



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Special Summer Issue – August 5, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!

- 8/14 – Safety Patrol Training, time TBA
- 8/15 – Pre-K Playdate, SES Playground, 4-6 pm
- 8/21 – New Parent Reception, 11 am-1 pm
- 8/22 – DCPS Beautification Day, 8:00 am-1:00 pm
- 8/24 – First Day of School!
- 8/24 – Open House/Back To School Fair, 8:45 am
- 9/16 – PTA Meeting, 6:45 pm, Auditorium
- 9/16 – Back to School Night, 7:30 pm, Auditorium
- 9/18 – Color Me Mine Fundraiser Event
- 9/26 – Fall Fest
- 9/26-10/03 – Scholastic Book Fair

Welcome from the PTA President

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 to soar to new heights with a principal 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.

The PTA executive committee has worked very hard this summer to set up realistic goals for the upcoming school year. Our primary focus is Technology and Communication. Our first goal is the NEW and IMPROVED Shepherd Elementary Web site that will be unveiled on August 21. Our goal is to make sure that the lines of communication are open and inclusive.

HOWEVER, WE WILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO MAKE THIS YEAR A TRUE SUCCESS. Please try to do what you can for the school – no gesture is too small and sometime those are the best ones!!! As someone who values this school and this community, I look forward to serving as your PTA president.

Sincerely,
Charisse Brossard, President Shepherd Elementary PTA
2009-2010 School Year

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

I hope that each of you are having a wonderful summer creating lifetime memories. My summer has been busy, but good. It is hard to believe in three weeks we will be opening the doors of Shepherd to begin the 2009-2010 school year. The office staff, along with a few teachers, the custodial team and parent volunteers have been busy helping us prepare for the upcoming year. We are excited about the new year and the things to come.

Before I begin sharing a few things about the upcoming year, I would like to take a few paragraphs to share with you some data from the past school year. Though this information is in no way comprehensive, it will however, give you some insight into where we are and where we will be going as we begin another school year.

The Past

Teachers

The following teachers were honored at the Chancellor's Outstanding Teachers Reception:

- Mr. Giles – Music Teacher
- Mr. King – Sixth Grade

The following teachers completed, continued, or enrolled in graduate studies:

- Ms. Miller – Kindergarten
- Ms. Ulba – Fifth Grade
- Ms. Holt – Pre-kindergarten

The following staff members will not be returning to Shepherd:

- Mrs. Shaibu – Special Education
- Ms. Kinsler – First Grade
- Ms. Gilmore – Fourth Grade
- Ms. Daley – Dedicated Aide
- Señorita Carrill – Spanish

Discipline

- 46 Principal office referrals (the school counselor intervened on many occasions before they escalated to a referral to the Principal's office.
- 4 suspensions (2 students)

(See Principal, continued on page 11)

'180 Fund' Is Created To Finance PTA and School

In place of PTA membership dues and what had been known as the Family Enrichment Fee, the PTA has established the "180 Fund." There are 180 instructional days in the school year. Parents, can you afford a dollar per day per child to improve Shepherd Elementary? We think you can, and we hope you'll contribute to the 180 Fund.

There are all sorts of things that Shepherd Principal Jamie Miles and PTA leadership have identified since the end of the school year that will enhance the educational program at Shepherd that don't fit into the school or D.C. Public Schools' budget. These include, but are hardly limited to:

- Plastic folders to be provided to each student at the start of the school year to facilitate communication between the school and the home.
- A redesign of the Shepherd Elementary Web site to make it easier to use – and this year with individual Web pages for each teacher!
- Discovery Education software for the school (available at half price because a Shepherd parent works for Discovery Communications).
- Workshops and seminars conducted by renowned International Baccalaureate educator John Burnell.
- "White boards" to augment and supplement the school's blackboards.
- More laptop computers for teacher use. Currently, we have about one laptop for every three teachers – and that just won't do.

With an obvious focus this year on technology and communications, it's apparent that these things won't come cheap. That's why we're reaching out to you now – even before the school year starts – to contribute.



YOU Are in the PTA Now!

For the 2009-10 school year, EVERY Shepherd parent is in the PTA. If you are at a PTA meeting, you will automatically have a vote and a voice. There will be no membership dues, either!

If you had ever thought of money – or anything – as a barrier to participating in the PTA in particular, or more fully in the life of the school in general, then your worries are over! The *Mustang*, the Shepherd Elementary Web site, and the PTA listserv will let you know of plenty of ways you can make Shepherd School – and our children's educational experience – better than ever.

How Can YOU Contribute to the 180 Fund?

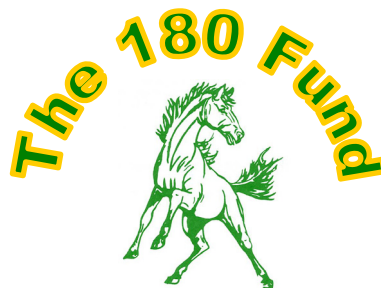
There are two ways you can contribute: \$180 per child for the 180 Fund – or, if you would like to exempt your family from the fundraising activities that take place throughout the year, pay \$500 and consider yourself exempted!

You can pay the money up front, but if you need to budget your payments, you can make either 10 monthly payments (\$18 or \$50), or two per-semester payments (\$90 or \$250).

Make your checks payable to Shepherd Elementary PTA. There are three ways you can make your payments:

1. You may pay by mail to Niki Mitchell, PTA Treasurer, 532 Cedar St. NW, Washington, DC 20012
2. You may also pay by mail to Charisse Brossard, PTA President, 7714 13th St. NW, Washington, DC 20012.
3. You may also go directly to Shepherd Elementary and put a check in the PTA mailbox inside the main office. If you'd rather mail it to the school, its address is: Shepherd Elementary School PTA, 7800 14th St. NW, Washington, DC 20012.

We plan on publishing all new contributors to the 180 Fund in each issue of the *Mustang*. Let's make the August 28 issue the biggest list of 180 Fund members all year long, and give now!



Fall Fest Date Set, And Book Fair, Too

Shepherd Elementary's annual **Fall Fest** will be held Saturday, September 26, at the school. Count on 14th Street being closed to accommodate rides, games, and activities for Shepherd students, their parents and siblings, and neighbors. While Fall Fest raises important money for the school, it's also one of the biggest and best friend-making activities the school has for children and parents alike.

September 26 will also mark the kickoff of the school's annual **Scholastic Fall Book Fair**, which runs for two weeks sandwiched around a school week. Last year Fall Fest and Book Fair planners did a mash-up with the dates, putting them both together, and both the Fall Fest and the Book Fair reported best-ever funds raised.

The Fall Fest rain date is Saturday, October 3 – coincidentally, the end of the Book Fair!

Open House/Back-To-School Fair Scheduled for August 24



It'll be an Open House/Back-To-School Fair – and it'll be a full house, because it's mandatory – for all Shepherd parents on the morning of Monday, August 24, the first day of the new school year.

Principal Jamie Miles expects to distribute green plastic folders (green is one of Shepherd's school colors) with two sleeves. One sleeve will say "Keep at Home." The other sleeve will say "Return to School." The sleeves will be big enough to hold copies of the *Mustang*, the weekly school newsletter, and other communications from the school.

We also expect to get the Reader's Digest annual fall fundraiser under way at the Open House. We want to improve over last year's performance, and we're confident that we will. Why? Because Lawanda Tyus, whose daughter has raised more money through the fundraiser than any other Shepherd student each of the past two years, will be running the show this year. Be on the lookout for her timely tips to maximize revenue for the school. Remember: Shepherd gets to keep half of all the proceeds!

There will be tables set-up for you to pay fees, sign-up to volunteer and purchase used uniforms. All of the clothing was washed, folded and marked by size over the summer, so you can buy it on the 24th and have your child wear it to school on the 25th!

PTA's Communications Committee Needs Cadre of Dedicated Parents

Here are some of the things that members of the PTA's Communications Committee does:

- Write items for and edit the *Mustang*
- Print the *Mustang* every Thursday afternoon and place copies in teachers' mailboxes
- Publish the annual school directory.
- Change the signboard outside the school
- Write press releases and media advisories about upcoming school events
- Post new material on the school Web site and PTA listserv and keep both current



You don't have to do all of those things (or others not even listed). You can do just one of them as long as you're faithful to the task.

If you can help, contact last year's Communications Committee chair, Mark Pattison, either at 829-9289 or pattison_mark@hotmail.com

Reading is Fundamental

Reading also is lots of fun! Don't you love it when your child is learning to read new words and looks up to you for help with an unfamiliar word? And don't you love zipping through books – underscoring the notion that it's a book "you just can't put down"?



The *Reading Rocks* program ended in July. But the D.C. Public Library's annual summer reading program is still in full swing, with an end-of-summer celebration planned for all those who have successfully completed the program. The library's program is open to all grades, including pre-K through fifth grade.

We are also lucky to have a public library within Shepherd's attendance area. It's the *Juanita E. Thornton-Shepherd Park Library* at 7420 Georgia Avenue, across the street from McDonald's. So get up and get away from the Golden Arches, head across the street, and feed your children's minds with the wealth of information available at the public library.

New Student/New Parent Reception Is Set for August 21

There will be a Welcome Reception/Orientation for pre-K students, new students, and their parents on Friday, August 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parents and/or students will receive a welcome packet, get their teacher assignments, tour the building and their classroom.

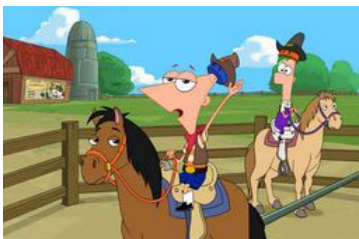
Parents will hear about how to help their child succeed at Shepherd from selected staff members and returning parents. Parents and students will have a chance to meet other parents during the informal reception.

Parent volunteers are sought to speak and serve as escorts. The incoming crop of fifth graders are also welcome to help out on this very important date. To volunteer, contact the principal, Jamie Miles, at either jamie.miles@dc.gov or 576-6140.

Used uniform clothing will be for sale inside the school vestibule next to the auditorium, where the program will be held.

Saddle Up and Join The Staff of the Mustang

The Mustang, the school's weekly newsletter, doesn't just put itself together! (Insert smart-aleck remark here.) It takes a diligent effort by motivated parents to assemble the items contained in each issue.



We're looking for people with an eye for design, or a nose for news (or both) to help out with the 2009-10 *Mustang*. In the past two years, we have had a rotating series of weekly editors (last year it was four parents taking turns). A fifth person devoted time each week to layout of the *Mustang*. Of the five people who helped out last year, four were familiar with Microsoft Publisher software.

If you think you can help over the year ahead, get in touch with Mark Pattison at either 829-9289 or pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

Next Issue Deadline

To submit items for publication for the August 28 issue of the *Mustang*, use this handy-dandy e-mail address this time and every time:

sesmustang@gmail.com

Deadline for each Friday's newsletter is 5 p.m. the Tuesday prior.

School Cleaning and Decorating Day Be Ready to Spring to Action



The summer school and summer enrichment program at Shepherd Elementary ends Wednesday, August 5. After that, a cleaning crew will come to Shepherd for five to seven days to clean as much of the school as they can within that time frame.

The first day teachers may be able to see their classrooms is Friday, August 14 – and then they'll be away Monday-Wednesday, August 17-19, for workshops and training. And the new school year starts Monday, August 24.

This gives us as parents a limited window of opportunity to help our children's new teachers get their classrooms straightened up and straightened out. Parents are asked to join us on **Saturday, August 22 from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm** to help clean and decorate.

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:** www.landsend.com Use Shepherd's Preferred School Number: **9001-3120-2**

• **French Toast:** www.frenchtoast.com 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!

Shepherd Elementary
School PTA presents the
4th Annual

Fall Fest

September 26



Shopping for Shepherd!

There are a number of easy — no additional cost to you — fundraisers that are on going at Shepherd Elementary School. These are fundraisers that do not cost YOU any additional money than you would have spent anyway! These include:

Box Tops for Education –

- Go to www.boxtops4education to see list of eligible products and marketplace vendors
- Put Box Tops into Collection Box in Main Office.
- Shop through the Box Tops Marketplace when doing on-line shopping.

eScrip –

- Designate your Mastercard or Visa
- Shepherd's Safeway/eScrip designation code: **500018723**

French Toast School Uniforms –

- Go to www.frenchtoast.com
- Shepherd's school code: **QS4SJF**

Giant A+ Bonus Bucks –

- Must designate Shepherd's code each year to participate.
- Shepherd's A+ Bonus Bucks Code: **00154**

Land's End School Uniforms –

- Specify Shepherd "Preferred School Number" when placing an order from the Lands' End School Uniform catalog or Lands' End School Uniform website.
- Shepherd's Preferred School Number: **9001-3120-2**

Safeway Club Card and eScrip –

- Must register Safeway Club Card with eScrip each year
- Donations for Safeway purchases from Oct. through May.
- Shepherd's Safeway/eScrip designation code: **500018723**

Sniders Superfoods Receipts –

- Bring current year receipts to the Main Office in an envelope marked "Sniders Receipts"

Target "Take Charge of Education" –

- Designate your Target Card or your Target Visa
- Shepherd's "Take Charge of Education" Enrollment Code: **39625**



Do You Shop at Oriental Trading?



Start all your on-line shopping trips at the Box Tops for Education Marketplace and earn "free" money for Shepherd!

To get started, go to www.boxtops4education.com and click on the "sign up now" (in the top right corner). Once you're signed up, you can easily access the Box Tops Marketplace and start earning money for Shepherd with all your on-line purchases.

1. Start your on-line shopping at the Box Tops Marketplace.
2. Select items you'd like to purchase as you normally would, and follow their standard checkout procedures.
3. A percentage of your qualifying purchases will be automatically credited to Shepherd through the Box Tops for Education program.

There are over 70 popular Marketplace stores, such as **Oriental Trading**.

Other Marketplace stores include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • Land's End | • Pets Mart |
| • Leaps and Bounds | • Plow and Hearth |
| • Apple Store | • Pottery Barn |
| • Lillian Vernon | • Expedia.com |
| • Avon | • Sears |
| • Gap | • Smith and Hawken |
| • Banana Republic | • Staples |
| • Barnes & Noble | • Target |
| • Best Buy | • Home Depot |
| • Nordstrom | • Walmart |
| • Office Depot | • Kohls |
| • Current Catalog | • Victoria's Secret |
| • Discovery Channel Store | • Shutterfly |
| | • and many, many more. |

Check out the complete listing of marketplace stores at:

www.boxtops4education.com/Marketplace/Default.aspx



and let's get shopping to earn that free money for Shepherd!



School Year 2009-2010 Class Supply Lists

Pre-K Supply List:

- Crayons (box of 8, big)
- 16 count crayons
- Scissors (Fiskars)
- Glue (2 white)
- 4 Glue sticks
- Kleenex tissues (1 box)
- Wet ones (antibacterial)
- Smock or old shirt
- Standard crib size sheet (nap time)
- Book bag (full size)
- Primary Pencils (large, fat pencils)
- Washable markers (ten count w/pink and black)
- Picture of child (recent)
- 2 Pocket folders (labeled w/child's name)
- Six-pack of play-dough
- Clorox Wipes (1 container)
- Paper Towels (pre-wrapped)
- Liquid Hand Soap (1 container)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Gallon Size zip lock bags (1 box)
- Sandwich size zip lock bags (1 box)
- 1 ream of copy paper
- Dry erase markers (multi-colored)
- \$10.00 for art supplies
- \$5.00 *Time for Kids* magazine
- \$6.50 Writing workbook

Kindergarten Supply List:

- A large backpack and 3 folders
- 4 + glue sticks (not from Office Depot)
- 1 pair of Fiskars scissors, rounded edges
- 1 box of crayons
- 1 Elmer's School Glue
- 1 Clorox or Lysol Wipes-Bleach Free
- Smock or old shirt
- Washable markers
- Antibacterial soap and Baby Wipes
- 1 ream of copy paper
- 1 Gallon size zip lock bags
- 1 sandwich size zip lock bags
- 1 large roll of paper towels
- 1 box of tissues and Hand sanitizer
- 1 spray bottle of Lysol Kitchen Cleaner-Bleach Free
- 1 pack of dry erase markers
- Thin blanket (no sheets)-no larger than 40" X 40"
- Small pillow (approximately 10" X 10")
- \$11.50 sealed in an envelope with your child's name (Scholastic/*Handwriting Without Tears*)
- Bring a complete change of clothes in a zip lock bag. Remember to write your child's name on the bag.

First Grade Supply List:

- 1 small plastic pencil case
- 1 pair of Fiskar scissors
- 3 stitched composition book
- 4 plastic pockets folders no brads
- 2 boxes of tissue
- 4 primary pencils
- 4 large pink pearl erasers
- 1 yellow highlighter
- 4 large glue sticks (1.25 ounces)
- 1 small box of crayons (16 or no more than 24)
- 2 boxes of magic markers (large size include brown and black)
- 1 watercolor paints set include brown and black
- 1 box of sandwich size zip lock bags
- 2 boxes of gallon size zip lock bags
- 1 antibacterial liquid soap
- 1 no wash liquid hand cleaner (i.e. Purell)
- 1 old button down shirt for painting
- 2 black expo dry erase markers
- 1 ream of copy paper
- 1 *Handwriting without Tears*
- 1 *Modern Curriculum Press Phonics Workbook* \$9.95
- \$5.00 *Time for Kids* magazine

Second Grade Supply List:

Individual Supplies

- Four 2-pocket folders (plain/cardboard, not plastic)
- 1 packet of #2 pencils
- 2 composition books
- 1 package of colored pencils
- 1 pencil box
- 1 pair of age appropriate scissors
- 1 bottle of glue
- 1 ream of paper
- \$3.50 for *Student Planner*
- \$5.00 for *Time for Kids* magazine
- 2 highlighters
- 1 pack of dry erase markers

Collective classroom supplies

- 1 box of tissues
- 2 rolls of paper towels or wipes
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- 1 bottle of 409

School Year 2009-2010 Class Supply Lists

Third Grade Supply List:

- one 3 ring binder or accordion folder/portfolio
- 3 composition books
- 5 plastic pocket folders (3-hole if you are using a binder)
- 24 No. 2 pencils
- 2 Pink Pearl erasers
- 2 red editing pencils with erasers
- 2 packages wide rule line paper
- 2 boxes of markers (include black and brown)
- 4 large glue sticks
- 1 tri-colored highlighter or 3 different colored highlighters
- 1 box of 16 or no more than 24 colored pencils
- 1 container wipes (e.g. Clorox)
- 3 boxes facial tissue
- 2 rolls of paper towels
- 1 no-wash liquid hand cleaner (e.g., Purell)
- 1 ream of paper
- 2 black expo dry erase markers
- 1 wire bound unlined sketch book (available from Plaza Arts on Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring)
- \$5.00 (cash please) *Time for Kids* magazine
- \$3.50 for *Student Planner*

Fifth Grade Supply List:

- one 3 ring binder
- three 2 pocket folders
- 2 boxes of Kleenex tissue
- 1 pack of dry erase markers
- 1 pack of sharpened pencils
- 1 pack of colored pencils or crayons
- 5 red ink pens
- 1 pack of pens
- 2 highlighters
- 1 pack of subject dividers
- 1 bottle of liquid soap/hand sanitizer
- 1 dictionary
- 1 or 2 subject or higher spiral notebook
- 2 reams of paper
- 1 wire bound unlined sketch book (available from Plaza Arts on Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring)
- \$ 4.00 *National Geographic Explorer*
- \$ 5. 00 *Time for Kids* magazine
- \$3.50 for *Student Planner*

Fourth Grade Supply List:

- 6 composition notebooks (no spiral notebooks and no 3 ringed binders).
- 1 box of pencils and 1 box of crayons
- 1 pair of scissors and 1 bottle of glue
- 1 school box and 1 tissue box
- 1 hand sanitizer
- 6 folders
- 1 pack of 3 by 5 index cards
- 2 packs of wide-ruled notebook paper (not college ruled)
- 1 pack copying paper
- 2 highlighters
- 1 ream of copy paper
- 1 pack of dry erase markers
- 1 wire bound unlined sketch book (available from Plaza Arts on Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring)
- \$5.00 *Time for Kids* magazine
- \$3.50 for *Student Planner*



The IB PYP Corner

Update, News and Notes:

This summer, teachers are coming in to work collaboratively on finishing the writing of their reflections on the trial PYP unit they implemented in the last few weeks of last school year, and they are continuing the writing of unit planners for the units of inquiry that they will implement this coming school year.

Ms. Miles, Ms. Tucker, and Ms. Moorefield are working on several parts of the IB Application Part B, which is due December 1, 2009. Ms. Tucker is preparing Ms. Moorefield to take over the role of PYP coordinator for next year.

Kindergarteners in the Spotlight

We are sharing with you a description of the closing program presented by Ms. Kuawogai's kindergarten class. In it the teachers and students incorporated **several elements of the IB:**

- **Teacher collaboration** – Ms. Kuawogai planned and executed the program in collaboration with the French teacher, Ms. Gadie and the instructional aide, Ms. Agoussi.
- **Second language acquisition** – Students spoke and sang in French and Spanish as well as English
- **The IB Learner Profile and reflection** – To emphasize the Learner Profile attribute of “caring” each student read before the assembled group of teachers, parents and friends a one-sentence reflection on how he or she cared

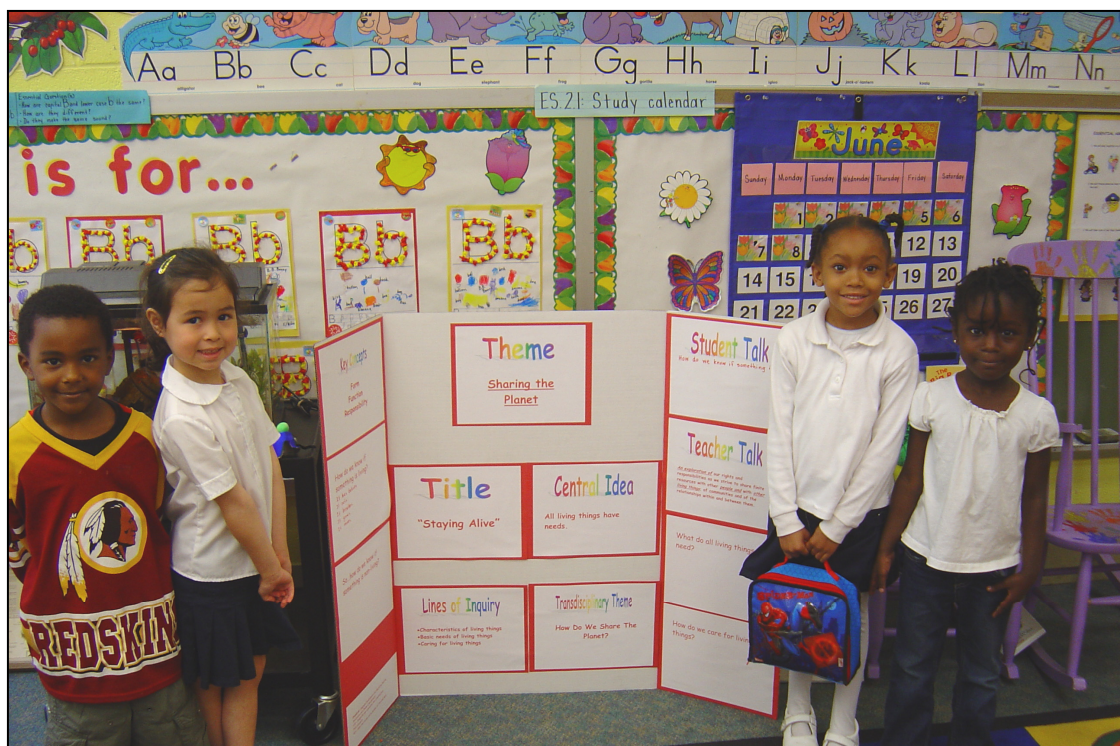
for someone or helped someone during the past school year. One of the teachers held up a sign showing the Learner Profile attribute of “communicator” as the students sang a song about peace in French, Spanish and English. Communication was evident throughout the program as demonstrated by the speaking, singing and the student art work presented.

Many parents and friends were present to witness this program and shared in the delicious refreshments that were provided. What a wonderful way to end a school year in which teachers and students worked hard to adopt the principles and practices of the IB Primary Years Program!

Reflection question: How can you at home support the Learner Profile attributes of caring and communicating? Could you try getting your child to reflect on the things he or she is doing this summer and how it is changing his/her thinking or actions? Try it.



~ Patricia L. Tucker & Jamie Miles



Some of Mrs. Gibbs' Pre-K students showing off the information about their PYP unit at the end of SY 2008-09.

School Directory: Priority Number 1

The 2007-08 school directory wasn't issued until February. The 2008-09 directory wasn't issued until March. Stop the madness.

In the green plastic folder that you will receive at the August 24 Open House, there is a form for you to authorize placement of your family's contact information in the annual school directory. There are separate lines for address, home phone, work phones, cell phones and e-mail addresses. You may also include other important contact info, such as a grandparent's phone number or that of a neighbor who watches your child after school.

What's most important for 2009-10 is that the directory gets published ASAP. Traditionally, the student population count is set following the last Friday in September. This year, that date falls on Friday, September 25. That, in theory, gives us one month to assemble all the names, addresses, etc., since neither the school nor DCPS can furnish the PTA with student rosters.

But we're not going to wait a month. We are going to take time during the Open House for all parents to fill out the authorization form, and submit it before they leave school that evening. When you complete the form, please print clearly, as phone numbers and e-mail addresses can get hopelessly tangled due to bad penmanship.

We will remind parents each and every week via the *Mustang* and the PTA listserv to complete the form and turn it in. The sooner we get the directory published, the more we will all benefit.



Northwest Current Contributor Sought

Each year, the *Northwest Current* publishes "School Dispatches" written by students from schools in its circulation area. The "dispatches" are about 150-200 words long, and deal with recent and upcoming activities at school. They have to be submitted by noon each Friday (the *Northwest Current* lands on people's sidewalks Wednesdays).



We're looking for a fifth grader or fourth grader who would be willing to tackle this assignment each week during the school year.

Students who are faithful correspondents could get a \$5 weekly stipend from the newspaper, but they have to show that they'll write each and every week. If you think your child would be interested in this assignment, get in touch with Mark Pattison at 829-9289 or pattison_mark@hotmail.com

First Day of School – August 24

See you at Shepherd!!

It's going to be a GREAT year!

Paint Your Own Pottery 'Fun'raiser

When: Friday, September 18

Time: Anytime between 6:00-10:00 pm

Where: *Color Me Mine* in Downtown Silver Spring

Between 6:00-10:00 pm, *Color Me Mine* pottery studio will donate 50% of the evening's proceeds to Shepherd Elementary School! The studio is open to the public but you can reserve a table by calling 301-565-5105. This is a great family activity and kids of all ages love coming to *Color Me Mine*. Just pick a piece and take as much time as you like to paint it. The studio fires it and your masterpiece is ready for pick up in about a week. Cost is \$15 per table studio fee (good for up to 4 people) plus the price of your pottery pieces.

Support Shepherd and get a head start on your holiday gifts at the same time!

Color Me Mine is located at 823 Ellsworth Drive in Downtown Silver Spring. Reservations are encouraged. (Call 301-565-5105 to reserve your table.)



The Art Of Having Fun.

DIBELS Report – Benchmark Results Comparison Shepherd Elementary School 2008-2009

The table below displays overall performance by grade level in the beginning, middle, and end of year (BOY, MOY, and EOY) for the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills assessment.

The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) are a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of early literacy skills from kindergarten through sixth grade. They are designed to be short (one minute) fluency measures used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills.

DIBELS are comprised of seven measures to function as indicators of phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, accuracy and fluency with connected text, reading comprehension, and vocabulary. DIBELS were designed for use in identifying children experiencing difficulty in acquisition of basic early literacy skills in order to provide support early and prevent the occurrence of later reading difficulties.

Students are assessed three times a year on the grade level measures. The minimum goal increases with each Benchmark. If a student's overall score is Intensive, the teacher provides intervention for that student weekly and the student is Progress Monitored every two weeks. If a student's overall score is Strategic, the teacher provides intervention activities (1 on 1 or small group) and the student is Progress Monitored every three weeks. Intervention activities are recommended based on the child's specific needs that have been identified through assessment.

Shepherd's overall performance at the End of Year Benchmark was 74%.

Grade	Time Period	Number of <u>I</u> ntensive <u>S</u> tudents	Number of <u>S</u> trategic <u>S</u> tudents	Number of <u>B</u> enchmark <u>S</u> tudents	Total number of students
GR. K	BOY	1 = 2%	6 = 11%	49 = 87%	56
	MOY	2 = 4%	17 = 30%	37 = 66%	56
	EOY	5 = 9%	11 = 20%	40 = 71%	56
GR. 1	BOY	2 = 4%	2 = 4%	44 = 92%	48
	MOY	3 = 6%	9 = 19%	36 = 75%	48
	EOY	2 = 4%	7 = 15%	39 = 81%	48
GR. 2	BOY	2 = 5%	8 = 18%	34 = 77%	44
	MOY	4 = 9%	9 = 20%	32 = 71%	45
	EOY	3 = 7%	12 = 27%	30 = 66%	45
GR. 3	BOY	2 = 4%	12 = 24%	37 = 72%	51
	MOY	11 = 21%	14 = 26%	28 = 53%	53
	EOY	3 = 6%	11 = 21%	39 = 73%	53

Join us!

Shepherd Elementary
PTA Meeting
Wednesday, September 16
6:45 p.m. School Auditorium

Back To School Night Immediately Following the Sept. PTA Meeting



(Principal, continued from page 1)

Facilities

- Window project was completed
- Two main hallways were painted (14th street entrance and Jonquil street entrance)
- The teacher's lounge, parent center and cafeteria were painted
- Sidewalk games were drawn on the playground
- Lockers received new outer hardware
- Bulk junk removal
- Boiler room maintenance

IB

- All teachers received level 1 training
- Teachers implemented their first IB unit at the end of the school year
- Teachers worked collaboratively to complete Shepherd Elementary Program of Inquiry (POI)
- Mona Maruca, our IB consultant, visited and provided the staff with informative feedback
- Several teachers visited local International Baccalaureate Schools
- Components of Application B were completed
- Grade levels began writing their remaining units

Assessment Data

District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS) Report

Each advisory students in grades 3rd through 6th grade are administered the District of Columbia Benchmark Assessment (DC BAS). These assessments are aligned with the DC CAS, the District's comprehensive assessment and are designed to measure how well students have mastered the standards and objectives for their grade level. Three weeks ago our DC CAS test scores were released. Shepherd maintains its AYP status. Congratulations to teachers, students, parents, support staff, and key stakeholders for your helping us continue to move forward. This year's results are below:

Reading: 77.78% (73.91% in 2008)
 Females: 82.35% (81.82% in 2008)
 Male: 74.12% (66.67 in 2008)

Math: 76.47% (63.77% in 2008)
 Females: 77.94% (63.64% in 2008)
 Male: 75.29% (63.89% in 2008)

Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) Report

The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) are a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of early literacy skills from kindergarten

(See Principal, continued next column)

(Principal, continued from previous column)

through sixth grade. They are designed to be short (one minute) fluency measures used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills.

DIBELS are comprised of seven measures to function as indicators of phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, accuracy and fluency with connected text, reading comprehension, and vocabulary. DIBELS were designed for use in identifying children experiencing difficulty in acquisition of basic early literacy skills in order to provide support early and prevent the occurrence of later reading difficulties. Students are assessed three times a year on the grade level measures. The minimum goal increases with each Benchmark. If a student's overall score is Intensive, the teacher provides intervention for that student weekly and the student is Progress Monitored every two weeks. If a student's overall score is Strategic, the teacher provides intervention activities (1 on 1 or small group) and the student is Progress Monitored every three weeks. Intervention activities are recommended based on the child's specific needs that have been identified through assessment.

The Present

Supply List

The supply list has been published on the school listserv and is also on pages 6-7 of this issue of the *Mustang*. Prior to the end of the year, teachers worked collaboratively to create a grade-level specific supply list. This is part of our initiative to become more uniform. Please work to have all your supplies purchased prior to the first day of school. It makes things a lot easier for the student and teacher if all the items come in at the start versus sporadically throughout the year.

New Student and New Parent Welcome Reception/ Orientation

On Friday, August 21st, we will have a Welcome Reception/ Orientation for pre-k students, new students and their parents. The event will take place from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Parents/ students will receive a welcome packet, get their teacher assignments, and tour the building and their classroom. Parents will hear about how to help their child succeed at Shepherd from selected staff members and returning parents. Parents and students will have a chance to meet other parents during the informal reception.

I am in need of parent volunteers to speak and serve as escorts. I would also like to have a student representative from each grade level K-5 to talk about their Shepherd experience and serve as a buddy to a new students. If interested, please email: jamie.miles@dc.gov

(See Principal, continued on page 12)

(Principal, continued from page 11)

Open House/Back-to-School Fair

On Monday, August 24, we will have an Open House/Back-to-School Fair for all returning Shepherd family members. The drop-in event will take place from 8:45-9:45 am. Parent and students are encouraged to come by, pay fees, complete the back to school paperwork, complete their enrollment packet, sign-up to volunteer, etc. Individuals in attendance will have a chance to win prizes for completing various tasks (i.e., paying fees, signing up to volunteer...).

Safety Patrol

This year we will be reactivating our Safety Patrol program. Safety patrols are selected first from rising fifth grade students, and from rising fourth graders. Fourth grade students are asked to serve only when students from the fifth grade are not available to cover a post. Safety patrols must be in good academic standings, recommended by a former teacher and exemplify good character. If your child is interested, they should complete the electronic application (is available on the school listserv) and submit it electronically to june.confer@dc.gov. The application deadline is August 10, 2009. Please contact the front office if you have questions.

New Dismissal and Arrival Procedures

Next year, students will gather in the gym/auditorium in the morning and will be dismissed from the gym/auditorium in the afternoon. Students will no longer gather on the playground. Students should arrive between 8:25 am and 8:35 am. Students should enter the gym through the blue double doors located on the Jonquil side of the street or through the glass doors facing 14th street. Open doors signals students are on time. When the doors close, student should enter through the main entrance and pick up a tardy slip before heading to class. Students should be in their seats and ready to begin instruction at 8:45 am. Before-care students should enter the building through the main entrance and proceed to the cafeteria.

Kiss and Ride

We are working with MPD to implement a safe and effective morning drop-off and afternoon dismissal. Parking is not permitted along 14th street in front of the school between 8:15-8:45 am and 2:45-3:30 pm. This is the designated drop-off and pick up area. Safety patrol will be available to help escort students to and from the gymnasium during arrival and dismissal. Additional logistical information will be provided soon.

Cafeteria and Recess Monitors

We are in need of volunteers for two hours a week to serve as lunch and/or recess monitors. Please call the front office if you are interested.

(See Principal, continued next column)

(Principal, continued from previous column)

New Staff Members

Please join me in welcoming the following new staff members to the Shepherd family:

- Carol Laughinghouse (Special Education)
- Gretchen Weber (3rd Grade Teacher)
- Christina Bush (Instructional Developer)

We are still interviewing for an individual to fill our Spanish teacher vacancy.

Classes

There has been a lot of thought and discussion around the proposal to split grade groups versus allowing students to remain together throughout their elementary career. It has been decided that students in grade pre-k through 1st will remain with their classmates until they reach 2nd grade. Upon entering 2nd grade, classes will be split.

You will be notified when student-teacher placements have been made for the 2009-2010 school year. Each teacher will be sending home a welcome letter. These letters will be mailed on August 17, 2009. Class list will also be posted on the doors of the 14th street entrance on Thursday, August 20, 2009. Please refrain from contacting the front office prior to the 20th.

Things to Come

Early Readers, Reading/Math Resource Teacher, Teacher Websites, School Garden, Breakfast with the Principal, 100 Book Challenge, Award Ceremonies, Book Clubs, and much, much more!

I am looking forward to an exciting year. I have so much more to share with you but my space is limited. So, enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing each of you on August 24, 2009.

Jamie Miles

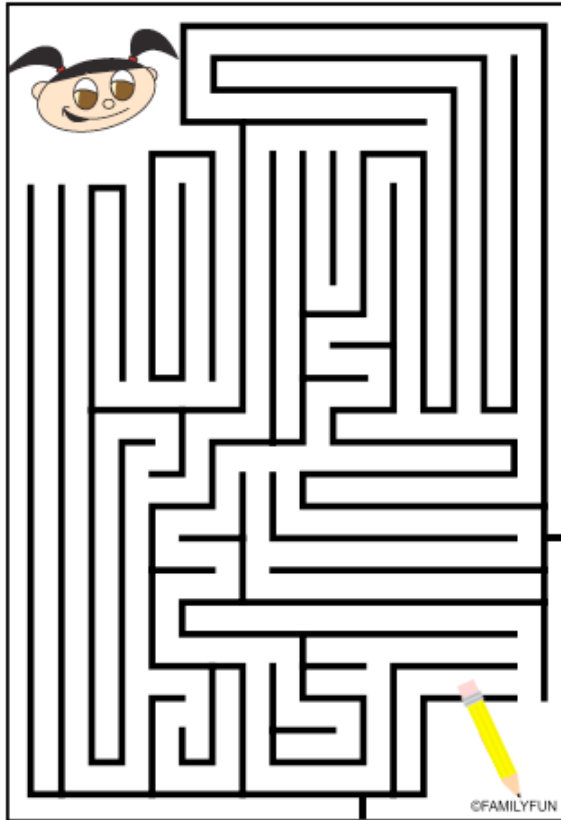
Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Free Web Training From New SES Site Designer

Niki Van, who is redesigning Shepherd Elementary's Web site, is offering training on how parents can post material to the Web site.

If you are interested in learning, that'll automatically put you on the Communications Committee! If you want to learn, let Mark Pattison know at either pattison_mark@hotmail.com or 829-9289. Give him a buzz if you already know how to do this kind of thing and would be willing to lend your talents for the school.

Help Sally Find Her Pencil



Box Tops Update

Just because it's summer vacation, doesn't mean you should stop collecting Box Tops. Last school year, we collected over \$770 from Box Tops for Shepherd. In addition to grocery products like General Mills cereal, Ziploc bags, and Kleenex and Scott paper products, certain Avery school and office supplies also apply. So please keep a look out when doing your back-to-school supply shopping. (For more information on eligible products, please visit www.boxtops4education.com.)

The *Back-to-School Fall 2009* Box Tops contest deadline is September 9. The *Back-to-School Fall 2009 Box Tops Collection Sheet* 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 when school starts filled with Box Tops so that Shepherd can earn even more money this school year!

Please welcome Shepherd's new **Box Tops for Education Coordinator, Ms. Katherine Trimble**. Katherine, mom of Colyar (rising 2nd grader) and Henry (rising kindergartener) is the new Shepherd Box Tops Coordinator.

**Remember to keep
clipping Box Tops
for Shepherd!**



Back-to-School A-B-Cs Word Search



Alphabet
Books
Chalk
Desks
Eraser
Flag
Gymnasium
Hooks
Intelligence
Janitor
Kids
Library
Marks
Notebook
Office
Playground
Questions
Red pen
Student
Teacher
Under achiever
Venn diagram
Windows
Xylophone
Yardstick
Ziplock bag

Meet the Shepherd Staff – 2009-2010

Principal	Mrs. Miles
Business Manager	Ms. Confer
Administrative Assistant	Ms. Brooks
Counselor	Ms. Liggins
Pre K	Ms. Gibbs
Pre K	Ms. Holt
Kindergarten	Ms. Miller
Kindergarten	Ms. LaPenna
Kindergarten	Mr. Byers
First	Ms. Chambliss
First	Ms. Kuawogai
First	Ms. Crockett
Second	Ms. Johnson
Second	Mr. King
Third	Ms. Thomas
Third	Ms. Weber
Fourth	Ms. Thurber
Fourth	Ms. Valentine-Nelson
Fifth	Mr. Leonard
Fifth	Ms. Ulba
Special Education Primary	Ms. Hickerson
Special Education Intermediate	Ms. Booth
Special Education Self-Contained	Ms. Laughinghouse
ESL	Ms. Rhein
Spanish	Sr. Velera
Spanish	Vacancy
French	Mme. Gadie
Library	Ms. Scinto
Music	Mr. Giles
Art	Ms. Michaud
PE	Mr. Burgess
Instructional Developer	Ms. Moorefield
Instructional Developer	Ms. C. Bush
Instructional Aide/Office Assistant	Ms. Mason
Pre-K Aide	Mr. Velez
Pre-K Aide	Ms. Beale
Kindergarten Aide	Ms. Conte
Kindergarten Aide	Ms. Y. Bush
Kindergarten Aide	Ms. Nobari
Special Education Aide	Ms. Lester

Calling All 4th and 5th Graders!



Rising 4th and 5th grade students are encouraged to apply to become a member of Shepherd's Safety Patrol unit for the 2009-2010 school year. The short application has been uploaded. Please submit an electronic copy of your application to Principal Miles (jamie.miles@dc.gov) no later than August 10, 2009. Safety Patrol training will be held on August 14, 2009.

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, 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 available on the Shepherd Elementary School website at www.shepherd-elementary.org.

Support Shepherd PTA's



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