



Tuesday Scoop

Shepherd Elementary School, Washington, DC

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

Editor: Celeste Moneme

December 11, 2007

From Principal Robinson

It was good to be back at Shepherd. **I wish to thank all those who worked hard to keep Shepherd moving forward during my absence.** We were fortunate to have Mr. Francisco Millet, our Cluster III Instructional Superintendent, send over to Shepherd Ms. Gwendolyn Logan, an Assistant Principal at Deal Middle School, Ms. Sandy Dobson, Cluster III School Improvement Specialist, and Ms. Jennifer Finch, Cluster III School Performance Officer. They helped with everyday activities and met with parents, teachers, and staff.

Unfortunately, I have been ordered to bed for two weeks more. The above coverage arrangement will continue.

Last week I wrote about sharing talents. This week our music students led by Mr. Kenneth Giles will perform for us at the **Holiday Concert, scheduled for 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday evening.** It is not always easy to stand in front of an auditorium of people and perform. It takes self-confidence and risk-taking, both attitudes our IB framework is encouraging. Let's turn out and show our appreciation for their efforts and for Mr. Giles' time and guidance.

Friday, December 14th, will be **Ms. Faten Gaffere's last day at Shepherd.** We have appreciated her strong personal skills, experience in teaching French, and her help in moving us along to completion of our IB Application A submission. We have already started the process to find a replacement for her first grade French classes. We will use a substitute for next week and hope to find a longer term solution by January 7th. We will also be working to identify someone who can take over her part-time IB coordinator duties. If the community has any viable candidates for either position, please let me know as soon as possible.

~Dan Robinson, Principal

From the PTA

The first annual SES PTA **Holiday Gift Bazaar & Bake Sale** will take place on **Saturday, December 15th from 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Please plan on participating in one of four (or more) ways:

1. Donate baked goods for the bake sale
2. Volunteer to help sell all of the marvelous, donated, baked goods
3. Volunteer to wrap presents in the gift wrap center - no skills needed
4. Pay a small, tax-deductible fee and become one of the "Gift" providers in the Holiday Gift Bazaar and Bake Sale

We look forward to strong PTA support and participation in this event! What a great way to ring in the holiday season. Please contact marciebane@comcast.net with any questions.

>> MARK YOUR CALENDAR <<

December 12	6 th Grade "Buddy Day" Presentation by Mrs. Gaffere, 5:30 pm Children's Holiday Concert (violins and chorus) and Craft Fair, 6:45 pm
December 15	PTA Holiday Gift Bazaar and Bake Sale, 12:00 pm-6:00 pm
December 19	LSRT meeting, 3:30 pm; PTA Meeting, 6:45 pm
December 24- Jan. 4	Winter Vacation (last full day is Dec. 21; students return Jan. 7, 2008)

Everybody Clap Your Hands!

Every school day on the "tot lot" where the pre-K through 2nd grade students assemble, **Ms. LaShahn Booth** leads a zesty round of hand-clapping to get the pupils into focus. But, in her 24th year at Shepherd, there's more to her than that. We did a Q-and-A with Ms. Booth to get the scoop.

Q: What else do you do at Shepherd besides leading the hand-clapping?

A: I am the Resource Teacher for 4th-6th grade.

Q: How long have you been leading the hand-clapping at Shepherd?

A: I have been the primary door-duty person for many years. I started the hand clapping last year so the students could start the day on a good note.

Q: Where did you come up with this?

A: It started as my experiment to pull the lines together and families could give their child(ren) a kiss and go to work. We enjoyed it so much it is now our routine!

Q: Are your exhortations for "SMOO-ches!" and "Have a WON-derful day!" your own twist, or did you crib that from someone else?

A: As any good teacher, I have probably pulled this from several things I have seen in my many years in education and put it together as "new." It came to me in the middle of the night (when my best ideas come), and I ran it by some of the staff.

Q: What's the purpose behind the whole routine?

A: We (the Shepherd staff) are expected to bring all of the students in by 8:45 a.m. That gives us 10 minutes to accomplish that task. This seemed the quickest and most pleasant way for the students.

Q: Have you ever tried varying the routine? If you have, what was the result?

A: In my years of teaching and parenting, I have learned that children enjoy routines. Children like a morning routine and an evening routine at home and I thought to give them a school opening routine. When I am not able to make it to the door in the morning, the routine is varied. When I greet the students, the routine will stay the same.

News From the Art Room . . .



Shepherd Elementary students **decorated a holiday tree at Reagan National Airport** at the invitation of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) on Friday, December 7th. Only five schools from the District of Columbia were asked to take part in this effort and Shepherd was the only school that got to decorate a second tree which is in the offices of the Communication Department of the MWAA.

The theme of the airport's tree display is "children's toys." Shepherd students' art work was mounted by ten 6th grade students. Our ornaments adorn one of twelve six-foot trees on display in the lower-level arrivals area B section. Our tree has Shepherd's name on a star at its top. Please be advised that no ornaments contain religious or political content.

If you are traveling through Reagan, or picking up or delivering a loved one there, stop by the baggage/arrival area B on the lower level to see Shepherd's tree! Look for the tree with handprints and get a great surprise.

~Mrs. Michaud, Art teacher

Volunteers Needed

Mrs. Michaud has tons of art work to hang and needs volunteers to help mount it. Do you have an hour or two? See her Tuesday through Thursday between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m., or midday to set up a time. Volunteer helpers are also needed Tuesday and Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. to assist with Pre-K and Kindergarten art times. You don't need any art skills to lend a helping hand. Call the school or email Mrs. Michaud at Joele.michaud@dc.gov to offer help.

IT'S ALMOST HERE!

The annual **Holiday Concert is TOMORROW, December 12, at 6:45 pm.** Violins and recorders will perform first (Pachelbel's Canon, Jolly Old St. Nicholas, and Jingle Bells), followed by all the students singing a variety of songs--in Spanish, French, and other languages--appropriate to the holiday season. There is even a rap (written by students) that mentions IB! Bring the family and invite the neighbors. You don't want to miss this! The concert will last approximately 45 minutes.

A new CD by the **D.C. Labor Chorus** features several Shepherd Elementary School students singing with the chorus. The CD was made after a concert last summer at which nine Shepherd students performed with the D.C. Labor Chorus. Next school year, we hope to make another CD with the Labor Chorus featuring Shepherd students singing songs of freedom and justice. For a copy of the CD, please inquire with Mr. Giles.

~Mr. Giles, Music teacher

PLEASE NOTE:

Prior to the concert, there will be a special presentation by Mrs. Gaffere. She will be discussing **Modern World Languages Standards at Shepherd Elementary School.** This presentation will take place at **5:30 p.m. in the auditorium.**

COMMUNITY CORNER

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 14th Street, NW) at 6-8 PM. Please bring an unwrapped toy, book or game for children ages 2 to 18 years old. Donations of wrapping paper would also be appreciated. Please respond to Lisa Adams, Constituent Services Coordinator, 202-724-8052 or ladams@dccouncil.us.

Q: What kind of feedback do you get from students, parents and staff?

A: I do what works best for the students. They seem to enjoy starting their Shepherd day with this routine. The day it doesn't work for them, I guess it will be back to the drawing board for our staff.

Q: Do you ever lie awake at night fearing you're going to be stereotyped as the hand-clapping lady?

A: No (that's funny) -- the children give me as much as I give them and that's love not fear!

Q: What don't people know about you that they ought to know about you?

A: I LOVE TEACHING CHILDREN!

~Mark Pattison

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Emergency Help For Pepito:

Ms. Holt's Pre-K class has a beloved turtle, Pepito. Pepito's shell has a small crack. He continues to eat well and move in his glass house. Ms. Holt and her students would like reassurance that Pepito is OK, perhaps only molting. If anyone knows a vet who could make a pro bono call, everyone in Rm. 101 would be very appreciative. If not a vet, if anyone has kept turtles as pets and can give some guidance, that too would be helpful.

After-School Tutor Needed:

A tutor is needed to help two kindergarteners improve their English (and Spanish) skills. Tutor is needed to help the students with their homework a few times a week for at least one hour per session. If you are able to help, please contact Stephanie Rhein at StephanieRhein@aol.com, or at (301) 229-7910.

The next Tuesday Scoop is scheduled for December 18. The editor will be **Kimberly Brandon**. Submissions should be emailed by 3:30 pm on Friday, December 14 to brandonsdc@hotmail.com, or placed in the Tuesday Scoop mailbox in the Parents' lounge across from the main office.

Congratulations to our 1st Semester TERRIFIC KIDS!!!

	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Gibbs	Cyndni Taylor	Oriana Escobar	Mateo Lam
Holt	Mia Heyward	Camille Jones	Cyntia Pattison
Kuawogai	Adia Keene	Jordan Johnson	Thomas Gonnet
Miller	Kaylin Brandon	Chandler Mabry	Colyar Trimble
Byers	Mattie Melnyk	Taya Lowery-Williams	Zakia Wilson
Kinsler	Jovaan McKinney	Cecelia Sneed	Sari Finn
Johnson	Medgar Webster Jr.	Jasmine Barrow	Frankie Borris
King	Karim Diaite	Sara Folger	Theo Biddle
Crockett	Carson Wheeler	Somyr Perkins	Paul Weaver
Thomas	Moriah Williams	Benjamin Solberg	Mark Jackson



Above: Cydni Taylor receives her certificate

Right: Mateo Lam

~Pictures taken by Madame Blay. Thank you!



Let's Give Our Teacher's Some Recognition, Too!

We are looking to select a teacher for the month of December for the Teacher Appreciation Program (TAP). If you have noticed a wonderful habit your child's teacher has, or if he/she has a way with the class that you admire, tell the rest of the school your story. It doesn't have to be the main teacher. Teacher assistants and "special" teachers can be nominated also. Please send an email to LSRT Chair, Rhonda Davis Smith at championco@aol.com and Principal Robinson at daniel.robinson2@aol.com.

~Rhonda Davis Smith