

Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, December 5, 2008

Upcoming Shepherd Events



Mark Your Calendars!

- 12/6 and 12/8: Holiday Bazaar** (see times below)
- 12/8: NO SCHOOL** (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- 12/10: Holiday Music Concert**, 6:45 pm
- 12/11: Pre-K and Kindergarten Parent Meeting**, 6-7:30 pm (Note new date for Pre-K and K!)
- 12/22- 1/2: Winter Break—NO SCHOOL**
- 1/5: Welcome Back from Winter Break**

Shepherd PTA 2nd Annual Holiday Bazaar

Crafts, Gifts, and Baked Goods

Come One! Come All!
Shop for all your Hanukah, Christmas
and Kwanzaa presents

There's bound to be something you
can't resist! Do some of your personal
and holiday shopping and
support our school at the same time!

Expected vendor items include: custom jewelry,
aromatherapy, hand painted items, baby clothes, Avon
products, scarves and handbags, international artifacts,
candles, handcrafted pins, health-wellness products, chil-
dren's books, high-end electronics, and Ipod accessories.

When:
Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008 — 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Monday, Dec. 8, 2008 — 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Where:
Shepherd Elementary School Auditorium
7800 14th St, NW 20012 (Entrance on Jonquil St.)

Admission is FREE!

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Dear Shepherd Family,

I hope each of you had a nice holiday and enjoyed time relaxing with family and friends. As we prepare to close out the first part of the school year, please continue to reflect with your student(s) daily. Ask your student(s) the following questions: What did you learn today? How do you know you learned what was taught? What things did you do to help you learn? Each afternoon teachers and students are encouraged to go through this exercise. Some teachers have already taken the next step and are reflecting at the end of each lesson. This type of exercise encourages teachers to look closely at what they are doing and reflect on their instructional practices. It also encourages students to be reflective practitioners. As a former teacher, if my students were unable to answer the questions, I had to find out why and figure out what I needed to do differently.

The new schedule was implemented Monday, December 1, 2008. The new schedule allows time for teachers to sit with their colleagues and engage in meaningful dialogue. During these meetings teachers are to look at student work, discuss instructional challenges, share their successes, generate ideas and strategies to help our students meet their full academic potential. These are not business meetings.

DIBELS Reports

This week students in grades K-3 received their DIBELS reports. These reports show you how your student is progressing in reading according to the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) assessment. Attached to the report, you will also find a list of recommended strategies/activities you can complete with your student at home. If you have specific questions about your child's progress please contact your child's teacher. General questions about DIBELS can be sent to Ms. Moorefield, our Literacy Professional Developer. Ms. Moorfield's email address is crystal.moorefield@dc.gov.

Terrific Kids

On Tuesday we honored 36 Terrific Kids at Shepherd Elementary. These honorees were for the months of September – November. Members of the Kiwanis club were present to help make the day special for our students. We are very proud of our students and look forward to recognizing 12 more Terrific Kids next month. A list of the 36 Terrific Kids is on page 5.

(See Principal, continued on page 2)



(Principal, *continued from page 1*)

Midterm Progress Reports/Parent Conference Day

This week you should have received midterm progress reports from your child's teacher. These reports are provided to help keep you informed about your child's progress. If you have questions, please contact your child's teacher. You are also encouraged to discuss your child's progress during parent/teacher conferences.

Parent/Teacher Conferences day is scheduled for December 8, 2008. We are striving for 100% participation.

Parent Meetings

This week, I met with 1st-6th grade parents. During these meetings, we looked at the new schedule, talked about language at Shepherd, and where we are in the PYP authorization process. We also did some reflection activities. Our last parent meeting will be held on December 11th for our Pre-K and K parents. A summary of the meetings will be shared in the December 19th edition of *The Mustang*. There will also be handouts available in the front office for those of you who were unable to attend.

Language Instruction Afterschool

Before Winter break, you will be receiving additional information about afterschool and Saturday language instruction. The level of interest has been high. If you are interested in afterschool and/or Saturday language instruction in French or Spanish, it is not too late to submit your information. If interested, please email Shepherdsurvey@yahoo.com. In your email please include your name, your student(s) name, grade, classroom teacher, and language interest. If things go as planned, we will begin in January.

Physical Education

Today is the last day for our interim PE teacher Mr. Kirk Saulny. We truly appreciate him and the things he has done to help keep PE at Shepherd alive and well. He will be missed as our PE teacher; however, Mr. Saulny will continue as the boys' basketball coach and an active parent.

Mr. Jarrett Burgess is our new fulltime PE teacher. His first day will be Monday. Mr. Burgess took time out of his schedule this week to visit the school and observe PE classes in action. We welcome Mr. Burgess and I am confident he will be a great addition to the Shepherd family.

(Continued in next column)

Help Wanted: Interim PTA Officer

PTA corresponding secretary Caroline Cooke-Vaughn is expecting a baby this month 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.

(Continued from previous column)

Inclement Weather

On cold (below freezing or very near, depending on the wind chill factor), rainy and/or snowy days, students will gather inside the auditorium during morning drop-off. Students should enter through the blue doors that lead into the auditorium. If your student is in before-care and/or eats breakfast at school, they should enter through the back playground door.

On days when students are gathering in the auditorium, there will be yellow caution signs and/or flags posted on the front gates and in other pertinent areas. The auditorium doors will be open indicating students are assembling inside.

Please be reminded that parking on the west side of the 7800 block of 14th Street is prohibited. This is a drop-off zone. Parents/caretakers are to pull to the curb, let their child out and drive away. Cars should not be left unattended. Staff members will be stationed on the sidewalk to help ensure students are transitioned safely to their designated areas. Please do not park and leave your car unattended along the 7800 block of 14th Street. This creates many safety concerns.

Thanks for all you do!

Warmest regards,
Jamie Miles

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.

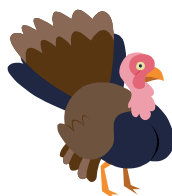
Trivia Question:

What is the most popular Christmas plant and the number one flowering potted plant in the United States?



Answer to last week's trivia questions:

1. A female turkey called a hen.
2. A male turkey called a tom.
3. A female turkey makes a cluck sound.
4. A male turkey makes a gobble sound.
5. A mature turkey has about 3,500 feathers.
6. A wild turkey can run 25 mph.



Shepherd IB-PYP Corner

The IB Learner Profile, Part III

Update: During the past two weeks we have accomplished the following activities toward IB authorization:

- Principal Miles, Ms. Moorefield, Ms. Kinsler, and Ms. Tucker experienced a very informative and stimulating visit to the lower campus of the Washington International School (WIS) on November 21. This is a private school in Northwest DC. The group visited classroom and dialogued with students, teachers, and the IB Coordinator at WIS. We gained lots of ideas and written materials on instructional strategies that will help us move forward in developing PYP classrooms.
- A visit for Shepherd administrators and instructional staff to another PYP school in our area, College Gardens ES in Rockville, MD is confirmed for January 23, 2009.
- On November 28, during the collaborative planning time period, Ms. Tucker met with Shepherd's full faculty for the first time. She shared an action plan for getting the tasks done that will lead to IB authorization and had Ms. Moorefield share her impressions and lessons learned at WIS.
- The grade level parent meetings that Principal Miles began this week on December 1, 2 and 3 included a presentation on the IB PYP and each parent's role in supporting this program at Shepherd.



PYP Lesson of the Week:

This week we continue our introduction of the attributes in the IB Learner Profile by sharing the fifth and sixth attributes.

IB learners strive to be:

- **Principled:** *They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.*
- **Open-minded:** *They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individual and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.*

Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. How well do we model empathy, compassion and respect for others in our classrooms and around the school?
2. Can the solution to a problem in our community be fair and just for one segment of the community and unfair or unjust for another segment of the same community? If so, how should final decisions be made? Try to think of a concrete example of this and how it was handled. Do you think it was handled correctly or incorrectly and why?
3. What kinds of things can you do at home to help your child/children become more open-minded?

~ Patricia L. Tucker & Jamie Miles

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??***

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Literacy Corner

Beginning and Emerging Readers:

When helping your child read at home, several strategies may be used to aid in decoding unknown words.

1. Tell the child to look at the picture. You may tell the child the word is something that can be seen in the picture, if that is the case.
2. Tell the child to look for chunks in the word, such as **it** in sit, **at** in mat, or **and** and **ing** in standing.
3. Ask the child to get his/her mouth ready to say the word by shaping the mouth for the beginning letter.
4. Ask the child if the word looks like another word s/he knows. Does **bed** look like **red?**, for example.
5. Ask the child to go on and read to the end of the sentence. Often by reading the other words in context, the child can figure out the unknown word.
6. If the child says the wrong word while reading, ask questions like:

- Does it make sense?
- Does it sound right?
- Does it look right?



All Readers:

Strategy: Rereading

There are many things which will help your child develop fluency. Encourage him to reread several pieces of text that he/she feels comfortable with. Each time he/she rereads the piece, the reading will become more comfortable and make your child more sure of himself. These "practice" pieces of text will make your child feel good and confident about his/her reading. Encourage rereading during and after reading a new piece. **Please have your child read aloud to you frequently!!!**

Students: How Rereading Can Help You

- Understand hard words.
- Find things you did not find before.
- Help the story make sense.
- Make it more interesting.
- Help you memorize if you need to for a contest.
- Make you a better reader.
- Find words and sentences you skipped.
- Keep reading a part over and you'll get it.
- Make reading more fun because you go over the best parts.

A pretty terrific list! Rereading helps to support comprehension!

~ Crystal Moorefield, Literacy Professional Developer

Standard of the Week

Primary Problem

Use the number grid below. Find the distance from the first number to the second number. Start at the first number and count the number of spaces moved to reach the second number. Did you add or subtract? Write a math number sentence for each problem.

51	53	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	68	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110

1. 53 and 101 _____
2. 69 and 99 _____
3. 106 and 88 _____
4. 107 and 57 _____
5. 72 and 53 _____

Intermediate Problem

The first four numbers of Sari's pattern are: 5, 7, 11, 19, ...

Each number after the first number is found by multiplying the previous number by 2 and then subtracting 3.

What will be the sixth term in Sari's pattern? _____

Explain your work using numbers and words.

Terrific Kids Award

Every month, the Shepherd Park-Takoma Kiwanis Club honors students in each classroom from pre-K through third grade with the "Terrific Kid" award. The students are chosen by the teachers. Each "Terrific Kid" gets a folder explaining the meaning of the award and a bumper sticker for their parents. The Terrific Kids assembly is generally held on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:15 am in the school auditorium. The Terrific Kids for the first three months of this school year (Sept., Oct., and Nov.) were recognized at an assembly this past Tuesday. These *Terrific Kids* are:

Pre-K — Mrs. Gibbs' class

- Nana Sissoko (September)
- Ashton Kodjo (October)
- David Okechukwu (November)

Pre-K — Ms. Holt's class

- Masai Jenkins (September)
- Madeline Lewis (October)
- Anaya Harrington (November)

Pre-K — Ms. LaPenna's class

- Jasmyn Brothers (September)
- Daniel Martin (October)
- Quin Montgomery (November)

Kindergarten — Mr. Byers' class

- Courtney White (September)
- Mia Heyward (October)
- Ashford Conner III (November)

Kindergarten — Ms. Kuawogai's class

- Alanna Finn (September)
- Madison Swanson (October)
- Tony Wilson (November)

Kindergarten — Ms. Miller's class

- Sasha Abebe (September)
- Khirah George (October)
- Miles Davis (November)

First Grade — Mrs. Crockett

- Rasheda White (September)
- Colyar Trimble (October)
- Gregory Jones (November)

First Grade — Mrs. Kinsler

- Brooklyn Jenkins (September)
- Gretchen Hoff (October)
- Tolani Smith (November)

Second Grade — Ms. Johnson

- Christianna Noble (September)
- Mattie Melnyk (October)
- Colin Powell (November)

Second Grade — Ms. Thurber

- Akiri Brown (September)
- Kadija Cash-Taylor (October)
- Sari Finn (November)

Third Grade — Ms. Chambliss

- Philemon Powell (September)
- Justice Page (October)
- Theo Biddle (November)

Third Grade — Ms. Thomas

- Sekai Bonner-Flagg (September)
- Gregory Haggray (October)
- Jasmine Barrow (November)



Open House Reminders for 5th & 6th Grade Parents



Deal Middle School

- Tuesday 12/16/2008: Deal Open House, 9 am – 3 pm
- Wednesday 1/7/09: 6th grade transition coffee chat, from 9-10 am (room N101).

5th Graders will be invited to Deal MS in the Spring 2009 for an Open House which will include tour of the school and lunch for ½ day.

Hardy Middle School

- Wednesday, 12/10/08: Open House, 9-11 am
- Wednesday, 1/14/09: Open House, 9-11 am (Call Hardy at 202-698-3885 for more information.)

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!

Box Tops Contest Deadline:

Tuesday, December 16



The Mustang is for Parents & 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*.



Community Events

French Bazaar

Saturday, **December 6**, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wesley Theological Seminar
4500 Mass Ave.nue, NW



Come and join us for a fun time at the French Bazaar, featuring French and African Food, music and Christmas songs, multiple vendor stands, raffle, and silent auction:

- **Les Bouquinistes:** hundreds of books in French and English. Great place to shop for holiday gifts for your French student!
- **Kiosque de la Gare:** French journals, newspapers, greeting cards, etc.
- **Le Marché de Mokolo:** flea market, jewelry
- **Esprit de Noël:** hand-crafted Christmas items by local French-speaking artisans
- **L'Arche de Noé:** games for kids...
- **Au Petit Papa Noël:** ... and toys for children
- **Restaurant Tohan'aina:** French and African meal plates including "Boeuf bourguignon" for \$8.
- **La Marquise de Sévigné:** French and American pastries and waffles made during the day

Free entrance for members of the Alliance Francais. (There may be a nominal admission charge for non-members.) Event sponsored by the Alliance Francais. For more information, go to www.francedc.org.

Family Gift-Making Workshop

A Family Gift-making Workshop will be held, for children 2 years and older, on **December 6** from 10 am–1 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 4900 Connecticut Avenue NW. Local artists will be on hand to assist. Questions? Contact Regina at reggieart123@yahoo.com.

Classes and Camps at CREATE Arts Center

- December Gift Workshop — **12/9 & 12/16**, 4:00–5:30 pm, 7-12 year olds, using clay, create a unique piece of pottery or sculpture and wrap it in your own gift wrap.
- Winter Break Arts Camp, 12/22-1/2 (two 1-week sessions, shorter times possible if space is available; no camp 12/25 & 1/1), 6-12 year olds.
- One Day Camps on these no school days, 12/8, 1/19, 1/20.
- New afterschool & weekend classes start 1/11.

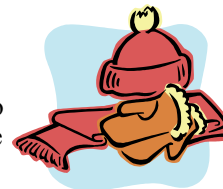
Register online at www.createartscenter.org. CREATE Arts Center is located in downtown Silver Spring.

December Music Concerts

Looking for a way to celebrate the holidays for FREE? Take the family to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts where the DC Youth Orchestra will have their (free!) DCYO Holiday Concert at the Millennium Stage on Friday, **December 12** at 6:00 pm. If you are looking for something closer to home, take the kids to the DCYO Intermediate Level Concert on Sunday, **December 14**, at 4:00 pm at Coolidge High School Auditorium (6315 5th Street NW). This is a great way to expose the children to the joys of classical and jazz music. Young children really enjoy the performance since they can sit close to the stage and watch the musician play and watch their peers play wind and brass instruments. The program usually lasts just over an hour.

Last Call for 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.



Thanks for the Juice Pouches!

At this point, we have concluded our pilot program for juice pouch recycling. We are no longer collecting juice pouches at this time.



We will let you know when/if we start another juice pouch recycling effort at Shepherd.

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.

Past Issues of The Mustang are Online

Would you like to read *The Mustang* electronically? Need to refer back to a past issue? 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/

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Monday December 8

(no school for students)



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.