

Shepherd Elementary School THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

November 6, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Friday, Nov. 6:** BWL Concert/Party, 3:30 p.m., auditorium
- **Saturday, Nov 7:** DCIAA City-wide Cross Country Track Championship, 11am
- **Wednesday, Nov. 11:** Veterans Day - no school
- **Thursday, Nov. 12:** School Photo Retake Day
- **Wednesday, Nov. 18:** Curriculum Night, 6:45 p.m.
- **Thursday, Nov. 26:** Thanksgiving - no school
- **Friday, Nov. 27:** Day after Thanksgiving - no school

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Parents,

If you weren't at the Shepherd Park Halloween Parade you missed a great time! Rain didn't damper the spirits of the hundreds of children and parents who participated in the annual tradition. I would like to thank all of the Shepherd Elementary families who were on the Halloween Trick or Treat List. It really was a true School & Community Halloween!

In other news: As you know Box Tops were due this week on November 4th. Lastly, please be aware that there will NOT be a PTA meeting on November 18th, as we will be having a Curriculum Night.



Happy November!

Charisse Brassard

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

This week began the first week of the second advisory. It is hard to believe how quickly this year is moving. I ask that you take a moment to sit with your student and reflect on his or her learning experiences at Shepherd. Ask them what is working well for them and what they would like to see done differently. Encourage your child to set goals for the advisory and check in with your student periodically to see how he or she is progressing toward their goals. Thank you for a great first advisory, and I look forward to several more.

Remembering Veterans

Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Both holidays were established to recognize and honor the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. Memorial Day, which is observed on the last Monday in May, is set aside as a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

While those who died are also remembered on Veterans Day, which is observed on November 11, Veterans Day is intended to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served, not only those who died, have sacrificed and done their duty.

Next week we will be celebrating Veterans Day. Many Shepherd families have veterans or currently active members of the military. The sacrifice you give for the safety of our country is appreciated. We salute you all!

Traffic Woes

The morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times can sometimes be chaotic. In order to keep all children safe, we ask that you please remember the following:

- Parents may drop off students from 8:20 to 8:40 AM. Parent pick-up starts at 3:10 PM.
- If you are dropping off or picking up via the carpool line, cars should line up along the 14th street sidewalk closet to the school.

Principal, Con't on page 2

Principal, Con't From page 1

- Please do NOT drop off your child in the middle of the street for this can be quite dangerous.
- Please have your child ready to leave the car when you approach the sidewalk. If each child has his or her own backpack and lunchbox ready, drop off can be more efficient.
- Please stay in your car! Individuals on duty are ready and able to assist as needed. .
- Be sure your child exits or enters the car from the passenger side so he/she only walks on the sidewalk, not in the road.
- Please do not talk on your cell phones while moving during transition times. We need your undivided attention to your driving to keep everyone safe!
- If you choose to come into the school, be sure to turn off your engine and park anywhere besides the carpool line.

Be patient! Our staff members do their best to keep the system efficient. They are outside in all sorts of weather and keep smiling.

Afternoon Dismissal

We do not dismiss from the office between 3:00 pm and 3:30 pm. If you have an appointment, we ask that you arrive at school before 3:00 pm. Students who are not picked up by 3:00 pm will be dismissed at 3:10 or 3:15 and will be in one of three places: carpool line, gymnasium or the cafeteria. If your student normally goes to aftercare, they will be in the cafeteria. If you need to pick your student up from after care between 3:00 and 3:30, please sign-in, retrieve a visitor's badge and report to the cafeteria to pick up your student.

Report Cards

Friday, November 13, 2009 is report card day! Report cards will be sent home with all students on this day. The first District-wide parent teacher conference day is scheduled for December 7, 2009. However, if you would like to meet with your student's teacher before this date, please contact them to schedule a conference.

Language Grades

Language teachers will not be giving individual grades for the first advisory. However, according to our language teachers our students are advancing and are doing extremely well. If you would like to discuss your child's language progress, please contact his/her language teacher.

H1N1

The school has taken several precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the flu in our school. We ask that parents help us prevent the spread of flu by doing the following:

- * Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.

* Teach your children to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues or with their elbows when a tissue is unavailable.

* Teach your children not to share personal items like drinks, food or unwashed utensils.

* Know the signs and symptoms of the flu. Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit/37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.

* Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.

* Do not send children to school if they are sick. Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home.

Get your student vaccinated at one of the H1N1 vaccination clinics. Clinics are held at District schools throughout the month of November. The schedule is on page 7.

If you would like current information about flu in the District, please visit doh.dc.gov or call 311. Thank you for working with us to protect our children.

Curriculum Night/Middle School Night

Curriculum Night/Middle School Night will be held on November 18, 2009 from 6:00-8:00. Representatives from Deal and Hardy will also be onsite to discuss their instructional programs. If you are planning to attend and you have not completed the interest survey, please do so immediately. We want to plan a night based on your needs.

Language Policy

This summer a group of teachers worked to develop a draft version of Shepherd's Language Policy. At the start of the school year, the policy was presented to the staff and they were able to make suggestions for improvements and change. Now, it is your turn. Included in this week's edition of the Mustang is a copy of Shepherd Elementary Language Policy. I ask that you review the policy and submit your feedback to me via email at shepherdprimaryschool@gmail.com by November 13, 2009.

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Shopping for Shepherd

Part one in a Series

Shepherd Elementary has a uniform code.

For boys:

- Shirt – white, collared, buttoned down Oxford or white collared polo, long or short sleeve
- Pants - navy
- Belts - navy, black, blue or brown dress belt
- Socks - navy, blue or brown
- Shoes - closed, black rubber-sole shoes or sneakers
- Sweaters - (optional) navy, V-neck

For girls:

- Blouse – white, collared, long or short sleeve with Peter Pan collar or fold-down collar, or polo
- Jumper (dress) - (for grades pre-K-3) solid navy blue
- Skirt - (for grades 4-6) solid navy blue, pleated with shorts under skirt. May also wear navy skirt
- Slacks - navy
- Socks - navy or white
- Stockings or tights - navy, black or white (no print designs)
- Shoes - black, closed, rubber-sole shoes or sneakers
- Belts - navy, black or brown dress belt
- Sweater - (optional) navy - button down

Where to get new uniforms - and support Shepherd at the same time? Buy uniforms from French Toast's online site, www.frenchtoast.com When you make your purchase, enter Shepherd's school code: QS4SJF.

Mayor Fenty to Speak Tuesday At Shepherd Elementary School

The Shepherd Park Citizens Association is sponsoring a meeting with Mayor Adrian Fenty on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. in the Shepherd Elementary auditorium. The association wants to pack the auditorium, so make plans to attend. There will be some opportunity for the audience to ask questions from the floor, but the SPCA gave a list of questions submitted in advance to the mayor's team to gauge community concerns. For more details on the mayor's appearance, send an e-mail to spcaboard@gmail.com.

Tell the World What We Know: Shepherd's a 'Great School'!

What could a school do with \$20,000? How about \$5,000? Or even just \$500?

Vote for Shepherd Elementary and help it win! Go to www.care2.com/go/z/e/AFqxp/zJus/3H97 to make it happen.



Teachers and school officials are amazingly creative when it comes to stretching every dollar in their too-small budgets. So while only one school will win the grand prize of \$20,000 in the America's Favorite Schools contest, a randomly selected school will win \$500 every week. That's a meaningful prize for any school. And they're giving \$11,000 to the four runners-up.

The America's Favorite School contest, co-sponsored by Care2.com and greatschools.net, is a simple and fun way for communities to rally around their schools. If you're a parent, this is your chance to brag about your school and help your school win money! If you're a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or community member, here's a really easy way to pitch in to support a school. Tell them why you love Shepherd, and help us win!

You'll be offered a chance to let everyone you know vote too! Go to www.AmericasFavoriteSchool.com and vote for Shepherd today. Once you get to the site, click "browse schools." Enter Shepherd's ZIP code: 20012 (jillions of schools will be listed alphabetically). Go to the letter "S," click on "Shepherd Elementary School," and post your comments on why you think Shepherd is so terrific. Meanwhile, here are some comments posted by Shepherd boosters on the Web site.

~"Shepherd Elementary is one of the most outstanding elementary schools in the Washington, D.C., area. I have a daughter that attends the school and she simply loves it. The school offers so much for the kids to learn and interact with one another. My daughter simply loves her fourth-grade teacher. She comments all the time how fast the school day goes by, because her instructor makes learning so fun and interesting.

"Not to mention the dedication and involvement that the parents have in the school. I am so pleased with the progress and the education that my daughter is receiving at Shepherd. KUDOS to this school and all the people that make it possible for our children to learn in a wonderful environment."

~"Shepherd Elementary in Washington, D.C., has the most caring, great, and attentive teachers. They make sure the students understand all of their assignments, and praise the students for good results and doing their best. They have such an awesome follow-up system to assure the children's comprehension. The faculty at Shepherd provides a safe environment for the children. They are definitely Number One in my book."

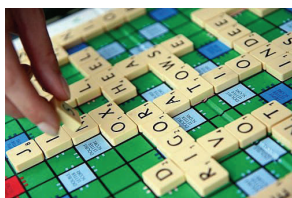
Literacy Corner



Vocabulary refers to the storehouse of word meanings that we draw on to comprehend what is said to us, express our thoughts, or interpret what we read.

How Do Children Learn the Words They Know?

- Use of varied vocabulary during meal times.
- Intellectually challenging conversation.
- Rich curriculum in school.
- Dialogic reading in school.
- Home book reading time.



How Many Words Do Children Know?

Children need to learn 2,000 to 3,000 new words each year from third grade onward, about 6-8 per day.

In first and second grade, children need to learn more than 800 words per year, about 2 per day.

Children who are behind by first grade have a hard time making up the gap.

At home, ask your child:

- What new word have you learned today?
- What is the definition of the word?
- Draw a picture of the word.
- What is a synonym (same meaning) for the word?

**Instructional Specialist,
Crystal Moorefield and Christina Bush**

TAP a Tip-Top Teacher

Every day at Shepherd Elementary School teachers and staff go about the job of teaching and molding our children into smart, confident, socially conscious human beings. Every now and then, we parents get to witness this magic taking place. To remind us that learning and growing are happening all the time around us, the Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT) has created a vehicle for parents to share these wonderful experiences with the rest of us.

The Teacher Appreciation Program, or TAP, is an opportunity for a parent or a small group of parents to write a letter of appreciation recognizing a teacher or staff member who has been especially helpful in shining a loving light on your child. TAP gives parents an opportunity to recognize a teacher at Shepherd for his/her great work and dedication. Once a month, these personal and moving letters are shared with that teacher at the PTA meeting and reprinted in the Mustang.

All you have to do is write a letter to acknowledge a teacher or staff member who you think has demonstrated exemplary work. If you have noticed something particularly wonderful that a teacher or staff member has done, or if he/she has a way with the class that you admire, tell your story to the rest of the school. Don't forget teacher assistants and "special" teachers; they can be acknowledged, too.

To recognize a teacher, please send an e-mail to LSRT Co-Chair, Rhonda Davis Smith at championco@aol.com. All letters will be given to the PTA president and each teacher honored at the next PTA meeting.

TAP a teacher (or other wonderful staff member) today!

2009-10 School 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. WE CANNOT GUARANTEE that your contact info would be published if you hand it in now, but 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.

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!



Lost and Found



The lost and found tables in the auditorium vestibule are piling up with misplaced or forgotten jackets, coats, shoes and other clothing.

If there's something missing from your child's closet, have a look-see at the lost and found - and quickly, because unclaimed clothing will be turned over to charity EVERY MONTH.

More Good News About Cell Phone Recycling



If you bring the cell phones and smart-phones you don't use or need anymore to Shepherd, someone will actually pay for them, then recycle them so that their vital components can be reused without harming the environment.

Since GRC Recycling in Miramar, Fla., started its cell phone recycling program in 2002, more than \$6 million has been contributed to groups sponsoring used cell phone collection drives.

The Shepherd PTA collects cell phones and smart-phones. (There are more than 100 million cell phones no longer in use throughout the United States.) Once collected, the phones are shipped to CRC for recycling. The PTA pays nothing for shipping. GRC pays from 50 cents to \$30 per phone, depending on make and model. Newer models may earn even more than \$30. Damaged and outdated phones will earn at least 50 cents. GRC pays for all phones. GRC then processes the phones through a zero-landfill, environmentally responsible recycling process. GRC also prepares an itemized listing of phone models submitted by the PTA, plus pricing for those phones. To learn more, visit GRC's Web site at www.grcrecycling.com.

Deadline Looms! for Next Mustang Issue

The next issue will be available Friday, November 13, 2009. **Deadline is 5 p.m. Tuesday, November 10.** 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.

Find Your Teacher Online

All Shepherd teachers are now on the information superhighway! You can get information on what is going on in your child's classroom all with a click of a mouse.

To access your child's teachers site go to:

www.teacherweb.com

- ▶ Then click "find your teacher" in the top right corner
- ▶ Select the city/state
- ▶ Select the school (ShepherdElementarySchool—of course!)
- ▶ And select your teacher! That's it!

As these are all new sites please bear with your teachers until they are able to upload information o their site.

TeacherWeb.com



"Enhancing communications among teachers, students and parents!"

Thank You Corner

Thanks from former Shepherd parent Kim Brandon for the generous response of Shepherd families who have donated Halloween costumes that don't fit their kids anymore for a drive that gives them to children whose families couldn't afford costumes for trick-or-treating this Halloween.

Thanks **(a BIG Box Tops Thanks!)** to all who submitted collection sheets for the Batty for Box Tops collection drive. I'll have the results in next week's edition of the Mustang, as well as information about the next collection drive. In the meantime, please visit <http://www.bboxtops4education.com> for information on the Box Tops for Education program and eligible products that can earn cash for Shepherd's PTA programs.

In the Thank You Corner, ANYBODY connected with Shepherd Elementary can thank ANYBODY ELSE connected with Shepherd. Just send in your thanks, whatever they are, to sesmustang@gmail.com.



Student's-Eye View

Join the "Pay It Forward" Club

At Shepherd Elementary School, there is a new student group called the Pay It Forward Club.

The Pay It Forward Club's goal is to help the neighborhood near the school be safer by planning activities school members can participate in.

The club's first activity will be a mini walk for the homeless. Each Shepherd class that joins in the mini walk will go through the surrounding neighborhood and pick up food items residents in the neighborhood have left for pick-up. The food items will then be given to the homeless through an advocacy organization.

The mini walk for the homeless took place in the Shepherd Park neighborhood on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Donations were accepted. (Students could not participate in the mini walk without a signed permission slip brought back to their teacher signed by their parents.)

Shepherd Elementary School also teamed up with Hope for a Home, an organization that helps single-parent homeless families find places to live and work so they can be proud of standing on their own.

Club members meet Friday afternoons in the school library. In the first meeting, held recently, club members watched the movie, "Pay It Forward," which is about a boy in the seventh-grade and his "pay it forward" story.

Keep reading this column to learn about other Pay It Forward Club activities planned for the 2009-2010 school year.

-Compiled by Emahni Grant, fourth-grader

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

The Great '09 - '10 Reading Challenge

Shepherd Elementary would like to announce the great 2009/2010 Reading Challenge. The entire school will be challenged to read 5,000 books by the end of the school year. As students finish each grade-level appropriate book, they get to write their name and the title on a cutout book shape, which will then be posted on the walls outside the library. Each time a student finishes four picture books, two short chapter books or one long chapter book, he or she will get to pick from the "treasure chest" of inexpensive small prizes – stickers, pencils, erasers, etc. Once the whole school reaches certain goals, there will be additional incentives, such as:

- 1,000 books – no homework night
- 2,500 books – no uniforms/dress up (or down) day
- 3,750 books – movie/popcorn day

When we reach 5,000 books, Principal Miles will perform some sort of as-yet-undisclosed stunt.

In addition to these incentives, at the end of the program prizes will be awarded as follows:

- Class party for all classes with 100 percent participation
- T-shirts for the class with the highest reading total
- Grand prize – \$25 Barnes and Noble gift card for student with the highest total number of books read

This reading challenge was announced to students and staff at a school-wide assembly held on Oct. 29 - the same day students were asked to dress up as their favorite book characters. This helped to get our program off to a fun start!

Jam On It! Jam On It!

J-, J-J-, J-J-, Jam On It!

The Shepherd Ski Club's "Fall Harvest Jammy Jam" is ready to rock the house - that is, the school auditorium - this Friday, Nov. 6, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. No jam is required for admission. Or jelly. Or preserves. Or even marmalade. But you can get in for \$3.50 (students) and \$4 (adults).

See Mr. Velez in advance to get tickets. Food will be sold at the low, low prices of 10 cents to \$1.25. All proceeds will go to the Ski Club. Mr. Velez and his young skiers promise "a jammy good time."



Sports NEWS

The Shepherd boys and girls Cross-Country track teams, lead by Coach Thornton, both won 2nd place in the DCIAA East/West Championship. The meet was held at Ft. Dupont Park on Saturday October 31st.

Two of Shepherd's boys received medals for 8th and 10th place in the 2.5 mile run. Congratulations to 4th graders, Philamon Powell (8th place/16:56) and Noah Hinnant (10th Place/17:18).

Be sure to congratulate Mr. Thornton and the members of the boys and girls cross country track team!



The DCIAA City-wide Championship will be held on Saturday, November 7th at 11am at Ft. Dupont Park.

GO Shepherd!!!



Swine Flu Clinic Dates

- **Nov. 7: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.:** Cardozo High School, 1200 Clifton St. NW.
- **Nov. 10, 3-10 p.m.:** Coolidge High School, 6315 Fifth St. NW.
- **Nov. 12, 3-9 p.m.:** Cardozo High School, 1200 Clifton St. NW.
- **Nov. 14, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.** Wilson High School, 3950 Chesapeake St. NW, just off Nebraska Ave. NW.
- **Nov. 17, 3-8 p.m.:** Kennedy Recreation Center, 1401 Seventh St. NW.
- **Nov. 19, 3-8 p.m.:** Riggs LaSalle Community Center, 501 Riggs Road NE.
- **Nov. 21, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.:** Chevy Chase Community Center, 5601 Connecticut Ave. NW.
- **Dec. 1, 3-8 p.m.:** Columbia Heights Community Center, 1480 Girard St. NW.
- **Dec. 3, 3-8 p.m.:** Chevy Chase Community Center 5601 Connecticut Ave. NW.

While the District of Columbia's Department of Health will host vaccination clinics for school-aged children, many pediatricians, family physicians, community health clinics and pharmacies have signed up to provide the vaccine as well. Parents and guardians should call their child's doctor to see if they are providing the vaccine. If your doctor is providing the vaccine, you may schedule an appointment to receive it there if it proves more convenient.

The supply of H1N1 vaccine will continue to increase throughout flu season, and there should eventually be enough vaccine for everyone in the District who wants it. The D.C. Department of Health continues to monitor infection rates in schools and across the District as colder weather approaches and will keep D.C. residents informed when new information on H1N1 becomes available. For more information regarding the H1N1 vaccine, how to approach H1N1 with your children, and other flu-related items, visit flu.dc.gov.

One More Chance to Get Swine Flu Shots

Swine Flu Vaccinations Start Saturday in Ward 4

If you want to immunize your child from the H1N1 flu virus, commonly known as swine flu, you have one more chance in Ward 4 to do so, at Coolidge High School, 6315 Fifth St. NW near the intersection of Blair Road NW and Kansas Avenue NW. The date is Tuesday, Nov. 10, 5-8 p.m. These vaccinations are only for children and young people from age 6 months to 24 years.

Vaccinations will be given in the Frank Williams Activities Building, which is the large white/gray building at the north end of the Coolidge complex. Park around Fifth and Tuckerman Streets NW and enter from the Fifth Street side through the breezeway. Based on the experience of one D.C. parent, street parking may be easier than trying to get into the parking lot that you enter from Sheridan - it can be very congested due to school events.

Shopping for Shepherd

Use the bonus card numbers for Shepherd doing the normal things you do, like shopping at Giant and Safeway!

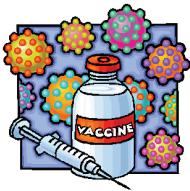
Giant A+ Bonus



www.giantfoods.com

Shepherd Code: 00154

H1N1 Information Center



H1N1 Q and A:

What You Really Need to Know

Q: Is there more than one flu shot this year?

ANSWER: Yes - This year, there will be two flu shots: a seasonal flu vaccine and a vaccine against the H1N1 (swine flu) virus. This seasonal flu shot is already available as an injection and as a nasal spray. The H1N1 flu vaccine has only recently been made available. However, most of the available H1N1 vaccine will be the injectable form. Neither of the H1N1 vaccines contains the preservative thimerosal.

Q: Who should get the H1N1 flu shot?

ANSWER: Pregnant women, people who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months; health care workers; people between 6 months and 24 years of age; and people between 25 and 64 years of age who have a chronic medical condition should get the shot.

Q: Can I get both flu shots on the same day?

ANSWER: The injectable forms of the seasonal and H1N1 flu shots can be given on the same day if they are injected in separate sites (such as one in each shoulder). The nasal sprays cannot be given on the same day.

Q: How else can I protect my family against the flu?

ANSWER: Help limit the spread of infection from one person to another. Wash your hands frequently. When you sneeze or cough, cover your mouth and nose with your arm or shoulder. If you have a fever, stay home until your fever has been gone for at least 24 hours.

-Cara Biddle

(Editor's note: Cara Biddle is a Shepherd parent and physician at the Children's National Medical Center. This is adapted from the October-November issue of the Shepherd Park News.)

Action Steps to Protect Children and Families From Effects of Flu

Here are steps from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to prepare for flu during the 2009-10 school year.

- Plan for child care at home if your child gets sick or school is dismissed.
- Plan to monitor the health of the sick child and any other children in the household by checking for fever and other symptoms of flu.
- Identify if you have children who are at higher risk of serious disease from the flu and talk to your health care provider about a plan to protect them during flu season. Children at high risk of serious disease from the flu include children age 5 and those children with chronic medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes.
- Also identify a separate room in the house for the care of sick family members.
- Update emergency contact lists.
- Collect games, books, DVD and other items to keep your family entertained if schools are dismissed or your child is sick and must stay home.
- Talk to school administrators about their emergency plan.

If flu conditions become more severe, parents should consider the following steps:

- Extend the time sick children stay home for at least seven days, even if they feel better sooner. People who are still sick after even days should continue to stay home until at least 24 hours after symptoms have completely gone away.
- If a household member is sick, keep any school-age brothers or sisters home for five days from the time the household member became sick. Parents should monitor their health and the health of other school-aged children for fever and other symptoms of the flu.

You can get more information by visiting www.flu.gov, or calling the CDC at any time, day or night, at 800-232-4636, or by e-mail at cdcinfo@cdc.gov. In the District you can call the mayor's citywide call center at 311, or visit <http://doh.dc.gov>.

Swimming Classes at Takoma Aquatic Center



A new session of Learn to Swim Classes for children ages 5-11 starts the week of Nov. 9 at the Takoma Aquatic Center, 300 Van Buren St. NW.

The Level 1 class, which started Nov. 2 and ends Nov. 25, helps students to feel comfortable in the water while developing basic swimming and water safety skills. Level 2 lessons build on the skills offered in Level 1 through additional guided practice. You have to be able to show you've mastered Level 1 skills to get into this class, which ends Dec. 2. These classes are free to D.C. residents.

Likewise, you have to have the "exit skills" for Level 2 to get into Level 3, which enhances swimming skills and build on students know already through guided practice. This class ends Dec. 2. The Level 4 class gives additional guided practice and instruction. It, too, ends Dec. 2 and both costs \$30 each.

A parent-and-child learn-to-swim class had its first meeting Nov. 4 and continues through Nov. 27. It builds swimming readiness for children ages 6 mos. to 23 mos. by emphasizing fun in the water.

Parents and their children will learn basic skills: bubble blowing, front kicking, back floating and underwater exploration. This class costs \$30. A second parent-and-child class is tailored for children ages 6-12 months and costs \$30.

There are also three learn-to-swim classes for adults with varying degrees of swimming skills! For details, call the Takoma Aquatic Center at 576-9284.

It's Not Too Late to Opt In

If you want to resume getting a print edition of the Mustang in your child's backpack, write "Mustang Opt-In" at the very top, and include your name plus your youngest child's name, grade and teacher, on a slip of paper and put it in the PTA box in the school office. The parents responsible for printing and distributing the Mustang each week check the box for new opt-in requests.

While we have gotten several positive comments about the Mustang appearing online this fall, our duty is to keep you informed, and if we have to kill a tree to do it, then so be it.

No on Nov. 11

Veterans Day Is Next Wednesday

Shepherd Elementary, like the rest of the D.C. Public Schools, and much of the District and federal government, will be closed next Wednesday, Nov. 11, for the observance of Veterans Day.

What we know now as Veterans Day was originally Armistice Day, to celebrate the signing of the peace treaty that ended the "Great War" (now known as World War I). Germany signed the peace treaty on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year.

Some nations still call it Armistice Day, while others call it Remembrance Day.

First observed in the United States in 1926, a Kansas shopkeeper in 1953 wanted to expand those recognized on the holiday to all who served in the U.S. armed forces at all times. His idea grew quickly in popularity, so much so that President Dwight Eisenhower signed a bill in May 1954 to recognize all veterans as the focus of the holiday. On Nov. 8, 1954, Congress voted to change the name, and it has been recognized as Veterans Day ever since.

Shepherd Music

CDs Still for Sale

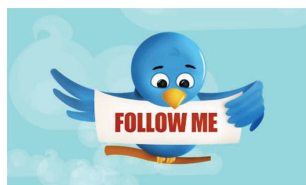
After having fulfilled requests for five CDs last week, we thought we'd remind the rest of the Shepherd Elementary community that we still have copies of the original-cast performance "Songs of Freedom and Justice" for sale through the PTA. The CD contains 25 songs performed by Shepherd students in a show conceived and directed by our very own music teacher, Mr. Ken Giles, as a way of teaching American history -- including some elements that get short shrift in the textbooks -- through song.

"Songs of Freedom and Justice" is an excellent introduction to the work our students have completed under the direction of Mr. Giles, who will unveil his latest revue, "Blues, Jazz, Ragtime and Message Songs," during February at Shepherd.

CDs are \$10 each, and will be delivered to you free via your child's backpack. Enclose \$10 per CD, and list your name, your child's name (plus grade and teacher). Make the check payable to Shepherd Elementary PTA, and you're good to go!



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One SWEET Message! Sign Up to Get SES Tweets

There is new way members of the Shepherd nation can stay in touch and be notified of breaking news or situations. Shepherd Elementary's Communications Committee is proud to announce that we all can stay connected via Twitter. [Finally, right.]

If you have a Twitter account, gain access to the Internet, then go to: twitter.com/SESmessenger [no spaces, please] and click the "followers" button.

Or simply send your e-mail address or Twitter handle/name to: sesmustang@gmail.com or Richard.mcintire@gmail.com and we'll send you an invite. (An effort is already underway to utilize databases to send invites to Shepherdites, but it is not clear who has a Twitter account.)

Shepherd leadership and the Communications Committee will use Twitter to let parents, staff and others know about information crucial to the operations, security and event schedule of the school.

Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing? Tweets can be received and sent via PCs and other mobile devices. Join today to start receiving **SESmessenger** tweets.

If you haven't already, give it a try. Look for updates and tweet ya later!



This might be a request your child would make of you if they knew how to:

♥ "Be patient and seek to understand me... for it is though our interactions that I learn to interact with others."

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



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