



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

September 4, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!

9/16 – PTA Meeting, 6:45 pm, Auditorium

**9/16 – Back to School Night
7:30 pm, Auditorium**

**9/18 – Color Me Mine PreK/K Playdate
Color Me Mine Fundraiser Event**

9/18 NO SCHOOL

9/26 – Fall Fest

9/26-10/03 – Scholastic Book Fair

Welcome from the PTA President

I would like to thank all of the parents who have personally come up to me with positive comments about my role and the Executive Board. Your warm reception is greatly appreciated. I am definitely feeling the positive energy and passion our parents have for this academic year at Shepherd Elementary. I am very excited that we have been able to start the school year off in such an organized way and without any drama!! I am confident that this positive energy will help our children achieve and prosper throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Moms and Dads who volunteered so quickly to be Class Parents. The Executive Committee has been overwhelmed by the response. I am delighted in the amount of "180 Fund" contributions we received just this week. So far we have received over \$10,000 in contributions! Keep them coming!! Remember, every dollar raised will go directly to our children's education.

Take care and I hope you had a wonderful holiday weekend.

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

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Welcome Back!

Thank you for an incredible first week of school. The students quickly transitioned back into the school year and have settled into what is bound to be a great year! Thank you for working diligently to prepare your student(s) for their first week of school. We could not do what we do if it was not for your support.

Morning Drop-Off

I can't complain because the students are getting here on time (yes!!!). However, please remember supervision is NOT available for students who are not enrolled in aftercare, or going to breakfast, until 8:25 a.m. If your student is in before-care, please do not drop them off before 7:30 a.m. I arrive between 7 and 7:15 a.m. and the students are greeting me when I pull up. Breakfast service begins at 8 a.m.

If your student is not in before-care and they are not going to breakfast, you may begin dropping off at 8:25 a.m. We are encouraging all parents to utilize the courtesy drop-off. Safety patrol and staff members will be available to escort students into the building. If you choose to walk your student inside, please do not park in front of the school. This is a fire safety hazard. Cars can and will be ticketed in the near future.

The curb along 14th street closest to the school is a no-parking zone between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Afternoon Dismissal

Thank you for using the carpool during afternoon dismissal. This has eliminated a lot of our office traffic. PLEASE let your child know how they are to go home each evening. The options are: Carpool (you will not come into the building, they are to meet you outside), Bus/Van, Walk or Pick-up by an adult. The term carpool is only for those students who will meet their parents outside at the car. Carpool numbers have been assigned. We will not be providing additional carpool numbers at this time.

The day ends at 3:15 p.m. Please be prompt when picking up your student. If you are going to be late consistently due to work, you must sign up for aftercare. I have not charged

(See Principal, continued on page 2)

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



anyone the \$5 late pick-up fee yet; however, the policy will go into effect next week, starting Tuesday, September 8. Here is our late policy:

Dismissal is at 3:15 p.m. ; all parents are expected to be here at that time. After 3:30 p.m. , parents will be charged a \$5 late pick-up fee for every 15 minutes you are late. For example, if you arrive at 3:35 p.m. , you will be charged \$5; if you arrive at 3:50 p.m. , you will be charged \$10; etc. The money collected will go toward student activities.

Forms and Folders

If your child did not receive a green communication folder, they will be provided one in the next couple of weeks. A temporary paper folder will be provided. School forms have been uploaded to the school site, if you have not completed these forms, please do so. Also, if things change (i.e. emergency contact information) please access the forms and update your information.

Instructional Update

Students from pre-K through second grade receive four blocks of language instruction a week, students in third grade receive three blocks, and students in fourth and fifth grade receive two blocks of language. Due to the fact that our second Spanish instructor has not arrived, Senor Vela is providing Spanish language instruction to all of the students who are on the Spanish track. He will continue this until our second language teacher arrives. Señora Mojas made her appearance before the Embassy this week. She should be here by mid September.

Many New Faces

I am glad to introduce and welcome the following new staff members to Shepherd. Ms. S. Moore (temporary - dedicated aide), Ms. D. Moore (instructional support), and Ms. L. Christenberry (instructional support). When you see these individuals around, please welcome them to Shepherd.

Reading Rocks

Congratulations to Chandler Mabry! Chandler is the winner of Shepherd's Summer Reading Incentive Program, "Reading Rocks."

Special Recognition: The following students are being recognized for their participation in the "Reading Rocks" summer Incentive Program.

Nia Anderson
Chandler Mabry

Nixsovani Gladden-
Quin Montgomery

Students, thank you for all of the effort and hard work that you put into your projects and parents, thank you for your continued support. Remember, keep reading because Reading Rocks!

Chuck E Cheese with Principal Miles or Bowling and Pizza

Next week the winners of the Back to School raffle will be announced!

Hope you had a great Labor Day weekend!

Jamie Miles

Principal Miles

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.



Marquis of the Marquee Needed: Is It You?

Shepherd Elementary needs a new parent to change the signs on the marquee outside of school as our current sign-changer has taken 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. Visit Ms. Brooks in the school's office, and she can show you where the stash of letters, numbers and punctuation marks are located. 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 "Marquis of the Marquee" -- or even a local version of Vanna White or Pat Sajak -- this is your big chance. Contact Mark Pattison at 829-9289 to volunteer.

Parents Needed to Conduct Used Uniform Clothing Sale

Parents have already inquired, "Can I get some sweaters (or pants) (or skorts)?" The answer; We probably have something in your child's size.

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. We've got demonstrated demand, so let's help meet that demand. To make it happen call Mark Pattison at 829-9289 or e-mail him at pattison_mark@hotmail.com

PTA's Communications Committee Meets September 14

The PTA's Communications Committee will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14 at Ledo Pizza on Georgia Avenue. If you have to bring your kids, no problem. And you won't have to pay for the pizza, either! (Now if that's not an inducement to attend...)

We'll need to sort out and assign different responsibilities in the communications field to support the school, and get to meet each other, as every year brings a mix of new parents, returning veterans, and folks ready to step back in to a greater level of activity.

Any questions, just call me at 829-9289 or e-mail me at pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

Mark Pattison, chair
PTA Communications Committee



September 25
8:30a.m.

Next Parent Coffee Hour

SHEPHERD FALL FEST NEEDS YOU!

VOLUNTEER TO:

- Organize a Class Activity -- soccer goal kick, football toss, face painting, spin art, little kid moon bounce, tie dye, golf, beads, etc. 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 or marniekeller@gmail.com

School Directory News

Have you done your homework?

We want this year's directory out the first week of November.

Your homework assignment was to fill out the form and put it in the PTA box in the school office. Haven't done it yet?

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.

If you can't find the form, or your dog ate it, ask someone in the office for a blank copy.

The sooner we get the directory published, the more we will all benefit.



Color Me Mine Hosts

Play Date, Fundraiser

— Both on September 18

Color Me Mine, everyone's favorite they've-made-it-we-paint-it pottery shop, will host two events to the benefit of 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

SPK featured in

Northwest Current

The Northwest Current did Shepherd proud in its August 19 issue. Check out the front-page photo of our Pre-K Play Date, with the accompanying story on pages 15 and 32. Further, there's a front-page story on DC-CAS scores, and you can look there and on pages 16 and 17 at how Shepherd's scores just keep going up, up, up, up, up! To access this issue of the paper online, go to <http://www.currentnewspapers.com/admin/uploadfiles/NW%20Aug%2019%201.pdf>



By the way, we're still looking for a student in fourth or fifth grade who would like to write a weekly column for the Northwest Current about activities at Shepherd. Who knows - it may even appear in the Mustang if you're lucky! If you are interested, or you'd like to inquire on behalf of your child, call PTA Communications Committee chairman Mark Pattison at 829-9289.

Join 180 Fund

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?



PreK /K Play date: Talk to class parents

Everyone else: See you from 6:00pm-9:00pm

IB Corner

Teachers have been working diligently to complete the writing of their International Baccalaureate units. They have also been making changes to Shepherds' Programme of Inquiry. On September 14, teachers will implement their first IB unit of the year.

I Lei You

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. IB learners strive to be:

Inquirers -- They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Knowledgeable -- They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

Thinkers -- They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators -- They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

Principled -- They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

Open-minded -- They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

Caring -- They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

Risk-takers -- They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

Balanced -- They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Reflective -- They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

Each week we will highlight students and staff who are walking and talking the "IB way." When these individuals are recognized, they receive a colorful lei to wear around the building. As they see others walking the "IB way" they are to pass on their lei.

Mr. R. Beale (Pre-K Aide): Mrs. Beale showed her caring ways by volunteering to give up her duty-free period to assist on the playground during recess.

Mr. Sevaughn Coates (5th Grade Student): Mr. Coates showed that he is a thinker, he accidentally got off at the wrong Metro stop on the second day of school and lost his way. However, he did not give up and remained calm, focused, and determined. He thought critically about the problem he faced, made reasonable and ethical decisions. Ultimately he arrived here at Shepherd safe and eager to begin his day. (I must add... he was only 15 minutes late to school).

Stay tuned to see who will be recognized next...

Regards,
Jamie Miles
Principal, Shepherd Elementary



Catalog Fundraiser In Full Swing

We have two whole weeks of school out of the way! Whew!! And only three weeks left of our first fundraising opportunity of the year! Yikes!!!

Let's bring the "Year of Supporting Shepherd" in with a bang and the best part is you don't have to use your money! UOPM -- Use Other People's Money -- to help support Shepherd! Chances are the items that people buy are items they would be buying anyway...and this way they are helping our school in the process.

Most, if not all of you, have received the QSP (formerly Reader's Digest) Fundraising packets. Each student's minimum goal is only 15 items (but you don't have to stop there!). That way we reach our school goal of \$70,000 -- half of which we keep for the school and will go to the needs of Shepherd and our students. And, as always, the kid(s) with the highest order amount wins!! This year the two top winners will receive an Apple iTouch or a Nintendo DSi (respectively) .

The selling part is easy! There are two ways to sell:

* Use the order form and packet that was sent home, collect the money (checks or money orders - made out to Shepherd Elementary PTA preferred) and return the order form and the money by Wednesday September 23.

* Or you can go to www.QSP.com, register your child and once the link is created - e-mail that link to all your friends and family so they can start ordering (all items, including magazines). If you have family living out of town (or even in town), they can order online and it is shipped directly to them. With orders of \$60 or more the shipping is free (otherwise they pay for shipping). Your kid gets the credit (and a chance at the iTouch or DSi) and the school gets money! What a great way to Go Green! And Go Shepherd!!

Magazine note: If you are ordering magazines via the order form, just fill out the blue and white (main) order form to purchase a particular mag. It is actually quicker to do it online. If you do it through the order form they would have to wait until the orders come back then they get a voucher that they send in THEN they start to receive their magazines. If you do it online it starts almost immediately. The magazine postcard booklet is simply used as an offer for people that may like to purchase their magazines through the school. Fill in the names of friends and family and information will be mailed to them on how they can order magazines for themselves or as gifts to others.

You can also opt out of selling!

How? You can make a check for \$500 payable to Shepherd Elementary PTA, drop it off in the PTA box in the main office and -- or if you have already done so -- you can

totally disregard this message!

If you have any questions, direct them to 202-607-3370 or nlcowherd@aol.com

--Nayada Cowherd

School Newsletter 'Opt-In'

Deadline 3 Weeks Away

Do you want to read a stapled, printed-on-both- sides-of-the-page Mustang and hold it in your hand - and keep it by the house for ready reference? We're cool with that, but you MUST "opt in." What we mean is that you must fill out a coupon saying you want to continue getting the Mustang through your child's backpack.

The first fully opt-in Mustang distribution will take place with the September 25 issue. That means you have THREE WEEKS to act.

Just like the Washington Post did this summer with the TV Book in its Sunday paper, we're giving you three weeks' notice. A week from now, you'll see a two-weeks' notice. A week after that, you'll get a one-week's notice. Fill out the form and put it in the PTA box in the school office. It's easy as that if you want to continue receiving a hard-copy version of the Mustang.

There are two tree-saving ways to see it electronically, though: Through the school's Web site -- www.shepherd-elementary.org -- and through notice given on the PTA's listserv. To subscribe to the listserv, send an e-mail to To subscribe, send an e-mail to Shepherd_Elementary_PTA-subscribe@ yahooogroups. com.

Thank You Corner

Thanks to **Sylvia Brinkley**, who agreed to make copies of the Mustang for last week, this week and next week.

Thanks, too, to ex-Shepherd parent **Laura Noble** for serving as a layout and production coordinator one last time for our 13-page Mustang newsletter last week. Laura taught herself how to use Microsoft Publisher software to make the Mustang the pride of Shepherd and the envy of other schools far and wide.

Much thanks must also be sent to another pair of ex-Shepherd parents, **Kimberly Brandon** and **Matthew Sullivan**. Kim and Matt served as part of a rotating team of editors for both the Mustang and its predecessor, the Tuesday Scoop, for two years. They put in countless hours writing, editing, and designing pages, burning the midnight oil to make our school newsletter look attractive yet jam-packed with information.

Imagination Stage Presentations for Labor Day Weekend and Beyond

Imagination Stage invited families to spend a few hours inside this past Labor Day weekend at the Lerner Family Theater, 4908 Auburn Ave. in Bethesda. This free opportunity to experience the fun and excitement of the arts was the perfect complement to the pool and barbecue. Scheduled by age group, the morning and afternoon sessions feature age-appropriate sample classes and hands-on activities for children.

First up were FREE Early Childhood Sample Classes for families with children ages 1-5, Saturday, September 5, 9:30 a.m. - noon. Children could try drama, music and dance classes including Imagination Stage favorites such as "Just Imagine: You and Me" (for child and parent/caregiver together), "Creative Movement," "Drama and Movement" and "Create a Story." There was also a hands-on art project for families to work on together.

Next up were FREE Elementary School Sample Classes for families with children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Children could try drama, music and dance classes, including "Acting," "Improvisation," "Broadway Jazz" and "Mystery Theatre."

At 2 p.m. there was also a preview of musical numbers from the upcoming season of professional shows at Imagination Stage. Numbers were from "Ferdinand the Bull," "Disney's Mulan," "Peter and the Wolf," "The Dancing Princesses" and "How I Became A Pirate."

Individual tickets are already on sale for Imagination Stage's 2009-10 season. The first show of the season is "Ferdinand the Bull," September 26-November 1. In this play, Ferdy is an easy-going flower-loving kind of bull, whose best friend, the star-struck pig Cochina, hears about an opportunity for an adventure in Madrid. In this musical with Spanish flair, live guitar and flamenco dancing, Ferdy finds out how important it is to be true to one's self. (Great potential for Shepherd students learning Spanish!)

Other shows this season are "Disney's Mulan," November 25, 2009-January 10, 2010; "Peter and the Wolf," March 20-April 29; "How I Became a Pirate," June 23-August 15; and another world premiere; "Pirates! A Boy at Sea," July 6- August 15. For more information, email info@imaginationstage.org or call 301-961-6060. To order tickets, call 301-280-1660.

**September is
National Library Card Sign up
Month**

Parent Vacancy on LSRT

At this time, there is a vacancy on our Local School Restructuring Team, which the LSRT guidelines required be filled by election -- as was done last year.

If you might be interested in filling the open parent slot, please consider doing the following:

1. Look for an official announcement from the PTA (which conducts the election);
2. Try to make the LSRT meeting on Thursday, September 10 -- a description and agenda, hopefully, will be distributed in the coming week. The meeting will likely start at 3:45 p.m., and run for 90 minutes. Although I suspect nonmembers will not be able to talk at this meeting, it will be enormously helpful in seeing the agenda for the year. (Members are usually around after the meeting to discuss matters with parents who attend.)
3. Review the LSRT guidelines, which are located on the PTA yahoo group online FILES section.
4. Review the LSRT minutes from last year.

Both the minutes and the guidelines are in the LSRT binder in the library. (Since we don't have a convenient copier, if you'd like a printed copy of the LSRT guidelines, and can't make use of the online version, let me know and I'll try to obtain a copy.)

If you have any questions, please contact anyone from the LSRT.

Bill Wilson, Shepherd Parent

More Mustang Help Sought

We're still 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. We are covered through the Sept. 17 issue, and we have one parent who has volunteered to do one week a month, but we need additional parents to step up.

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 will switch 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

Shepherd Elementary School PTA presents the
4th Annual

Fall Fest

September 26

11 - 4 pm



Next Issue Deadline

To submit items for publication for the next 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.

THANKS???

Is there someone – parent, student, staffer, community member – who deserves to be thanked in the *Mustang*? Note who the people are and what they've done, and send an e-mail to sesmustang@gmail.com. It's just that simple!

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



Shepherd Elementary School

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Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to:
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