



THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, March 6, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!



3/7 – **Special PTA Budget Meeting**, 9:30 am, SES Library

3/11 – **Shepherd School Budget Meeting**, 6:00 pm,
SES Auditorium

3/14 – **No Saturday Language Academy today**

3/17 – **St. Patrick's Day** 

3/20 – **PTA Meeting**, 6:45 pm, SES Auditorium

3/20 – **Jazz Night**

3/23-3/27 – **Spring Break** – No School

3/28 – **No Saturday Academy today**

Special PTA Budget Meeting Is This Saturday Morning

Earlier this week, we heard the crunch of snow under feet and under tires. On Saturday morning, you'll get a chance to hear another kind of crunching – numbers being crunched within the PTA budget.

As you may know, the PTA has been trying to meet the commitments it made for the 2008-09 school year, but fewer PTA memberships, fewer Family Enrichment Fee payments, lower fundraising revenues and the general economic downturn have put those commitments in jeopardy. Listen to what PTA officers have to say about the 2008-09

PTA budget, and what we as parents can do to resolve the situation, Saturday morning. The meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. in the school library.

It could serve as good practice for the March 11 school budget meeting; see story elsewhere in this week's *Mustang*.



A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Happy Friday!

Last week, Principal Melissa Kim from Deal Middle School, Principal Patrick Pope from Hardy Middle School and middle school students from both schools met with 5th and 6th grade parents at Shepherd. The purpose of their visit was to provide parents and students with information about each of their schools and answer questions they may have about middle school. If you were unable to attend the session and still have not decided what middle school your student will be attending next year, I encourage you to contact the school more information and to schedule a tour.

- Deal Middle School: 202-939-2010
- Hardy Middle School: 202-729-4350

Shepherd School Budget Meeting

On Wednesday, March 11, there will be a 2009-2010 Shepherd Budget meeting to help interested individuals better understand the budgeting process. The meeting will last for an hour. Babysitting service will not be provided. Please visit <http://www.k12.dc.us/about/DCPS-Budget-SY-2009-2010.htm> for a copy of the school budget. Please bring a copy of the budget with you to the meeting.

Saturday Academy

On Saturday, March 14, 2009, there will be no language instruction. The language teachers are required to complete an instructional assignment out of the building on this date. Classes will resume on March 21st.

There will no Saturday Academy classes held on March 28th. Enjoy your spring break!

Clean-Up Day!

The school clean up day has been postponed until further notice. If you have donated cleaning supplies, thank you. They will be used during our future clean-up day.

Pancakes

Thank you to everyone who help make the Kiwanis Club pancake breakfast a success. Your pancake donation, participation in the event and/or the hour you spent volunteering made a difference. Thank you!

(See Principal, continued on page 2)

From the P.E. Department

Greetings Shepherd Family! In an earlier newsletter, I talked about my plans for the physical education department here at Shepherd. Along with physical activity, I thought it was very important for students to learn about their health. So three weeks ago, we moved into the health portion of physical education.

Parents, if you've noticed that for the last couple of weeks your children have been coming home talking about eating better, you can attribute it to the first phase of our health cycle: Nutrition. With our young children getting accustomed to the fast-food lifestyle of eating out in excess, I thought it would be essential to give them knowledge about a healthy diet. This must first start with the food pyramid. At the end of this lesson, your children will know the 6 food groups and what colors they are represented by. In addition, they will be able to place the foods they eat each day into the different groups (except junk food), and tell the amount of servings of these foods that they should consume.

I will also be sending a nutrition newsletter home this week giving you, the parent, information on how you will be able to assist in your child's nutritional well-being. It is very important that you read over it with your children, because they will follow the nutritional example that you set for them. I thank you in advance!

~ Mr. Burgess, Physical Education Teacher

Shepherd Family Directory is Here

This year's Shepherd Family Directory is large and includes photos of most of the teaching staff, class lists of students by grade, advertising from a few Shepherd families, and an alphabetical index of families.

Due to budget constraints, however, the PTA is unable to provide hard copies of the directory. Thus, it will be distributed to all families electronically via the Room Parents as well as posted to the PTA Listserv. Due to its large file size, the directory will be forwarded to families in three sections. Please check for emails this week from your child's class Room Parent.

If you need to print out the directory and are unable to do so on your own, please let your Room Parent know. There may be other parents in your class who can print out an extra copy. The PTA may also provide hard copies for a nominal fee.



Be the Change We Seek!

(Principal, continued from page 1)

DC CAS

This week students in grades 3-6 completed their DC CAS assessments in both reading and math. We look forward to sharing the results with you soon. Thank you for working to get your students to school on time every day. This aided in a positive testing environment.

Have a great weekend!

Jamie Miles

Special Note About Budget Meetings

There are **TWO (2) upcoming meetings regarding budgets:**

One is for the **PTA budget for THIS school year**. It will be held tomorrow, Saturday March 7 from 9:30-11:00 am in the Shepherd Elementary School Library.

The second meeting is for the **Shepherd/DCPS budget for NEXT school year**, and will be held this coming Wednesday evening, March 11 from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Shepherd Elementary School Auditorium.

Both meetings are crucial to your child's education.
Please plan to attend.

Science Fair Winners

6th Grade

1st: Wind Power, Tyler Jones
2nd: Soak It Up, Alexandra Lewis
3rd: Bacteria, Steven Sneed
/Honorable Mentions:/
Thirsty Celery, Joy Nicholas
Plants, Joshua Okechukwu
Clouds, Taylor Johnson



5th Grade

1st: Fingerprints, Tyree Lindsey
2nd: The Better Paper Towel, Justin Hinnant
3rd: Fluorescent vs. Incandescent, Afia Tyus
/Honorable Mentions:/
Crystal Growth, Datagga Brothers
Does Cooking Fruit and Veggies Deplete Their Vitamin C?, Milan Jones
Heavy Metal, Marc Loud

4th Grade

1st: Crunching Iron, Krista Ross
2nd: Sound in Ears, William Davis
3rd: Bio-electricity, Nanjon Ray
/Honorable Mentions:/
Diffusion Process, Kennedy Gulatte
Reaching for the Sun, Carson Wheeler
Magnetic Car, Geoffrey Haggray

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

Auction Action

Each week, we'll highlight one or two of the auction items that will be up for bid during the May 29 Shepherd PTA Auction at Howard University. Without further ado, let's jump right in:

- Dog Walking Package: Donated by One Leg Up Dog-walking Service, your canine will enjoy 20 active, fun-filled walks through our neighborhood. The 20 walks can take place during a three month period. Excellent references from dogs and owners alike! Value: over \$500
- Stylish Judith Leiber Glasses: Donated by Burton Optician in Georgetown, some lucky woman will own a pair of eyeglass frames that speaks to the height of luxury and fashion: Judith Leiber glasses. Tres chic! Value: \$500. Want to see more? Go to <http://www.visionglasses.com/jlp-1126.html>

Of course, we're always on the lookout for tantalizing auction items. If you can come up with some great items, terrific! if you know someone who can donate a wonderful prize, please ask. Remember to ask the merchants and managers where you shop to contribute merchandise that will be bid higher and higher!



Remember: The auction's theme is "Salute to D.C. Excellence: Past, Present, and Future." We can all contribute to that! Tickets go on sale real, real soon!

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

School Budget Meeting Set for March 11

Mrs. Jamie Miles, the principal, will lead a meeting in the auditorium at 6 p.m. Wednesday on the proposed 2009-10 budget for Shepherd Elementary, and what it means for Shepherd students parents, and staff. Make plans to attend.



Mardi Gras Box Tops Collection Contest Results

Thanks so much to everyone who participated in the Mardi Gras Box Tops Collection Contest.

Thanks to your efforts, we submitted \$120 worth of Box Tops from our Mardi Gras Box Tops Collection Contest.



Thirty-six (36) students from 14 Shepherd classes submitted box tops. Participation prizes for all 36 students will be distributed next week. Two classes submitted over 200 box tops each! In celebration of that, both Ms. Holt's Pre-K and Ms. Johnson's 2nd grade will receive special treats.

Our next collection contest – our final one for this school year – will be announced in April. Until then, continue to collect and save your Box Tops coupons.

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@yahooogroups.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/

The Mustang is also now available on the Shepherd Elementary School website at www.shepherd-elementary.org.

Shepherd IB-PYP Corner

Update:

After meeting with Mona Maruca, our IB Regional Consultant, last Thursday and Friday, several of the grade level teams are making some revisions to their units of inquiry. Ms. Maruca's input was most helpful and provided several options for or different ways of doing the units. Our teachers are discussing in a collaborative way how to take advantage of those options. Ms. Maruca also recommended to us an excellent resource to provide training on the inquiry method of teaching. Furthermore, she recommended two books by John Barell: *Project-Based Learning* and *Why Are School Buses Always Yellow?* On Ms. Maruca's recommendation, we are planning to send Shepherd representatives to observe at Randolph Elementary School, another authorized IB World School in our area. Randolph is in Arlington, Virginia.

Our objectives for March are to continue and build on the February IB activities. Here is a recap of those activities:

1. Grade level teacher teams will continue to collaborate on constructing their units of inquiry.
2. The full faculty will continue to collaborate on refining the school's Programme of Inquiry (POI).
3. Classroom and special subject teachers will introduce the Learner Profile attributes to students on all grade levels.
4. Grade level teams will develop a first draft of the complete PYP planner for the unit of inquiry that will be implemented during the last six weeks of school.

PYP Lesson of the Week: Students Posing Questions

One aspect of inquiry learning involves students posing questions rather than just answering questions. At the beginning of a unit of inquiry, the teacher presents the central idea to

students and three to four "lines of inquiry" or topics that students will be looking into. Then the teacher poses up to five "teacher questions." The teacher questions should stimulate the students' curiosity about the topics and guide them toward posing their own questions. Students then brainstorm lots of questions that reflect their own particular interests. With the teacher's guidance, each student then selects one of his/her questions to pursue. As the unit progresses, each student works on his/her individual inquiry as well as the activities that the entire class is doing. In a PYP school, inquiry is used by all teachers, and students are encouraged to pose questions during many different types of learning activities, which may or may not be part of a specific PYP unit.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

Could you try getting your child to pose questions about a particular topic? Since Spring is coming, and some families are planning a Spring vacation or a week of family activities in the DC area during the school break, try using the topic of Spring Break as a catalyst for questions. You could make the topic more interesting by designating a location for a real or imaginary trip, such as the Eastern Shore or North Carolina. Ask your child, "What does the family need or want to know about this week, this trip or this place?" and "What do you want to know about it?" Remember, let your child come up with the questions - then you have to answer them!

And, why ARE school buses always yellow? See what your children have to say about that.

~ Patricia L. Tucker & Jamie Miles



PTA Legislative Workshop

Shepherd PTA members are invited to attend a special Legislative Workshop sponsored by the District of Columbia Congress of Parents and Teachers (DC PTA) in collaboration with the National PTA. This event will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2009, 9 AM – 12 Noon at the John A. Wilson Building (City Hall), 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 412.

Each year, the National PTA staff and thousands of PTA members from around the country converge upon Capitol Hill. The purpose of these visits is to meet with members of Congress to advocate for the health, education, and well being of all children. In an effort to prepare for these visits, DC PTA will provide advocacy training and information on key issues for DC children.

A most important issue this year for DC parents, teachers, administrators, and our students is the Mayor's proposed 2010 public school Budget. The Mayor will present his Budget to the City Council for review later in March. We need to be prepared to testify at the City Council's public hearings, which will be scheduled in late March. Also, you will want to visit with Council Members to insure that the 2010 public school Budget provides the full funding that our teachers and administrators need to provide the quality education our students deserve.

For this portion of the workshop, we have invited members of the City Council to meet with you and other PTAs from across the city to learn what information the City Council will need from you that will be helpful to the City Council as they review and move to approve a public school budget for 2010.

The training is on Saturday, March 7, and the visits to the Hill (for PTA members) are scheduled for March 12. Only PTA members that attend the March 7 training may be eligible for the Hill visits. When you visit the Hill, you will be representing DC in addition to 6 million other parents and other concerned citizens. During the Hill Visits, we plan to meet with Eleanor Holmes Norton in addition to other representatives that have oversight of the DC budget and related issues that impact our children.

Space is limited and filling up fast. Please don't miss out on this important event! Contact the DC PTA Office on (202) 543-0333 to RSVP. When leaving a message, please indicate your name, school, number of persons attending, and your phone number or e-mail.

As always, we thank you for your commitment and energy to our children and their future.

~ The DC PTA Executive Committee



Literacy Corner

Grocery Shopping and Literacy

Whether grocery shopping is done at a large supermarket, a corner grocery chain, or a family-owned ethnic market, shopping for food is an activity all families engage in. Children love to become involved in deciding what will be bought and finding it in the store. Young children can help decide what should go on the grocery list. Older children can do the writing. Everyone can look through the cupboards/cabinets to see what is needed, find the items at the market, and put them away when the family returns home.

Literacy Tips with Grocery Shopping

1. Look through cupboards/cabinets to see what you still have and what you need.
2. Have young children tell older children what to write on the shopping list.
3. At the store, have children search for items on the shelves.
4. Read over the shopping list and cross out items when they are found.
5. Match coupons with item labels.
6. Talk about how items are grouped together (all the soups, all the cereals, all the dairy).
7. Once home, figure out where different items are stored. Which items are stored together?
8. What did you forget? Start a new list and keep adding to it during the week.

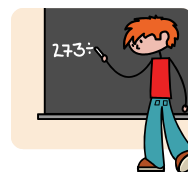
As children participate in grocery shopping, they are using a number of thinking skills that facilitate literacy development:

- **making direct connections between what is said and what is written,**
- **recognizing logos and print on packages,**
- **categorizing items, (fruit, vegetables, soup, cereal),**
- **predicting what will be needed, and**
- **figuring out what is missing.**



Children have a strong, relationship to food, and grocery shopping creates a meaningful, supportive environment for learning.

Math Corner



We are continuing to prepare for DC CAS. These are sample test items.

Intermediate Problem of the Week

3rd Grade

Round 2,546 to the nearest 10.

4th Grade

What are the first 5 multiples of 4?

5th Grade

Write the following number in expanded notation 9,742.

6th Grade

Round 6,459,821.891 to the nearest hundred.

Primary Problem of the Week

To help students in grades PK-2 prepare for the type of math they will see in future years, please review place value starting with the ones place and moving into the hundreds place. Create a place value chart, review the chart with your student, write problems and have your student use the chart to name the value of each digit.

Place Value Chart

Hundreds	Tens	Ones
3	2	4

Questions:

How many ones are in the number 324?

Circle the digit that is in the tens place.



Daylight Savings Time Starts Sunday So Spring Forward!

Daylight Savings Time now starts on the second Sunday of March. That means this coming Sunday, March 8. If you choose, you can set your clocks an hour ahead before you go to bed on Saturday night.

But, because you'll be losing an hour this weekend, you may want to try this helpful hint. Tonight (Friday), get everyone -- including yourself -- to bed 20 minutes earlier than usual. Tomorrow, make it 40 minutes earlier than usual (an extra 20 minutes earlier than Friday). Sunday, after the clocks have jumped an hour, go to bed at your "regular" time, which will be 20 minutes earlier than Saturday. When Monday morning comes, the effects of lost sleep shouldn't feel so bad to you or your family. And you'll be able to get to school on time without the whining of "But I'm TIRED!" ringing in your ears. And since Shepherd Elementary is all about being on time and not being late, it's better for everyone all around.

And, if this plan works, tell all your friends that you read all about it 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:

The Baltimore-Washington Parkway was named after a U.S. Congresswoman who represented the 5th congressional district of Maryland from January 3, 1975 to January 3, 1981. What was her name?



Last week's trivia answer:
The first black woman senator was:
Carol Moseley Braun.

SES Takes Its Turn As 'Chocolate City'

If you remember that raucous P-Funk classic from the '70s, you'll know that George Clinton was referring to the District of Columbia as a "Chocolate City" in a different context. But no matter what shade your skin is, we can all get into the "Chocolate City" from this year's World's Finest Chocolate Sale. Belly up to the bar – the chocolate bar, that is – and buy a



box or two to sell on your block and where you work. You'll be glad you did!

To learn more, contact chocolate sale co-chairs Tabitha McNeill at tmcneill@verizon.net, or Yao Tyus at -either 202-345-0282 or yao.tyus@stepms.com.

Pre-K Registration Has Started!

Tell your neighbors and your old "mommy-and-me" groups: Registration for pre-K at Shepherd Elementary has begun. 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.



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 13.**

Submit information to be included in the next issue by **Tuesday, March 10.**



Concert CD Orders Start Rolling In



And they're rolling in waves. We've received some multiple orders in the past week – one for five CDs, one for six! You'd better write down that list of friends and relatives that you want to give copies of the CD to. Use the order form in this week's *Mustang* – or take an order form from the rack

outside the school office – fill it out, and include payment with your order. Remember that checks should be made payable to "Shepherd Elementary PTA."

Mr. Ken Giles, our music teacher, says he has listened several times to the live recording made of the concert and the dress rehearsal, and affirms that the recording quality is quite good. The next step is to make sure the liner notes are designed attractively. He says he is still aiming for a late-April delivery for the CDs, so order yours now in time for Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, graduations and other milestone occasions in your family life..

A Shout-Out To Starbucks

Can we have an acknowledgment of the three Starbucks that donate pastries each week for the Friday morning coffee? I would like the district managers of these three stores to know that they are contributing to the community; it's a big thing for Starbucks.



These three Starbucks are located at:

- Starbucks downtown Silver Spring Metro
- Burnt Mills Starbucks next to Trader Joe's in Silver Spring
- Starbucks at 6th and C Streets, SW

Just so you know, the coffee you drink each Friday morning also comes from Starbucks, but the coffee isn't donated by the stores. That's why your donations are gratefully appreciated when you stop in at the Parent Room for coffee and pastry.

~ Jameelah Abdulmateen, Hospitality Committee Chair

20th Annual Jazz Night at Shepherd

Shepherd Elementary is closing in on its 20th-annual Jazz Night, to be held on Friday, March 20. 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.



Slide Show Available Of Concert Photographs

If you want to see a sampling of my pictures from the wonderful Songs of Freedom and Justice Concert last month: I have many, many more but I didn't want to offer too many all at one time.

Some of the other concert photographs can be seen later lining the walls of the corridor outside of Mr. Ken Giles' music room on the way to the cafeteria on the lower level of Shepherd Elementary.

All the pictures on display are part of a slide show that you can access online:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=PictureLady777&target=ALBUM&id=5303120668261340385&authkey=hB9exRW8XJY&authkey=hB9exRW8XJY&feat=email>

~ Ann Morgan, Mother of Brianna Morgan, 6th grader



**'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: _____

**THREE REASONS
TO SUBMIT DONATIONS TO
THE SHEPHERD AUCTION:**

1. Helps raise funds for your child's school
2. Brings together the Shepherd community for a fun-filled auction event
3. Allows you to show just how clever you are at getting friends and colleagues to donate innovative and valuable items!

By soliciting donations for the silent and live auction for our event on FRIDAY, MAY 29, you do more than just raise money: You help sustain a community of educators who work diligently to teach your child each and every day. Here are some examples of donations from last year that helped Shepherd PTA raise over \$50,000:

- principal for a day
- breakfast with Chancellor Rhee
- lunch with Mayor Fenty
- handyman services
- hotel stay/limo
- Motor Pelican cruise for 50
- Football, baseball, hockey, soccer tickets
- personal assistant/organizational consultant
- tickets to plays
- tax/financial consulting
- family movie/game night packages
- semester of aftercare
- laundry/dry cleaning
- art and dance classes
- hair/salon services
- pizza for a year
- personal chef
- Color Me Mine
- book lady photography
- Moorenko's Ice Cream invent-a-flavor
- music, karate and yoga classes
- jewelry
- Silver Stars Gymnastics
- set sail
- ride in a police squad car
- oriental rug
- CLASS ART PROJECTS

Be on the lookout for more info in your child's backpack on how you can bring in a donation that will help Shepherd meet and exceed its goals for the coming year!

For more information, contact auction co-chairs Chantale Swanson at 422-1249 or Marnie Keller at 244-3855.



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.