



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

November 20, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!

Nov. 23-Dec. 14: Loose Change Collection
Thursday, Nov. 26: Thanksgiving— no school
Friday, Nov. 27 : Day after Thanksgiving-no school
Monday, Dec. 7: Parent Teacher Conference Day
no school
Monday, Dec. 7: Auction Committee Mtg— Library
Wednesday, Dec. 9: Holiday Concert, 6:45pm

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT..

Dear Parents,

As we move into the Thanksgiving holiday, I am sure that we are all counting our blessings. Here at Shepherd, we have a lot to be thankful for and I would like to take this opportunity to yet again thank the school administrators and teachers for their commitment to our children.

I would also like to thank all of you for supporting the PTA, but especially the officers and those parents that have joined or committed to joining the 180 Fund.

So during this season of thanks, if you can, take a little time to participate in the classroom feasts, watch your child in the Thanksgiving play, or just poke your head into the school office and say thanks!



Charisse Brossard

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

Attendance

Shepherd families, we MUST do better! Last advisory, 60 students out of 324 had perfect attendance and no tardiness.

We are striving to maintain an average daily attendance rate of 99 percent. Therefore, it is imperative for your student to be in school every day unless he or she is ill. Please schedule doctor appointments after school or on days when school is not in session.

Tardiness

Students cannot control their attendance or tardiness. Think about how your child may feel if he or she is late every day and always has to "catch up" and "figure out" what is happening in the classroom. It is unfair to them, and your actions as parents are keeping some of our students from getting their day off to a good start!

Class begins 8:45 a.m. Late arrivers interrupt our instructional program. Next week I will begin sending letters to parents whose students are arriving late to school. Parents will also continue to receive phone calls when their child is absent.

Thank you for your attentiveness and we truly appreciate all you will begin doing or continue doing to help our school maintain our 99 percent average daily attendance rate and decrease our daily tardiness rate.

Warmest Regards,

Jamie Miles

Jamie B. Miles
Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Yes We Can-Can

If you remember in an earlier issue of the Mustang, much thanks was given to Ledo Pizza for donating 138 cleaned cans of tomato sauce to be used for a project involving Mr. Giles' music students.

Well, Ledo has now added to the favor. Just walk into the main entrance of Georgia Avenue's most popular pizza place, and right away you'll see a photo story of the project.

Along with the pictures, you'll see the caption: "Making djembe drums from 130 tomato cans donated by Ledo Pizza on Georgia."

"We learned about New Guinea and played the djembe rhythms."

On the opposite wall at the entrance is posted a super-sized letter from Shepherd Elementary dated Sept. 21. It reads:

Dear Ledo's Manager,

Thank you for the empty tomato sauce cans. We made African drums out of them, with our music teacher, Mr. Giles.

Maybe we will be able to come to your restaurant, have lunch, and meet you.

Hope to see you soon,

"The Students from Room 200"

Affixing their John Hancock to the letter were Dohn Hormon, Erin Washington, Noble Leonard, Preston Evans, Micah White, Shakaliah Smalls, Joel Sherman, Davon Gamble, Stedman McConnell and Aujahna Anderson.

Now that's a display of CAN-do spirit!

Holiday Concert Planned for Dec. 9

Students will play recorders and violins and sing songs for the holiday concert on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 6:45 p.m. Our recorder players and violinists will be joined by the C-Level Strings of the D.C. Youth Orchestra. Elise Cuffy from the D.C. Youth Orchestra will be our guest conductor for the instrumental part of the concert. Seven (7) Shepherd Elementary School students (or alumni) are members of the C-Level Strings at the D.C. Youth Orchestra. All students are invited to sing the multicultural holiday songs to close our concert.

- Mr. Ken Giles, music teacher

They've Earned Their Stripes

More good news regarding this month's re-striping of the crosswalks at the two major intersections of Shepherd Elementary.

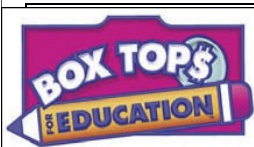
Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser reminds everyone that the intersections of Kalma and 14th Streets have been restriped as well. "I saw it last night (Nov. 10) before the huge (Shepherd Park) citizens association meeting (with Mayor Adrian Fenty). It looks great and will offer much improved crossings. My thanks to Mayor Fenty and D-DOT."

Mayor Fenty added: "Thanks to D-DOT for the hard work and thanks for your feedback and support."

D.C. Department of Transportation Chief Gibe Klein, apparently having been tipped off by a Mustang newsletter editor about all the kudos being bandied about, added, "Thanks Councilmember Bowser, Mr. (Mark) Pattison and, of course, Mayor Fenty for the recognition."

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.



The final tally for the "Batty for Box Tops" collection drive is complete. Congratulations to everyone who participated! Our good work collected 1,120 box tops for another

\$112 toward our goal! While students from every grade participated, the pre-K kids rule the school with the most participants (11), followed by first grade (9) and third grade (7). A special thanks goes to Myra Shalaty (pre-K) and Nixsovani Gladden (first grade), who each handed in 11 sheets. They were followed closely by second-grader Morgan Garnes, who handed in 9 sheets. Thanks also to recent Shepherd graduate, Tyler Jones, who turned in 3 sheets in honor of Ms. Gibbs. Although we already have collected \$283 toward our annual goal of \$500, we can and should strive to beat that goal and bring in as much money as possible for Shepherd. So keep clipping those Box Tops! Our next collection drive, "Hooray for Snow Days!" will end on Wednesday, Jan. 13. You can find the collection sheet at <http://www.bboxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?Id=35>. Also, look for collection sheets outside the school office and more program details in future issues of the Mustang. Thanks again to all our student, teacher and parent participants!

--Katherine Trimble, Box Tops coordinator
Shepherd Elementary School

Picture this holiday gift

This year Lifetouch the "picture people" created magnets and gift tags with your child's picture on them. If interested, please notify Ms. Confer via e-mail at june.confer@dc.gov. The packets are \$20 and are available here at the school

Morning Drop-Off

Early drop-off is only for students who are enrolled in before care. Breakfast for students who are enrolled in the program begins at 8 a.m. If you need to drop your student off before 8 a.m., please enroll him or her in before care.

Make Change With Loose Change

Please mark your calendars for the kick-off of the Loose Change fundraising effort! This is a great project that has the very real benefit of teaching our children the joy of giving and helping others at the same time. Starting the week of Nov. 23 and running through the week of Dec. 14, Shepherd Elementary will be collecting loose change -quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. The proceeds will go to help feed a needy family in this area during Christmas, as well as support needed changes within the school. Any help you can provide will be very much appreciated. We will also send additional information home with the students. So PLEASE dedicate all of those stray quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies to Shepherd Elementary and let's use our LOOSE CHANGE TO MAKE CHANGE.

-Leonie Stephenson

Thank You Corner

Thank you to everyone who submitted feedback on the Language Assessment policy. Your input is valued and very much appreciated.

Jamie Miles
Principal, Shepherd Elementary

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 -- www.shepherd-elementary.org -- and from the Files section of our PTA listserv.

Foreign Language Statement of Philosophy

At Shepherd Elementary, language is the foundation of learning throughout the curriculum.

Through language one is able to form an identity, explore the environment, solve problems and influence the thinking of others.

At Shepherd Elementary, all students experience an enriched language program in which English is the primary language of instruction, and French and Spanish are taught as an additional language using the Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES) model. We consider math, visual arts and music as other valuable languages in which all students are consistently exposed and encouraged to use to understand the world.

At Shepherd, we believe that language is enhanced through reading, writing, listening, speaking and presenting.

We believe students learn best if they are provided with opportunities to:

- reflect on their learning and self assess;
- write across the curriculum;
- utilize the RACE strategy to respond to constructed response questions;
- participate in school-wide book clubs;
- serve as announcers on the morning messages/broadcasts to express their thoughts and ideas.

We believe students learn best when teachers:

- present language through meaningful authentic contexts;
- integrate language and other subject areas;
- assist students in discovering language structures. They encourage students to reflect on language and develop language awareness (including but not limited to purpose, form and audience)
- recognize and respect the different ways in which students express themselves, including mother-tongue development;
- provide students with a physical environment that enriches their language development;
- support the development of positive attitudes

toward improving communication skills and provide a wide range of opportunities to do so;

- use a wide range of teaching strategies to teach language through a balanced language program that includes listening, speaking, reading and writing;
- provide challenges to students allowing them opportunities to reach their full potential;
- acknowledge differences in developmental stages, learning styles and previous language experiences;
- use a wide range of teaching and assessment strategies.

To facilitate language instruction teachers will:

- implement unit plans;
- serve as facilitators;
- serve as Book Club sponsors;
- implement the Literacy Block with authenticity;
- implement their trans-disciplinary units of study;
- engage students in cooperative discussions;
- model effective reading, speaking, writing and listening skills;
- provide students opportunities to make presentations;
- provide students opportunities to research;
- express their feelings and opinions and encourage others to do the same;
- express needs feeling ideas and opinions using the acquisition of learning a foreign language;
- encourage parental involvement;
- publish student work.

Continued on page 6 Mother Tongue

Auction Committee to Meet in Library

The next Auction Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec.7, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. This will be a working meeting, so be prepared to roll up your sleeves and work until our tasks are done! For details, please email Bianca or Alicia at shepherdauktion@live.com.

Art Smarts!

It's Starting to Look A Lot Like the Holidays

The art room has been a festive place in the last few weeks. Look around the school for the products of our efforts: autumn landscapes by the office entry, still lifes on the second-grade hall, and self-portraits in many classrooms and on the art room hall. In addition we are making Thanksgiving turkey placemats for the kindergartners' feast and woven paper ones for Mrs. Thurber's fourth-graders feast.

Many classes have already gotten in the holiday spirit by making "Winter Wonderland" ornaments to decorate a holiday tree in a non-religious display at Dulles International Airport. We are using colorful foam sheeting to make mittens, winter caps, snowmen and other holiday items to brighten up one of the trees decorated by regional school children. We were selected by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority - one of the few District of Columbia schools to be included - and the students are very proud. I will know the exact location of the Shepherd Tree inside the airport after Dec. 2 and list it here and in the Mustang. <https://outlook.dcps.dc.gov/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art.If>

Attention Parents of Third and Fourth Graders!

There has been art homework given each week. Assignments began in the second art class and are due the following week. Homework includes a drawing and a written portion. All assignments are posted on the Homework section of the art room Web site: <http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art/apt2.aspx>. Only assignments completed in sketchbooks will be accepted.

Help our children keep art close to their hearts

-Ms Michaud, Shepherd art teacher

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Report

Did you know that there were 15 Shepherd students who brought their Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF collection boxes back to the office after Halloween?

And did you know that, combined, they collected \$98.63? That's an average of \$6.58 per student! Four students collected more than \$10 each! And every student had something to contribute – from dollar bills to pounds of pennies and other change.

These numbers don't even take into account the Shepherd students whose parents opened the boxes, counted the money with their children, and wrote their own check to UNICEF after Halloween.

Thanks to all who participated, and we hope you will participate again next Halloween!

Reading Program Update

2 weeks in to our reading program, and we're already over 700 books—closing in on 1,000, at which time we'll have earned a school-wide no homework night! Our top readers to date have finished over 20 books apiece—chapter books, that is. Some of our picture book readers have finished 40 or more books. Let's keep up the good work, so we can reach our goal of 5,000 books in 2010.

- Maria Scinto, Librarian

Cont. from page 4 Foreign Language

Mother Tongue Support

The students at Shepherd Elementary School are predominately English-speaking in their homes. Only nine percent of the student population has a mother tongue other than English.

Nonetheless, Shepherd provides support for those students in the following ways:

- English and a Second Language (ESL) Program: A full-time ESL teacher supports students through pull-out small-group instruction and in-class (mainstream) assistance.
- Office of Bi-lingual Education (OBE): Shepherd ES draws on the resources of this district office for a variety of supports for students and parents whose mother tongue is other than English. Their intake department assesses the educational development and level of such students when they first enter the DC Public Schools. They provide print resources in a variety of languages for parents and teachers upon request. Also, they provide oral and written translation services when requested by a school or parents.
- Library Resources: The school library is limited in resources for languages other than French, Spanish and English, although the school is trying to expand its offerings. Teachers refer parents to the local D.C. Public Library Branch, the Thornton Branch in Shepherd Park. This library has resources in a variety of languages.
- Embassy Resources: The uniqueness of Washington, D.C., as a capital city enables schools, students and parents to take advantage of the print and audio resources available in the cultural affairs office at each embassy. Teachers utilize these resources for their students who need that support and let parents know how they can utilize these resources as well.

Learning a Second Language

Shepherd Elementary provides second-language instruction to all students in French or Spanish beginning in pre-k. Students remain on their language track until they graduate. Through language instruction, all students acquire an acceptable degree of proficiency in the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing basic Spanish or French. Cultural awareness and understanding plays a fundamental part in each lesson. As the grade levels progress, the vocabulary becomes increasingly sophisticated, and students are able to produce their own language within a limited scope. All students will have the knowledge of and the ability to use two languages, but not all of them to the same extent. The acquisition of language must be seen as a continuum

along which each student progresses at his/her own speed.

Language instruction is guided by the District of Columbia World Language standards.

Language Development and the Student Profile

In line with the PYP, the language program at Shepherd Elementary School not only helps students gain an instrumental means of communication, it helps them develop the cognitive, emotional and attitudinal skills that promote a well-balanced and holistic education. We strive for students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable them to be:

Inquirers: They use language to acquire information and to make sense of the world around them.

Thinkers: They are able to express their thoughts and ideas clearly and succinctly.

Communicators: They are competent users of oral and written language in a variety of situations. They listen attentively and pay attention to detail. They speak confidently and clearly. They read fluently with good comprehension. They write clearly, concisely, accurately and in a style appropriate for the purpose.

Risk takers: They are willing to attempt to read, write or speak in situations where they may not feel totally confident.

Knowledgeable: They have acquired the vocabulary and understanding to discuss literacy styles.

Principled: They are aware that language is powerful and that it can have a profound effect, thus it must be used responsibly

Caring: They show caring in their use of language and are aware of how the use of language can affect others.

Open-minded: They respect differences and similarities between languages, dialects and personal communication skills.

Well-balanced: They can express themselves orally as well as in writing and find a balance between listening and speaking in communicating with others.

Reflective: They reflect on their language usage and development and consciously work at improving their language proficiency.

We believe that through an exploration of language, students become independent thinkers, responsible world citizens, and excellent communicators in a multilingual world. In practice, all teachers are language teachers. Therefore, Shepherd's teaching and learning is driven by the idea that through language instruction students develop intercultural awareness and new perspectives. At Shepherd, students enter a culture of curiosity where there is an appreciation of the richness of the world's diversity.

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.

Antonym—A word having a meaning opposite to that of another word:

The word wet is an antonym of the word dry.

At home, complete the **Antonym Rap**! If you are unable to complete it by yourself, make sure you ask an adult to assist you! Once your rap is completed, please share with your teacher or another staff member at school. You can also change the words in bold if you would like to use different words to complete your rap. ... Have Fun!

Students-Eye View

Fun Night at First Dance

On Friday Nov. 5, Shepherd Elementary School students attended their first dance of the year.

There was music, of course, but also dancing and snacks. The dance was in the school gym. Students placed their book bags in the hallway or, if their parents' were there, parents held their child's bag.

A mother of one student was at a table near the door of the gym taking tickets of those who had already paid. Or you could give her the money for a ticket. She would put an "X" on your hand to show you paid and were allowed to be in the dance.

Antonym Rap

I say **happy**. You say _____.

I say **good**. You say _____.

I say **come**. You say _____.

I say **high**. You say _____.

I say **dirty**. You say _____.

I say **king**. You say _____.

I say **left**. You say _____.

I say **black**. You say _____.

I say **laugh**. You say _____.

I say **hello**. You say _____.

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Some of the dances included the Cupid Shuffle, the Macarena, and the Cha Cha Slide. There was a "Who Could Do the Best Michael Jackson Impression" contest, too. Students did a "Soul Train" line as well.

At the dance, there were snacks. There were hot dogs, soda, water, chips, mini cakes and candy students could buy.

D'Angelo Gutierrez, a student who attended only had one word to say about the dance, "Awesome!"

Everyone had fun.

~Emahni Grant, 4th grade

Once the Homework's Done!

- "Toyland," Friday, Nov. 20, 10 and 11:30 a.m., Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. For children in pre-K through fourth grade. Mr. Barnaby is up to no good and it's up to Mother Goose, Little Bo Peep and Tom, the Piper's Son to sing their way to a happy ending. Presented by the Puppet Company. For tickets, call 301-634-5380.
- "Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China's first emperor," 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily through March 31 (9 a.m.-9 p.m. Wednesdays), National Geographic Museum, 1201 17th St. NW. For all ages. Stand face-to-face with thousands of life-size clay figures excavated from massive underground pits and used to accompany emperor Qin Shihuangdi into the afterlife. For info, go to nationalgeographic.com.
- "All Wiley - No Coyote," Saturday, Nov. 21, 3 p.m., Smithsonian American Art Museum, Eighth and F Sts. NW. For all ages. The group Improv Now! brings humor and spontaneity to the exhibition "What It All Means." The troupe will perform lively parodies based on William Wiley's art. For details, go to americanart.si.edu.
- "Help the Homeless 5K Walkathon," Saturday, Nov. 21, 7 a.m., the National Mall. For all ages. Help do something good for the more than 12,000 people affected by homelessness in the D.C. area by joining tens of thousands of walkers to raise funds and awareness for Fannie Mae's Help the Homeless campaign. Registration fee. To register, go to helpthehomelessdc.org.
- National Symphony Orchestra Kinderkonzert: "Making Music With Friends," Saturday, Nov. 21, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW. For age 4 and older. Explore the connections between the way we feel and act and the way music is composed and performed. Admission charge. For tickets, call 467-4600.
- "Native Writers for Kids," Saturday, Nov. 21, 2 p.m., National Museum of the American Indian, Fourth Street at Independence Avenue SW. For grades 4-7. Writer Stephanie Duckworth-Elliott reads and signs her new book "Poneasequa: Goddess of the Waters," about a young Wampanoag girl who unexpectedly learns more about her culture and her self. For info, call 633-1000.
- "Operation Secret Slumber," 7 p.m. until 10 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, International Spy Museum, 800 F St. NW. For ages 9-13. Perfect your alias and cover story, check in at Border Patrol and prepare for a night of intrigue and adventure. Admission charge. To register, call 654-0932.
- Capital City Symphony Annual family Concert, Sunday, Nov. 22, 2:30 and 4:30 p.m., Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. NE. For age 3 and older. Maestro Victoria Gau takes listeners on a musical tour of the orchestra, featuring works by Dmitri Shostakovich, Aaron Copland, Benjamin Britten, Leonard Bernstein and others. Early comers will get to go to the "instrument petting zoo." Admission charge. For tickets, call 399-7993.
- "The Little 'Bread' Hen," Tuesday, Nov. 24, 10:15 and 11:30 a.m., Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive SW. (Program repeated 10:15 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25.) For ages 2-7. A fresh adaptation of "The Little Red Hen," Barefoot Puppets imagine what really happened that day when a chicken decided to do some backing. Admission charge. For tickets, call 633-8700.

- Thanksgiving Story Time, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 10 a.m., Salem United Methodist Church, 8 High St., off Georgia Avenue, Brookeville. For ages 3-5. Event includes stories, snacks and playtime celebrating Thanksgiving. For details, call 301-774-7772.

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, simply 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.

Early Deadline Next Week!

Next week's *Mustang* will be distributed Wednesday, Nov. 25 - the day before Thanksgiving - since there will be no school Thanksgiving and the day after. The deadline to submit articles for the *Mustang* will be 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23. Please send your submissions to sesmustang@gmail.com.



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