

Shepherd Elementary School

HIE MUSHANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Special Early Edition November 25, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!

- Thursday, Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Day, no school
- Friday, Nov. 27: Day after Thanksgiving, no school
- Tuesday, Dec. 1: Terrific Kid/B.U.G. Awards, auditorium, 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 1: International Baccalaureate application submitted
- Monday, Dec. 7: Parent-teacher conferences, no school
- Monday, Dec. 7: Auction Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., library
- Wednesday, Dec. 9: Holiday concert, 6:45 p.m. auditorium
- Thursday, Dec. 10: LSRT meeting, 3:55 p.m., library

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Parents.

The Shepherd Directories are here! They should have be in your child's backpack this past Tuesday. I would like to thank for Keisha Grant for her data entry and formatting skills. I would also like to thank Mark Pattison for coordinating the copying and dissemination process!

During the Thanksgiving Holiday look for your old cell phones and bring them to the office. We need more contributions.

Once again, have a Safe Thanksgiving Holiday!

Sincerely,

Charisse Brossard



Greetings!

And the winner is..... **652813** and **652814**! If you attended Curriculum Night please check your tickets. If you are a winner please contact Principal Miles at jamie.miles@dc.gov to claim your prize.

A big thank you is extended to everyone who participated in Curriculum Night 2009-2010 many were in attendance and found the night to be informative.

If you were unable to attend you were certainly missed; however, I am confident you will be in attendance at our next event. Family Night will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2009! Mark your calendars now!

During this season of thanks I would like to thank all of you for your support. The things you do for our students and staff does not go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated.

Enjoy your time with family and friends and take time to reflect on the true value and meaning of Thanksgiving.

Tamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary



Where Are We and Where Are We Going?

A Recap of Curriculum Night

If you're part of the everyday rush to get your child to school on time, pick him or her up after school at the right time and place -- and get your own work done properly, not to mention overseeing your child's homework -- it's all too easy to lose sight of the bigger picture. At last week's Curriculum Night, the principal, Mrs. Jamie Miles, outlined in a concise 30-minute report where Shepherd is currently and where it plans to go in the short term and long term.

Shepherd's overall performance in its DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessment for kindergarten through third grade in 2008-09 was 74 percent, with 70 percent of the assessed students at the benchmark. This year, with testing expanded through fifth grade, the expectation is that 80 percent of the students will be at the benchmark.

And we'll get there with the help of intervention, intervention and more intervention, aligned instruction (pulling together all teachers in a certain grade), collaborative planning, small-group pull-outs, maintaining the early-year progress seen at the start of the school year through the later assessment periods, and beefing up the Early Readers program. Currently, there are more children who want to be part of Early Readers than we have adult volunteers (contact Mrs. Miles if you can be at Shepherd at 8 a.m. at least once a week to lend your talents -- and if you don't know which talents to lend, a one-hour review is all you need to help children make greater progress).

It also helps a lot, Mrs. Miles said, to get students to school on time. Tardiness not only disrupts their day, but the educational day of their classmates. Far too many parents, she added, don't even get their children to school until after 9 a.m.

When it comes to the DC-CAS test. Shepherd was at 74 percent reading proficiency and 64 percent math proficiency in 2009. The school wants to see those numbers bumped up to 78 percent and 76 percent, respectively, in the 2010 round of testing. Further goals are 88 percent in reading, up from 2009's 80 percent, and 86 percent in math, up from 78.82 percent in '09. One aim is to bring up the scores of Shepherd's special education students. If one subgroup does not make AYP, short for Adequate Yearly Progress, then the school itself does not make AYP, Mrs. Miles said.

(Con't on page 3)

WRITING FOR FUN!

Join Capitol Letters Writing Center for their monthly creative writing workshop at the Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Library, 945 Rhode Island Ave, NW, from 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm. CLWC volunteer teachers will conduct a time capsule writing class, encouraging participants to reflect on what they would do if they were in charge of the world and seal their essays in a time capsule. Students will be inspired by Judith Viorst's "If I were in charge of the World" and their own imaginations.

This workshop takes place at Shaw on the tird Saturday of every month and is open to 10 -14 year old kids. For more information and to make reservations, please contact

kira@capitolletters.org.





Where Are We? (con't from pate 2)

Staff at the school are giving up one lunch hour each week and spending that time, plus an extra hour after school, implementing strategies to raise DC-CAS scores. This will include book clubs, "Math Challenge" time and "DEAR" (Drop Everything and Read) time, plus more pull-outs, collaborating planning, aligned instruction, and intervention. Mrs. Miles has also put in a bid for funding for a special Saturday program designed to raise test scores.

Parents need to get involved. This includes volunteering to come in and getting trained so that you can assist with interventions, having your children in school every day on time and ready to learn, and being a mentor to your child and other students. And, should a Saturday School be approved, to get your children registered and attending each week.

Of critical interest is the International Baccalaureate application, due next Tuesday, Dec. 1. There are 15 separate binders showing what Shepherd teachers and staff have been doing to get Shepherd qualified as an International Baccalaureate school. Shepherd expects to hear in the early spring whether the application has been approved. If all goes well, Shepherd will be an accredited IB school in 2010-11.

Because the best way to learn school subjects is to actually be in school, Shepherd is working to cut down on the number of absences and tardies. Three months into the school year, only 60 Shepherd students have perfect attendance -- zero absences and zero tardies. Mrs. Miles said she wants to cut the number of tardies, currently about 40 every day, by 25 percent each month. Last year, Shepherd had an enviable 99 percent attendance rate.

Communication is important as well, noted Mrs. Miles. Not only is there the weekly Mustang, but the new teacherweb.com sites created for each of Shepherd's faculty. All teachers will be expected to use Teacherweb and issue monthly newsletters. Each teacher is accessing their "@dc.gov" e-mail address, and should have access to e-mail in their classrooms. Teachers are expected to reply to parent e-mails within 48 hours except in emergencies.

On the horizon are green initiatives to make Shepherd an even more environmentally friendly school, a science program using the FOSS boxes in most classrooms, and fostering a healthy and safe learning environment; the "healthy" part comes into play in part with a jump-rope for heart healthiness and joining the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

--Mark Pattison

Once The Homework is Done! Activities for Your Family

"Corn Husk Dolls," Wednesday, Nov. 25, 1 p.m., Locust Grove Nature Center, 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. For ages 6-12. With corn husks, yarn, fabric scraps and bits of this and that, participants fashion personable dolls to play with and keep. Admission charge. To register call 301-765-8660.

"Sing Books With Emily," Wednesday, Nov. 25, 11 a.m., Aladdin's Lamp Children's Bookstore, 2499 N. Harrison St., Arlington. For Join singer Emily Leatha Everson as she sings picture books made from your favorite songs. For details call 703-241-8281.

Brian Setzer Orchestra Christmas Rocks! Extravaganza, Friday, Nov. 27, 8 p.m., Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Ln., North Bethesda. For all ages. Can you believe that the lead singer from the Stray Cats band of 27 years ago is leading his own big-band-style orchestra and boogieing out with holiday tunes? Apparently so! Admission charge. For tickets call 301-581-5100.

Festival of Trees, Friday, Nov. 27, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. (also 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 28-29), Cow Palace, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd. at Timonium Rd., Timonium. For all ages. Enjoy more than 500 ornately decorated trees, wreaths and gingerbread houses, live entertainment, holiday shopping, train garden, Santa Land and more. Admission charge. For tickets call 443-923-7300.

Milkshake Concert, Friday, Nov. 27, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., Cow Palace, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd. at Timonium Rd., Timonium. Kid-friendly songs by Maryland's own Milkshake band with an authentic rock 'n' roll spirit. Admission charge. For tickets call 443-923-7300.

Light Up Washingtonian Center, Saturday, Nov. 28, 5-7 p.m., Lakefront Plaza, Washingtonian Center, 231 Rio Blvd., Gaithersburg. For all ages. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive on the Washingtonian Express train. Horse-drawn carriage rides, hot cocoa, face painting, raffles and more. For details go to washingtoniancenter.com.







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.



School Directory At the Printer

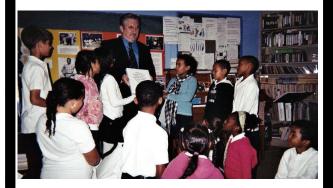
The 2009-10 Shepherd School Directory is at the printer. Inside, you'll have 20 pages of contact information for families listed class by class. On the cover, you'll see a listing of Shepherd Elementary contact info as well as staff.

There is an outside chance that the directory may already have been distributed to families who have contributed to the 180 Fund before you read this edition of the Mustang. If not before Thanksgiving, we expect them to be distributed to classrooms the Monday after Thanksgiving, thereby meeting the PTA's objective of having the directory in people's hands in November!

A limited supply of directories were printed. But if you want a copy and have not seen one in your child's backpack, contact PTA Communications Committee chair Mark Pattison at 829-9289 or pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

A great big round of applause goes to Shepherd parent Keisha Grant, who designed and laid out the directory, laboriously typing in the contact information provided by you, the parents, since the start of the school year.

We Want Robeson! We Want Robeson!



Here is a photo of Shepherd Elementary School students presenting 120 letters urging that Paul Robeson be included in the next D.C. Public Schools music textbook. Students presented these letters to Ben Hall, DCPS director of music. Mr. Hall said that he would make it a condition of the next textbook solicitation that Paul Robeson be included in the music textbook. Shepherd Elementary School students studied Paul Robeson in their general music classes.

--Mr. Ken Giles, Music Teacher

Call Nears End

Cell Phone Recycling Drive Almost Over

Shepherd's November cell phone recycling drive is coming to an end. But never you fear: The box, once full, has been emptied and is ready to accept your used cell phones (but cell phones only, no chargers or accessories). Bring them in Monday. The least we can get for your used cell phone is 50 cents, and depending on how new and/or sophisticated your phone is, it could fetch the PTA 30 bucks! Stop by the office ASAP to donate your used cell phones.

There's an App for That

IB Application to Be Submitted Next Week

For more than a year now, Shepherd Elementary has been pointing toward December 1, 2009, as the submission deadline for recognition as an International Baccalaureate school. That time is now fast approaching -- less than one week away. A series of binders showing Shepherd's ongoing progress in International Baccalaureate matters was on display during last week's Curriculum Night. Mrs. Miles and other Shepherd staff will be working over the long Thanksgiving holiday weekend to put the finishing touches on Shepherd's IB application. We expect to hear the decision early next spring.

Your Child's Photo on a Magnet? It's Happened, And They're Here

Life Touch, the student photography firm, is using Shepherd Elementary as a guinea pig for a new fundraiser. The company has produced a sheet of magnets and one of laminates using the children's fall pictures. These are great for little Christmas gifts to relatives.

The magnets are fun to remind them of their "special" children from the door of their refrigerator or the like. The laminates make super ornaments for holiday trees. One even comes in the shape of a bookmark.

The laminates and magnets made their debut at last week's Curriculum Night. Now you can decide whether you want them for your very own.

Please look at the envelopes your children have brought home. Send money or unwanted sheets back to school by Tuesday, Dec. 1. You can buy the individual sheets @ \$12 each or the package for \$20. Checks can be made out to Life Touch. Thanks for supporting Shepherd Elementary!

--Mrs. June Confer, Business Manager



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 gradelevel 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



Art Smarts

I have just discovered that many parents do not know that I have a Website at teacherweb.com because you can NOT find me under my name.

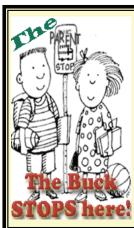
Use http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art/. Then you can see announcements, homework, art wish lists, supplies, etc., by just clicking on the proper button.

Many classes have already gotten into 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, etc., to brighten up one of the trees decorated by regional school children. We were selected by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority – and as such are one of the few District of Columbia schools to be included, making students very proud. I will know the exact location in the airport of the Shepherd Tree after December 2 and list it in the Mustang and on my Web site in the "announcements" section.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF 3RD, 4TH, AND 5TH GRADERS!: There has been art homework given each week. Assignments began in the second art class and are due the following week, except for this week when homework is due the week after Thanksgiving. Every homework includes a drawing and a written portion. All assignments are posted on the Homework section of this Web site. Only assignments completed in sketchbooks will be accepted.

Happy, happy Thanksgiving and help our children keep art close to their hearts.

--Ms. Joele Michaud, Art Teacher



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

♥ Stand by me, and yet let me fight my own battles... for it is here that I develop confidence and build character.

Shopping for Shepherd

Part Three in a Series

When you go shopping at Giant supermarkets, Shepherd Elementary can get a percentage of your purchases. But you have to renew EACH YEAR for Shepherd to qualify. Shepherd's A+ Bonus Bucks Code at Giant is 00154. Do it today!

Join a Walking School Bus!

A walking school bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. If that sounds simple, it is, and that's part of the beauty of the walking school bus. It can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to



school, or as structured as a route with meeting points, a timetable and a regularly rotated schedule of trained volunteers.

If your family is interested in participating in a walking school bus contact Marcie Bane at marcie-bane@comcast.net.

Auction Committee Meets in Library

The next Auction Committee meeting will take place on Monday, Dec. 7, inside the school library at 6:30 p.m. This will be a working meeting, as committee members -- including you -- will take a great leap forward in auction preparations by preparing a mailing to those people, companies and organizations who contributed items to the 2009 auction, asking them to pitch in once more.

Remember the auction date: Friday, April 30, 7 p.m.-midnight, at the Washington Ethical Society on 16th Street at Kalmia Road, just across the street from Shepherd!

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Student's Eye-View

It was a busy week at Shepherd Elementary School with a field trip plus a visit from Mr. Ben Hall, a supervisor at the city's board of education.

If you recall, more than 120 Shepherd students recently wrote letters to Hall, director of music in D.C. Public Schools, urging that Paul Robeson be included in DCPS music textbooks.

Paul Robeson is not mentioned in any editions of "Making Music" by Silver Burdett (Scott Foreman 2002) now used by DCPS -- despite his contributions to entertainment and society.

On Thursday, Nov. 19, Mr. Hall came to the school. He went straight to the music room and met with school music instructor Ken Giles. The authors of 15 letters came to the meeting and read their letters to Mr. Hall. Then they and other students sang "Old Man River," a song Robeson is most known for.

Mr. Hall then gave some great news. Paul Robeson will be added to music textbooks. Mr. Hall was thanked for his assistance and given a book with all 160 letters from Shepherd Elementary School students as a parting gift.

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, fourth-graders in Ms. Thurber's class went on a trip to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt. The students went on the trip by school bus and by the time they arrived, were ready to learn about space.

While there, students went on a scavenger hunt to gather information. Whoever gathered the most correct information won a prize.

They also saw movies in the Space Flight Center's theater. Students watched two short films then it was time for lunch on a big, big field that had real airplanes displayed nearby.

--Compiled by Emahni Grant, 4th grader

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

At the National Zoo

ZooLights begins at the National Zoo on **Friday**, **Dec.** 4 and runs through the **New Year**. Don't miss your chance to meander through the zoo when it is covered with



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thousands of sparkling lights. You can attend special keeper talks and enjoy live entertainment. But that's not all. Every evening, our friends from Pepco educate visitors about simple practices they can adopt in their households to save energy. And last but not least, visitors have the chance to see lots of animals. The Small Mammal House, Great Ape House, Reptile Discovery Center, Think Tank, and Kids' Farm will be open every night. Tickets are \$5 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. For more details go to http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ActivitiesAndEvents/Celebra tions/ZooLights

Thank You Corner

Thank YOU! To all the Shepherd teachers and staff that utilize your time to teach our children. That take the task of education as their most serious commitment. That manage the ups and downs of little peoples' emotions. That help our children to see the best in themselves. That push them to achieve and soar. That encourage independent thought. That support learning experiences that transcend beyond the pages of a book. To all of you that embody the very spirit of a TEACHER!

THANK YOU!

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 Dec 4th issue is TUESDAY, Dec. 1, at 5 p.m. 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 listsery. Join the listsery and click to read.

The Mustang is also available on the Shepherd Elementary School website at www.shepherd-elementary.org.





Shepherd Elementary School



7800 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012 Office Telephone: 202-576-6140 Office Fax: 202-576-7578

Mrs. Jamie Miles, Principal – <u>jamie.miles@dc.gov</u>
Ms. Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant –<u>Robyna.brooks@dc.gov</u>
Ms. Charisse Brossard, PTA President –
cbrossard65@gmail.com

The Mustang Newsletter Editors:

Fred Lewis & Mark Pattison

Layout/Design: Nayada Cowherd & Rose Dawson
Production/Distribution: Angela Anderson & Marcie

Production/Distribution: Angela Anderson & Marcie Bane Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to:

SESmustang@gmail.com

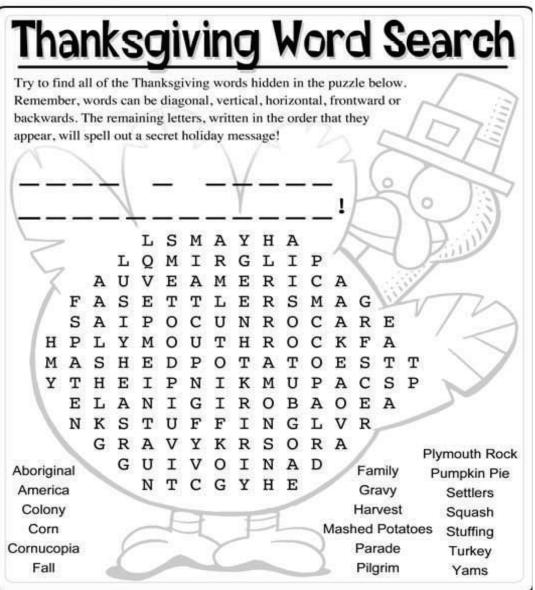
Literacy Corner Week of: 11-23-09

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.

Puzzles are a great way to build vocabulary! So grab pencil and have fun!











Thanksgiving Word Maze

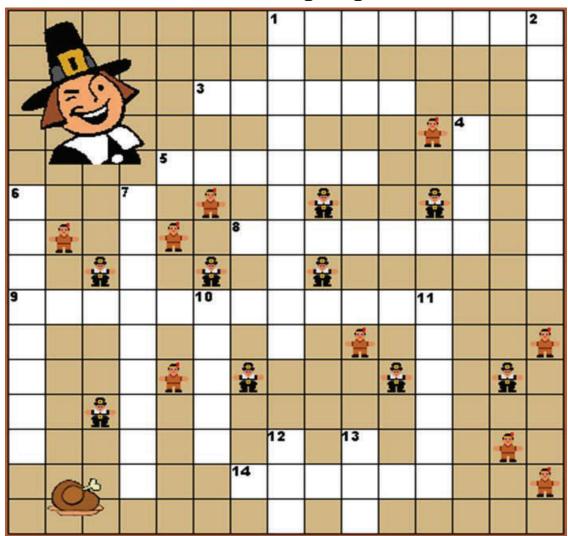
Help the pilgrim find his way to Plymouth Rock to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Try to find a path through the maze that is made up of Thanksgiving words.

Each new word will start with the last letter of the previous word.



American Thanksgiving Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Who were the first settlers that celebrated Thanksgiving?
- 3. These are the people you eat Thanksgiving dinner with.
- 5. What is the most common main dish for Thanksgiving dinner?
- 8. Who did the pilgrims celebrate Thanksgiving with?
- 9. What big holiday is celebrated in November?
- 14. You watch this Thanksgiving morning on TV.

DOWN

- 1. This pie is orange. [HINT: You see a lot of them at Halloween.]
- 2. What can you find inside of a Thanksgiving turkey?
- 4. What is another word for "sweet potatoes?"
- 6. Dad's watch this game on TV after Thanksgiving dinner.
- 7. This food is red in color.
- 10. Who is the famous guy who appears at the end of the Thanksgiving parade?
- 11. What does a turkey say?
- 12. What animal loves to beg for some of your turkey dinner?
- 13. What do you do most of on Thanksgiving day?

Thanksgiving Matching Game

Instructions:

Accurately match the phrases provided on the right to the phrases on the left. You gain one point for each correct match. So try out this matching game and score a perfect ten for yourself!

1621.
1620.
A Harvest Festival.
A live turkey.
El Paso, Texas
The second Monday of October.
Wampanoag.
The fourth Thursday of November.
A horn-shaped container.
George Washington.
100.71.00

©TheHolidaySpot.com

Answers					
1	2	3	4	5	
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	

Total Points: _____