

## Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

October 29, 2009

#### Mark Your Calendars!

Thursday, Oct. 29: School dismissed at 12:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30: Professional development - no school Saturday, Oct. 31: Safeway E-Scrip registration deadline

Saturday, Oct. 31: Halloween Parade, Shepherd Field, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 31: Last day of Daylight Savings Time - turn clocks BACK one hour

Sunday, Nov. 1: First day of Standard Time

Monday, Nov. 2: Auction Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Ledo's Pizza

Tuesday, Nov. 3: Mini-Walk for the Homeless Wednesday, Nov. 4: "Batty for Box Tops" collection deadline

Friday, Nov. 6: BWL Concert/Party, 3:30 p.m.

#### FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Parents,

We have 145 parents who have committed to participating in the "180 Fund." Thank you to those parents who have made their monthly, semi-annual or lump-sum payments. This week some of you received phone calls from the Executive Committee gently reminding you that we need you to honor your "180 Fund" commitment. Please place all checks in the PTA Mailbox which is checked on a daily basis.

We are now in the process of purchasing 10 new computers for the school, but without the full complement of "180" funds in hand our purchasing power will be limited.

I want to personally thank Monica Goletiani for utilizing her grant-writing skills over the summer. We have been notified that our local ANC has approved a music grant for Shepherd Elementary to purchase new violins for our music program. As you can probably tell, we are trying to tap as many resources as possible to ensure our kids have every advantage possible.

Charisse Brossard

## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

#### **Pastries With the Principal**

Thank you to everyone who attended the second "Pastries With the Principal" event. We had a delightful discussion about aftercare, discipline, lunchroom and many other topics. The feedback received was very helpful and will be used as we continue our journey to become the top school in the District.

#### **Emergency Contact Information**

The emergency call that was scheduled to go out Sunday at 6 p.m. did not go out due to technicalities. However, an emergency test call was made on Monday. If you did not receive the message or if you received the message at an undesired location, please notify the front office or email Mrs. Robyn Brooks at <a href="mailto:robyna.brooks@dc.gov">robyna.brooks@dc.gov</a> and provide her with your preferred number. ConnectEd will be used to keep parents informed about school events as well as contact them in case of an emergency situation. A second test call will be made this Sunday at 6 p.m.

#### Impact Aid

A huge thank you to everyone who returned their Impact Aid forms. If you have not done so, please do so no later than next Monday, Nov. 2. We have several classes who are close to having a 100 percent return rate; however, we current only have 6 classes with a 100 percent return rate. Congratulations to Mrs. Crockett's class for being the first class to return their forms. They will receive a class pizza party. The following classes -- Mrs. Valentine-Nelson, Ms. Chambliss, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Laughinghouse and Ms. Holt -- will receive two uniform free days.

Continued on pg 2

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## Make Like a Tree and Leaf!

As we've been watching trees shed their leaves yet again, we have to clean them up, too! If you live in Ward 4, here are the collection deadlines.

If you live WEST of Georgia Avenue, have your leaves out by this Sunday, Nov. 1, for collection Nov. 2-14. Also, you can pile up leaves no later than Sunday, Nov. 29, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, for collection Nov. 30-Dec. 12. Finally, you can have your leaves ready for pickup by Dec. 27, the Sunday after Christmas, for collection Dec. 28-Jan. 2.

If you live EAST of Georgia Avenue in Ward 4 (that would be north of Spring Road and Rock Creed Church Road), you can have your leaves out by Sunday, Nov. 15, for collection Nov. 16-28. You can also rake your leaves by Sunday, Dec. 13, for collection Dec. 14-26, and by Jan. 3, the Sunday after New Year's Day, for collection Jan. 4-9.

## **On-Time Delivery**

Where would we be without the promises made by the U.S. Postal Service, UPS and FedEx about on-time delivery of important letters and packages?

And aren't our children even more precious? Let's get them to school on time!

And if that weren't enough, Principal Miles said at last week's PTA meeting that prizes would be awarded to students to get to school on time -- all the time. Make on-time delivery to Shepherd Elementary a habit.

## 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. Continued from Principal pg 1

#### Curriculum Night/Middle School Night

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, we will have Curriculum Night and Middle School Night. Representatives from Deal and Hardy will be present to share information about their school and to answer questions parents may have. There will also be additional sessions for parents throughout the evening. Parents are encouraged to attend to learn more about instruction at Shepherd and how you can support your student's learning at home. Included with this edition of the Mustang is a survey with potential Curriculum Night topics. Please complete the survey and return it to school with your student by next Wednesday, Nov. 4. Due to the large number of possible topics, survey results will help us decide the topics for the night.

#### Deal Middle School Open House

Students and parents who will be attending middle school next year are invited to attend an Open House at Deal Middle School on Tuesday, December 15, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Parents must provide transportation to and from the event. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Gail Liggins, our school counselor.

## DC Benchmark Assessment System (DC-BAS)

On Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 3-5, students in third through fifth grades will be administered the second D.C. Benchmark Assessment System (DCBAS). This assessment is important for it helps us measure students' strengths as well as areas for improvement. Please prepare your child by making sure they arrive to school on time well-rested and fed and with an attitude to do their best.

Warmest Regards,

Jamie Miles

Jamie B. Miles Principal, Shepherd Elementary

## Last Call for Batty Box Tops!

Next Wednesday, Nov. 4, is the deadline for our second Box Tops contest of
the year. It's time to glue or tape all those Box Tops
you've collected onto the collection sheets, which you
can find at <a href="http://www.boxtops4education.com/">http://www.boxtops4education.com/</a>
<a href="mage.aspx?ld=64">Image.aspx?ld=64</a> or outside the front office at the
school. Remember: 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.)

Please label your collection sheet(s) and turn them in to your child's teacher next Wednesday, or drop them off in the Box Tops collection box in the front office.

Stay tuned for the results as we work to beat last year's record of \$770.

For more information about the Box Tops for Education Program and eligible products, please visit <a href="http://www.boxtops4education.com">http://www.boxtops4education.com</a>.

Thanks for your efforts!



 --Katherine Trimble, Box Tops coordinator Shepherd Elementary School

#### Book Fair Report: Readers Are Leaders

Ms. June Confer, the business manager, reported at last week's PTA meeting that \$6,136 in books and other merchandise were sold during the Scholastic Book Fair at Shepherd Elementary a month ago. Shepherd ordinarily gets 40 percent of the proceeds back. But this year it gets an extra 5 percent because of its use of "Scholastic Dollars," and another 5 percent because sales topped \$5,000, meaning that the school library fund gets fully half of the money back, or \$3,069. Way to go, everybody!

### Color Me Mine Report

Shepherd families helped raise \$540 during our "fun-raising" event last month at Color Me Mine in downtown Silver Spring. Thanks to the parent and kid creators for making it all possible!

## Fall Fest Winds Up; We're In the Money!

Last month's Fall Fest raised \$6,000 for Shepherd Elementary. This was despite the threat of rain - and the rain that did come through the neighborhood, which prompted the PTA to stop selling ride tickets an hour and a half early. But savvy parents took many of their classroom booths inside, and families went to the Scholastic Book Fair debut day in the library, reaping another bonanza for Shepherd. Thanks to all who volunteered to help, and those who were "drafted" to help. You helped give people a reason to come, and thanks to the people who came, but you helped make Fall Fest the success that it was.

## Violins in Our Schools: It's A Really Good Thing

Thanks to the efforts of Shepherd parent Monica Goletiani, Shepherd Elementary has received a grant from Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A to purchase additional violins for our music classes and lessons. When the instruments arrive, we'll be sure to tell you.

## **Missing Your Mustang?**

We have completed the "opt-in" process, but if you really prefer a paper copy, let us know. Only those families that specifically requested continuing to receive the Mustang are now getting it in their child's backpack. However, we do place about 30 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 -- <a href="www.shepherd-elementary.org">www.shepherd-elementary.org</a> -- and from the Files section of our PTA listsery.

## Halloween Parade Happens

Saturday at Shepherd Field, 6p.m.

This is one of the happiest moments in the life of the community - seeing a hundred or more kids all dressed up in their Halloween costumes, all having fun! And it happens in OUR community, on Halloween night, at Shepherd Field next to the school.

Get to the field at 5:45 p.m. The parade will begin at 6 p.m. sharp. All Halloween kids will walk one lap around the track at Shepherd Field. The first kids will get glow sticks until they run out, and there will be "stations" along the "parade route" where trick-or-treaters can get a head start on collecting Halloween candy.

Bring your cameras and your good cheer. Sunset is at 6:10 p.m. on Halloween (Saturday, October 31), so everyone should be able to take in all the festivities before the serious business of trick-or-treating begins. A list of addresses in the Shepherd Park neighborhood giving out Halloween treats (and maybe tricks) will be handed out at the parade. And there will be campy Halloween music on a boom box to set the mood. See you there!

#### Neighborhood Trick-or-Treat List Is Being Compiled

If you live in the Shepherd Park neighborhood and will be handing out treats on Halloween, get your address on a trick-or-



treat list being compiled by Mark Pattison. You can reach him at either 829-9289 or <u>patti-</u> son mark@hotmail.com. The list will be distributed

son mark@hotmail.com. The list will be distributed at the Halloween Parade, happening on Oct. 31 at Shepherd. After all, if you're buying Halloween candy to hand out, you don't want to be stuck with tons of leftovers, do you?

## Halloween in Our Community

The Juanita E. Thornton-Shepherd Park Branch Library, 7420 Georgia Ave. NW, will host its annual Halloween party for children of all ages on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 4:30 p.m. There will be spooky -- but not too spooky for little ones -- stories, snacks, and a viewing of "The Great Pumpkin." Costumes are welcome but not required.

Please call Anina Ertel, children's librarian, at 541-5917 if you have any questions about this event.

Shepherd Park Christian Church, 7900 Eastern Ave NW, will have a Halloween party on Saturday, Oct. 31, with pizza, hot dogs, games and contests from 6 to 9 p.m. For more details, call 882-3367.

The Fourth District police station, 6001 Georgia Avenue NW, will have its annual Haunted District on Saturday, Oct. 31, also from 6 to 9 p.m. There will be free food, a Haunted Hallway, WPGC live shout-outs, and a great party with out-of-the-ordinary activities for all ages. The Haunted House may not be suitable for all ages, but the party is suitable for ages 0-104. For more information call Officer Chante Brodie at 715-7476. She is accepting contributions to defray the party's cost, Fourth District Citizens Advisory Council, and could use volunteers for the children's activities - or the help of any adult interested in becoming a zombie for the night.

## Halloween Safety Advisory

Anyone driving a car on Halloween should PLEASE take note that there will be groups of children out at night crossing streets. Obey speed limits! Drive with your lights on! Stop and yield to pedestrians!



Also: Halloween is the last day of Daylight Savings Time. We return to Standard Time on Sunday, Nov. 1. Set your clocks BACK an hour before you go to bed on Halloween. The change will result in earlier sunrises - but also earlier sundowns. Most parents picking up their children from Star Achievers will now be doing so in darkness. Again, take caution! Be responsible! Drive slowly and safely! Look both ways before crossing! Children: Get into cars on the curb side whenever possible! Stay safe!

#### **Auction Action Begins Monday**

Save two dates!

The first date is Monday, Nov. 2, at 6:30 p.m. The first meeting of the PTA Auction Committee will take place at Ledo's Pizza on Georgia Avenue. Meet the new Auction Committee co-chairs, Bianca Bostic and Alicia Anderson. Start gaining traction now for a funfilled and fund-filled auction.

The second date is Friday, April 30, 2010. That's the date of the PTA's annual auction. And this time, it'll be so close you can't believe it: the Washington Ethical Society, across 16th Street from Shepherd Elementary. The theme is "Caribbean Carnival," and great things are in store! You might as well book that sitter now, because you know you're coming!

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# Highlights From October PTA Meeting

As parents were snacking on yummy pretzels from Auntie Anne's Pretzels in downtown Silver Spring, parents got the lowdown on Halloween activities at Shepherd Field and in the Shepherd Park neighborhood.

Mr. Byers and students from his kindergarten class, the Excellent Eagles, sang the songs "Halloween, Halloween," "The Pumpkin on the Vine," "W-I-N-G-O," and "The Ghosts Will Always Scare You on Halloween," many to familiar melodies, and recited a Halloween poem to the great enjoyment of all in attendance.

PTA President Charisse Brossard said 140+ families had committed to contributing to the 180 Fund, but not all had yet contributed. An even greater number of households had furnished contact information to be included in the 2009-10 school directory, scheduled for publication next month, according to PTA Communications Committee member Keisha Grant, who is compiling the directory.

With the annual QSP Fall Fundraiser having wound down, co-chair Nayada Cowherd noted that \$7,000 in merchandise had been ordered through packets at the "first benchmark," not counting late returns and online sales.

#### SHOPPING FOR SHEPHERD

Saturday is the deadline for Safeway E-Scrip Signup

This Saturday, Oct. 31, is the deadline for you to help Shepherd get cash from your purchases at Safeway. If you don't do it by then, you won't be able to sign up again until next September. So get to your computer and do it now! Go to



www.escrip.com. Click on "Renew Your Commitment to Safeway Stores Today!", and on the new page, supply your e-mail address, phone number, and the number of your Safeway card.

Shepherd's E-Scrip code is 500018723.

If you've never done this before, then click on "Register Now!" under "Tips" on the home page. Type in the school's Zip Code: 20012. On the next screen, click "Shepherd Elementary PTA." Hit "next" to go to the next step. Type in the requested information. Then type in your Safeway card number. Remember: **E-Scrip code:** 

500018723.

Bianca Bostic and Alicia Anderson, both Shepherd parents, were introduced as co-chairs for the Auction Committee, which has its first meeting Monday, Nov. 2, at 6:30 p.m. at Ledo's Pizza.

Fourth and fifth graders have started a "Pay It Forward" service club. Their first activity will be the Nov. 3 Mini-Walk for the Homeless. This year, Fannie Mae is giving \$15 for every registered walker, up from \$10.

In her principal's report, Mrs. Miles said that Shepherd escaped worse staff cuts in the budget equalization process because enrollment exceeded expectations. She added that the school should be able to hire an International Baccalaureate coordinator soon who will be devoted solely to IB. She also noted that Curriculum Night will be held Wednesday, Nov. 18, in place of a standard PTA meeting; there is an interest survey in which parents can select up to five items that could be presented on Curriculum Night and rank in order of preference. (Surveys are on the rack outside the main office. She hopes to be able to have this interest survey on the school Web site as a link.) She said there was an "80 percent" increase in on-time attendance for classes. Mrs. Miles added that all classes who have 100 percent participation in turning in their Impact Aid Forms from here on out will get two days where they don't have to wear uniforms.

The Local School Restructuring Team is looking to significantly enhance first grade and second grade testing. An examination of schools that do better than Shepherd in test scores do preparatory testing of earlier grades. Teachers should be discussing with parents their children's DC-BAS scores.

## BWL After-School Party, Friday, November 6

We all know Mr. Velez, the teacher's aide in Ms. Holt's pre-K class, as a shy, unassuming, retiring type; why, you'd hardly know he was a fan of the Dallas Cowboys! But when he gets behind a turntable and a microphone, he becomes the smoothest, baddest DJ in the 20012 zip code. Mr. Velez will supply the jams for an after-school party next Friday, Nov. 6, in the auditorium. It will be the social event of the fall, so turn up the volume and turn out in style for the party.

### Curriculum Night Survey

--And Your Voice Counts!

In place of a PTA meeting in November, there will be "Curriculum Night" in its place. Circle the date on your calendar: Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 6:45 p.m. The school has proposed the following topics of interest. Choose up to five of them, ranking them in order of preference (1-5)

Strategies for Beginning Readers Participants will learn ways to support their young readers at Homework Blues Participants will learn strategies and techniques to make homework time more effective and less painful. Math Mania Participants will learn strategies and techniques to support math instruction at home. Building Students' Vocabulary and Why it Is Important Participants will learn why building students' vocabulary is essential and ways they can build students' vocabulary. International Baccalaureate 101 Participants will get an overview of IB and learn about Shepherd's journey toward IB authorization. Digging Into the Data Participants will have the opportunity to look at DC-BAS and DIBELS data to learn about what the scores and colors really mean. What Is My Child Learning? What Is the Teacher

Teaching? Participants will learn what students are expected to know and be able to do before the end of the school year.

Middle School One-on-One

Participants will have the opportunity to meet principals, students and parents from Deal and Hardy middle school to learn about the middle school experience.

Where Are We and Where Are We going? Participants will have an opportunity to look at relevant school data and learn about the goals for the 2009-10 school year.

Your Input Is Needed

Participants will have the opportunity review the school's Language and assessment Policy and provide feedback.

Discovery Education/United Streaming Participants will learn more about this excellent resource your generous contributions paid for.

Other (please specify)

#### It's the Rack for You!

When you drop off your child for the start of school, or when you pick up your child after school or after time in Star Achievers, it would serve you well to thumb through the rack outside the main office.

It is chock full of helpful information that keeps you more closely connected to the school. Here's what was in the rack as of deadline day for this is-

Interest survey for Curriculum Night (Nov. 18) Minutes from the September PTA meeting Information on cell phone recycling School Directory inclusion form Current and back issues of the Mustang Breakfast and lunch menus from DCPS Star Achievers brochures School pictures order forms

DCPS Student Safety Policy for Internet and Technology Acknowledgment Form

D.C. Pubic Library grade-appropriate recommended reading lists

PTA "180 Fund" signup sheets Safeway e-Scrip and Giant "A-Plus" signup information

Even those parents who carpool should take a day and walk their child into the auditorium, then head to the main entrance and grab material from the racks. New information is added weekly to the racks, so keep looking!

## 2009—10 SES Family Directory **Publication Is on Target**

We are still on target to have the 2009-10 school directory published in November. The official cutoff for accepting family contact information to be published in the directory has passed. While WE CANNOT GUARAN-TEE that, if you hand it in now, your contact info would be published, you have nothing to lose and much to gain if you turn it in anyway. Complete the reddish-purple form ASAP and slip it into the PTA box in the main office.

## **Literacy Corner**

## Primary Grades: "Sound Spy"

Goal: To help your child identify the beginning, middle and ending sounds in words.

What You Will Need: Time with your child. Let's Go!

- 1. Invite your child to play "Sound Spy" with you. S/he will be a "spy" who has to find matching sounds at the beginning of words.
- 2. Now, think of two words that begin with the same sounds and one word that begins with a different sound. Example: mat, sit, mop
- 3. Say the words and have the child say them with you.
- 4. Then say, "I hear two words that begin with the same sound. Can you 'Sound spy?" (Your child may need a lot of help at first.) Let's Go On!
- 5. Try the same game, but this time match middle or ending sounds. This is harder, but with practice, your child should be able to "Sound Spy" in no time!

#### **Intermediate Grades**

We can all improve our literacy skills if we spend just 15 minutes a day reading, writing, or surfing the Internet. Family Literacy isn't just for kids, either. Did you know that as we grow older, we lose our literacy skills? Spending time reading and playing word games together will help keep everyone's skills sharp.

Try this activity:

Create a quiz! Write out 10 interesting facts about yourself in question-and-answer format. Write down your answers and test your family to see if anyone really knows you.

--Crystal Moorefield and Christina Bush Instructional Coaches

### **Shepherd Mini-Walk For Homeless**

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, the Shepherd Elementary community will conduct its annual Mini-Walk for the Homeless. Again this year, the school is partnering with Hope and a Home. Permission slips for all students have gone home. For each form returned by Nov. 3 with a parent signature, Fannie Mae will contribute \$15 to Hope and a Home. What a wonderful way to help others! Additionally, all students will receive T-shirts with this year's logo. Others in the Shepherd Park neighborhood can contribute to Hope and a Home directly, making it possible for staff who will be walking with the children to receive a free T-shirt.

On Nov. 3, staff from Hope and a Home will present a short program on homelessness, debunking some of the myths and sharing information. Following the program, each class will walk to its assigned block and collect non-perishable food goods left on steps or porches. These food stuffs will be taken to Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring.

If your block is listed below, please leave foodstuffs on your porch or steps by noon on Nov. 3. The blocks

Jonquil St - 16th to 13th Kalmia Rd - 16th to 13th

Locust Rd - 16th to 13th

Juniper St - 16th to 13th

Morningside Dr - Kalmia to Hemlock

Iris St - 16th to 13th

14th St. - Kalmia to Juniper

13th St - Kalmia to Iris

If your block is not mentioned, you can still drop non-perishable foodstuffs at the school by Nov. 3.

Thanks to everyone for participating. We have a great school and community!

--June Confer, Mini-Walk Coordinator

# Alice Deal Open House Dec 15

Mark your calendar for the first Alice Deal Middle School Open House -- Dec 15, 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Deal Middle School is located at 3815 Fort Dr. NW. For more information about Deal, go to <a href="www.alicedeal.org">www.alicedeal.org</a>.

## Student's-Eye View

A basic day in the life on a fourth grader in Ms. Thurber's class at Shepherd Elementary School goes something like this.

Once arriving at school, students take out the books they will need during the school day and for completing homework. Students get pencils, put coats on the backs of their chairs and place book bags or backpacks in lockers.

Next, the pledge of allegiance is said and students sing "America the Beautiful." Then homework is checked using text books.

Soon it's time to learn about poetry or visit the music teacher. Music class lasts one hour.

Finally, we have recess-a favorite of all.

Tuesdays are special for some children during the lunch hour. Every Tuesday, some of us have 'Lunch Bunch' with our teacher. This is when five or six students eat lunch with Ms. Thurber.

In the afternoon, we take out our D.E.A.R. books (Drop Everything And Read). After 30 minutes, we pull out our reading log books and write about what we just read.

Log writing lasts about 15 minutes then we go into math lessons. Math lasts for an hour before working in Social Studies books as a group.

As school ends for the day, we write our homework assignments in student planners to help us be more organized. Finally it's time to go home where there is even more to do.

Fourth graders live busy lives. To submit news tips, comment or contact this reporter, send an e-mail to: <a href="mailto:Emahni5@gmail.com">Emahni5@gmail.com</a>.

-- 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 email address this time and every time:

## 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@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 <a href="https://www.shepherd-elementary.org">www.shepherd-elementary.org</a>.



# Join 180 Fund

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