



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

October 17, 2009

## Mark Your Calendars!

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,

As my daughter's class studies the concept of telling time, I can't help but feel that the school year, or better still, time, seems to be flying by. Our children have been in school for 38 days, or based on the 180 Fund, \$38 worth of time. Now is also the time for our October PTA MEETING. Mark your calendars: Next Wednesday, Oct. 21, 6:45 p.m., School Auditorium.

School starts on time ... and so do PTA meetings! Time is money, and we value your time. Child care and food is provided. Pizza and drinks for kids and parents (kids pay, but free for the grown-ups!)

Here is a list of the agenda items to be covered:

Demonstration of Discovery Software

Teacherweb Update

Financial Report

Minutes of September PTA meeting

180 Fund Report

Reader Digest Fundraiser Update

Fall Fest Report

Box Tops Update

November Academic Activity.

...PLUS a special performance from Mr. Byers' kindergarten class!

... and a 50-50 Raffle!

Don't let time pass you by! See you on Oct. 21!

Charisse Brassard



## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

### Early Readers (By Invitation Only)

We are extremely excited to have our Early Readers back with us for another school year. Early Readers are community volunteers who devote one to three hours of their time a week reading with our young readers. Participation in the Early Readers program is by invitation only. Therefore, if you did not receive an invitation for your students to participate, we ask that you not bring or send your students to the program. We would love to accommodate everyone; however, in order to have an effective program, the student-to-volunteer ratio is kept at a minimum. Additional invitations will be sent as space becomes available. If you have questions or if you would like your student placed on the waiting list, please contact Ms. Christina Bush at [Christina.bush@dc.gov](mailto:Christina.bush@dc.gov).

Regards,

Jamie Miles

Jamie Miles  
Principal, Shepherd Elementary

### Neighborhood Library Doings

The Black Voices Book Club at the Shepherd Park Library will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19, to discuss Chris Abani's novel "Graceland." A few copies are available to check out, meaning there's still plenty of time to read it, so come to the library, 7420 Georgia Avenue. It's free!

A monthly Afternoon Book club meets at 1 p.m. The next gathering will be Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Also, there is a weekly seminar and discussion series on all aspects of the African-American experience, "African American Lives & History," at noon Tuesdays. Each week focuses on a particular person, event or theme and will incorporate audiovisual materials.

For a limited time, the Shepherd Park Library has Amharic-language books available for checkout. If you know any Amharic speakers, please let them know. This is an experiment, and if they don't get used, they'll be sent back downtown to the central library.

The library is also taking names and contact information for free English as a Second Language classes to start later this month. The classes will be divided into as many as three skill levels. Go to the information desk of the library to register for the free ESL classes. The Juanita E. Thornton-Shepherd Park Library has preschool story time for ages 3-5 every Tuesday at 10 a.m., followed by baby/toddler lap time at 11 a.m. for children ages birth through 24 months. Preschool movies for children ages 3-5 are shown at the library at 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

And on Saturdays the D.C. Public Library system's best Scrabble Club meets at 1 p.m. School-age children and adults are welcome to come and play.

When at the library, ask a librarian if you can shop at the Used Book Room sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The quality is great and the prices can't be beat.

To learn more about these or other library events, call 541-6100.

### 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

### Literacy Corner

#### Phonics

Phonics deals with learning sound-spelling relationships and is associated with print.

#### Primary Grades

**Sound Checkers:** Write a word on each square of an old checkerboard. Each word should contain a spelling that you want children to review. The game is played just like checkers, except a player must read the word on each space he/she lands on. If a player cannot read the word, he or she returns to the original space.

**Sound Hunt:** Give your child a letter or spelling that you want to review. Have your child search for objects in your home, neighborhood, etc. whose names contain the sound represented by the letter or spelling.

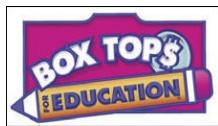
#### Intermediate Grades

Sort the following words by whether they contain a soft or hard "g" sound.

	/g/ (hard g)	/j/ (soft g)
again		
ingenious		
generous		
large		
regular		
guardian		
original		
vegetable		
gigantic		
elegant		
gyroscope		
linguistic		
energy		
gopher		

--Ms. Crystal Moorefield and Ms. Christina Bush Instructional Specialists

## Cracking the Box Tops Code!



There are hundreds of consumer products that bear the Box Tops for Education logo. The next time you go shopping, look for the Box Tops logo on these baking products. Every Box Top you contribute to Shepherd means more money to fund school activities!

Almond Joy Dessert Bar Mix  
 Betty Crocker Complete Desserts  
 Betty Crocker Angel Food Cake Mix  
 Betty Crocker Confetti Angel Food Cake Mix  
 Betty Crocker Cookie Mix  
 Betty Crocker Frosting  
 Betty Crocker Gluten-Free Brownie Mix  
 Betty Crocker Gluten-Free Cake Mix  
 Betty Crocker Gluten-Free Cookie Mix  
 Betty Crocker Pancake Mix Boxes  
 Betty Crocker Pizza Crust  
 Betty Crocker Premium Muffin & Quick Bread Mix  
 Betty Crocker Quick Bread Mix  
 Betty Crocker SunKist Lemon Bars  
 Betty Crocker Supreme Brownie Mix  
 Betty Crocker Warm Delights Desserts  
 Betty Crocker Warm Delights Minis  
 Bisquick Baking Mix Boxes  
 Bisquick Heart Smart Mix  
 Fiber One Complete Pancake Mix  
 Fiber One Muffin Mix  
 Gold Medal 4.25-lb. Zipped Bag  
 Heath Bar Dessert Bar Mix  
 Reese's Dessert Bar Mix

Look in future issues of the Mustang for other product categories to look for when you go shopping.



**PTA Meeting Next Week:  
 Wednesday, Oct. 21, 6:45 p.m.  
 School Auditorium**

Special performance by Mr. Byers' kindergarten class

## Shepherd Staff

### Profile



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Ainhoa Menchen, but I would like to use my first name, so my name is Miss Ainhoa.

Also, I want to let you know that I'm going to work with Mr. Valera to have a very strong Spanish program. So we already have a program for this month:

We are going to work on "The Parts of Our Face" with kindergarten.

With first grade we are going to focus on the "Columbus Day Celebration" to learn more about this historic event.

In second grade we are very interested to learn about "The Things That We Like and the Things that we Don't Like."

For third grade we are introducing "the senses" and the actions that we can do using the senses.

We are going to do a special project with fourth grade about the Aztec civilization. So they are going to learn a few things about the location and culture of these people who were living in South America a long time.

And for fifth grade we are preparing another project about the situation in Honduras to try to learn the special situation that the population of that country is living through right now.

This is just a little note about our planning for this month. If you need any more information about the classes or about me, you can contact me by sending an e-mail to my e-mail address:

[ainhoamenchen@hotmail.com](mailto:ainhoamenchen@hotmail.com).

## Missing Your Mustang?

We have completed the "opt-in" process. Only those families that specifically requested continuing to receive the Mustang are now getting it in their child's backpack. However, we do have about 50 copies of the Mustang on the rack outside the main office available for pickup. Be sure to get yours this week and EVERY week. Remember: It's also available from the school's Web site -- [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org) -- and from the Files section of our PTA listserv.

## There Is No Substitute for a Caring Teacher

Mrs. Kendall took a lot of heat in the fall of 1977.

One in a series of substitute teachers in my fourth grade class at New Franklin Elementary School in Portsmouth, N.H., Mrs. Kendall endured a daily barrage of eye-rolling, paper airplanes and infantile outbursts from me and my classmates for two solid weeks.

Tutored by the antics of "The Sweathogs," from the television classic "Welcome Back Kotter," we thought we were pretty clever back then and certainly no substitute was any match for us.

Boy, were we wrong. About a month later, Mrs. Kendall returned as our permanent teacher. "Welcome back, welcome back, welcome back..."

While we were determined to drive her away, she was just as determined to be our teacher, even more so. She set the tone early, kept us focused and guided us through a challenging year. The week before school let out, she rewarded us for our hard work by taking the class to a play at the University of New Hampshire -- the first stage production most of us had ever seen.

I wouldn't learn until more than a decade later how hard she had it that year. I worked with her son at a state park in coastal New Hampshire. He recognized my name right away. "You were in my mom's class," he said, his voice sounding both defensive and protective. "She talked about you a lot." I figured it wasn't good and he confirmed my suspicions with stories from her perspective in the classroom those first two weeks.

But I wouldn't truly understand until this month how difficult her job actually was. For the past two weeks I have been serving as a substitute teacher in D.C. Public Schools with the goal of entering a master's degree program to become a full-time educator and follow in my parents' footsteps.

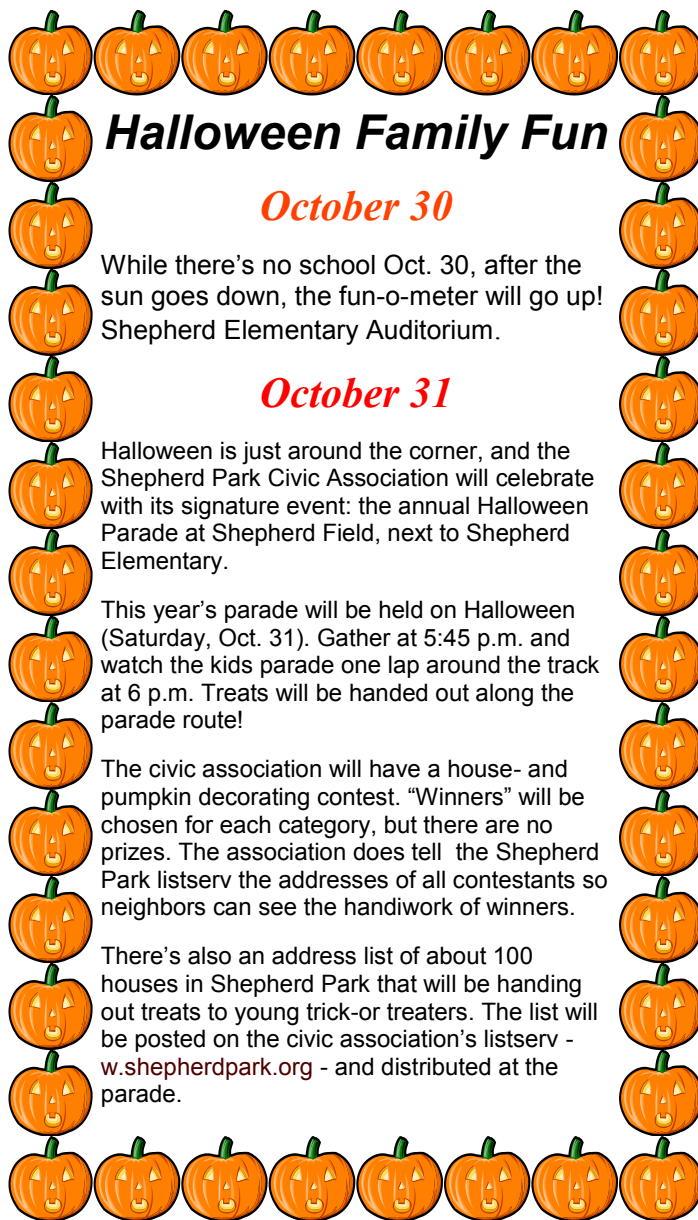
I had my first gig Oct. 2 at Shepherd Elementary School. Third grade. While my experience was nothing like Mrs. Kendall's, it was a challenge; one that made me respect and admire our teachers even more than I had.

But it was also incredibly rewarding and made me realize why Mrs. Kendall came back. Something happens to you -- something so profound it can't be put into words -- when you help a child learn, when you see that child solve a problem independently, when you see that child exhibit leadership and guide a classmate struggling with the same problem. You get a sense that -- as teacher, astronaut and fellow Granite State resident Christa McAuliffe once said -- "I touch the future."

Looking back at Mrs. Kendall's class, I can count two doctors, three teachers, a handful of successful businessmen, and at least one former journalist who hopes to make as much of an impact on the future as she did more than 30 years ago.

I want to thank the third-grade students of Shepherd Elementary School for helping me learn something important about life. I know I saw the leaders of tomorrow in the smart, enthusiastic and bright-eyed children I met in that classroom on Oct. 2.

*--Fred Lewis, father of Shepherd ES kindergartner and DCPS substitute teacher*



### Halloween Family Fun

**October 30**

While there's no school Oct. 30, after the sun goes down, the fun-o-meter will go up! Shepherd Elementary Auditorium.

**October 31**

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 one 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 pumpkin decorating contest. "Winners" will be chosen for each category, but there are no prizes. The association does tell the Shepherd Park listserv the addresses of all contestants so neighbors can see the handiwork of winners.

There's also an address list of about 100 houses in Shepherd Park that will be handing out treats to young trick-or-treaters. The list will be posted on the civic association's listserv - [w.shepherdpark.org](http://w.shepherdpark.org) - and distributed at the parade.

## Once the Homework's Done! Activities for You and Your Family

Saturday, Oct. 17: The "Neighbors to the President Consortium" will hold its first ever Fall "Spirited" Family Day, with visits to museums close to the White House plus candle making, mask making, tours, spooky tales and scavenger hunts. For more details, visit [www.ntpc-dc.org](http://www.ntpc-dc.org).

Saturday, Oct. 17: Washington National Opera's "Family Look-In," 3 p.m., Kennedy Center Opera House. For ages 5-up. A behind-the-scenes look at Verdi's "Falstaff," with demonstrations by members of the Washington National Opera Orchestra. Tickets \$5. To order call 202-295-2400.

Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 17-18: St. Nicholas Cathedral Festival, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Oct. 17 and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct. 18. Enjoy Russian, Georgia, Serbian and American foods, baked goods, folk art, jewelry, children's activities and entertainment at the cathedral, 3500 Massachusetts Ave NW. For info call 202-333-5060.

Sunday, Oct. 18: "Prince Bruncvik & the Lion," with shows at 1 and 2:30 p.m., Ripley Center. Performed by the Czech Republic's Theater Minor performing the tale of Prince Bruncvik's magical quest. Added shows Monday, Oct. 19 at 10:15 and 11:30 a.m. For tickets, call 633-8700.

Thursday, Oct. 22: "African Roots, Latino Soul," 10:15 and 11:30 a.m., Ripley Center. For ages 6-12. Explore the triumphs of today's multicultural kids and what it means to grow up in the heart of the American melting pot. Tickets \$5. To order call 202-633-8700.

Friday-Sunday, October 23-25: The annual "Boo at the Zoo" at the National Zoo, 5:30-8:30 p.m. each day. Animal encounters, decorated animal houses, more than 40 treat stations. Tickets are \$15 for Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ) members, and \$25 for non-members. Tickets available at the zoo's visitor center 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily (no added fees), by accessing [www.fonz.org/boo.htm](http://www.fonz.org/boo.htm), or by calling Ticketmaster at 202-397-7328 (with added fees). All adults and children ages 2 and up must have tickets.

Saturday, Oct. 24: First-ever 5K Run/Walk and Festival as part of Sister Cities International's Race & Festival for World Peace, 9 a.m., Washington. The festival, headquartered at 21st St. and Pennsylvania Ave. NW, features food, music, live performances, face painting, and ballroom dancing. The festival is free, but race registration is \$20 until Oct. 10, \$25 Oct. 11-23, and \$35 on race day. The race takes runners and walkers around the George Washington University campus. For details go to [www.raceforworldpeace.org](http://www.raceforworldpeace.org) or [www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org).

Saturday, Oct. 24: "Artist at Work With Youth," 10 a.m.-noon, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture garden. For ages 10-13. Artist Zoe Charlton leads participants in creative projects inspired by the figurative works in the

exhibition "Strange bodies." To register go to [www.hirshhorn.si.edu](http://www.hirshhorn.si.edu).

Saturday, Oct. 24: "Fright at the White House" family scavenger hunt, 4:30 p.m., Treasury Building. For ages 7-up. Learn the creepy stories of the ghosts who have roamed the halls of the White House and other buildings in the area while answering tricky questions about what you've discovered along the way. Tickets \$5. To order call 877-946-4868.

Sunday, Oct. 25: "Sefer Safari," 10:30 a.m., D.C. Jewish Community Center, 16th and Q Streets NW. For all ages. Explore the world of books and the art of storytelling with crafts and hands-on workshops. Enjoy a reading of "Nachshon, Who Was Afraid to Swim." For details, access [www.washingtondcjcc.org/litfest](http://www.washingtondcjcc.org/litfest)

Thursday, Oct. 29: "The Not So Spooky Halloween Show," 10:15 a.m., Ripley Center. For ages 2-7. Come in costume to help tell the story The Ghosties' Happy Day," followed by the puppet play "Why the Bat Flies at Night," a creation tale from Africa. Repeated 10:15 and 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 30, and noon Saturday, Oct. 31. \$5. For tickets call 202-633-8700.

Saturday, Oct. 31: "Predicting Your Future," 2 p.m., Freer and Sackler Galleries. For ages 8-14 with an adult. Tour the Fainama exhibition to look for clues, find omens and follow warnings, then create an amulet for protection and prosperity. For information go to [www.asia.si.edu](http://www.asia.si.edu).

Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 31-Nov. 1: "Los Dias de los Muertos/Days of the Dead," 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. each day, National Museum of the American Indian, Fourth Street at Constitution Avenue SW. For all ages. See an "ofrenda" (altar) display, and celebrate Los Dias de los Muertos, celebrated by Hispanics in the United States and Mexico and throughout Latin America. For details call 202-633-1000.

### Tarry Not! Get In the SES Family Directory

We have done substantial work in assembling the 2009-10 Shepherd Elementary Family Directory. But you still have the chance to contribute your contact information until we run out of time to take it to the print shop. Our scheduled publication date is Thursday, November 5, and we intend on meeting that deadline. You may be in e-mail contact with the other parents in your child's class, but there's a much wider school community than that!

Without your contact info, all that would appear in the directory is your child's name on a page for his or her teacher's class and classmates. We urge you not to miss out. Go to the school Web site -- [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org) -- hover your mouse over "For Parents," then click on "PTA Forms." It's there that you'll find the School Directory Form, as well as the Photo Permission Slip and the PTA Membership Form, which serves as your entrée to contribute to the 180 Fund.

To make things easier, we'll have copies of the form at the Oct. 21 PTA meeting. You can fill it out and return it and look forward to seeing your name in print!

## Student's-Eye View

At Shepherd Elementary, we have a before- and after-care program called Star Achievers. Most of the activities happen after school. Star Achievers can participate in ballet, martial arts, Spanish lessons, learning to play the guitar, life skills, art projects and tutoring.

Fourth-grade girls talk with Ms. Liggins, the counselor, about "girl things." In Ms. Liggins' class, she has the "respect ball," so that the girls show respect to each other. We can only talk when we are holding the ball. After we finish talking, we can pass it to another person or give it back to Ms. Liggins.

Pre-kindergarten girls take ballet. The ballet teacher is Ms. Johnson. Ms. Johnson is working on basic ballet steps with the girls.

In Spanish, fourth-grade boys and girls read in that language. In guitar class, students have learned seven different notes and how to play them on the guitar.

Mr. Thornton, a parent of a past Shepherd student, is the martial arts teacher.

Although Shepherd has all of these fun activities in after-care, students still have to do their homework. (What's a kid to do?..)

In the next report, learn how some students wrote a letter to get more information about Paul Robeson placed in music textbooks.

To submit news tips, comment or contact this reporter, send an e-mail to:

[Emahni5@gmail.com](mailto:Emahni5@gmail.com).

--Compiled by Emahni Grant, 4th grader

## 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](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com)

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

## 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@yahoo.com](mailto:Shepherd_Elementary_PTA-subscribe@yahoo.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](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org).

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