Shepherd Elementary School



THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

October 9, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!

- 10/12: Columbus Day -- no school
- 10/21: PTA meeting, 6:45 p.m., auditorium
- 10/21: QSP/Reader's Digest Fall Fundraiser
 Turn-In Deadline EXTENDED!!!!
- 10/27: Pastries with the Principal, 8:45 a.m.
- 10/29: School dismissed at 12:15 p.m.
- 10/30: Professional development -- no school
- 10/30: Halloween Family Night
- 10/31: Halloween Parade, Shepherd Field, 6 p.m.

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Parents,

Please join me in wishing Principal Jamie Miles a happy anniversary on her one-year milestone at Shepherd Elementary. What a difference a year makes! Last year, we were embroiled in controversy with the DCPS administration and the community was divided. Now, Principal Miles



has brought stability and leadership to our school-which was sorely lacking for a long, long time. She leads by example and makes sure that she is at school bright and early every day to greet our children. Her responsiveness to parent concerns and her management style promote an open and inclusive atmosphere for all.

Thank you Principal Miles for all you've done! I wish you continued success and a long tenure at Shepherd Elementary!

Sincerely,

Charisse Brossard

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Dear Shepherd families,

You are aware that because of exceptional budget pressures this year, our school had to reduce its budget and eliminate certain staff positions. These changes went into effect Friday, Oct. 2. As a result, I regret to inform you that Ms. Adams, our second art teacher, and Ms. Debra Moore, a teacher who has been teaming with Ms. Holt and floating between other pre-K and kindergarten teachers, will no longer be a member of the Shepherd team.

These decisions, while made reluctantly, were carefully planned so that your child's learning will continue with minimal disruption.

Ms. Michaud will continue as the school's fulltime art teacher and the loss of Ms. Moore will have no impact on our school's current pre-k and kindergarten class configurations.

Thank you for your patience through this process and trust in knowing your child's growth and academic success remains the most important goal to all of us at DCPS.

If you have questions or wish to discuss these changes, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Additional Staff Updates

Due to educational requirements, Ms. Yolanda Bush will no longer be a member of our staff as an instructional aide. Ms. Bush has been an asset to our staff and her presence during the regular school day is greatly missed.

Ms. Sharon Moore has been working with Ms. Miller for the past couple of weeks and will continue as the paraprofessional in the classroom.

Lost and Found

At the end of each day I make my rounds around the school. During my rounds I collect coats, jackets, lunchboxes and book bags left behind on the playground, in the hallways and the cafeteria. Each item collected is placed on the table in the vestibule of the gymnasium. If your child is missing an article of clothing and/or a book bag or lunch box it is most likely on the table. Please check the lost and found table and encourage your student to do the same. At the end of each month, all items left will be packed and delivered to the local Goodwill agency. Please help us keep our lost and found items to a minimum by reminding your student to keep you with the items that belong to them.

(Principal, continued on page 6)



The Math Corner



Make grocery shopping a fun, learning experience for your kids! Before going to the grocery store, make a list of items you need to purchase. Have your student estimate the cost of some of the items before arriving at the store. Once there, have your kids do the research and find out the real prices for the grocery items. When you return home, have your student calculate the difference between the estimated price and the real price.

Grades K-2

Involve the family in making a shopping list. Checks or tally each item to indicate the number needed. This helps children learn to collect data.

Involve the children in predicting how much milk or juice will be needed for a week. You might decide to estimate by cups, explaining that 4 cups are equal to a quart and 4 quarts are equal to a gallon. Also, try estimating by liters. How does a liter compare to a gallon?

Choose coupons that match the items on the grocery list. Discuss how much money will be saved on various items by using coupons.

Grades 3-5 Weighing In

What to do:

Help your child examine the scale in the grocery store or the one you have at home. Explain that pounds are divided into smaller parts called ounces and 16 ounces equal a pound.

Gather the produce you are purchasing and estimate the weight of each item before weighing it. If you need 1 pound of grapes, ask your child to place the first bunch of grapes on the weighing scale, and then estimate how many more or fewer grapes are needed to make exactly 1 pound.

Let your child hold an item in each hand and guess which item weighs more. Then use the scale to check.

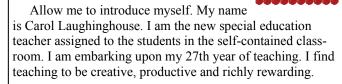
Ask questions to encourage thinking about measurement and estimation. You might want to ask your child: How much do you think six apples will weigh? More than a pound, less than a pound, or equal to a pound? How much do the apples really weigh? Do they weigh more or less than you estimated? Will six potatoes weigh more or less than the apples? How much do potatoes cost per pound? If they cost 10 cents per pound, what is the total cost?

Try weighing items using the metric system. How many grams does an apple weigh? How many kilograms does a sack of potatoes weigh? How does a kilogram compare to a pound?

Let your child experiment with the store scale by weighing different products.

Shepherd Staff Profile

Hello Shepherd Family,



I am a native Washingtonian. My family and friends reside in the Shepherd Park neighborhood. My four children - Monique, Melanie, Maria, Andre - and I attended Shepherd Elementary. We have fond memories of the teachers and staff who helped mold us to be the adults we are today.

Thank you for welcoming me into the Shepherd Family.

-Carol Laughinghouse

Nominating Committee Members Needed

There is a parent vacancy on Shepherd's Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT). This means that the PTA must establish a Nominating Committee to act between now and the election, which will likely take place on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

The duties of the nominating committee are:

- Ask Shepherd parents if they would like to run for the LSRT vacancy.
- Collect and distribute candidacy statements written by the candidate.
- Conduct a secret-ballot election before, during and after school hours, including the initial portion of the PTA meeting scheduled for Oct. 21, tabulate the ballots, and announce the election results.
- (You can also recruit other parents to assist as election aides on Election Day.)

If you are interested in serving on this committee - and your work will be done in 16 days, that we can promise you! - get in touch with PTA Recording Secretary Mark Pattison at pattison_mark@hotmail.com, and he will put you in touch with past Nominating Committee members who can provide more detail on your role in the process.

(If you would like to serve on the LSRT itself, start preparing your written candidate profile for publication on the listserv and Mustang, and we'll get you in touch with Nominating Committee members once they are identified.)

2 More Weeks to Sell!!!

In tragic news, we have not met our intended goal for the QSP fall fundraiser. We have received a mere 40 packets. So we have extended the deadline to October 21st for paper orders and October 25th for online sales. If you want your child to win the Xbox or

Playstation you have two more weeks to work on your sales!

Go to www.QSP.com, register your child and once the link is created -- email that link and your child's participant number to all your friends and family so they



can order (all items including magazines). If you have family out of town (or even in town) they can order online and it is shipped directly to them. No bother with forms, pick up or delivery! With orders of \$60 or more the shipping is free (otherwise they pay for shipping). Your kid will get the credit (and a chance at the iTouch or DSi and if we reach our school goal --an XBox 360 or PlayStation 4), the school gets money and you don't have delivery duty!! What a great way to Go Green!!! And Go Shepherd!!

--Nayada Cowherd & Lawanda Tyus QSP Fundraising Committee

Volunteer at SES

One of the most important factors in running a successful, vibrant school is parental involvement. This year, we have created a parent volunteer agreement form. This is an agreement that you are making with Shepherd Elementary School teachers and administrators to invest in your child's school and the children your child comes in contact with daily. Please complete this agreement with the expectation that Shepherd Elementary School can count on your support. Go to www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx??
B99DF1EDBCFAECE3 to learn more and to fill out the form online.

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.

Let's Hear It For Our Parents:



Contributors

You may think what follows is a lengthy list of parents who have contributed to the PTA's "180 Fund," but we're still just scratching the surface. More names will be seen in a future issue of The Mustang.

Remember that you can always contribute to the 180 Fund. It's called that because there are 180 instructional days in the school year, and we believe virtually every parent could afford a dollar a day to improve their children's education. But rather than pay one dollar every day for each day of the school year, you can pay in one of three ways:

A one-time contribution of \$180

Two contributions of \$90 each semester

Ten contributions of \$18 each month, payable at each month's PTA meeting. (You may be a month behind, but at just \$18 a month, it's easy to catch up.)

Make your check payable to Shepherd Elementary PTA, write "180 Fund" on the memo line, and put the check in an envelope - and the envelope in the PTA box in the main office.

- ◆ Ruth Ballard & Leonard Taylor
- ♦ Michael Bethea
- Lisa and A. Ambrose Connor
- ♦ Emanuel & Marcia Finn
- ♦ Nomi Fuchs-Montgomery
- ♦ Monica Goletiani
- ♦ Zanetta Gross
- ♦ Sabine Herisse
- ◆ Jean Holmes
- ♦ Michael Lewandowski
- ♦ Jill Martin
- ♦ Eusebia and Keith Mont
- ♦ Phillip Omhohundro
- ♦ Tony & Viorica Popa

- ♦ Andrew and Nicole Reece
- ♦ Alzata Ross
- Lovell and Jessica Saunders
- ◆ Timothy & Rhonda Davis Smith
- ♦ Chantale Swanson
- ♦ Barbara Turner-Fridie
- ♦ Lawanda Tyus
- ◆ Camille Wheeler
- ♦ Kim and Ron Williams
- ♦ Stephanie Williams
- ◆ Taundra Williams
- ♦ R. William Wilson
- ◆ Earl Yates & Kristin Wells

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HALLO WEEN PARADE

Halloween is just around the corner, and the Shepherd Park Civic Association will celebrate with its signature event: the annual Halloween Parade at Shepherd Field, next to Shepherd Elementary.

This year's parade will be held on Halloween (Saturday, Oct. 31). Gather at 5:45 p.m. and watch the kids parade ne lap around the track at 6 p.m. Treats will be handed out along the parade route!

The civic association will have a house- and pumpkindecorating contest. "Winners" will be chosen for each category, but there are no prizes. The association does tell the Shepherd Park listsery the addresses of all contestants so neighbors can see the handiwork of winners.

There's also an address list about 100 houses in Sheph Park that will be handling out treats to young trick-or-There's also an address list about 100 houses in Shepherd treaters. The list will be posted on the civic association's listsery - www.shepherdpark.org - and distributed at the parade.

The association needs judges for the decorating contest. To volunteer your judging skills (keep late afternoon Wednesday, Oct. 28 free), enter the decorating contest, or to have your address on the trick-or-treat list, call Mark Pattison at 202-829-9289 or e-mail him at pattison mark@hotmail.com.

Did You Lose It? It's Been Found!



"Where's your sweater?"

"Didn't I send you off to school in a jacket?"

"What the ... what did you do with your lunchbox?"

And your kids' response: "Ummmmm...," "Errrrrrr...." and "Dunno."

Well, the school Lost and Found is back in business. Students and parents alike can look through all sorts of clothing and school necessities mistakenly left behind to see if they can spot their child's lost clothing or other items. Lost and Found is on a big table in the auditorium vestibule. It's worth parking your car for a couple of minutes on day to sort through the lost items!

The Healthy Digest

The benefits of a healthy diet for a child can extend well into adulthood.

Eating well helps make strong bones and muscles; causes the brain and nervous system to develop to their full potential; a healthy weight; and decreased risk of many diseases, including diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

Eating a healthy diet in childhood creates a positive pattern that will also lead to a healthier diet in adulthood.

Incorporate a healthy snack instead of salty greasy potato chips or sugary fruit snacks. Substitute with apple crisps or raisins! YUM!



Nurse Mommy, A Healthy Life...A Happy Life

Look for more weekly healthy tips.

No School Monday: Columbus Day Holiday

"In fourteen hundred and ninety-two Columbus sailed the ocean blue." Shepherd students have been learning about Christopher Columbus' journey from Spain to the "New World." His "discovery" of America is still deemed important enough for Columbus Day to be declared a federal holiday.

Some parents may be old enough to remember when Columbus Day was celebrated every year on Oct. 12, as it will be this year. Now it is one of a group of "Monday holidays," in which the holiday is celebrated on the Monday closest to the original date of the holiday. The same also applies to the birthday holiday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. (Jan. 15) and Presidents Day, which combines the original birthday holidays for Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and George Washington (Feb. 22).

Some federal holidays were always meant to be celebrated on a Monday, such as Memorial Day (last Monday of May) and Labor Day (first Monday of September). Other holidays, such as Independence Day (July 4) and Veterans Day (Nov. 11) are observed on that date regardless what day of the week it is (although, if on a weekend, a lot of workers in this area get the nearest weekday off as a holiday). Think about THAT this long weekend!

Student's-Eye View



Ehmani Grant is the fourth grade staff writer for the Mustang. She writes a weekly column about Shepherd for the "School Dispatches" section of the Northwest Current, the free weekly newspaper distributed in the neighborhood surrounding Shepherd Elementary and much of Ward 4. The Current is distributed each Wednesday, and we take pride in reprinting Ehmani's column that week in the Mustang. Here's her column for this week:

A Festive Day at Shepherd Elementary

Sept. 26 was the day of this year's annual Shepherd Elementary Fall Festival, the school's largest community event.

At the fall festival, there was a toy car race and you could win food prizes. Also, there was a moon bounce for the smaller children and one for the bigger children. There were two face painters as well.

Picture frame painting and hand-puppet making was also offered.

Sand art was liked by some children, too. Some of the boys enjoyed a game in which players toss a football into a hole. The bungee-jumping ride was a big hit! Some children were able to do back flips on this ride.

"The bungee jump was my favorite," said Shepherd student Ebonie Hilton, a fourth-grader.

At the fall festival, people ate Ledo's Pizza and beef hot dogs. There was also juice and soda. Other food included chips, cupcakes, funnel cake and candy. Some of the cupcakes had butterfly and Spiderman rings on them.

Some children even went home with goldfish that day. A lot of children said they can't wait for next year's festival.

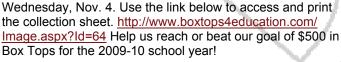
Every game and ride was paid for in tickets but food was paid for in cash.

-By Emahni Grant, fourth-grader

To submit news tips, comment or contact this reporter, send an e-mail to Emahni5@gmail.com.

Batty For Box Tops!!

Please continue to clip Box Tops for our "Batty for Box Tops" collection drive, which runs all the way through



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.

Make SURE you see the small "Box Tops" logo on the product, though, before you put it in your shopping cart. Most items from these brand names have them, but not all. Products imported from Canada, for example, may not carry Box Tops logos.

A Short Guide to Box Tops

Do you want to contribute more box tops to the Box Tops program but don't know which items to look for? Here's a short list of brand names to look for next time you're in the grocery store:

The following **baby and child-care** products may be carrying Box Tops labels. Next time you go shopping, look for them!

- Cottonelle For Kids Bath Tissue
- Cottonelle For Kids Flushable Moist Wipes
- Goodnites Sleep Pants/Sleep Shorts
- Goodnites Underpants
- Huggies Supreme Diapers
- Huggies Baby Wipes
- Huggies Clean Team Products
- Huggies Diapers
- Huggies Littler Swimmers Swim Pants
- Huggies Natural Care Wipes
- Huggies Snug'n Dry Diapers
- Pull-Ups Training Pants

In future weeks, we will publish a series of lists of items in each category that you can find the Box Tops logo you can cut out.

The more you clip, the more you help Shepherd earn!





LITERACY CORNER

Phonemic awareness and phonics:

Phonemic awareness is the understanding or insight that a word is made up of a series of discrete (separate) sounds. Each of these sounds is called a phoneme. Phonics deals with learning sound-spelling relationships and is associated with print.

Primary:

Rhyme- Ask your child if the following word pairs rhyme.

cat/hat	can/man
pig/wig	let/pen
box/lip	sun/run

Word Roundup

Write a series of simple words on a piece of paper. Most of the words should begin with the same sound. Read the words aloud. Then have your child circle the words that begin with the same letter.

Example- sat	sun	sad	top	sick	mon
L'Adimpie sut	Juli	See	ιυρ	SICIL	шор

Intermediate:

Practice these phonological skills.

What are six common ways to spell the "long I" sound?

1	4
2	5
3	6

Which words have the sound /yu/?

unicorn	few	use	Z00	
blue	music	coop	suit	

Practice these skills with other vocabulary words that your child may be assigned.

-Crystal Moorefield and Christina Bush Instructional Specialists (Principal, continued from page 1)

Immunization

Please continue to work to get your student immunized. We are making great progress. If you have questions, please contact nurse Roberts.

Book Character Dress Up Day

Oct. 29 is Book Character Dress Up Day and the kick off of our school-wide reading initiative. More information will be coming soon about both events but please begin now helping your student decide what book character they will portray.

Homework

In our attempt to strengthen our instructional program, we are rethinking the way we approach homework. Teachers are encouraged to provide project-based homework that is engaging, relevant and meaningful.

Busy work such as several pages of math problems, looking up words in a dictionary, writing spelling words 10 times each are examples of the type of homework we are trying to avoid. Instead we want our students to look at problems solved incorrectly, identify the error and explain the mistake.

We want our students to go shopping with their parents and round the price of items, estimate the cost, figure out the percentage off and determine how much change one should get back. We want students to take a walk through the neighborhood and look for three-dimensional shapes. We want students to survey their family members to determine where the family should go on vacation and tally and chart the results. We want students to read the newspaper or watch the news to learn about a current event and the impact it will have on them, their family, school or community. We want students to watch a TV show and analyze the characters. We want students to enjoy homework, build on their learning in the classroom and see how it is connected to the real world.

Please know there is a time and place for math and reading worksheets and they will continue to occasionally come home; however, this should not be the only type of homework you are seeing. Students are expected to read and practice their math facts each night.

Have a great weekend!

-Principal Jamie Miles



Keep your eyes peeled on the Mustang for details on Halloween Family Night, to be held inside the school on Friday, Oct. 30. There's no school that day, but after the sun goes down, the fun-o-meter will go up!

Notes from the Music Room

Mark your calendars for some upcoming music events you won't want to miss.

- ↑ Wednesday, Dec. 9, 6:45 p.m.: The holiday concert will feature the C-Level Strings of the D.C. Youth Orchestra with recorder players and violinists from Shepherd Elementary School. Elise Cuffy of the D.C. Youth Orchestra will be the guest conductor.
- √ Wednesday, Feb. 10 (dress rehearsal) and Thursday, Feb.
 11 (concert): Shepherd students and the D.C. Labor Chorus
 will perform in a new concert presentation titled, "Blues,
 Jazz, Ragtime and Message Songs." Times will be announced at a later date.

-Mr. Ken Giles, music teacher

Day Camp for Art on Columbus Day

Create Arts Center on Thayer Avenue east of Fenton Street in downtown Silver Spring will hold one-day camps for children ages 6-12 on DCPS no-school days, including this Monday, Columbus Day. During each one-day camp, campers participate in two to four activities that may



include: drawing, painting, cartooning, sculpture, music, pottery, sewing, puppetry, outdoor games and more. Beforecamp care and after-camp care are also available.

Date: Monday, Oct. 12 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; ages 6-12; price: \$55 (1 day); before care (8:30-9 a.m.): \$5; aftercare (3-4 p.m.): \$10; aftercare (3-4:30 p.m.): \$15; aftercare (3-5 p.m.): \$20; aftercare (3-6 p.m.): \$25.

For more information and to register, go to www.createartscenter.org or call 301-588-2787.

Once the Homework's Done! Activities for the whole family...

Sundays thru Oct. 25: "Awash With Color," 1-3 p.m. National Gallery of Art. For ages 9-12. Explore paintings by Pablo Picasso through movement and drawing, learn about his "blue" and "rose" periods, and create colorful paintings using watercolor techniques. To register call 202-789-3030.

Wednesdays thru Oct. 28: "Hok-noth-da?" Reading Program, National Museum of the American Indian. 11 a.m. each day. For grades K-4. Enjoy books by or about Native American people, presented by museum staff. To register call 202-633-6644.

Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 10-11: Hobey Ford's "Animalia," Kennedy Center. Shows at 11 a.m., 1:30 and 5 p.m. Oct. 10, and 1:30 and 4 p.m. Oct. 11. Explore the amazing world of animals from a variety of realistic, environmental and mythical

points of view. Tickets \$5. To order, call 202-467-4600.

Friday-Saturday Oct. 10-11: The Haunted Train at Wheaton Regional Park, 2002 Shorefield Road east of Georgia Avenue in Wheaton. It includes the Creepy Carousel, the Hall of Jack-o'-Lanterns and face painting. Best for children age 8 and older; younger children should bring their parents. Rated "S" for Scary. The event is also offered 6-9 p.m. Oct. 15-18 and Oct. 23-30. For more information, go to www.montgomeryparks.org.

Fridays-Saturdays, Oct. 10-11 and 17-18: "The Texture of Night," Freer and Sackler Galleries at 2 p.m. For ages 8-14. Listen to the music of Chopin's "Nocturnes" and enter the world of Whistler's nighttime paintings and etchings of London, Amsterdam and Venice, then illustrate your own night-time scene. For details go to www.asia.si.edu.

GOT SCOOPS? OUR NEWSLETTER IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!

The Mustang is an informative newsletter issued weekly on behalf of the whole school community. If you'd like to contribute to it, all you have to do is submit something by e-mail to the newsletter's e-mail address:

sesmustang@gmail.com

and our editing team will get right to work on it.

Thank You Corner

My name is Kenya Brent and I am the mother of Layla Brent (a pre-K student in Mrs. Holt's class) and I wanted to thank kindergarten teacher Ms. Miller for her attentiveness to Layla, who didn't have her lunch box in the cafeteria because she left it in Spanish class. Ms. Miller took the time to find out why Layla was not eating and then sent her with an older student to go get her lunch box. I truly appreciate her caring spirit, which allowed Layla to eat lunch that day. You're the best Ms. Miller!

-Kenya Brent

Turn In an `Opt-In' for the Mustang Before It's Too Late!

Remember the old joke: What's black and white and "read" all over? The answer used to be the newspaper. Ah, but newspapers use color photos these days, and even the Mustang has been printed on green and yellow paper early on this school year.

But if you want to see what color in the spectrum next week's Mustang will be printed on, you MUST complete and turn in the accompanying "opt-in" form. Next week, barring any difficulties, the "opt-in" system will officially kick in, meaning that the only children who will get a newsletter in their backpacks will be those kids whose parents have turned in their opt-in form.

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

GOT 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!

Deadline Looms! for Next Mustang Issue

The next issue will be available Friday, October 16. **Deadline is 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 13.** To submit an item for the Mustang, send it to

sesmustang@gmail.com

5 p.m. on Tuesdays is our standard deadline for submissions for the following weeks edition.

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.

Support Shepherd PTA's





Shepherd Elementary School

7800 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012 Office Telephone: 202-576-6140 Office Fax: 202-576-7578

Mrs. Jamie Miles, Principal – <u>jamie.miles@dc.gov</u>
Ms. Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant –R<u>obyna.brooks@dc.gov</u>
Ms. Charisse Brossard, PTA President – <u>cbrossard65@gmail.com</u>

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