



## Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

December 4, 2009

### Mark Your Calendars!

Dec. 4-14: Loose Change Collection

Monday, Dec. 7: Parent Teacher Conference Day  
no school

Monday, Dec. 7: Auction Committee Mtg– Library

Wednesday, Dec. 9: Holiday Concert, 6:45pm

Thursday, Dec. 10: LSRT Mtg, 3:55pm

### FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Parents:

I wanted to give everyone an update on where we are with our two major initiatives this year: communication and technology.

As you know the PTA Executive Board has made a strong focus on communication and inclusion. One of our major goals was to disseminate the directory in November. We met this goal by disseminating the directories on Nov. 24! If your child did not receive a directory, please send an e-mail to [sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com) with your name and your child's name and teacher. We only have a limited quantity so it will be on a first come, first served basis. If you spot errors or incomplete information, use [sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com) to make corrections.

Our second strong focus is technology and we have purchased 10 custom-built Dell computers for the school. A special thanks to Darryl Mitchell (father of Jordan Mitchell), owner of 1-800-905Geek who got us a terrific deal on the purchase. The desktops were to be delivered on Dec. 2, and I can tell you that they will be put to good use.

Of course none of this would be possible without your 180 fund support!

I hope to see you everyone at the Holiday Concert next Wednesday.

*Charisse Brossard*

### A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

#### International Baccalaureate

On Tuesday, Dec. 1, Shepherd Elementary completed the monumental task of submitting Application B. For many of you this has been a much anticipated, long awaited journey and I am proud to say, we did it! To our teachers, thank you! You have spent countless hours, writing, rewriting and implementing your units. To our non-instructional staff, thank you for providing feedback, providing classroom coverage and modeling the IB learner profile daily. To our students, thank you! You have spent your time in the classrooms asking questions, learning and reflecting on what it means to be a student who is internationally minded and one who "walks" and "talks" the "IB way." To our parents, thank you for your feedback, participation in meetings and conversations with our students. To Ms. Moorefield, our interim IB coordinator, thank you! These last few days have been extremely taxing but your commitment made the difference. Finally, to Ms. Tucker, who is enjoying retirement but keeping up with Shepherd's day to day activities, thank you! We would not have made it to this point without her. Ms. Tucker facilitated team meetings, professional developments sessions and parent meetings. She organized notebooks, submitted paperwork, paid for training and completed a substantial amount of Application B. She did a lot of this during her retirement!

Now, the work is far from over and we still have a long ways to go. However, we can breathe a little easier as we prepare for the next stage.

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## Parent Teacher Conferences

By now, you should have been contacted by your child's teacher to schedule a conference. If you have not, please contact your teacher immediately. Conferences will be held on Monday, Dec. 7.

## We Celebrate Mrs. LaShahn Booth!!!

When you see Mrs. Booth, please tell her congratulations. Recently Mrs. Booth was recognized as the Special Education Coordinator for the month of November by the Special Education department. Mrs. Booth was nominated by Ms. Gwendolyn Brown, Cluster II Special Education Supervisor. The letter of recommendation is below.

*Mrs. Booth is a certified special education teacher who has been working in DCPS for over 25 years. Currently, she is the part-time special education coordinator/special education teacher at Shepherd ES. She is always one of the first to complete all IEPs in her school prior to any deadline established by DCPS. In Quickbase she has 100% IEP timeliness and usage. LaShahn manages over 28 students in EASY/IEP and teaches. Her teachers and related service team are phenomenal. David DeMatthews (OSE) wrote in an e-mail, "Our visit was fantastic. Shepherd has a wonderful coordinator (Ms. Booth), principal and teachers. They are an amazingly passionate team that at times almost brought us to tears with their success stories."*

Great job, Ms. Booth. We are proud of you!

## Open House

If you know anyone who is interested in having their children attend Shepherd, please encourage them to attend one of our two Open House events. The first event will take place Thursday, Dec. 10, from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. A second event will take place Thursday, Jan. 21. School tours are held Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9 and 11 a.m.

*Warmest Regards,*

*Jamie Miles*

Jamie B. Miles  
Principal, Shepherd Elementary



7800 14th Street, NW  
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## D.C. Labor Chorus to Perform Saturday, December 5

The D.C. Labor Chorus (assisted by several Shepherd Elementary School students and alumni) will perform a free concert on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be held in the auditorium of the National Labor College, 10000 New Hampshire Ave. (located just above the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue at the Beltway). The concert is free and open to the public. The D.C. Labor Chorus rehearses every Monday night in the music room at Shepherd Elementary School and will join our students at the Feb. 11 concert of blues, jazz, and message songs.

- Ken Giles, music teacher

## ATTENTION PARENTS OF THIRD, FOURTH, AND FIFTH GRADERS!

There has been art homework given each week. Assignments began in the second art class and are due the following week. Only assignments completed in sketchbooks will be accepted. If students do not have sketchbooks, homework will not be accepted. The proper sketchbook can be purchased at Plaza Arts at Silver Spring and Georgia avenues in Silver Spring. Please help you child do well in art by providing the proper sketchbook.

Hope your Thanksgiving was great! Help your child keep art close to the heart.

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

## Holiday Concert Dec. 9

Come one, come all! Shepherd Elementary's annual Holiday Concert is sure to be a crowd-pleaser, so make sure you're part of the crowd!

Not only will it feature our own students singing, but it will also spotlight members of the school's talented violinist corps and recorder players.

But wait, there's more!

Members of the D.C. Youth Orchestra's C-Level Strings will play, and you'll spot several current and former Shepherd students among them. The woodwinds and strings will all play under the direction of D.C. Youth Orchestra conductor Elise Cuffy.

You'll be able to listen - and sing, too, so you can get into the holiday spirit!

The concert is free, but the PTA will be on hand in the auditorium to sell CDs of the school's spectacular musical from last February, "Songs of Freedom and Justice."

They will also sell "Shepherdwear," sweatshirts, T-shirts and other clothing bearing the Shepherd name and Mustang logo (they are perfect for putting under the tree just a few short weeks from now).

Mr. Ken Giles, music teacher

## *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.

## 'Early Reader' Volunteers Needed

Shepherd Elementary School needs more volunteers to help students in its "Early Readers" program that takes place 8 a.m. weekdays at the school.

Some children have been turned away because there are more students than volunteers to help them. We need more adults willing to step up and assist these children.

If you're uncertain what skills you need for this volunteer duty, don't worry. Mrs. Miles will spend an hour with you to give you what you need to know.

But the caring presence comes first.

Please respond to Mrs. Miles at [jamie.miles@dc.gov](mailto:jamie.miles@dc.gov) if you think you can help.



## Family Directory Available

Don't have your copy of the 2009-10 Shepherd Elementary Family Directory? Do not fear. We still have dozens left. All you need to do is send an e-mail to [ses-mustang@gmail.com](mailto:ses-mustang@gmail.com) to request your copy. Just include your name as well as your child's name and teacher and we'll slip a copy of the directory into the teacher's mail slot for distribution to your student.

If you see any typos or errors in the directory, please use the [sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com) address to point them out, so that they can be corrected.

## Change Is Good!

**What:** The PTA is asking Shepherd students to help with the Loose Change fundraiser. This is a great effort that teaches the joy of giving and helping others at the same time.

**When:** Happening right now and ending the week of Dec. 14.

Proceeds benefit a needy family for Christmas and support needed school updates.

**What you do:** Bring quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies to school and fill up the loose change container in your classroom.

There's a Pizza Party for the class that brings in the most change!

If you have questions, reach PTA Fundraising Committee Co-Chairwoman Leonie Stephenson at [leoniestephenson86@yahoo.com](mailto:leoniestephenson86@yahoo.com).

## Parent Teacher Conferences

All Day Monday; No Classes

Remember that the first parent-teacher conferences of the 2009-10 school year take place this coming Monday, Dec. 7. While school will be open for parents to meet with their children's teachers, there will be no classes taking place on Monday. Please make alternate arrangements for your child's well-being that day.

If you have not signed up for a conference period with your child's teacher, please do so as soon as possible. It's by working together that we can best ensure our students' progress and success.

## Art Smarts!

Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers,

The art room continues to be a festive place. We are this week beginning decorative panels for the holiday music concert on Wednesday, Dec. 9. You will see the fruits of our labors if you attend this “don't miss” event! Soon to come will be weavings from Ms. Thurber's fourth graders, paper sculptures from Mr. King's second graders, “Starry Night” drawings from Ms. Kuawogai's first graders, and snowman drawings from all our kindergartners.

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 have used 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. Our students are very proud. Ms. Thomas' third graders traveled to Dulles on Wednesday, Dec. 2 to decorate our tree.

-Ms Michaud, Shepherd art teacher

## UNICEF Report Additional Update

This the Giving Season

“What if it were Christmas every day?” It's a nice thought, but Shepherd Elementary seems to be getting some pretty good gifts from another holiday: Halloween.

Since our Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF roundup article a couple of weeks ago, three more students have brought their collection boxes to the office. The total from these three students is \$16.37. This brings Shepherd's total to \$115.00.

Thanks once again to Shepherd families for taking part in such a worthwhile fund-raiser.

A new check has been written to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. If there are any other Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF boxes still at your house, bring them in so that they can be included in the school's tally.

## Auction Committee to Meet Monday Evening

Shepherd Elementary Auction Committee will meet next Monday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. The committee aims to build on the successes of the 2009 auction. And next Monday, it's going to prepare letters to be mailed to each and every contributor and donor to the 2009 auction to see if they can donate auction items or make contributions to give Shepherd a head start for next spring's big auction.

Remember to save the date - **Friday, April 30** - and to reserve that baby-sitter now! The auction will be held at the Washington Ethical Society on Sixteenth Street just across from Shepherd Elementary. The proximity cuts the commute so you can spend more time with fellow parents, teachers and staff. The theme of next year's auction gala is “Caribbean Carnival,” with some terrific theme events planned.

## 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.

### *“Find the Right Words”*

*How would you describe your best friend? What is your favorite food? What is your favorite holiday? With these questions in mind, your children go on a search through newspapers and magazines for descriptive words to use in a collage!*

**Materials:** *Paper and pencil, dictionary and thesaurus, construction paper, newspaper and magazines, advertising mail, scissors, and glue.*

*It's better to have some words in mind before charging off with a pair of scissors, so provide children with paper and pencil for a list. Offer a dictionary also, and a thesaurus if you have one. Who knows? Your children may even pick up a few words along the way.*

*Offer help when it comes time to look for the words on the list. While you scan the headlines and copy in the newspaper, your children can search in magazines. Advertising mail may provide a rich source of flattering words.*

*When you have accumulated a small pile of words, and maybe a few appropriate pictures, your children can arrange and glue the cutouts on construction paper.*

--Crystal Moorefield and Christina Bush  
Instructional Coaches



- **QSP/Readers Digest fundraising items are here!!! Come to the school and claim your goodies!**

**Distribution will be in the Parent Resource Center (by the main entrance) on the following dates:**

- **Thursday, December 3rd, 3 - 6pm**
- **Friday, December 4th, 3 - 6 pm**
- **and if needed - Monday, December 7th, 9am - noon**

**Thank you all for your support and participation! A report on how much the school made is on it's way. And of course the names of the high sellers!**

## LSRT Meets Dec. 10

Shepherd's Local School Restructuring Team will meet next Thursday, Dec. 10, at 3:55 p.m. (note the start time carefully) at the school library. The meeting, because of its unusual start time, will start **ON TIME**. Parents are always welcome to come to the meetings. Not every LSRT meeting is a "public" meeting where parents can be given the floor to address the team. However, parents can always observe the LSRT action - including next Thursday.

## Students-Eye View

Shepherd Elementary students enjoyed a Thanksgiving potluck luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 25, before leaving school for the holiday.

Students dined on the usual Thanksgiving foods like turkey, macaroni and cheese (made by my mom), chicken and more. But there was Spanish food also. Students even made placemats to put their plates on. Making the placemats was a lot of fun, too!

Before the feast, classmates compared what people ate 100 years ago at Thanksgiving. They looked at how people cooked traditional Thanksgiving food then and how people cook the same food now. It was a big difference.

Students also compared the clothing they wore then with the clothing we wear now. They also read about Native American tribes and looked at the tribes' beliefs and traditions.

Everyone planned on having a great Thanksgiving holiday. When asked what he will be doing over the Thanksgiving break, Emanuel Jones stated, "I am going out of town."

Kamaria Evans said, "I will be going to a party in Maryland."

To submit news tips, comment or contact the Mustang reporter, send an e-mail to: [Emahni5@gmail.com](mailto:Emahni5@gmail.com).

*–Compiled by Emahni Grant, 4<sup>th</sup> grade*

## 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@yahoogleroups.com](mailto:Shepherd_Elementary_PTA-subscribe@yahoogleroups.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](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org).

## Deadline Next Week!

Next week's Mustang will be distributed. The deadline to submit articles for the Mustang will be 5 p.m. Tuesday. Please send your submissions to [sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com).



### Shepherd Elementary School

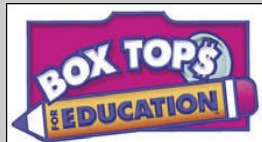
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Have you  
box top



clipped a  
today?