



Tuesday Scoop

Shepherd Elementary School, Washington, DC

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

Editor: Yvonne Jones

February 5, 2008

From the Interim Principal

This week marks the beginning of Black History Month. Mr. Leonard's students are doing an intercom message and daily question each morning. Even the PKers are excited about getting their answers in as quickly as possible! There are so many wonderful family events throughout the city during February. Try to get to some of them with your children. Suggest they share their experiences with their classes. Check the TV listings for other family programs that will increase knowledge and pride.

Many thanks to those of you who came to the volunteer fingerprinting. Remember to turn in your TB results to the office for sending downtown. Also, thanks to all those parents who are making such an effort to get children to school on time and picking them up promptly after school or from after care.

Shepherd's DC CAS Push Program began yesterday. Every day from 1:15 – 2:15 p.m. teachers in Gr. 3-6 will be working especially hard with students identified as being on the cusp between Basic and Proficient and between Proficient and Advanced in reading and/or math achievement. Teachers are sharing instructional strategies across grade levels through visiting each others' classrooms and going over student brief constructed responses (BCR). Congratulations to all involved staff for the planning and implementation of this program!

If your child was scheduled to go to Saturday Scholars, please help them get to Brightwood ES each Sat. a.m.

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION! The Auction is coming!!!



Mark your calendars for **May 16th at 7pm!** Get your "After 5" attire! Or try your hand at the Red Carpet Chic! The theme for the Shepherd Auction this year is **"SES Red Carpet - A Star-Studded Affair"**.

Hosted by Fox 5's Allison Seymour and her husband Marc Clarke of Baltimore's Big Phat Morning Show. Invited guests include radio/TV personalities Russ Parr, Tony Perkins, and Tracey Neale; The Honorable Adrian Fenty, and Caron Butler, Chick Hernandez; Council members Muriel Bowser, Kwame Brown and Harry Thomas, Jr., and local sports celebrities.

But before we strut down the red carpet...we need items to be auctioned off. No item is too big or small. Think outside of the box. Ask your dry cleaner, your barber, your hairstylist to make a donation. When you walk into a store, be sure to inquire whether they would be interested in donating an item or placing an ad. Remember...you won't know if you don't ask! Get involved and make the auction a success!

Auction kits will be sent home via backpacks and the listserv be on the look out! The following subcommittees need volunteers:

- Ticket Sales
- Schedule of Events
- Catalog
- Program
- Food & Beverages
- Logistics
- Decorations
- Marketing Entertainment
- Sponsorship

If you are interested in working on the planning committee, contact Nayada Cowherd @ 202-607-3370 or email: nlcowherd@aol.com.

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“World Music and Dance” Concert

On Wednesday, February 13th, at 6:45pm, Shepherd Elementary School students will perform a concert of “World Music and Dance” in the school auditorium. The concert will feature songs and dances from more than 15 countries, including Chile, Cuba, Ghana, South Africa, France, and the U.S. More than 10 languages will be used, including Spanish, French, Zulu, Russian, and German. Ms. Michaud’s art students are creating artwork to accompany the music and dance, representing many cultures around the world. This concert of international songs and dances supports Shepherd’s dual language program and our effort to become an International Baccalaureate primary school. The songs and dances help our students understand other people, their similarities and differences, and our common goals of peace, freedom, and human dignity. The concert will last a little more than an hour. Mark your calendars!

Report Cards & Parent-Teacher Conferences

Report cards for the 2nd advisory were scheduled for distribution last Friday, February 1st. If you haven’t received one, by way of your child’s backpack, please contact your child’s teacher.

The process for developing the reports this advisory included a review of *every* child’s report card by Dr. Sparrow! He encouraged the teachers to include more specific comments that would enable parents to be of more assistance to their children in improving academic pursuits.

Children are welcome! Parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled for Friday, February 29th. Many teachers encourage student participation in the parent-teacher conferences, if the parents are in agreement. The older students, especially, are capable of taking ownership of their education and participating in the discussions about their goals and progress toward meeting those goals.

Come with questions! The parent-teacher conference should be a conversation. Take time to look over the report card before you attend your conference, and prepare whatever questions or comments you would like to share with your child’s teacher.

Volunteering Reminder

All DCPS volunteers must have an approved volunteer application on file.

Want more information on the process?

Call the DCPS volunteer hotline: (202) 727-0488

An application can be downloaded from the DCPS website: www.k12.dc.us/offices/ospp/volunteers.htm, and hard copies are also available from Mrs. Brooks in the school office.

Mark Your Calendar!

Today!	Principal Selection Process Meeting 6:30pm
Feb. 8	Box Tops for Education: Valentine Contest deadline ♥
Feb. 12	DC Primary Presidential Election – Polls open 7am-8pm
Feb. 13	World Music Program 6:45pm
Feb. 18	President’s Day Holiday (No School)
Feb. 29	Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School)
Mar. 7	Annual Jazz Night 6:30pm

BUILDING STAFF

Mr. Kelly Welcomes New Head of Building Staff

The school welcomes Mr. Byron Kelly as the new Building Supervisor for the maintenance staff. Mr. Kelly is a DC resident who has worked for DCPS at Shadd ES, MacFarland MS, Jackson MS, Shaw MS, and LaSalle ES. He attended Shaw University and has received a DC3 Maintenance Certificate. The owner of Kelly's Home Improvement Company, Mr. Kelly has a reputation as a problem solver and rapid responder.

A two-time Golden Glove boxing champion and a successful running back, Mr. Kelly is an avid Redskins fan. He also enjoys ping pong and pool.

Mr. Kelly has high expectations for himself and his workers. We are already seeing the results of his supervision in the shiny floors and the clean, stocked bathrooms.



**Welcome
Mr. Kelly!**

Pre-K Gets Taste of African-American History

Do you remember YOUR first big school project? The students of Ms. Holt's pre-K class, given their tender ages, might not remember their first project, but their parents certainly will! Ms. Holt assigned her pupils a poster project for African-American History Month. Each child had a book to read to learn more about the famous African-American they were assigned. Ms. Holt gave parents a list of "rubrics" to help guide their children for the project, which included a poster with a picture of their subject, plus three important facts about that person to share with their classmates.

Students have expounded on the virtues of Marian Anderson, Frederick Douglass, Katherine Dunham, Duke Ellington, Nelson Mandela, Harriet Tubman, Sarah Breedlove Walker, Hank Aaron, Romare Bearden, Mae Jemison, Satchel Paige, Rosa Parks, Wilma Rudolph, Sojourner Truth, and many others.

A lot of Ms. Holt's students (and a few of their parents) were beaming with pride as the kids hauled their posters -- which in some cases were about as big as they were -- down the hall and into their classroom on the due date last week.

- Mark Pattison

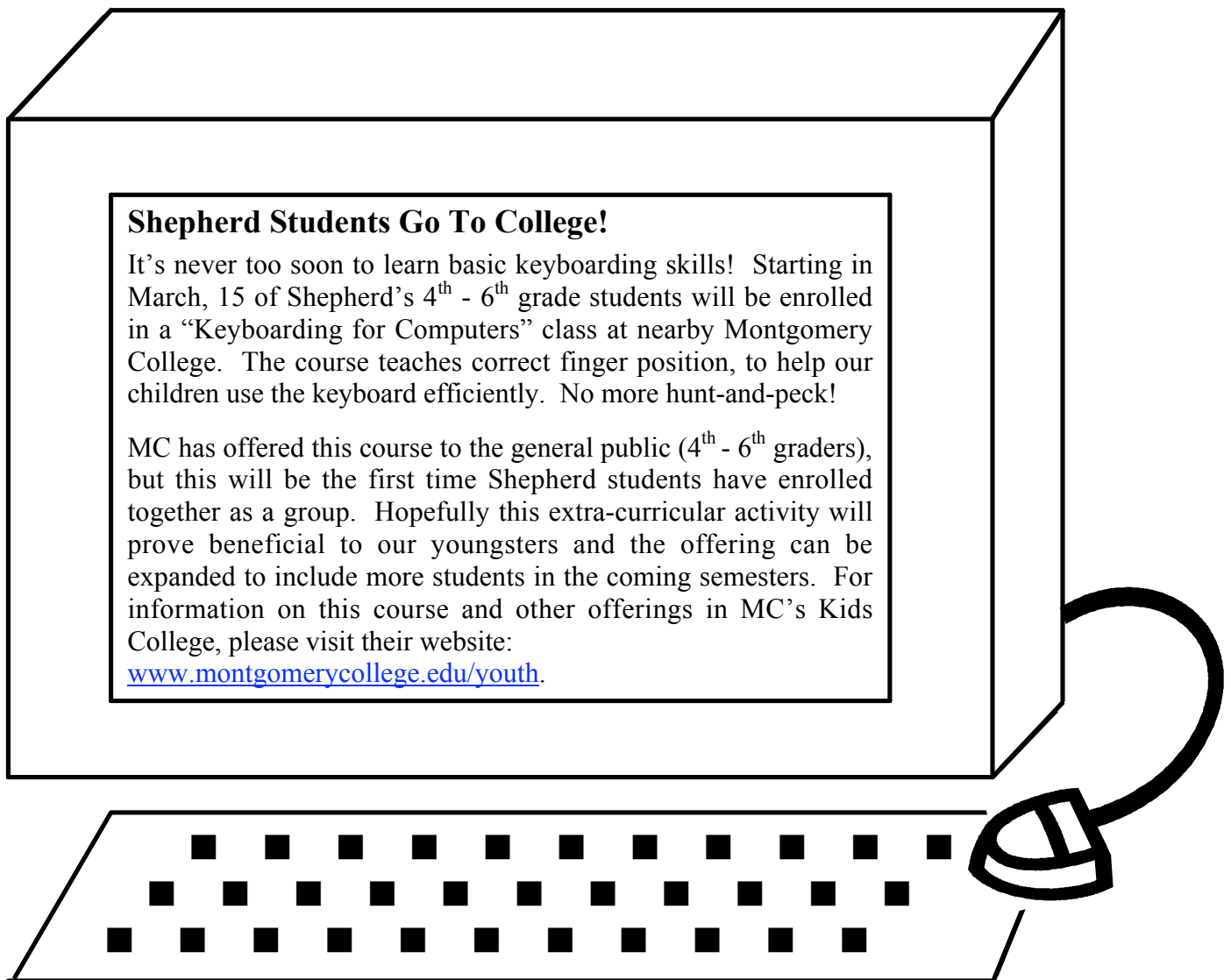
DC-BAS

In preparation for the DC-CAS this spring, the second administration of the DC-BAS was conducted last week on January 29th and 30th. The DC-BAS is a district-wide benchmark assessment. This assessment is used to ensure mastery of the curricular standards. The assessment also serves to identify gaps that exist with respect to mastery of the standards. The DC-BAS provides teachers with data to guide instruction prior to the administration of the DC-CAS. All 3rd – 6th graders took the DC-BAS. Please watch upcoming newsletters for further information.

From the Art Room

Presently, Shepherd's art room is an international arts center where students are working on projects from different countries that reflect the music in the upcoming concert, "World Music and Dance," on February 13th at 6:45pm. Volunteers are wanted and welcome to help facilitate completion of these projects. However, most urgently needed are parents to help mount artwork on the afternoon of the concert. We should be able to give our budding musicians and vocalists great surroundings in which to perform. Come out at 3:30pm on the Feb. 13th and help do that.

- Joele Michaud



Shepherd Students Go To College!

It's never too soon to learn basic keyboarding skills! Starting in March, 15 of Shepherd's 4th - 6th grade students will be enrolled in a "Keyboarding for Computers" class at nearby Montgomery College. The course teaches correct finger position, to help our children use the keyboard efficiently. No more hunt-and-peck!

MC has offered this course to the general public (4th - 6th graders), but this will be the first time Shepherd students have enrolled together as a group. Hopefully this extra-curricular activity will prove beneficial to our youngsters and the offering can be expanded to include more students in the coming semesters. For information on this course and other offerings in MC's Kids College, please visit their website:

www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth.

Update on the Principal Selection Process

The DCPS Instructional Superintendent responsible for Shepherd Elementary School, Mr. Francisco Millet, has agreed to hold a meeting to discuss the principal selection process. This meeting is open to all interested Shepherd community members, and will be held ***TODAY*** (Tuesday, February 5th) at 6:30pm in the school auditorium. Come hear to the most up-to-date information on this important process.

DCPS Out-of-Bounds Applications

Applications for discretionary school enrollment will be accepted online from February 5, 2008, to March 12, 2008. For additional information, please see <http://www.k12.dc.us/offices/oss/oob/index.htm>.

Despite All the Rain -- An SES Drought

Traditionally the PTA funds run low at this time of the year, so don't let the well run dry! With our next annual fundraiser still a couple of months away, the PTA really needs the support of parents. So, don't forget to make your Annual Family Enrichment Fee payment. Payments can be made in monthly, quarterly or lump sum payments totaling \$500, to Shepherd PTA. Without these funds, the PTA can't pay important staff members that assist in your child's education. Also volunteer your time in the classroom or on committees. The kids are doing their part. We owe it to them to do ours!

- the PTA

*The next Tuesday Scoop is scheduled for publication on February 12th. The editor will be **Kimberly Brandon**. Submissions should be emailed by 3:30pm on Friday, February 8th to brandonsdc@hotmail.com or kimberly.brandon@reznickgroup.com or placed in the Tuesday Scoop mail box in the Parents' lounge across from the main office.*