

Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, May 8, 2009



Mark Your Calendars!

- 5/9 – Auction Committee Meeting, 4:00 pm, 7405 Alaska Ave.
- 5/15 – Parent-Teacher Conferences, NO SCHOOL
- 5/15 – Year-End and BWL Concert, 6:30 pm, SES Auditorium
- 5/20 – PTA Meeting, and PTA & LSRT Elections
- 5/20 – Countdown to Summer Box Tops Contest deadline
- 5/25 – Memorial Day Holiday, NO SCHOOL
- 5/27 – Field Day – Pre-K-Grade 2
- 5/28 – Field Day – Grades 3-6
- 5/29 – Annual Auction, 7:00 pm, Howard Univ. Blackburn Center

Two Special Newsletter Issues Next Week to Feature Auction & Election

Both LSRT and PTA elections will be held on May 20. The Auction will be held on May 29.

Next week's (May 14) issue of the Mustang will be the Election Special, featuring candidate profiles and statements of the parents running for PTA officer positions and parent representative spots on the Local School Restructuring Team, plus news on when and where you will be able to vote on Election Day, Wednesday, May 20.

Also next week, we'll have a special edition of the Mustang featuring nothing but Auction Gala-related news and tidbits.

If you have anything to contribute to either special issue, do it NOW by e-mailing sesmustang@gmail.com.



ANNUAL PTA AUCTION MAY 29

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Everyone!

Summer School/Language Summer Academy

The registration deadline has passed. Both camps are full. Thank you to everyone who submitted their registration forms by the due date. If you submit your application now, your student will be added to the waiting list.

The academic component of camp will take place in the morning from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Lunch will be provided at noon. The afternoon session will begin at 1:00 p.m. Students who are enrolled in the language academy may attend the afternoon session. This includes pre-K students. Camp ends at 5:30 p.m.

Registration

Are you returning to Shepherd next year? If so, you must register and provide proof of residency. To date, we have received **20 packages!!!** It is essential that we have your package before June 1st so that we can begin preparing for next year. In order to "get the ball rolling" we will be celebrating the return of enrollment packets. The **first 100** students to submit a complete packet will be invited to attend an ice cream sundae party.

If you have a child or children who will not be returning to Shepherd next school year, please send Ms. Brooks an email or notify of us in writing. This information is for planning purposes only and will not be "held against you". If we are notified before June 1, these students will be invited to attend the ice cream sundae party.

A special thanks is extended to all of you who have already completed this important task.

*A complete packet is a registration form and proof of residency.

Graduation

Graduation is scheduled for June 11th for 6th graders and June 12th for 5th graders. Both ceremonies will begin at 9:30 a.m. Tickets will not be distributed; however, we ask parents/guardians to be respectful and keep their guest list to 4 or less. Seating will be on a first come-first serve basis. Young men should wear dress slacks, a white dress shirt, tie and dress shoes. Young women should wear a white or pastel dress.

(See Principal, continued on page 2)

(Principal, *continued from page 1*)

Field Day

Field Day will be held on May 27th for grades pre-K through 2nd and May 28th for students in grades 3rd through 6th. We are desperately in need of volunteers. Field day events will take place from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Students will enjoy a picnic lunch from noon until 12:45. After lunch, students will settle in the gymnasium for a movie and popcorn. Volunteers are needed to manage stations, run errands, escorts students, serve popcorn and sit with classes during the movie. Please contact our PE teacher, Mr. Burgess, with your availability.

Spring Book Fair

There will not be a spring book fair. However, we will have a spring book exchange. Begin now going through your books and preparing a box of gently used books for your child to bring in exchange for “new” slightly used books. More information coming soon!

Weather

The warm weather is upon us and with the warm weather comes the temptation to abandon the school uniform. It is expected that all students are in uniform every day. Uniforms help us “curb inappropriate attire” and let us focus on what’s most important, academics. We will be having a few non-uniform days later this month and early next month; however, until that time, please make sure your student is dressed in their school uniform daily.

Afternoon Dismissal

School dismisses at 3:15 p.m. PLEASE pick your student(s) up no later than 3:25 p.m. Each day we have an office full of students waiting on their ride and a group of boys out on the court playing ball. If your child walks home or takes the bus, please let them know that they are to exit the premises immediately after dismissal. They should not be “hanging out”. Safety is our number one priority and anyone who is not picked up or anyone who has not exited the premises by 3:25 p.m. will be escorted to the front office. Students are not allowed to remain after school to play ball unless they are accompanied by a parent.

Behavior Reminders

Parents, please remind students of our school behavior expectations. Though we have a lot of fun educational trips and activities planned, learning is always our top priority. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.

IB Planning

Teachers are busy “gearing up” to implement their first IB unit. This week and next week teachers were/will be engaged in all day planning sessions. During this time teachers discussed their upcoming units and what they will be doing for the next three weeks. In order to provide teachers with a day of planning we had to be creative; substitutes,

(See Principal, *continued next column*)

(Principal, *continued*)

paraprofessionals, the school counselor and I were used to cover classes. Please do not be surprised if you student comes home and says, “We had a substitute today and it was Mrs. Miles.”

Teacher Appreciation Week

Thank you to everyone who participated in Teacher Appreciate Week.

Step Up Day at Deal

Rising 6th grade students who have already enrolled at Deal for next school year are invited to attend Step Up Day. Shepherd’s Step Up Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19. The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 11:00 a.m. During Step Up Day students will learn about classroom life, what life is like at Deal, extracurricular activities and tour the new building. Parents/Guardians are not invited to attend this event; however, you will have an opportunity to visit the school in the fall. Parents must provide transportation to and from the event.

Regards,

Jamie Miles

Appreciating Our Teachers – All Year Long

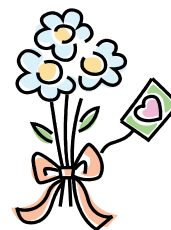
All this week, the students have been taking flowers, fruit, thank you notes, even chocolates to express appreciation for their teachers.

It’s a great idea to have one week in the school year for the kids to make special expressions of appreciation. As parents, we appreciate our teachers for every week, every day, every hour of the school year. We appreciate them for the summer “vacation” time they spend reflecting on their work of the past year and preparing themselves to take on the all-important challenge of teaching and caring for our children in the coming year.

As is sometimes the case with our own families, however, we parents do not express our appreciation as clearly or as often as we could, or as we should. So, let’s join our children in expressing appreciation for our teachers during this week in May, but let’s remember to do it throughout the school year.

Thank you, Shepherd Elementary School Teachers! We appreciate – ALL YEAR LONG! – your hard work and your personal and professional commitment to teaching and nurturing our children.

~ Earl Yates, PTA President





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.



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**. 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!

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.



An Auction Exclusive!: 'Songs of Freedom and Justice' Photo Book

You may have seen Shepherd parent Ann Morgan's photos from the "Songs of Freedom and Justice" concert grace the Shepherd hallway outside Mr. Giles' music office and leading to the cafeteria. Now, you will be able to buy a book featuring some of the best of Ann's photography, and our students' vibrant performing. These are custom-made books that show our children – and name their names!

Books won't be auctioned, but orders for them will be taken during the Auction Gala on May 29 at Howard. One book costs \$60, and you can buy two for \$100. Get those orders in, because once the book order is sent to the publisher, that's all that will be printed. And once they're gone, they're GONE.

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!!



Literacy Corner – Writing Activities

Primary Grades

Picture Stories



Develop imagination and creativity. Have your children select four or five pictures from magazines and newspapers, and put them together to tell a story. Ask your children to number the pictures – 1,2,3, etc. First, ask them to tell the story with the pictures in numerical order. For variety, have your children rearrange the pictures and tell a new story using this different arrangement.

Bio-poem Template

- Line 1** Your first name
- Line 2** Four traits that describe you
- Line 3** Sibling of (or son/daughter of)
- Line 4** Lover of... (3 items)
- Line 5** Who feels... (3 items)
- Line 6** Who needs... (3 items)
- Line 7** Who gives... (3 items)
- Line 8** Who fears... (3 items)
- Line 9** Who would like to see... (3 items)
- Line 10** Resident of (your city); (your road name)
- Line 11** Your last name only

Example:

All About Me

Kate.....

tall, energetic, happy, intelligent

daughter of Danny and Carol

who loves music, books and fresh air

who is afraid of war, spiders and heights

who wants to see Latin America, the end of poverty and summer

resident of this Washington, D. C.

.....Smith.

Intermediate Grades

Help Children Find and Enjoy the Poetic Side of Life

An invitation. That's what poetry often is. It is an invitation into the joys, sorrows, passions, experiences, and beliefs of the poet. Through rhyme, rhythm, imagery, alliteration, metaphor, and many other literary devices, the poet – young or experienced – communicates what s/he believes and invites the reader to share his or her ideas.

Poetry is meant to be said and heard – in the classroom, in the living room, in the car, everywhere!

Formula poems provide other opportunities for children to express themselves. Use the template at left and the example below to write your own formula poem.

Bio-poems make good wall posters. You can add pictures and drawings to express your creativity. You can also have each family member write a Bio-poem and create a book for display. Have Fun!



Auction Action – Looking Good!

- **Your car!** **Montgomery Hills Car Wash** has donated 10 Ultimate Car Washes valued at over \$200! Each visit will include vacuuming of the floor & seats, clean windows, soft-touch tunnel wash, triple foam, hot wax, under carriage, wheel wash, tire shine and towel dry. Cruise Shepherd Park in style with this slick car package!
- **Your hair!** Take advantage of this enticing donation of \$150 worth of hair services, compliments of **Twist and Turns Salon** in Silver Spring. Why? Because you're worth it!

You'll be able to take advantage of these and hundreds of other auction items at the May 29 Auction Gala at the Blackburn Center at Howard University. Tickets are still just \$50. See a room parent or an Auction Committee member today to get your tickets sewn up!

If you have auction items you'd like to donate, or have secured from merchants, let our Auction Committee co-chairs know.

Another Auction Planning meeting will be held to discuss plans for the upcoming spring auction at **4:00 p.m. Saturday May 9** at auction co-chair Marnie Keller's house at 7405 Alaska Ave. NW. There are still lots of ways to get involved, such as securing donations, selling ads, selling tickets and helping at the event.

Contact auction co-chairs:

- Chantale Swanson at swanprncess75@aol.com
- Marnie Keller at marniekeller@gmail.com.

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
Shepherd staff member) today!!*

Counseling Corner

As we approach the end of a very exciting school year, we want to promote peaceable behavior for our students at school and at home. Over the next six weeks, I will be providing one activity or tip that you can try with your family. Here's your first tip!

Tip #1: Monitoring the Home Environment

Parents, show calmness and control in relationships with each other and with your children. Children cannot learn to be peacemakers in a home where anger, yelling, intimidation, and physical violence are demonstrated by parents. Make sure you keep your emotions under control and make peacemaking a family project. Practice discussing situations calmly and find other ways to handle disagreements.

Try this: If a quarrel is developing at home and emotions are running high, excuse yourself and say, "I'm going outside for a few minutes to calm down. I'm getting angry. I'll be back when I'm more in control."

At a time when the family is calm and happy, set up some guidelines for what to do when someone is very angry: go to your room, go outside, go for a walk, count to ten.

~ Ms. Liggins, School Counselor

The Mustang Corral

Sponsor an Issue of The Mustang –

See your name in print! Donate 3 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@yahoo.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.

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.

Early Deadline for Next Issue of The Mustang –

Because of the parent-teacher conferences next Friday, May 15, the next issue of *The Mustang* will be distributed to students on **Thursday, 14**.

If you want to contribute to the next issue, be sure to turn in all the news that's fit to print before you go to bed next **Monday, May 11**.

The Mustang editorial team thanks you! Send your contributions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to: SESmustang@gmail.com.

Two Success Stories From 'Songs of Freedom and Justice'

Success story number one: One Shepherd Elementary family whose daughters participated in the "Songs of Freedom and Justice" concert had relatives and friends visiting from out of town earlier this week.

"Oh!" thought the mother. "I should get some extra copies of the CD to mail them!" At first, the order was for two more copies. Then, a couple of hours later, the mom added three more copies to the order. Within minutes, she asked for two extra copies – seven in all to please eager friends and relations!

Success story number two: One Shepherd Elementary mom was planning to head with her daughter for an out-of-town trip to connect with relatives, and wanted to have enough copies of "Songs of Freedom and Justice" to pass around. When she was done counting friends and sisters, the order came to five CDs. "Wait a minute!" said her husband. "What about your brother? What about MY brother? What about her godfather?" When the new numbers were tallied up, the order came to 10 copies.

And that's how we expect you'll react to these real-life stories once you've heard "Songs of Freedom and Justice." This CD won't be available in stores. But it should be available on the CD racks of your neighbors, friends and family members. At \$10 each, it's a terrific way to commemorate a splendid concert, and our children's participation in it. CDs will be available for sale at the Friday parent coffees. Order forms are also in the racks outside the main office.



*Have You Bought Your
Auction Tickets Yet??*



Letter to the Editor

Hello, my name is Kiana Vincent and I am a former student from Shepherd. I graduated in 2006.

I would like to have an article in *The Mustang* about the music teacher Mr. Giles. Mr. Giles is a wonderful music teacher who helps kids connect with music in a certain way.

When I was at Shepherd around 2003, we never had a connection with the music teachers there because all we were learning was one type of music, which was opera.

Since Mr. Giles has arrived at Shepherd, he has not only made music more fun but he has shown kids that you can connect with any type of music genre no matter who you are. He showed kids how to play the piano, the violin, the recorder, the guitar, and other instruments. He has also taken the time to bring certain guests to Shepherd over the last couple of years.



Mr. Giles has also created a talented show which allows kids to learn about music from the past and present. The "Freedom and Justice" performances have shown a lot of creativity and talent within the students.

I remember in 2006, Mr. Giles, Mr. Thornton, and Mr. Velez had created a R&B band called BWL (Black White Latino). I was a lead singer in the band with other former Shepherd students. This band was a great experience for me because it taught me how music can relate to the artist's struggles in life and their surroundings.

Even though it has been three years since I left, I still think that Mr. Giles is doing an excellent job at playing music and teaching other students how music can have a huge impact in their lives. I don't think that there is another music teacher who deserves enough credit for doing positive things in children's lives, and for that, I would like to thank Mr. Giles for everything that he's done.

Thank You Mr. Giles for everything you've done!!!! Keep it going!!!!

Kiana Vincent

International Children's Festival

Meridian International Center is proud to present the 3rd Annual **International Children's Festival**, an educational fun-fair where embassies host booths highlighting their country's rich cultural heritage through exciting, interactive displays, crafts and other activities.



With Mrs. Michelle Fenty, wife of DC Mayor Adrian Fenty, as Honorary Patron, the Festival also offers a variety of global dance and music performances from local and international artists. Admission includes access to all performances and activities.

Last year's participants enjoyed painting Kente cloth (Ghana), creating origami (Japan), and tasting delicious crepes (France), so bring the child in your life to the International Children's Festival and "travel" around the world without leaving DC!

Participating Embassies include: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, South Africa, Switzerland, Syria, and Turkey.

The International Children's Festival is THIS Saturday, 10am -2pm at Meridian International Center, 1630 Crescent Pl, NW DC 20009. **Admission** is \$10 per person (\$25 per family), and there are special discount for DCPS students.

For more information, please visit www.meridian.org or call 202-939-5591.

Auction Committee Meeting

Another Auction Planning meeting will be held to discuss plans for the upcoming spring auction at **4:00 p.m. Saturday May 9** at auction co-chair Marnie Keller's house at 7405 Alaska Ave. NW.

There are still lots of ways to get involved, such as securing donations, selling ads, selling tickets and helping at the event.

Contact auction co-chairs:

- Chantale Swanson at swanprncess75@aol.com
- Marnie Keller at marniekeller@gmail.com.



& Year-End Strings Concert
Friday evening, 6:30 pm
Shepherd Auditorium

Shepherd Park Garden Tour

Spring is here and everyone is looking forward to the **5th Annual SPCA Garden Tour on Sunday, May 17, 1-4 pm.**

This year's tour will feature seven to nine of the loveliest gardens found in the Shepherd Park, Colonial Village, and North Portal Estates neighborhoods. From the compact city garden, to the family-friendly garden, to the palatial city estate, every size will be featured. Some of the wonderful gardens of past tours along with new additions will be available for your viewing delight. As a self-guided tour, you can leisurely visit the gardens in any order and at any time during the open hours. Some Garden Hosts will be in attendance to answer your questions about their special floral and shrubbery selections.

The tour starts in front of Shepherd Elementary School (14th and Kalmia), where tickets and tour directories will be available starting at 12:45 pm. Tickets: \$7.00 for Shepherd Park Citizens Association members; \$10.00 for non-



Auction Tickets On Sale Now



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



The fabulous *Songs of Freedom of Justice* CD is now available!

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: _____

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.

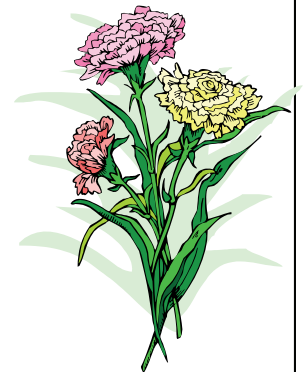


Mother's Day Chamber Concert

The Young Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra will present a Mother's Day Concert on Sunday, May 10, at 5 p.m. at the Atlas Performing Arts Center's Sprenger Lang Theatre, 1333 H Street NE in Washington.

Upper-level string students of the program come together in a small string ensemble under the direction of Maestra Victoria Gau and present an evening of chamber music.

This performance is also in celebration on Mother's Day 2009 and the first 50 mothers in attendance will receive a free carnation. Come bring Mom out to celebrate her day!



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 – 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.