



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Thursday, April 9, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!



4/10 – Good Friday—NO SCHOOL

4/11 – No Saturday Academy today

4/11 – PTA Executive Board Meeting, time & place TBA

4/13 – Easter Monday—NO SCHOOL

4/15 – PTA Meeting, 6:45 SES Auditorium

4/16 – Emancipation Day—NO SCHOOL

4/17 – Star Achievers Talent Show, 3:30-6:00 pm

4/18 – SES Garden Project, 8:30 am-1:30 pm

Shepherd Elementary PTA Meeting Wednesday, April 15

6:45 p.m.
School Auditorium

School starts on time; so do PTA meetings!

Agenda items will include:

- Principal's report
- Auction update
- Treasurer's report
- Approval of March Meeting Minutes
- President's report
- Fund-raising efforts
- LSRT news
- "Voice of the Parents"

Consult the PTA listserve for a more complete agenda closer to the meeting date.

Volunteering: An Invaluable School and Community Resource

The Shepherd Elementary School family, and the Shepherd Park community as a whole benefit immensely from the **volunteering** that school parents and community residents do – for the purpose of improving the quality of education that the school can offer and the quality of life that our community enjoys.

Such volunteering comes in many forms. It certainly includes financial contributions that support school and community projects, but it also includes the many unpaid services that our parents and residents contribute to such activities as planting of trees and other beautification projects around the school and in the community's parks. For example, Shepherd students, teachers, parents, and neighbors joined together last week to plant trees at the school. These volunteer efforts increased the value of the material contributions made by the Casey Tree Foundation, the National Cherry Blossom Committee, and Home Depot. Our children's learning about environmental protection, the look of the school grounds, and the community's environmental quality will enjoy years of benefit from the volunteering done all involved in that project.

In today's economic environment, our national and local governments, as well as nongovernmental organizations and businesses, are having to cut their funding of activities on which we have come to depend to support a healthy community. We certainly hope the present economic down-turn will end sooner rather than later, but until it does, **volunteering** will be an even more important resource for Shepherd Elementary School, the Shepherd Park Community, and to lovely Washington, D.C. as a whole.

While we move quickly toward the end of this school year, Shepherd continues to have many needs and opportunities for **volunteering – of financial contributions and unpaid personal services** by school parents and neighbors. Those who volunteer find it not only valuable to the school, but it gives a strong sense of personal satisfaction. Borrowing from a popular Peace Corps theme, **volunteering** is the "best work you will ever love."

~ Earl Yates, PTA President

Shepherd Saturday Academy Wraps Up Next Week

Next Saturday, April 18, is the wrap-up of Shepherd first Saturday Academy - both the test-preparation classes and the language academy.

We're issuing a "last call" for prizes to be donated for perfect attendance at Saturday Academy and other markers of achievement. If you can donate kid-friendly prizes, or money to buy prizes, please go to the main office.



Take Home a Box or Two Of Chocolate Goodness!

The chocolate bars for our annual sale are in. They are \$50 per box. We have had 300 boxes delivered - 300 being a number reflective of the number of students in the school.

We are asking each family to be responsible for one box @ \$50 per box. Logistically speaking, we would like for you to pay for the box with a check payable to Shepherd Elementary PTA when you receive the chocolate. This is an important step toward making this fundraising effort seamless, as in the past there has been a significant amount of energy expended on contacting parents to collect money after the chocolate was distributed.



If you are able to assist in chocolate distribution, please reach Chocolate Czar Yao Tyus at 202-345-0282 or yao.tyus@stepms.com with the date(s) and time(s) of your availability. Let's fill the roster, and let's empty the school of that World's Finest Chocolate.

Sponsor an Issue of The Mustang

See your name in print! Donate 4 reams of copy paper - that's what it takes each week to get the news out - and you'll receive kudos right here in the pages of *The Mustang*! Or, if you prefer, donate in the name of your child's teacher or one of the other amazing Shepherd Elementary School staff members and they'll receive special mention in that week's newsletter. To sponsor an issue of *The Mustang*, contact Mark Pattison at pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

PTA, LSRT Elections Next Month

We are now accepting nominations for both Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT) and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) elections to be conducted in May. Here in a nutshell, is what is available:

Local School Restructuring Team

- Four (4) parent representatives
- Monthly meetings
- An election will be held in May, even if only four are nominated.
- Nominations are due by Wednesday, April 15.

PTA Elections

The PTA will hold the election for new officers at the May PTA meeting. Nominations are open for the following PTA officer positions, with a basic overview of each position's duties (for a full description, please consult the PTA bylaws):

- President: Presides at all meetings, coordinates the work of the officers and committees, and other duties as necessary.
- 1st Vice President: Assists the president and performs other duties as assigned.
- 2nd Vice President: Assists the president and performs other duties as assigned.
- Recording Secretary: Records the minutes of all meetings
- Corresponding Secretary: Maintains all records
- Treasurer: Maintains all financial records, develops budget, pays bills and prepares financial reports.
- Assistant Treasurer: Assists the Treasurer.

If you are interested in running for an office or nominating someone for a position, please send information to one of the Nominating Committee members:

- Judith McCullough - (202-829-9289 or judith.mccullough@seiu.org)
- Lawanda Tyus - ltys@yahoo.com
- Charisse Brossard - charisse_brossard@adp.com

All PTA and LSRT candidates should, at the time of your nomination, write a summary of your skills and experience for publication in *The Mustang* and the PTA listserve as well as for distribution at the PTA meeting.

The Challenge is On!

One of the class parents has issued a challenge: The class with the highest percentage of parent attendance at the next PTA meeting, held Wednesday, April 15, will win pop-sicles for the entire class!

Come to Wednesday's PTA meeting and help your child's class win a treat!!



Spotlight on Excellence – Past, Present, and Future

Auction Sponsorships:

It's just under two months until our May 29 auction. Join the growing list of auction sponsors. There are definite tax-deduction advantages to becoming a sponsor – either as an individual or a business. And there are a variety of sponsorship levels to fit most checking accounts:

- **MUSTANG SPONSOR** level (\$500)
- **SILVER SPONSOR** level (\$750)
- **GOLD SPONSOR** level (\$1,000)
- **PLATINUM SPONSOR** level (\$2,500)

Arrange for your auction sponsorship with either our Auction Committee co-chairs:

Chantale Swanson at
swanprincess75@aol.com, or

Marnie Keller
at marniekeller@gmail.com.



PTA Bake Sale Results

Remember the bumper sticker that read, "Wouldn't it be nice if the schools had all the money they needed and the Air Force had to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber?"



That day hasn't come yet, but Saturday's bake sale during the Saturday Academy netted **\$168.50** for the PTA.

Avon Fundraiser Extended to Tuesday



If you haven't yet gotten started on filling up that Avon

Fund-Raiser that appeared in your child's backpack just before Spring Break, don't sweat. Use the long weekend to talk to relatives, friends and neighbors about buying a bundle or two of Avon products to help Shepherd Elementary. The PTA will get 40 percent of all sale proceeds. Then, return the forms with checks payable to "Shepherd Elementary PTA" by Tuesday, April 14.

If you have any questions, just ask Shepherd's resident Avon Lady, Chantale Swanson, at swanprincess75@aol.com.



Countdown to Summer Box Tops Collection Contest

Turn in your Box Tops into the Collection Box in the Main Office anytime between now and May 20. Collection sheets were sent home with the 4/3 issue of *The Mustang*. 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 Countdown to Summer Box Tops Collection Contest. All box tops that have been received since the Mardi Gras contest deadline will count toward the class totals in the Countdown to Summer 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: Wednesday, May 20

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!**



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.

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

Auction Action

Here are a couple of more featured items for you to save up for when bidding times comes at the May 29 PTA Auction:

- **GO TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS!:** Your child's learning track will be all systems go with the SCORE! Educational Center program. This donation, valued at \$200, includes a comprehensive academic assessment in reading and math plus one month of SCORE!'s Online Plus tutoring program. Your child's next DC-CAS test will be a breeze with this invaluable educational aid.
- **BE PREPARED WHILE ON THE GO:** Are your family cars properly outfitted with the necessary precautions in case of emergency? Now they can be, with two Prepared Pak emergency kits. These backpacks fit conveniently into any car trunk and include an array of emergency items, from the first aid kit, masks and duct tape to the more elaborate provisions such as a hand-crank radio/flashlight and pup tent. Peace of mind comes at no additional charge with this auction item! Value: \$260.

And that's just two more of the mighty fine items we'll be auctioning May 29. If you have some item or service that you can donate for the auction, we're happy to accept it. If you know a merchant or business that would be willing to donate items for the auction, we're even happier! To learn more on how to make auction contributions, reach either of our Auction Committee co-chairs, Chantale Swanson at 422-1249 or Marnie Keller at 244-3855.

DC Armor Fundraiser Extends Into Single-Game Tickets

The D.C. Armor's season is now under way. With Shepherd Elementary parent Corey Barnette as part-owner and GM, how can they go wrong? We just want to remind you about the Shepherd PTA fundraiser with the DC Armor. The box office opens at 4pm at the DC Armory on game day.

Game-day purchases are cash only. Credit cards may be used for online ticketing only and those tickets will be available for pick-up at the box office. Proceeds from each regular game-day ticket purchase will benefit Shepherd Elementary too. Please reference code: **090101SPTA** when making your purchase.

Root, root, root for the home team, and support Shepherd at the same time!!



Shepherd Box Tops for Education Program Seeks New Coordinator

Would you like to help Shepherd earn some easy and much needed money?

Volunteer to be the new Box Tops for Education Coordinator for Shepherd Elementary School. Our current coordinator, Laura Noble, will be stepping down from that role next school year.



The money earned through the Box Tops for Education program is deposited to the Shepherd Elementary School Student Activity Fund account. So far this year, we have raised over \$650 with Box Tops.

For more information about the Box Tops program or to volunteer to be the new Box Tops Coordinator, contact Laura Noble at taylorfarm@kddmgroup.com.

Star Achievers Talent Show Is Next Friday!

Come check out the skills and talents of Shepherd Elementary's students in the Star Achievers after-care program at the Star Achievers Talent Show, to be held 3:30-6 p.m. inside the school auditorium.

You won't be able to beat the food prices: hot dogs for a dollar each, chips for 50 cents, soft drinks for 75 cents, and candy anywhere from 25 cents to a dollar.



There will be live entertainment and talent displays from our kids. An extra added attraction will be music provided by DJ Smooth V (now who could THAT be?).

For more details, see Ms. Oliveros, Mr. Velez, or Ms. Lee at the school.

Next Issue of The Mustang

The next issue of The Mustang will be distributed to students on Friday, April 17. If you want to contribute to the next issue, please get your material in by 10 a.m. next Tuesday, April 14. The Mustang editorial team thanks you!

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

SESmustang@gmail.com.



Tree Planting a Big Success



April 1st was more than April Fool's Day at Shepherd ES. Mr. King's sixth grade class put in 12 trees. Last's year's sixth grade also planted trees with the Casey Trees organization; but, they had a tree auger! This year's group – the 80th and final sixth-grade class to graduate from Shepherd – dug 12 BIG holes from scratch and planted three cherry trees donated by the National Cherry Blossom Festival Committee with its two sponsors, The Home Depot and the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, and nine shade trees donated by Casey Trees.

Parents, community members, and Casey Trees staff and volunteers worked with the students. Not only did everyone have a fun time, but they also had a learning experience. Mayor Adrian Fenty joined the students, heard about gardening safety and tool use, and thanked everyone for helping make Shepherd ES a more beautiful place.

When the planting was done, Mr. Seaward welcomed everyone. Mrs. Crockett's first grade class recited a song about trees and sang two songs, accompanied by Mr. Giles on his guitar. Parents and guests enjoyed their performance.

Thanks to everyone who participated.

~ June Confer

A 'Thank-You' Lovely As a Tree

Thank you all for a great day! The trees look amazing and will present the school beautifully in due time! Many thanks to many people are in order. Special thanks to the good people at the Casey Trees Foundation for making it all possible! Thanks also to everyone at Shepherd Elementary for taking valuable time out of the classroom in order to make this happen! Mr. King and his students did a great job, and, as always, June Confer played a prominent role in making this happen! The Shepherd Park Community is grateful and the students will reap the benefits for years to come...



Photos courtesy Ann Morgan, Shepherd Parent

'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 Corner

Create an Easter centerpiece at Brookside

Join Karen Nelson Kent, owner of Floral Diversity, to design an Eastern centerpiece using tulips, irises and other spring flowers 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Friday, April 10** at Brookside Garden's visitor's center adult workshop. There will also be a chance to build nests with perhaps an egg or two. Fee of \$45 includes all materials. Registration required at www.parkpass.org, course number is 66353. Brookside Gardens is located at 1800 Glenallan Ave. in Wheaton. Call 301-962-1400.

Register for Make-A-Wish triathlon

Registration is now open for the 19th Annual Make-A-Wish Kids' Triathlon, which will take place **May 3** at the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreational Park, 1120 Jackson Road in Silver Spring. This kids-helping-kids event features two competitions: a run-bike-run event for children ages 5-8, and a swim-bike-run event for children ages 9-16. Up to 300 children may participate to raise awareness and money to make wishes come true for local children battling life-threatening medical conditions. For registration and sponsorship information, visit www.midatlantic.wish.org and click on "events," or call Sara Askey at 301-962-9474.

The Takoma Park Maryland Library at 101 Philadelphia Ave. will continue with its regular weekly children's events, including its **Bilingual Spanish Circle Time** every **Thursday** from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and "**Wonderful Ones**," a program for children 12 through 24 months and their parents beginning at 11 a.m. every **Wednesday**.



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 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

Mr. Rembert Seaward, Interim Principal – rembert.seaward@dc.gov

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