



Tuesday Scoop

Shepherd Elementary School, Washington, DC

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

Editor: Kimberly Brandon

April 8, 2008

From the Editor: Dear Families, please note that there was no issue of the Tuesday Scoop published last week. A draft version was composed with content that was neither written nor endorsed by Ms. Foster, the teachers or PTA. The issue was not distributed. For the few parents who erroneously viewed this unpublished version, please accept my apologies for any misunderstandings, offense, and/or confusion it may have caused.

From Interim Principal Foster

Dear Parents,

It was brought to my attention on 4/4/08 that an April Fool's version of a *Tuesday Scoop* was electronically sent to a few parents. Staff and community members received the document as well. Subsequently, many individuals have come to me expressing serious concern about the contents. This is unfortunate and we are saddened that this occurrence has shed a negative light on our wonderful school community.

In addressing the matter, I want to be very clear about the following:

- The section marked "From Interim Principal Foster" was not written by me.
- Much to my dismay, my name was included without my consent or permission.
- I shared with the editors of this document that I would not distribute it to the school community because of its potential political-social-personal "offensiveness."
- The document was sent electronically without my knowledge.

We, the Shepherd Elementary School family, pride ourselves on being respectful and responsible global citizens. It is our hope that this never happens again.

Moving forward, we are two (2) weeks away from standardized testing. Our intermediate students and staff have been working diligently to prepare for the upcoming DC CAS test. We are proud that our early childhood/primary classes are supporting intermediate classes by adopting a testing grade and preparing special activities to encourage them to "do their best on the test!" As you can see, our focus is on teaching and learning. Student achievement is everybody's business at Shepherd ES. Have a great week!

~ Shannon D. Foster,
Interim Principal

"Children Deserve Our Best"

From the PTA

As discussed at the last PTA meeting, the PTA is facing a very serious financial void.

The organization is extremely low on funds, and approximately **\$40,000 is needed** to pay expenses from now until the Auction on May 16. Letters and emails have gone out asking parents to join the PTA by paying the \$50 dues, as well as pay the \$500 Family Enrichment Fee which is crucial to maintaining the teaching resources we currently have in place.

We were very fortunate to have a SES parent graciously arrange for a \$10,000 line of credit through Industrial Bank—this will hold us over temporarily until the necessary support from parents comes in. **Your financial support is desperately needed NOW!** The PTA needs to have enough money in the bank pay our teaching and administrative resources for the remainder of this school year, as well as funds to start the '08-'09 year and avoid cash flow problems going forward. Treasurer Charles Branche is working on providing charitable deduction receipts and making a written budget report available to parents.

Many, many thanks to those families who already sent in checks and especially to those very generous parents who submitted more than one Family Enrichment Fee donation!

If you have not had a chance to submit your Family Enrichment Fee, please do so TODAY! This plea is particularly directed to families in PK thru 2nd Grades where many of the dual-language program resources are funded by the PTA. Without your contributions, the program is in jeopardy.

>> MARK YOUR CALENDAR <<

April 21	DC CAS Testing
April 22	Earth Day
May 9	D.C. Labor Chorus Concert
May 16	SHEPHERD AUCTION!, Howard University's Blackburn Center, 7pm
May 21	Shepherd 5/6 Graders perform at Washington Opera
June 6	Field Day
June 10	6 th Grade Graduation

April showers bring May flowers... and Poetry!

This month is the 13th annual National Poetry Month, sponsored by the Academy of American Poets. Thousands of businesses and organizations across the country will hold readings, participate in festivals and workshops, and display books to “celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture.” Visit <http://www.poets.org> for details, suggested readings, and lists of new poetry books published for readers of all ages.

Attention students: The Tuesday Scoop invites you to participate in this wonder celebration, too! We welcome students from all grades to **submit your own poetry** to be shared with the school community in upcoming issues of the Scoop! Just email poems to brandonsdc@hotmail.com or drop your handwritten or typed poem into the Tuesday Scoop box in the parents’ lounge across from the main office. Each poem must contain the student’s name, phone number, grade, and teacher.

Need a jump start to get the creative juices flowing? Check out books and poems by these authors. Our school librarian would be happy to assist:

Judy Sierra	Shel Silverstein
Gwendolyn Brooks	Lewis Carroll,
Mother Goose	Dr. Seuss
Nikki Grimes	Nikki Giovanni
Sara Holbrook	Michael Strickland

FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

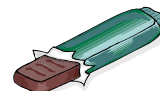
Want to sing lively, thought-provoking songs about peace, equality, and human rights? Want to sing in 4-part harmony? You are invited to sing—no obligations to join—with the **D.C. Labor Chorus** on **Monday evenings, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**, in Mr. Giles’ music room. The D.C. Labor Chorus is preparing for its annual springtime concert scheduled for Friday, May 9, at Trinity Lutheran Church. Next school year, the Labor Chorus will join Shepherd School students to sing “Songs of Freedom and Justice” and record a CD of the songs. Come sing along!

~Ken Giles, SES Music Teacher

FUNDRAISING

Our “**World’s Finest Chocolate**” sale has begun! The event began **April 2** and runs for 3 weeks. 50% of sales will go to the school. Every family is requested to sell **two or more boxes** of chocolate bars to help raise needed money for school programs. Each bar costs \$1.25. Reader’s Digest is offering lots of great prizes to the kids who sell the most!

~Alex Kincannon



PK/K Draw Greater Attention to SES

As mentioned at the last PTA meeting, it was hinted at that due to increased demand from both inbound and out-of-bound families, there is a possibility that DCPS may create additional K and/or PK classrooms at Shepherd. The implications of this are many, and no decisions on the matter have been made. At this time, it is just a consideration. Should such a plan begin to formulate, input from parents and the community will be requested. The good news is the word is out about the **great things happening at Shepherd!** And the list of parents desiring to send their children to our school is very long and growing. What should we do in the meantime? Stay active supporting the school and the PTA activities, and support Ms. Foster and the teachers as they assist our children with the upcoming DC-CAS testing.

MORE PAPER DONATIONS NEEDED – The main office is still very much in need of donations of both white and colored copy paper. Many thanks to those families who have already brought in a ream or more. If you can help out, please leave your ream or box of paper with Mrs. Brooks in the main office. *MUCHO GRACIAS!*

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. BYERS & MR. KING!!



The LSRT Committee is pleased to announce that 1st grade Teacher **Mr. Byers** was selected as the **April TAP award** as part of the school's teacher appreciation and recognition program. Read the glowing accolades on the next page!

The entire Shepherd community will be excited to hear that second grade teacher **Mr. King** was selected as a **2008 Environmental Hero** by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA). This is a tremendous honor since only 10 individuals are identified for this annual Achievement Award. At the awards ceremony scheduled for Earth Day, April 22, Mr. King will be among those acknowledged for giving his time to help NOAA fulfill its mission of protecting the planet. Visit NOAA's website for more info and a list of past recipients at <http://www.noaa.gov/earthday/>.

From the PTA cont'd >>>

Shepherd School's AUCTION "Red Carpet - A Star Studded Affair"

When: May 16th, 7pm
Where: Howard U's Blackburn Center
Attire: Hollywood Chic

AUCTION TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!! \$50 per person / Reserve a table for \$500

Buy a table for your class. Invite grandparents, uncles, aunts, co-workers, and friends! To purchase your tickets see: Ms. Brooks, Kim Sinkford, Guy Harvey, Rose Dawson, Charles Branche, or Barry Hudson. Tickets also on sale at the *Fresh Coffee Fridays* ...OR purchase your tickets online at www.shepherd-elementary.org -- Go to the bottom of the page and click "Purchase Tickets".

Donation Submission Deadline is April 18th!
Submit your auction donation forms and items now—the sooner the better. You can turn your items in TODAY and everyday!! Your donation is crucial to the success of the auction! Class gifts can be coordinate through your classroom teacher. A complete SES Auction Kit is available on the PTA listserv or by contacting Auction Chair **Nayada Cowherd**, nlcowherd@aol.com or 202-607-3370.

Neighborhood Crime Alert

There has been a recent rash of crimes in the neighborhood over the past few months. Cars have been broken into to take GPS units or iPods. A SES parent had her car stolen during the Jazz Night event (but fortunately it was recovered without much damage). There was also an attempted mugging on Kalmia Road at 9:30 in the morning. Please be careful!

~ Alex Kincannon

Ward 4 Crime Meeting – April 1 Hosted by Councilmember Bowser

In response to the recent crime incidents in the area, Councilmember Murial Bowser held a Crime Meeting last Tuesday at the 4th District Police Headquarters (6001 Georgia Avenue, NW) along with Assistant Chief Diane Groomes, Commander Linda Brown, Sargent Melvin Scott, and Detectives Parker and Wingate. Ms. Bowser spoke with neighbors about developing an action plan to deter and prevent future threats to the community. Included in the plan are (a) increased visibility of MPD officers, (b) leveraging the new Community Prosecutor, Julianne Stuart, who begins on April 15th, to help close more cases, (c) provide more outreach services to aid neighbors and students (i.e., summer jobs program and career center), and (d) installation of additional security cameras and implementation of safe home initiatives. A few new police officers will be joining the 4th District force in the coming months, raising the total number of patrol officers serving our neighborhoods from 293 to almost 300. A border patrol along the DC and Maryland border has proven to be successful as well as a truancy patrol placed at the Takoma Metro station.

~ Source: Councilmember Bowser's April 4 Newsletter; mbowser@dccouncil.us



Help! Volunteers are needed to help jump start Shepherd's **recycling program**. LSRT members Earle Yates, Ms. Michaud and Mr. Drucker are looking at recycling initiatives and ways to help our school "go green". If you are interested in leading a recycling program or supporting its implementation, please put a note in the PTA box in the main office

~ Coming Soon: Spring Clean-up Day!

Teacher Appreciation Program: Do you wish to recognize the contributions of a teacher? Send a letter to LSRT c/o Rhonda Smith at ChampionCO@aol.com.

**March Teacher Appreciation Program (TAP)
Submission: Shepherd Elementary's Mr. Bruce Byers**

Shepherd Elementary knows him as First Grade Teacher Mr. Bruce Byers. His class knows him as Mr. B. Through our daughter, my husband and I know this dynamic educator as Mr. Musician; Mr. Mathematician; Mr. Class Performer; Mr. Diversity; and Mr. Disciplinarian. A composed, artistic and intellectual being, Mr. Bruce Byers represents a model of excellence in teaching and inspiring our young students. As such, his irreplaceable contributions to Shepherd Elementary should be rewarded through the Teacher Appreciation Program (TAP).

As parents, we believe that learning is immeasurable and the method to teaching requires special skills. Furthermore, teaching a young group of pupils involves a variety of coaching styles and innovative techniques to capture little wondering minds. Mr. Byers often jump starts the morning with a present/absent song to invigorate the class. In subjects like reading, Mr. Byers' integrates song and active dance, with lecture, to draw his students. He keeps the learning going by pulling out his guitar. He teaches life-lessons through wonderful story-telling. His class engages in weekly spelling tests, book reports, and class presentations to prepare our little ones for public speaking. On occasion, we have also witnessed Mr. Byers assigning students to teach class lessons (such as reading sentences on the flip chart while using the teacher's pointing stick). Our daughter's excitement for learning more about different cultures and holidays blossoms from Mr. Byers embrace for diversity in the classroom. And finally, the students are responsible for overseeing and carrying-out daily job assignments in the classroom.

What more can be said about this teacher. He enthuses and motivates the class to develop a balance of academic and artistic disposition. In every sense of the phrase, Mr. Byers truly "makes learning fun".

We look forward to the remainder of the school year and the exciting learning opportunities that are to come from Mr. Byers' classroom.

Parents,
Sheri Sesay-Tuffour & Kwabena Tuffour

YAHOO!!!

CONGRATULATIONS to 6th Grader Blair Brown for being recognized for her winning entry in the recent Citywide Science Fair. *Great work, Blair, we are proud of you!* More on her accomplishment in the next issue of the Tuesday Scoop ...

COMMUNITY CORNER:

Exceptional Students in Ward 4 Rewarded

On April 4, DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee and George Washington University President Steven Knapp announced the recipients of the 2008 Full Scholarship Award (GW Trachtenberg Scholarship) which provides nine promising DC high school seniors with full, four-year scholarships to George Washington University. Two of the winners are from Ward 4: Veronica Torres from Theodore Roosevelt High School and Mariam Mohammed from Woodrow Wilson High School. For more information about the program, contact Tracy Schario at 202-994-3566 or tschario@gwu.edu.

*The next Tuesday Scoop is scheduled for April 15. The editor will be **Celeste Moneme**. Submissions should be emailed by 3:30 pm on Friday, April 11, to cmoneme1@yahoo.com.*