



# Tuesday Scoop

Shepherd Elementary School, Washington, DC

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

Editor: Kimberly Brandon

December 4, 2007

## From the Principal

I have missed Shepherd since becoming ill just before Thanksgiving. It is my hope to return on Dec. 10. Thanks to those who have sent get well wishes through the office staff. Mr. Millet and his staff are a presence this week at Shepherd to help us move forward.

We are in the holiday season now when many of us are thinking of giving and receiving presents to family and friends. A number of excellent articles have been written about the importance of thinking of different ways to give of ourselves instead of giving things. The Washington Post's Mini-Page spoke of giving your time, talents, and knowledge as a way of sharing. For a gift to be given, there needs to be a receiver. Part of the importance of the holiday season is to learn to give and to receive graciously.

Please remember Ms. Vernell Hairston, our former security officer. She is still in the hospital and needs our good wishes.

We welcome Ms. Ebanisha Pegues, our new Hawk One Security Officer. "Officer E" grew up in Fort Washington, Maryland. She majored in criminal justice at TESST College of Technology. She's single, an avid reader, and a big Wizards fan. This is her first permanent position. She is working hard to get to know students, parents, and teachers as she sits at the front desk and travels throughout the building. Her smile welcomes people to Shepherd.

Have good conferences on Friday and enjoy PTA Movie Night. See you next week!

## Shepherd's Dental Health Program

Dr. Delores Morton, a semi-retired dentist who practiced for 30 years in Silver Spring, has been at Shepherd for the past few weeks helping out with the D.C. Public School's Dental Sealant Program. At the November 14 PTA meeting she introduced herself and discussed the DCPS dental clinic program (it was shelved in 1985, but efforts are being made to convince the D.C. Council to bring it back). The return of this important program is due in large part to a grant from the Kellogg Foundation. Dr. Morton is available to Shepherd families to answer any questions about the program and about dental health. Her husband, himself a retired dentist, serves as her assistant!

Shepherd's dental sealant clinic is in the nurse's suite. If you want your child to take part in it, all you have to do is sign a consent form, available at the school office. Parents with children enrolled in Unity Health or Medicaid are especially urged to take advantage of the program. Even if your child has seen a dentist, it's OK to take part in the Shepherd School program. If something that requires urgent attention is spotted, parents will get a call.

Dr. Morton reminds parents of the case of the Lanham boy who died last year after an unnoticed dental infection spread throughout his body and was spotted too late to save him. It is important to have your children's teeth professionally checked by a pediatric dentist every year.

**Reminder:** NO SCHOOL this Friday, Dec. 7. Please secure 15 minutes to speak with your child's teacher to learn about your child's progress at school. Ask about ways to support at home what is learned in the classroom. Grade 3-6 Parents, be sure to inquire about the DC BAS test results.

## Root, Root, Root for the Home Team!

Shepherd Elementary School's girls' basketball team is preparing for the upcoming season. The team of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls is headed up by three returning players: **Yolanda Andrews, Elisabeth Touaboy** and **Amber Newby**. First-year squad members include **Ester Okechukwu, Rian Stone, Decostia Edwards** and **Chandler Kent**. The season begins next week with a game at Eaton. Although the team is lacking experience and depth, the initial practices have displayed much enthusiasm and energy. Coaching the team are Shepherd parents **Darren Woodruff** and **Patrick Grobbel**. Please show your support and cheer on our Mustangs at their season opener! The girls play all games on Tuesdays at 3:30p.m.:

December 11: Shepherd at Eaton, 3301 Lowell St. NW  
December 18: Shepherd at Janney, 4130 Albemarle St. NW  
January 8: Murch at Shepherd  
January 15: H.D. Cooke at Shepherd  
January 22: Shepherd at Whittier, 6201 Fifth St. NW  
January 29: Raymond at Shepherd  
February 5 Lafayette at Shepherd  
February 12: Shepherd at West, 1338 Farragut St. NW

The Shepherd Mustangs' **boys'** basketball team is also ready to charge into exciting roundball action. The boys play on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

December 6: Shepherd at Murch, 4810 36th St. NW  
December 13: Janney at Shepherd  
January 10: Shepherd at West, 1338 Farragut St. NW  
January 17: Shepherd at Eaton, 3301 Lowell St. NW  
January 24: Lafayette at Shepherd  
January 31: Shepherd at H.D. Cooke, 300 Bryant St. NW  
February 7: Shepherd at Whittier, 6201 Fifth St. NW  
February 14: Truesdell at Shepherd

Shepherd also has a **coed** basketball team competing in the Sixteenth Street Interscholastic Athletic Conference. All games will be played on Wednesdays at West Elementary School, 1338 Farragut St. NW:

December 12: Shepherd vs. West, 4 p.m.  
January 16: Shepherd vs. Kingsbury, 4 p.m.  
January 23: Shepherd vs. Jewish Primary Day School, 6 p.m.  
January 30: Shepherd vs. Bridges, 6 p.m.  
February 6: Shepherd vs. British School, 5 p.m.  
February 13: Make-up games  
February 19-22: Playoff games, times TBA

~Mark Pattison

## SPORTS CORNER... Did you hear?

Shepherd School's **kickball team**, a hard-charging aggregation of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, suffered only one loss this season—the city championship game! *Yahoo!*

The Shepherd Mustangs **cross-country team** finished in the top 3 among D.C. public elementary schools! Shepherd's third-place finish was calculated by the overall results of four meets at Fort Dupont Park. Cross-country runners ran and walked a 2.5-mile course each time. Students from grades 4, 5 and 6 competed. *Way to go, Team!*

Here's a big shout out to 6<sup>th</sup> grader **Matt Solberg**, Shepherd's own three-sport star. He played kickball, ran cross-country, and will be playing basketball. *Go-o-o-o, Matt!*

## This Friday is Family Movie Night!

At **6:45pm** this Friday, Dec. 7, we take a trip back in time to the 1960's, with the original animated "**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**" and our feature film "**Dr. Doolittle**" starring Rex Harrison as he searches for the giant pink sea snail. These films are fun for the whole family! Tickets are only \$4 for both shows!!! All Shepherd school and neighborhood families are welcome regardless of whether or not you have children at SES. Everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy the films on our new big screen. Volunteers are needed to help set up, sell tickets, and prepare and sell hot dogs, soft drinks, and popcorn. Please contact Warren Peck: 202-465-1415 or [warren\\_peck@hotmail.com](mailto:warren_peck@hotmail.com). *NOTE: This is a FAMILY movie night. Children will NOT be admitted without parental supervision.*

## From STAR ACHIEVERS

Back by popular demand, it's the **Dollars and Sense program!** It was such a big hit with the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, we have decided to have the program in the winter/spring for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade children. Mucho thanks to Mrs. Hudson for bringing the program to Shepherd.

We are still negotiating with **dance** instructors and, hopefully, we will have a dance program up and running in January 2008.

Beginning next year, we will begin using a **walkie-talkie** system to call children from their classroom to the dismissal area to alleviate parents from walking throughout the building to retrieve their children. We will be practicing with our new "toys" in the next couple of weeks, so please bear with us.

We would also appreciate any suggestions or complaints be brought directly to Mr. Huff or Mrs. Chambliss rather than discussed as part of PTA meetings. Since we are unable to be present at the PTA meetings at times, it would be impossible to address any concerns. Our number one priority is to keep our program insightful, structured and convenient for everyone. Of course, we realize you cannot please everyone, but we will make the effort.

~Mr. Huff

## Shop and Help Your School!

It's easy to enroll in **Giant Food's** "A-Plus BonusBucks" program. Sign up at any Giant supermarket, or online at <http://www.giantfood.com/aplus/>. Shepherd School's number is **00154**. Put your hard-earned grocery money to double use: every time you feed your family you also support the school.

Whenever you shop at **Snider's Super Foods** on Seminary Road (just one block west of Georgia Ave. in Silver Spring near Staples), save your receipts! Put them in an envelope, write "Snider's" on the front and hand it in at the school office. Snider's gives Shepherd School 1 percent of the receipt total. We are also very thankful for the members of Congregation Tifereth Israel, one of the Shepherd Park neighborhood's synagogues, who save their Snider's receipts to benefit Shepherd School.

## Celebrate the Holidays with Music ... and Crafts.

Shepherd School's annual **Holiday Concert** is scheduled for next Wednesday, **December 12**. At 6:45pm, our Music Teacher **Mr. Giles** will lead Shepherd students—including violinists and chorus—through some of the most familiar songs of the season. Bring the family, friends and neighbors to enjoy this joyous event. *And don't forget the camera!* Last year's concert was wonderful. You definitely don't want to miss this one!

Mr. Giles' wife will also be on hand selling hand-crafted gift items just in time for holiday giving, and will donate a portion of each sale to the school. Others are welcome to participate as part of a **Crafts Fair** that will be on December 15th. If you would like to sell your handicrafts or baked goods at the holiday fair, talk to Mrs. June Confer, SES business manager, or the PTA chair of the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> event, Ms. Jaye Jones-Muhammad.

### Information For Inclement Weather:

Decisions regarding changes with the start of school (i.e. delayed openings or complete closures) are given to radio and television stations to be broadcast beginning at 5:30 a.m. Listen to:

- Local TV stations – **Channels 4, 5, 7 and 9**
- Cable – **Channels 8, 16 and 28**
- Local radio stations –**AM: WMAL (630), WOL (1450), Radio America Spanish (1540), and WTOP (1500); FM: WAMU (88.5), WTOP (107.7), and WHUR (96.3)**

Code RED - Schools and administrative offices are closed.

Code YELLOW - Schools are closed to students and teachers. Administrative offices open on time.

Code GREEN - Schools are open for teachers and students 2 hours late at 10:45AM and admin. offices are open on time.

Code ORANGE - Schools and admin offices open 2 hours late at 10:45AM.

Code BLUE - Schools open on time.

>> MARK YOUR CALENDAR <<

December 7	Parent/Teacher Conferences, all day (no school); and Family Movie Night, 6:45pm
December 12	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade "Buddy Day". Children's Holiday Concert (violins and chorus) and Craft Sale, 6:45pm.
December 19	LSRT meeting, 3:30 p.m.; PTA Meeting, 6:45pm

### COMMUNITY CORNER

The **Shepherd Park Library** (7420 Georgia Ave. NW) will sponsor a **Holiday Arts and Crafts** event for children on Wednesday, **December 5th** at 4:30 pm. Children can make holiday cards and painting stained glass ornaments and window hangings. This activity is free and open to all.  
~ *Anina Ertel, Children's Librarian, 541-5917*

**Georgia Avenue's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, this Sunday, December 9**, at 5pm to 6:30pm. The tree will be located at the corner of Georgia and Geranium on the El Tamarindo restaurant patio. Come enjoy hot cider, free photo opportunities with Santa, refreshments, and more! Sponsored by Gateway, the Georgia Avenue business community, and a host of volunteers.

**Annual Ward 4 Holiday Party, December 15.** Councilmember Muriel Bowser invites you to attend the Annual Ward 4 Holiday Party to be held next Saturday at the Kingsbury Day School (5000 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW) at 6-8 PM.

*The next Tuesday Scoop is scheduled for December 11. The editor will be **Celeste Moneme**. Submissions should be emailed by 3:30pm on Friday, December 7 to [cmoneme1@yahoo.com](mailto:cmoneme1@yahoo.com), or placed in the Tuesday Scoop mail box in the Parents' lounge across from the main office.*

### **The Talented Mr. Ridley**

The Shepherd School community -- present and past -- has been indeed fortunate to have such a warm and caring custodian as Mr. Edward Ridley, who retired Oct. 31 after nearly 4 years as the custodian foreman at Shepherd. His "elbow-bump" greetings became the stuff of legend. While Mr. Ridley did not want any special recognition to mark his departure, we'd be open to printing your own reminiscences about the special man he is. Please send your memories to the Tuesday Scoop editor for potential publication.

In the meantime, Mr. Ridley's replacement, **Mr. Ernest Coghill**, will start at SES on December 10.. Let's give him both a warm welcome and our pledge of cooperation and collaboration to make Shepherd the city's top school from top to bottom and from the inside out!

### **The School Directory Is Waiting For ... You!**

We've got the pages designed, the printer ready—even a sponsor lined up—for the 2007-08 Shepherd School directory. All we need now is your participation! The response rate so far has been pretty low, and a directory is better if more people are in it. If you haven't signed a consent form to have your address, phone and e-mail in the directory, do it now and put it in your child's backpack. If you can't find the consent form, don't worry; just go to the office and fill it out right on the spot!

### **I Love Coffee, I Love Tea...**

And you'll love the fact that the coffee's **free!** A table is set up by the "tot lot" (where the students from pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade assemble) every Friday starting at 8-ish. There is regular and decaf coffee available, plus hot water for tea and packets of instant **hot chocolate**, too. It's a terrific chance for a quick chat with Shepherd PTA leaders and other parents about education, family and life in general. If you're running late, don't worry. The whole coffee setup moves into the parents' lounge at 9 a.m. or so. The Friday coffee klatsch is sponsored by the PTA, and you'll find opportunities to get more deeply involved in school improvement efforts. *Refill, anyone?*