

Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, November 21, 2008

Upcoming Shepherd Events



Mark Your Calendars!

- 11/22: Mulch Madness, Part II**, 9:00 am
- 11/24: Readers Digest Order Distribution**
- 11/27-28: Thanksgiving Break** – School Closed
- 12/1: 5th and 6th Grade Parent Forum**, 6-7:30 pm
- 12/2: 3rd and 4th Grade Parent Forum**, 6-7:30 pm
- 12/3: 1st and 2nd Grade Parent Forum**, 6-7:30 pm
- 12/8: NO SCHOOL** (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- 12/10: Holiday Music Concert**, 6:45 pm
- 12/11: Pre-K and Kindergarten Parent Forum**, 6-7:30 pm (Note new date for Pre-K and K!)

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Dear Shepherd Family,

Thank you for another wonderful week. It is a pleasure watching the students thrive academically as well as socially. As we move into the holiday season it is expected for students to get excited and sometimes forgetful of what is expected of them. Therefore, I am asking you to take time to speak with your student about behavior and academic performance. Many teachers have a lot of exciting events planned for students in the upcoming weeks and we do not want any students to miss out because they have forgotten school expectations.

Language Enrichment

Are you interested in extra language instruction for your son or daughter after school or on weekends free of charge? We are fortunate to have funds available so we can offer language instruction in Spanish and, tentatively, French after school for students. We can also offer classes on Saturdays for parents and students if we have enough people who express interest. If interested in one or both of these enrichment opportunities, please send an email to shepherdsurvey@yahoo.com. When emailing please include your name, your child's name, grade level, language and program of interest (after school and/or Saturday). Based on the response, we can begin creating programs to fit the needs of parents and students.

(See Principal, continued on page 2)

Shepherd Holiday Concert

Our annual "Holiday Concert" at Shepherd Elementary School will be held Wednesday, December 10, at 6:45 pm in the Shepherd Auditorium.

The concert will feature 20 recorders and 40 violins performing Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" and the traditional "Jingle Bells." Students will sing songs in Spanish and French, and representing various cultural traditions. All students are welcome to sing in the chorus. In addition, students will perform a blues song with lyrics composed (as part of a class assignment) by several Shepherd students. The concert will last about an hour.

~ Ken Giles, Music Teacher,
Shepherd Elementary School



Following the Rules of the Roads

Parents parking in no-parking zones around Shepherd Elementary School during morning drop-off are creating a dangerous school safety problem that requires serious attention from Shepherd parents.



According to Cheryl Summers, the crossing guard posted at 14th Street and Kalmia Road, there is an increasing failure by drivers to adhere to the following traffic/pedestrian safety rules that are endangering the safety of our children (and those escorting them). Among the most dangerous practices by drivers are:

- Parking on the west side of the 7800 block of 14th Street. That block is the NO PARKING Drop-Off Zone. Parking or leaving cars there makes it impossible for other drivers to follow the planned and much safer procedure of stopping the car, letting kids out at the curb, then driving away to allow other drivers to do the same.

(See Rules of the Road, continued on page 2)

(Principal, continued from page 1)

Morning Arrival and Afternoon Dismissal

As we prepare to leave the cool days of fall behind and enter into a cold winter season, I want to make sure everyone is clear about the morning and afternoon routine. Students will continue to line up on the back playground in the morning and dismiss at the front of the building after school. If your child eats breakfast he/she should arrive at school between 8:00-8:30 am. Students should enter the cafeteria through the back door next to the playground. All other students should arrive between 8:25-8:35 am and line up in their designated areas on the playground. For safety reasons, please do not drop your child off before 8:25 am and after 8:40 am. We begin transitioning students into the building at 8:40 am. The doors will be secured once the last teacher enters the building and takes a final visual sweep of the playground. If you arrive at 8:41 am, please have your son/daughter enter through the main entrance. Instruction is to begin at 8:45 am. If your student arrives at the security desk at 8:45 am, he/she is late.

On inclement weather days and/or days when the temperature is 35 degrees or below, students will assemble in the auditorium in the morning and be dismissed from the auditorium. Please look for more information about arrival and dismissal routines and procedures coming home with your student next Wednesday.

Principal Grade Level Meetings

The grade level meetings for Pre-K and K have been moved to December 11, 2008. These grade level meetings will be a facilitated discussion about curriculum, safety, parental involvement, policies, routines, etc. If you have questions you would like addressed, please email me (Jamie.Miles@dc.gov) no later than November 29, 2008. Due to the amount of content that will be addressed at these meetings, there will be little time for a "Q and A" session.

Assessment

By now you should have received assessment results from your child's teacher. Parents in K-3 should have DIBELS data. Parents of students in grades 3-6 should have received DC BAS data. DIBELS and DC BAS results are only one piece of assessment data. Notes from your child's teacher, work samples with feedback and graded test and/or worksheets are also essential data pieces. Each student should know how they are performing, their strengths as well as areas for improvement. If you have concerns about your child's academic performance, please contact your child's teacher to schedule a conference. You should also log-on to the DCPS website ([www.k12.dc.us/Teachingandlearning/Standards by Subject Area.htm](http://www.k12.dc.us/Teachingandlearning/Standards_by_Subject_Area.htm)) to learn more about what your child should know and be able to do throughout the school year. Teachers are working diligently daily to find ways to address students' individual needs. However, it is not an easy job and they can not do it without you working with your student at home.

As always, thank you for your continuous support. I/we truly appreciate you and what you do!

Warmest regards,
Jamie Miles, Principal

(Rules of the Road, continued from page 1)

- Double-parking on 14th Street and Kalmia Road forces other cars to take measures for getting around the parked car that further increases traffic congestion on both streets and sometimes blockage of the intersection. This, in turn, forces pedestrians to weave through a jumble of standing and moving vehicles - surely a high risk to our children and their escorts.
- Leaving vehicles stopped, standing or parked too close to the intersection of 14th Street and Kalmia Road also causes risky traffic congestion and irritates/angers other drivers, which just complicates the situation.



Last week, Principal Miles and I agreed that we need to actively reinforce traffic safety behaviors during morning drop-off time. We agreed that the following measures will be put in place:

1. The school will place cones along the curb on the west side of 14th Street from 8:25 am to 8:45 am to remind drivers that this is the NO PARKING Drop-Off Zone for Shepherd students.
2. The PTA is requesting three to four parent volunteers per day at the 14th and Kalmia intersection to hold up signs reminding drivers of the above described safety hazards, and approach drivers as needed to gently remind them to abide by NO PARKING, NO STANDING, DROP-OFF measures that are in place to protect the safety of child and adult pedestrians.
3. The 4th District Police station will be requested to make a traffic control/observation officer available for as much of this time as possible to assist the Crossing Guard and parent volunteers.

We hope that reminding parents and drivers of these safety rules next week will suffice, but we need to be prepared to extend or repeat the effort as needed during the coming months. Further, we realize that this effort will need to shift to 14th and Jonquil Streets on those days on which children have to be dropped off in the auditorium because of inclement weather.

Parents interested in volunteering should e-mail me at yates.sespta@yahoo.com at your earliest convenience. Thank you very much.

~ Earl Yates, PTA President

*Have YOU joined the
Shepherd PTA yet??*

PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.

Shepherd IB-PYP Corner

More about the IB Learner Profile

Update: Principal Miles and Patricia Tucker, Instructional Superintendent and IB/PYP Coordinator, met again with the PTA's Curriculum Committee on Tuesday, November 18, mainly to review and finalize the Frequently Asked Questions that were distributed at the PTA meeting on Wednesday night. That FAQ is also a part of this issue of *The Mustang*. The new Director of International Programs, Mr. Ben Ochstein, and a representative from the Office of Bilingual Education, Ms. Katarina Brito, also participated in the meeting. This team pared down a rather ambitious FAQ draft to a shorter and simpler document. This FAQ, like the weekly PYP Corner in this newsletter, is another vehicle for providing information to you about the PYP Program and Shepherd's efforts toward IB authorization. There will be many more FAQs and other types of informational documents provided to you as the school year goes on. In addition, the Curriculum Committee and school administrators are planning a series of informational meetings that will usually take the form of workshops that mirror the PYP inquiry approach to learning. Today, as *The Mustang* is issued, Principal Miles, Ms. Tucker and Shepherd's Literacy Professional Developer, Ms. Moorefield, and Shepherd's First grade teacher, Ms. Kinsler, are visiting the lower campus of the Washington International School to visit PYP classrooms and learn more about how the PYP operates.



PYP Lesson of the Week: This week we will look closely at two more of the attributes in the IB Learner Profile.

The IBO official documents tell us that IB learners strive to be:

Thinkers: *They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.*

Communicators: *They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.*

Reflection Questions:

Do you see any connection between these two attributes and qualities that are needed for success in the workplace?

How much attention do we pay to how students interact with other students in group activities (in the classroom and at home)? Could we give more time to helping them work more effectively as part of a team? Do you ever ask your child how he or she feels about working in a group and why?

Could we create more opportunities to discuss the ethical issues that arise in subjects that are taught in school or in current events that our children hear about on television or read about in the newspaper?

Parents are encouraged to discuss these questions with their children as appropriate and with other parents.

~ Patricia L. Tucker & Jamie Miles

LSRT Special Election Result

A special election was held at Wednesday's PTA meeting to elect a new parent representative of the LSRT. There were two nominees, Jean Hoff and Lori Matthews. In a close contest, Lori Matthews was elected. Congratulations, Lori!

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? Send it to SESmustang@gmail.com.

Join the PTA Listserv Today

To subscribe, send an email (include your name, your child's name and his/her teacher/class) to:
Shepherd_Elementary_PTA-subscribe@yahogroups.com.

Pick Up Your Readers Digest Orders THIS MONDAY

The Readers Digest orders will be delivered to Shepherd Elementary School as scheduled on Monday, November 24th. We expect the delivery to be complete by around noon time or a little after, so all households are free to pick up their orders from the school auditorium between 3 pm and 7 pm.

If any parents would like to volunteer for an hour or two as the many orders are turned over to individual households in the auditorium, I would very much welcome your help. Please contact me at either jmarrkand@pfd.org or 202-246-1448.

REMINDER: This is a one day pick-up timeframe. Please pick up your order on Monday, November 24 between 3 and 7 pm in the auditorium.

~ Jack Marrkand, PTA Assistant Treasurer



FAQ — Frequently Asked Questions about the Curriculum at Shepherd

Why are we pursuing the International Baccalaureate's Primary Years Program (PYP)? What are the benefits?

The PYP is not a separate curriculum, but a different approach to learning. It makes the existing curriculum more meaningful, more useful and more connected to real life issues. Through the PYP students are guided to think more critically, more independently and more creatively. Students are guided to make connections between the different subjects they learn and learn how to apply their skills to solve real world problems. They are taught to care more about the people around them and to see and appreciate their commonalities and differences. The purpose of foreign language study in the PYP is to help students relate to other cultures. An additional benefit is that through PYP practices students are encouraged to become more involved in their immediate community and the wider community.

What is the status of Shepherd ES in the IB authorization process?

Once Application Part A has been submitted to the IB North America (IBNA) Regional Office and accepted by IBNA, the applicant school becomes a "candidate school." Shepherd's Application Part A was submitted in the fall of 2007, so **Shepherd is currently an IB candidate school.** During the candidate phase of the authorization process, teachers must collaboratively develop their PYP units of inquiry and implement the units on a trial basis for at least one year. Then, the school submits Application Part B to IBNA. A few months later, an IB team visits the candidate school to assess its readiness to become an authorized "IB World School." We project that Shepherd will submit its Application Part B on December 1, 2009 and have its authorization visit in the late winter or spring of 2010.

What is the connection between the IB Programme and World Languages?

The IB Organization does not require any particular number of hours or frequency of classes for World Language instruction, only that there be exposure to a World Language by age 7 and beyond.

Several different language programs have been mentioned over the years. What is Shepherd's language program model?

Shepherd has a "Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES)" Program, which is a comprehensive and enriching world language program. Shepherd does not have a dual language or immersion program which are both language programs in which at least 50% of all instruction must be in a non-English language. FLES is the most frequently offered foreign language program in elementary school. FLES programs offer a second language as a subject much like science or social studies. A FLES Program does require a range of time and frequency. The national standard is 45 to

180 minutes per week. At Shepherd, the FLES Program is aligned with IB's requirements and exposes students in grades pre-kindergarten through 6 to either French or Spanish language instruction.

What is the role of the PYP Coordinator?

- Shares instructional leadership with the principal
- Receives correspondence and other documentation regarding the IB program
- Distributes information to members of the school community as required
- Is responsible for ensuring that the PYP is planned, taught and assessed collaboratively and in accordance with IBO requirements; helps to lead the collaborative process; is involved in whole-school planning
- Assists teams and individuals with developing student inquiry units
- Establishes and maintains a record of completed PYP lesson plans and other PYP curriculum documents
- Ensures that teachers and staff are made aware of professional development opportunities; makes recommendations regarding professional development; keeps a record of workshop attendance and school visits
- Assists 5th or 6th grade teachers with the PYP exhibition
- Recommends the purchase of resources to support the PYP
- Conducts parent information sessions
- Publishes articles pertaining to the program in the school newsletter
- Prepares and submits documentation required for authorization and evaluation
- Sets up systems for communication and collaboration among all staff members involved in implementing the program
- Provides outreach to the wider PYP community (through discussion forums, e-mail, school visits, etc.)

What is the professional development requirement for PYP schools?

To meet the PYP training requirement for authorization, all teachers and administrators working with PYP students, must have participated in workshops organized by or through the IB Organization's regional offices.

This FAQ is the product of collaboration of Principal Miles, Patricia Tucker, the DCPS Office of Bilingual Education, and the members of the Shepherd PTA Curriculum Committee.

For those parents who want additional foreign language instruction for their children, an after school Spanish class is available free of charge. Also, funding is available for a possible Saturday Language Academy. Putting this in place will be based on interest and number.

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.

Juice Pouch Recycling Update



We’re still looking for volunteers to manage the Juice Pouch Recycling program. This is a perfect project for a family, a class (think “community service”) or an aftercare group. It doesn’t take much effort or time.

Contact Laura Noble at taylorfarm@kddmgroup.com for more information about this project.

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 year was the first Thanksgiving celebrated?



Answer to last week’s trivia question:

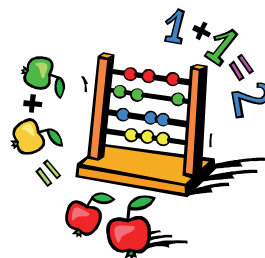
What American Indian tribe was invited to spend Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims?

The Wampanoags Indian tribe was invited to spend Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims.



The Mustang is for Parents AND Kids!

Hey Parents: Be sure to share the activity sections of *The Mustang* with your children each week. You can help your children work through the fun and educational activities featured in each week’s *Mustang*. These activities are based on DCPS standards.



And don’t forget to have your kids answer the weekly Trivia question! Winners names will be published here in *The Mustang*.

Holiday Bazaar Returns to Shepherd for 3 Days!

Last year’s Holiday Bazaar was such a success that we’ve decided to offer it over three days this year. Now you’ll be able to do some shopping without having to battle holiday traffic.



The bazaar will be held:

- Friday, December 5, from 2 pm to 7 pm (allowing you to shop before you pick up your child from school or aftercare);
- Saturday, December 6, from noon to 6 pm (OK, so it’s not a school day, but so what?);
- Monday, December 8, from 10 am to 5 pm (the perfect opportunity to shop before or after parent-teacher conferences).

You can count on having many tasty treats available for sale at the bazaar and a gift-wrapping service will also be in full swing over the three days.

Vendors can reserve their tables for \$45 to cover Friday and Saturday, and/or \$25 to cover Monday.



To reserve your table, contact Jaye Jones-Muhammad at jomucollectibles@yahoo.com or 202-327-3067, or Chantale Swanson at 202-422-1249 or swanprncess75@aol.com. Volunteers will also be needed. To lend your hand, contact Marcie Bane at 202-386-1840 or marciebane@comcast.net.

Newsletter Volunteers Needed

A *Friday* newsletter loses its luster if it’s not seen until *Monday*. Assembling the newsletter starts at 4:00 pm Thursdays. Stop at the main office to help with copying, collating, stapling, etc. It only takes about an hour or so to get the work done. If you can take a regular shift every week — or even once a month — your efforts will help with school communications — and you’ll get a jump on the new school news to boot! Contact Mark Pattison at 202-829-9289 or by email at pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

Teacher Appreciation Award

Each month, Shepherd Elementary's Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT) will TAP a teacher through its Teacher Appreciation Program (TAP).

All you have to do is write a letter nominating your child's teacher for his or her great work and dedication. If you have noticed a wonderful habit your child's teacher has, or if he/she has a way with the class that you admire, tell the rest of the school your story. Teacher assistants and "special" teachers can be nominated also. To nominate your child's teacher, please send an email to LSRT Chair, Rhonda Davis Smith at championco@aol.com. The LSRT will review all letters and choose one teacher to be honored at that month's PTA meeting.

November's TAP winner was Pre-K teacher **Ms. LaPenna**. Here is the letter from parents Vanessa and Larry Smith:

Our son, Blake Smith, started Pre-K at Shepherd this year, and our daughter, Alexis, is now a 3rd grader. So, our family has a long history with the school. When we received the teacher assignments at the end of the summer, we had a little concern when our son was assigned a teacher new to the school. However, our concerns were dispelled immediately. Ms. LaPenna, Blake's Pre-K teacher, is organized, caring yet firm, and does a great job keeping parents informed. Every Monday, we get a weekly homework packet with detailed instructions and parent-child activities. Homework packets are promptly returned the following Monday. On Fridays, we receive a certificate indicating whether Blake had "A Winning Week at School" based on his behavior during the week. In addition, Ms. LaPenna also takes the time to give personalized homework, reinforcing Blake's ability to neatly print the letters of his own name and indicating the specific areas we should focus on with Blake. This level of personal attention, organization and caring, is what makes Shepherd a great school. Thanks, Ms. LaPenna—and all the great staff at Shepherd—for all you do!

Sincerely,
Vanessa and Larry Smith

**Congratulations,
Ms. LaPenna!**



Literacy Corner

Responsive Writing Strategy

Ask your reader to write about the parts of the story that she likes best and share that writing with you. This will be a first draft effort, so again the focus is on meaning. Editing is important but will come later, after there is good content to edit. For primary grades this can be done orally.



Here are some open ended questions that readers can respond to:

- What did you like best about the story?
- What did you like least about the story?
- What would you do if you were the main character?
- What question(s) would you ask the author?
- How are you like the main character? How do you differ from the main character?

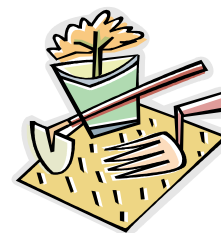
~ Crystal Moorefield, Literacy Professional Developer

'Mulch' Ado About Nothing

Despite the gloomy skies, a small but hardy band of Shepherd Elementary students, parents and staff ranging in age from 5 to (mumble-mumble) came out to tend to the school's greenery during the November 15 "Mulch Madness" event.

Lots of wet leaves were raked or swept from the sidewalks on the 14th Street side of the school, 20 bags of topsoil were spread atop the terrace on the Jonquil Street side of the school and by the azalea bushes west of the school's main entrance, and some flower bulbs were planted.

We've still got a ways to go, though, to winterize the grounds. This includes spreading the last of the mulch, raking leaves and blowing them to the "tree box" between the sidewalk and curb for city pickup, and planting even more flower bulbs - including those purchased by thoughtful parents as a donation to school beautification efforts.



Despite the chilly nights this week, planting is still OK before a hard freeze (assuming we get one) sets in. So we're going to do it again THIS Saturday, again starting at 9 am.

Lend a hand - and lend your equipment - to this great work. Bring shovels, spades, wheelbarrows, leaf blowers, hoes, garden implements, bone meal for bulb planting, rakes and the like when you come to school.

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

Activities of the Week

Primary Problem

Jane had 2 popsicles on a hot summer day. She left them outside on a table and forgot them when her friend came over to play.

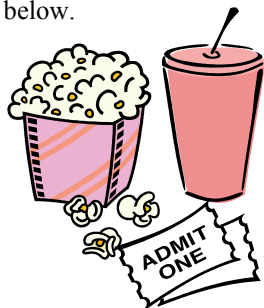
How many popsicles did she have left when she went back to them?



Explain your reasoning.

Intermediate Problems

Jamison is taking a friend to the movies. He wants to estimate the amount of money he will need for tickets, large bags of popcorn, and large cups of soda. The prices are shown below.



How much money should he take?

Explain your reasoning.

- Ticket: \$7.75
- Large bag of popcorn: \$3.85
- Large cup of soda: \$2.65

Who Loves a (Thanksgiving) Parade?



Montgomery County will host its annual Thanksgiving Parade from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, November 22 in downtown Silver Spring, featuring 10 marching bands (including the Washington Redskins Marching Band), giant helium balloons, seven floats, 11 international dancing groups, fire and police department honor guards, and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus.

Master of Ceremonies Doug Hill, Channel 7's weatherman, will kick off festivities at 9:30 am. The parade route will start near Fire Station 1 at Georgia and Sligo Avenues, proceed up Georgia Avenue, take a right turn on Ellsworth Drive and end at the future site of the Silver Spring Civic Center and Veterans Plaza at Ellsworth and Fenton Street. Santa Claus will be on hand at City Place Mall following the parade at 1 pm. A magician will join him to entertain children and hot chocolate and cookies will be available.

The following roads will be closed, or partially closed, before and during the parade: Selim Road, Philadelphia Avenue, Gist Avenue, Sligo Avenue, Wayne Avenue (from the parking garage to Georgia Avenue), and Fenton Street between Wayne and Colesville Road. Parking is available at two county garages on Cameron Street, Wayne Avenue, Fenton Street and at the Metro station off Bonifant Street.

For a list of parade participants and a map showing the parade route and road closures, visit www.downtownsilverspring.com.

Upcoming Middle & High School Open Houses



Alice Deal Middle School

3815 Fort Drive NW

9:00 am to 3:00 pm Tuesday, December 16

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. Principal Melissa Kim is also hosting monthly coffees at Deal for prospective parents from 9:00-10:00 am on the following Wednesdays: December 3 and January 7. For more details, go to www.dealpta.org <<http://www.dealpta.org>>.

Hardy Middle School

1819 35th Street NW

9:00 am to 11:00 am Wednesday, December 10.

For more details, call 698-3885 or go to

www.hardyms.org <<http://www.hardyms.org>>.

Wilson High School

3950 Chesapeake Street NW

Wilson has open houses from 9:00 am to 11:00 am every other Friday for parents of prospective students. They will be held 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) Academy**
- **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 St., NW. Applications are due January 16. Interviews will take place in February, and acceptances announced March 17. For more detail, call 202-282-0120 or visit <http://www.wilsonhs.org>.

Lost and Found

Is your child missing a hat, coat, sweater, lunch box or bookbag? If so, we may have it here at school. We have a significant number of items in our lost and found collection. Please stop by the Parent Center to identify any items that may belong to your child. All unclaimed items will be donated to Goodwill the second week in December.



Announcing the Box Tops Happy Holidays Collection Contest

Simply glue or tape (no staples) one Box Top Coupon onto each snowman on the Box Tops collection sheet. All students returning a completed sheet by the contest deadline will receive a prize! A special treat is planned for the class that turns in the most Box Tops!

Contest Deadline: **Tuesday, December 16**

You can turn in your Box Tops into the Collection Box in the Main Office anytime between now and December 16. Two collections sheets (and the November Box Top update) are included with this issue of *The Mustang*. Additional collection sheets are available outside the main office. If you prefer to put your box tops into a ziplock bag rather than on the collection sheet, make sure you include your full name/teacher's name/class.

Please put your Box Tops (collection sheets and/or bags) into the Box Tops Collection Box in the Main Office. As long as your full name/teacher's name/class is included with the Box Tops you turn in, your Box Tops will count toward the class totals in the Happy Holidays 2008 Box Tops Collection Contest.

Teachers: If your students turn in Box Tops to you, please drop them off in the Collection Box in the Main Office. Thanks!

For parents with more than one child at Shepherd: You can list *each* child you have at Shepherd on one Collection Sheet, and *all* siblings will receive credit (and a prize) for the box tops your family submitted. You may, of course, continue to submit separate collection sheets for each child.

Keep clipping Box Tops for Shepherd Elementary School!!



Welcome Back Mr. Wylie!

The school community welcomes back Mr. Richard Wylie, a Shepherd Elementary neighbor and a volunteer violin teacher and tutor who returned to school this month following hospitalization and surgery.



Mr. Wylie had fractured his arm trying to break his fall while taking a walk Columbus Day weekend in Rock Creek Park.

We're happy that his convalescence is over and that he's back at school helping students.

Never Too Late to Say 'Thanks!'

Election Day was one for the history books. It was also a day in which quick action from the PTA produced additional financial support and publicity for the school.

Thanks to the quick thinking of Shepherd mom Nayada Cowherd, several parents got together (almost overnight) to assemble a concessions table for hungry voters. With a PTA banner draped across the front, the table was set up by 7 am showcasing breakfast goodies, snacks, candy, fruit, and beverages all donated by generous parents.



The list of parents available to man the table throughout the day quickly grew. A small team of parents sold refreshments to and gabbed with energetic voters who didn't seem to mind the long voting lines.

It was a great day for meeting neighbors young and old, listening to sentimental stories from adults who had graduated from Shepherd long ago, and encouraging a greater bond between the school and the community.

The sale grossed \$250 which will be applied toward the support of upcoming PTA programs.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to all involved in making the table a success: Nayada Cowherd (the ring leader), Marci Bane, Jameelah Abdulmateen, Kim Barnette, Kimberly Brandon, Jaye Jones-Muhammad, Charisse Brossard, Donna Johnson-Harvey, Rhonda Smith, Lovell Saunders, Vikki Mont, and Beverley Games Toussaint.

~ Nayada Cowherd



Shepherd Elementary School

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Mrs. Jamie Miles, Principal — jamie.miles@dc.gov
Ms. Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant — robyna.brooks@dc.gov

The Mustang Newsletter Editors: Kimberly Brandon, Fred Lewis, Mark Pattison, and Matt Sullivan

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.

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