



Tuesday Scoop

Shepherd Elementary School, Washington, DC

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

Editor: Matt Sullivan

February 26, 2008

From Interim Principal Foster

Greetings Shepherd ES,

What an exciting first week as the new administrator at Shepherd! It was a pleasure to meet many of you during last week's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting. I'd also like to thank those of you who have come to the main office or stopped me in the hallways to introduce yourselves. Your kindness and hospitality is much appreciated. I look forward to continuing to meet the parents of our wonderful students..... so please continue to visit.

We are focusing attention on upcoming academic testing, the DC CAS test. This week marks seven (7) instructional weeks before testing in late April. Intermediate teachers are moving forward with our "DC CAS PUSH" and utilizing results from the recent DC BAS interim assessment to inform instruction. Please discuss your child's results with teachers on Friday, February 29th during the 2nd Advisory Parent Conference Day.

Our Black History Program is scheduled for Wednesday, February 29th at 9:15 a.m. We hope to see you there to support our students' performances. Additionally, please mark you calendars for our Open House on Tuesday, March 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Stay tuned for a flyer with details about this event and remember to share it with the community.

Educationally yours,

Shannon D. Foster
"Children Deserve Our Best"

>> MARK YOUR CALENDAR <<

February 29	Parent Conference Day (No School)
March 7	Annual Jazz Night, 6:30pm
March 12	PTA meeting to discuss criteria for the principal selection

From the PTA

Parent Representatives Elected to the Principal Selection Panel

There were 8 candidates for the 3 parent slots on the panel. The top 3 vote getters were **Mario Brossard, Donna Johnson Harvey, and Lovell Saunders**. Congratulations to all of them and thank you to the others who put their names in the hat.

Would you like to have input on the criteria that will be used select the next principal? Then please hold open the evening of March 12th. We are planning to hold a meeting/working session to get comments from the school community to develop criteria we would like to consider for our next principal. We will send out more information as we further develop the session.

Winners Announced in PTA's Annual Membership Contest

You may be fit to be tied, but we have ties in the annual PTA membership contest.

Tied for first place are the two pre-K classes, Ms. Holt and Ms. Gibbs, each of whom have 17 students with parents in the PTA.

Finishing in a second-place tie are the two second-grade classrooms, Ms. Johnson and Mr. King, both of whom have an even dozen students with parents in the PTA.

In third place, all by himself, is first-grade teacher Mr. Byers, who has 11 students with PTA parents. Students in some of the lucky classrooms will be treated to pizza parties, while the teachers will get gift cards. See? It PAYS to belong to the PTA. To join, contact Barry Hudson at bhudson@neamb.com.

The 19th Annual Shepherd Jazz Night **March 7, 2008 6:30-9:30pm**

Live professional jazz, pot-luck soul food, and great company for the whole family! Bring something tasty to share! While the jazz starts at 6:30, a video will kick-off the evening at 6 pm.

This year's theme is *Mardi Gras a la Vieux Carré* -- that's the New Orleans French Quarter -- and a big, heaping pot of gumbo has already been promised. And there will be top-notch jazz being played live all evening long.

Naturally, volunteers are needed for setup and cleanup. To volunteer, or for more details, e-mail C. Sukari Hardnett at s.hardnett@verizon.net, or call her at either 722-1442 or 489-5221.

Read more about jazz great Herbie Hancock:

Herbert Jeffrey Hancock is an Academy Award and Grammy award-winning American jazz pianist and composer. He embraced elements of rock, funk, and soul while adopting freer sounds (stylistic elements) from jazz.

As part of Miles Davis's "second great quintet" formed in 1963, Mr. Hancock helped to redefine the role of a jazz rhythm section, and was one of the most respected and creative leaders (primary architects) of what was known as the "post-bop" jazz sound. Later, in the 1970's, he was one of the first jazz musicians to explore and embrace electronic synthesizers and what came to be known as "funk." Even though he has at times greatly experimented (or "stretched out"), Hancock's music is often melodic and accessible (comfortably understandable) to most listeners, which includes those of all ages. He has had many songs to "cross over" (from jazz audiences) and achieve success among pop audiences.

Hancock's best-known solo works include "Cantaloupe Island", "Watermelon Man" (later performed by dozens of musicians, including bandleader Mongo Santamaria), "Maiden Voyage", "Chameleon", and the single "Rockit". His 2007 tribute album, "River: The Joni Letters" won the 2008 Grammy Award for Album of the Year, only the second jazz album to win the award. Congratulations Herbie!

Young people and artists can draw from Mr. Hancock's examples of perfecting his craft through hard work (including practice), using creativity to a very high level, not being afraid to experiment (with your art), to stretch artistically, and keeping positive energy in life and in art.

~ *Michael Wallace*



The next Tuesday Scoop is scheduled for March 4. The editor will be Yvonne Jones. Submissions should be emailed by 3:30 pm on Friday February 1 to JonesYvon@usa.redcross.org, or placed in the Tuesday Scoop mail box in the Parents' lounge across from the main office.

Are you available for an hour in the early afternoon on Tuesdays? There is a frequent need for help with printing, assembly and distribution of the Tuesday Scoop. If you can help, even just once, please contact Kimberly Brandon at kimberly.brandon@reznickgroup.com.

'Dynamic Duo' Is Honored By LSRT's 'TAP' Program

Shepherd Elementary School's two fifth grade teachers, Ms. Dee Dee Chambliss and Mr. Timothy Leonard, were the recipients of February's Teacher Appreciation Program (TAP), sponsored by Shepherd's Local School Restructuring Team. Although Mr. Leonard was at a workshop, Ms. Chambliss graciously accepted the TAP at last week's PTA meeting. If you would like to nominate a teacher for March (or a later month,) write a letter outline the teacher's qualities to LSRT chair Rhonda Davis Smith at championco@aol.com. Here is the letter proposing a "TAP" for Mr. Leonard and Ms. Chambliss:

In 2002, my wife and I made the decision to choose our neighborhood school, Shepherd Elementary, over private schools that had incredible resources and programs. We chose Shepherd because we saw it as a "village" that would help raise our child. Over the last five years, we have seen how this "village" called Shepherd Elementary has helped to educate and raise our children. From Mrs. Crockett to Mrs. Michaud, our children have learned what it means to be a complete student at Shepherd Elementary.

This year we have had the opportunity to experience the Dynamic Duo. Who is the Dynamic Duo? It is Timothy Leonard and Dee Dee Chambliss. This 5th grade Dynamic Duo is not only educating our children during the day but they continue their commitment to our children by managing Shepherd's aftercare program in the evening. This means they spend nearly 10 hours a day at school (and still have to go home and grade papers). On top of all this, Mr. Leonard and Mrs. Chambliss hold test preparation classes that will continue through the spring. Every Saturday from 10 a.m.-12 noon, they work with 5th grade students on math and reading as well as testing strategies. They do this on their own time with no compensation.

I know the TAP program is designed to recognize one teacher per month, but I believe that Mr. Leonard and Mrs. Chambliss are a shining example of two people that love teaching children. Whether Mrs. Chambliss is telling her students that they have to strive for excellence or Mr. Leonard is telling his students to use their resources, the end result is children that believe they can achieve.

Having grown up in a family of committed educators and as an employee of the National Education Association, I have been exposed to some fabulous educators. In my view, Mr. Leonard and Mrs. Chambliss are truly committed to instilling excellence in our children.

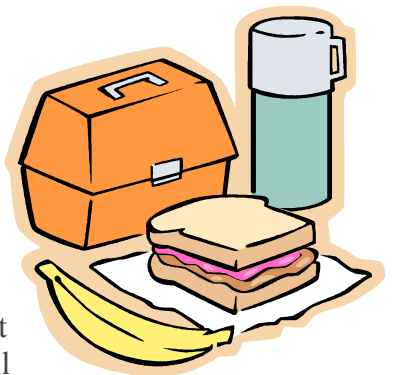
I'm so happy that we made the decision to come to Shepherd five years ago. Mr. Leonard and Mrs. Chambliss are the newest members of the "village" that is helping to shape the character of my sons. I am glad that my children have had an opportunity to learn from this Dynamic Duo. They are positive role models, great people and dedicated educators. My wife and I thank them for their contribution to our children's pursuit of excellence.

Sincerely,
Barry Hudson

What's for Lunch?

The lunch choices available to students were cut in half earlier this year -- from two choices to one. While DCPS announced it will contract out food preparation services for the next school year, that doesn't address the issues the curtailed choices leave now.

Some students cannot, or will not, eat the sole choice available. This leads to food waste and kids going hungry. Shepherd is investigating simple choices students and staff can make to have a half-decent, nutritious lunch when the DCPS option won't cut it. Remember to consult the DCPS Web site (<http://www.k12.dc.us>) to learn what will be available for lunch. Go to the "Quick Links" box, click on "School Menus," then go to the monthly calendar you want. And remember: You can always make your child's lunch.



~ Mark Pattison

Shepherd News

On Tuesday, February 19th students met our new principal Ms. Foster for the first time. Everyone was sad to see Dr. Sparrow leave, but we are also excited to have a new principal! Everyone knows first impressions are very important, and Ms. Foster has made a big impression on us! She seems to care a lot about our safety as well, because on one of her first days as principal she observed us execute a fire drill to make sure we were ready for that great danger, and before the fire drill she even gave us an opportunity to grab our jackets because she knew it was cold outside. We enjoyed our first day with her as a principal, and we hope to have many more!

~ Shauna and Summer Durant
(6th Grade)

Computer Classes Begin in March

Computer classes for Shepherd students in grades 3-5 will begin Tuesdays after school starting March 11.

The 90-minute classes will be taught at Shepherd by an instructor from Montgomery College. There will be a maximum of 15 students per class. One class is a certainty, and Shepherd is making efforts to get a second class if demand warrants. The cost of the class will be \$170.

Contact the school office if you want your child to be part of this new class.

Shepherd Gets Greener!

Emmanuel Finn told the Feb. 20 PTA meeting that Shepherd Elementary School is in line to receive a \$3,500 "Green Schools, Cleaner Water" grant from the D.C. Department of the Environment. Three teachers will lead the project and will attend development workshops this spring, especially in finding ways to incorporate the cleaner, greener principles in the school curriculum. Finn said the grant application was a collaborative venture involving himself, then-Shepherd Elementary principal Dan Robinson, school business manager June Confer, onetime Shepherd parent Noreen Conway, and the Shepherd Park Citizens Association.

Majority of SES Students Now Live In-Boundary

District residents who live outside Shepherd Park have known for years the quality education that Shepherd Elementary provides. Now, it turns out that parents who live in Shepherd Park are themselves convinced of it too.

For the first time in many, many years, the majority of students who go to Shepherd live in-boundary. Of the 321 students (from 285 families) enrolled at Shepherd, 58 percent live in-boundary and 42 percent live out-of-boundary. Broken down, that would mean 186.18 students who live in-boundary and 134.82 who live out of boundary (and you've got to feel bad for that one kid who lives mostly in-boundary but partially out-of-boundary!) Last year, by comparison, the split was 54-46 with out-of-boundary students being in the majority

New Interim Principal Introduces Herself

After just two days at Shepherd Elementary, "I feel like I've been here a while," said Ms. Shannon Foster, the new interim principal who will serve the remainder of the school year at Shepherd.

Ms. Foster hopes to have her national board teaching certification by the end of the year. Only 1 percent of all teachers are so certified, according to Francisco Millet, the DCPS superintendent for instruction whose territory covers Shepherd School.

"We have seven weeks left before DC-CAS," the citywide test, she told the February 20 PTA meeting, "and every day matters."

Ms. Foster added, "We are excited about meeting Adequate Yearly Progress," a component of the No Child Left Behind Act. "The goal," she said, "is clearly 100 percent proficiency for every child at every grade level."

She lauded the Shepherd Elementary School staff and parents for their efforts this year. "Despite the transition, you're still doing well," she said. "If you can function the way you function throughout a transition, what can you do when you're stable?"

~ Mark Pattison