

Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!

- 5/15 – Parent-Teacher Conferences, NO SCHOOL
- 5/15 – Year-End and BWL Concert, 6:30 pm, SES Auditorium
- 5/17 – SES Gardening Day, 9:30 am-1:00 pm
- 5/17 – Auction Meeting, 4:00 pm, Ledo Pizza
- 5/20 – PTA Meeting, and PTA & LSRT Elections
- 5/20 – Countdown to Summer Box Tops Contest deadline
- 5/23 – Auction Gift-Wrapping Party, 9:00 am, 7405 Alaska Ave.
- 5/25 – Memorial Day Holiday, NO SCHOOL
- 5/27 – Field Day – Grades 3-6 (*corrected date*)
- 5/28 – Field Day – Pre-K-Grade 2 (*corrected date*)
- 5/29 – Annual Auction, 7:00 pm, Howard Univ. Blackburn Center

Special Auction Issue Mustang

Did you see the Special Auction Issue of the Mustang yesterday? Dig through your child's backpack – it's on bright yellow paper. It's got tons of news and information you need about the upcoming auction gala. If you can't find your paper copy, read it on line in the files section of the PTA listserv.

Shepherd Elementary PTA Meeting Wednesday, May 20

6:45 p.m. – School Auditorium

School starts on time; so do PTA meetings!

Agenda items will include:

- PTA Elections for next year's officers
- Principal's report
- Auction update
- Treasurer's report
- Approval of April Meeting Minutes
- President's report
- Fund-raising efforts
- LSRT news and election results
- "Voice of the Parents"

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Everyone!

I have been rejuvenated, renewed, and regenerated. I am excited about Shepherd's future and I am urging parents to get excited with me.

As we approach the end of the year, I am challenging parents to begin thinking about next year and recommitting themselves to Shepherd ES.

During the next few weeks, I will share with you some of my thoughts about Shepherd and what I would like to see next year and beyond as we all become rejuvenated, renewed and regenerated

Volunteerism

Parents are a kid's first and most important teacher, and parent involvement is closely linked to academic achievement and self-confidence. Next year, I will be asking all parents to commit to volunteering by signing the Parental Involvement Pledge.

Parental Involvement Pledge

AS A PARENT, GRANDPARENT, OR CARING ADULT, I hereby give my pledge of commitment to help our community's children achieve a truly independent future. My declaration of responsibility and commitment to my public schools is stated in these five self-evident truths as spoken by President Woodrow Wilson:

- *As Americans, we are the owners of the public school system.*
- *As owners, we bear a responsibility to participate in the system.*
- *Accountability for our public schools, their safety, and its employees and its funding rests with us and the rest of the system's owners.*

(See Principal, continued on page 2)

LSRT and PTA Election Information

- Elections for both LSRT and PTA are May 20.
- See page 2 for LSRT election news.
- See pages 6 and 7 for LSRT and PTA candidate statements

(Principal, continued from page 1)

- Our children's future depends on the improvement of the public schools.
- And this improvement depends on our participation.

THEREFORE AS A PARENT, GRANDPARENT, OR CARING ADULT, I take personal responsibility for my child's safety and education and the safety and education of the children in this community.

- I pledge to volunteer a **minimum** of five hours of my time to my public schools each semester.
- I pledge to spend a **minimum of fifteen minutes each school night** reading with my child or we will work together on homework and enrichment activity.

I know you are saying, "I work." "I can't commit that kind of time." Well, the good news is, you do not have to be physically present to fulfill your commitment. School volunteers work in the school and at home to help children learn. Here are a few suggestions of things you can do.

- If you work outside the home on a full-time basis, you can complete tasks or projects at home as a way to be an involved parent. Cutting projects, computer research, and a host of easy-but-time-consuming activities could really help the teacher to spend more quality time with kids.
- Join the PTA. PTA is truly dedicated to connecting parents with their child's school and life. PTA meetings often include informative parent education topics, and more. The meetings also provide a great way to connect with occurrences at the school and decisions and events under consideration.

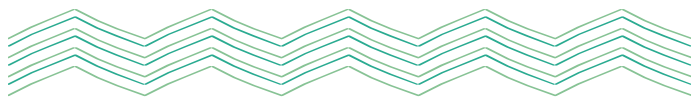
The challenge is on... get ready!!!

Have a great weekend!

Regards,

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary



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!!



LSRT Election News

The LSRT election will be conducted Wednesday, May 20, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. All Shepherd parents are eligible to vote. Here is the tentative schedule of where the ballot box will be:

- 7:30 a.m.-8:15 a.m.: PTA Parent Room
- 8:15 a.m.-9:00 a.m.: "Tot lot" entrance for pre-K through second graders*
- 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: PTA Parent Room**
- 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.: "Tot lot" entrance for pre-K through second graders*
- 4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.: Outside main school entrance*
- 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.: School auditorium

* May be moved to auditorium in case of bad weather

** May be moved to outside school main entrance in case of great weather

We will need volunteers to serve as election aides to cover one- or two-hour blocks of time over this 12-hour schedule. If you can serve as election aide, please contact one of the Nomination Committee members:

- Judith McCullough: Judith.mccullough@seiu.org
- Lawanda Tyus: ltyus@aol.com

As a bonus and a service to parents, Auction Gala tickets and Auction camcorder raffle tickets will be available for sale during the balloting. While votes are being taken in the PTA Parent Room, voters may also buy a box of World's Finest Chocolate. Parents should bring a checkbook and have checks made payable to "Shepherd Elementary PTA"; write "Auction Tickets" or "Chocolate Sale" on the memo line.

Auction Gala tickets are \$50 each. Raffle tickets are \$5 each, or six for \$20. A box of chocolate bars costs \$50.

Results of the LSRT elections will be announced before the end of the PTA meeting

Treasurer Candidates Still Sought

The PTA is still looking for candidates to run for treasurer and assistant treasurer.

The outgoing treasurer, Doug Noble, will gladly conduct a tutorial on the specific duties the treasurer and assistant must do over the course of the one-year term for the benefit of all candidates.

Anyone running for either of the positions must also write a candidate profile and statement that can be published on the PTA listserv prior to next Wednesday's PTA meeting – during which PTA officer nominations and elections will officially take place.

If you are considering running for either of these two offices, please e-mail the Nominations Committee members:

- Judith McCullough at Judith.mccullough@seiu.org
- Lawanda Tyus at ltyus@aol.com.



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

This is the LAST WEEK to turn your Box Tops into the Collection Box in the Main Office. Contest deadline is **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!



Auction Tickets On Sale Now



Counseling Corner

PARENTING TIP: 2

THE TIME-OUT BENCH

When children are losing control and seem on the verge of yelling, hitting, or losing their tempers, they need some enforced quiet time to regain their peace and think about alternatives to losing control. TRY THIS: Have a soft, "calm" chair or bench where a child must sit while calming down.



Help them to understand that their feelings of anger are not wrong – everyone gets angry sometimes. It is what they do when they are angry that gets them into trouble. If they can maintain a peaceful attitude, they are far more likely to solve their problem wisely.

~ Ms. Liggins, School Counselor

Literacy Corner

Primary Grades

Goal:

- To help your child learn to notice the number of syllables in a word.

What You Will Need:

- Time with your child.

Let's Go!

- Read each word.
- Have your child clap once for each syllable in the word.

cat	[cat]	(1 clap)
sing	[sing]	(1 clap)
baby	[ba/by]	(2 claps)
silly	[sil/ly]	(2 claps)
puppy	[pup/py]	(2 claps)
water	[wat/er]	(2 claps)



Quick Tip for Literacy:

Next time you're baking, cleaning up, or sharing a meal with your child, play the "Tap & Say" game to help your child learn to listen to the number of syllables in a word.

Say a word to your child. Ask your child to tap the table for each syllable in the word.



butter	[but/ter]	(2 taps)
pickles	[pick/les]	(2 taps)
strawberry	[straw/ber/ry]	(3 taps)
chair	[chair]	(1 tap)

Intermediate Grades

Help Children Find and Enjoy the Poetic Side of Life – Part II

Haiku

A syllable is a part of a word pronounced as a unit. It is usually made up of a vowel alone or a vowel with one or more consonant. The word "syllable" has three syllables: syl-la-ble.

Haiku is an unrhymed traditional form of Japanese poetry. A Haiku consists of 3 lines with a 5-7-5 syllable pattern. Here is an example of Haiku poetry:

*Green and speckled legs,
Hop on logs and lily pads
Splash in cool water.*

Analyzing the Haiku:

How many syllables are in each line of the example? Use a / to separate each syllable.

**Green and speckled legs,
Hop on logs and lily pads
Splash in cool water.**

Syllables _____

Syllables _____

Syllables _____

What animal do you think the Haiku is describing?

Now write your own Haiku!

You can write on any topic that you'd like (sports, shopping, summer, animals, etc.) Remember: the first and last lines of a Haiku have 5 syllables and the middle line has 7 syllables. Share your Haiku with family, friends, and teachers.

Music Room News

Jali-D (David Foreman) performed his djembe-drum raps for 2nd and 4th grade music classes and the entire aftercare on Friday, May 8. He uses rap and rhythm to talk about the importance of our brains... and reading, math, and putting down the video games! Some of his raps ask students, "How many animals live in my house?" "How much money did a friend have in his pocket?" "How many calories would a person get from eating half a bag of candy?"



Jali-D makes students think and respond. He is a teacher who uses his drum and his rhymes to make people think. A graduate of Howard University, Jali-D travels widely to bring his positive messages and infectious rhythm to students.

His new CD (just released) is available for \$10 through rappercussions@hotmail.com.

*It's up to you whether you fail or succeed.
You're born with all the gifts and tools that you need.
Your parents and teachers can only give you a key.
Unlocking the door is your responsibility.*

~ Jali-D



The IB PYP Corner

Update, News and Notes:

- During the last two weeks Shepherd's classroom teachers have been putting the finishing touches on the written planner for their first PYP unit of inquiry. They are collaborating with the special subject teachers, who will support the "central idea" of the PYP units in their special subject classes. Each unit will focus on a particular attribute in the Learner Profile and on specific transdisciplinary skills. Special subject teachers will reinforce the Learner Profile and the skills as well. If some of the terms mentioned here are puzzling to you, go back to the IB PYP Corner in previous issues of *The Mustang* to review the descriptive information.
- All teachers will begin their first PYP unit of inquiry either during the week beginning May 11 or May 18. The unit will be three to five weeks long. In next week's article we will list for each grade level the theme, central idea, skills and Learner Profile attribute(s) for the unit. All teachers on the same grade level will implement the same PYP unit at the same time. We will also post this information on the IB bulletin board in the main hallway.
- By the way, the IB bulletin board has a new look this month and features the IB Learner Profile attributes in Spanish, English and French. Check it out!

PYP Lesson of the Week: THE PYP Planner

The "planner" that teachers are writing for their "unit of inquiry" is a lesson plan of sorts, but spans several weeks rather than one day or one lesson. The written planner has several parts and is typically four pages long.

On the first page there is a box for descriptive information such as school name, school code, grade level, teachers' names, title of the unit, length of the unit, etc. This box contains the IB official logo. To the left of this box is a box labeled, "1. What is our purpose?" Teacher enter the title of one of the six transdisciplinary themes here, along with the central idea of the unit and the final ("summative") assessment task that should show whether or not students developed a clear understanding of the central idea. Below the logo or title box is box 2, "What do we want to learn?" Teachers must enter here the three most important "key concepts" of the unit, the three to four lines of inquiry, and the key teacher questions that will kick off the unit and spark the curiosity of students about the central idea. A "teacher provocation" might be written here as well. This is a teacher-led activity or objects or centers placed in the classroom by the teacher to generate interest in the central idea and to stimulate student questioning.

There are three more boxes on the second page. Box 3, "How might we know what we have learned?" is a space for teachers to write in how they will assess students' prior knowledge about the central idea and how the teacher will check the progress of student learning over the course of

several days and weeks, as students work through the unit. These assessments are called "formative." Box 4, "How best might we learn?" provides a place for teachers to write in all of the learning activities that they plan to provide for students and how they will guide inquiry done by students. Teachers also list in this box the transdisciplinary skills and Learner Profile attributes that they will focus on in this unit and the related activities. Box 5, "What resources need to be gathered?" is the space for teachers to write in the books, videos, games and other materials they expect to use during the unit. They must also describe how the learning environment – the classroom – will be designed to support the inquiries for this unit. Related field trips are also listed in this box.

The remaining boxes 6 through 9 on the last two pages will be completed by teachers as the unit is in progress and at the end of the unit. These boxes are primarily for recording what learning did or did not take place during the unit and reflecting on how the unit went and what changes the teachers might make the next time they do this unit. The label for Box 6 is, "To what extent did we achieve our purpose?" The label for Box 7 is, "To what extent did we include the elements of the PYP?" In Box 8, "What student-initiated inquiries arose from the learning?" teachers must record the questions that students generated and the inquiries they came up with. Taking action based on new learning is an important part of the PYP. It is here that teachers record the actions that students took as a result of their new learning or new understandings from this unit. Box 9 is for any other notes teachers want to make.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

Do you ever introduce your child to a new experience or new idea and find that you child has a lot of questions about it or wants to find out more about it? If so, you are witnessing your child doing the PYP actions of generating questions and initiating inquiries. How can you support and extend those inquiries at home?

~ Patricia L. Tucker & Jamie Miles



PTA Elections Voter Guide

Elections for PTA officers for the 2009-2010 school year will be held at the PTA meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2009.

The nominees for each position are:

- **President: Charisse Brossard**
- **1st Vice President: Donna Harvey Johnson**
- **2nd Vice President: Leonie Stephenson**
- **Corresponding Secretary: Jennifer Q. White**
- **Recording Secretary: Mark Pattison**
- **Treasurer:**
- **Assistant Treasurer:**

Candidate Statements:

President – Charisse Brossard

Charisse Brossard is a Project Manager for Automatic Data Processing, Inc. (ADP) specializing in HRIS/Benefits Implementations. Ms. Brossard has been with ADP for 18 years. Ms. Brossard has been actively involved at Shepherd Elementary. She has served on the PTA executive committee for 2 years as the Auction and Fundraising Chair. Ms. Brossard has also been a co-classroom parent for 2 years. Ms. Brossard is currently the Treasurer for the Shepherd Park Citizens Association and a member of the LSRT. Charisse has two children, a son, Chase, 11, and a daughter, Chandler, 7. Chandler is a second grader at Shepherd Elementary. Charisse and her husband Mario have lived in Shepherd Park for the last 13 years. Ms. Brossard earned her undergraduate degree from Tufts University.

Statement:

As are most parents with a student at Shepherd, I believe we are at an important crossroad in its maturation. With a first year principal and the momentum achieved this past year, Shepherd can continue soar to new heights with a leader that is committed to an effective dual-language program, increasing test scores, and creating a more professional and harmonious academic environment for teachers and staff. As someone who values this school and this community, I promise that I will bring my organization, analysis, communication, and time management skills to the role of President of the Shepherd PTA. I earnestly request your support. Thank you.

1st Vice President – Donna Johnson Harvey

My name is Donna Johnson Harvey and I am running for Vice President. I will be entering my sixth year at Shepherd Elementary, and have enrolled two children. My children will rise to kindergarten and fifth grade, and because of this, I am intimately aware of both Lower and Upper grade concerns. As an active parent I have assumed many roles. I have been classroom parent, Upper Grades Committee Chair, and LSRT parent representative.

I wish to serve as adjunct leadership to the PTA president and will honor the will of the PTA body. I also hope to utilize my experience in my previous positions within the school community so as to optimize next year's success. I thank you for your consideration.

2nd Vice President – Leonie Stephenson

My name is Leonie Stephenson and I am seeking the position of 2nd Vice President on the Shepherd Elementary Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

Skills/Experience: I am a Management Consultant with Accenture, and I have over 10 years of experience applying strong project management, relationship building, and team leadership skills. These are skills that I will leverage towards identifying and successfully meeting the goals of the PTA. I have a special interest in working with the parents to re-energize support for the PTA initiatives.

Shepherd History: My husband is Marcus Hall and we joined the Shepherd family August 2008 and have found it quite a positive experience. Our twin sons are also enjoying the experience. Amari Hall is in Miss LaPenna's pre-K class and Kofi Hall is in Miss Holt's pre-K class. Currently, I am the room parent for Miss LaPenna's class.

I look forward to working with the parents, teachers, and students for the 2009-2010 school year!

Corresponding Secretary – Jennifer Q. White

Jennifer White is an Associate in the Meetings & Events Department at the Urban Land Institute (ULI) an association that specializes in providing leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating sustainable, thriving communities worldwide. Ms. White has been with ULI for 3 years. Ms. White is a first year parent at Shepherd Elementary School. Jennifer has two children, a son, Michael, 6 and a daughter, Erica, 11. Michael is a first grader and Erica is a fifth grader. Jennifer has lived in the 16th Street Heights neighborhood for the last 10 years.

Statement:

Now more than ever, ensuring that our children receive a quality education is a task that truly takes a village. I chose to send my children to Shepherd because of its reputation for excellence, active and engaged parents and its dedication to the community; these were all things that I wanted and needed my children to have. I have been extremely happy with the progress my children have made during this school year, but even more I'm grateful for the relationships that I have begun to forge with the parents and extended Shepherd Community. As a parent, I take pride in showing my children how dedicated

Recording Secretary – Mark Pattison

I am pleased to continue to collaborate with any and all Shepherd parents who want to improve our school through the PTA. Serving as recording secretary last year was one of the ways I could play my part, and I'm happy to do so again, since the PTA bylaws permit a parent to serve two years in a row in the same office.

Although not always successful, I have worked diligently to get information to parents in a timely way through not only the minutes, but the PTA listserv and the Mustang so that they have the details needed to do their part to be more fully involved in the life of the school.

Since I can't do this for a third year in a row, I'll start looking now for potential successors and show them the way I do things, and why I do them the way I do, so they won't have to reinvent the wheel – giving them the opportunity to leave their own stamp on this office by improving upon what I've done.

While I still am known to the children in my daughter's kindergarten class as "Cynthia's Dad," I hope that, in working as a PTA officer, I've become in your eyes a reliable ally to improve the educational experience of our children.

Treasurer – Vacant

Assistant Treasurer – Vacant



ANNUAL PTA AUCTION

MAY 29

Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT) Elections Voter Guide

The election for representatives to the Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT) will be held on May 20, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Shepherd Elementary School. All parents are eligible to vote. There are four parent representative positions on the LSRT.

The nominees for the **parent representatives** on the LSRT are:

- **Marcie Bane**
- **Marcus Hall**
- **Jaye Jones Muhammad**
- **Rhonda Davis Smith**
- **Bill Wilson**

Candidate Statements:

Marcie Bane

My name is Marcie Bane. I am the mother of three rambunctious boys, the oldest of whom attends SES in Kindergarten on the Spanish track. Prior to becoming mommy, I was an elementary school teacher. After 5 years of working in non-profits here in Washington, I went to graduate school, earning a Master of Arts in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University in 2000. I then spent several years teaching fourth grade in DCPS at Garrison Elementary School in the Shaw neighborhood. My experiences both as an elementary school teacher and the mother of an elementary school student have led me to want to have a more active role in SES. You have seen my face at bake sales and other school events, but now I am ready to put some of my other experience to use for our school. Thank you for your consideration.

Marcus Hall

My name is Marcus Hall and I am seeking a position on the Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT) at Shepherd Elementary School.

Skills/Experience:

With a Civil Engineering consulting and construction background I have experience working with project stakeholders to find common ground solutions to meet project goals. At Shepherd I have worked with parents and administrators to help find funding for the Saturday academy. On the LSRT I will utilize my experience to work with administrators, teachers, and parents to build upon the four principal elements of the 2008-2009 LSRT management plan. I will also work towards the continued strengthening of the language program (such as Saturday Academy and the summer language program at Shepherd.)

Shepherd History: My wife is Leonie Stephenson, and we joined the Shepherd family August 2008 and have found it quite a positive experience. Our twin sons are also enjoying the experience. Amari Hall is in Miss LaPenna's pre-K class and Kofi Hall is in Miss Holt's pre-K class.

I look forward to working with the parents, teachers, and students for the 2009-2010 school year!

Jaye Jones Muhammad

Jaye Jones-Muhammad is a graduate of Georgetown University with a BSBA in Management and a certificate in Information Systems from George Washington University. Ms Muhammad is a former Senior Project Manager at Kaiser Permanente, and is currently doing part-time management consulting at a private child development center. Ms Muhammad and her husband, Ali Muhammad are the proud parents of Aja Muhammad, a first grader attending SES.

Experience:

- Current 1st Vice President of the SES PTA
- Project Manager by trade; therefore very results oriented;
- Classroom co-parent for three years;
- Volunteer with the auction committee;

One of the organizers that spear-headed the first Holiday Bazaar in 2007 under a very tight timeline to help with the expected fundraising shortfall for the PTA; and facilitated a repeat of that event in 2008.

Affiliation:

- Parent of a current first grader, Aja Muhammad.
- Chose SES for its reputation for a sound elementary education and the enrichment activities that aid in rounding out the academics to teach, expose and stretch my daughter Aja to know she can do anything she sets her mind to; and for the very real sense of community at SES.

Getting accepted only just before school started when Aja entered Pre-K, I was pleasantly surprised and overwhelmingly pleased with the commencement of the IB and Dual-Language programs. I am excited about the possibility to work toward furthering these goals at SES.

What I bring to the table:

- **Passion:** I bring to the table a no-nonsense, roll-up your sleeves and get-it-done attitude; and I might add, I am especially passionate about the growth and developmental environments and experiences with which my daughter, Aja, is involved. So, know I will do my best to do what is in the best interest of the children, because my daughter is here and so are your children who are as precious to you as Aja is to me.
- **Execution:** By trade, I am a project manager which brings with it the experience of thinking things through, and working with details in planning, organizing, coordinating, monitoring and getting to the desired end result.

Consensus-Building: As a project manager, I value and don't underestimate the importance of consensus-building; bringing the stakeholders to the table to give everyone a chance to be heard, so that when it is time to make a decision and move in a particular direction, we have gained consensus even if we have not gained 100% agreement. Consensus-building and facilitative leadership are key to managing change successfully, which I believe will help in managing the organizational growth and developmental changes SES is experiencing.

With that said, I look forward to working with the LSRT, the parents, and all teachers and staff in maintaining strides made and achieving even more over the next year.

Rhonda Davis Smith

I love Shepherd Elementary School. If you need a small loving environment that nurtures kids and brings out the best in them I would recommend Shepherd to anyone. My name is Rhonda Davis Smith and I am running for the position of parent representative on LSRT. I have three wonderful children, a first and third grader, the older one graduated from 6th grade in 2006. Over the years I have volunteered to do many tasks at Shepherd. I have changed the marquee outside for 3 years; I have been classroom and co-classroom parent. I have been membership chair for two years for the PTA. I have purchased more paper, sweep more classrooms, packed more books, made phone calls to parents, solicited businesses for the auction, and coordinated more classroom activities than I can count. Since I've served you on LSRT, I helped to institute the Monthly Teacher Appreciation Program, Family Math Night and first and second grade level CAS testing for school year 2009-2010. I am also a certified DCPS volunteer. For the next school year, I'd like to help Shepherd become a green school, and potentially create more opportunities for accelerated students to do computer based learning, establish a writing program and to acquire the services of a reading specialist.

Bill Wilson

Bill Wilson, Father of Twins in K (French and Spanish Tracks)
Candidate for Parent Rep to the LSRT

I know I was asked to put my name in for the LSRT because, in large part, of my commitment to both foreign languages at SES. Indeed, this was the most attractive feature that drew my boys to Shepherd, from a good DC charter school (where they attended pre-school). And, for pre-K and K, my boys have had good teaching, in English, French, and Spanish. But with the sudden principal change last October, and hearsay that SES parents lacked real enthusiasm for language, I began to wonder how the program came about. I couldn't find anything in writing, but I did discover the one body officially set to take up such matters: the LSRT.

When, I attended the December meeting, just after the foreign language classes were cut from 6 to 3 hours, I was surprised no one mentioned that there were many unhappy parents. (As a visitor, I could observe but not talk at that meeting.) At subsequent meetings I attended, there was a range of issues that might surprise parents—from safety concerns to lower grade testing with possible PTA funding, but often not fully discussed. I'd like to see our principal get a fair picture from the meetings of the views of all SES parents. And that means the LSRT has to be transparent: open and on the record. Meetings and agendas should be better publicized, fuller minutes (for all meetings) in the library, along with better reporting in the Mustang and PTA meetings. An annual survey of parents concerns would also be a good way to start the year. And, like other successful DC public schools, a website so that anyone can catch-up on the issues at anytime. (How many people can make a 3:30 pm Thursday meeting?)

This year, I did work with others to press and support the Saturday language program (a definite statement of parent support and the likely lynchpin to obtaining the 5 week free summer language camps). I've also worked on mundane issues of getting ink cartridges for the library copiers (we were really out of them); directing outside money to obtain French language books for our resource-short teacher; as well as helping direct money for one teacher's aid. (Losing that aid would probably mean sharing some or all of the other aids—or leaving a K teacher without an assistant.) Finally, I obtained what might be the only documented LSRT guidelines on the web (put on the Shepherd PTA site) with a commitment from DCPS to eventually update and locate it on their web.

If you share these concerns, please consider voting for myself and others who would represent them. Let me know if you have any questions. Please see me at school around 5:30 pm (or email wilson20012@yahoo.com). Thanks.

Auction Program Book Deadline Is Looming

The Auction Gala program book deadline is looming: While you can contribute auction items until practically the auction itself, your donation will likely fetch a higher bid if it is listed and featured in the Auction Gala's program booklet. The deadline for ads and donations to appear in the booklet is Friday, May 15 (also Parent-Teacher Conference Day and BWL Band Concert Day at school). To contribute an item, contact Auction Committee co-chair Marnie Keller at either 244-3855 or marniekeller@gmail.com.

Pre-Auction Raffle Is On Now

We're raffling off a Sony digital camcorder with all the bells and whistles. You can buy raffle tickets when you stop and vote at the LSRT election on May 20, and at the PTA meeting that evening, as well as at the auction itself. Tickets are one for \$5 and six for \$20. Buy a ticket so you can capture your child's memories with a palm-sized digital recorder!

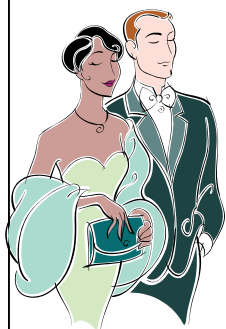


May 17 Is the Date for Next Auction Committee Meeting

Save a little time next Sunday – at, say, 4 p.m. – to attend the next Auction Committee meeting. It will be held at Ledo Pizza on Georgia Avenue. Ledo is an official sponsor of this year's Auction Gala. We'll have pizza and drinks on hand for all hungry and thirsty volunteers. Because, as the auction anticipation mounts, so do the jobs involved to make the Auction Gala go smoothly.

Find out how you can help. Join the growing legion of parents volunteering for auction volunteer duties before the auction, on auction day itself and/or afterward.

What To Wear, What to Bring



What to wear:

Our "official" Auction Gala dress code is *Fun Night Out Wear*, and that's pretty broadly defined. Show other moms and dads how well you can dress to the nines compared to morning drop-off attire.

What to bring:

YOUR CHECKBOOK! And/or **YOUR CREDIT CARD** or **ATM CARD!**

If you want to play, you've got to pay!

Auction Action: Autograph Exclusives

- **It's Big, It's Orange and It Could Be Yours:** A basketball signed by all the teachers and staff at Shepherd Elementary, including the crossing guard and cafeteria ladies. And when we say everybody, we mean everybody. You'll want to mount this in your trophy room; don't even think about a little hoops action with this one-of-a-kind item.
- **Shepherd Kids Sing Their Hearts Out** – Plus: Do you have your copy of the "Songs of Freedom and Justice" CD featuring the voices of 80-some of our students, backed by the D.C. Labor Chorus, from their February concert? Do you have a copy of the D.C. Labor Chorus' own CD, "I Feel Like Going On," featuring the voices of the 2006 crop of Shepherd students on selected songs? We've got 'em both here – and both are autographed by the whole D.C. Labor Chorus, including a few Shepherd students who did the singing! Terrific audio keepsakes with a personalized touch!

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. Sunday May 17** at Ledo Pizza. 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.

Buy A Table and Take a Load Off!

Will you have a table at the auction? You will if you buy a table or are an auction sponsor! Sponsorship packages start at just \$500. Those people with tables will have "reserved" signs, complete with naming rights (Holt's Heroes, Alaska Avenue Angels, Class of 1974). Apart from these reserved tables, we'll only have a few other tables for open seating. Since this year's auction is featuring oodles of hors d'oeuvres instead of a buffet or sit-down dinner, you can munch and bid at the same time. (Don't worry – we'll have chairs for when the live auction begins!)

To buy a table or acquire a sponsorship, contact Chantale Swanson at either 202-422-1249 or swanprncess75@aol.com

Auction Sponsorships: The Perfect Way to Go!

It's still more two weeks to our May 29 auction, and we have room for Auction Gala sponsors like you. Join the growing list. 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:

- The **MUSTANG SPONSOR** level (\$500) gets you two tickets to the Auction Gala, plus signage at the Auction Gala, plus a half-page ad in the Auction program catalog, and an acknowledgement of your donation at the auction gala. What's more, you'll be recognized as an Auction Sponsor on the Shepherd Elementary Web site (www.shepherd-elementary.org).
- The **SILVER SPONSOR** level (\$750) nets you reserved seating for four, plus signage at the Auction Gala, as well as a half-page ad in the Auction program catalog and acknowledgement of your donation at the Auction Gala. Plus you'll be recognized as an Auction Sponsor on the Shepherd Elementary Web site.
- If you become a **GOLD SPONSOR** (\$1,000), you'll get reserved seating for six and a full-page ad in the auction program catalog; plus signage at the Auction Gala and recognition of your donation at the Auction Gala. And, if you're a business, your company logo will on the Shepherd Elementary Web site as Auction Sponsor.
- Go all the way and become a **PLATINUM SPONSOR** (\$2,500). You'll get a reserved table for 10 and Premiere Signage at the Auction Gala and a full-page ad in the Auction program catalog. During the Auction Gala, we'll have a presentation of your donation check. Not only will your company logo grace the Shepherd Elementary Web site as an Auction Sponsor, you'll be listed as a Platinum Donor in Shepherd PTA Programs for one year.

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

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

Sorority Sisters and Fraternity Brothers: Show your colors at the auction!

For \$10, you can wear your sorority/fraternity colors for bragging rights on which organization has the most alumni spirit! For more information, contact Donna Harvey at djohnsonharvey@yahoo.com.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

What? You haven't gotten your auction tickets yet?? Don't fear. They're still available. Ask your room parent for tickets. If your room parent doesn't have tickets (or they're all sold out of their allotment), ask any Auction Committee member. If they're sold out of their allotment, contact Auction Committee co-chair Chantale Swanson at either 422-1249 or swanprncess75@aol.com. Chantale will put your tickets in an envelope and mark your name on it. Show up at "will call" -- the school office -- with a check for the proper amount made out to "Shepherd Elementary PTA" with "Auction tickets" on the memo line. It's just that simple. Remember: Tickets are just \$50 each -- no increase from last year.

Community Corner

The Friends of the Shepherd Park Library will meet Monday, May 18, from 7 to 8 p.m. on the second floor of the library, 7420 Georgia.

If you are a frequent library user, this is your chance to have a real say in programs that affect your children. You'll get early word on summer activities at the library, plus the Friends' annual used book sale during the Shepherd Park Neighborhood-Wide Yard Sale. You could even become a board member! For details, call the library at 576-6140.

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.

Deadline for Next Issue of The Mustang --

The next issue of *The Mustang* will be distributed to students on **Friday, May 22**. If you want to contribute to the next issue, send it in by 10:00 am next **Tuesday, May 19**.

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

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

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.

LAST CALL for CHOCOLATE!

If you have not picked up a box of the World's Finest Chocolate yet, please bring \$50 to school, when delivering or picking up your little person, along with your fundraising smile.

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



Shepherd Gardening Day

Make plans to join us for our last "Greener Schools, Cleaner Waters Project" Gardening Day of the school year.

- When: THIS Saturday, May 16
- Time: 9:30 am-1:00 pm
- What to bring: Bring your enthusiasm and your gardening tools. If you have thinned out plantings at home (such as tiger lilies, iris, or bulbs) or have plants you would like to donate to beautify our school, please bring them as well.



If you have questions about our Gardening Day, or would like to volunteer, talk with Mrs. Confer at 202-576-6140.

Only 15 More Days Until The Auction Gala — Have You Bought Your Tickets Yet??



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



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.