**BEM CALENDAR:**

*PTA Meeting Dates:*
1/8, 4/16, 5/21

**Freedom School/EDL**
12/6, 12/11, 12/18, 12/20

**IB Showcase**
Thursday, December 13
5:30 Pizza
6:00-7:00 Showcase of 3rd & 4th Grade Student Work

**Basketball Game:**
Thursday, December 20
Maxfield Elementary Games begin at 4:00pm

**No School Winter Break**
Friday, December 21- Tuesday, January 1

**Mays CAFE**
Thursday, January 24
5:30-7:30

---

**CONTACT US:**

Office: (651) 325-2400
Fax: (651) 325-2401
Nurse: (651) 325-2786
Absentee Line: (651) 325-2499
Parent Engagement: (651) 325-2492
Address:
560 Concordia Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55103
Website:
www.spps.org/mays

---

**A Word from Principal Morris**

**Preparing For Winter Break**

Winter Break is swiftly approaching! We really want to keep the positive momentum that our students have built. Parents, we need your assistance during break time. During breaks, students need to stimulate their minds so that the transition back to school goes smoothly. Below are a few ways you can help your child keep this momentum while at the same time taking a true break from school. These may apply to you and your child.

Find time to relax. It is very important to remember to enjoy breaks from school. Get more rest and sleep. An active mind can’t work without time to reboot itself.

Read. Reading is a great way to keep your mind stimulated. Although we are asking the students to take a break from school, we do need them to continue to stimulate their minds and reading is an excellent way to do so. At school, we are working diligently to guide our students towards a love for reading. Please assist us at home by reading something you enjoy reading with your child.

Learn something new. Teach your child something new. It could be how to play a new game or how to bake cookies. Learning something new that is not school-related is another way to help your child with motivation and focus.

Set goals. To maintain momentum, it is important to set new goals and seek to attain them. A low-stress way to do this is by working on puzzles and chores at home.

Finding ways to help your child keep their brain active and engaged during their time off from school can give them a boost to perform well academically in the New Year.

FUN FACT: If you eat a teaspoon of sugar after eating something spicy, it will completely neutralize the heat.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE: “Success seems to be connected to action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but don’t quit.” ~Conrad Hilton

---

**Needed at Mays:**

- Uniform polo shirts in white or navy
- Uniform pants in khaki or navy
- **Winter coats**

We love to receive donations! When your child grows out of their uniform, bring it to school. We will make sure to give your old uniforms a happy home.

---

**Winter Break**

Friday, December 21 through Tuesday, January 1

Classes Resume Wednesday, January 2

---

“To Build a Learning Community for all Globally Minded Life-Long Learners”
IB Showcase

**When:** Thursday, December 13, 5:30-7:00 pm  
**Where:** Benjamin E. Mays IB World School 560 Concordia Avenue  
**Who:** 3rd Grade: Where We Are in Place & Time  
4th Grade: How We Organize Ourselves  

Join us for an evening of academic **INQUIRY** at school. Through the Showcase, families will gain an understanding of what, and how, their students are learning in their IB classrooms.

Pizza from 5:30-6:00. Student work exhibited from 6:00-7:00.  
Transportation is available on request. Contact Karen Shanahan at (651) 325-2492 or karen.shanahan@spps.org

---

**Greetings from the Health Office!**

Along with the holiday season, the influenza (flu) season is upon us. Typically, the flu season peaks between December and February. Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to serious complications. **The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year.** If you have not yet been vaccinated, it is not too late.

Additionally, covering coughs and frequent hand washing are important. Please remind your children to cover their coughs and to wash their hands frequently to keep everyone in our Benjamin E. Mays family healthy.

---

**Children’s Dental Services**

Mays students can receive dental care at school through Children’s Dental Services. For an enrollment form or information contact Nurse Mahli (651) 888-7606.

---

**Save the Date**

Mays CAFÉ  
**Thursday, January 24**  
5:30-7:30pm

**Your voice matters!** Mays CAFÉ is a time for parents, community members, administrators and teachers to plan together for our children’s future.  

**Want to help plan the event?** An enthusiastic group of parents and staff put together Mays CAFÉ. Meetings are in December and January. For information, contact Karen Shanahan at 651 325-2492 or Karen.Shanahan@spps.org.  
Meeting times will be posted on our website: www.spps.org/mays

---

**Volunteer and Visit**

Mays has an open door visiting policy. We encourage parents, guardians and special adults to visit our classrooms and get to know our learning community. For information on how to volunteer in the classroom, contact your teacher or Karen Shanahan at karen.shanahan@spps.org or (651) 325-2492.

---

“To Build a Learning Community for all Globally Minded Life-Long Learners”