

Bells Mill PTA Meeting
Sept. 6, 2011

1. President's Welcome - Haylie Iseman talked about all the wonderful things the PTA does for our school - see the website (www.bellsmill.org) for all relevant information.
2. Principal's Remarks - Jerri Oglesby thanked everyone for a great first week.
 - a. The school is still working with transportation on afternoon buses, which have sometimes been late; please bear with us.
 - b. Instruction begins at 9:15 am so please bring children to school early enough to be ready. In inclement weather, leave more time.
 - c. The weekly newsletter with a spotlight on Bells Mill comes via email and will be posted on the Web site. If you WANT a paper copy, please let your child's teacher know.
 - d. Make sure your kids and the office know the aftercare plan ahead of time. Any changes must be called in before 3 pm if at all possible.
 - e. The new superintendent Dr. Joshua Starr will be having listening sessions around the county, and you can also follow him on Twitter:
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/listen/>
 - f. At the end of September there will be a presentation on the integrated curriculum by Latricia Thomas and Mrs. O, which this year is fully implemented in K-2. The biggest change is that it's more rigorous, especially with mathematics. They're focusing on fewer objectives and going deeper and broader to work toward mastery, instead of a cyclical curriculum where you introduce something and bring it back.
3. Treasurer's Report - Sarah Hnatov presented - July 1-June 30 is fiscal year - no findings from the audit at the end of the year (that's good) - over \$100,000 passes through the PTA - often in \$2-3 increments - no liabilities at year end
4. Passed minutes from May meeting.
5. Buddy program announcement by Katie Sonnabend: if you're new to the community you can get a buddy family. You also can volunteer to be a buddy for a new family with no commitment - she won't just assign you to someone. Put a note into the PTA mailbox if you're interested.
6. Innisbrook fundraiser presented by Traci Levine. Everything will be delivered to school, including prizes. It's more streamlined than Sally Foster.
7. Walk to School Program - Ms. Thomas introduced Mrs. Kirby from the county to discuss an effort to decrease the number of drivers on the roads and find safe routes to school. It consists of education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering, and evaluation. The overall goal is to increase the number of kids walking and biking to school and create a safe walking/biking map for the 10 grant schools (including BMES).
 - a. Oct. 5 is international walk to school day. Last year 33 schools participated
 - b. They're going to have a bike rodeo with a course set up for kids to bike. They'll work with students about street signs and helmet fitting.
 - c. We'll get a parent survey about issues in our community - no more than 10 minutes - also creating safe walking/biking maps for the 10 grant schools (including BMES)
 - d. Questions included whether Cabin John Middle School will be included in the assessment (yes) and on whether lights will be added to the path between BMES and Georgetown Hill.
8. Nutrition presentation by Jennifer Reilly - she wrote a healthy recipes book for Trader Joe's - she made a Shrek Smoothie and chocolate mousse for everyone to try.