



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!



- 2/27 – Parent-Teacher Conferences – No School
- 2/28 – Pancake Breakfast, 8:00-noon, SES Cafeteria
- 3/7 – Special PTA Budget Meeting, time/location TBA
- 3/11 – Shepherd Budget Meeting, 6:00, SES Auditorium
- 3/14 – School Spruce Up Day, details to be announced
- 3/17 – St. Patrick's Day
- 3/23-3/27 – Spring Break – No School

Special PTA Budget Meeting

Given on-going list-serve and individual e-mail exchanges regarding income and expenditure of funds, the PTA will hold a "Budget Review and Planning" meeting at the school (library or auditorium to be determined) on Saturday, March 7. We are open to suggestion of times, as we try to take advantage of a number of parents being at the school already for drop-off and pick-up of kids for Saturday Academy.

The purpose of this meeting will be to review expenditures through February, then preview income and plan expenditures through the end of the school year. On the basis of guidance from the full PTA membership coming from this meeting, the Board will manage budget income and expenditures through June 30, the end of the term of office for the current PTA Board.

Thanks to all who are contributing to the on-going dialogue. The March meeting will allow all parties to get together in one place and at one time to do a review that is based on fully current and accurate information, and decide on marching orders for the remaining months of the school year.

Earl Yates

President, Parent Teacher Association
Shepherd Elementary School

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

I trust that each of you had a great week and your student (s) did as well.

Parent Teacher Conference Day

Did you sign up to conference with your child's teacher? Tomorrow is Parent Teacher conference day. If you have not done so, please contact your child's teacher to schedule a conference. We are looking for 100% participation!

DC BAS

Next week, March 3 and 4, students in grades 3- 6 will take their final DC BAS. This is the last opportunity for students to practice their test taking skills before the DC CAS. Our students have made average to slightly above average progress this year; however, we are challenging students to excel even more. Please send your student to school with sharpened # 2 pencils, well fed, on time and mentally prepared for the day.

DIBELS

Students in grades K-3 continue to be assessed using the DIBELS assessment instrument. Students have shown growth in some areas but regression and stagnation in other areas. Please continue to communicate with your child's teacher to find out what you can do to support your student's academic development at home.

(See Principal, continued on page 2)

Meet Our New Interim Principal

Here's a brief introduction to Mr. Rembert Seaward, who is completing his fourth week at Shepherd Elementary before he takes over the reins from Mrs. Miles, who intends to start her maternity leave March 16 (although you never can tell with these things).

Mr. Seaward is 50 years old and was born in Southeast D.C. He has three sisters, all of whom work for the federal government, and his parents have been married 53 years. Mr. Seaward himself is married with four children - two are in college and other two are ages 9 and 5.

Mr. Seaward has worked at two other D.C. public schools, helping out while other principals are on leave. He didn't exactly come out and say that Shepherd is the best place he's worked at this school year, but during the February 18 PTA meeting he did say, "I'm humbled to be working here."

PTA Roundup

I would like to reiterate the following points, if they were not clear in my message in last Friday's *Mustang*:

Several of the contributions made in response to our appeals over the past couple of months were intended – by those who made them – to be used to fund Ms. Agoussi's position. It is these "earmarked" funds that we are using to pay Ms.

Agoussi's fees through April 3. However, we will not do that any longer, as we do not see that the President, Treasurer, and PTA Board of Directors as a whole, have the authority to manage all parents' contributions in a way that singles out one line item that will be continuously funded on a first-priority basis.

The Board has been as transparent as possible in accounting for and publicly reporting on all the funds it has received from the start of the year, and on how it has used that income to meet budgeted expenditures - on all line items. Monthly budget reports are distributed by e-mail prior to monthly PTA meetings, presented and discussed at monthly PTA meetings, and are posted on the website. Reviewing our budget reports will provide all income and expenditure detail, and will eliminate the need to rely on the rumor mill.

The parents have made a commendable effort to fund this teaching staff position, but their contributions overall have not been sufficient to fund all budgeted line items. The staff positions funded by the PTA include two Cafeteria Aides, the Math Resource Teacher, and one Teacher Aide (Ms. Agoussi). In the school's staffing structure, Ms. Agoussi is the Aide in a class that serves nineteen students - yet **all** persons contributing funds since the start of the year have contributed to the cost of that position, while - as of the first week of February - only four of the families with children in that class had made Family Enrichment Fee contributions to the PTA treasury. While additional parents have now stepped up their donations, several of the contributions have been made on the condition that they be used only to continue the funding of Ms. Agoussi's position. Unless the PTA membership as a whole directs the Board to do "earmarked" receipt and expenditure of funds, we will expend the monies in a way that they provide value to *as many students and families as possible*.

If, as has been suggested, that there are those who would like to fund Ms. Agoussi's fees separately from the PTA, I do urge you to confer with Mrs. Miles, as the PTA's role in this staffing matter is only that of providing funds to pay the contractual services. Otherwise, this is a school staffing issue that the Principal will surely take measures to address.

PTA Treasurer Doug Noble and I agree, and we think other Board members agree, that we will recommend that the PTA not try to fund school staffing positions in future years, but we remain committed to funding the staff positions budgeted for this year, to the extent that income and cash flow allow.

Thank you for your continued support of Shepherd Elementary School.

~ Earl Yates

President, Shepherd Parent Teacher Association

(Principal, continued from page 1)

Showcase of Schools

This weekend Ward 4 will have a Showcase of Schools and Shepherd will be participating. We will have a visual display of our Songs of Freedom presentation followed by a portrayal of six famous African American. The following students from Ms. Holt's Kindergarten class will be presenting.:

- Changamire Anderson - **George Washington Carver**
- Kayla Ray-Muir - **Wilma Rudolph**
- Madeline Lewis - **Rosa Parks**
- Masai Jenkins - **Muhammad Ali**
- Tiara Dupee - **Marian Anderson**
- Cindy Coleman - **Althea Gibson**

The event will be held at Roosevelt Senior High School located at 4301 13th Street, NW. The Exhibits Display will be from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm followed by the program at 3:00 pm. Refreshment will be served. Please stop by and show your support!

Pancakes! Pancakes! Pancakes!

The Shepherd Park Kiwanis Club will be sponsoring a Pancake breakfast/brunch this Saturday at Shepherd ES from 8:00 am to 12 noon. The cost is \$6.00 per person for all you can eat pancakes, sausage, juice and water. A big thank you is extended to everyone who donated a box or boxes of pancake mix.

Lost and Found

Please check the lost and found bins located in the parent center for items your child may be missing. The area is quickly becoming inundated with lost items. Unclaimed items will eventually be donated to local shelters. Have a great weekend!

Warmest regards,

Jamie Miles

Meet Mr. Burgess!

Hello, I would like to formally introduce myself as the new health and physical education teacher here at Shepherd Elementary School. I would also like to thank the faculty, staff, parents, and students for the warm welcome and making me feel a part of the Shepherd family.

Before I get into my plans for the health and overall well-being of the students of Shepherd, I would first like to give a little background information about myself. I am a native Washingtonian. I came up in DCPS, ending in my graduation from Coolidge Senior High School. I was then offered a full athletic scholarship to Howard University, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education. I officially joined the Shepherd family on December 8, 2008. In the coming weeks, I will be detailing my exact plans for the remainder of the '08-'09 school year.

Spotlight on D.C. Excellence – Past, Present, and Future

Auction Action

It's time for parents to conspire with their teachers and dream up great class-made items for our annual auction, set for Friday, May 29. These items fetch top dollar. It's also time to think of some other, more exotic prizes. Last year, we were able to auction off a lunch with DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee. Four years ago, Stephanie Scott paid \$1,400 to win the right to break bread with a new U.S. Senator from Illinois named - oh, who was it again? The name's right on the tip of my tongue ... oh, right! Barack Obama!

Let's put our collective imaginations to work and secure auction items. Even better, join the Auction Committee. All you have to do is get in touch with co-chairs:

Chantale Swanson (Co-Chair) – swanprncess75@aol.com

Marnie Keller (Co-Chair) – marniekeller@gmail.com

Auction Date: Friday, May 29, 7:00 pm

Auction Location: Campus of Howard University



SES-DCPS Budget Meeting

Think back to last May ... and last summer ... and even the fall ... when trying to get a final budget for Shepherd Elementary from DCPS headquarters was like pulling teeth.

Things have apparently changed, and apparently for the better. A budget for the 2009-10 school year at Shepherd has already been prepared. Mrs. Miles will lead a meeting in the auditorium at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, on the budget and what it means for Shepherd students, parents and staff. Make plans to attend.



Mardi Gras Box Tops Collection Contest

Thanks so much to everyone who participated in the Mardi Gras Box Tops Collection Contest. Results will be tallied and announced in next week's *Mustang*. 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!

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.

Past Issues of The Mustang are Online

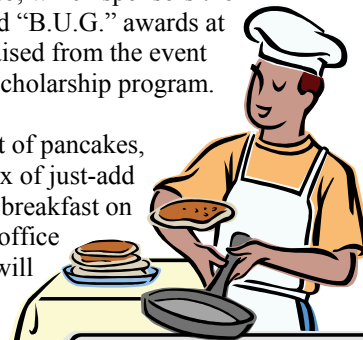
Would you like to read *The Mustang* electronically? Need to refer back to a past issue? Each week, *The Mustang* is uploaded to the files area of the PTA listserv. Join the listserv and click to read.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Shepherd_Elementary_PTA/files/%22The%20Mustang%22/

Pancakes are 'In the Mix'

Come one, come all to Saturday's Pancake Breakfast, from 8 a.m. to noon at Shepherd Elementary. The cost is \$6, which includes juice, sausage and all-you-can-eat pancakes. If you're bringing your child to school for the Saturday Scholars program or the Language Academy, make an early breakfast, a late breakfast, or an early lunch at Shepherd part of your day. The breakfast is sponsored by the Shepherd Park-Takoma Kiwanis Club, which sponsors the monthly "Terrific Kid" and "B.U.G." awards at Shepherd. The proceeds raised from the event will benefit the Kiwanis' scholarship program.

While we're on the subject of pancakes, please bring with you a box of just-add-water pancake mix to the breakfast on Saturday, or to the school office next week. The pancakes will help feed hungry folks.



Shepherd IB-PYP Corner

Update:

On Thursday and Friday of this week Shepherd ES will welcome our IB consultant, Ms. Mona Maruca. She was assigned by the IB Regional Office to provide guidance and coaching to our IB coordinator, principal, and teachers during the next year of our journey toward IB authorization.

Typically, the consultant visits the school for two consecutive days to observe classes and meet with groups of teachers, the coordinator and school head. This enables the consultant to become somewhat familiar with the school environment and culture and to find out what the challenges are. After the two-day visit, the consultant is available to the school staff to review documents, such as the Programme of Inquiry (POI), the unit planners and the Application Part B, and give constructive feedback. The consultant is also available by phone and e-mail to assist with trouble-shooting during trial implementation of the units. Shepherd teachers will implement their first unit of inquiry during the last six weeks of school.

Another important IB event this week was the visit of two Shepherd teachers, Ms. Kinsler (Grade 1) and Ms. Ulba (Grade 5), to the Washington International School (WIS). They were able to observe the PYP in action in a first and fifth grade classroom there. This experience should help them to understand how to implement a PYP unit in their own classroom.

PYP Lesson of the Week: More on Reflection

Last week we looked at reflection by students through characterizing their learning experiences as “most challenging,” “most helpful,” etc. We pointed out that students are required to explain orally or in writing why they selected a particular characterization.

Reflection can be taken even further by having students reflect on the process of their learning. Students are asked to respond to prompts such as,

- I learned more quickly when I... (ex. showed someone else how to..., played a game, looked up information on my own, drew a diagram or chart, etc.)
- I remember information better when I...
- I organize my work best when I...

This type of reflection helps the student and the teacher discover the student’s learning style (visual, auditory or tactile/kinesthetic) and which of the multiple intelligences is dominant in that student. PYP students learn in the intermediate grades what the seven multiple intelligences are (visual/spatial, verbal/linguistic, logical/mathematical, bodily/kinesthetic, musical/rhythmic, interpersonal and intrapersonal).

Teachers should engage in this type of reflection as well.

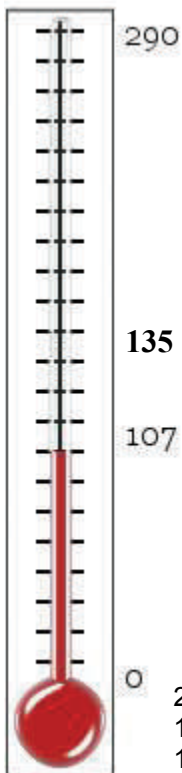
Questions for reflection and discussion:

How do you learn best? Do you know what your learning style is? Do you know what your child’s learning style is? If you are not sure, observe and ask questions to figure this out, or visit this website to take a test (or help your child to take a test) to determine your/your child’s learning style and dominant intelligence: www.ldpride.net/learningstyles.MI.htm

Discovering these things about your child can help you to help him or her more effectively with school work.

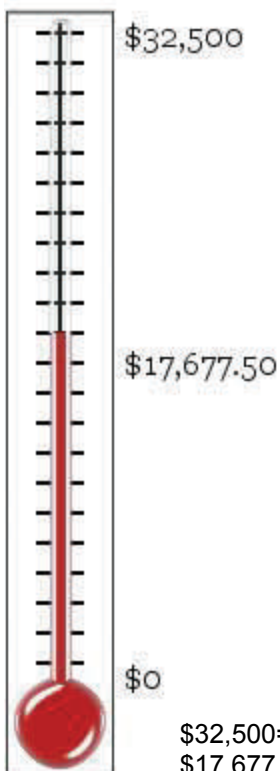
~ Patricia L. Tucker & Jamie Miles



Current PTA Membership

290=all school families
135=budgeted paid PTA membership
107=current paid membership

***PTA:
Where Do
We Stand?***
(as of 2/24/2009)

Family Enrichment Fees (FEF) Paid

\$32,500=annual budgeted FEF
\$17,677.50=FEF paid to date

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

PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.

Literacy Corner

Cut-Apart Stories

A. Goal: To help your child build comprehension skills by arranging lines of text to form a story (Sequence).

B. What You Will Need:

- Paper
- Pencil or pen
- Scissors

C. Let's Go!

1. Write a short story with your child and copy it onto a sheet of paper. Or rewrite a story you have read. Make sure your story has a beginning, middle, and an end.
2. Draw a picture that goes with the story and attach it to the back.
3. Cut the lines of the story apart.
4. Place them into a large envelope or resealable plastic storage bag.
5. Have your child take out the pieces and read them.
6. Ask your child to arrange the lines of text to retell the story in the right order.
7. Reread the story to check for accuracy. Turn the pieces over. They should make a picture if pieces are placed in the right order.

Example:

Mother butterfly lays her eggs.

Caterpillars come out of the eggs.

Each caterpillar spins a chrysalis.

A butterfly comes out.



Record a Story

A. Goal: To help your child read more fluently and with expression

B. What You Will Need:

- Story or short book
- Tape recorder
- Your best reading voice

C. Let's Go!

1. Read your story together.
2. Help your child practice reading the story alone, using her/his best reading voice. Be sure to add expression and sound effects!
3. Help your child tape her/his reading on cassette.
4. Share it with another child.

Quick Tip: The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children. When you choose books to read aloud, try reading books that are *just a little* beyond your child's understanding. This will encourage questions and cause your child to think.



What's Happening in the Art Room?

Pre-K and Kindergarten students have been doing exciting things in the art room! They have made numbers and will be making letters of the alphabet using modeling clay. Pictured below are two students from Mrs. Gibbs' class who were very excited about their numbers, Carolyn Hoff and David Camille. See what a great job they did!

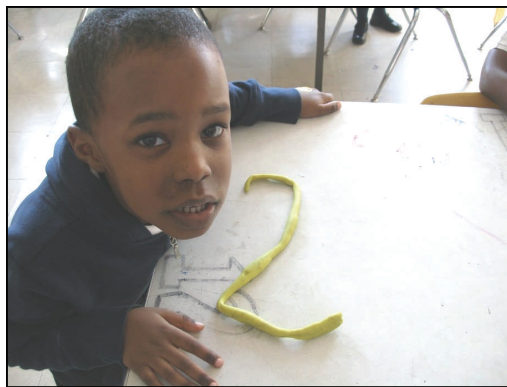
Second graders are creating family portraits that show the size and appearance of each family member.

First graders are drawing themselves at play in their favorite outdoor activity.

Intermediate grades will be participating in a contest hosted at Reagan National Airport creating posters that urge people to recycle. This contest which is called "Recycling Takes Off" will have monetary prizes for the winners.

Intermediate homework this week is drawing a simple object from the kitchen with a constructed response which describes the art process taken to create the sketch.

Go Shepherd Artists!

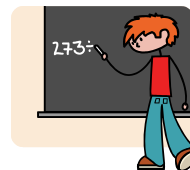


The number "2" is brought to you by David Camille.



The number "9" is brought to you by Carolyn Hoff.

Math Corner



Primary Problems of the Week

Students in grades 3 - 6 must know how to analyze data and predict outcomes. You can begin helping your child prepare by doing simple data and probability problems at home.

Example 1:

Place 5 marbles of the same color in a bag and 1 marble of another color in the same bag. Ask your child which color you would most likely choose and why. Explain probability.

Example 2:

Give your child piece of turkey, a piece of ham, a slice of American cheese and a slice of Cheddar cheese. Work with your child to see how many different sandwich combination he/she can make. (Of course you can use paper cut-outs instead of real food.



Intermediate Problems of the Week

The problems listed below are sample DC CAS/DC BAS test items.

Standard of the Week:

Data Analysis and Probability (DASP).

Third Grade

Students should be able to list and count the number of possible combinations of objects from 2 sets.

3rd Grade Problem: Using pictures of two shirts and three pairs of pants from a catalogue, how many different outfits can you make?



Fourth Grade

Students will be able to represent the possible outcomes for a simple probability situation.

4th Grade Problem:

There are 5 red marbles, 6 blue marbles, and 2 green marbles in a bag. What is the probability that a red marble will be selected from the bag?



Fifth Grade

Students will be able to define and apply the concepts of mean to solve problems.

5th Grade Problem:

James recorded the number of points he scored in each basketball game for the first 6 games of the season. What is the average number of points James scored per game?



Game	Number of
Game 1	10
Game 2	6
Game 3	15
Game 4	9
Game 5	2
Game 6	14

Sixth Grade

Students will be able to compute probabilities of events from simple experiments with equally likely outcomes (e.g., tossing dice, flipping coins, and spinning spinners) by listing all possibilities and finding the fraction that meets given conditions. They will be able to analyze the outcomes.

6th Grade Problem:

There are 5 pink, 4 purple, and 3 red candies in a bag. Without looking, Malcolm will choose one candy from the bag. What is the probability that Malcolm will choose a purple candy?



'Songs of Freedom and Justice': Get Your CDs While They're Hot

Mr. Ken Giles, Shepherd's music teacher, has made an EXTREMELY generous donation of 500 CDs to the Shepherd PTA of the February 12 "Songs of Freedom and Justice" concert. The PTA has already committed to giving every Shepherd student a CD, and that still leaves about 150 to sell. Knowing as we all do that the PTA funds jobs and activities at school that parents deem "essential," and that parent participation and contribution is needed now more than ever, this is a great way to show your support for the school - and to get a little something back for it. Every CD you buy for \$10 is money that helps the PTA.

The CDs should be ready by late April, according to Mr. Giles. That's in time for Mother's Day, Father's Day and graduations, not to mention birthdays and holidays. They're perfect gifts for grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, friends and neighbors, anyone who want to hear Shepherd's children lift their voices in song. Not only is it a great public relations tool for Shepherd today, it will make a terrific keepsake for the future. An order form is in this week's *Mustang*, and extra order blanks are on the rack outside the school's main office.

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*.

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 woman
senator?**



The two presidents who died on July 4 were: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson who both died on July 4, 1826.

'Chocolate Czars' Named for 'World's Finest' Sale



We've got not one but two "chocolate czars" for the upcoming Reader's Digest/World's Finest candy bar sale: Tabitha McNeill and Yao Tyus. They'll be guiding the annual sale, which starts very soon. Take their direction to help them thrive. Their first directive: Pay with checks, not cash. Make checks out to Shepherd Elementary PTA and put "Chocolate Sale" on the memo line. World's Finest chocolate bars come in four different varieties. All together now: Yum!



Pre-K Registration Has Started!

Tell your neighbors and your old "mommy-and-me" groups: Registration for pre-K at Shepherd Elementary has already begun - and, so far, 18 children had registered in the first two weeks of signups - with less than three weeks to go. Registrations are being handled ONLY online this year. You can register at Shepherd right now both for in-boundary and out-of-boundary registration. Details are at two spots on the D.C. Public Schools Web site: <https://webb.k12.dc.us/oob/> and www.k12.dc.us/enrollment/pre-school-pre-k.htm.

Shepherd Web Site Good for 3 Years

A tip of the cap to Shepherd PTA Technology Committee Chairman Tony Clark, who dipped into his own pocket to retain the naming rights to our Web site, www.shepherd-elementary.org, until 2012! Tony is working with the PTA's Communications Committee to make it more of a go-to Web site for parents and visitors, and make it easier for parents to post information.

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* will come out on **Friday March 6.**

Submit information to be included in the next issue by **Tuesday, March 3.**



The Prize Patrol Is Looking For You!

Mrs. Miles is looking for donations of prizes to reward students participating in the Saturday Scholars and the Language Academy. If you have age-appropriate prizes that you can contribute, please get in touch with Mrs. Miles at jamie.miles@dc.gov. Mrs. Miles is also looking for bigger prizes that could reward perfect attendance in the programs. Keep an eye out and work with the principal!

Friday Parent Coffees and More

It may be chilly outside, but the hot coffee will stay hot Fridays for the parent coffees now that they've moved to the Parents Room inside the school. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate - and even a few munchies to serve as fuel for the day - can be found there during and after the morning dropoff.



Just don't look for it tomorrow Friday, February 27. School won't be in session due to parent-teacher conferences!

The Mustang Gets Greener

Shepherd Elementary is saving money on paper, keeping more trees from being cut, by printing only one copy per family of the Mustang. If you have more than one child attending Shepherd, look for the *Mustang* in your YOUNGEST child's backpack.



Save March 14 for SES In-School Spruce-Up Day

Clean, cleaner, cleanest! We need Mr. Clean, Mrs. Clean, Ms. Clean, Dr. Clean, Rev. Clean and all the young Cleans to come to Shepherd on Saturday, March 14, for an important Spruce-Up Day. Bring gloves and cleaning supplies and equipment - and elbow grease! We intend on doing a top-to-bottom cleaning of as much of the school as we can starting at 8:30 a.m. that Saturday. The more willing hands, the more of the school we can clean. Note that this will be an inside job; there's no outside cleaning or gardening activity planned.

Jazz Night at Shepherd

Shepherd Elementary is closing in on its 20th-annual Jazz Night, to be held on a Friday night date to be determined. Head to the auditorium to sample some New Orleans gumbo, as part of the potluck, and some just-as-tasty jazz.

If you have any suggestions and recommendations for jazz acts to perform at Jazz Night, get in touch with Barry Hudson at bhudson@neamb.com.

If you have ideas for the Jazz Night potluck, contact event coordinator Sukari Hardnett at 202-722-1442 or s.hardnett@verizon.net.



Your PTA Money

What do your PTA funds (membership fee and Family Enrichment Fee) pay for? These funds pay for the following items—which directly support ALL the children at Shepherd:

- Academic enrichment (test preparation, tutoring, etc.)
- Classroom Instructional aides
- Lunch room monitors
- Information technology support
- Teacher stipends
- Student activities
- Classroom supplies, curriculum materials and supplies for extracurricular activities (i.e., Lego robotics program, science fair, school dances, movie nights etc.)
- Friday morning coffee and food, babysitting and janitorial expenses for PTA meetings
- Teacher Appreciation activities
- Music program instruments and maintenance
- Insurance

If PTA contributions are not received immediately, which of the above-mentioned items do you want to cut from *your child's* overall academic experience??

Join us on Saturday, March 7 (place and time, TBA) for a special PTA Budget Review and Planning Meeting to discuss this important issue.



**'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: _____

YOUR AUCTION CHALLENGE

We encourage any and all parents to do our share to support the Annual Auction which happens to be our biggest fundraiser of the year. The funds raised through this fun and exciting event are very necessary to catch up on outstanding bills, pay teachers/salaries, and prepare us for the following year.

We are, at this time, making the request that every parent make a donation in the form of an item or service to the auction committee. You can do this as your own personal donation or solicit your employer and stores/service centers/ doctors/ etc. We challenge every parent to submit a ****minimum**** of two (2) items/services (one personal and one/some from a vendor). Some of these things may not even be of a monetary cost to you but rather a chunk of your time or re-gifting of an item that someone has given you but you have never used.

Additionally, you should make plans now to:

- immediate purchase your tickets for the auction (Tickets may be available for purchase as soon as next week.)
- reserve an entire table (You can do this today!)
- place an ad in the catalog
- accept a challenge to sell at least two (2) tickets to someone outside of the immediate Shepherd community.

As times are dire, this funding will serve multiple purposes: (1) allow for an operating budget for the auction committee and (2) also pay for some of our ongoing current expenditures. (i.e., contractual fees paid to school staff.) The sooner these funds are available to the PTA, the sooner the PTA can secure our children's needs.

The Chancellor's Community Forum

This month's topic: *What is My Child Learning?*

Wednesday, March 4, 2009: 6:30–8:00 pm; Location: TBD

Tuesday, March 10, 2009: 6:30–8:00 pm; Location: TBD

If you are in need of child care, disability accommodations, and/or language interpretation services (Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Amharic, French and American Sign Language), contact Jennifer Nguyen at (202) 442-5191 or via email at Jennifer.Nguyen@dc.gov.



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

Ms. Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant — robbyna.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. Deadline is Tuesday at 10 am for inclusion in the newsletter issued that Friday.