



## Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

August 28, 2009

### *Mark Your Calendars!*

9/1 – Hola-Bonjour Meeting, 5:35 pm, SES Library  
9/7 – Labor Day holiday — NO SCHOOL  
9/16 – PTA Meeting, 6:45 pm, Auditorium  
9/16 – Back to School Night, 7:30 pm, Auditorium  
9/18 – NO SCHOOL: Teacher Training Day  
9/18 – Color Me Mine Pre-K/K Play Date, afternoon  
9/18 – Color Me Mine Fundraiser Event, evening  
9/26 – Fall Fest, 11 am-4 pm  
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! On behalf of Shepherd Elementary School, it is truly my pleasure to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to you as we start this school year.

Shepherd is a special kind of place. We are a family. Shepherd is a place where the students are generally committed to working hard and doing well in all areas. Students are taught to be inquisitive critical thinkers who take charge of their learning. Their lives are enriched and they are given opportunities to grow and develop socially, physically, mentally and emotionally through a strong, developmentally appropriate curriculum which addresses all core domains on a daily basis. Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies instruction is aligned with District of Columbia Public School standards.

Specialists in the areas of Music, Art, Media, and Physical Education collaborate with general education teachers and build on the instruction that happens in the regular education classroom. We have three special education classes where the majority of our students are mainstreamed back into the general education classroom before they graduate. Students are exposed to language when they enter Kindergarten and continue language instruction in Spanish or French throughout their elementary years. Technology integration is also instrumental and instruction is enriched through the use of applications, programs and numerous websites.

We thank you, our Shepherd family, for your support and we encourage you to stay involved because it takes all of us working together to achieve great things.

Here's to a wonderful, productive, and successful school year at Shepherd Elementary.

*Jamie Miles*

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

#### Shepherd Elementary School Mission:

*All stakeholders are committed to the advancement of students academic, emotional, social, and physical well-being within a supportive, creative and flexible environment in which children learn to think compassionately and learn globally.*

## ***'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!

Just save **Wednesday, September 16**, for your calendar: That's our double dose of "Back to School Night" and PTA meeting, starting at 6:45 p.m.

## ***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. You can put your check/PTA forms in the PTA mailbox inside the main office at Shepherd Elementary. 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 subsequent issues of the Mustang. From a monthly contribution of \$18 to an I-don't-want-to-do-fund-raising contribution of \$500, get your name in the paper and win the admiration of your fellow parents!

To make it easier, we've attached a copy of the 180 Fund contribution form in this week's *Mustang*. If you haven't filled it out yet, do so now, and put the form (and a check!!!) in an envelope and slip it into the PTA box at the school office. The PTA – and your children – will thank you!



**To date, we have collected over \$8000 in contributions to The 180 Fund – what a way to start the year!**

### ***Fall Fest and Book Fair Dates Set***

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

## Hola-Bonjour!

As the new school opens and all the tasks fall quickly in our path, it's sometimes hard to keep the larger view of "non-basic" goals we have for our children. Luckily, on the issue of foreign language education, parents have mobilized support through Shepherd's Hola-Bonjour! group.

Admittedly, last year had some difficult times. With the recent changes in D.C. Public Schools affecting Shepherd directly, many felt deeply the loss of foreign language immersion attempted a few years back. With national standards acknowledged to require only 45 minutes a week of language education, there was concern Spanish would dip down to a minimum and French would be gone! But everyone pulled together; parents and school personnel alike found a way to meet school basics and insure more than minimum requirements of language. Foreign language education continues at Shepherd, perfectly complementing our International Baccalaureate program.

Last year's accomplishments:

1. Saturday Spanish and French language program
2. 5-week Spanish and French summer camps for Shepherd students
3. 3-year calendar commitment to Spanish and French at all levels (Thank you Principal Miles!)

And with a special grant from the Washington Ethical Society (located across 16th Street from Shepherd):

1. Textbooks purchased for French program
2. DVD players (playing DVDs produced in Europe) for both Spanish and French classes.

But all was not work: we also "rediscovered" the annual spring "International Children's Festival" (as well as other resources) of the International Meridian Center, (just off 16th Street).

With these successes, we can be confident about a foreign language education of our children. Won't you join us? Find out more at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SES-Hola-Bonjour/>. (You can join or simply check out the regularly updated "description" page.)

And, of course, we will meet during the year. If you'd like to help in the planning, please join us this Tuesday, September 1, at 5:30 p.m. (tentatively in the Shepherd School Library) .

~Bill Wilson

Father of twins in Grade 1, Spanish & French  
202-722-8180, [Wilson20012@yahoo.com](mailto:Wilson20012@yahoo.com)



## 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](mailto:pattison_mark@hotmail.com)

## Box Tops Update

Now that school is back in full swing, it's time to get your scissors in cutting mode to clip Box Tops for Shepherd. 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.bboxtops4education.com](http://www.bboxtops4education.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 (2nd grader) and Henry (kindergartener) is the new Shepherd Box Tops Coordinator.

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





## Reading the Mustang: It's as Easy as 1-2-3!

There are three ways that you can read the *Mustang*, Shepherd Elementary's weekly digest jam-packed with school information.

One way is by going to the PTA listserv. Each week, when the *Mustang* is posted in the "files" section

of the listserv, a message is automatically generated that the *Mustang* has arrived. If you haven't joined the listserv yet, here's what you do: send an e-mail with your name, your child's name and his/her teacher/class to [shepherd\\_elementary\\_pta-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:shepherd_elementary_pta-subscribe@yahoo.com)

Another way is by going to the school's new and improved Web site – [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org) – the *Mustang* will be posted there, too, and all you have to do is click on the link for the latest issue.

The third way is by "opting in" to receive a hard-copy (paper) version of the *Mustang* via your child's backpack. If you look through your material in the green folders meant for each family handed out this week in school, you'll find an opt-in box to receive the *Mustang*. While we expect more families to consult e-mail or the Web to get their school news and save a few trees in the process, if you want a paper version, we'll gladly provide one.

## Say Cheese, Please!

Good things are already happened at Shepherd less than one week into the school year, and that's the result of a lot of diligent planning by staff and parents. The result: a lot of smiles on the faces of our students. As parents, we'd like you to give your OK to use pictures of your children in the *Mustang*, the school Web site – [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org) – and other places to promote our high-achieving and fast-growing school. There's a permission slip included with this week's *Mustang* that you can complete and drop into the PTA box at the school office.

We have a Shepherd parent, Victoria Botvin, who has agreed to serve as our school historian for 2009-10. She takes the

place of two parents whose daughters graduated last year. Victoria will have 333 (and counting!) students to choose from when snapping her photos. Make your kids part of the happy scene.



## Thank You Corner

We are introducing a new feature in the *Mustang* to thank folks for their service in little ways and big ways. Anybody – student, staffer, parent or community member – can thank anybody else – student, staffer, parent or community member – for any out-of-the-way effort they've done to make Shepherd a better place to learn and to be.

You can thank somebody personally ("Ms. Paisley thanks Mr. Mustard for the new candlesticks in the library"). Or, if you prefer, you can leave your name out of it ("Thanks to Ms. Gladiola for giving her students a great lesson in citizenship"). It's your choice.

Send all contributions for the *Thank You Corner* to the Mustang's e-mail address, [sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com).

We think there are enough good things happening around Shepherd that the *Thank You Corner* can appear weekly.

Here is the first round of thanks that inspired the *Thank You Corner*:

"Thanks to new Shepherd parents **Tamara Jones** and **Star Downing** – and their families – for pitching in and helping size, tag and stack clothes for last Friday's used uniform sale. As parents, they were expected merely to get a flavor of the school. Instead, they contributed to the flavor their first day there!"

Also: "Big thanks to the school and neighborhood families who watered the school's young trees over the summer, filling up those Tree Gator bags two or even three times a week. They are: **Marcie Bane** and **Michael Imbroscio**, **Noreen Conway** and **Bob Raymond** (two weeks!), **Emmanuel** and **Marcia Finn**, **Beth Allaben** and **Matt Chambers**, **Kim and David Brandon**, **Keith and Vikki Mont**, **Katherine and David Trimble** (two weeks also!) and **Shelley Brazier**. Thanks also to their families for helping."



## Be a Sign Changer – And a Game Changer!

When Labor Day rolls around, Shepherd Elementary will need a new parent to change the signs on the marquee outside of school as our current sign-changer takes a new job. We're an active school, so sometimes the sign has to change every couple of weeks, although sometimes we can let it go for nearly a month. Ms. Brooks can show you where the stash of letters, numbers and punctuation marks are in the office. The only other thing you'll need is an Allen wrench to get access to the letters. If you ever had visions of becoming the next Vanna White or Pat Sajak, this is your big chance. Contact Mark Pattison at 829-9289 to volunteer.



## ***SES Outdoor-Indoor Cleanup Termed A Huge Success***

Last Saturday's Beautification Day went off without too many hitches. So what if there was a brief shower in mid-morning? It cooled things off! So what if there was a flat tire on a wheelbarrow? A parent got some spray-on tire sealant - and donuts and bagels to boot!

Here's just the short list of things that took place Saturday to get Shepherd Elementary looking crisp and clean.

People weeded. People mulched. People pruned bushes. People placed more of that scalloped brick bordering along the 14th Street sidewalks. People cleaned windows. People helped teachers get their classrooms student-ready. People helped move critical items from the old Parent Room to the new Parent Room (what had been Ms. Liggins' counselor office). People picked up trash outside. People literally took out the trash from inside. And people put loose trash into the dumpster for efficient pickup.

Although everyone was asked to go to the office and sign in so that they could be properly thanked, not everyone did. But here are the people who did - plus a few people we remember seeing outside or inside of school. Thanks to all.

Marcie Bane	Andrew Lander II
Cara Biddle	Taylor Lander
Charisse Brossard	Tanya Lander
Jasmin C. Brown	Lori Matthews
Joseph C. Brown	Keith Maiset
Aurelie Bush	Judith McCullough
Lisa Camera	Sandhya Mehta
Jacqueline Cannon	Keshaw Mehta-Horwitz
Randolph Carter	Leela Mehta-Horwitz
Cecily Chambers	Cynthia Pattison
Christine Chance	Mark Pattison
Heather Chase	Jennifer Pauk
Yvonne Coles	Diane Quinn
Wanda Dorsey-Jenkins	Carl Rice
Merrit P. Drucker	Dave Schwenger
Emmanuel Finn	Kuko Smith
Willa M. Golden	Leonie Stephenson
Marcus Hall	Dee Dee Swesnik
Donna Johnson Harvey	David Trimble
Jonathan Harrison	Katherine Trimble
Wasmine Hassac	Tana Velen
Harold Hill	Tawndra M. Williams
Harper Holmes	Alexandra Williamson
Mike Imbroscio	Bill Wilson
Joan I. Ingati	Randy Wofford
Dawn Jefferson	Addie Yandell
Andrew Lander	Earl W. Yates

If there are others who were working last Saturday whose names don't appear here, send an e-mail to [sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com) and we'll put them in the *Thank You Corner*.

## ***Next Issue Deadline***

To submit items for publication for the September 4 issue of the *Mustang*, use this handy-dandy e-mail address this time and every time:

**[sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com)**

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

## ***'Songs of Freedom and Justice' CDs Still Available for Purchase***

We still have a limited supply of CDs of "Songs of Freedom and Justice," last February's blockbuster musical revue written and staged by Shepherd Elementary's music teacher par excellence, Mr. Ken Giles. For those of you who weren't on hand for it, "Songs of Freedom and Justice" featured more than two dozen musical numbers ranging from slavery times to rock 'n' roll, with plenty of union songs, spirituals and blues in between. Mr. Giles used the CD and the script to promote the teaching of history through song this summer, at a D.C. convention of music educators and at the Conference on Creative Organizing in Silver Spring.

"Songs of Freedom and Justice" featured professional musicians, including Mr. Giles on guitar, providing accompaniment. It also features members of the D.C. Labor Chorus backing up some 80 Shepherd students on vocals. The performance, as well as the dress rehearsal prior, were both professionally recorded and mixed, giving the cleanest possible sound for live, on-location recording.

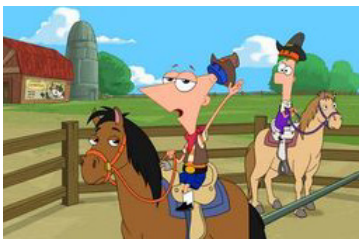
CDs cost \$10 each. They make a great document for your family and your neighbors. They also make great gifts for relatives and friends. Order forms are in the rack outside the main office of the school. Fill out the order form, enclose money, put it all in an envelope and put the envelope in the PTA box in the main office.

Indicate your child's name and teacher, and the CDs will be delivered via the teacher to the student for free delivery to you.



## Saddle Up and Join The Staff of the Mustang

*The Mustang*, the school's weekly newsletter, doesn't just put itself together! 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*.

We've always got room for Jimmy Olson-like cub reporters and Perry White-like editors. If you volunteer, we'll even tell you the super-secret password to [sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com)! 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](mailto:pattison_mark@hotmail.com).

## Cut! Print It!

We're looking for one or more parents who can go to the office on Thursday afternoons and print the *Mustang* for those families who have requested a paper copy. An original version of the *Mustang* should already be on hand at the office. Ms. Brooks, the school's office manager, will give you a quick tutorial on the copier – which also does the stapling for you. Last year, copying the newsletter and bundling copies for teacher mailboxes (and eventual student delivery) took about an hour. We expect it will take less time now that Shepherd is switching to an "opt-in" system for receiving hard copies of the newsletter.

The more parents who volunteer, the fewer times you'll be asked to do it, and we can set up a schedule. If you can pitch in, get in touch with Mark Pattison at either 202-829-9289 or [pattison\\_mark@hotmail.com](mailto:pattison_mark@hotmail.com).



## Hava Java?

The PTA would like to resume the Friday morning coffees, but reduce their frequency to the first Friday of each month. That would make next Friday, September 4, the first such coffee of the school year.

We are still in need though, of one or more parents to accept the responsibility of obtaining the coffee (regular and decaf) and tea bags (and packets of hot chocolate for those chilly months). Step up now by contacting PTA president Charisse Brossard at [cbrossard65@gmail.com](mailto:cbrossard65@gmail.com).

## 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](http://www.landsend.com) Use Shepherd's Preferred School Number: **9001-3120-2**

• **French Toast:** [www.frenchtoast.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.boxtops4education.com/Marketplace/Default.aspx)



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





### ***Uniform Clothing Sale: From Our Closet to Yours***

Thanks to the efforts of dedicated parents and budget-conscious shoppers, we sold either \$198 or \$199 in used uniform clothing during Monday's open house and last Friday's new-parent forum. And that's with most items at just a buck each! The reason for the discrepancy is the number of quarters that were used to buy items. As a result, we just rounded it up and made it an even \$200.

If you have gently worn uniform clothes that are not stained and no longer fit your child, you can bring them to the new parent room (what had been Ms. Liggins' counselor's office). But FIRST wash and fold each item, and PLEASE use a piece of masking tape and a marker to indicate what size it is and affix it to the front of the article of clothing.

We would like to repeat the clothing sale for the combination Back-to-School Night/PTA meeting on Wednesday, September 16, starting at 6:45 p.m. But we need at least two parents who can commit to coming to school before 6:15 p.m. that day to take the clothing from the parent room and display it properly on long tables in the back of the auditorium. Without this kind of volunteer commitment, the used clothing sale won't happen. To make it happen call Mark Pattison at 829-9289 or e-mail him at [pattison\\_mark@hotmail.com](mailto:pattison_mark@hotmail.com)

### ***Room Parents Designated***

The push was on this past week to identify class parents for each classroom. As of Thursday evening, parents have generously stepped forward to volunteer their time – all 16 classrooms now have room parents! If you are a Room Parent, PTA first vice president Donna Johnson Harvey will fill you in on the ins and outs of this rewarding task – which includes contact with fellow parents from your classroom (and getting them to agree on which activity to sponsor for Fall Fest!). To learn more, or to volunteer, e-mail Donna at [djohnsonharvey@yahoo.com](mailto:djohnsonharvey@yahoo.com).

### ***A Family of Families***

The long holiday weekend is coming up. Here's an idea you can use over the Labor Day weekend – or any weekend coming up – that one past Shepherd class used to bring parents together: A weekend potluck at a house with a backyard big enough for the children to play in. There was no shortage of food or beverages, the students could play with each other, the parents could mingle and get to know each other better, and everyone had a good time. This was two years ago, the potluck host reports, "and we're still hanging together."



### ***Join the PTA Listserv!***

Why should you be left out when more than 250 others are getting the latest news about Shepherd Elementary. The PTA has a Yahoo group. Instructions are simple.

To subscribe, send an e-mail to [Shepherd\\_Elementary\\_PTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Shepherd_Elementary_PTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Once you are a member, you can opt to receive all postings via email or simply view the postings on the web (no emails will be sent).

To post a message, send an e-mail to [Shepherd\\_Elementary\\_PTA@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Shepherd_Elementary_PTA@yahoogroups.com)

To send an e-mail to the listserv owner, send an e-mail to [Shepherd\\_Elementary\\_PTA-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Shepherd_Elementary_PTA-owner@yahoogroups.com)

And to unsubscribe (although we can't imagine why), send an e-mail to [Shepherd\\_Elementary\\_PTA-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Shepherd_Elementary_PTA-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

*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*





## School Directory: Priority Number 1



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

For 2009-10, that's not good enough. You heard PTA president Charisse Brossard say it at the parent meeting: We want this year's directory out the first week of November.

In the green plastic folder you received at the new-parent forum or the open house, you saw a form for you to authorize placement of your family's contact information in the annual school directory – with 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.

To make things easier, we've included a copy of the directory form with this week's *Mustang*. 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.

## Free Web Training From New SES Site Designer

Niki Van, who redesigned Shepherd Elementary's Web site, is offering training on how parents can post material to the Web site. We have six parents who have raised their hands already, but there's always room for more. If you are interested in learning, that'll automatically put you on the Communications Committee! Niki is planning a "webinar," which allows you to follow the instructions from your own computer. If you want to learn, let Mark Pattison know at either [pattison\\_mark@hotmail.com](mailto:pattison_mark@hotmail.com) or 829-9289. Especially 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.

## Northwest Current Seeks SES Correspondent

We are looking for a fourth-grader or a fifth-grader who is willing to write a weekly column for our free neighborhood newspaper, the Northwest Current. A student correspondent for the paper's "School Dispatches" section would need to write about 150 words each week. Faithful correspondents will get \$5 a week for their efforts.

The deadline is noon on Friday for publication the following Wednesday - making turning in your column before heading to school on Friday a smart idea. If you or your child are interested in pursuing this opportunity, contact Mark Pattison at 829-9289 or [pattison\\_mark@hotmail.com](mailto:pattison_mark@hotmail.com).



## SHEPHERD FALL FEST



### VOLUNTEER TO:

- Organize a Class Activity – soccer goal kick, football toss, face painting, spin art, little kid moon bounce, tie dye, whatever you want!
- Donate Food/Drinks/Prizes/ \$\$
- Give us your Time – help out on the day of the festival
- Bring Everyone you Know!

### CONTACT US TO VOLUNTEER:

- [stephanie.scott@yahoo.com](mailto:stephanie.scott@yahoo.com) or
- [marniekeller@gmail.com](mailto:marniekeller@gmail.com)

**SEPT. 26, 11am-4pm**

(Rain date Oct. 3)

## Color Me Mine Hosts Both Play Date & Fundraiser

Color Me Mine, everyone's favorite "they've-made-it-we-paint-it" pottery shop, will host two events to the benefit or Shepherd's students on **Friday, September 18**.

In the afternoon, pre-K and kindergarten students and their parents are invited to a "crafty" play date at Color Me Mine, whose address is 825 Ellsworth Drive in downtown Silver Spring. Parents of students in kindergarten and pre-K should consult with their room parents for details of this intriguing play date. And don't worry - since there's no school on the 18th due to teacher training, you won't be skipping class!

For the rest of us, Color Me Mine is hosting a fund-raiser extraordinaire to benefit Shepherd. The pottery studio will donate 50 percent of its proceeds that evening to Shepherd's PTA. The studio is open to the public but you can reserve a table by calling 301-565-5105. A table (studio fee) costs \$15, and can seat up to four people. This is a great family activity, and kids of all ages love coming to Color Me Mine.

Here's how it works: You sit down at the table, choose your pieces, choose your colors, and take as much time as you need to paint. The studio fires it, and then your handiwork is ready in about a week. You pay for the pieces you work on, but 50 percent of the price is returned to the PTA. Last year – the first year we tried this – the PTA got \$800 from Color Me Mine, and we think we can do even better this year. After all, wouldn't Grandma and Grandpa or Aunt Louise like a masterpiece from the hands of your child?



## 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	Sra. Menchen
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

## 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](mailto: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, and go to Yahoo Groups on the web to read the postings.

### 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](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org).

*Support Shepherd PTA's*



If you need another copy of the 180 Fund form or Directory form, please go to the Shepherd Website under the “For Parents Section” and Click on PTA Forms.



### Shepherd Elementary School

7800 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012

Office Telephone: 202-576-6140

Office Fax: 202-576-7578

Mrs. Jamie Miles, Principal – [jamie.miles@dc.gov](mailto:jamie.miles@dc.gov)

Ms. Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant – [robbyna.brooks@dc.gov](mailto:robbyna.brooks@dc.gov)

Ms. Charisse Brossard, PTA President – [cbrossard65@gmail.com](mailto:cbrossard65@gmail.com)

*The Mustang* Newsletter Editor-in-Chief: Mark Pattison

Layout/Design: Laura Noble

Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to:  
[SESmustang@gmail.com](mailto:SESmustang@gmail.com).



# Shepherd Elementary School

## Parent Teacher Association

7800 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW • Washington, DC • 20012-1490  
[www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org)

### PTA Membership Form

For the **2009-2010 school year**, EVERY Shepherd parent is automatically considered a member of the PTA. If you are at a PTA meeting, you will automatically have a vote and a voice. There will be no membership dues! If you have 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 Elementary School and our children's educational experience better than ever.

### \* '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, and we are hoping parents can 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. Please complete this form and check the applicable boxes below:

Member name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am a Shepherd teacher/staff member.

Email address(s): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, sign me up for the Shepherd PTA Yahoo Group!

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I wish to participate in the \$180 Fund. Attached is my lump sum contribution.

☐ I wish to participate in the \$180 Fund and will be able to pay \$18 per month for 10 months.

☐ I wish to participate in the \$180 Fund and will be able to pay semi annually - \$90 by Sept 16<sup>th</sup> and \$90 by January 16<sup>th</sup> 2010.

☐ I wish to participate in \$180 Fund and I would like to be exempt from Fundraising. Attached is my contribution of \$500.

### SIGNATURES:

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian/PTA Member signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian/PTA Member signature

*Let your voice be heard. Be a partner in your child's education.*



# Shepherd Elementary School

## 2009-2010 Family Directory

The names of all Shepherd Elementary students will appear in this year's Family Directory. Please complete the following to authorize inclusion of your household contact information. Please complete and sign one form per family. **The directory will be distributed only to Shepherd families and staff.\***

***Return completed form to your child's teacher by Friday September 11, 2009.***

>> Please PRINT clearly <<

**Student's First and Last Name**

**Grade**

**Teacher**

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____

### Household #1

**Home address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Parent 1: First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Work number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent 2: First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Work number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Household #2 (or other important contact, i.e., grandmother, babysitter, etc.; if applicable)

**Home address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Parent 1: First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Work number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent 2: First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Work number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**\* My signature here authorizes Shepherd's PTA to publish the information above in the school directory:**

\_\_\_\_\_. *Shepherd Elementary School's Family Directory is for personal, school, and PTA use only. It may not be used for solicitations. Shepherd's Parent Teacher Association respects your privacy and will not share this information with any commercial organization. If we don't receive your signature your information will not be posted.*



# Shepherd Elementary School,

## “Say Cheese!”

During the course of the school year, we will be taking photographs of Shepherd children at various school events for inclusion on the Shepherd Website, Mustang newsletter, etc. Names will not be included.

Please fill out the permission slip below to express your preferences for the use of photographs containing your child/children:

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **I give Shepherd Elementary School permission to use my child/children's photograph on the Shepherd Website, Mustang newsletter, etc. I understand that names will not be included.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I DO NOT give Shepherd Elementary School permission to use my child/children's photograph on the Shepherd Website, Mustang newsletter, etc.**

**Parent/Guardian's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this permission slip to the PTA mailbox in the Shepherd Elementary School Office.