

Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANE

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, June 5, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!

6/8 – Final Spirit Week Day – '80s Day

- 6/11 Sixth Grade Graduation
- 6/12 Fifth Grade Graduation

6/15 – Last Day of School –

See you next school year!

It Takes a Village...

An African proverb that was given modern-day notoriety as the title of a book by then Senator Hillary Clinton is "It takes a village to raise a child." We understand that this has always been true in the rural villages of Africa and in other traditional societies all over the world. We know from present-day that it is also true in 21st-century cities of the world. That, of course, includes Washington, D.C., and our own Shepherd elementary school family.

To get our little ones up and out to school, pick them up, help them with after-school activities and homework, then settle them in for the night, it takes more than the parents involved. Often, it takes grandparents and other relatives, friends, neighbors, and sometimes quickly-recruited "emergency" caretakers to get it all done. Thank goodness "the village" is still available to rescue and generally support the parents. Without that support, there would surely be those dreaded days when, for example, a child has to wait too long in the nurse's office because parents cannot immediately leave the workplace because of a tummy ache at school, or a child is picked up from school way after dismissal time because a business meeting or workday ran late for the parent.

As this school year comes to a close, please allow me the liberty – on behalf of Shepherd's parents and teachers/staff – to express our appreciation to those who make up "the village" for all that they have done this year to help us raise our children by being there when the parents could not. Even though we do not live in a rural setting, even though we may have our cars parked just downstairs in the workplace parking lot, and even though we have our personal digital-assistants to arrange our day and keep us in instantaneous contact with other, it still takes a village to raise a child. To all who make up "the village," THANK YOU.

~ Earl Yates, President, Shepherd Elementary School PTA

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Happy Friday!

I hope that each of you had an enjoyable week. It has been a busy, busy week inside of the walls of Shepherd Elementary. On Monday we celebrated Sports Day. Students and staff members showed love for their favorite team and/or sport by wearing an array of paraphernalia. Tuesday was Mismatched Day. There were definitely a lot of uncoordinated individuals in the building. On Wednesday students in grade PK through 2nd celebrated Field Day and students walked around with their clothes on backwards. Thursday was the Pajama Jam and the week ended with intermediate Field Day. Phew!!! What a week. We were a little off our normal instructional schedule but students and staff needed the release. A special thank you is extended to everyone who volunteered their time to help make the week great! Don't forget that '80s Day is Monday. (See page 2 for more information.)

Budget/Staff Allocations

Last week I put an urgent call out to parents about the school budget. I expressed to all the urgency of registering students for next year before we lost teacher positions. Fortunately, we "dodged the bullet". The council budget cut was not as large as originally stated. Therefore, Shepherd is no longer in jeopardy of losing a classroom teacher due to budget cuts. I would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who helped spread the word. All week parents have been stopping by to register their student(s). Please be reminded that we are not completely out of the woods. Though the council has reconsidered budget cuts, the Central office is still monitoring our enrollment. We have to show we are on track to meet our projected enrollment of 311 students. PLEASE continue spreading the word about the importance of registering now!

A Glimpse Into the Future

Next year the number of language hours will remain the same for students in grades PK-2. There will also possibly be an increase of at least one 45 minute block per week in grades 3rd through 6th.

It is a concern for many parents and staff members about the classroom configurations. In the past groups of students have been kept together and moved to the next grade level. This has created some interesting class dynamics and has made classroom behavior disruptions increase in some instances. Next year, we will begin addressing the problem by splitting classes and having

(Principal, continued from page 1)

students transition to language class versus having the language teachers transition to them. Though in some situation this may not be possible, we will be working diligently over the summer to work out an effective schedule.

Textbook and Lost Media Books

Students will be held responsible for any misplaced textbook(s) and/or library book(s). Please help your student locate items they have misplaced. Any books not returned by Monday will be considered lost. Students/parents will be charged a replacement fee.

Good Byes

As this year comes to a close, it is a time for good byes and new beginnings. The following teachers will not be returning to Shepherd next year: Kia Kinsler, Mary Shaibu and Montserrat Carril.

Mrs. Kinsler and her husband will be moving to New York. Mrs. Shaibu will work as a Special Education teacher at Ballou Stay Senior High School, and Srta. Carrill will be returning to Spain. Each of these teachers have made a significant contribution to Shepherd Elementary and will be missed tremendously.

Have a great weekend!

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Auction Report

MERCI AND GRACIAS ON A GREAT AUCTION!

A world of thanks to all who procured donations, participated with committee planning, bought tickets, and in any other way helped to pull off a fun-filled event! The proceeds made a vital difference in finishing out the year for the PTA budget.

For those who are interested, we have some leftover 'spirits' that we're hoping to sell at a significant discount. Cheers!

~ Marnie Keller, Auction Committee co-chair

1 Week Left for the Mustang, So Make Your Voice Heard

If you have something you'd like to say before the school year closes, use the Mustang as your soapbox. Especially when it comes to out-of-school and after-school activities, or to thank special people in the school who have helped you.

Use our handy e-mail address – <u>SESmustang@gmail.com</u> – to make your voice heard.

Hats Off to Shepherd Reading Volunteers

Throughout the school year, a dedicated group of grown-ups - and the majority of them not parents of Shepherd students -



have diligently taken part in a three-times-a-week beforeschool "Early Readers" program aimed at fostering a love of books and reading among their young charges. The reading program was organized by Shepherd Park resident Carolivia Herron, author of such notable children's books as "Nappy Hair," "Kindergarten Blues" and "Always an Olivia." And she and others organized neighbors and friends to take part in the program.

To keep them from being Shepherd Elementary's unsung heroes, we proudly list them here:

Coordinators

- Cynthia Prather
- Kathleen Sheekey

Readers

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- Linda Archer
- Pamela Bell-Payton
- Patricia Ellis
- Jackie Holt
- Holly Gerberich
- Dorothy Kennison
- Susan Learmonth
- Valerie MannMargie Odle
- Nargie Odle
 Nicky Pierre
- Regina Romero

We also acknowledge the efforts of our principal, Jamie Miles; our librarian, Maria Scinto, and Shepherd parent Robin Campbell-Bennett for their roles in the reading program.

Spirit Week

Next Monday is the final day of Spirit Week: **'80s Day**. Come to school on Monday dressed in your finest '80s attire. Look on the internet and talk to your parents to help you create the perfect '80s look. Like, totally!!



Post-Summer School Cleaning Blitz

With summer school at Shepherd ending Aug. 5 and teachers reporting back to school Aug. 17, that gives us eight to 10 working days for the school to be transformed into a sparkling clean facility. This effort will require the hard work of not only Shepherd's custodial staff and the best efforts of teachers, but also the elbow grease of parents. Get ready to block out dates on your summertime calendar to join in the cleaning blitz.

Audit Committee Forming

The PTA needs three savvy parents to serve as an Audit Committee for a couple of weekend afternoons no earlier than mid-July to review the PTA's books. If you can assist in this effort, please get in touch with outgoing PTA Treasurer Doug Noble at <u>taylorfarm@kddmgroup.com</u> or incoming PTA President Charisse Brossard at <u>charisse_brossard@adp.com</u>.

Before You Buy Next Year's School Uniforms...

Consider buying your school uniforms from either **Land's End** or **French Toast**. Both of these retailers will donate a percentage of your purchases back to Shepherd when you use our school codes.

Shepherd School Uniform Retailer Codes:

- Land's End: <u>www.landsend.com</u> use Shepherd's Preferred School Number: **9001-3120-2**
- French Toast: <u>www.frenchtoast.com</u> use Shepherd's School Code: **QS4SJF**

This is an easy way to raise money for Shepherd that does not cost YOU any additional money than you would have spent anyway!



Boxes Needed for Teachers' Materials

For most of the school year, we focus on "Box Tops for Education." But with the school year nearing an end, we're focusing on "**Boxes for**

Education." Our teachers need to put their instructional materials in boxes to keep them out of harm's way during the Summer School program and the cleanup that follows. With as many as 400 children using Shepherd Elementary this summer for the enrichment program, the need for boxes is especially critical this year. Please bring your boxes to the school office, where they will be distributed to our teachers. Copypaper boxes work best, but liquor cartons and pizza-box cartons are a close second. Please contact merchants and ask for boxes before store staff flattens them. And approach the manager at your supermarket for appropriate boxes, too!



Box Tops Update

Just because it's almost summer vacation, doesn't mean you should stop collecting Box Tops. The next Box Tops Collection Contest will occur in September, just after next school year starts. The collection sheet in last week's issue of the *Mustang* has been

uploaded to the Box Tops directory in the Files section of the PTA listserv. . Keep that collection sheet handy all summer, and bring it back next school year filled with Box Tops so that Shepherd can earn even more money!

Please welcome Shepherd's **new Box Tops for Education Coordinator, Ms. Katherine Trimble**. Katherine, mom of Colyar (rising 2nd grader) and Henry (rising kindergartener) will take over as Box Tops Coordinator this summer.

Remember to keep clipping Box Tops for Shepherd!



Counseling Corner

PARENTING TIP #5

PEACE TABLE

Children need to learn to accept responsibility for the consequences of their decisions. They have their own strong sense of right and wrong and will likely want to assign blame to others for many incidents. You may want to agree or disagree with their judgments about the rightness or wrongness of their friends' or siblings'actions. It is helpful to establish and refer to your "house" rules in order to discuss the dispute. Have the children help you develop some rules for keeping the peace in your home. Keep your list short and simple.

Here is one simple rule that covers a lot of moral ground: "I will not hurt anyone on the outside or the inside."

Having established at the roundtable whether the actions in question are in accord with the rules, it is important to set the tone for achieving peace: the parties must forgive and move toward solutions.

TRY THIS: When there is a disagreement among your children, invite them to the peace table. Each child has a turn at telling what happened. Each child then tells how he or she could have acted differently or more peacefully and then proposes a solution that will be fair to all. The children must stay at the table until the dispute is peacefully resolved.

~ Ms. Liggins, School Counselor

Literacy Corner

Let's Play a Game

Playing games can be fun. They bring people together and encourage cooperation, sharing, turn-taking, and sportsmanship. Creating a game together has the players think through the process, write about the process, and solve problems. Many literacy skills, such as reading and communicating, are part of playing games.

Primary Grades

Try having a game night. There are many card and board games that can be fun. Matching is a great game to sharpen your memory and even vocabulary. You can use your child's weekly vocabulary words to create a Matching game. Just write each word on an index card, turn them over, and play! There are also a many websites that you and your child can visit to play educational games. Here are just a few sites that you can try:

- <u>www.vocabulary.co.il</u>
- pbskids.org/readingrainbow
- teacher.scholastic.com/clifford1/

Play and have fun!

Intermediate Grades

Playing board games or card games can be a fun activity, so why not make your own? Working together, the players will decide what the game will look like, how it will be played, and what kinds of materials are needed. When the game and directions are complete, have fun playing it!

What You Need

- Blank file folders, poster board, or other sturdy paper
- Colored paper, markers, crayons, glue, scissors
- Note cards
- Envelopes or zipper-seal bags
- Paper clips
- Cards
- Dice
- Items that can be used as tiles, such as buttons, tops, pennies, and more

Here's What To Do

Working together, decide what kind of game will be created. Think about and share what kind of games you like to play and how you can make your own. You can also look at a list of games and their rules to get some ideas.

Most games have a purpose – what will be the purpose of your game? Will the winner capture the most pieces? Does the hero need to get to the heroine? Do you want the highest score or the lowest?

Collect all of the needed supplies.

If making a board game:

- Open the folder and draw the game board.
- Write the name of the game on the folder tab or poster board.

If creating a card game or dice game, plan what will be on the cards/recording sheets.

If making a game with tiles, write letters, numbers or words on them to fit into the game.

Write the game's instructions. Include a title, materials needed, game play steps, and any diagrams that will help people play your game.

Create additional game pieces and question cards if needed. Paper clips with colored paper attached to them make great player markers.

Place all game pieces and question cards in envelopes/zipper-seal bags.

Once the game has been designed and created, play it to see if everything makes sense. If not, make adjustments until the game can be played.

Play and have fun!



More Ideas to Try

Games can be based on children's favorite games: Chutes and Ladders, Monopoly, Yahtzee, or Scrabble. The game can be based on a favorite book, TV show, or movie.

THE MUSTANG

The IB PYP Corner

Update, News and Notes:

Teachers continue to implement their first unit of inquiry. In this process, students continue to formulate their own questions around the central idea,

research, observe, collect data, analyze data and other information, finding answers and drawing conclusions. They are also reflecting on their learning. In Mrs. Crockett's first grade class, the unit's central idea is: "People in a community express values through symbols and traditions."

The lines of inquiry are:

- Similarities and differences between different cultures
- Beliefs, values, cultures around the world
- How the way in which you express yourself affects relationships

Here are two examples of reflections written by students in Mrs. Crockett's class. The reflection question was, "Why do you like learning about culture?"

I like learning about culture because I found the answer about culture in a dictionary., It was a group of people's traditions, ideas and customs. I had fun using the dictionary. ~ Gregory Jones

I like learning about culture because you can learn a lot about places, people and languages. I have a father that came from a different culture. He came from Georgia. It is a little city in Russia. He does things differently from us here. He speaks a different language. The language is Georgian. I know a little bit. I want to learn more Georgian.

~ Margaret Goletiani

Both of the first grade classes must do the same unit. The photos at right are of students in Mrs. Kinsler's class and in Mrs. Crockett's class standing near one of the PYP unit charts and bulletin boards. They are proud of their PYP classroom!

~ Patricia L. Tucker & Jamie Miles





THE MUSTANG

Summer Reading Program At Shepherd Park Library

You can sign up right now for the annual Summer Reading Program at the Shepherd Park Library, 7420 Georgia Avenue. This year's theme is "Be Creative - Express Yourself." The program runs through August 31, and there's a great celebration at the library for all kids (and their parents) who successfully participate in the program. For more details, pick up a summer reading program guide for children and teens, or log onto <u>www.dclibrary.org</u>.



For those who may be too young to read on their own, the library offers preschool story time for ages 3-5 every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m., and baby-toddler time for kids ages 1 month to 3 years, from 11 a.m. to noon. Library hours at 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays; 1-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursday; and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. For more details call the library at 202-541-6255.



This is the FINAL REMINDER to parents and guardians:

All accounts for the STAR ACHIEVERS Before- and After-Care program must be closed ASAP. To date, we have too many open accounts, forcing us to take adverse action against those families. We have dismissed several children from the program and the names of those families have been forwarded to the D.C. Public Schools' collection agency for punitive action. In addition, those families will not be allowed to return to the after-care program for the upcoming school year.

Applications and information about the STAR ACHIEVERS program will be given out to returning families and mailed out to incoming families this week. Early payments will be accepted in the main office during the summer months.

The STAR ACHIEVERS staff truly appreciates the cooperation and support of our parents and children and we wish you a wonderful summer.

~ Mr. Donald Huff

Summer Fun Word Search

YPKKJYFODWSWKEXZJLDW С IEYCT UYSREEZEERBAMW TFULHPSEDSUSNDEPIGZ E S P O C R E G C R S W O S N U R E R U Α NUI TURKICECREAMWPRZ 0 G F V N C U S R A O R M M L B L T AEH SAUBNPHUTAOMUXRGFDT U K P C M Q U I A Y L U J L U E N A N N D т XAU IPRC INGS EESDBBUS G HTF OIANTUUWMZBEACHS KIYGLTAUFSIOMKJJHTI D LWYLSZ POL ΟΤΙΟΝ G TTMN v CJZPZ XNGRNOG OONMAKV G R AUVSDNRHUMID Ι TYNUHL JGLPLMAYTGNENUJA OWJ F YMKMHSSROONGLVG JТ WOW J FCWRUYNDQAIOOSDN QUE EGBGJNCYSQQENCOJ U TNS XXROINCGEZOTQGEPSXLE XLOAMSULWYDXSSYKTKJR



August barbeque beach breeze fan fun hamburgers heat hotdogs humidity ice cream July June lemonade lightning lotion mountains perspiration picnic pool reruns shade storms summer sunburn sunglasses suntan swimming thunder vacation

THE MUSTANG

Shepherd Park Yard Sale 50+ Homes With Goodies



The annual Shepherd Park Yard Sale happens this weekend throughout the Shepherd Park neighborhood. There are more than 50 homes with auction items to sell. This includes Shepherd Elementary, which will have 17 sellers, including the Citizens Association Friends of the Library, selling books, music, and other items on Saturday

only. You'll even be able to get your knives sharpened by an old-fashioned knife sharpener who will have his truck parked alongside the school. If you want to see a map of the addresses registered for the yard sale, look up

http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=118 142129333999209253.00046b51b99fd4e5a26a5&ll=38.986367,-77.03639&spn=0.032257,0.04137&z=15

And, to see a printable list of addresses taking part in the yard sale and the items being sold, go to http://shepherdpark.org/pdf/Yard-Sale-Listing-2009.pdf



Used Uniforms Need Your TLC

We are looking for at least a couple of Shepherd parents or grandparents – with a keen eye for this sort of thing – to look for (or to make your own judgment) on the sizes of the used uniform clothing we have. A project is already under way to get all of the used uniform clothing properly washed, dried, and folded in plenty of time for selling at the 2009 parents' night orientations and at PTA meetings.



Once sorted... this is where you come in. If you're interested, call recording secretary Mark Pattison at 829-9289, or e-mail him at mpattison@catholicnews.com

Shepherd Park Community Picnic Is Sunday, June 14

The Shepherd Park Citizens Association's annual picnic will be held on Sunday, June 14, 2-6 p.m. on the grounds of



Lowell School, on Kalmia Road west of 16th Street. Charlie's Restaurant is the Shepherd Park eatery catering the event, and they're known for tasty food and great hospitality. There will be music and games for kids from 3 to 93.

And it's a great chance to renew acquaintances and make friends with neighbors old and new. Rain date is Sunday, June 28, at the same location.

2009 Ward 4 Family Fun Day Happens Saturday, June 20

The annual Ward 4 Family Fun Day sponsored by Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser will be held Saturday, June 20, starting at 3 p.m. at Lafayette Elementary School, 5701 Broad Branch Rd. NW.

Planned activities call for a moon bounce. Food to be enjoyed includes hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn a snow-cone machine, an ice cream truck, bingo, cards, Uno. Entertainment includes a steel drum band and Taiwanese drummers.

Some lucky folks will win Frisbees and T-shirts. In case of rain, the Family Fun Day will move indoors at Lafayette.

School Starts August 24

You're saying to yourself, "Goodness! This school year isn't over and already they're telling us when school starts up again?" Well, it's true. You can access the complete D.C. Public Schools calendar in a handy two-page format by going to http://www.k12.dc.us/schools/documents/calendars/DCPS-School-Calendar-2009-2010-Small.pdf.

Not only that, but teachers report August 17! The last day of school for next school year will be Friday, June 18, 2010. Note that there will be five Fridays set aside for professional development, during which there will be no school; there are another four "records" days, including the last day of school, when the school day ends at 12:15 p.m. Look at the calendar and start planning in advance!

Private Enrichment Tutor Available

Erika Almanza Brown, a previous DCPS teacher and experienced private tutor of over 3 years, is available for summer tutoring for children going into grades 3-7. Allow her to help fill in the gaps or prepare your child for the next grade level in math (including algebra), reading, grammar, writing, plus phonics and spelling. She has excellent references from Shepherd and other DCPS families. Call her at 301-213-9247 or email at almanzabrown@gmail.com for more information.

More Camp News for Interested Families

Here is a brief rundown of summer camp activities for children that are either in D.C. or very close by:

Washington International School "Passport to Summer 2009" with specialty camps for ages 23-12, language immersion in Spanish, French, Chinese and English as a Second Language for ages 3-14, August camps for ages 3-12 and extended day camps. For details call 243-1791 or go to www.wis.edu

St. Albans School with academic and technology camps for boys and girls running through August 7, as well as sports instruction and recreational activity camps in partnership with Headfirst. For details, call 537-6450. Online registration is available at www.stalbansschol.org/summer

Sidwell Friends School "Sidwell Summer" with day camps, academics, sports, overnight programs and trips for boys and girls ages 4-18. For details call 337-8133 or e-mail summer@sidwell.edu.

Casa Italiana Language School Camp with Italian, arts and craft, cooking, drama soccer and games from Italy for children ages 5-12. Full- and half-day camps available. For details call 638-1348 or e-mail casaitaliana2000@gmail.com

National Presbyterian School "Summer Horizons Camp" at 4121 Nebraska Ave. NW, starting June 16 and running through August 15, with crafts, creative play, cooking, drama, music, art, swimming, martial arts, plus theme days and extended hours available, not to mention day care available for children ages 5-11. For details call 537-7582. Online registration available at w ww.nps-dc.org/summerprogram

Greenway Tennis offers a summer junior program for children ages 4-16 in E.F., Bethesda and McLean. It also offers current classes for ages 3-adult, and year=round instruction for children and adults. For info, call 362-2554.

Summer acting camps for kids ages 5-7, 8-10, and 11-13, June 22 -August 28, with extended day options available. Offered through Theatre Lab School of the Dramatic arts, 733 8th St. NW (Gallery Place Metro). For details call 824-0449. Online registration available at <u>www.theatrelab.org</u>

Silver Stars Gymnastics offers full-day (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) and half-day (9 a.m.-noon) camps for children ages 3-and-a-half to 15, with extended mornings and evenings options. Cartwheels, monkey bars, trampolines, rope climbing, jumping, tucking, twisting and flipping part of the curriculum. Located at 2701 Pittman Dr. in Silver Spring (with another location in Bowie). For details call 301-589-0938, or fax 301-589-1717. Web site: www.gosilverstars.com

Color Me Mine "Summer Art Adventures" for kids ages 6-13, June 22-August 14, with weeklong half-day art programs featuring clay, ceramic, painting, mosaics, textiles and lined glass. In downtown Silver Spring. For info cal 301-565-5106. Web site: colordc.com

Learn Now Music offering in-home lessons with instrument rentals available. Call 202-421-1015 for details, or go to <u>www.learnnowmusic.com</u>



The Mustang Round-Up

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, simple 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 <u>www.shepherd-elementary.org</u>.

Deadline for Next Issue of The Mustang -

The next issue of The Mustang will be distributed to students on **THURSDAY**, **June 11**. If you want to contribute to the next issue, send it in by 10:00 am next **Monday**, **June 8**.

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

Join The Mustang Team -

If you would like to join the editorial team for *The Mustang* for next school year, please contact Mark Pattison at 829-9289, or e-mail him at pattison mark@hotmail.com.



Shepherd Elementary School

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Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to: <u>SESmustang@gmail.com</u>.