

## Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, January 23, 2009



### Mark Your Calendars!

- 1/24 – Saturday Academy begins
- 1/28 – First Prospective Parent Open House, 9:30-11:00 am
- 1/28 – PTA Meeting, 6:45 pm, SES Auditorium
- 1/28 – Songs of Freedom tickets go on sale at PTA meeting
- 1/29 – Pre-K through 2nd Grade January Parent Meeting, 5:45-7:30 pm
- 1/30 – Winter Fest Dance, 3:30-6:30 pm
- 1/26-2/13 – Prospective Parent Building Tours
- 2/11 – Songs of Freedom dress rehearsal, 6:45 pm
- 2/12 – Songs of Freedom public concert, 6:45 pm

Join us!

Wednesday January 28

## PTA Meeting

Shepherd Auditorium — 6:45 pm

Among topics of discussion will be our operating budget, annual auction, and many other important issues – Stay informed; plan to attend the first PTA meeting of 2009!

Although attendance at the PTA meetings is not required, we encourage all parents to attend. Child-care for children of *parents attending the meeting* is available. Refreshments are available during PTA meetings. (Refreshments for the children attending the PTA-provided childcare have a nominal cost; refreshments for adults attending the PTA meetings are complimentary.)

*School starts on time! So do PTA meetings!  
Look for the full agenda on the PTA listserv.*

## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Dear Shepherd Family,

### Saturday Academy:

Saturday school will begin tomorrow, January 24, 2009. We are so excited to be afforded the opportunity and funds to offer this experience to our students. Currently, the language classes are full; however, we are anticipating additional slots for parents and students after tomorrow's classes.

A select group of students have been invited to attend the academy to prepare for the upcoming DC CAS. The initial invite was extended to students who scored within a particular range on DC BAS tests P and A. Currently we have space available for approximately 5-6 students in each grade level. If you are interested, please email Mrs. Miles ([jamie.miles@dc.gov](mailto:jamie.miles@dc.gov)) no later than 10 pm Friday night (Jan. 23, 2009) to express interest.

Final logistical information was sent home with those students who accepted the invitation to participate in our Saturday Academy. If you did not receive the information, please see below.

### Logistical Information for Saturday Academy:

- Arrival and Dismissal will take place in the school auditorium. Students should report to the auditorium at their designated time and gather in the area designated for their grade level and/or group.
- All students must enter the auditorium using the Jonquil entrance. All other entrances will be secure.
- Parents must report to the auditorium to pick up their student. No student will be allowed to meet his/her parent(s) outside.
- Students participating in DC CAS prep and students in Language group #1 should report to school at 8:15 am. (A light breakfast will be provided).
- DC CAS prep students will be dismissed from the auditorium at 12:30 pm.
- Language group # 1 will be dismissed from the auditorium at 9:45 am.
- Language group # 2 should report to the auditorium at 9:45 am.
- Language group # 2 will be dismissed from the auditorium at 11:15 am (snacks will be provided).
- Language group # 3 should report to school at 11:15 am (snacks will be provided).
- Language group # 3 will be dismissed at 12:45 pm.
- All parents must escort their student to the auditorium on the first day to sign-in and verify registration information. Students may enter the building alone after the first Saturday.
- Students in the Saturday Academy will be recognized for perfect attendance.

(See Principal, continued on page 2)



### Why We're Proud

For those of us who are African-American, it's an immense source of pride that Barack Obama is becoming the first black president of the United States. For many it represents the culmination of all that generations before him have worked for.

But does the work end with Obama's election and inauguration? Not at all.

As parents, we work tirelessly but not for our own comfort but to make our children's lives better. That's why we send them to Shepherd. We could go elsewhere, but:

- Why go to any other DCPS elementary school when Shepherd has the most language instruction of them all, save one?
- Why shift your children to another school when Shepherd tests among the top elementary schools in the DCPS system – and the best east of Rock Creek Park?
- Why start all over again when Shepherd already boasts top-notch music and art teachers and award-winning classroom faculty?
- Why desert the school now that we've finally got the windows long promised us?
- Why should we leave when the parents of a net 46 more children think that Shepherd is the best choice for them, too?

How many other DCPS elementary schools are growing, with an added pre-K and an added kindergarten class this year – and not because surrounding schools were closed?

These reasons, and plenty more, are why you've got to support the Shepherd PTA. Despite all the good things in Shepherd, there are still some things DCPS can't or won't pay for. The PTA covers that through the Family Enrichment Fee. Those things improve the educational experience at Shepherd.

Because Obama is becoming our 44th president, we're reducing PTA dues to \$44 – but only through January 28th's PTA meeting (*note new January PTA meeting date*). Also ending on the 28th is our offer to cut your Family Enrichment Fee contribution from the typical \$500 max to \$365, to reflect how many electoral votes Obama won in the November election. As we like to do at Shepherd, the classrooms with the highest percentage of children whose parents belong to the PTA will win a pizza party.

We are the parents of hundreds of winning children. But winning is only one step in a long journey. Please join the PTA to give your children the opportunity to make change themselves!

Make your check to Shepherd Elementary PTA and drop it off in the PTA box at the school office.

(Principal, *continued from page 1*)

### Arrival and Dismissal During the Week:

Thank you for your continuing to work to get your students to school on time. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Now, we need your help in making sure our students are picked up on time. Students are dismissed at 3:15 pm. Parents are expected to pick their student(s) up no later than 3:25 pm. After 3:35 pm, students will be escorted to the office and dismissed from there.

Thank you for all you do!

Warmest regards,

*Jamie Miles*

### Congratulations

The following students won front row tickets to witness the inauguration of President Obama up close and personal. We are proud of these students and their creative writing skills.

Tyler Jones

Jock Pollock

Kyla Marrkand

Paul Sienke



Read a book—see the world!

## YES WE CAN!

One day after a call to volunteering in your communities, and on the day of the inauguration that ushers in a presidency with a “can do spirit”, I am inviting the Shepherd family to continue to give of yourself (in whatever ways that you can) to help make this year's annual auction for Shepherd Elementary a success.

If you have served on the auction committees before, we would love to have your help again.

If you have never participated, this is your chance to get in on the action.

We need people to help in these fields:

- Cold Calls
- Envelope Stuffing
- Donations (obtaining, recording, and storing until the auction)
- Advertisement
- Sponsorships
- Ticket Sales
- Working the computers at the auction
- Decorations (Set up and break down)

If there is a specific way that you can help, that is not mentioned, but may be useful to this endeavor please feel free to volunteer your services.



Remember everyone, this event is our largest fundraiser of the year and we need everyone's help to make it a success. Please contact Marnie Keller or Chantale Swanson, to put your bid in for your spot on the auction committee.

Chantale Swanson (Co-Chair) – [swanprncess75@aol.com](mailto:swanprncess75@aol.com)

Marnie Keller (Co-Chair) – [marniekeller@gmail.com](mailto:marniekeller@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:SESmustang@gmail.com).

The next issue of *The Mustang* comes out on Friday, January 30, 2009.

Submit information to be included by Tuesday, January 27.



## Spread the Word!

### Open Houses for Prospective Shepherd Parents

Shepherd Elementary School Open Houses are scheduled for January 28, 2009 and February 11, 2009 from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. There will be a brief information session, followed by a Q&A and building tour.



### Building Tours for Prospective Shepherd Parents

The building will be open for prospective parents to tour our building during the last week of January through the second week in February (January 26, 2009 – February 13, 2009). Tours will be held every half hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am -11:00 am. These tours are for parents who are unable to attend the Open House but would like to tour our facilities. Prospective parents must call the school at 202-576-6140 to schedule a building tour.

If you are a parent interested in providing potential parents with a guided tour, please send an email to Ms. Brooks at [robyna.brooks@dc.gov](mailto:robyna.brooks@dc.gov) or call her at 202-576-6140.

## PTA Meeting Wednesday, January 28

### The Buzz

In meetings with representatives from the Department of Parks and Recreation, Shepherd Park Citizens' Association, and Shepherd Elementary School, DPR staff shared plans for an upgrade of the lower field that will include a U-12 size soccer field (about 80% of a regular field), a new walking track, an outdoor classroom, bleachers on the big hill, and a large tot lot on the Jonquil Street end with two age appropriate climbing pieces and other play equipment. Erosion on the big hill will be corrected, old trees removed, and new landscaping done.

In addition, the landscaping at the Marvin Caplan Park bounded by Holly Street, 13th Street, and Alaska Avenue will be improved, more signage added, and a few passive climbing rocks located near 13th Street.

DPR will present drawings at the Shepherd Park Citizens' Association Potluck on January 25th and have a staff member available to answer questions. A neighborhood meeting devoted entirely to this upgrade will be held on Feb. 19th at Shepherd Elementary School. This meeting will be sponsored jointly by SPCA, Muriel Bowser's Office, and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission for the area.

Other DPR opportunities for Shepherd Park are in the works. Be alert for further information.

### Sign of the Times

We need temporary mid-winter help on changing the sign in front of the school. Our current person needs about a one-month break. We'll supply you with what needs to be said on the marquee; all the letters, numbers and tools needed to get into the sign are in the school office. The messages change roughly every other week. If you want to help keep everyone at Shepherd up to date on the most important upcoming events at school, call PTA recording secretary Mark Pattison at 202-829-9289, or send him an e-mail at [pattison\\_mark@hotmail.com](mailto:pattison_mark@hotmail.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/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Shepherd_Elementary_PTA/files/%22The%20Mustang%22/)

### January Parent Meetings

The January Parent Meeting for parents of students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 was held last night (January 22).

The January Parent Meeting for parents of students in grades Pre-K, K, 1, and 2 will be held Thursday evening, January 29. The meeting will start at 5:45 pm and last until 7:30 pm.

These parent meetings are held in the Auditorium. Child care is not provided. So that all parents attending the meeting are able to fully participate, there will be tables in the back of the auditorium at which children may quietly work on homework or read.

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

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.onevoice.



### Early Bird Special

Students in Ms. Chambliss 3rd grade class are invited to attend Early Bird Skills Prep.

The sessions are held every Monday through Friday beginning at 7:45 am.

Please contact Ms. Chambliss for more information.

### Mardi Gras Box Tops Collection Contest



Turn in your Box Tops into the Collection Box in the Main Office anytime between now and February 24. Collection sheets were sent home via backpacks last week. Additional collection sheets are available outside the Main Office and the Files section of the PTA listserv. 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 Mardi Gras 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 listed 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.

Deadline: **Tuesday, February 24, 2009.**

For more information about the Box Tops for Education program at Shepherd, contact Laura Noble, Box Tops Program Coordinator at: [TaylorFarm@kddmgroup.com](mailto:TaylorFarm@kddmgroup.com).

**Remember to keep clipping Box Tops for Shepherd!**



*Laissez les  
Bon Temps  
Roulez!*

### Songs of Freedom and Justice Concert Set for February



Shepherd Elementary School, under the direction of music teacher Mr. Ken Giles, will present a musical history of America, "Songs of Freedom and Justice: 150 Years of American History in Song."

There will be two performances. The public performance will be held Thursday, February 12, at 6:45 p.m. Numbered tickets will

be sold for \$5 each, and extra contributions are welcome at the door. Tickets go on sale starting at next Wednesday's PTA meeting on January 28. Parents are invited to a free-admission dress rehearsal to be held Wednesday, February 11, also at 6:45 p.m.

The concert will feature 25 songs and 30 historical characters tracing American history from the anti-slavery era through the union movement to the civil rights movement. Students will portray such historical figures as Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and Bernice Johnson Reagon.

The D.C. Labor Chorus will sing with Shepherd's students throughout the show.

Both the dress rehearsal and the performance will be recorded for a CD. Each and every Shepherd student will receive a free CD. If you want to buy extra CDs to give to neighbors, friends and family, you can order them for \$10 each, also starting Jan. 28 at the PTA meeting. CDs should be available about a couple of months after the show.

CDs and copies of the script will be sent to school music teachers around the country to show them how easy it can be to mount their own production of "Songs of Freedom and Justice."

### 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 you 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*.

Shepherd Elementary School  
Ski Club presents our

## Winter Fest Dance

Shepherd Ski Club will host a rockin' fundraiser. All proceeds will benefit the Shepherd Elementary School Ski Club

When: Friday January 30

Time: 3:30-6:30 pm

Where: Shepherd Auditorium

Tickets cost: \$5.00 in advance;  
\$5.50 at the door

Attire: Come as you are

Refreshments will be available for purchase.

For tickets and additional information (or to volunteer to help with the dance), please see Mr. Velez either before or after school (not during class time.)



## Who's Buried In Grant's Tomb?

The answer – not even the joke answer – is what you think it is. Even in today's uncertain economy, there are grants that can establish, support or expand our educational mission at Shepherd Elementary.

Proposals for grant money are typically submitted in late February or early March. This means, then, that we have to start now to identify funding sources that would look kindly on our needs, and write the grant proposals.

If you or anyone you know has experience writing grant proposals of any type, please get in touch with Shepherd PTA treasurer Doug Noble at [taylorfarm@kddmgroup.com](mailto:taylorfarm@kddmgroup.com) or Marnie Keller at [marniekeller@gmail.com](mailto:marniekeller@gmail.com) and include your name, contact information and prior grant-writing experience.



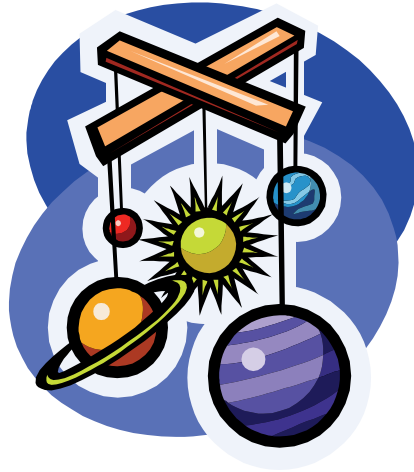
There are grants ranging from \$5,000 all the way up to \$100,000 that could be ours if we do our jobs right.

## 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 Questions:

What is the name of the only planet that rotates clockwise?



### Answer to last week's trivia question:

The tradition of an Inaugural parade dates back to April 30, 1789, in New York City when **GEORGE WASHINGTON** took the oath of office.

## Community Events

### Shepherd Park Citizens Association

The Shepherd Park Citizens Association will host its annual New Year/New Member Potluck THIS Sunday (January 25) from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Lowell School on Kalmia Road west of 16th Street.

If you live in the Shepherd Park neighborhood – bordered by Walter Reed Army Medical Center on the south, Georgia Avenue on the east, the D.C./Maryland line on the north, and Rock Creek Park on the west, then this event is for you. And there is a play space for children.

Because this is a potluck, bring an entree, a salad, a side dish or a dessert with you. Please RSVP with how many from your household are coming and what dish you're bringing to Christine Martin at 202-723-0976 or email her at [christine@dcmartins.com](mailto:christine@dcmartins.com).

## How to Corral a Herd of Mustangs



We have improved the process of producing *The Mustang* each Thursday to the point where it needs only one person's time for about one hour. Volunteering for this project will require a brief tutorial from Laura Noble on how to use the new office copier; the lesson should last only a few minutes. From there, it's a virtual snap! If you want to take a stab at being a one-man or one-woman production team for *The Mustang*, get in touch with Laura at [TaylorFarm@kddmgroup.com](mailto:TaylorFarm@kddmgroup.com) or call 301-504-7448.

## 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

7800 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012  
Office Telephone: 202-576-6140  
Office Fax: 202-576-7578

Mrs. Jamie Miles, Principal — [jamie.miles@dc.gov](mailto:jamie.miles@dc.gov)

Ms. Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant — [robyna.brooks@dc.gov](mailto:robyna.brooks@dc.gov)

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

Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to:

[SESmustang@gmail.com](mailto:SESmustang@gmail.com). Deadline is Tuesday at 10 am for inclusion in the newsletter issued that Friday.