



Tuesday Scoop

Shepherd Elementary School, Washington, DC

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

Editor: Kimberly Brandon

March 11, 2008

From Interim Principal Foster

Dear Parents,

What another fun and exciting week at Shepherd Elementary School. Were you able to attend the 19th Annual *Jazz Night* celebration? Students, staff, parents and community members listened to jazz and blues played by local artists while enjoying potluck dishes. The auditorium was beautifully decorated with student artwork reflecting the Mardi Gras theme. The excitement lingered on Monday morning as students were talking about the wonderful time they had at school on Friday night.

This week we turn our attention to the DC BAS interim assessment which will be administered on Tuesday, March 11th and Wednesday, March 12th. Please ensure that your 3rd through 6th grade children are at school each day and on time. It is crucial that students get a good night's rest and eat a healthy breakfast. Performance on this test will give us great indicators as to how well our students are progressing in meeting learning standards. This is our final benchmark assessment before the DC CAS testing in April.

We are finding that sometimes when students have a problem at school, they are not telling an adult. Please assist us as we encourage our students to seek the assistance of an adult when they are having difficulties at school. This allows us to be proactive in resolving conflicts and misunderstandings before they escalate. We appreciate your cooperation.

Note that Spring Break is just around the corner! The last day of school is next week on Thursday, March 20, 2008. School will be closed from Friday, March 21st through Friday, March 28th. Students return on Monday, March 31st. Take care and have a productive week.

Shannon D. Foster
"Children Deserve Our Best"

From the PTA

It's Lights! Camera! Auction!!

Are you doing your part to support Shepherd's largest fundraiser of the year? Collect auction items, join a committee, and spread the word! Take action now. **Everyone is needed to ensure this year's event is red carpet spectacular!**

Solicit friends, family, and businesses for items and services to donate. Ask your favorite landscaper, handyman, painter, tutor, day spa, masseuse, or manicurist—it's an inexpensive way for them to access new customers. Know someone working at a radio station, museum, or sportsplex who can donate a tour or an outing? Get your cousin to offer a week at his fabulous beach getaway! Ask your realtor to buy an ad! You can find a business letter, donation form, sponsorship details, and an advertising contract on the PTA Listserv under "Files" in the left-hand menu.

Every year, our list of donations includes items or baskets from each classroom. Some items are so irresistible that bidding wars erupt auction night between parents—all in good fun, of course, and all for the good of the school. If your class has not yet started to discuss your classroom donation, please do so this week! Some popular classroom items are:

- > *Educational Baskets* – especially Spanish or French books, mastermind games, educational CDs, museum finds, and other inspirational items.
- > *Gardening Wagon* - share the joy of nurturing the earth with a selection of trowels, flower seeds, garden gloves, whimsical ornaments, and more!
- > *Painted Furniture or Dishware* – a bench or platter painted, decorated and signed by all kids ... truly priceless.
- > *Mirror Mosaic* – let each child apply their special touch to the frame of a looking glass—a unique treasure to be appreciated for years to come.

Get creative! Have fun and do your part to the support Shepherd. Please coordinate class gifts with classroom teachers and with the Auction Committee. A complete SES Auction Kit is available on the PTA listserv or by contacting Auction Chair **Nayada Cowherd** at nlcowherd@aol.com or 202-607-3370.

**Learn About the DC-CAS Test
TOMORROW, March 12th at 6:30pm
Barnard Elem. School, 430 Decatur St. NW**

There will be an information session TOMORROW about the April DC-CAS test at Barnard ES, 430 Decatur St. NW. Learn about why this test is so important and come away with useful tips for improving your child's performance. For more information, contact the DCPS Office of Family and Community Engagement, Office of Data and Accountability at 202-442-5615.

DC-BAS Testing Continues THIS Week

Our system-wide interim assessment runs March 10-13. Parents, please demonstrate your commitment to learning by helping your child report to school each day well fed, well rested, and on time. Questions about the DC-BAS or DC-CAS testing can be direct to Interim Principal Foster.

Early Bird Special! Ms. Chambliss' class will meet each day for test preparation at 7:45 a.m. in Room 124. This special class will meet through Friday, April 25.

Women's History Month

Learn about the month long celebration honoring the beauty, imagination, and multiple dimensions of women's lives at <http://www.nwhp.org/whm/history.php>. The theme for 2008 is "Women's Art: Women's Vision".



Kindergartener Nia Peters welcomes our beloved Ms. Vernell Hairston to Jazz Night!!

Shepherd Elementary School's
STUDENT OPERA

Our 5th and 6th graders will perform their own student opera on **Tuesday, March 18th**, at 1:30 p.m., in the auditorium. The 4th graders will be invited to attend the performance. This student opera is the result of a **partnership between Shepherd School and the Washington National Opera**. Our 5th and 6th graders went to the Kennedy Center to see the opera "Don Giovanni." Then we wrote, composed, and rehearsed our own student opera, based on the themes of the "Don Giovanni" story. One of our 6th grade students composed a song. Two others choreographed a dance. Others drew illustrations for the stage sets. Some students came up with costume ideas. The Washington National Opera will videotape our performance on March 18th. Our 5th and 6th grade casts will perform the student opera twice, and one cast will be selected to go to the headquarters of the National Opera to do another performance on May 21st. Stay tuned for more! (4th Graders get ready—next year, we'll take 5th and 6th graders to see the opera "Carmen.")

~Mr. Giles, SES Music Teacher

"Tuesday Scoop" is on the Web!

When was the last time you visited our school website? Surf over to www.shepherd-elementary.org, click on the "For Parents" pull down and you'll find the Tuesday Scoop! Just in case the Scoop doesn't make it home in your child's backpack, here's another way for parents to stay in the loop.

~Nayada Cowherd

>> MARK YOUR CALENDAR <<

March 12	PTA meeting to discuss criteria for the principal selection
March 13	Last day for DC-BAS
March 14	Pi Day (3.14159265...) For more info: http://www.exploratorium.edu/pi/
March 18	SES Student Opera
March 19	LSRT and PTA Meetings
March 21-28	DCPS Spring Break – NO SCHOOL

School Dance THIS Friday, 3/14!

3:15-6:00pm; School Auditorium

Kids in **Grades 1-6**, get on your dancing shoes for a great dance this Friday, March 14! From the time school lets out until 6:00 p.m., you can dance in the auditorium to the beats laid out by our own inhouse **DJ, Mr. Velez**. There will be *hot dogs, cupcakes and other tasty treats available for purchase* to keep your energy level high on the dance floor. On top of that, there will be a raffle where the winners get to choose their prize! **Tickets are just \$4 each**, and will be sold **ONLY** in advance during recess this week; **NO** sales at the door. Funds raised will support a field trip and other projects by Ms. Holt's Pre-K class. (The Pre-K and Kindergarten classes will warm up the dance floor from 2 to 3 p.m.) Call **Marcie Bane** at 291-0230 at marciebane@comcast.net with your offer to chaperone or for other information.

Shepherd's Jazz Night was HOT!

Jazz Night at Shepherd School on March 7th was fantastic! The whole event was potluck and there was an array of different foods. The jazz as well was wonderful—you could literally sit two feet away from the musicians! There were even arts and crafts for the little kids! Some of the food included entrees from the Pre-K and K, sides from Grades 1 and 2, appetizers from the Grades 3 and 4, and desserts from the Grades 5 and 6. We had a great time and we hope you did too! If you missed Jazz Night this year, don't worry, there's always next year! (P.S. Here's a heads up, the Green and Gold dance is right around the corner so come and show your school spirit!)

~Summer and Shauna Durant, 6th Graders

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE PARENTS who made this year's Shepherd Jazz Night—our 19th Annual event—a jammin' success! And the Mardi Gras a la Vieux Carré theme helped ensure everyone was in a festive mood! Thanks so much to Sukari Hardnett and many others for organizing and helping out; and to Donnell Jones for taking such memorable photos.



Computer Classes Begin TODAY!

Computer classes for Shepherd students in grades 3-5 will be held Tuesdays after school starting today, March 11. The 90-minute classes will be taught at Shepherd by an instructor from Montgomery College. There is a maximum of 15 students per class. The cost is \$170. Contact the school office to sign up or for details.

More pictures from JAZZ NIGHT!!



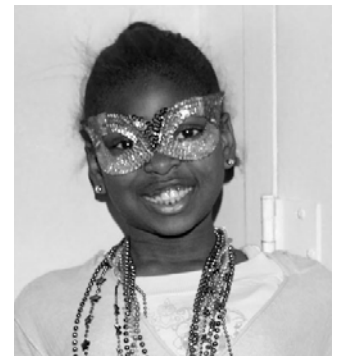
Call for PTA Nominating Committee

Candidates -- The PTA by-laws call for a nominating committee to be elected by the membership at least 2 months prior to the election of the PTA officers. PTA officer elections are held in May, thus we need to select the nominating committee at this month's PTA meeting (March 19). The responsibility of the 3-5 member nominating committee is to recruit and nominate eligible members for each of the PTA offices (President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary). If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, please send your name **by THIS Friday, March 14** to Yvonne McIntyre at yvonne.mcintyre@calpine.com. The list of candidates will be provided to the membership next Monday, March 17 in advance of the PTA meeting. And, everyone should start thinking about running in the May officer elections!!

COMMUNITY NOTICE:

Out-of-Boundary Enrollment for DEAL

For parents of our soon-to-be graduating 6th graders, please make note of DCPS' enrollment process if your child is currently enrolled at SES on an out-of-boundary basis and is interested in moving on to Alice Deal Middle School. DCPS does not automatically process out-of-boundary students at our feeder schools into Deal MS. If you are an out-of-boundary family at SES, you must fill out a DCPS out-of-boundary application form online at www.k12.dc.us to apply to Alice Deal. The DCPS **deadline** for out-of-boundary applications **has been extended to midnight March 12th**. If you have any questions about Deal or the enrollment process, please contact Ms. Baxter in Deal's main office at (202) 282-0100.



*The next Tuesday Scoop is scheduled for March 18. The editor will be **Celeste Moneme**. Submissions should be emailed by 3:30 pm on Friday, March 14, to cmoneme1@yahoo.com.*