions about the immersion program or about your child's class, feel free to email me Gloria_B_Plawner@mcpsmd.org and I can help answer any questions you may have. We are looking forward to a great year with our estudiantes.

PTA News from Dr. Tiffany Walker, PTA President

PTA needs YOU...please join the PTA! We are only as strong as we are united. Please click the link and join today. <https://bmespta.memberhub.com/w/>

Also, we still have two PTA positions open. If you are interested, please email Tiffany Walker, PTA president, at bmesptapresident@gmail.com

Recording Secretary (Time Commitment: 6-10 hrs monthly): organize and record meeting minutes; Maintain all approved minutes, agendas and communication; serve as reviewer of all PTA communications; moderate executive board and general member meetings; manage bylaw updates every 3 years; attend executive meetings; participate in discussions and decision making; collaborate with PTA President and past officers to gather records (Records: bylaws, PTA Procedures etc.)

Communications Chair (Time Commitment: 12-15hrs monthly): draft and manage all PTA communications; oversee Teacher Representatives & Classroom Parent Leads; moderate Listserv/WhatsApp; lead translation and interpretation efforts; communicate with all PTA officers and volunteers for news; fundraising, event planning, and coordination; create bi-weekly newsletter/E-blast for Wednesday folders.