

Mark Your Calendars

Friday, Sept. 18: No school – teacher training
Friday, Sept. 18: Color Me Mine fundraiser, 6-10 p.m.,
825 Ellsworth Dr., Silvedr Spring
Friday, Sept. 25: PTA Coffee, 8:25 a.m., School
Saturday, Sept. 26: Fall Fest, 11 a.m.-4p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 26-Saturday, Oct. 3: Scholastic Book
Fair
Saturday, Oct. 3: Fall Fest Rain Date

From the PTA President

Dear Parents;

I would like to thank all of the parents who attended the first 2009-10 Shepherd Elementary PTA meeting and Back to School Night. I hope you found the meeting to be informative and support the renewed direction of the PTA.

A special Thank You! goes out to Ms. Hattie Pierce, aka "Miss Tutu", Ms. Usual, Ms. Oliveros and Ms. Lee for providing babysitting services during Back to School Night. Their efforts allowed us to have a focused and organized evening.

Thanks again to all the parents who have committed to making annual, semi-annual or monthly payments to the "180 Fund." If you are unable to contribute at this time, please complete a form anyway so that our records are complete and up-to-date (and so we won't bother you again).

Reminder: There is no school this Friday, September 18, but don't forget to come to the Shepherd Elementary Color Me Mine fundraiser on Friday the 18th between 6 and 10 p.m. A good time will be had by all.

Sincerely,
Charisse Brossard

Shepherd Elementary School's 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.

A Word From Mrs. Miles!

Immunizations

This week many of you received information about immunization. If you received a notice, your student's immunization record is not up to date. Please work to get your student immunized. Any student who has not been immunized by Wednesday, September 23, will be removed from class and kept in the gymnasium. As you can imagine, this will create unnecessary hardship for Shepherd students and staff. However, we must put the safety and well-being of all students first. Please contact the school nurse, Mrs. Roberts if you have questions. You can reach her at 576-5271.

September 18 No School

Friday, September 18th is a Professional Development Day for teachers. There will be no school for students.

Carpool

Please be mindful of traffic. If you are the first in the carpool line, we ask that you pull all the way to the brown fence. Cars that pull in after you should pull up directly behind you leaving little room between. Please be patient and look carefully before you pull away from the curb. If a car pulls away from the curb, we ask that you pull up and fill in the empty space. Thank you!

Learning Resources

Recently our school received access to Discovery Education and Teacherweb. Discovery Education provides our students and teachers with additional resources to enhance learning in the classroom. Teacherweb allows teachers to create their own Web site so they can post homework and announcements to keep parents informed. None of this would have been possible without you! A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to the PTA's 180 Fund. Each dollar you spend is invested into your child's education. Thank you for doing what you do so that we can continue to get better at what we do!

Have a great long weekend!!!!

Regards,
Jamie Miles
Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Your Kid Can WIN Big If Shepherd Wins Big!

Shepherd Families! As you probably already know, the QSP (formerly Readers Digest) sale is our first fundraiser of the year and the deadline to turn your orders in is almost upon us! Let's set the goals high! If each family sells just 10 items we will meet our goal. If we exceed our goal of \$20,000 the top seller will win the New PS3 or XBox 360 -- winner's choice!

We have extended the deadline to Friday, September 25. If you can't make it then we will have a table set up at the Fall Fest on September 26 at Shepherd. Bring all your orders in on Friday, September 25 or Saturday, September 26 -- along with your payment in the form of a check or money order made payable to Shepherd Elementary PTA!

--Nayada Cowherd

***FUN*draining in Verse!**

Here is a little inspiration in prose:

The QSP shopping window will soon close
To get you off on the good foot
It is here and now most simply put!

Use this last week as a selling spree
And soon watch your child's face light up with glee
Make a goal of 15 items or more
And watch the winnings come in - galore!

Sell these wares to family and friends
An Xbox or PS3 -- The kid with the most sales WINS!
Rack up your orders by the 25th of September
Let's make it a "FUNdraining for Shepherd" year to remember!

There's A Place for Your Kids During a Day Off From School

On Friday, September 18, the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation, in coordination with the District of Columbia Public Schools, will offer its first DPR Play Day, a full day of programs for DCPS students in grades pre-K through eighth grade throughout the District. DPR Play Days coincide with DCPS' Professional Development Days for teachers and ensures that students engage in a mixture of arts and crafts, fitness, and enrichment activities outside of the classroom. DPR Play Day programs begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m.

Enrollment forms* are available at any DCPS school or online at dpr.dc.gov. Completed forms must be delivered to the DPR site where you wish to have your

child enrolled. Same-day enrollment is available only if space permits.

Here are the Ward 4 sites open for DPR Play

Day:

Emery Recreation Center
5801 Georgia Ave NW
576-3211

Lafayette Recreation Center
5900 33rd St NW
282-2206

Lamond Recreation Center
20 Tuckerman St NE
576-9541

Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center
501 Riggs Rd NE
576-5224

Takoma Community Center
300 Van Buren St NW
576-7068

Other sites are Banneker, Columbia Heights and Park View in Ward 1; Kennedy and Volta Park in Ward 2; Chevy Chase and Palisades in Ward 3; Edgewood, Joseph Cole, North Michigan Park and turkey thicket in Ward 5; King Greenleaf and Watkins in Ward 6; Fort Davis and Hillcrest in Ward 7; and Bald Eagle and Ferebee Hope in Ward 8.

Shepherd Elementary School ... Say Cheese!!

Have you seen the photo bulletin boards in the Front Office at Shepherd, or as you enter the school auditorium? Is there a particular photo you like?

Order your favorite photo on a print, poster, mug, card, mouse pad, puzzle, magnet, jewelry, and more!!!

Go to: www.VBphoto.shutterfly.com or take a business card located on the board, to remind you. The password to order Shepherd Elementary School photos is "Mustang." (It's case-sensitive, so you have to use the uppercase "M.") Feel free to review the other photo albums as well!

All proceeds from Shepherd Elementary photos will be donated to Shepherd Elementary School.

Deadline for Next Issue

The next issue will be available Friday, September 25. Deadline is 5 p.m. Tuesday, September 22 (5 p.m. Tuesdays is our standard deadline). To submit an item for the Mustang, send it to sesmustang@gmail.com.

Fall Fest Is Next Week!

Make your plans NOW!

SATURDAY; SEPT 26, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Come to Shepherd Elementary for our
Annual FALL FEST!

Bungee Jumping! Moon Bounce!
Balloons! Cakewalk! LUNCH!

Plenty of activities for kids of all ages.

PLUS...

The Shepherd Book Fair will be open!
Support our school, stock up on gift books
for kids and teachers.

Please come support Shepherd, and have a
blast!

Music Room Notes

What's happening in the music room:

-- Our third, fourth, and fifth graders made drums, using 130 tomato sauce cans donated by Ledo Pizza on Georgia Avenue. We played djembe rhythms.
-- Students filled out a "Family Music Survey" to show how musical our families are. Here are some of the survey results: Shepherd families play 26 different instruments, such as piano, guitar, violin, and drums. Shepherd families sing or listen to 24 types of music, including gospel, rhythm-and-blues, hip hop, and jazz. Shepherd families listed more than 70 favorite songs or dances. The most frequently mentioned favorite songs were by Bob Marley and Michael Jackson.

-- Recorder class is Wednesday morning at 8 a.m.

-- Violin classes for second, third, and fourth graders are Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Aftercare violin class for first graders starts on September 29.

-- Aftercare guitar classes for 3rd and 4th graders start on September 28.

-- The D.C. Labor Chorus rehearses in the music room on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. The Labor Chorus will sing with our students at the "Blues and Jazz" concert in February.

Mr. Ken Giles, music teacher

Literacy Corner

If your child is just beginning to **LEARN TO READ** at home you can help by...

Practicing the sounds of language. Read books with rhymes. Teach your child rhymes, short poems, and songs. Play simple word games: How many words can you make up that sound like the word "bat"?

Helping your child take spoken words apart and put them together. Help your child separate the sounds in words, listen for beginning and ending sounds, and put separate sounds together.

Practicing the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them and by reading alphabet books.

If your child is just beginning to **READ** at home you can help by...

Pointing out the letter-sound relationships your child is learning on labels, boxes, newspapers, magazines and signs.

Listening to your child read words and books from school. Be patient and listen as your child practices. Let your child know you are proud of his reading.

If your child is **READING** At home you can help your child by...

Rereading familiar books. Children need practice in reading comfortably and with expression using books they know.

Building reading accuracy. As your child is reading aloud, point out words he missed and help him read words correctly. If you stop to focus on a word, have your child reread the whole sentence to be sure he understands the meaning.

Building reading comprehension. Talk with your child about what she is reading. Ask about new words. Talk about what happened in a story. Ask about the characters, places, and events that took place. Ask what new information she has learned from the book. Encourage her to read on her own.

Ms. Crystal Moorefield

Star Achievers Enrollment Is Way Up

The 12th year of the STAR ACHIEVERS Before and After Care program has gotten off to a sizzling start, enrolling more than 125 boys and girls, 20 percent more than the same number enrolled at this time last school year. We expect to add several new activities to the program in the upcoming months, although homework completion and tutorial assistance will continue to be our main priority.

We want to thank our parents for enrolling and completing their financial obligations so quickly. However, we want to remind those few parents who have yet to complete all obligations to do so immediately. For comments or questions, please see teachers Mr. Leonard or Mrs. Chambliss, or contact Mr. Huff at 301-699-9266.

PTA Numbers Are Up Over '08-'09 School Year

While this issue of the Mustang was produced before the PTA meeting, we expect that we will have recorded at least 100 contributors and pledgers to the PTA's "180 Fund" — a dollar a day for each instructional day of the school year. These numbers are up over the 2008-09 year, when the PTA collected a "Family Enrichment Fee" as well as PTA dues. Of course, this year, every parent is a PTA member without having to pay dues, and the number of 180 Fund contributors has topped both the PTA membership list from a year ago and the Family Enrichment Fee contributors' list.

With roughly 100 contributors so far, we don't have space in this issue of the Mustang to publish the names of all of them, but we do have space for some of them. As for the rest of you, don't worry: Your checks have cleared, and your names will be published with great gratitude in future issues. Let's keep the momentum going! Thanks to:

Michael Imbroscio and Marcie Bane
Guyton and Donna Harvey
Elizabeth Denevi and Randolph Carter
Sekou and Cara Biddle
Mark Pattison and Judith McCullough
Deidre Swesnik and Nathan L. Trail
Sandhya Mehta and Jonathan Harwitz
Darren Dorkin and Victoria Botvin
Kathryn Shalaty
Nick and Marnie Keller
Ken Giles
Les and Stephanie Melnyk
Gina Carvana
Tamara R. Jones
David and Katherine Trimble

Color Me Mine Fundraiser Friday

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.

Color Me Mine, 825 Ellsworth Dr. in downtown Silver Spring, 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 fire-glazes 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.

The really cool thing is that you don't even have to say you're from Shepherd to qualify for the discount.

Anybody who comes in next Friday evening is donating 50 percent of their purchase price to the PTA. Earlier we asked, "After all, wouldn't Grandma and Grandpa or Aunt Louise like a masterpiece from the hands of your child?" Well, maybe they'd like to come with your family. 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.

Countdown to 'Opt-In' On Mustang Starts Now

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 the coupon below, saying you want to continue getting the Mustang through your child's backpack.

Because of the recent publishing problems with the Mustang, we delayed the start of the countdown but it's in full swing now. That means the first fully opt-in Mustang distribution will take place with the October 2 issue.

We don't like to admit this often, but sometimes the Washington Post does something right: They gave their subscribers three weeks' notice so they could opt in to continue receiving its TV listings book with the Sunday paper. We're copying them with our own three weeks' notice.

Next week will be the last such notice you'll get so that you continue to receive a hard copy of the Mustang uninterrupted. 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 Shepherd_Elementary_PTA-subscribe@yahoo.com.

| YES! I want to continue to get the Mustang
| each week through my child's backpack. |

| Parent's name _____ |

| Child's name _____ |

| Child's grade _____ |

| Child's teacher _____ |
