



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

November 13, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Wednesday, Nov. 18:** Curriculum Night, 6:00p.m.
- **Thursday, Nov. 19:** LSRT Meeting, 3:55 p.m. ,
- **Thursday, Nov. 26:** Thanksgiving - no school
- **Friday, Nov. 27:** Day after Thanksgiving - no school



FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Parents,

Do you have an idea that you want to implement on behalf of the Shepherd Elementary PTA? A good example is the Cellphone collection for the month of November. This idea was brought by Jennifer Pauk, a new Shepherd parent, and the SES Exec Board provided approval. In two short weeks a collection box was placed in the main office and now we are collecting used cellphones. Please keep them coming!

Do you know of a business that could cater our next PTA meeting in January? We are open to new suggestions.

Sincerely,

Pharisse Brassard

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

Curriculum Night (November 18, 6 p.m.)

Thank you to everyone who submitted the Curriculum Night Survey.

You replied and we responded. The curriculum night topics will be:

- Middle School 101 (representatives from Deal and Hardy will be in attendance).
- Digging Into the Data (participants will have the opportunity to look at DC-CAS and DIBELS reports to learn about what the score and color really mean, some participants will even participate in a mock assessment).
- What is My Child Learning? What is the Teacher Teaching? How Can I Support at Home (participants will learn what students are expected to know and be able to do before the end of the school year).
- Building Students' Vocabulary and Why it is Important (participants how to build students' vocabulary and ways they can build students' vocabulary at home).
- Math Mania (participants will learn strategies and techniques to support math instruction at home).
- Where Are We and Where Are We Going? (participants will have the opportunity to look at relevant school data and learn about the goals for the 2009-10 school year).

As you can see, the agenda is packed and there is something for everyone. Please mark your calendars now! Attendees will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win: a catered lunch at school for your student and four of his/her friends or a \$25 dollar Target gift card.

Middle School Here We Come

Students and parents are invited to attend Middle School Night at Shepherd, which will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 18, the same night at Curriculum Night. Principal Patrick Pope, Principal Melissa Kim and representative from both schools will be available to share information about their school and answer questions you may have. They will facilitate two sessions that will run concurrently. This format will allow parents and students the opportunity to learn about one or both of schools.

See Principal, continued on page 11)



**Featuring the educational
workshops voted on by
YOU, the PARENTS!**

**Extra added attraction:
Middle School Principals!**

**ONE NIGHT ONLY!
Wednesday, November 16
6:00 p.m.
School Auditorium**

(Principal, continued from page 1)

Report Cards

This week I had the pleasure of viewing report cards for every student at Shepherd Elementary and I must say we are definitely on the right track. Students are making great progress and it is due to the combined efforts of you and your child's teacher. As you review your child's report card please remember to do the following:

- Highlight the Positives: Talk with your child about what they are doing well. Each child has strengths and it is important we remember and remind our students of their strengths.
- Set Realistic Goals for Improvement: Goals help us get motivated; it also focuses our attention on things that are most important.
- Contact your student's teacher: If you have questions, please ask the teacher. Together you can create a plan for improvement.

GeoPlunge

This year Shepherd will have a group of fifth-grade students to participate in the 2009 GeoPlunge Challenge Tournament. GeoPlunge is based on the award-winning geography card game GeoPlunge. The game teaches students about the geography of the United States, including the names of the 50 states and their capitals, and is a fun way to motivate students and get them excited about geography. Next week we will announce the GeoPlunge team.

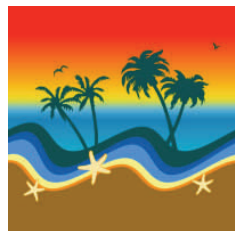
Average Daily Attendance Rate

Last year Shepherd Elementary had a 99% attendance rate. I must say, Chancellor Rhee was impressed and said we could not do much better than that. This year, we are striving to maintain our average while decreasing the number of students absent each week. If your child is absent please expect a phone call from a Shepherd staff member and an automated call from the ConnectEd phone messaging system. Each day we will be recognizing classes with 100% attendance and each month we will recognize the class with the most consecutive number of absence-free days. Each quarter we will have an award's ceremony and students with perfect attendance will be recognized. Please help us in our efforts!

Have a great weekend!

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary



Auction Action Being Bountiful: 'Caribbean Carnival'

The Auction Committee has gotten the wheels in motion for the big PTA auction next April when it met last week at Ledo Pizza under the leadership of Bianca Bostic and Alicia Anderson. Parents have already signed up for most of the important subcommittees to assure that next year's auction will be not only one of the most successful we've ever experienced at Shepherd, but also one of the most fun!

The auction theme is "Caribbean Carnival," and the committee intends to do it up right by our brothers and sisters from those tropical isles in the Atlantic.

Naturally, to make it fun, all you've got to do is come! To make it successful, we want the Auction to be THE destination on Friday, April 30, 2010, for anybody and everybody who thinks they're somebody.

This is the first call of many to be issued in the weeks and months ahead for your ideas on landing top-notch auction items, terrific classroom donations, landing big-name auction sponsorships, and much, much more. Use the Auction Central clearinghouse e-mail address: shepherdauktion@live.com.

The Auction Committee will meet the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Ledo Pizza on Georgia Avenue. The next get-together is Monday, Dec. 7. Put on YOUR thinking caps between now and then to make our auction terrific.

Once The Homework is Done!

Activities for Your Family

"Impossible, IZZpossible," Friday, Nov. 13, 8 p.m., Dance Place, 3225 Eighth St. NE. For all ages. An exercise to take viewers into the mind, the hard work, the vision and faith to move as an artist with individual expression. Sponsored by Illstyle & Peace Productions. Admission charge. For details call 269-1600.

"Good Luck Signs," Friday, Nov. 13, 11 a.m., Locust Grove Nature Center, 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. For ages 3-5. Learning about spiders and moon shapes. Admission charge. To register call 301-765-8660.

American Indian Heritage Month celebration, Saturday, Nov. 14, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., National Postal Museum, Massachusetts Ave. at First St. NE across from Union Station. For all ages. Story time and activities based on "Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing." For details go to postalmuseum.si.edu.

Artful Animals Family Workshop, Saturday, Nov. 14, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., African Art Museum on the Mall. For ages 7-up. Make your own mask inspired by animals in the museum's "Artful Animals" exhibition. For details go to africa.si.edu.

"Artist at Work With Youth," 10 a.m.-noon for ages 6-9, 1-3 p.m. for ages 10-13, Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture garden on the Mall. Artist Zoe Charlton leads participants in creative projects inspired by the figurative works in the exhibition "Strange Bodies." To register, go to hirshhorn.si.edu.

"From Deer to Dance," Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 14-15, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each day, National Museum of the American Indian on the Mall. For all ages. Explore the Native American process of turning the hides or skins of animals into the beautiful dresses or regalia worn during traditional ceremonies and powwows. For info call 633-1000.

"Fiber Fun Family Program," Saturday, Nov. 14, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Smithsonian Museum of American Art on the Mall. For all ages. Explore the stories behind the quilts, and participate in quilt-related activities and crafts. For details go to americanart.si.edu.

Frontier Family Day, Saturday, Nov. 14, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Smithsonian Museum of American Art on the Mall. For all ages. Dress up like Annie Oakley or George Catlin for a "photo op," make corn husk dolls and dream catchers, go on a scavenger hunt and listen to bluegrass music and storytelling. For details go to americanart.si.edu.

"Ships at Sea," Saturday, Nov. 14, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th St. NW. For all ages. Step aboard an old wooden ship and sail across the Atlantic Ocean in the exhibition "Sargent and the Sea," then draw your favorite ship with charcoal and pastel. Admission charge. To register call 639-1700.

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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.

Here are some vocabulary development activities for your child:

Read Aloud: Of course, you've been reading aloud to your child since he or she was born, but try reading books with characters and plots.

Show and Tell: Play show and tell at home; whenever you go somewhere, collect something to bring back. Have a show-and-tell time when the family is together. Give your child the floor to tell about his or her finding.

Talk: Be sure to speak at a higher level and they will assimilate more words and advance quicker. Use a variety of words to describe things; don't just use "good" and "nice."

Label everything: Give your children as much vocabulary as you can.

Strategy: Four Word Squares

Directions:

Fold a sheet of paper in four equal parts.

Write the target vocabulary word in the upper, left-hand corner. Use unfamiliar words from various texts.

In the lower, left-hand corner, define the word.

Next, in the upper, right-hand corner, draw an icon, logo, or sketch a picture to reinforce the word or list examples of the word.

Then, in the lower, right-hand corner, list some synonyms and/or antonyms of the target word.

Word :	Labyrinth	Synonyms: maze
Definition: <i>A maze – like a maze of bushes or plants or like a maze in design.</i>	Antonyms:	What are some examples? /Draw a picture. Sentence: The mansion had a beautifully landscaped labyrinth constructed of tall cy-presses.

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

Halloween Parade Photos Are Now Available Online!

Did your child come to the Shepherd Park Halloween Parade in costume? Well then, hopefully I got a picture!! Please check out the Shepherd Halloween parade photos on my website:

www.VBphoto.shutterfly.com

Halloween photos can be found by using the link to: SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Activities. To order pictures, you'll need the password, "Mustang." (case sensitive).

You can order your photos on a print, note card, mug, mouse pad, magnet, playing cards, puzzle, and more.

Proceeds from all Shepherd photos will be donated directly to the school. Feel free to check out or purchase my other photos as well!

If you have any questions about photos, or the VBphoto website, please contact: Victoria Botvin at vlbhome@yahoo.com.

Find Your Teacher Online

All Shepherd teachers are now on the information super-highway! 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!"

As If You Really Needed It: More Reasons Why Shepherd Elementary Is a 'Great School'

Go to www.AmericasFavoriteSchool.com and vote for Shepherd today: <http://www.care2.com/go/z/e/AFqxp/zJus/3H97>

It could win Shepherd \$500 some week - or \$11,000 - or maybe even \$20,000!

It's a project called America's Favorite Schools contest co-sponsored by Care2.com and greatschools.net.

Once you get to the site, click "browse schools." Enter Shepherd's zip code: 20012 (not that it matters much, for zillions 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.

Here are some more parents' comments on why they like Shepherd so much:

~ "Shepherd Elementary has a staff that truly cares about its students. Furthermore, many of the Shepherd families are from Shepherd Park, which makes for more of a community-feel in the school. I have been a Shepherd parent since 2005 and I have no complaints!"

The students learn a lot and they have fun doing it. My daughter started Pre-K at Shepherd last year and began learning to read and my son has always tested either advanced or proficient in both reading and math since he started DC BAS/DC CAS testing."

~ "It offers dual-language learning in both Spanish and French. It's working toward International Baccalaureate certification. Test scores are way up. Parents are committed. And it's my neighborhood public school!"

~ "I love, love Shepherd. My son is a new student and they are already making strides to help him succeed at his last year of elementary school. He's participating in sports and reading clubs. I look forward to great things that the school has to offer."

~ "I love the care and concern for the children displayed by the teachers, assistants and staff. The fact that they know the children by name and usually recognize the parents/grandparents gives me a sense of security. I feel the children are receiving an excellent education and foundation for the future, just as I did when my oldest daughter, who is now 36 years old, was a student there."

~ "Shepherd is one of the finest schools in the District of Columbia because its teachers truly care about their students and they go far and beyond the limits to see that their students get the best education through special projects, campaigns, tools and innovation."

~ "They are doing all the right things!"

~ "Shepherd Elementary School has a great learning environment."

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!

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

More Activities for Your Family

“Secret Agent 23 Skidoo: Hip Hop for Kids,” Friday, Nov. 20, 10:15 and 11:30 p.m., Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Dr. SE. For ages 2-6. A story-filled party with entertainment and education. Admission charge. For tickets call 633-8700.



♥ Be compassionate yet firm with me even when I'm screaming at the grocery store... for it is through your courage to be firm that I learn to stick to my convictions.

Part Two in a Series

Keep looking in the Mustang in future weeks for more ways you can support Shepherd when you buy necessities!

★ We are also looking for any Shepherd
★ family who is willing to rent a room/
★ basement to a family of three temporarily. If
★ you know of someone, please contact Mr.
★ Huff at 301-699-9266.

LSRT Meeting Next Thursday

Shepherd's Local School Restructuring Team will hold its monthly meeting next Thursday, Nov. 19, at 3:55 p.m. Note the start time, because it will start on time. Parents are always welcome to come to the meetings to observe the proceedings.



Student's Eye-View

Shepherd Elementary School students and the surrounding community celebrated Halloween with a costume parade at 6 p.m. that day.

Children who attend Shepherd and children who live in the neighborhood participated. All the kids and adults wore costumes.

The parade was on the school's track.

Those in costume circled the track one time while people gave out candy along the parade route.

One parent gave out glow sticks to use while trick-or-treating.

Everyone wore great costumes. Several people took pictures.

Mark Pattison, the school's communications committee chairman, and his wife handed out the 2009 Shepherd Park Halloween Trick-or-Treat List. The list had the addresses of houses where it was OK to trick-or-treat on the east and west sides of 16th Street. At the trick-or-treat houses, people gave out candy. Other people left baskets of candy on their doorsteps for the children to take.

Everyone who came to the parade and everyone who went trick-or-treating had a good time.

There is also a new way members of the Shepherd nation can stay in touch.

Shepherd Elementary is now on Twitter!

If you have a Twitter account, gain access to the Internet, then go to: twitter.com/*SESsmessenger *and click the 'followers' button.

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.

--Compiled by Emahni Grant, 4th grader

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



BoxTops Report

Nice job, everyone! We collected over \$90 in Box Tops from the Batty for Box Tops collection drive! A barrage of family colds kept me from doing a more thorough count this past week, but I'll provide a final tally and a complete list of participants -- including two students who contributed approximately 10 sheets each and a Shepherd Class of '09 alum -- in the next Mustang.

In the meantime, I'd be interested in any feedback on how often we should hold the collection drives: every 4-6 weeks or just 3-4 times per year? If you have an opinion on that, or anything else Box Tops-related, let me know at kctrimble@mac.com.

Thanks again for your participation!

--Katherine Trimble

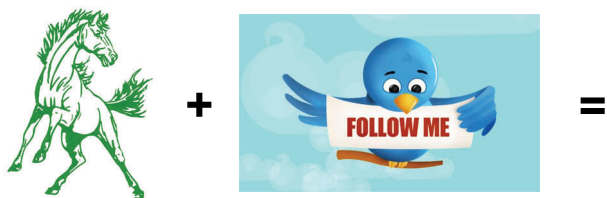
Thank You Corner

A **TWEET Thanks** to Shepherd parent Richard McIntire, who helped establish the Twitter account for Shepherd families to follow to keep up to date when they need to know important new details about school life. To join, just get on the Internet, then go to: twitter.com/*SESsmessenger *and click the 'followers' button.

A super-big **thank you** to Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser, her staff assistant Brandon Todd, and the D.C. Department of Transportation. After a Shepherd parent's request, they worked together to assure that the intersection of 14th and Jonquil got a fresh set of stripes. Take note of the "zebra stripes" -- the long and thick stripes -- adorning each part of the intersection. The work was done late last week, but the stripes should be durable enough to get several generations of Shepherd Elementary students to and from school safely.

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.

If you prefer to stay anonymous, you can. Or, if you want everyone to know you're the one who appreciates someone's good deeds, you can do that, too!



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!

Deadline Looms! for Next Mustang Issue

The deadline for the Nov. 20 issue is TUESDAY, NOV. 17, at 5 p.m. The deadline for the Thanksgiving issue, dated Nov. 25, is MONDAY, NOV. 23. Send all contributions to

sesmustang@gmail.com

You'll be glad you did!

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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