



Tuesday Scoop

Shepherd Elementary School, Washington, DC

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

Editor: Kimberlv Brandon

April 29, 2008

NOTE: PTA meeting is TOMORROW, Wednesday, April 30, 6:45pm. All families welcome!
(There is no LSRT meeting tomorrow.)

From Interim Principal Foster:

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank all of our teachers, students and parents for a wonderful testing period. Shepherd ES had a 98% attendance rate with one day of 100%! Although a stressful time, we did our best to keep students calm and focused on doing their best. This week our 4th graders completed the Writing Composition test and 5th graders completed the Science. We are certain that our students will exceed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), performing at high academic levels. Testing grades will celebrate on Friday at the "DC CAS After Jam" on Friday afternoon.

The *Scholastic Book Fair* will be held in the school library all next week. We have sent home flyers which outline all of the wonderful books and educational resources that will be available. Please take time to visit and purchase books for the family. Remember, your support will benefit the school greatly. Next week is also "National Teacher's Appreciation Week." Many of you have dropped by expressing an interest in acknowledging the teachers and staff of Shepherd ES. I'm sure they will be pleased and excited by your expressions of gratitude.

The school system will present the budget and staffing models for school year '08 – '09 to principals and local school restructuring teams (LSRT) on the evening Wednesday, April 30th at Backus MS. Our LSRT will meet on Thursday afternoon to discuss the budget. Installation of new air conditioners in classrooms throughout the building is almost complete. We are also in the midst of "sprucing up" our auditorium.

Congratulations to our 1st grade morning announcement team for the week! We are very proud of Colin Powell, Christianna Noble and Alexander Leonard from Mr. Byers and Mrs. Kinsler's classes. They are doing a fantastic job!

~ Shannon D. Foster,
Interim Principal

SES "RED CARPET" Auction A Star-Studded Affair Friday, May 16, 7pm The Blackburn Center at Howard University

We look forward to seeing you walking down the red carpet in a few weeks at Shepherd's biggest fundraiser of the year. Just a few weeks to go!

Have you practiced "your lines"? Don't stumble when you meet our hosts **Allison Seymour** of FOX 5 and her husband **Marc Clarke** of Baltimore's Big Phat Morning Show. Are you ready for the cameras? Here is a checklist to make sure you arrive with your best foot forward:

- Pick out a **Hollywood chic**, knock 'em dead, outfit
- Practice smiling for the paparazzi
- Buy tickets to the auction
- Confirm the babysitter (It's an adult function)
- Turn in donations and forms
- Submit my ad for the auction book with a picture of the little ones (the talent agents will be looking for it!)
- Call my neighborhood handyman so he can donate his professional services
- Invite close friends to join us for a fun and exciting evening out!

Note: Although the "official" deadline for submitting auction items and ads has passed, IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO TURN THEM IN! More are needed, so get them in as soon as possible!

~ Nayada Cowherd (607-3370) or nlcowherd@aol.com



SES Auction – We are almost there!

Shepherd Parents, the annual Shepherd Auction is **just 3 weeks away**. We have accomplished much over the past couple months, THANKS in large part to the many parents, family members, friends, and colleagues who have supported this fundraiser with their words, deeds, and check books.

Parents, we have come so far, but we are still so far away! As of Friday, we are miles away from our goal of \$40K+ in donations. We need everyone to pitch in over the next several days. MORE DONATIONS are needed. Please continue to solicit friends, neighbors, colleagues, and businesses for goods and services to auction, as well as ads to purchase (see list of sponsorship opportunities on the next page).

If **each parent brings in at least 2 donations**, we will be in a much stronger position to meet our fundraising goals and support the activities and resources at our school. Every Shepherd family needs to contribute if the auction is going to be a success.

Wondering how else you can help? If you have one or more hours to spare, **we need you!** Here is how:

CALLING -- We need more sponsors, more ads and more items to auction! Lists of possible donors are already assembled and ready to share. **WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP MAKE FOLLOW UP CALLS?**

If you can take a list of **10-12 names** and reach out to each person/business on the list **today and through the week**, that would be a tremendous help! Call a few people before you start your work day, during lunch time, during your drive back to school to pick up your child--every little bit helps!

To help with calling, we have TALKING POINTS you can reference and a business letter you can forward. Remind others that we are a 501(C)3 organization, so most contributions are tax deductible.

VOLUNTEERING -- If you are not comfortable making phone calls, perhaps you can donate some time as an auction **helper before the event** (i.e., creating signs and fliers, assembling and producing auction booklets, creating auction descriptions, etc.), or as an auction **helper on the day of the event** (i.e., picking up donated items, check in/out, set up, runners, display, onsite coordinators, etc.).

Can you help? Call Auction Chair **Nayada Cowherd** (607-3370) or Kimberly Brandon (302-4953)

WHY IS THE AUCTION SO IMPORTANT?

- Supports the upper grades by funding computer classes and other enrichment programs
- Helps maintain teachers' aides in both of our kindergarten classes
- Provides funds to secure Spanish instruction for every grade
- Subsidizes the dual language program
- Brings Shepherd families together for a memorable event
- Helps to reinforce the bond between the school community and the local business community.

One of our top priorities is maintaining a vibrant neighborhood public school, one which supports its local businesses and gives back to a community that supports the school. We believe this type of partnership is imperative. It enriches our lives, enhances our sense of community, and augments what it means to be a Washingtonian.

REMINDER: Submit Nominations for the 2008-2009 School Year

The Nominations Committee is accepting nominations for next year's PTA. Nominate yourself or another parent for any of the following positions: **President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary**. There are also four open positions on the **LSRT** (Local School Restructuring Team) for parent representatives. To nominate someone or yourself, contact **Judith McCullough** at judith.mccullough@seiu.org.

2008 Spring Auction Gala **SES RED CARPET - A Star-Studded Affair**

We are still **looking for sponsors!** If you or a business have a product or service to promote, a sponsorship package is the way to go!!

PLATINUM SPONSOR (\$2,500)

- Reserved Table for 10
- Premiere Signage at the Auction Gala
- Full Page Ad in the Auction Catalog/Program
- Presentation of Donation Check at the Auction Gala
- Company logo on the Shepherd Elementary Website as an Auction Sponsor
- Listed as Platinum Donor in Shepherd PTA Programs for one year.

GOLD SPONSOR (\$1,000)

- Reserved Seating for 6
- Signage at the Auction Gala
- Full Page Ad in the Auction Catalog/Program
- Promotion during the Auction Gala
- Company Logo on the Shepherd Elementary School Website as Auction Sponsor

SILVER SPONSOR (\$750)

- Reserved Seating for 4
- Signage at the Auction Gala
- Half Page Ad in the Auction Catalog/Program
- Promotion during the Auction Gala
- Recognized as an Auction Sponsor on the Shepherd Elementary Website

MUSTANG SPONSOR (\$500)

- 2 Tickets to the Auction Gala
- Signage at the Auction Gala
- Half Page Ad in the Auction Catalog/Program
- Acknowledgement of donation at the Auction Gala
- Recognized as an Auction Sponsor on the Shepherd Elementary Website

Questions? Contact Nayada Cowherd
Form are available on the PTA Listserv under
"Files>Auction 2008"

Junior First Lego League to Present at TOMORROW'S PTA Meeting

The Junior First Lego League (JFLL) has been meeting every Friday since December, and they have finally completed their projects! According to **Yvonne McIntyre**, Shepherd's JFLL coach, this year's projects center on energy. The students were able to explore what energy is, where it comes from, and how we use, waste, and conserve it. There is also a focus on team building and working together respectfully. The students will display their projects at the PTA meeting tomorrow. They will also display their projects at the **regional Robotics Open House and JFLL Expo** to be held on May 10th at Shepherd. At the expo, the students will demonstrate their projects and receive recognition for participating in program. ~ *Celest Moneme*

HEALTH NOTE: CHICKEN POX

A second grader has been diagnosed with chickenpox. The child had been vaccinated, and, as happens when the virus is contracted post-vaccine, has a very mild case. However, parents should be aware that the post-vaccine pox are generally considered to be transmitted by direct contact, rather than airborne. No other case of chickenpox in Shepherd has been reported.

"As You Like It" Going Strong



Ms. Delphine Lester

continues to run rehearsals afterschool with the 3rd and 4th grade Star Achievers to get them ready to perform in the **Children's Shakespeare Festival** on **May 13**. The kids are working hard and, with wonderful assistance from a few parents, the rehearsals are progressive and successful. Let's keep this momentum going! If you have 1-2 hours to donate, Ms. Lester would love to have you on hand to help monitor, guide, and encourage the kids! Parents are needed **4-6pm** after school **EVERYDAY** until May 13th. *No experience needed*, nor do you need to be affiliated with the 3rd or 4th grades. Just bring your support and enthusiasm! Contact Ms. Lester at cell 202-340-6373, home 202-723-2568, or via e-mail at dplsinger@verizon.net



COMMUNITY CORNER

Earth Day has come and gone, but the spirit lives on. Did your family do anything special to celebrate Earth Day? Did your child participate in the annual **Anacostia Watershed** or attend the Montgomery County **Earth Day Family Fair** this past weekend? If so, we want to hear from you! As you may know, Shepherd is looking into starting a recycling program. If your family supports recycling, let us know what you are doing to help protect the earth and how your children are involved.

A Scoop for Local Fire Charities!

This Wednesday, **April 30**, is the PTA meeting ... but it is also Baskin Robbins “Scoop Night”! Is this event in honor of our wonderful *Tuesday Scoop*? Alas, no. It is actually being held to honor **America’s Firefighters!** From 5-10pm, participating stores will reduce prices of small ice cream scoops to 31 cents. Your savings on the cost of a scoop can be donated to local fire charities. The closest Baskin Robbins is on 16th Street in Silver Spring. For more info, go to www.baskinrobbins.com

National Train Day at Union Station

National Train Day festivities will be pulling in to Washington Union Station on Saturday, **May 10**. This day of family fun activities will run from 10 am through 3 pm and will include an appearance by National Train Day spokesman and NBC Today Show Weatherman Al Roker, equipment tours, a train photography exhibit, trip planning, model train exhibits, sweepstakes, giveaways and a wide variety of children’s activities. As a special treat, singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles will take the stage in the Great Hall for a FREE show. Don't miss out — come on down to Union Station and get your choo-choo on. For details visit www.NationalTrainDay.com.



>> MARK YOUR CALENDAR <<

April 30..... PTA Meeting
May 5-9 Book Fair
May 6 Terrific Kids Program
May 9..... DC Labor Chorus Concert
May 13..... Star Achievers in *As You Like It*,
Children's Shakespeare Festival
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

New POETRY Club Helps Students Find Their Voice

The poetry club at Shepherd Elementary is booming! Student poets are joining the club and participating in every opportunity in sight! The teacher of the club is **Ms. Gilmore**. Below is one of the poems written by a [very talented] third grade student. We also hope to see some of Shepherd's wonderful poets win a contest!
~ *Summer and Shauna Durant, 6th graders*

I Am

By Anonymous (3rd Grader)

**I am the wind blowing through
your hair,
I am the person with that happy
stare,
I'm the one that really cares,
I'm the one who kind of likes to
share,
But trust me I'm known
everywhere,
I am LOVE!**

*The next Tuesday Scoop is scheduled for May 6. The editor will be Yvonne Jones. Submissions should be emailed by 3:30 pm on Friday, **May 2** to ywj@comcast.net, or placed in the Tuesday Scoop mail box in the Parents’ lounge across from the main office.*