

Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

September 24, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!

Sept. 26 – Fall Fest

Sept. 26 – Book Fair Begins

Oct. 2 – Reader's Digest Pickup

Oct. 3 – Fall Fest Rain Date

Oct. 12 – School Closed

Oct. 21 – PTA Meeting

Welcome from the PTA President

I am sure most of you have heard by now about the budget cuts happening within DCPS. I have been assured by Principal Miles that any instructional changes will be minimal. This is obviously a huge relief because instructor stability is a key factor in the overall success of our school.

Thank you to all of the families and friends of Shepherd for attending the Color Me Mine fundraiser last Friday. Everyone had a good time, and the fundraiser was a resounding success. Thanks go out to Leonie Stephenson for coordinating the event and Donna Johnson Harvey for working with Chick-fil-A.

I hope to see everyone at Fall Fest on Saturday. The forecast looks good, and this event is exciting not only for Shepherd Elementary School but also for the Shepherd Community overall. Someone save me a ride on the bungee jump!

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

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greeting everyone!

Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009, kicks off our School's Book Fair. This year's theme: "Read Around the World" is a great way for our students to explore the world around them without leaving the comfort of their home. We encourage you to stop by with your student and explore the affordable books and products with your children. Plus, a portion of the funds generated through sales will be used to purchase student and teacher resources. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you. **Please see the Scholastic Book Fair ad on page 4 of this week's edition of the Mustang.**

Carpool Etiquettes

Please pull to the curb to pick up your student(s). It is very dangerous for us to send students to cars double parked in the middle of the street. Cars are constantly pulling in and away from the curb and the driver may not see your student(s).

Students are dismissed from their classrooms to get in the carpool line starting at 3:10 p.m. This means they may not get in line until 3:15 or later. Please be patient. If you are in a rush, we kindly ask that you find a place to park (not in front of the school) and walk to the carpool area to pick up your student.

Please pull up and close in the space between cars as cars pull away from the curb.

The carpool line starts at 3:10 p.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. To help eliminate traffic congestion, you may stagger your pick up time. The time between 3:10 p.m. and 3:20 p.m. is our busiest time.

Please have your carpool number displayed in your windshield or on your passenger-side window. It slows down the line if your number is laying flat on your dashboard, forgotten at home or with another person. If you need additional numbers, please notify the staff member on carpool duty. We will have your number available for you the next day.

Please encourage your student to get into the car as quickly as possible and buckle up. If you have questions about their book bag, homework, etc., please pull away from the curb and find a place to park outside of the carpool line.

See Principal pg 6

World Languages Department's 2009-10 Goals

In pre-K through first grade, students will:

- Produce and show comprehension of 70 percent of the high frequency expressions and vocabulary words taught during the school year.
- Imitate 70 percent of modeled words and phrases, using intonation and pronunciation similar to the model.
- Meet limited writing and pre-writing tasks.
- Produce 70 percent of the songs and rhymes taught during the school year.

In grades 2 through 5, students will:

- Use 70 percent of the vocabulary words and short phrases for common objects and actions in familiar categories.
- Comprehend 70 percent of vocabulary words, phrases form simple questions, statements, high-frequency commands, short and learned utterances with strong contextual support.
- Comprehend 70 percent of the general information and vocabulary when content has been previously presented in an oral and/or visual context.
- Recognize and use 70 percent of vocabulary from a variety of topics, including those related to other curricular areas.
- Be able to meet practical writing needs (writing paragraphs about various topics).

World Languages Department

Five Rules of the Classroom

1. Be Orderly. Enter the classroom in order and quietly take your seat.
2. Be Respectful to your classmates, your teacher and the supplies.
3. Be Responsible. Always complete your work as well as your homework.
4. Be Tidy. Keep your work and your work area tidy, and clean before you leave the classroom.
5. Be Quiet. Use inside voice.

Y, en español, las reglas de la clase.

1. Se Ordenado. Entra a la clase en orden y toma asiento en silencio.
2. Se Respetuoso/a hacia tus compañeros de clase, tu profesor y profesora y hacia los materiales.
3. Se Responsable. Termina siempre tu trabajo y tus deberes.
4. Se Limpio/limpia. Mantén tu trabajo y tu área de trabajo limpios, y limpia antes de marcharte.
5. Se Silencioso/silenciosa. Usa voz baja.

World Languages Department

Shepherd Elementary School

Literacy Corner Phonemic Awareness and Phonics

Phoneme: a speech sound that combines with others in a language system to make words.

Phonemic Awareness: the conscious awareness that words are made up of segments of our own speech that are represented with letters in an alphabetic orthography.

Phonics: the study of the relationships between letters and the sounds they represent.

These are essential skills in learning to read, spell, and write!

Practice the following activities with your child daily.

Primary:

Alphabet Walk - Take a walk around the school or neighborhood. Have your child look for and identify learned letters in environmental print.

Rhyme and Alliteration

Rhyme - I once saw a cat, sitting next to a dog. I once saw a bat, sitting next to a frog.

Alliteration - Six snakes sell sodas and snacks.

Intermediate:

1. How many syllables in each of the following words? (syllable counting)

cleaned _____ poetic _____ appreciated _____ incredible _____

2. Which word has the same last sound as *does*?

miss _____ nice _____ prize _____ purchase _____

- Instructional Specialist,
Crystal Moorefield and Christina Bush

ART SMARTS

Ms. Michaud and Ms. Adams are busy getting students' creative juices flowing in the art room this year.

Currently, children are learning or reviewing the specific vocabulary used to describe works of art. The language of art includes such terms as **line**, which is the path of a moving dot that your pencil makes as you slide it on a paper, and **shape**, which is formed when a line goes around a space and comes back to its original starting place. These are elements all artists including students use in visual art. (Check out the colorful Line Collages created by the kindergartens in the Office Hall, which emphasize both of these elements.)

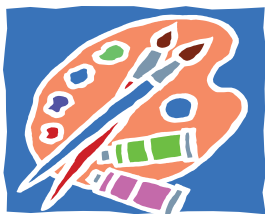
In the future, Ms. Michaud and Ms. Adams will be collaborating with classroom teachers to create art that supports the trans-disciplinary IB units and other projects designed by each grade level. So far, Ms. Michaud has collaborated with Mr. Leonard on an illustrated narrative based on the Dickens novel "*Great Expectations*," which his class will work on this week. Ms. Thomas' class will begin working on the art of protest for causes taken up by good citizens. Mr. King and Ms. Johnson's second-graders sketched the skeletal system as part of their IB unit on human body systems. Ms. Adams will support reading in Mr. Leonard's room starting with a study of Guyana, creation of a book about and a pen-pal program with residents of this country. This is only the beginning so you will hear more as the year goes on.

Parents of students in grades 3 through 5: Make sure your child has a sketchbook for homework by now. All homework will be posted on the art Web site in the future. The start date of that posting will be advised here in Art Smarts in the Mustang. Meanwhile go to Plaza Arts on Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring for the sketchbook if you still need one. Their staff knows what is needed.

We appreciate all the newspapers, tissues, hand-wash and wipes you have donated. We are loaded with all for now, so take a rest. We will give notice when we are running short on anything.

Until next time, hold art close to your heart,

-Ms. Michaud and Ms. Adams



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.

Spanish News

I am so glad to tell you that the Spanish teacher Web site is finally ready, so if you want to know what your child is learning in class, you want to know what homework he/she has been assigned and when it is due just visit the following page: <http://teacherweb.com/DC/ShepherdElementarySchool/JavierValera>.

I also included some information about myself and posted the supply and wish lists. On the links pages, you can find some Web sites that can be useful. I will be adding more links and updating the Web site often, which will eliminate the need for a paper Spanish newsletter and save some trees.

Muchas gracias,

- Señor Valera

September 29
8:45a.m.– 10:45a.m.

Pastries with the Principal

Chance to chat informally
and network!



FALL FEST IS HERE!

Shepherd Elementary School's annual Fall Fest, with activities and games for children of all ages, will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. TOMORROW - Saturday, Sept. 26 – outside the school.

Be advised: 14th Street will be closed for the event.

Among the attractions are bungee jumping, a moon bounce, cakewalk, Jurassic Play Scape, games, activities, crafts, artwork, and plenty of food choices.

The Scholastic Book Fair will also be open during Fall Fest, and the PTA is still accepting volunteers of all ages.

In case of bad weather, the rain date will be Saturday, Oct. 3.

stephanie.scott@yahoo.com or marniekeller@gmail.com

Scholastic Book Fair

Begins Sept 26



Read Around the World

PTA Meeting Highlights

First off, there were about 180 adults present, including virtually the entire school staff!

PTA executive board members were introduced, and class parents were asked to stand up and be recognized. PTA President Charisse Brossard said all classes had at least one parent volunteer within 36 hours of the school year starting; some classes have as many as three classroom parents!

Brossard also exhorted parents to contribute to the 180 Fund, which finances items for the school that D.C. Public Schools can't budget for Shepherd. She asked parents, in addition, to fill out forms for the school directory. Good progress has been made with 110 families responding, but more than half of the school population still has yet to respond.

Victoria Botvin, a Shepherd parent who is serving as school historian, gave a presentation on her "Say Cheese!" program of student photos that can be purchased to benefit the PTA.

Shepherd's teachers and staff were introduced prior to the end of the meeting. Brossard noted they would receive their \$100 semester stipend checks at the end of the meeting, and advised parents to check out the teachers' photos on the redesigned Web site, www.shepherd-elementary.org.

Leonie Stephenson, the PTA's second vice president and co-chairwoman of the PTA's Fundraising Committee, gave a presentation on how fundraising works and how Shepherd parents can get involved in it.

Lisa Deane won \$60 in the 50-50 raffle, which means that \$60 was raised for the PTA. The PTA also sold \$53 of uniform clothing before and during the meeting.

Box Tops Update

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Back to School Box Tops collection drive! We collected 210 Box Tops, for an addition of \$21 toward our \$500 annual goal. We got a head start with our final drive of the last school year, so we're currently at \$171! Apologies for any confusion with the deadline - if you have been collecting Box Tops, please hold on to them for the next contest (details below).

Thanks to all our students who did such a great job pasting or taping the Box Tops onto the collection sheets (some of which were left over from last spring):

Changamire Anderson

Nia Anderson

Savannah Brinkley

Camille Jones

Natasha Langille

Alex Leonard

Taya Milan Lowery-Williams

Mattie Melnyk

Justice Page

Cyntia Pattison

Leo Saunders

Mia Saunders

Colyar Trimble

Henry Trimble

Our next collection drive - "Batty for Box Tops" - will end on Wednesday, Nov. 4. Please use the link below to access and print the collection sheet.

www.boxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?Id=64.

As noted above, if you completed collection sheets for the Back to School drive, please submit those as is - no need to transfer to the new collection sheet. Here are the rules:

Glue or tape (no staples) one Box Top Coupon onto each dotted box on the collection sheet and help earn CASH for the Shepherd Elementary PTA! Each completed sheet is worth \$1 to our school. (Expired Box Tops, Box Tops with missing expiration dates, and other coupons such as Betty Crocker points cannot be used.)

For more information about the Box Tops for Education Program and eligible products, please visit www.boxtops4education.com or contact Katherine Trimble, Shepherd's Box Tops Program Coordinator, at kctrimble@mac.com.

DCPS Discipline Code

DCPS Discipline Code

D.C. Public Schools has used feedback from students, families, community members and staff to create a new student discipline policy, otherwise known as Chapter 25. School communities will use this policy to maximize learning time as well as create positive, respectful relations among staff and students.

How does this discipline code work?

The new policy has 5 tiers:

Generally, Tiers 1 and 2 include minor disruptions. These actions will be addressed through school-based policies in the classroom and within the school itself.

Tier 3 includes student behaviors that cause significant disruption or harm to the student or others. These actions, according to school-based policies, will have in-school responses and may result in either on- or off-site suspensions.

Tier 4 behaviors include serious actions that include disruptions, destruction of school property or significant harm to self or others. These behaviors will result in off-site suspensions.

Tier 5 includes illegal behaviors, disruption of school operation and significant harm to self or others. These actions will result in off-site suspensions or expulsion.

Where does this discipline code apply?

This discipline policy is effective and applies to situations that occur:

On school grounds.

When students are participating in any activity sponsored by DCPS

When transportation is being provided by DCPS to an event

During before and after-school program

When the offense at hand results in significant disruption to the school environment, even when the offense occurs off school grounds or outside regular school hours.

Individual schools will make their policies around Tiers 1-3 available for students and parents.

Students have the right to a conference before suspension or expulsion (unless emergency conditions require the immediate removal of a student) and the right to appeal. Parents will be notified of suspensions or expulsion and have the right to review their child's disciplinary record.

Students who are suspended for a short period of time (fewer than 11 days) have the right to an Education Plan, which will allow them to make up work missed. Students who are suspended for more than 11 days or expelled will have access to an Alternative Education Setting.

Whenever possible, schools will work with each student to help the student reflect on actions, learn from mistakes and participate in prevention, remediation or intervention strategies.

Parents can learn more about the policy by asking teachers or principals questions about school-level policies, or by reading the full policy on the DCPS Web site, www.k12.dc.us (type in "Chapter 25" in the search function, click "Search" and click "DCPS Policies.").

Top 10 Reasons to attend Fall Fest

1. Moon bounce
2. Cotton candy
3. Crafts to make
4. Bungee jumping
5. Games to play
6. Tired kids to take home
7. cakewalk
8. prizes to win
9. Scholastic Book Fair
10. IT'S GREAT FUN FOR ALL!!!

Principal from pg 1

Finally, THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We are working to create and maintain positive relationships. We enjoy seeing the students each evening as they wave to us as they pull away from the curb.

Dismissal

The school day ends at 3:15 p.m. Parents and designees are expected to be here between 3:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., all students are brought to the main hallway by the office. If you have to come into the main hallway to pick up your student, you are late. There will be a \$5 charge for every 15 minutes after 3:30. The money collected will be placed in our Student Activity Funds account and will be used for student resources and/or activities. Payment in the form of cash is due at pick-up.

Pastries with the Principal

You are cordially invited to an informal meeting with the principal. The meeting will be held at Shepherd Elementary in the school library from 8:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 29. During this time, you will have a chance to speak informally with me about anything you think Shepherd Elementary is doing well, as well as voice any concerns you may have about our school. This is a drop-in event so you may come at any time during the two hours. The meeting is not intended for you to discuss your child's performance in his/her classes but instead to discuss the education your child is receiving at Shepherd Elementary. I look forward to seeing you on the 29th. Please RSVP no later than Friday, Sept. 25.

Budget Equalization

Last week, I sent a letter from Chancellor Rhee alerting you to the yearly equalization process and the need for a Reduction In Force (RIF) in many schools to account for the budget shortfall for the 2010 Fiscal Year. Based on our numbers and current budget allocations, there will be a reduction of force at Shepherd Elementary. As I carry out the task before me, please know that our students are our priority and we will move forward in a way that will have **the least impact on our students, teachers and our instructional program.** All decisions will be finalized by the end of this month. Thank you for your understanding.

Lunch Accounts

Beginning this year, students will be allowed up to five (5) meal charges before escalating to a notification by the school principal. If you have a negative account balance, please bring your account up to date by Sept. 30. If a student is eligible for free or reduced-priced meals but has not returned a completed application, parents will be required to pay for his or her meals. DCPS has been providing meals free of charge without being reimbursed with the federal funds that allows DCPS to provide free meals. As a result, DCPS is losing millions of dollars every year, which is needed to provide the

necessary resources to benefit students' important work in the classroom. If your student account is not brought current by Sept. 30, the student will be provided with the following courtesy meal selection: Grilled Cheese Sandwich on Whole Grain Bread with choice of two fruits and/or vegetables sides, and a half-pint of low-fat or fat-free milk.

Beginning the week of Oct. 5, you will receive an automated phone call and a letter from me if your child's lunch account has a negative balance. Parents will have five business days to satisfy the balance or complete and return a completed free-and-reduced-lunch form. Parents will receive automated reminders until the balance is paid in full. A letter with additional information will be sent home with students Monday.

IB

Please look for the return of the IB corner next week.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you Saturday at the Fall Fest!!!

Warmest regards,

-Principal Miles

Community Corner

The Gateway Georgia Avenue Main Street Citizens District Council will hold a "Community Brainstorm Day" from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 26 at the Juanita E. Thornton-Shepherd Park Library, 7420 Georgia Ave. NW. Business owners and community members get together to discuss the future of the Georgia Avenue business corridor, which takes in the 7300 through 7800 blocks of Georgia Avenue. For details, call 291-2400 or visit www.gatewaycdc.com.

Thank You Corner

Thanks to Shepherd parents Sharon Jackson Bowman and Vikki Mont, and to Shepherd students Emahni Grant and Chandler Brossard, for staffing the uniform clothing sales tables before and during the PTA meeting. It can be a struggle to hear everything that's going on inside a packed auditorium from the vestibule, but your work is much appreciated.

Extra thanks to Sharon Jackson Bowman and her helper – last year's PTA president, Earl Yates, for braving the mosquitoes and changing the message on the sign board before last Wednesday's PTA meeting. Sharon has agreed to change the signs, but she sure could use a partner. Like Marvin Gaye and Kim Weston sang, "It takes two, baby."

Contact Sharon at sejbowman@yahoo.com.

Is there someone you'd like to thank for making Shepherd a better place? Use the Thank You Corner! Anyone can do the thanking, and anyone can be thanked. All you have to do is put your thanks in writing to sesmustang@gmail.com.

How to Help Your Child Succeed

How to Help Your Child Succeed

D.C. Public Schools has issued a series of hints for helping your child excel in school. Some are commonsense while others may have escaped your attention.

Support Education From Home

Let your child know that you think school is important.

Your opinion matters to your child, even if your child tells you it doesn't! Ask your child to tell you - or to teach you - one thing he or she learned at school. Keep asking every day.

Ask your child's teacher about behavioral expectations in class. Find out how the teacher implements rules and rewards good behavior. Then, try some of that system at home. Consistency will help your children understand what is expected of them both at school and at home.

Encourage excellent attendance. We want to see your children in school every day - we can't teach them if they're not with us! Excellent attendance is key to success in school.

Set a bedtime and try to stick to it! This is part of building a productive routine so that your children will be up in time to get ready for school.

Healthy Habits and Routines Help Children Grow and Learn

Make sure your child gets a good night's rest every night. Also, talk to your child's doctor or school nurse about healthy eating habits that can improve learning.

Work some reading time into your child's day. Reading stimulates the brain and helps kids be prepared and alert in school.

Develop a productive routine. A steady, productive routine will help your child maintain a healthy lifestyle and succeed in school. Good routines develop positive expectations for students - and parents.

Build Healthy Relationships

Tell your children something positive about who they are and what they do.

Recognize and thank your child for participating in school, religious or community events and for helping others.

Get Involved!

Attend parent-teacher conferences and PTA meetings, and read notices from school. Recruit other parents to get involved, support school programs and mentor others.

Stay in touch with your child's teachers and ask that they be in touch with you.

Shepherd Elementary School
PTA

Fall Fest is
here!

September 26

11 - 4 pm



New to Shepherd? Want to Volunteer?

D.C. Public Schools takes very serious the health and safety of students. Before anyone can volunteer on an ongoing basis at a school, they must bring the following documents to the ninth floor 825 North Capitol St. NE:

Tuberculosis (TB) verification test results.

A completed DCPS volunteer application.

A state or District-issued photo ID.

The volunteer application process takes place 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays and 9 a.m.-noon Thursdays. After you have turned in your documents you will be asked to complete a fingerprinting clearance process on the sixth floor of the central office. (If these hours do not work for you, you can call to make an appointment.)

In about two weeks, you will receive a letter verifying that you have completed the process.

Here's an important thing to know: Volunteers for weekend or one-day service events do not need to complete the process.

To learn more, call DCPS at 442-5885 or send an e-mail to dcpsvolunteers@dc.gov.

You can get a volunteer application at the DCPS Web site, www.k12.dc.us (hover over the blue "Community" bar and click "Volunteer in Our Schools."). The application is a downloadable PDF.

Student Reporter Column

End of summer means back-to school, fun at annual Fall Festival

Back-to-School Night at Shepherd Elementary was Sept. 16 starting at 6:45 p.m. At Back-to-School Night, there was pizza and movies in the cafeteria. The kids ate pepperoni, cheese and vegetable pizza from Ledo's. The movie they saw was "White Fang." Also, the parents met their children's teachers. It was the first time some of the teachers and parents met. The teachers gave their reports of what their students will do every day.

At Back-to-School Night, all the children were talking about the Shepherd Elementary School Fall Festival. In just a few days, don't forget to attend the Fall Festival, Sept. 26 that will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or if it rains, Oct. 3., at Shepherd Elementary School, located at 7800 14th St. NW. For more information, call 202-576-6140. Last year's Fall Festival was great and this year's Fall Festival will be even better. There will be many things to do like face painting, games, food, balloon animals and much more. Money raised at the Fall Festival is used to help make students' learning that much better by paying for experiences not in the budget.

Learn what happened at the Fall Festival and about other Shepherd happenings in the next Mustang Report. To submit news tips, comment or contact the Mustang reporter send an e-mail to: Emahni5@gmail.com.

-Compiled by Emahni Grant, 4th grade

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

Join 180 Fund

School Directory Deadline Nears

The end-of-the-month deadline is nearing for inclusion in the annual Shepherd Elementary Family Directory. Our scheduled publication date is Thursday, Nov. 5, and we intend on meeting that deadline. So don't miss out on being able to contact other parents about school activities, play dates, birthday parties and the like. Go to the school Web site - www.shepherd-elementary.org - hover your clicker over "For Parents," then click on "PTA Forms." There you will find the School Directory form, as well as the Photo Permission Slip and the PTA Membership Form (which you can use to contribute to the 180 Fund).

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

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
Ms. Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant – robyna.brooks@dc.gov
Ms. Charisse Brossard, PTA President – cbrossard65@gmail.com

The Mustang Newsletter Editors: Fred Lewis and Mark Pattison
Layout/Design: Nayada Cowherd and Rose Dawson
Production and distribution: Angela Anderson and Marcie Bane

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