



# Tuesday Scoop

Shepherd Elementary School, Washington, DC

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

Editor: Matt Sullivan

April 22, 2008

## From Interim Principal Foster:

Dear Parents,

The countdown is over and our school community has officially begun DC CAS testing! The testing phase lasts from April 22<sup>nd</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup>. It's time for students to "shine" in the areas of reading, mathematics, writing and science. Please continue to ensure that your child gets a good night's sleep, eats a nutritional breakfast and arrives to school each day on time.

Have you heard about our new morning announcement routine? We now have student partners reading the morning announcements. It began last week with Kristopher Saulny and Oliver Boris from Mrs. Chambliss' 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. This week's team is Sekai Bonner-Flagg and Alexis Smith from Ms. Johnson's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. Students inform the school community about daily events, weather, lunch, recess and encourage them to have a productive day.

Thanks to those parents who nominated teachers for the Land's End "Teacher's Light The Way" award. Grand prize winners will be announced on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to having a winner from our school. I'd like to remind you again to support our teachers during *National Teacher Appreciation Week*, which is May 5<sup>th</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup>.

I look forward to seeing you at next week's PTA meeting on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Have a fantastic week!

~ Shannon D. Foster  
Interim Principal

The next Tuesday Scoop is scheduled for April 29. The editor will be Kimberly Brandon. Submissions should be emailed by 3:30 pm on Friday April 25 to [brandonsdc@hotmail.com](mailto:brandonsdc@hotmail.com), or placed in the Tuesday Scoop mail box in the Parents' lounge across from the main office.

## From the PTA:

### Nominations for the 2008-2009 school year

The Nominations Committee is now accepting nominations for next years PTA. The following positions are open:

President  
1st Vice President  
2nd Vice President  
Treasurer  
Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary

Additionally, there are four open positions on the LSRT for parent representatives.

You may nominate yourself or another parent for any position. Please send your name, the nominee's name (if not yourself) and position sought to Judith McCullough at [judith.mccullough@seiu.org](mailto:judith.mccullough@seiu.org).

Today is Earth Day. Read more about it on page 2.



# Today is Earth Day

Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22. Here is a brief history of how it began (adapted from kaboose.com):

In 1963, former Senator Gaylord Nelson began to worry about our planet. (A senator is a person that the people of the United States have chosen to help make the laws.) Senator Nelson knew that our world was getting dirty and that many of our plants and animals were dying.

He wondered why more people weren't talking about these concerns. He decided to go to Congress, talk to lawmakers and to the President. They decided that they would do something about these concerns. He did, but still not enough people were talking about these concerns.

## The Idea

Then, in 1969, Senator Nelson decided to talk about the things that needed change. He wrote an editorial article in *Scholastic Magazine* about the things that needed change. He knew that kids would be interested in what he had to say.

## The First Earth Day

On April 22, 1970, over 100 million people in the United States and over 100 countries around the world celebrated Earth Day. It was the first time that so many people had ever celebrated a day dedicated to the environment.

Since that time, Earth Day has become an annual event. It is now celebrated in over 100 countries around the world.

Here are some ideas for celebrating Earth Day:

**14th Annual Earth Day**  
Join our Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2000. For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/earthday>.

**Montgomery County Earth Day**  
April 26, 2000  
feature family-friendly activities. The Earth Day Center will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/earthday>.

**Fun Earth Day arts and crafts ideas**  
Visit <http://crafts.kaboose.com/holidays/earthday/> for more ideas.

**Join the Environmental Kids Club:**  
This site has information, games, art ideas and much more.  
<http://www.epa.gov/kids>



## April 21 – 27 is National TV-Turnoff Week

Once upon a time, children ran and skipped, climbed trees, jumped rope, played hopscotch, and rode their bicycles for blocks. Most likely you remember some of that yourself. Before you were old enough for school, it seems you were never indoors. You and the neighborhood children ran screaming through each other's yards and even down the middle of the streets. You raced each other to the slide and the swings, chased butterflies, and got grass-stained practicing your tumbling skills on the lawn.

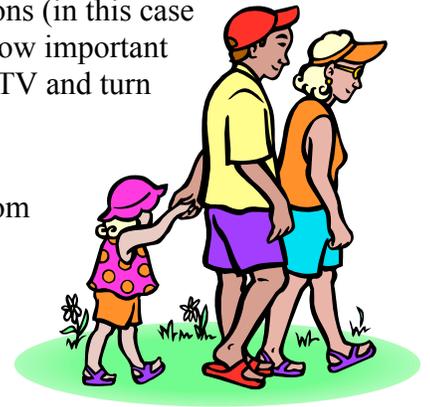
Once you were in school all day, the instant the bell sounded, you ran all the way home, shed your good clothes, and were out the door again. You played touch football, hide-and-seek, and tag. And you stayed outside until forced to come in. It's no wonder no one ever worried about your getting enough exercise!

But does all that activity bring to mind what your own children are doing? Probably not. Today, because children's days are nearly as scheduled as adults' – and they are driven, rather than walk, everywhere – we need to “program” movement into our daily lives.

That doesn't have to be as challenging as it may sound. It can be as simple as putting on some music and holding a dance party in the living room. Make a game of Statues out of it by inviting your children to move in any way they want while the music is playing and to freeze into statues when you pause it. Play Follow the Leader, or break out the pots and pans and hold a parade around the house. Play a rousing game of Twister or simply go for an after-dinner stroll.

Once you've turned off the TV, you'll be amazed at the amount of time you have together and the creative ways you'll find to spend that time. Remember, though, that the most important thing you can do is to serve as a role model. Research has shown that parents' inactivity may exert more influence on their children's behavior than being active does. So, if your children see you sitting in front of the TV during all your free time – if they never see you exercising or enjoying yourself as you do something physical – your actions (in this case inactions) will speak volumes. They'll simply follow suit. Even if you tell them how important it is to be physically active, they'll have no reason to believe you. So turn off the TV and turn on to physical activity! Both you and your children will be glad you did.

~ Rae Pica via  
movingandlearning.com



### Can you help get our students ready to perform at the 29th Annual Children's Shakespeare Festival?

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Shepherd Elementary School's 3rd and 4th grade Star Achievers will be performing William Shakespeare's *As You Like It* at the Children's Shakespeare Festival, held annually at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Ms. Delphine Lester is running the rehearsals and is desperately in need of assistance from anyone for each of the next 3 weeks leading up to the kids' performance. **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED**, nor does the parent have to be affiliated with the 3rd or 4th grades. Just a sheer desire to help, show support, monitor, and encourage the best out of our kids are all the skills you need! Parents who have time to assist in rehearsals--which are 4-6pm after school **EVERYDAY** up until May 13th--should contact Ms. Lester directly: **cell 202-340-6373, home 202-723-2568, or via e-mail at [dplsinger@verizon.net](mailto:dplsinger@verizon.net)**

### >> MARK YOUR CALENDAR <<

April 21-30	.....DC CAS Testing (Gr.3-6)
April 30	.....PTA Meeting
May 5-9	.....Book Fair
May 6	.....Terrific Kids Program
May 9	.....DC Labor Chorus Concert
May 15	.....NOAA Assembly
May 16	.....School Closed / Parent Teacher Conferences
May 16	.....Spring Auction (7pm)
May 23	.....School Band Concert – BWL
May 26	.....School Closed / Memorial Day