



Tuesday Scoop

Shepherd Elementary School, Washington, DC

<http://www.shepherd-elementary.org>

Editor: Celeste Moneme

November 20, 2007

From Principal Robinson

Our Vision

Shepherd Elementary School is committed to **academic excellence, leadership development, character building, and growth in appreciation of cultural diversity.** Shepherd students will become active, well rounded citizens of the world, able to meet society's challenges with strength and perseverance yet with humility and compassion for others. They will be supported by well-trained teachers who are committed to teaching the whole child in a creative, challenging environment while recognizing, respecting, and meeting individual differences. With up to date technology, advanced learning materials and a clean, safe facility, students and staff will reach their highest potential, supported by community and parent resources and involvement.

Happy Thanksgiving to all! This is a holiday when we gather with family and friends, share food and beverage, and count our blessings. Enjoy! Thanks to the teachers and parents who provided a shared meal for their classrooms and to the students who shared their programs with their parents and classmates.

On Friday, November 16th, a small group of prospective parents gathered to learn about Shepherd ES and to visit the classrooms. Numerous positive remarks were made about classroom activities, bulletin board and hall displays and work, and the quiet, orderly hallways. There was a universal positive response to the language program in the lower grades. Many questions were asked about IB and how it would grow and impact teaching and learning.

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From the PTA

Thank you very much to all teachers, parents, Mrs. Brooks, and especially our Shepherd Elementary School students. Through everybody's great effort, we raised almost **\$19,000 total** in this year's **Reader's Digest Fundraiser**. This was very close to our goal of \$20,000.

Grand Prize Winners:

- First Place Tie between **Yolanda Andrews**, a 6th grader in Mrs. Thurber's class, and **Afia Tyus**, a 4th grader in Mrs. Valentine-Nelson's class. Together, these girls and their families raised almost \$3,500. They each won a Dell Inspiron Desktop computer.
- Third Place winner was **MacKenzie Holt**, a pre-K student in Mrs. Holt's class. MacKenzie sold over \$825 of materials and gifts.

Congratulations to these girls and their families for supporting Shepherd Elementary in such outstanding fashion. Congratulations also to the class of Mrs. Valentine-Nelson. They had the most sales proceeds and therefore have won a pizza party.

Delivery of all orders will occur **ONE DAY ONLY** at the school auditorium on **Thursday, November 29th, from 3pm-7pm.** Unfortunately, I will be out of the country at that time and therefore **need volunteers to help with the delivery that day from 8 am-10 am and then to help pass out the deliveries to households from 3 pm-7pm** (or whatever time you can spare within those time periods).

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From Principal Robinson

On Wednesday, November 14th, the **LSRT** meeting began a dialogue on the future direction of the Shepherd instructional program, the raising of student expectations, and improving test scores. We have made a good start with the introduction of the IB framework and its dual language component. As the dialogue continues, the whole Shepherd community needs to be open to change, to involve itself in researching data to build a solid foundation for our program, and to think creatively about the use of human and material resources. Shepherd students deserve the very best that administration, teachers, parents, and community can develop.

~Dan Robinson, Principal

Teacher Appreciation Program--TAP *Let's give our teachers a TAP on the back!*

Let's show our teachers how much we appreciate them by acknowledging the good they are doing. If you notice a teacher that has gone above and beyond, please send an email to Rhonda Davis Smith, LSRT Chair, at championco@aol.com, and to Principal Robinson at Daniel.robinson@dc.gov with a description of the specific event or two you witnessed. A teacher will be selected each month to shower with praise! **First round of entries are due by December 15.**

More information about this program will come home in the students' backpacks.

A Hearty Welcome to Mrs. Kia Kinsler

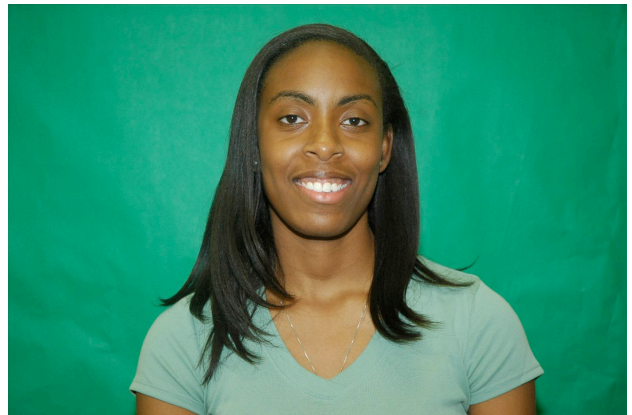
First grade teacher, Mrs. Kia Kinsler, joined the faculty at Shepherd Elementary School this fall. She spent the last school year teaching at a collaborative school for children affected with Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) such as autism and aspersers' syndrome. The school is located in Massachusetts, just across from the New Hampshire state line.

A Baltimore, Maryland native, Mrs. Kinsler said that she always wanted to be a teacher from as early in life as she can remember. This dream, and ultimate career choice, was due the love and influence of her mother who has been a life long teacher and is currently an elementary school principal in Harford County, Maryland.

When asked what motivates her at Shepherd, Mrs. Kinsler answered enthusiastically, "because of all my twenty brilliant 1st graders who are eager to learn, posses high energy, and are most beautiful. Shepherd is allowing me to fulfill my love of being an elementary school teacher."

Mrs. Kinsler received a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of North Carolina (UNC) and is currently enrolled in a Master's program at Walden University in psychology with an emphasis on child and social development. This past summer she relocated from New Hampshire because her husband was accepted in the MBA program at Georgetown University. She is thrilled to be at SES at this phase of her career because lots of exciting and creative things are happening at our vibrant school. Her personal and professional long term goals are to extend her family, work towards being a Master teacher, and eventfully pursue a Doctorate in Education.

~Emanuel Finn



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From the PTA

If you are able to volunteer, please contact me, Jack Marrkand, at 202-246-1448 or jmarrkand@pfd.org **before November 26th**.

Finally, a big thank you to Mr. Donnell Jones. Donnell managed the Reader's Digest fundraiser the previous five years and led on grossing over \$100,000 on behalf of the school. Donnell continues to provide guidance and advice on the fundraiser.

~Jack Marrkand

PTA Meeting Highlights

We had a great turn out of parents and teachers at last Wednesday's membership meeting! Thanks to Warren Peck for providing pizza and drinks.

Attendees were introduced to the Shepherd 4th, 5th and 6th graders who make up the outdoor track, kickball and boys' basketball teams--all of which have been very successful this year.

Barry Hudson reported that the Membership Committee has received 104 PTA membership forms and that we are on the way to reaching this year's goal of 175 member families. To encourage more families to join, the PTA is sponsoring a membership contest that continues until Thanksgiving break. The classroom with the highest percentage of PTA members will win a pizza party and a gift certificate for their teacher. If you haven't joined, please stop by the main office as soon as possible and put your membership form (and the \$50 dues) in the PTA mailbox. The PTA strongly encourages families to pay their Family Enrichment Fee of \$500. These funds go to support the programs that make Shepherd a great place to learn!

Frank Borris announced that DCPS will be sending out a new request for proposals to install the new windows after a review of the specifications. Installation of the windows will probably not start until next summer.

~Alex Kincannon

>> MARK YOUR CALENDAR <<

November 22-23	Thanksgiving Holiday, NO SCHOOL
December 1	Leaf-raking outside the school from 9 am-1 pm
December 6	Family Movie Night at 6:45 pm
December 7	Parent/Teacher Conferences, NO SCHOOL
December 12	Holiday Concert/Craft Fair
December 19	LSRT meeting, 3:30 pm; and PTA Meeting, 6:45 pm

COMMUNITY CORNER

The **Shepherd Park Citizens Association** invites you to come out and enjoy a family-friendly pizza night at **Ledo Pizza and Pasta** (7435 Georgia Avenue) **on Friday, November 30th from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm**. The menu for the night will include all-you-can-eat pizza, salad, soft drinks, and tea & coffee for \$10/adult and \$6/children 12 and under. This special price includes tax and tip. All children 16 and younger **must be accompanied by an adult**. At the same time, **Cork 'N Bottle** (7421 Georgia Avenue), will host a wine and champagne tasting for adults. If you plan on attending either of these events, **please RSVP by Tuesday, November 27** to enjolitimmons@hotmail.com. Please list your name and the number of adults and children in your group.

Georgia Avenue's 1st Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will be on **Sunday, December 9 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm**. The tree will be located at the corner of Georgia and Geranium (in the El Tamarindo patio). There will be hot cider, Santa, and food. This sounds like it will be a wonderful community event for families!

Please note that the Tuesday Scoop will not be published next week due to the holiday break.

*The next Tuesday Scoop is scheduled for December 4. The editor will be **Kimberly Brandon**. Submissions should be emailed by 3:30 pm on Friday, November 30 to brandonsdc@hotmail.com, or placed in the Tuesday Scoop mail box in the Parents' lounge across from the main office.*

Happy Thanksgiving!

