



Tuesday Scoop

Shepherd Elementary School, Washington, DC

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

Editor: Kimberly Brandon

February 12, 2008

From the Interim Principal

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! Be sure to say "I love you" to friends and family. Let them know how special they are! Make the coming weekend an extension of the 14th, spending time with your loved ones.

There are so many ways to facilitate learning and encourage academic growth. Will some of our students become future scientists or mathematicians? This week Mr. Leonard's and Mrs. Chambliss' fifth grade classes are participating in Starbase Atlantis, a special science and math program at the Naval Yard. Since 2002, Shepherd students have been working in teams to solve real-world problems in astronomy, rocketry, and the physics of flight through hands-on activities, interaction with Navy personnel, and visits to Naval projects.

Younger Shepherd students are meeting weekly with parent volunteers to solve problems through the Lego Robotics program. 2nd and 3rd graders will learn through Walter Reed Hospital Black History activities. Nearly all of the classes have been learning research skills by preparing reports and projects on famous Black Americans.

We invite parents to join us on Friday morning at 9 am to honor some special Gr. 4-6 students for achievement, citizenship, and attendance.

~Dr. John Sparrow

NOTE; Remember that Feb. 18th is a school holiday – **PRESIDENTS' DAY**. Spend some extra time talking about George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and the upcoming Presidential elections with your children. Share stories of other U.S. leaders and how they have made a difference.

All Hands on Deck—Prepare to Roll Out the Red Carpet



On **May 16th** at 7pm, Shepherd Elementary parents, teachers and guests will gather for fellowship and good times as we walk the Red Carpet to raise much needed funds for our school. We are fortunate to have this year's event hosted by **Fox 5's Allison Seymour** and her husband **Marc Clarke of Baltimore's Big Phat Morning Show**. It will surely be a Star Studded Affair!

Parents are needed on the Auction Committee to help with everything from ticket sales and programming to logistics and entertainment. Parents are also needed in the community to help pull in items to be auctioned off. No item is too big or small. Know a great handyman or landscaper? Ask your cousin about his timeshare. When you walk into your favorite store, ask the manager if he/she would consider donating. We need your help to make the auction a success!

Wanna help? Contact Nayada Cowherd @ 202-607-3370 or email: nlcowherd@aol.com

"10 Who Are 10" Scholarship Competition

This is the fifteenth year of the JW Marriott citywide competition "10 Who Are 10" which is a scholarship competition open to 10-year-olds in DC Public Schools. The ten 10-year-olds will be selected by virtue of their achievements in the classroom and in the DC community and on their creative ability to interpret the 2008 theme via essay, video, PowerPoint or music selection. The winner will be awarded a \$2,500 college scholarship grant.

Any student whose 10th birthday falls between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, is eligible to apply. The theme this year is "My Name is [Historical Person]." Students will be asked to become his or her favorite person in history and submit a project that describes an event in which he or she embodies that person.

Each participating 10-year-old will be asked to "be" an historical person, someone he or she looks up to. He or she should relate a story in the first person singular. The story can either be based on an actual event or events or be a fictionalized account consistent with that person's accomplishment(s).

Mr. Leonard coordinates the program at SES. Check with him in Rm. 126. **Projects are due to Marriott by Thursday, March 20, 2008.** For details, contact Marnie Ganeshan (marnie.ganeshan@marriott.com; 202-626-6986) or visit the DCPS website at <http://www.k12.dc.us/10whoare10/>

NOTE: The next PTA meeting is Wednesday, February 20, at 6:45pm.

UPDATE: Principal Selection Panel

The PTA Board will hold an election of **parent representatives** to serve on the Principal Selection Panel at the Feb. 20th meeting. A separate, special meeting to define the ideal profile for the new Principal will be scheduled. Parents who are interested in serving on the selection panel should submit their names, a short biography, and the reason why they wish to serve on the panel to the PTA President at *Yvonne.mcintyre@calpine.com*; or they can drop a printed document with the same info into the PTA mailbox in the main office. **All names must be submitted by THIS Friday, February 15.** The list of names will be provided to the parent body next week prior to the PTA meeting.

The summary of the meeting with Mr. Millet and the DCPS guidelines for the Principal Selection Panel have been posted on the PTA listserv in the files section: Shepherd_Elementary_PTA@yahoo.com. Please check there. Copies in the office.

Calling All 6th Grade Poets!

The Parkmont School is sponsoring its 26th annual poetry content as part of its Poetry Festival. All DCPS students in grades 6-12 may apply. Each student is limited to two poem submissions. The **deadline is March 3rd**. For entry forms and rules, go to <http://www.parkmont.org/poetryfestival.html>. Entries can be emailed to poetry@parkmont.org; or mailed to:

Parkmont Poetry Festival
c/o Parkmont School
4842 16th Street NW DC 20012

Prizes include a gift certificate, t-shirt, and publication in the festival anthology. Entrants also get to have their poems read and judged by poetry experts. The Festival Awards Ceremony and Poetry Reading will take place on May 10, 2008.

~Kimberly Brandon

Love Song for Lucinda

By Langston Hughes

Love
Is a ripe plum
Growing on a purple tree.
Taste it once
And the spell of its enchantment
Will never let you be.

Love
Is a bright star
Glowing in far Southern skies.
Look too hard
And its burning flame
Will always hurt your eyes.

Love
Is a high mountain
Stark in a windy sky.
If you
Would never lose your breath
Do not climb too high.

PTA Meeting and Childcare

We were fortunate to have Ms. Tutu donate her time to watch our children during the last PTA meeting. Parents were happy to hear their children were having a great time playing card and board games—some kids didn't want to leave! It was so successful that Ms. Tutu is asking parents to donate or lend more games. Chutes and Ladders, Twister, Uno, Checkers, Old Maid, etc. If you have something to bring, please label it with your name and address or indicate that it is a donation to the PTA.

~Alex Kincannon

>> MARK YOUR CALENDAR <<

February 12	DC Primary Presidential Election—polls open 7am-8pm
February 13	World Music Program, 6:45pm
February 18	Presidents Day Holiday— No School
February 20	PTA Meeting, 6:45pm
February 29	Parent-Teacher Conferences— No School
March 7	Annual Jazz Night, 6:30pm

SCHOOL HEALTH & NUTRITION

Based on the available scientific literature, national nutrition policy documents, and current practice, there are more than adequate guidelines and recommendations for ensuring a **high quality and sustainable nutrition program** within the Shepherd Elementary School Health Program.

One national study showed that children who reported not having enough (nutritious) food to eat had significantly lower arithmetic scores. They were more likely to have repeated a grade, been suspended from school, been seen by a psychologist, and had difficulty getting along with teachers and their peers.

Other studies found that students who participated in nutritious school breakfast programs demonstrated increased learning and academic achievement outcomes, greater attention to academic tasks, reduced visits to the school nurse, fewer behavior problems, and less tardiness/absenteeism.

Ensuring that schools limit less nutritious snack foods or sodas is an important policy objective for many school districts including the DC Public School System. Schools should adopt a coordinated school nutrition program that promotes healthy eating through classroom lessons and a supportive school environment. This type of program will help students with eating healthy and instill and adopt healthy life long eating habits and behaviors from as early as Pre-K.

Instructions should be provided for students through nutrition education using developmentally and age/grade appropriate, culturally relevant fun, and participatory activities that involve social learning strategies.

There should be an integration, amalgamation and coordination of the school's food service, nutrition education and practice. Other effective components of the comprehensive school health program should be implemented to reinforce messages and practices on healthy eating.

On-going in-service training that focuses on teaching strategies for behavioral change should be provided for school staff, who are involved in nutrition education. In order to achieve this milestone, it will take the entire family and school community to support and reinforce nutrition education and habits. It can and needs to be done. We owe it to our children, community and country.

~ Marcia Finn, Chair of PTA Nutrition Committee

COMMUNITY CORNER

Ready to Teach: Howard University has been awarded a multi-million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education to recruit, train and certify people that are interested in becoming teachers. HU is looking for candidates who would like to teach English, Mathematics, Reading, Science or Special Education in Chicago, IL; Clayton County, GA; Houston, TX; Prince George's County, MD; or Washington, DC. No experience or background in education is required! Earn a Master's of Arts in teaching Degree and get your teaching certification in one short year! Application **deadline is March 3, 2008**. For admissions requirements and more information visit the website at www.readytoteach.org, or contact Trenile Tillman at Howard's School of Education at 202-806-6500 or tillman@howard.edu.

Annual Black History Swim Meet – Feb. 16 -17

The Department of Parks and Recreation will host the 22nd Annual Black History Invitational Swim Meet *Be the Water* at the Takoma Aquatic Center at 300 Van Buren Street, NW on **February 16 -17** from 6 AM to 6 PM. The free event attracts over 800 minority competitors, ages 5 – 18, from swim teams in Los Angeles, Atlanta, Detroit, Cleveland, New York and other major U.S. cities. Many volunteers are needed to make this a success—timers, relief timers, time card timers, clean-up crew, ribbon runners and greeters and crowd control monitors. To volunteer please contact: David Brooks; (202) 498-2145; david.brooks@dc.gov.

FREE Tutoring Program at Tifereth Israel

The Shepherd Elementary/TI Tutoring program is going strong in its 10th year. Every Sunday our friends and neighbors of Tifereth Israel provide **free—yes, free!**—tutoring for Shepherd Elementary students. They match up each 2nd through 6th grade student with an adult or high school student. From 5-6pm, tutor and student review math, reading skills, or any homework that the student wants help with. About 20 Shepherd students are currently participating, but there is room for more since there are several tutors available. If you would like your child to start this weekend or next, please contact Dan Nathan at dananddori@verizon.net, or 202-726-7177.

Change in School Lunch Program

Lunch for Shepherd students used to consist of two lunch options from which the children could choose. But as of the beginning of February, there is now only one. There have been some problems with children ultimately not eating anything at lunch because they either did not like their lunch selection or could not eat it for various reasons (i.e. religious, allergies, etc). The school and PTA are looking into providing some standby options (i.e. bread, peanut butter, cheese) to give the children a choice in the event that they won't or can't eat the DCPS choice. In the meantime, parents should check the DCPS lunch menu (<http://www.k12.dc.us/schools/menus.htm>) and send a home lunch if their child does not want the school choice.

From the Art Room . . .

Reminder: Ms. Michaud still needs volunteers to help out in art class, especially Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 8:55am when Pre-K have art.



If you can't help out during an art class, your assistance is needed before school and during the day to help mount and hang art work. See Ms. Michaud Tuesday through Thursday between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m., or midday to set up a time. No expertise needed—just willing hands.

~Joele.michaud@dc.gov.

NOTE: Parent volunteers still need to turn in the results of a TB test. Ms. Brooks will send them downtown. **VERY IMPORTANT!**

*The next Tuesday Scoop is scheduled for, February 19. The editor will be **Celeste Moneme**. Submissions should be emailed by 3:30 pm on Friday, February 15 to cmonemel@yahoo.com.*