

## Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

A Special Thanksgiving Issue — Wednesday, November 26, 2008

### Upcoming Shepherd Events



Mark Your Calendars!

- 11/27-28: Thanksgiving Break** – School Closed
- 12/1: 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Forum**, 6-7:30 pm
- 12/2: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Forum**, 6-7:30 pm
- 12/3: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!)

## PTA Update

**Highlights from the November PTA Meeting, held last Wednesday:**

### Parent Volunteering at Shepherd

Parent involvement and volunteering is essential to get a more efficient and structured – and smarter and effective – classroom atmosphere to help teachers. We will have a Volunteering School Coordinator to work with teachers and parents on effective volunteering. Look soon for more news on this.

### Star Achievers Update

There is a waiting list for the Star Achievers Aftercare program. We are looking for additional staff so that we can accommodate more students in the program. The position is open to staff and community members. For details, call the school at 576-6140.

(See PTA, continued on page 2)

## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Dear Shepherd Family,

During this Thanksgiving holiday, it is important we take time to recognize and appreciate the many blessings bestowed upon us. On Thursday and Friday, school will not be in session. Please be safe and enjoy your time celebrating the season with family and friends.

### Holiday Concert

The annual “Holiday Concert” at Shepherd Elementary School will occur on Wednesday, December 10, at 6:45 pm. 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, 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.

### Parent Forums

Grade-specific parent forums will be held during the month of December. If you have questions or concerns you would like addressed, please email me at [Jamie.miles@dc.gov](mailto:Jamie.miles@dc.gov).

(See Principal, continued on page 2)



(Principal, continued from page 1)

**Thanksgiving Academic Enrichment (Things you can do with your child during the break)**

- Share a story with family.
- Create an invitation inviting friends/family to dinner.
- Write a story about how you and your family celebrate Thanksgiving..
- Allow your student to help with measurement and counting as you prepare the meal.
- Take your child shopping and let him/her estimate the amount of money needed to purchase the groceries.
- Allow your student to make the shopping list.
- Ask problem solving questions (i.e.: A dozen dinner rolls come in a pack. Thirteen people are coming to dinner. If I want each person to have at least two dinner rolls how many packs should I buy?).

**Volunteers (Are You Official?)**

Before anyone can volunteer at Shepherd or any DC Public School, they must bring the documents listed below to 825 N. Capitol Street, NE, 9<sup>th</sup> floor:

1. Tuberculosis (TB) Verification
2. Completed DCPS [Volunteer Application](#)
3. State issued photo identification

After all documents have been submitted you must also complete a fingerprinting clearance process. This is done onsite at DCPS headquarters on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor.

**Applications will NOT be processed without your ID and negative TB results.**

If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact the Volunteer Program at 202-442-5447 or send an email to [dcpsvolunteers@dc.gov](mailto:dcpsvolunteers@dc.gov).

Enjoy your break!  
Jamie Miles, Principal

(PTA, continued from page 1)

**Saturday Language Program**

If you want your child to take part in the proposed Saturday language instruction program, make your voice heard ASAP. The program is free to participants, but DCPS must have a minimum of fifty (50) participants enrolled in order to justify the allocation and expenditure of funds. To enroll your children, send an e-mail to [shepherdsurvey@yahoo.com](mailto:shepherdsurvey@yahoo.com).

**What? You haven't completed the form for the school directory!?!?**

Please complete the form ASAP if you would like to be included in the annual school directory. You can leave completed forms with Ms. Brooks or put them in the PTA box inside the school office.

**More Help Wanted: Classroom Parents**

We need classroom parents for Ms. Kinsler's, Ms. Thomas', and Ms. Gilmore's classrooms. If you have a child in one of those classrooms and can send e-mails to your fellow parents (among other things), please get in touch with Cara Biddle at [cbiddle@cnmc.org](mailto:cbiddle@cnmc.org), and she'll fill you in on the job.

*Wishing everyone a terrific Thanksgiving break!*

**Help Wanted: Interim PTA Officer**

PTA corresponding secretary Caroline Cooke-Vaughn is expecting a baby in December and will be unable to discharge the duties of corresponding secretary for at least the near future. Any parent interesting in serving in this officer's role on an interim basis should get in touch with PTA president Earl Yates at [yates.sespta@yahoo.com](mailto:yates.sespta@yahoo.com).



**Thanksgiving Crossword**

Fit all the words into this puzzle below

CORN  
MAIZE  
TURKEY

INDIANS  
MAYFLOWER  
THANKSGIVING

**Reader's Digest Contest:  
You May Already Have Won!**

This year's Reader's Digest Fall Fundraiser resulted in more than \$12,000 in sales – a great figure in a faltering economy. And here and now, we honor the top winners. Afia Tyus from Ms. Ulba's class was the school's top seller, with more than \$700 worth of items. She was awarded with a Dell desktop computer during the November 19 PTA meeting. And 21 children sold more than \$200 of items. That response was so good that it required a drawing, and Luke Jennings won second prize, a PlayStation. Another 21 children sold more than \$100 worth of items. This was so good that it required three drawing for names, and three students – Shantice Wade, Everett Keller and Malik Mills – each won their own Barnes & Noble gift card.

### 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 questions by Tuesday.

#### Turkey Day Trivia Questions:

- What is a female turkey called? \_\_\_\_\_
  - rooster
  - cuckoo
  - chick
  - hen
- What is a male turkey called? \_\_\_\_\_
  - larry
  - clark
  - harry
  - tom
- What sound does a female turkey make? \_\_\_\_\_
  - gobble
  - cluck
  - chirp
  - peep
- What sound does a male turkey make? \_\_\_\_\_
  - gobble
  - click
  - chirp
  - peep
- About how many feathers does a mature turkey have? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1,500
  - 2,000
  - 3,500
  - 5,000
- How fast can wild turkeys run? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 10 mph
  - 25 mph
  - 45 mph
  - 55 mph



Answer to last week's trivia question:

What year was the first Thanksgiving celebrated?

*The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621.*

**Parent-Teacher Conferences**  
**Monday December 8**  
*(no school for students)*

### Holiday Bazaar Update!

Last year's Holiday Bazaar was so successful that we're having it again this year! Now you'll be able to do some shopping without having to battle holiday traffic.



#### CHANGE IN LOGISTICS:

There is a Basketball Game (that we were not originally told about) taking place on Friday evening. Therefore, the Holiday Bazaar will not take place on Friday.

The Holiday Bazaar will now be held:

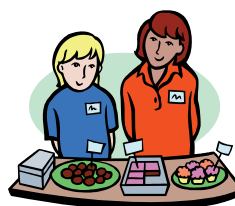
- Saturday, December 6, from noon to 6 pm
- Monday, December 8, from 10 am to 5 pm

Points of Contact for Questions/Information:

- Jaye Jones-Muhammad (Vendors) 202-327-3067  
[jjones\\_2704@yahoo.com](mailto:jjones_2704@yahoo.com)
- Chantale Swanson (Vendors) 202-422-1249  
[swanprncess75@aol.com](mailto:swanprncess75@aol.com)
- Tabatha McNeill (Concessions) 202-345-2304  
[tcmcneill@verizon.net](mailto:tcmcneill@verizon.net)
- Marcie Bane (Volunteers) 202-386-1840  
[marciebane@comcast.net](mailto:marciebane@comcast.net)
- Jameelah Abdulmateen (Concessions) 1-585-737-5766  
[jameelah101@hotmail.com](mailto:jameelah101@hotmail.com)

We need:

- Volunteers to coordinate activities and manage and work "The Children's Corner" while the adults shop.
- Volunteers to navigate guests to restroom and back to the auditorium.
- Volunteers to manage and work the concession and baked goods tables.
- Vendors with a sundry of gift items for sale.
- Bakers for home-made baked goods (whole and sliced) to donate for sale.
- Store-bought baked goods donations.
- Donations for the concession stand:
  - **BEEF** Hotdogs
  - **TURKEY** Hotdogs
  - We need whole wheat Hotdog buns
  - We need white Hotdog buns
  - Popcorn Kernels for the Popcorn Machine
  - Popcorn Butter/Oil for the Popcorn Machine
  - We need Beverages (water, soda, juice boxes and/or pouches)
  - Napkins
  - Condiments (Ketchup, Mustard, Relish)
  - Snack-size Chips, Pretzels, Cheese Puffs, etc.
  - Hot Chocolate



We are asking for Grades PK-2 to donate Baked Goods and for Grades 3-6 to donate the items needed for the concession stand.

Please contact Jameelah Abdulmateen and Tabatha McNeill to coordinate donations.

### Another Math Night? Do the Math!

The turnout and participation (and the reviews) were so good from this month's Math Night that the Local School Restructuring Team wants to do a repeat in the spring. The LSRT reported that 95 percent of the Shepherd Elementary faculty was on hand for Math Night – and they want to run the spring sequel as they believe that no outside help is needed.



Recognizing the valuable emphasis that this event gave to learning and using math, Shepherd parent Dr. Emmanuel Finn observed that teachers, parents, and students would also benefit from a "Science Night." Following the meeting, Dr. Finn volunteered to explore the possibilities for a Science Night, and to propose it to the principal, teachers, and parents as an activity to be held at Shepherd on a date to be determined.

### 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



**Have YOU joined the Shepherd PTA yet??**

### December is Grade-Level Parent Forums Month

The first-ever series of grade-level parent forums under Mrs. Miles, the principal, will begin right after Thanksgiving break. Parents of fifth- and sixth-graders meet Monday, December 1. Parents of third- and fourth-graders meet Tuesday, December 2. Parents of first- and second-graders meet Wednesday, December 3. Parents of students in pre-K and kindergarten meet (note new date) Thursday, December 11. All meetings will be held 6-7:30 pm at the school.

## Thanksgiving Word Search

R E L A T I V E S T I F S M F  
 P N R E U K S S N C H A O E A  
 X I E F B O B E T I L A A O S  
 O B L Z Y O L T U R K S N T D  
 W R Y G I C E T R E T P U K Y  
 T S E V R A H L K N Y F M L S  
 Y V A R G I M E E N F T I U N  
 S Q U A S H M R Y I W M A R P  
 F A L L P R A S N D A L O B A  
 R M H T N B A G C F A C E K I

- |         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| cook    | maize     |
| corn    | pilgrims  |
| dinner  | pumpkin   |
| fall    | relatives |
| family  | settlers  |
| feast   | squash    |
| food    | stuffing  |
| gravy   | thanks    |
| harvest | turkey    |



### 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.

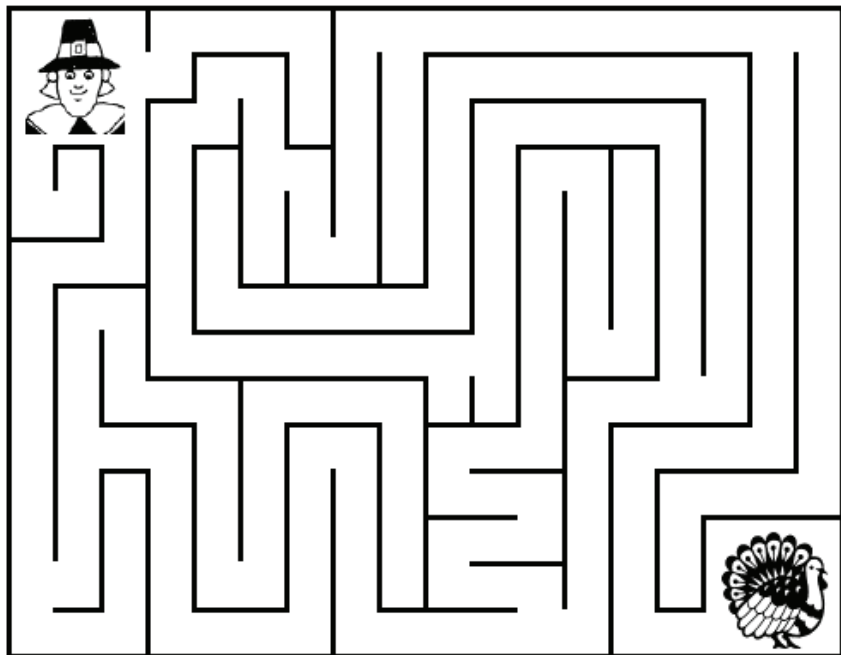
And don't forget to have your kids answer the weekly Trivia question! Winners names will be published here in *The Mustang*.

### Book Fair Was Not Just Fair, But Great

Shepherd Elementary grossed the largest amount ever for a Scholastic Book Fair, with \$6,162.72 in sales. From that, 30 percent goes to the school: \$1,848.62. Ms. Maria Scinto, our librarian, also managed to pull in an additional \$600 worth of books for our school for a mere \$300, so our final profit was \$1,548.62 plus \$600 worth of new books for the library. Congratulations and thanks to all of the buyers, all of the volunteers, and to Ms. Scinto for opening up the book fair early during Fall Fest.



Help the Pilgrim reach the Thanksgiving turkey.



### Thanksgiving Riddles

1. What kind of key has legs, but can't open doors?
2. Why didn't the turkey finish his dessert?
3. Why did the turkey cross the road?
4. Why did the pilgrim cross the road?
5. If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?



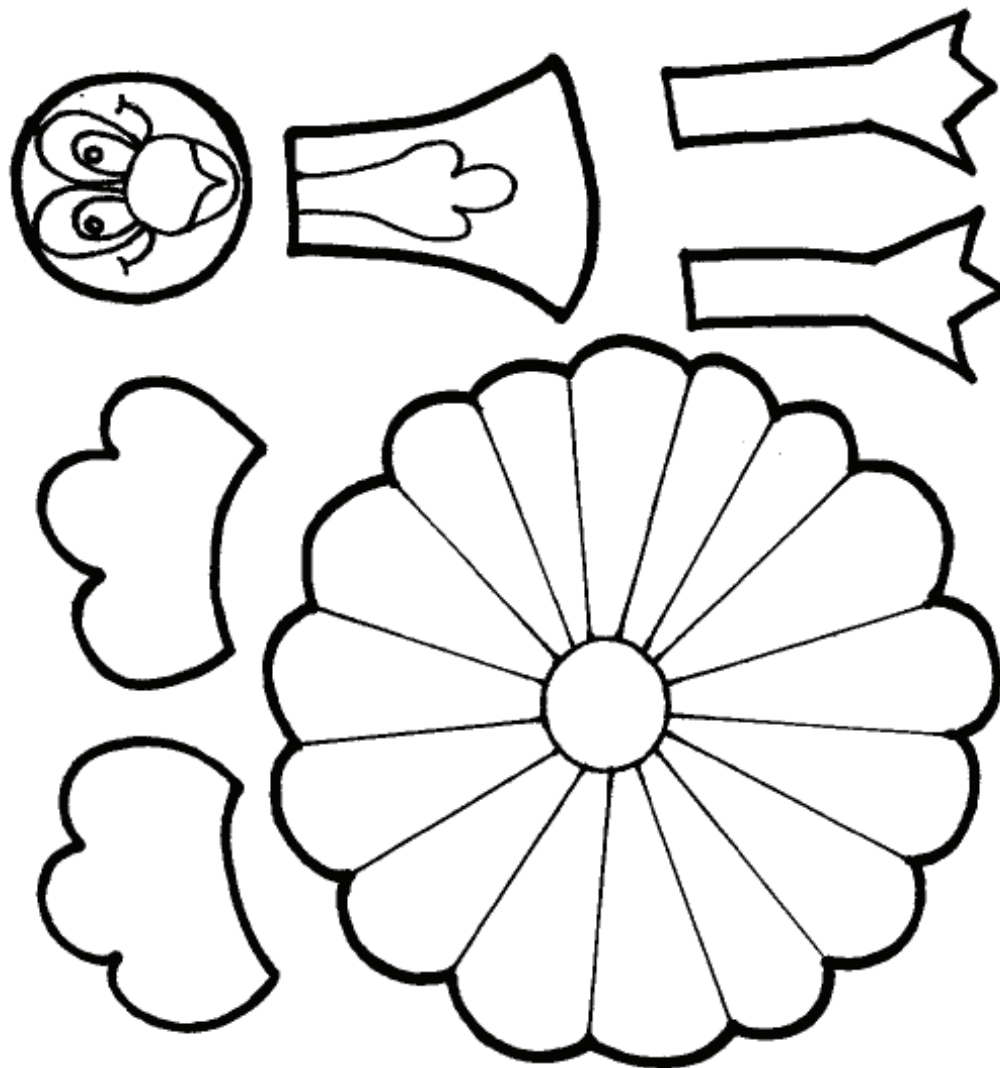
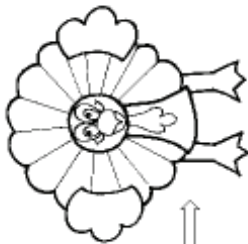
Answers:

1. A Turkey
2. Because he was stuffed
3. It was the chicken's day off
4. He was chasing the turkey
5. Pilgrims

### A Turkey to Color, Cut & Paste

Directions:

- 1: Color the parts of the turkey below.
2. Cut out the parts on the dark lines.
3. Glue the parts together to make a turkey! →



### Look Who's Coming...

Shepherd Elementary has received a new resource (special education) teacher effective Nov. 24.



The school is also getting a permanent full-time physical education teacher. Our new phys. ed. teacher will begin after the Thanksgiving break.

As these new hires are flanking the Thanksgiving holiday, this is the perfect opportunity for parents to talk turkey with them.

### Box Tops Happy Holidays Collection Contest

Turn in your Box Tops into the Collection Box in the Main Office anytime between now and December 16. Collection sheets and contest information can be found in the Files section of the PTA listserv and in the brochure holder outside the Main Office. Remember: Keep clipping Box Tops for Shepherd Elementary School!!



Box Tops Contest Deadline:



**Tuesday, December 16**

### Would You Like to See *The Mustang* in Color? Or Read it Electronically? Want to See Past Issues of *The Mustang*?

Each week, *The Mustang* is uploaded to the files area of the PTA listserv. Join the listserv and click to read.

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Shepherd\\_Elementary\\_PTA/files/%22The%20Mustang%22/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Shepherd_Elementary_PTA/files/%22The%20Mustang%22/)



### Tis the C-Son' in Silver Spring

Enjoy concerts, carriage rides, cocoa and cookies, crafts and a coat drive in Downtown Silver Spring in a series of winter-themed activities that capture the holiday spirit and take advantage of the alliteration. "Tis the C-Son" events will be held on Ellsworth Drive beginning November 30.

To whet your appetite for the holidays, Eggspectation, a restaurant at 923 Ellsworth Drive, will host breakfasts with Santa Claus from 8:00-11:00 am on November 30 and December 21.

The fun continues 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm on December 6 and December 20, and 2:30 pm to 7:00 pm on December 13 with a "C-Son Celebration." The December 6 celebration will include free horse-drawn carriage rides, children's crafts hosted by Create Arts and performances from the Capital Accord Chorus and the Takoma Park singers. The December 13 event will also include carriage rides, crafts from Pyramid Atlantic, a performance of the "Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," a sing-along with Frosty the Snowman and a performance by the Jazz Trio. On December 20 the Montgomery Blair High School String Quartet and the Blair Chamber Choir will perform along with a concert from School Girls Unite. Crafts from the clothing store marimekko will be available, as well.

Between December 1 and December 20, Downtown Silver Spring will hold a coat drive to benefit Interfaith Works, a Montgomery County community ministry that serves low-income residents.

For more information contact Laurie Yankowski at 301-587-0867 or visit [www.downtownsilverspring.com](http://www.downtownsilverspring.com).

### Lost and Found

Is your child missing a hat, coat, sweater, lunch box or book bag? 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.



### 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@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Shepherd_Elementary_PTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).



### Shepherd Elementary School

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