

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, December 19, 2008

Upcoming Shepherd Events



Mark Your Calendars!

- 12/22 – 1/2: Winter Break—NO SCHOOL
- 1/5: Welcome Back from Winter Break
- 1/19 – Martin Luther King Day—NO SCHOOL
- 1/20 – Inauguration Day—NO SCHOOL
- 1/23 – Early Dismissal, 12:15 pm (no aftercare)
- 1/24 – Saturday Language Classes begin



A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Dear Shepherd Family,

It is hard to believe this is the last issue of *The Mustang* before we welcome 2009. Time has passed quickly. It seems like yesterday when I walked through the door as principal at Shepherd Elementary for the very first time. It has been an exciting two months and I look forward to many more.

Parent Grade Level Meetings

Parent grade level meetings were held during the month of December. The purpose of the meetings was to let parents know where we are, where we need to go, and plans for getting there. The next meetings will be held in January. A phone message will be sent during the break with the days and times. We will also post the announcement on the listserv. In the next few issues of *The Mustang*, I will share with you information from the December meetings.

December's Parent Grade-Level Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Purpose
- Activity: A Look at the Big Picture
- Language Instruction at Shepherd
- A Look at the New Schedule
- General Announcements
- Introduction to the Primary Year Program (PYP) including General information about the International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization and Programs
- Activity-What Makes a Great School?
- One Way Conversation
- Closure

One activity participants completed or were asked to think about was: *What Makes a Great School*. Attendees were divided into groups and asked to define what makes a great school. Afterwards they worked with their group members to brainstorm what they feel is working at Shepherd and what things can be done differently. Participants were given 5 main areas to focus their discussion: curriculum, instruction, safety, homework and communication; however, they were also encouraged to add to the list.

What are your thoughts? If you would like input please send an email to Shepherdsurvey@yahoo.com. I would love to hear from you. In the next edition of *The Mustang*, I will share things shared with me. Please keep your answers short and school wide. Please do not focus on a particular teacher.

(See Principal, continued on page 2)



PTA Announces 'Obama-Mania' Membership Sprint

See Page 2 for Details

(Principal, *continued from page 1*)

Saturday Language

It is not too late. If you are interested in language instruction in French or Spanish on Saturday, please send an email to shepherdsurvey@yahoo.com. The tentative start day is January 24, 2008. Classes will be hands-on activities to help develop listening and speaking skills. Parents are invited!

Winter Break Packets

This week your child was given a winter break packet in reading and/or math (Pre-K -2: reading only; 3rd -6th: reading and math). This work is due upon your child's return to school on Monday, January 5, 2009. Please set aside some time each day during the winter break for your child to work on this assignment.

In closing, thank you for all you do to help make Shepherd a great place. I wish each of you a joyous holiday season. Please be safe and careful. I will see you in 2009.

Warmest regards,
Jamie Miles



New Year's Resolution for 2009 for SES Parents and Students:

0 Tardies

*School starts on time;
it is important that your children
arrive **ON TIME.***

PTA Membership 'Sprint' Dovetails With Obama's Election & Inaugural

Because of the excitement felt by virtually everyone at Shepherd Elementary over the election of Barack Obama, the Shepherd PTA is conducting a membership "sprint" – called that because it's only going to last barely one month.



Starting NOW, and continuing through the PTA meeting scheduled for the evening of January 21, you can join the PTA for only \$44. That's because Barack Obama will become the 44th president of the United States.

And because Obama captured 365 electoral votes in the November election, you can pay \$365 toward the Family Enrichment Fee and be considered fully "enriched."

Of course, any contribution beyond \$365 is welcomed. And so is any Family Enrichment Fee payment less than \$365. These fees help pay for a several things DCPS hasn't budgeted for, but what we parents consider essentials, including Ms. Noel as our math tutor and Madame Agoussi as a French aide.

Better still, whatever Family Enrichment Fee payment you make this year can be used as a deduction on your income taxes. Although 2008 is drawing to a close, you can still drop a check made out to "Shepherd Elementary PTA" in the PTA box inside the school's main office before the start of the winter break. If you somehow forget about it until the break begins, the tax deduction is still good if you date your check in 2008 and mail it to Shepherd Elementary School, 7800 14th St. NW, Washington, DC 20012. In any event, make sure you write "Family Enrichment Fee" on the memo line.

Remember that this membership sprint runs through January 21, the day after Obama's inauguration.

And there will be prizes, too! The classroom with the greatest percentage of parents who have joined the PTA will win a pizza party. In case of a tie, the tie-breaker will be the greatest percentage of families who have made contributions to the Family Enrichment Fee. All PTA memberships and Family Enrichment Fee contributions dating to the start of the school year will be included when tallying the numbers for the contest.

If you have any questions, call PTA Recording Secretary Mark Pattison at 829-9289, or e-mail him at pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

Shepherd IB-PYP Corner

The IB Learner Profile, Part V

Update:

This week, Ms. Tucker and Principal Miles began meeting with teachers in grade level and subject area groups to discuss the strategies and timeline for accomplishing the major tasks in the PYP authorization process. They also introduced some aspects of inquiry-based teaching. Over the next few weeks, teachers will be trying out in their classroom some of the critical thinking activities that they learned about this week.

In early January, teachers will begin aligning social studies and science topics with the six PYP themes and will begin constructing their first PYP “unit of inquiry.” The PYP lesson in the first newsletter of 2009 will focus on the unit of inquiry.

PYP Lesson of the Week:

This week we conclude our look at the IB Learner Profile by examining the final two attributes:

IB learners strive to be:

Balanced: *They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.*

Reflective: *They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.*

Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. Why might it be difficult for someone to reflect honestly on what they do? What might happen?
2. Is it difficult to allow adequate time for students to reflect on an assessment task or activity and what they learned from it? If so, why is allowing time for this so difficult?
3. How can parents (or the student) determine whether the student has achieved “balance?”

(Remember, these are all open-ended questions. They have no right or wrong answers. If you discuss these questions with your child, be sure to tailor the vocabulary as needed.)

~ Patricia L. Tucker & Jamie Miles



Help Wanted: Position Filled

Over the past few weeks, we had been asking Shepherd parents to consider serving on an interim basis as PTA corresponding secretary, as Caroline Vaughn-Cooke was having a baby. Well, as it turns out, Caroline had a baby boy the morning of December 14. Congratulations to Caroline! And congratulations to Lawanda Tyus, who has stepped up and volunteered to take on the role of PTA corresponding secretary until Caroline feels fit enough to resume her duties.

Box Tops Happy Holidays Collection Contest

Thanks to everyone who turned in Box Tops for the Happy Holidays Collection Contest.

The total raised during this contest, as well as the class that turned in the most box tops, will be announced in the January 9 *Mustang*. Prizes for all contributors will be distributed after the Winter Break.



Our next Box Tops collection contest will be announced in late January. So, remember:

**Keep clipping
Box Tops for
Shepherd!**



Literacy Corner

Over the holiday break, read a good book!
Here are some suggestions:

Books for Pre-K

- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?* by Bill Martin, Jr.
- *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister
- *Corduroy* by Don Freeman

Books for Children Ages 4-8

- *Amelia Bedelia* by Peggy Parish
- *The Art Lesson* by Tomie De Paola
- *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina
- *Clifford, the Big Red Dog* by Norman Bridwell
- *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert N. Munsch

Books for Children Ages 9-12

- *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* by Louis Sachar
- *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume

Have a safe and happy holiday season!!!



~ Crystal Moorefield, Literacy Professional Developer

happy  hanukkah

Problem of the Week

On Wednesday or Thursday of this week, student(s) received *Winter Break* homework packets in reading (primary) and in reading and math (secondary). Packets are due the first day students return to school after the winter break (January 5, 2009). Please set time aside throughout the break to complete these packets with your student(s). We do not want students to lose momentum during the break.



What is Crucial to **Your** Child's Success?

Be an *involved* parent! Join the PTA. Volunteer for school activities and events. Contribute financially. *All* of these things will contribute to the success of *your* child and Shepherd.



Student Corner

The Dancing Kid

By Noah Hinnant, 3rd grade

Once upon a time there was a kid named Quincy. He lived in California. He was a very handsome kid and had a great sense of humor. His favorite song was "I'm Going Back to Cali." His second favorite song was "Welcome to DC."

His uncle was the manager of the band. He talked his uncle into letting him dance at the shows. He made the deal so he would get paid \$4,000 for every 10 shows. But the catch was he had to share the money with his sister Grace. He wasn't sure why he had to share but his parents always told him to share with his sister.

He never did get any money because what he didn't tell his uncle was he didn't know how to dance!



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/

Have YOU joined the Shepherd PTA yet??



Have You Witnessed Greatness? Tell Us About It

Shepherd Elementary teachers, language instructors and support staff work tirelessly to provide quality education at our school. But sometimes their good deeds go unnoticed.

We'd like to change that!



If you have noticed a teaching approach, effective style or particular event that is helping your child have a wonderful educational experience at Shepherd ,please write a letter telling us about it and the effect it has had on your child or family. The letter will be read at a PTA meeting in the presence of the teacher. The letter will be then placed in the teacher's file to have a positive impact on his/her employment record.

To nominate your child's teacher, please send an email to LSRT Chair, Rhonda Davis Smith at championco@aol.com.

~ Rhonda Davis Smith, LSRT Chair 2008-2009

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:

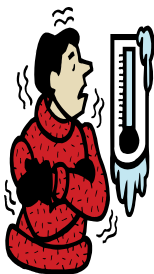
Canada, the U.K., and most other Commonwealth countries officially celebrate the day after Christmas as a holiday. What is the holiday called?



Answer to last week's trivia question:

What is the coldest temperature ever recorded in Washington, DC?

After a snowstorm left a foot of snow over the city on February 8, 1899, a record cold wave struck. On February 11, the temperature dipped to -15F in the District. It was followed by a second great storm called "The Great Valentine's Day Blizzard" which dumped another 20.5 inches of snow. That year DC saw a record 54 inches of snow.



Last Week's Standard of the Week Intermediate Problem Answer

From top to bottom, the flavors are:



Volunteers, Donors & Shoppers Make Holiday Bazaar a Success

The Shepherd Elementary PTA Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale, held December 6 and 8 in the school auditorium, was a success and we couldn't have done it without you. Our volunteers and donors heard the call and answered. Our shoppers opened their pockets and shopped locally. Everyone braved not only the insanity of their own daily lives, but also the cold, wind and snow that filled the day.

The event brought in a net profit of \$940. Here's the breakdown: the bazaar grossed \$835 with \$115 in accounts receivable; the bake sale grossed \$528; gift wrap grossed \$25 (in donations). The total gross was \$1,388 with \$448 in expenses.

The bazaar offered shoppers a variety of items including electronic games and entertainment systems; designer handbags and jewelry; aroma therapeutic oils; green products; hand-painted baby clothes; international artifacts; stationery gifts; culturally conscious and fashionable clothing; Obama memorabilia, including knit hats sold by an entrepreneurial primary school student from the neighborhood; hair accessories; Positive Energy Pins; Gift Card Gift Books; food and more.

Please send your feedback and comments on what worked, what didn't and what could be done better to Jaye Jones Muhammad at jrjones_2704@yahoo.com.

Thank you, again, to all Shepherd families and community members who supported this effort by purchasing items from participating merchants.

~ Jaye Jones Muhammad

Thank you to all that participated in the Holiday Bazaar. But thank you most of all to the following folks (and anyone I may have missed):

Our volunteers:

Carole Mulholland
 Cara Biddle
 Lisa Connor
 Judith McCullough
 Lindsey (Tabitha's Dad)
 Katherine Trimble
 Caroline Vaughn-Cooke
 Sophia Albamonte
 (former SES student)
 Heather Languille
 (former SES parent)
 Beverley Garnes Toussaint
 Deana Thomas
 Kimberly Brandon
 Tyana Swanson (SES student)
 Earl Yates

Our Bazaar Committee:

Chantale Swanson
 Tabatha McNeill
 Jameelah Abdulmateen
 Marcie Bane
 Jaye Jones Muhammad

Our donors:

Heather Languille
 (former SES parent)
 Vikki Mont
 Cara Biddle
 Judith McCullough
 Emilie Sullivan
 Sarah Potter
 Sharon Bowman
 Tatiana Escobar
 Mike Imbroscio
 Lisa Connor
 Yasmine Lewis-White
 Earl Yates
 Stuart Peacock
 Carol Mulholland
 Nicole Reece
 Marnie Keller
 Amber Romine
 Jack Marrkand
 Noreen Conway (SES neighbor)
 Patsy Ann Rasmussen

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*.

Holiday Events Abound in Silver Spring

Downtown Silver Spring will host a variety of holiday events in Silver Spring as part of a series titled, "Tis the C-Son," which will include concerts, carriage rides, cocoa and cookies, crafts and a coat drive.

From 8 am to 11 am Sunday, Eggspectation will hold a breakfast with Santa Claus. Eggspectation is located at 923 Ellsworth Drive in Silver Spring.

From 2:30 pm to 5 pm Saturday, a "C-Son Celebration" event will be held in downtown Silver Spring.

The Saturday event also will 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 Saturday, the Montgomery Blair High School String Quartet and the Blair Chamber Choir will perform along in a concert with School Girls Unite. Crafts from marimekko will be available

Through Saturday, Downtown Silver Spring will hold a coat drive to benefit Interfaith Works, a Montgomery County community ministry that serves low income citizens on the county.

For more information contact Laurie Yankowski at 301-587-0867 or visit www.downtownsilverspring.com.



LSRT Recognizes and 'TAPs' THREE SES Faculty Members

The Shepherd Elementary Local School Restructuring Team's (LSRT) monthly Teacher Appreciation Program (TAP) honors continued at last week's LSRT meeting, with THREE teachers being honored. These honors were announced during Wednesday's PTA meeting. Good things are happening at Shepherd! Congratulations to Mr. Byers, Mrs. Crockett, and Mr. Leonard!

Here's the letter written in support of **Mr. Byers**:

In the Thanksgiving Week edition of his weekly newsletter, Mr. Bruce Byers said, "As I reflect on the holiday, I am very thankful for my supportive parents and especially thankful for my wonderful students!" The same goes for all of us.

Mr. Byers uses every moment with his students as a teaching moment -- from instructions to "stand straight and strong with your arms at your side" mornings when his class was lining up next to the fence where the trailers were during the window replacement effort for the first two months of school, to playing counting games that require the use of logic (though a kindergartner would never know that!) on the playground while waiting for parents to pick up their children.

Each week we look forward to reading his weekly newsletters. They detail the theme for the week, outline the teaching goals, and what he plans to introduce in the week ahead. It provides parents with specific information on what our kids are working on that week and how we can do to build on the activities in the classroom at home.

In the classroom, Mr. Byers uses music, games, and creative play to teach. The morning routine is just one example: each day one the students take turns doing different assignments including the calendar, weather, and counting the number of days in school. Students share news of the day with each other, say the alphabet including sounds for each letter and count by 1, 2's, 5's or 10's.

Our class had a rough start to the school year with all the problems around assigning a teacher and funding for the third kindergarten class. Mr. Byers had only a couple of days' notice that he would be teaching kindergarten, but with guitar in hand, taught his new students four new songs in the first 40 minutes of class. His integration of music in the classroom has struck a positive chord with one parent's daughter, who loves to sing their class songs at home. The girl's mom is also impressed with her interest in reading on her own and her consistent usage of the pointing and sounding methods Mr. Byers has used in teaching the students.

Another mom reports being in the classroom on the day that the children were writing their first journal entries. She told her son how proud she was that he just kept trying, even though he didn't exactly know how to spell the words he was writing. He told his mom he didn't even know that he wasn't spelling things correctly. "Although that may not seem like a good thing, it demonstrates a confidence in writing that he has picked up in Mr. Byers' classroom," this mom says. "That no-fear attitude will keep his creativity front and center."

At the beginning of the year, a parent from another grade stopped one of us in the hallway and said, "Aren't you excited you have Mr. Byers?" Over the past few months, we all un-

derstand her enthusiasm and realize that we are indeed very lucky to have such a creative and dedicated teacher.

Judith McCullough and Mark Pattison; Yasmin Lewis-White and Eric White; Sharon Jackson Bowman; Lisa and Ashford Connor, Jr.; Nicole and Andrew Reece; Kim and Corey Barnette; Marcie Bane and Mike Imbroscio; Vicki and Keith Mont; Amber Romine; Jamillah Moss; and Earl Yates and Kristin Wells

Here's the letter written in support of **Mrs. Crockett**:

I would like to thank Mrs. Crockett for the wonderful job she does with the first graders. My daughter Savannah is in her class and she loves Ms. Crockett. We have a saying at our house that "Ms. Crockett don't play"! My oldest daughter also had Mrs. Crockett. Mrs. Crockett is a very warm, loving and caring person when it comes to her students. She loves her children and shows them each and every day. She has the patience of JOB when comes to dealing with her children.

I know Savannah was excited during the election that she was able to write a letter to our new president-elect, Barack Obama. What a great idea to expose our children so early! I was able to attend the Thanksgiving performance that the class put on and you could see how much work went into it by how well the children performed. I know that the children are so excited about the gingerbread houses they are making. Savannah can't wait to bring hers home! We at Shepherd know how much pride Mrs. Crockett takes in making them with the children. Thank you, Mrs. Crockett, for loving our children.

Sylvia D. Brinkley

Here's the letter written in support of **Mr. Leonard**:

I want to recognize Mr. Leonard for his enthusiastic approach to teaching. My daughter Lauren is a student in Mr. Leonard's class this year and she looks so forward to going to school each and every day. She expresses to me how often Mr. Leonard makes learning such fun! I know that math was her weak point in the beginning of the year and with Mr. Leonard's fun approach to teaching, she has progressed so well with her math skills. Also, Mr. Leonard is great with keeping the parents abreast as to what is going on in the class. His love for his students shows with his gentle and caring approach to teaching. I also had the pleasure recently of attending the opera "Carmen" with the class. It was truly an enjoyable experience for me as well as my daughter. Mr. Leonard's willingness to expose our children to cultural awareness is overwhelming and I thank him for that. Thank you Mr. Leonard for an awesome job you are doing with our kids.

Sylvia D. Brinkley



The Mustang Is YOUR Newsletter

Do you have a comment, a suggestion, or something to share with the Shepherd family in *The Mustang*? Would you like to write an article to be included in an issue of *The Mustang*?

Send it in an e-mail to
SESmustang@gmail.com.

The next issue of *The Mustang* comes out Friday, January 9, 2009. Submit information to be included by Monday, January 5.

Open House Reminders for 5th & 6th Grade Parents

Deal Middle School

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

Community Events

Classes and Camps at CREATE Arts Center

- 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, 1/19 and 1/20.
- New afterschool & weekend classes start 1/11.

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

Children's classic comes to Silver Spring

Adventure Theater, based out of Glen Echo, will take its production of winter classic "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" this week to the Round House Theatre, 8641 Colesville Road in Silver Spring. Shows will be held at 7 pm Saturday, December 20 and 11 am and 1:30 pm Sunday, December 21. The production is based on the story by C.S. Lewis and is directed by Steven S. Mazzola.

Tickets are \$10 and can be reserved by calling 301-634-2270 or e-mailing tickets@adventuretheatre.org.

It's a wrap at Takoma Park library

The Takoma Park Maryland Library, 101 Philadelphia Avenue in Takoma Park will host a holiday gift-making program 6 pm to 8 pm on Monday, December 22 for kids with parental supervision. All materials will be provided by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

For more information, or to register for library events, call the library at 301-891-7259.

Let the kids create while parents shop

Pyramid Atlantic Community Store, 924 Ellsworth Drive in Downtown Silver Spring, will be holding arts and craft activities for children 4 pm to 6 pm on Thursdays and 2 pm to 4 pm on Saturdays allowing parents to shop for holiday gifts while their child is engaged in an arts activity in the store's Kids Craft Corner.

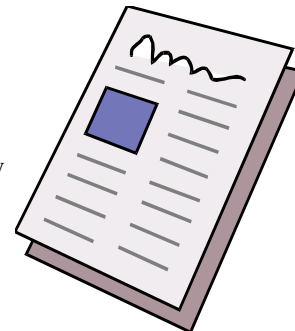
For more information, email jdominguez@pyramid-atlantic.org or call 301-646-2778.

Newsletter Volunteers Needed

Feedback on the expanded school newsletter has been quite positive. However, putting together the newsletter each week is a collaborative effort. And a *Friday* newsletter loses its luster if it's not seen until *Monday*. *The Mustang* is copied on Thursday afternoons for Friday distribution. It only takes about an hour or so to get the work done.

If you can volunteer to take a regular shift — 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.



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.



Shepherd Elementary School

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The Mustang Newsletter Editors: Kimberly Brandon, Fred Lewis, Mark Pattison, and Matt Sullivan. Layout/Production Editor: Laura Noble

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.