

Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, November 7, 2008

November Happenings



Mark Your Calendars!

- 11/8: School Cleanup Workday** – 9 am-3 pm
- 11/10: Math Night** – 6:30-8:30 pm, Auditorium
- 11/11: Veterans Day Holiday** – School Closed
- 11/14: Color Me Mine Fundraiser** – 6-10 pm
- 11/15: Mulch Madness** – 9:00 am
- 11/19: PTA Meeting** – 6:45 pm, Auditorium
- 11/24: Readers Digest Order Distribution**
- 11/27-28: Thanksgiving Break** – School Closed

A Word from Ms. Miles!

Dear Parents,

We survived testing, we survived routine changes and we survived Election Day! Things are going well at Shepherd and it is my expectation they will continue to get better.

Report cards go home today. I have reviewed all report cards and I am glad to see students are making progress. As you review your child's report card, please remember it is still early in the year and it is expected for students to be developing and moving toward meeting expectations. Teachers have not taught everything students need to know therefore we do not expect mastery.

Though there are many things you can do to help your child at home, I would like for you to do the following:

1. Ask your child: What did you learn in school today? How did your teacher help you to learn? How do you know you learned what was taught?
2. Read to your child and have them read to you. After reading use the stems below to prompt your discussions.
 - Summarize what you just read ____.
 - Conclude what the result would be if ____.
 - What generalizations can you make about?
 - How would you change the ending of the story?
 - What do you think about ____? Why?
 - Which ____ is most significant and why?
 - Did you detect any biases?
 - Judge what would be the best way to ____.
 - What is your point of view about this?
 - How effective was _____?
 - Why did the author select _____ as the setting?
 - How would the story change if the main character was not present?
3. When completing math activities with your child do not accept their answers without an explanation. Students should be able to justify their answers and explain the steps taken to derive at the answers.

(continued on page 2)



Family Math Night!

Missed Halloween? Need just another opportunity to get those creative juices going? Then get out your costumes and come as a cup or a spoon or even a ruler and bring your child to family math night.

Join us Monday, November 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, as students try to guess their teacher's height, play "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader," and broad-jump their way to more fun and interesting ways to make math come alive!



- When: Monday, Nov. 10
- Time: 6:30-8:30 pm
- Where: SES Auditorium

(Most activities at our Family Math Night are geared for 1st thru 6th graders.)



(continued from page 1)

Staffing Update

I am happy to report a name was submitted to HR on Monday for a Special Education teacher. Ms. Angela Hickerson will join the Shepherd family after she completes all the necessary paperwork. We will be interviewing PE candidates this week and I will have an update for you by the end of week.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Amanda Daly, our new Special Education aide. Ms. Daly joined our staff Wednesday.

Office Hours

Please know I have an open door policy. I welcome opportunities to meet with you, listen and address your concerns. However, I am the instructional leader in the building and it is essential that I am in classrooms daily monitoring instruction, working with teachers and interacting with students. If you would like to meet, my office days are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please contact Mrs. Brooks to schedule an appointment.

Construction Update

We have beautiful new windows but no blinds. I have been working closely with the contractors and DCPS to secure blinds for our building. The request has been approved. We will be getting blinds in the upcoming weeks.

Routine Changes

Thank you for striving to get your student to school on time. We truly appreciate your efforts. Please remember the instructional day begins at 8:45. If your student arrives at 8:45 they still have to transition to class. Some classes have specials first thing in the morning. Students who arrive at 8:45 may arrive to their classroom to find their classmates and teacher on their way to their first class.

Parent Meetings

After reviewing the calendar, we have a calendar full of events scheduled for November. Grade level parent meetings will be held the first two weeks in December instead of in November as originally planned. Dates will be released in next week's newsletter.

Finally, thank you for all you do. Our success depends on you.

Warmest regards,
Principal Miles



'Mulch Madness' Returns!

Last month's planned "Mulch Madness" was drowned out by the weather. However, we've got a big "Mulch Madness" gardening day set for Saturday, November 15, starting at 9:00 am at the school.

Here's what we need to do:

- Spread out the remaining mulch and topsoil.
- Rake and blow leaves.
- Plant flower bulbs – including those you might have purchased from Shepherd's recent flower bulb sale.



We need your bodies, and we also need your equipment. If you have leaf blowers, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, spades, hoes and other digging tools, please bring them with you.

For more details, e-mail Frank Borris, PTA Building and Grounds Committee chair, at frank.borris@dot.gov, or call Mark Pattison at 202-829-9289.

Veteran's Day is November 11



No school Tuesday.
See you back at school Wednesday morning!

Shepherd IB-PYP Corner

A First Look at the IB Learner Profile

Shepherd IB-PYP Update

Since last week two important steps have been taken. Principal Jamie Miles attended an IB orientation workshop sponsored by the sub-regional International Baccalaureate (IB) group, the Mid-Atlantic Region Coalition of IB Schools (MARC). MARC encompasses authorized and prospective IB schools in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. MARC workshops are scheduled throughout the year at various locations in those three states and DC. At this recent workshop, which took place in Reston, Virginia, Ms. Miles learned general information about IB and met several other school administrators, coordinators and teachers interested in one or more of the three levels of the IB.

The second important step was the first meeting of the Shepherd PTA's Curriculum Committee with Principal Miles and Patricia Tucker, who is serving as our Interim IB Coordinator. This was a good beginning. The parent attendees were Ms. Kimberly Jeffries Leonard, Ms. Anastasia Norton, Ms. Sarah Potter, Ms. Rhonda Smith, and Mr. Earl Yates. Ms. Tucker shared a draft action plan for Shepherd's IB authorization and asked for parent input.

The PTA Committee members suggested that the group collaboratively develop a fact sheet or FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions sheet) to share with parents through *The Mustang*. That work is in progress. The group also agreed in the meeting that we would jointly plan an informational and planning meeting on the IB PYP effort at Shepherd for all members of the school community, tentatively scheduled for an evening in December. The PTA Curriculum Committee will meet with Ms. Miles and Ms. Tucker again in about two weeks.

PYP Lesson of the Week:

Last week, we introduced you (or re-introduced you) to the IB Organization's Mission Statement. This week we are introducing you to the IB Learner Profile. IBO documents tell us, "The aim of all IB programmes* is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world."

The ten "attributes" of the IB learner are listed as follows: IB learners strive to be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective.

We will look at each of these attributes in more detail later, but we will emphasize now that these attributes comprise a set of learning outcomes for any and all of the three IB programs – the Primary Years Program, the Middle Years Program, and the Diploma Program. They also mirror the ideals expressed in the IBO Mission Statement.

Reflection Questions:

At first glance, are these ten attributes of the IB Learner Profile attributes that you would like to see nurtured in your child/children? Are there any that trouble you or puzzle you? How do we develop these attributes in our children?

Parents are strongly encouraged to ponder these questions and engage in dialogue about them with other parents and older children. There will be opportunities in the near future for parents and students share their thoughts about the IB Learner Profile with other members of the school community.

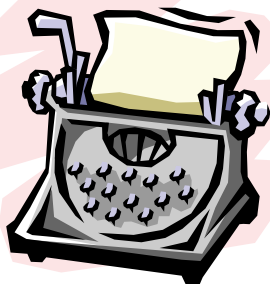
*Please note that in official IB documents you will find the European spelling of some English words.

~ Patricia L. Tucker and Jamie Miles

Our Newsletter Is Your Newsletter

The Mustang is bigger, brighter, and better than before. All we need now are your contributions! Do you have a comment, a suggestion, an article to write, something to share? Go right ahead... Send it in an e-mail to SESmustang@gmail.com.

The newsletter is made fresh every week!



Have YOU joined the Shepherd PTA yet??

PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.

Traffic Safety Reminders

There are a number of traffic signs around Shepherd Elementary School designed to protect our children's safety.



A few traffic safety reminders to keep in mind when going to and from school:

- The speed limit in a school zone is 15 miles per hour.
- Traffic signal at 14th and Kalmia Streets:
 - ▶ NO TURN ON RED signs are posted on all four approaches to the intersection to protect the children;
 - ▶ Traffic signal at 14th and Kalmia is set to make all directions stop and give the pedestrians a WALK signal;
 - ▶ Cheryl Summers is our School Crossing Guard – follow her instructions for your safety.
- There are NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER signs at 14th / Kalmia Streets and 14th /Jonquil Streets (and every other intersection in the city). The signs are there so that approaching drivers can see the stop signs or traffic signal, and any pedestrians that might be there. If we park our cars blocking the visibility of the signs, drivers may not stop before the crosswalk, potentially endangering our children.
- Do not make a U-Turn in the intersection of 14th and Jonquil. (Yes, it does happen.)
- Do not double park to let your children out of the car.
- Do not let your children cross in the middle of the block.

When crossing the street, children should stop walking before they enter the crosswalk and look left, look right, then look left again before crossing.

And lastly, even with the everyday rush of things, try to plan ahead and take your time when dropping off or picking up your children from school. Let's make everyday safe and enjoyable for the Shepherd Family.

A Special Thank You

A huge thank you is extended to everyone who assisted with cleaning the Parent Center. Your efforts made an amazing difference.

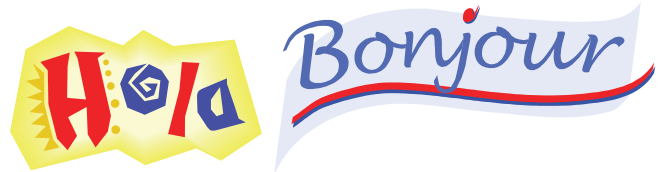
In keeping with our cleaning spirit, the building will be open Saturday, November 8, 2008, from 9 am to 3 pm. Our major tasks are the front office and the teachers' lounge.

Feel free to stop by and join the efforts.



Language Update

Language classes will be offered after school to parents who are interested in additional language instruction for their student. Please look for more information coming soon.



Student Recognition

The Kiwanis *Terrific Kids* program will return to Shepherd in December.

We will also be implementing the *B.U.G. (Bringing Up Grades)* program for students in upper grades.

Student of the Week has been discontinued.



Report cards go home
TODAY!!

Music Activities for November



In November, we will study music history and prepare for concerts. We will listen to and read about **Paul Robeson**, the great American singer/actor/activist. Robeson used his fame and international prestige to speak up for peace and equal rights around the world and in the U.S.

We will rehearse for our annual "Holiday Concert" which will be held on December 10 and for our "Songs of Freedom and Justice" performances in February. More on those concerts later.

On Friday, November 14, we will take our 5th and 6th graders to the Kennedy Center to see excerpts of the opera "Carmen." Then the 5th and 6th graders will compose and perform their own student opera here at Shepherd Elementary School.

DCPS Standard Activity of the Week

Primary Problem

What are the numbers missing in this table?

X	2	3	5
6	12	18	
2	4		10
4	8	12	20

Intermediate Problem

You found an old roll of 15-cent stamps. Can you use a combination of 42-cent stamps and 15-cent stamps to mail a package for exactly \$1.77? Be sure to explain your work.

The People Have Spoken!

Tuesday, November 4: Three long days ago in one respect, yet so vivid and fresh in our memories. Remember the long lines that stretched out the auditorium, down the steps, along the walkway, bending up 14th Street and then around to Kalmia Road as voters came to Shepherd Elementary to cast their ballots in one of the most memorable and historic elections of our lifetimes. Shepherd is home to Precinct 62, one of the most active anywhere in the District. There are 3,823 people registered to vote at Precinct 62, and 2,154 of them (56.34%) showed up in person last Tuesday to cast their votes!



Literacy Corner

If your child is just beginning to learn to read:

At home you can help by...

- Practicing the sounds of language. Read books with rhymes. Teach your child rhymes, short poems, and songs. Play simple word games: How many words can you make up that sound like the word “bat”?
- Helping your child take spoken words apart and put them together. Help your child separate the sounds in words, listen for beginning and ending sounds, and put separate sounds together.
- Practicing the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them and by reading alphabet books.

If your child is just beginning to read:

At home you can help by...

- Pointing out the letter-sound relationships your child is learning on labels, boxes, newspapers, magazines and signs.
- Listening to your child read words and books from school. Be patient and listen as your child practices. Let your child know you are proud of his reading.

If your child is reading:

At home you can help your child by...

- Rereading familiar books. Children need practice in reading comfortably and with expression using books they know.
- Building reading accuracy. As your child is reading aloud, point out words he missed and help him read words correctly. If you stop to focus on a word, have your child reread the whole sentence to be sure he understands the meaning.

- Building reading comprehension. Talk with your child about what she is reading. Ask about new words. Talk about what happened in a story. Ask about the characters, places, and events that took place. Ask what new information she has learned from the book. Encourage her to read on her own.

Strategy: Retelling the Story

After your child has completed a piece of text (a story, chapter, article, etc.) or at any good “stopping point” along the way, have him/her pretend that you were not listening and have your child retell you what he/she has read. Or, actually have him/her tell someone who was not there listening.

If he or she has problems retelling all of the text, while reading, stop him along the way and have him tell you about what he has read so far. Remember, have your child make predictions about what will happen next. The most important aspect of reading is understanding what is read.

This retelling strategy will give you a very good indication whether your child has comprehended, even if he/she has had some miscues. The more readers are asked to retell, the better they will become at reading for meaning.

~ Crystal Moorefield, Literacy Professional Developer



Freebie Fundraisers

There are a number of “freebie” fundraisers going on at Shepherd Elementary School. These are fundraisers that do not cost YOU any additional money than you would have spent anyway! Information on our current Freebie Fundraisers can be found in the Files section of the PTA listserv and in the brochure holder outside the Main Office.

If you have any questions about any of Shepherd’s “Freebie Fundraising” opportunities for Shepherd Elementary School, or to volunteer to assist with any of the “freebie fundraisers,” please contact our “Freebie Fundraising” program coordinator, Laura Noble at TaylorFarm@kddmgroup.com.

Clique. Delete.

Last year, my first year as a parent at Shepherd Elementary, I liked hanging out with my daughter and her new classmates, although it wasn’t until I chaperoned a field trip that I started associating names with faces.

My fellow grown-ups, though, were another matter. It was all too easy to chat with people I already knew: parents who had come to school on Saturdays during the 2007 clean-up blitz; moms from a Wednesday morning play group from when my daughter was just a year old; parents who trekked Thursdays to Mayorga Coffee Factory in 2004 to listen to “Banjo Man” perform for the children; parents I had known from the Shepherd Park Citizens Association; and the occasional parent from my daughter’s class.

But over three days last January, I mixed up the identities of three different women, all of whom served on the same PTA committee I did. It was dumb and ignorant on my part. I had been told that there were parent cliques on the playground, but I didn’t want to believe such a thing was possible until I found myself guilty of it.

I resolved to meet one new parent each morning. I wasn’t perfect, but I was pretty good through mid-March. At the very least, I got to say “Hi, Ron!” or “Hi, (fill in the blank!)” if I was hustling back to my car to go to work. If I hadn’t made acquaintances with one mom, I never would have learned that her son was an expert dancer who showed off his moves at a school dance.

Knowing more parents has made me a better parent and a better man. Now that our children are back gathering on the playground, I’m looking forward to meeting even more new parents. I hope you are, too.

~ Mark Pattison

It’s a Paint Your Own Pottery ‘Fun’raiser’!



It’s Not Too Early To Start Planning Your Holiday Gifts!

When: Friday, November 14th

Time: Anytime between 6:00-10:00pm

Where: *Color Me Mine* in Downtown Silver Spring

How it works:

- You pick a piece – we have over 200 items to choose from
- You paint it – create your own special design
- We fire it – your pieces are ready to pick up in one week
- Cost: \$15 per table studio fee (good for up to 4 people) plus the price of the pottery selected

50% of the evening’s proceeds will be donated to Shepherd Elementary School!

Support Shepherd and get a head start on your holiday gifts!



Color Me Mine is located at 823 Ellsworth Drive in Downtown Silver Spring. Reservations are encouraged.

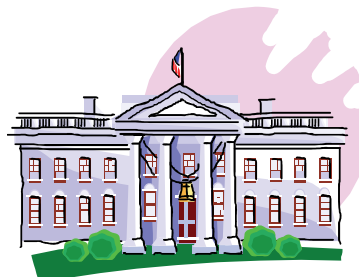
(Call 301-565-5105 to reserve your table.) *The Art Of Having Fun.*

Trivia Corner — Just for Fun!

Each week students will be asked a trivia question. Students should place their name and the answer to the trivia question in the trivia box located outside the cafeteria door. On Tuesdays, one lucky winner will be selected to receive a special treat.

Answer this week’s trivia question by Tuesday.

Trivia Question: What color was the first White House?



Answer to last week’s trivia:



The President who was a star on the University of Michigan football team was...
President Gerald Ford.

Shepherd Community Corner

Northminster Presbyterian Health Fair

Northminster Presbyterian Church will host a community health fair on Sat., Nov. 8, from 11 am to 4 pm at the church, 7720 Alaska Ave., NW. The purpose of the Health Fair is to increase health awareness through education and prevention. There will be free screenings for oral health, diabetes, vision, blood pressure, and free HIV and STD testing. Participants will also be able to learn more about asthma and stroke, among other things, and receive free educational materials. At the same time, Northminster will sponsor its annual bazaar on the church grounds from 9 am to 3 pm, and there will be face painting and a moon bounce to keep children happy and occupied. For more details, call 829-5311 or send an e-mail to northminster@verizon.net. If you'd like to volunteer during the event, send an e-mail to fon51980@gmail.com.

D.C. Historical Society Doings

- Saturday, Nov. 8, noon: film, "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial"
- Sunday, Nov. 9, 2:30 pm: lecture titled "Black Men Built the Capitol," with author Jesse Holland of the Associated Press.

The Historical Society of Washington is located at 801 K St. NW at Mt. Vernon Square. All events are free unless otherwise indicated. For more information, call 383-1850 or visit the Web site at www.historydc.org.

DC Green Festival

The 2008 D.C. Green Festival will take place this weekend at the DC Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place NW. The festival runs 10 am-7 pm Saturday-Sunday, November 8-9. It will feature 125 authors, leaders and educators; 350 eco-friendly businesses; workshops, green films, kids' activities, live music, organic vegetarian cuisine and more. Running concurrently with the convention will be the fifth annual DC Environmental conference. For more details go to www.greenfestivals.org.

Lowell School Diversity Forum

Lowell School will host a community event on diversity and its continued relevance in schools. This event will be led by NPR's Michel Martin, to be held Wed., Nov. 12, 7-9 pm in the Lowell gymnasium.

ost of NPR's "Tell Me More," Martin, a Shepherd Park resident, has worked as a journalist for more than 25 years, first at the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post, then at ABC News where she won an Emmy award for her reporting on the international campaign to

ban land mines. While at ABC, Michel was nominated for two other Emmys, one for a report for the "Nightline" series "America in Black and White" and one for a report for "Day One" on children's racial attitudes.

"I am fascinated by the different people who live lives different from my own. And at the same time, I feel connected to all of these lives being a journalist, a woman of color, a wife and mother," Martin says.

That night, Lowell School will also be sharing multiple publications for teachers and parents to help aide in conversations about diversity. As well, there will be copies of published articles written by two Lowell staff members about institutionalizing diversity and the education of African-American males. To RSVP, e-mail reserveyourseat@lowellschool.org.

Volunteers Needed In Our Neighborhood

The National Museum of Health and Medicine, on the grounds of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, seeks friendly volunteer with a passion for learning and meeting people. volunteers greet museum visitors and provide information about the history of medicine, the human body, and other exhibits. Monday, Nov. 17, is the training date for new volunteers. For details, call 782-2456 or e-mail nmhminfo@afip.osd.mil.

Free Home Energy Audits Are Available

Prepare your home for winter with a free energy audit from the D.C. Department of the Environment. The audits recommend easy, inexpensive ways to improve energy efficiency. For example, reducing air leaks can save up to 30 percent of the energy consumed in a home. Energy audits help residents save money and rein in global warming by wasting less energy.

Inspectors will measure energy characteristics, like insulation levels, window efficiency, wall-to-wall ratios, heating and cooling system efficiency, the house's solar orientation, and water heating systems. Diagnostic testing, which may include a blower door for air leakage and duct leakage testing, is often part of the audit. Once the audit is over, you'll get a one-star to five-star rating for energy efficiency and a report listing cost-effective ways to improve the rating. You'll also get information on tax credits and financing for energy-efficient home improvements. For details, or to request an audit, call 202-673-6700. Visit ddoe.dc.gov for more info.

It's Tree-Mendous!



The District Department of the Environment and Casey Trees are offering \$50 rebates to District residents who plant trees on their property. The program also includes a free "Ooze Tube" watering bag to help care for the tree.

Planting a tree is the original way to green your home, and the benefits last for decades. With the right tree and the right care, you can give yourself lower energy costs. You can also give the entire neighborhood more beauty and better air quality, and keep storm water out of our rivers and streams.

The \$50 rebate covers all tree species, except for some that are considered invasive or susceptible to pests.

Participants must pledge to water and care for the tree for at least two years. Rebates are available until May 31, 2009. Casey Trees will offer guidance on how and where to plant trees to maximize their environmental benefits.

For more information about the program and to download a rebate coupon, please visit:

www.caseytrees.org/programs/Rebate2008-2009.html.

DCPS Open Houses

Alice Deal Middle School

3815 Fort Drive NW

Wednesday, November 12, 9 am-3 pm. Come spend an hour or two (or the whole day!) sitting in on classes and witness the Deal learning experience first hand. Visit classes, move through Deal's hallways and have lunch at the school's new cafeteria. Drop in at any time during the school day. This will be repeated Tuesday, December 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Principal Melissa Kim is also hosting monthly coffees at Deal for prospective parents on the following Wednesdays from 9 to 10 a.m. on December 3 and January 7. For more details, go to www.dealpta.org.

Hardy Middle School

1819 35th Street, NW

Wednesday, November 12, 9-11:00 a.m.; repeated Wednesday, December 10, 9-11 a.m. For more details, call 698-3885 or go to www.hardyms.org

Wilson High School

3950 Chesapeake St NW, has open houses from 9 to 11 a.m. every other Friday for parents of prospective students. They will be held November 7 and 21, December 5 and 19, January 9 and 23, February 6 and 20, March 6 and 20, and April 3 and 17. Meet in Room 124. For details, call the school at 282-0120.

- Wilson International Studies Program (WISP),
- Academy of Finance, Science, Mathematics & Technology (SciMaTech),
- Humanities, Arts & Media (HAM) Academy,
- Academic & Athletic Achievement (AAA) Academy,

Applications will be made available beginning Monday, December 15, 2008, online at wilsonhs.org or in Room 124 of Wilson High School, 3950 Chesapeake Street, NW. Applications are due January 16. Interviews will take place in February, and acceptances announced March 17. For details call 282-0120 or visit www.wilsonhs.org.



Shepherd's Family Directory Forms due back NOW

On Tuesday (11/4), a form was placed in the backpacks for the school's Family Directory. Parents were asked to complete the form by today (11/7) so their family contact information can be included in this year's directory. If you did not receive a form or **still need to turn in the form, please call Kimberly Brandon.**

There are two parts to the form: *Part I* allows you to provide your family contact information. The directory will list the names of all students in the school. It is important to have your family listed so other parents and classmates can get in touch with you. Parents have the option of providing all or some information.

Part II of the directory will be devoted to CLASSIFIEDS and ADVERTISING. If you have a professional service or business that you would like other parents and families to be aware of, please consider placing an ad in the directory. There are several parents who love to sell and buy Avon and other products and services. If you have your own businesses or a particular service or skill of interest to families, placing an ad would be a great way to remind all of us throughout the year who you are, what you offer, and how to find you! The deadline for ad requests is Friday, 11/14.

If you have any questions, contact Kimberly Brandon at 202-722-0569 or brandonsdc@hotmail.com.

Election Day Concessions

The PTA sponsored an Election Day concession stand in front of the school on Tuesday. Thanks to the generosity of the hungry and thirsty voters of Precinct 62, we raised about \$250 for the PTA.

Special thanks to all of the parents and students who contributed items and staffed the table. Additional thanks to Shepherd parents Nayada Cowherd and Jameelah Abdulmatee, who conceived the concession stand idea and arranged for staffing and contributions.

See — it just goes to show that if you want concessions on Election Day, you don't have to wait until the polls close on the West Coast and watch concessions on TV!



Shepherd Elementary School

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Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to: SESmustang@gmail.com. Deadline is Tuesday at 10:00 am for inclusion in the newsletter issued that Friday.