

Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, April 24, 2009



Mark Your Calendars!

4/25 – Hands On DC Work-a-Thon, 9:00 am

4/20-5/1 – DC-CAS testing

5/1 – ‘DC-CAS is Over’ Dance, 3:30-6:00 pm, sponsored by Pre-K

5/6 – Language Meeting, 5:30 pm

5/7 – Progress/Deficiency Reports sent home

5/15 – Parent-Teacher Conferences, NO SCHOOL

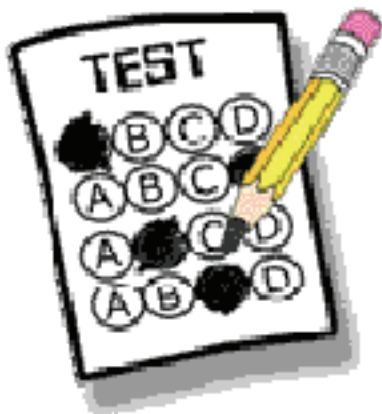
5/15 – Year-End and BWL Concert, 6:30 pm, SES Auditorium

5/20 – Countdown to Summer Box Tops Contest deadline

5/25 – Memorial Day Holiday, NO SCHOOL

5/29 – Annual Auction, 7:00 pm, Howard Univ. Blackburn Center

Good Luck
to all the
students taking
the DC-CAS!!



A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Hello Shepherd Family,

Last week ended with a pep rally and students taking a journey on the “DC-CAS train” and this week began with everyone in testing mode. DC-CAS is here and according to the students “it’s easy.” I contribute a lot of their confidence to their being well prepared. We have one more week to go and then we can all take a deep breath. Thank you for working to get your students to school on time, well rested, fed and mentally prepared. An additional thank you is extended to parents and students in grades pre-K through 2, because it takes all of us working together to create a positive testing environment.

Outstanding Music Teacher

Mr. Giles, our fabulous music teacher, has been recognized by the DC Art Education Association for the work he has done. Please let him know how proud we are of him when you see him.

Teacher Appreciation Week

We will be celebrating *Teacher Appreciation Week* May 3-9. Please help me celebrate our teachers by allowing your students to participate in the *Teacher Appreciation Week* activities outlined below. Please do not forget about Mr. Burgess, Mr. Giles, Ms. Scinto and Ms. Michaud.

- Monday: Flowers for Your Teacher Day (bring a single flower or a bouquet of flowers for your teacher)
- Tuesday: Healthy Snack Day (an apple, orange, banana or strawberries will do)
- Wednesday: Creative Day (make a card, write a poem, sing a song or do a dance for your teacher)
- Thursday: Chocolate Day (bring a chocolate treat for your teacher)
- Friday: Say “thank you!” and Give Your Teacher a Hug or High Five Day (it’s the little things that matter most)

Graduation

The graduation date has changed due to the continued possibility of an end of year DC-BAS. The new dates are June 11th (sixth grade) and June 12th (fifth grade). Future communications will be distributed directly to the graduating classes.

(See Principal, continued on page 2)

(Principal, continued from page 1)

Next Year

There have been a lot of questions about next year and it is my plan to answer all of your questions. Please look for meeting announcements and updates in the Mustang throughout the months of May and June. Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6 at 5:30 p.m. During this meeting we will discuss language; where we are, where we are going, and how we are going to get there. The meeting will last for one hour.

It is my goal to have all teachers assigned to a grade level prior to the end of the year. Student - teacher placement decisions will not be announced until July. The final decision about student-teacher placement resides with me. I look at each child individually and strive to place them where their needs will be best met.

Enjoy your weekend!

Regards,

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Auction Action

Tickets are now on sale for the annual PTA Auction, to be held Friday, May 29, at Howard University. Tickets are just \$50. Get 'em now, since you'll be able to bid on items like these:

FUN FOR KIDS.....

Your child will be jumping with joy (on a trampoline, that is!) when you bid on and win a full week of day camp at **Silver Stars Gymnastics and Fitness Center**. The day camp offers a fun-filled week of games, crafts, and of course gymnastics. Value: \$260

.....AND ADULTS!

Parents need to have fun too, and this item is sure to kick off a wonderful summer date night as you cheer on the **Washington Mystics vs Detroit Shock in VIP tickets courtside**. Game is Friday, Aug 7 at 7:00pm. Value \$230

And those are 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 202-422-1249 or Marnie Keller at 202-244-3855.



Spotlight on Excellence - Past, Present, and Future

With the Shepherd PTA Fundraising Auction fast approaching, we're asking you to get involved in a number of ways:

DONATE: By soliciting donations for the silent and live auctions 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.

ATTEND: Mix and mingle with local celebrities. Invite your friends and neighbors. Have an enjoyable visit with people you normally just pass in the hallway! With the theme "Spotlight on Excellence - Past, Present, and Future," you can see first-hand what drives the level of excellence at Shepherd Elementary. The tickets are only \$50 for an evening of food, music, and partaking in a fun-filled silent and live auction. It kicks off at 7:00 pm in the Blackburn Center on the campus of Howard University.

ADVERTISE: Show support of your child and their school by placing an ad in the auction event catalog program. Starting at only \$25, it's an eye-catching way to show you care.

VOLUNTEER: From soliciting donations to helping decorate the day of the event, there are lots of ways to participate in making this event a night to be remembered—both with the entertainment and the fundraising.

AUCTION SPONSORSHIPS: 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)

Our annual auction is a fun and easy way to help YOUR child's school meet and exceed its goals for the coming year!

For more information, contact our Auction Committee co-chairs: Chantale Swanson at 202-422-1249, or Marnie Keller at 202-244-3855.

Donation, advertising, and sponsorship forms are available online at www.shepherd-elementary.org.

Star Achievers Update



The STAR ACHIEVERS Before and After Care program would like to give a huge pat on the back to staff members Mrs. Lee and Ms. Oliveros for their exemplary work in presenting the annual after care talent show Friday April 17. All of the performers were marvelous and showed glimpses of perhaps the next American Idol. Again, kudos to Mrs. Lee and Ms. Oliveros.

The STAR ACHIEVERS is also in the process of securing tickets for the UniverSoul Circus in May. We will keep you in the know about dates and personnel attending the show. Only children in the after care program will be allowed to attend this performance. Parents of those children may also attend (as chaperons, of course).

FINAL REMINDER: There are still a handful of parents who have failed to honor their after care payment obligation. ALL MONIES ARE DUE BY APRIL 30TH. Any families still delinquent at month's end will suffer the indignity of having their children dismissed from the program. In addition, those accounts will be sent to the Credit Collection Bureau.

In early June, we will be sending out information concerning next year's after care program. There will be several changes and a possible rise in cost. Stay tuned. Any suggestions, comments or criticisms are welcomed. Please call Mr. Huff at 301-699-9266.



Saturday Academy Appreciation

Thank you to everyone that supported Shepherd's Saturday Academy!

Special Thank You to all of the parents that donated food for the closing.

Thank you Mr. Pattison for your gift donations.

Thank you to our guest speakers Professor Keith McKelphin and Alfredas (93.9WKYS radio personality).

Thank you staff and students for all of your time and hard work.



Countdown to Summer Box Tops Collection Contest



Turn your Box Tops into the Collection Box in the Main Office no later than **WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 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!



World's Finest Chocolate Sale!

We are on the home stretch of completing the chocolate sales. And with the assistance of a few additional parents, we will sell out of the 300 chocolate boxes that we have committed to selling. We will also add \$7,500 to the coffers of the school.

If you have not picked up a box of chocolate yet, please bring \$50 to school, when delivering or picking up your little person, along with your fundraising smile. The school will reap rich dividends from your commitment.

If you have any questions, please contact the Shepherd Chocolate Czar Yao Tyus at 202-345-0282 or yao.tyus@stepms.com.

Let's fill the PTA coffers and empty the school of that World's Finest Chocolate.



The Challenge is On!

One of the class parents has issued a challenge: The class with the highest percentage of parent attendance at the final PTA meeting of the year, held **Wednesday, May 20**, will win popsicles for the entire class! Come to the May PTA meeting and help your child's class win a treat!!



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.

Literacy Corner

Primary Grades

Sound Spy

Goal: To help your child identify the beginning, middle and ending sounds in words

What You Will Need:

- Time with your child

Let's Go!

1. Invite your child to play "Sound Spy" with you. S/he will be a "spy" who has to find matching sounds at the beginning of words.

2. Now, think of two words that begin with the same sounds and one word that begins with a different sound.
Example: mat, sit, mop

3. Say the words and have the child say them with you.

4. Then say, "I hear two words that begin with the same sound. Can you 'Sound spy?'" (Your child may need a lot of help at first.)

Let's Go On!

5. Try the same game, but this time match middle or ending sounds. This is harder, but with practice, your child should be able to "Sound Spy" in no time!

Intermediate Grades

Literacy Skills

We can all improve our literacy skills if we spend just 15 minutes a day reading, writing or surfing the Internet. Family Literacy isn't just for kids, either. Did you know that as we grow older, we lose our literacy skills? Spending time reading and playing word games together will help keep everyone's skills sharp.

Try this activity:

Create a quiz! Write out 10 interesting facts about yourself in question and answer format. Write down your answers and test your family to see if anyone really knows you.

~ Crystal Moorefield, Literacy Professional Developer

Next Issue of The Mustang

The next issue of The Mustang will be distributed to students on **Friday, May 1**. If you want to contribute to the next issue, please get your material in by 10 a.m. next **Tuesday, April 28**. The Mustang editorial team thanks you!

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

SESmustang@gmail.com

PTA, LSRT Elections in May

Both the Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT) and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) elections will be held in May. Here in a nutshell, is what is up for election:



Local School Restructuring Team

The nominations for LSRT are closed. The candidates for the LSRT are: Marcie Bane; Rhonda Davis Smith, Marcus Hall, Jaye Jones Muhammad, and Bill Wilson. Candidate statements will be posted on the list serve.

PTA Elections

The PTA will hold the election for new officers at the May PTA meeting. Following is a list of 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

For more information, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members:

- Judith McCullough – judith.mccullough@seiu.org
- Lawanda Tyus – lttyus@yahoo.com
- Charisse Brossard – charisse_brossard@adp.com

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

Music Concert, Featuring BWL

Make your plans to attend the annual **Shepherd Year-End Music Concert**, featuring violins, guitars, and our famous B-W-L Rhythm and Blues Band.

The concert will be **May 15**, 6:30 pm in the Auditorium. This is the same day as parent-teacher conferences, so there will be no school that day.

Be sure to attend your child's parent-teacher conference, and then make plans to return to school at 6:30 pm for an amazing and fun musical evening.



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.



Shepherd May Musical Activities

- Distribution of the CD from “Songs of Freedom and Justice” concert: CDs should be ready about May 1.
- Several Shepherd School students will sing with DC Labor Chorus at their springtime concert on May 2 at First Trinity Lutheran Church (4th and E, NW).
- On May 8, Jali-D (a djembe drummer and innovative rapper) will perform for our 4th grade music classes and the aftercare students.
- On May 12, our 6th graders will perform their student opera at the Washington National Opera office in the Takoma neighborhood, DC. Other DCPS schools will also present their student operas at the same event.
- May 15 is our final concert of the year, featuring violins, guitars, and the BWL rhythm-and-blues band.

~ Ken Giles, Music Teacher

‘Hands on DC’ Work-a-Thon at Shepherd TOMORROW!

Shepherd is a beautiful school; however, there are always things that can be done to make it more beautiful. We have been “sprucing” things up and this weekend, the “sprucing-up” will continue. On Saturday, April 25, 2009, *Hands on DC* will be here to complete an array of tasks such as: carpeting the front office, painting rooms and murals, cleaning storage rooms and painting hopscotch grids and lines for the basketball court. There will be approximately 65-70 volunteers.

To show our appreciation, we are asking parents to make a small donation of at least \$1.00 but more would be greatly appreciated. The money collected will be used to provide the volunteers with a pizza lunch. Please send your donation to school in an envelope clearly labeled with the words “Hands on DC”. We are also asking for donations of bottled water. Water donations can be delivered to the front office on the day of the event or before.



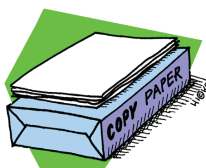
Do you have a truck? Are you available this weekend? If so, please stop by and allow us to load your pick-up with some old items that need to be hauled away from the school. There will be plenty of volunteers available to assist.

If you have question, please call the front office. Thank you!

Have You Bought
Your Auction
Tickets Yet??



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.

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 setup.

Summer School at Shepherd

Summer school at Shepherd is a DCPS instructional program, and will run from June 29th through August 5th for rising First Grade through rising Fifth Grade students. Students who are residents of the District may attend summer school at Shepherd. This includes non-DCPS students who attend private and charter schools.

Registration has already begun and the deadline for registration is May 1st. Applications may be obtained from the school or by visiting: <http://www.k12.dc.us/schools/summer-school-2009>.

The summer school program will have two parts: a morning academic program and language program followed by an afterschool enrichment program. You may enroll your child in either the morning session, the afternoon session, or both sessions.

There will be two classes per grade level, plus two language classes (one French and one Spanish). The language classes are open to students who are currently enrolled in language (including current pre-K students). The instructional program is for current Kindergarten through 5th grade students.

Shepherd Summer School will host students from Takoma, Whittier, LaSalle-Backus (ES only), and Brightwood. (The ratio of students to teachers will be up to 25 to 1.)

Summer School hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be served from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The DC One afterschool program will be from 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Are You Ready for Some Football?



The *Northwest Football Academy* is now accepting registration for the 2009 fall football season for children ages 5-15. The Academy is located at the Fort Stevens Recreation Center, at 13th and Van Buren Streets, just south of Walter Reed. The Academy will teach philosophies, fundamentals and techniques of football. The Academy teaches **PRIDE: Preparation, Responsibility, Integrity, Dedication and Excellence**. For more details, e-mail info@nwfootballacademy.org.

ISO Full-Size Refrigerator

The Pre-K and K teachers are seeking the donation of a full-size refrigerator for use by the Pre-K and K classes. The fridge, housed in Ms. Holt's classroom, is used for daily snacks and for class party items. The current fridge is on its "last legs" and needs to be replaced. If you have a fridge in good working order that you would like to donate, please contact Ms. Holt.

July Performances at Strathmore

Thursdays in July promise to be fun in the Backyard Theater Stage at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane in Bethesda. There will be music and fun for the whole family outdoors under a tent.

- July 2: Bash the Trash: music made with recycled objects.
- July 9: Lesole's Dance Project: African dancing and drumming.
- July 16: Red Grammar, who Parent's Magazine calls "the best voice in children's music."
- July 23: Charlotte Blake Alston: Story and song in the West African tradition.
- July 30: Kim and Reggie Harris: Songs and stories of the Underground Railroad.

Shows are at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. for all Thursdays. Tickets are \$6 for anyone age 3 and up, and under-3's are free.

For more details call 301-581-5100 or go to www.strathmore.org.

Auction Tickets On Sale Now



Area Library Events

Organic Gardening Workshop: Saturday, May 2, 10:45 a.m.-noon. For ages 10-up. Back to the basics – growing food, growing organically with master gardener Fannie Hamilton. At the Shepherd Park Library, 7420 Georgia Ave. NW. For details call 541-6100.

Wednesday Afternoon Book Club: Wednesday, May 13, 1 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the Shepherd Park Library. The May book will be Carson McCullers' "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter," the classic tale of moral isolation in a small Southern mill town in the 1930s. For details call 541-6100.

Teacher Appreciation (TAP) Award

Each month, Shepherd Elementary's Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT) TAPs a teacher through its Teacher Appreciation Program (TAP).

All you have to do is write a letter nominating your child's teacher for his or her great work and dedication. If you have noticed a wonderful habit your child's teacher has, or if he/she has a way with the class that you admire, tell the rest of the school your story. Teacher assistants, "special" teachers, and other staff can be nominated also.

To nominate someone to be tapped, please send an email to LSRT Chair, Rhonda Davis Smith at championco@aol.com. The LSRT will review all letters and select those to receive the TAP honor at each month's PTA meeting.



TAP a teacher (or other wonderful staff member) today!!



Gardening Continues at Shepherd

Last Saturday, we continued with our grounds beautification project at Shepherd. This project is part of the "Greener Schools, Cleaner Water" grant received last school year to beautify the grounds and deal with water run off and soil improvement. Brian Seipp recruited the ten volunteers from EDAW, an environmental working group.

Participants cleaned up the walkways where mulch had spilled over from beds during the winter snow and rain, constructed and planted four circular mini-gardens in the 14th Street tree box, filled the drip bags around all of the 17 trees planted with Casey Trees and the Cherry Blossom Festival, weeded plant beds, and prepared the ground for the rain garden in the PK/Library courtyard.

One more Saturday is planned in May to finish off the Jonquil Street terraces, put in place our volunteers for summer watering, and finish up the rain garden planting and installation of the rain barrel on the downspout. Look for further news in *The Mustang*.

Special thanks goes out to last week's volunteers:

Adults:

- Steven King
- June Confer
- Sandra McKinney
- Angela McPherson
- Kimberly Brandon
- Brian Seipp of the Potomac Conservancy, our mentor for the "Greener Schools, Cleaner Water" grant
- and 10 EDAW volunteers

Students:

- Rachel McPherson
- Deangelo McPherson
- Precious Joy McPherson
- Daniel McPherson
- Destiny McPherson
- Columbus McKinney
- Jovann McKinney



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 setup.

Shepherd Elementary School Pre-K
presents the

DC-CAS is OVER School Dance

**In celebration of the end
of the DC-CAS testing,
Shepherd Pre-K Classes will
host a rockin' fundraiser for
all Shepherd students.**

Proceeds will benefit the Shepherd Pre-K
End of Year Educational Trip

- When: Friday May 1
- Time: 3:30-6:00 pm
- Where: Shepherd Auditorium
- Tickets cost: \$3.00
- Attire: Come as you are!

Raffle tickets for great prizes will be sold at the dance. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Dance Tickets are on sale starting Thursday, April 23.

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

Shepherd Elementary Night at the DC ARMOR

TOMORROW, April 25th at 7pm at the DC Armory, 2100 E. Capitol St. SE, Washington, DC 20003. (Stadium/Armory metro stop on Orange/Blue line)

What is fun, fast, and FREE...and very close to home? DC Armor football! Shepherd parents Kim and Corey Barnett (parents of Kindergartener Kelci) have arranged for **150 COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS** to be made available to Shepherd families. **Tickets are first come, first serve.**

Email Shepherd parent Kim Barnette at kwbarnette@yahoo.com or sign-up with Ms. Brooks in the main office ... simply provide your child's name and the number of tickets you need held at the DC Armory's Will Call window (opens at 6pm on the 25th). The first 10 families will be entered for a chance to win tickets for the remainder of the season. Be sure to invite other families and neighbors to the game, too! Tickets may be purchased online at www.dcarmor.com or at the DC Armory box office, reference code **090101SPTA**. A portion of each ticket sale **benefits Shepherd Elementary.**



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.