

Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!

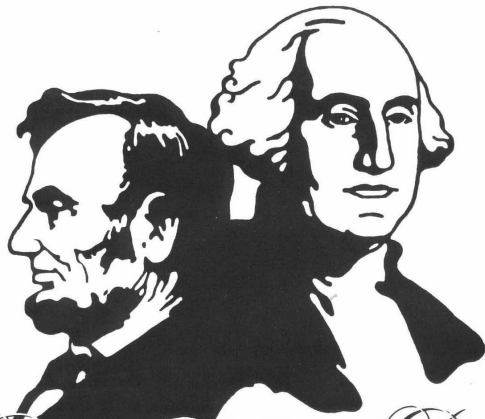


- 2/16 – Presidents Day – No School
- 2/18 – PTA Meeting, 6:45 pm, SES Auditorium
- 2/27 – Parent-Teacher Conferences – No School
- 2/28 – Pancake Breakfast, 8:00-noon

Our Salute to New PTA Members

When we issued the call last week in the Mustang for new PTA members, you have responded generously. We are grateful for every new PTA family. As we mentioned last week, there's a pizza party for your child's class if 100 percent of the families become PTA members. And in truth, nobody should rest until we have 100 percent of all Shepherd Elementary families in the PTA. Membership forms are in the rack outside the main office. Don't delay; join today.

And thank you to our newest PTA members. We look forward to printing your name in *The Mustang* next week!



PRESIDENTS DAY

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Happy Friday!

On Saturday, February 28, 2009 from 8am – 12 Noon, we will host a pancake breakfast. The Shepherd Park Kiwanis club is the sponsor. We are currently asking each family to donate one box of Aunt Jemima "just add water" pancake mix. Please send the pancake mix to school with your student or drop your box off in the front office. The cost of the event is \$6.00 for all you can eat pancakes. A small percentage of the proceeds will be donated back to the school and the remaining monies will go toward student scholarships. If you are available to volunteer in any capacity for any amount of time during this event, your help would be greatly appreciated.

The countdown has begun. We have approximately 40 days left until our students in grades 3-6 complete their End of Year assessment exam. Though it is not "all about the test," tests do play a significant role in what we do. For the next 8 weeks we will be having our DC CAS Blitz. In addition to what teachers are doing daily we will be reviewing and targeting tested standards. Each week we will focus on two math standards and two reading standards. We are asking parents to take time to review problems and practices around each of these standards. Sample activities will be listed each Friday in the Mustang. We are also asking parents to work to get their students to school on time and allow them to stay through dismissal. Late arrivers and students who are dismissed early miss out on valuable instructional time.

Congratulations to Ms. Shaibu's class for having 13 days of perfect attendance during the month of January and to Ms. Johnson's class who had 12 days. I would also like to recognize Ms. Shaibu's class for having 8 days with no tardies and Mr. Byers' class who had 4 days with no tardies. Each of these classes will be receiving a pizza party. As you can see we have made some progress but there is still a lot of work to be done. Please continue to work to get your student(s) to school on time. It is unfair for them to have to rush into their day. Enjoy your weekend!

Regards,

Jamie Miles

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.



Terrific Kids for December and January

Pre-K — Mrs. Gibbs’ class
Marie-Therese Tata (December)
Carolyn Hoff (January)

Pre-K — Ms. Holt’s class
Kurt Peacock (December)
Kayla Ray Muir (January)

Pre-K — Ms. LaPenna’s class
Amari Hall (December)
Jonathan Easterling (January)

Kindergarten — Mr. Byers’ class
Taye Moss-Suggs (December)
Camille Jones (January)

Kindergarten — Ms. Kuawogai’s class
Cydni Taylor (December)
Victoria Carter (January)

Kindergarten — Ms. Miller’s class
Kemani Cash-Taylor (December)
A-Mei Nickens (January)

First Grade — Mrs. Crockett
Kaylin Brandon (December)
Ben-Yamin Downing (January)

First Grade — Mrs. Kinsler
Billie Green (December)
Thomas Gonnet (January)

Second Grade — Ms. Johnson
Chandler Brossard (December)
Kwaniyah Tuffour (January)

Second Grade — Ms. Thurber
Mecca Camille (December)
Jovaan McKinney (January)

Third Grade — Ms. Chambliss
Alexis Smith (December)
Zennon Melnyk (January)

Third Grade — Ms. ThomasA
Amani Richardson (December)
Medgar Webster (January)

B.U.G. Awards

Every month, the Shepherd Park-Takoma Kiwanis Club celebrates HONOR ROLL students as part of the B.U.G. Program, which recognizes “students who raise their grades to an acceptable range, and maintain or continue to raise them from one grading period to the next.”



B.U.G. Awards for December and January

Fourth Grade — Ms. Gilmore’s class
Naiya Ray (December)
Michael Branche (January)

Fourth Grade — Ms. Valentine-Nelson’s class
Moriah Williams (December)
Guyton Harvey (January)

Fifth Grade — Mr. Leonard’s class
Boris Varela (December)
Felicia Luswenyo (January)

Fifth Grade — Ms. Ulba’s class
Jekayla Gray (December)
Kenrhon Jones (January)

Sixth Grade — Mr. King’s class
Esther Okechukwu (December)
Joshua Okechukwu (January)

Ms. Shaibu’s class
Shantice Wade (December)
Noble Leonard (January)



Culture Shop Shopping Spree Nets \$150 for Shepherd’s PTA

Even though it was pulled together on short notice, the Culture Shop shopping spree to benefit the Shepherd Elementary PTA netted \$150 for the PTA. Under the deal, anybody who shopped at the Takoma D.C. store (either in person or online) and mentioned Shepherd got 20 percent of their purchase price rebated to the PTA. The receipts didn’t quite add up to a \$150 rebate, but Valentine Davis, the Culture Shop’s proprietor, rounded it up to make \$150. We thank her for her generous offer and her extra generosity. It puts us in the mind to try this again sometime!



Parents Issue Challenge, Contribute \$ to Keep Aide

Shepherd Elementary parent Donna Johnson Harvey issued a bold challenge to parents whose children benefit from the work of Madame Agoussi: "I offer a matching program as a way to stimulate funds. I will match any class parent of up to one hundred dollars that will contribute to Ms. Agoussi's salary."

The challenge was issued at 7:52 a.m. Monday, February 9, and by the time the dismissal bell rang at 3:15 p.m. that day, one such parent, Carol Mulholland, reported on the PTA listserv, "We're definitely getting contributions! Thanks so much for your offer to match!"

We may hear a lot from the school's teaching staff about their expectations on student behavior, and what is (and is not) the "Shepherd Way." Well, this is the grown-ups' version of a shining example of just what is the "Shepherd Way": Helping each other when the help is needed most.

We thank Ms. Harvey from the bottom of our heart for her sterling challenge, and we thank all of the other Shepherd parents who have responded so magnificently in rising up to that challenge. Keep up the great work, for you may see your name in *The Mustang* next week!

Family Enrichment Fee Payers Enrich Shepherd

Every little bit helps. That's why we encourage everyone to join the PTA. The \$50 annual dues is relatively small change indeed, but it adds up in a hurry.

But the people who help out with more than a "little bit" – with "big change" – deserve to be recognized, too. By paying into the Family Enrichment Fee, they help support the supplemental educational activities that help make Shepherd what it is – a top-performing school in the DCPS system – and the only one of its kind east of Rock Creek Park.

While we ask for a payment of \$500, we accept partial payments and payments on an installment plan until you reach the magical \$500 figure. This fee supports initiatives that DCPS either can't or won't pay for. But the PTA and Shepherd CAN and WILL pay for them – if you pitch in.

Beginning in next week's *Mustang*, we'll print the name of anyone and everyone who contributes to the Family Enrichment Fee. With at least six pages in each issue of *The Mustang*, we've got space to add your name here next week!

AUCTION NEWS!

The theme of this year's Shepherd Elementary School auction fundraiser is "Spotlight on D.C. Excellence, Past, Present, and Future." Count on a lot of great things to be spotlighted, both on and off the auction floor.

The auction will again be held on the campus of Howard University. While the exact date has not been determined, a date sometime in late May is likely.

Get on board the Auction Committee right now by contacting either of our two Auction Committee co-chairwomen:

Chantale Swanson (Co-Chair) – swanprncess75@aol.com
 Marnie Keller (Co-Chair) – marniekeller@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@yahoogroups.com.

Once signed up, you will be able to receive listserv updates directly to your email inbox. If you prefer to not receive emails for each listserv posting, simply select "no email" under the message delivery option in your listserv user set up.

Shepherd Lower Field Focus Of Community Meeting

There will be a community meeting next Thursday, Feb. 19, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Shepherd Elementary auditorium on potential improvements to both Shepherd Field, (a D.C. Parks and Recreation facility alongside Shepherd Elementary School), and Marvin Caplan Park (the "triangular park" bordering 13th and Holly Streets and Alaska Avenue), with an eye to improving recreational opportunities in the Shepherd Park neighborhood.

The meeting will be led by Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Dwayne Toliver, whose territory covers both playgrounds. The meeting is hosted by the Shepherd Park Citizens Association.

Inclement Weather School Status Update Resources

AM Radio	FM Radio	Television	Website
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMAL (630) • WOL (1450) • Radio America, Spanish (1540) • WTOP (1500) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAMU (88.5) • WTOP (107.7) • WHUR (96.3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channels 4, 5, 7 and 9 • Cable Channels 8, 16 and 28 	www.k12.dc.us on the homepage

Shepherd IB-PYP Corner

Update:

- This week some of the grade level teams are beginning to draft their first full PYP planner for the unit of inquiry that will take place during the last six weeks of school.
- The full faculty met last Friday morning to discuss ways to introduce the Learner Profile attributes to their students. They also enacted the Learner Profile reflection that was in last week's *Mustang*.
- Teachers received their username and password for accessing the IB Organization's "Online Curriculum Centre."

PYP Lesson of the Week: The Online Curriculum Centre*

What is the Online Curriculum Centre, and how is it different from the IBO's public web site? The International Baccalaureate Organization maintains a public web site at www.ibo.org. There is a wealth of information on this site. The public may read about the three IB programs – the Primary Years Program, the Middle Years Program and the Diploma Program. Many of the handbooks for these programs are found on the public web site, along with a listing of IB teacher workshops and a profile of every IB authorized schools across the globe. From this website the public may link to the Online Curriculum Centre, where one finds information about the site. However, to enter the site and view the information therein, one must have a username and password.

So, the online curriculum centre (OCC) is a password-protected IB website designed to support teachers and coordinators of the three IB programs. In the OCC they can find:

- IB publications for the three IB programmes* (curriculum guides, coordinator notes, and, in some cases, teacher support materials)
- news items and important information
- discussion forums for IB teachers to communicate freely with other IB teachers
- teacher-generated resources—share your own resources with other IB teachers
- support areas for special educational needs, librarians, academic honesty and calculators
- online subject specialists (online faculty members) to answer curriculum and assessment queries
- a real-time chat facility (in the discussion forums).

The OCC can be viewed in English, French or Spanish. The Middle Years Programme section can be viewed in Chinese.

*British spelling of the word

Questions for reflection and discussion:

Why would a teacher want to use the Online Curriculum Centre? How would doing so help the teacher improve his/her practice?

~ Patricia L. Tucker & Jamie Miles



Mardi Gras Box Tops Collection Contest

Turn your Box Tops into the Collection Box in the Main Office no later than **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009**. Make sure your full name is included with your submission to receive a prize.

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

Remember to keep clipping
Box Tops for Shepherd!

*Laissez les Bon Temps
Roulez!*



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*.

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/

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 on Friday, February 20, 2009.

Submit information to be included by Tuesday, February 17.





Literacy Corner

1. Visualizing Activity: Poem Pictures

Choose a favorite poem or nursery rhyme. Read it together several times for enjoyment and to become more familiar with the ideas. Talk about how words can make a picture in your mind. Then, have your child choose one line from the poem, and draw the picture they saw in their mind.

Example: "Hey Diddle, Diddle"

*Hey diddle, diddle,
The cat and the fiddle.
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed to see such a sight,
And the dish ran away with the spoon!*



The cow jumped over the moon.

2. Cartoon Writing

Explanation:

Cartoons are an entertaining way to help children develop as readers and writers. The pictures in cartoons provide a context of support for writing. Drawing the cartoon pictures first, engages children in the entire process of writing.

Example 1:

Make a photocopy of a cartoon from the newspaper. Take out the text. Have your child look at the cartoon and tell you about the pictures. Tell a story for what is happening in the pictures. Write captions for each cartoon cell.

Example 2:

Have your child tell you a short story. Decide how many cartoon frames you need to tell your story. Draw each frame. Now add the text to each frame.

Problem of the Week

Primary Problem

Question: Carolyn has written a number pattern that begins with 1, 3, 6, 10, 15. If she continues this pattern, what are the next four numbers in her pattern?

- What do you need to find?
- How can you solve the problem?
- Solve the problem

Intermediate Problem

Question: You save \$4.50 on Monday. Each day after that you save twice as much as you saved the day before. If this pattern continues, how much would you save on Friday?



- Create a table to show to solve the problem.
- Explain how you solved the problem.

Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast



Saturday, February 28, 2009 from 8am – 12 Noon, Shepherd will host a pancake breakfast. The Shepherd Park Kiwanis club is the sponsor. We are asking each family to donate one box of Aunt Jemima "just add water" pancake mix. Please send the pancake mix to school with your student or drop your box off in

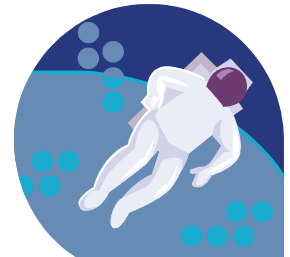
the front office. The cost of the event is \$6.00 for all you can eat pancakes. A small percentage of the proceeds will be donated back to the school and the remaining monies will go toward student scholarships. If you are available to volunteer in any capacity for any amount of time during this event, your help would be greatly appreciated.

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:

Who was the first black astronaut to walk in space?



Answer to last week's trivia question:

What African American is famous for inventing the traffic light? Answer: Garrett Morgan

'Songs of Freedom and Justice' On CD; Order Your Copies Today



Now that you've seen the show, order the commemorative CD! The fabulous *Songs of Freedom of Justice* should be available sometime in April.

Order as many CDs as you like. CDs are \$10 each, plus a \$5 shipping charge if you want delivery by the U.S. Postal Service. There's no delivery charge if you want them sent to you via your child's backpack.

You can clip this handy form and put it in the PTA box in the main office, or you can mail it to the school if you prefer.

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER! Make checks payable to: "Shepherd Elementary School PTA."

Mail orders to: Shepherd Elementary PTA
7800 14th St. NW
Washington, DC 20012

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

_____ CDs @ \$10 each \$ _____

Shipping \$ 5.00

Total: \$ _____

If you want them delivered in-school to your child, fill in below:

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

Community Events

Free Family Film Night at Washington Ethical Society
"The Great Debaters," which was directed by and stars Denzel Washington, is the movie in the "Free Family Film Event" sponsored by the Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16th Street NW near Kalmia Road. The movie will be shown at 7 p.m. Friday, February 27.

The movie tells the story of Dr. Melvin B. Tolson, a professor at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, where, in 1935-36, inspired by the Harlem Renaissance and his clandestine work as a union organizer, Tolson coaches the debate team to a nearly undefeated season that sees the first debate between U.S. students from white and "Negro" colleges and ends with an invitation to face Harvard University's national champions. The team of four, which includes a female student and a very young James Farmer, is tested in a crucible heated by Jim Crow, sexism, a lynch mob, an arrest and near-riot, a love affair, jealousy and a national radio audience.

"The Great Debaters" is rated PG-13 and two suggestive scenes will be edited from the film. The big plus is a question-and-answer session with Shepherd Park neighbors Ken and Joigie Tolson. Ken is the grandson of Melvin Tolson. Light refreshments will be served.

To secure space for you and your family at the screening, RSVP to Cynthia Prather at scsprather@aol.com by Tuesday, February 24.

Forum on D.C. Budget Process

Who decides the District of Columbia's budget, and how? How do we find out what's in it? Is there a way for the public to weigh in? Learn the answers to these questions and more at a forum, "Winning a Fair Budget for D.C.," to be held Tuesday, February 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the True Reformer Building, 1200 U Street NW. The forum is sponsored by the Gerry Brittain Education Project of D.C. Jobs With Justice. The project is designed to strengthen local organizing and build power among working people in the District, and is named for Geraldine "Gerry" Brittain, a social worker and longtime community activist.



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 am for inclusion in the newsletter issued that Friday.