



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

December 11, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!

12/16 – Second Grade Food Drive
12/17 – Boys' Basketball Season Opener
12/18 – "Loose Change" collection ends

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Parents,
We live in a deadline-oriented world. Our kids know. They have homework, and a deadline to get it in on time. Even the Mustang has deadlines; if it's not in on time, it doesn't appear.

Sometimes, things happen after the Mustang deadline that I wish I could tell you about but would be too late. Like Wednesday's Holiday Concert. As PTA president, I was prepping to make an announcement that the ANC (Advisory Neighborhood Commission) whose territory includes Shepherd Elementary gave us grant money to buy even more violins to strengthen our music program.

The concert should have given us all a lot of evidence of how good Shepherd's music program is. So should have last February's "Songs of Freedom and Justice" concert (still available on CD). So, too, was Shepherd students' insistence that Paul Robeson be included in future music textbooks purchased by D.C. Public Schools -- with DCPS agreeing, and WAMU-FM doing a report on it!

Even so, music is just one part of Shepherd's educational program. Look at our World Languages Department. Look at our increased test scores. Look at our enrollment figures. Look at our parental involvement. Look at our award-winning teachers.

Pardon me, but I've got some holiday-related things to do. There's a deadline for that, too!

Sincerely,
Charisse Brassard

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

Parent Teacher Conferences

Thank you for taking time out of your busy day to meet with your child's teacher about their academics. If you were unable to meet, please contact your child's teacher to schedule an appointment.

Computers

Last week 10 custom-built Dell computers arrived at our school. This happened because of you and the financial commitment you made at the beginning of the year and the financial obligation you continue to fulfill. What can the school do with 10 computers? We can create a computer lab. Each class can visit the lab twice during the week for 45 minutes. Our average class size is 20. Teachers can pair students and have them work together on assignments or independently. The teacher can pull small groups as one group works on the computer. Thank you for making our wishes come true!

Have You Noticed?

Each morning staff members are on duty in the hallways between 8:40 am. and 8:55 am. They are stationed throughout the building to greet students and make sure they get to class safely. Therefore on the one day during the school year when you are running late and your student does not arrive on time, we ask that you say your goodbyes at the front desk and send your student to class. We are developing independent, responsible learners who can walk to class, unpack their backpacks and join their class without help from Mom, Dad, Grandpa or Grandma. This also eliminates a lot of the excess hallway traffic and it keeps classroom interruptions to a minimum.

Curriculum Night

If you attended curriculum night, please watch your email for a special invitation to complete an online survey. Your feedback will help us with future planning of similar events.

Lost and Found

The lost and found area is growing rapidly with lost coats, jackets, hats, sweaters and things you would not believe. If your child's closet is looking a little bare it could be because we have most of their wardrobe at school. Please check the lost and found table on the table in the vestibule of the gym. All unclaimed items will be packed and sent to Goodwill after the 18th.

(See Principal, continued on page 3)

The 180 Fund Presents...150-Plus Great Families!

Here is the most complete tally to date of contributors to the 180 Fund. This list is complete thru November.

If you don't see your name on this list, there are two ways that you can add it. One way is to join the 180 Fund. Even before the school year started, we have asked all Shepherd families to contribute \$180 to make the educational experience at Shepherd better. That comes to a dollar a day for each of the 180 instructional days in the D.C. school year. It's not too late -- it's never too late -- to join. You can contribute on a monthly basis, on a per-semester basis, or on a lump-sum basis. And, if you're in the right mood and would rather not have to do all of the fund-raising tasks that occur during the school year, you can pay \$500 to the 180 Fund and consider yourself exempt.

The other way is to make sure your check to the Shepherd PTA for the 180 Fund has cleared your bank account. If it has and you don't see your name here, get in touch with PTA treasurer Niki Mitchell at nikimitchll@aol.com.

When it comes time to make contributions -- the third Wednesday of the month is the deadline for 180 Fund contributors with monthly obligations -- write your check, put it in an envelope and put the envelope in the PTA box in the main office. It's just that simple. (If you prefer, you can put it in the mail to Shepherd Elementary PTA, 7800 14th St. NW, Washington, DC 20012.)

We need the best efforts of all Shepherd families to show our children what we can do when we work together! To contribute, visit the school's Web site -- www.shepherd-elementary.org -- and print the form that will accompany your entrée into the 180 Fund! Our thanks to ALL of these contributors -- some of whom don't even have children attending Shepherd -- who have pledged their faith in the future of our children. We hope that if you haven't contributed to the fund yet, you will do so soon.

In the meantime, here is a Shepherd parent honor roll that is worthy of distinction.

Johannes & Olga Abebe Emmanuel C. Addison Tafia Allah-Pringle Alicia Anderson Angela & Changamire Anderson Tonia & Charles Armstead Amevi Assogba & Justin Kao Ruth Ballard & Leonard Taylor Shantelle & James Ballard Corey & Kim Barnette Michelle Batts Nashwa & Christian Beach Judy Bemah Tereza Besrat Melissa & Michael Bethea Sekou & Cara Biddle Charles W. Branche Jr. Yanna Brazey Shane & Kenya Brent Paula Brooks Charisse & Mario Brossard Melika Brown Dagne Bunnute Aurelie Bush Henry Calhoun Jamari Calhoun Kelvin & Gina Carvana Anthony & Denise Chambliss Ruth Claros Louisa Coles Alexandra Collins Lisa & A. Ambrose Connor Sandra Corbett Nayada Cowherd Rose & Calvin Dawson Elizabeth Denevi & Randolph Carter Alisha Dixon Jean Pierre Djomalieu Darren Dorkin & Victoria Botvin Star & Neal Downing	Charles & Beverly Epps Lisa A. Epps-Haley Tatiana Escobar Ingati & Joan Essalaki Emanuel & Marcia Finn Alton Fleming & Myisha Morgan Rukiya Bonner Forston Barbara Turner Fridie Nomi Fuchs-Montgomery Beverley Ganes & Chris Tousseint Ken Giles Monica Goletiani Keisha Grant & Richard McIntire Carole Green Rhonda Green Zanetta Gross Rolanda Harris Guyton & Donna Johnson Harvey Javonne Haynes Sabine Herisse Harold & Karen Hilton Tajuana Hinnant Jean Holmes Luke Holt Chasio & Sherry Hooks Edward & Chinyere Hubbard Michael Imbroscio & Marcie Bane Joan Essalaki Ingati Mark & LaSonya Jackson Sharon E. Jackson Shawn Q. Jenkins Sr. Gloria Jennings Melody Jeter Craig Johnson & Tanya Daniels Tanya Joiner Daryl & Lynette Jones Patrice Jones	Tamara & Andre Jones Ronda Kane Nick & Marnie Keller Elizabeth Kelley Kim King Stephen & Kimberly Jeffries Leonard Michael & Laura Lewandowski Fred Lewis & Sarah Potter Florence & John Makwalu Dwight & Pamela Marable Jack & Juliet Marrkand Jill Martin & Frank Borris Lori & Jay Mathews Sandhya Mehta & Jonathan Harwitz Les & Stephanie Scott Melnyk Youhanes Meshesha Asherra Meshneniten Joseph A. Mills & Anna C. Aurilio Letique Minor Eusebia & Keith Mont Michelle Montgomery Trina Montgomery Tynisha Nicholson Apoline Nikiema Krystal Odom Phillip Omhohundro & Karen L. Grose Alexa Page & John Coeuyt Mark Pattison & Judith McCullough Jennifer Pauk Sonya Pollock Tony & Viorica Popa Stephanie & Gregory Powell Patsy-Ann Rasmussen Jennifer Ray & Krishna Muir Andrew & Nicole Reece Jean-Pierre & Rachel Roberts Melissa L. Robinson	Tamika Robinson Traci J. Robinson Amber & Warren Romine Alzata & Charles Ross Damicka Ross Helen & Kirk Saulny Jessica & Lovell Saunders Mindy & David Schuster Glenn & Barbara Sewell Jay & Kathryn Shalaty Ophia Sherman Thaddeus & Rosa Singletary Kim & Stan Sinkford Doug Sissoko Marsinah & Alfonso Smith Timothy & Rhonda Davis Smith Darick & Antoinette Spriggs Francine Spriggs Chantale Swanson Deidre Swesnik & Nathan L. Trail Magda & Leonard Taylor Hirut Teklu & Demessie Gebremedhin Lisa F. Terry David & Katherine Trimble Sheri & Kwabena Tuffour Dagne Tussa Lawanda Tyus Camille & Craig Wheeler Jacquelyn Whitaker Jennifer White & Eric Ruffin Vanessa & Louie White Yasmin & Eric White Belinda Whittle Gabrielle Williams Krystle Williams Ronald & Kim Williams Stephanie Williams Taundra McNair Williams R. William Wilson Earl Yates & Kristin Wells
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(Principal, continued from page 1)

Please remember we are a uniform school and many items look identical. Please help us get items returned to their owner by writing your child's name on their items.

Have a great weekend!

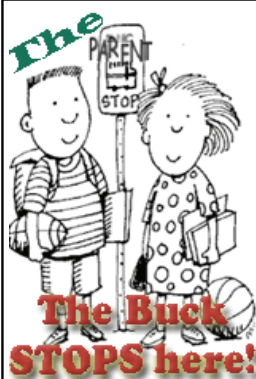
Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Next Week's Mustang Is The Winter Break Issue

Next week's Mustang will be published Friday, Dec. 18. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 5 p.m. If you have something you'd like to see in the Mustang, beat the deadline by sending it to sesmustang@gmail.com.

Because the next issue will cover two weeks of winter break, we are on the lookout for family-friendly activities for you and your children to include until school resumes Jan. 4, 2010. If you see anything that intrigues you, send it along to sesmustang@gmail.com and we'll do our level best to include it!



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

♥ Don't bribe me, reward me or punish me... for you rob me of the opportunity to listen to my own internal voice.

Shepherd Open House

Shepherd Elementary School at 14th and Jonquil will hold its first open house to prospective parents on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 9:30 to 11:30a.m. Meet the principal, Jamie Miles; walk around the facilities; learn about last week's application for Shepherd to be an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme school; and get a general feel for the place.

The school entrance is on Jonquil. If you have any questions, call 576-6140.

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.

Another way to do it is to look through the new Shepherd Elementary Family Directory, look for the addresses of families who live close to you, call them, and ask if they want to participate!

'EARLY READER' VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

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

Mrs. Miles, the principal, has said that some children have had to be turned away because there are more students than there are volunteers to help them. In other instances, the volunteers take in students even though there is a smaller chance of being effective with a larger group, but nobody wants to be Scrooge-like and turn them away.

Considering that there are parents who are willing to get their children to school at 8 a.m. -- 45 minutes before the school day officially begins -- so that they can master reading techniques speaks well for both parent and child. But we need more adults willing to step up and help 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.

Give the gift of education to Shepherd's children in the year ahead. Contact Mrs. Miles at jamie.miles@dc.gov if you think you can help.

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.

Idioms are phrases that mean more than their words put together. If you take them word for word, they might not make much sense! Idioms are a little like puzzles: try imagining a picture or a situation that the phrase suggests, and guess at the meaning from there.

Read the list of idioms below with your child. After reading the phrase in bold print, see if your child understands the meaning? Let the fun continue by creating an illustration of the idiom together!



Footing the bill

"paying."

The person who signs his or her name at the bottom, or "foot," of a bill or check (as at a restaurant) is the one who pays. Signing the foot, or "footing it," has come to mean paying.

The jig is up

"the game or trick is exposed."

In Shakespeare's time, "jig" was a slang for trick. When the "jig is up," the trick has been discovered.

The nick of time

"just before time is up."

Years ago, the scores of some games (like soccer) were kept by cutting notches or "nicks" in each end of a wooden "tally stick." A winning goal that came just before the clock ran out was said to be a "nick in time."

Bite off more than you can chew

"take on more than one can handle." Take a big bite out of a sandwich so that some of it is still sticking out past your lips. Now try chewing. Don't you wish you had bitten off less?

--Ms. Christina Bush

Shopping for Shepherd

Part Four in a Series

Do you ever shop at Snider's Super Foods on Seminary Road in Silver Spring? If you do, SAVE THOSE RECEIPTS! Snider's will refund 1 percent of the purchases we make to Shepherd Elementary. The one catch?

The receipts have to be from the current calendar year.

So scrounge up all those receipts now and give them to Ms. Confer, the business manager, before winter break begins. She'll take them to Snider's and cash them in for us. Thanks!

Alice Deal Middle School Open House

Deal Middle School will hold an open house Tuesday, Dec. 15, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., with a brief presentation by Principal Kim at 10 a.m.

Alice Deal Middle School is at 3815 Fort Drive NW. The phone is 939-2010.

Please come visit our classrooms and see why we are the highest performing middle school in the District!

See our International Baccalaureate program; tour our newly modernized building; learn about our exciting academic and extracurricular programs; sample our advanced math offerings; try out our World Language classes (Spanish, French, Chinese); experience team teaching and our rigorous academic program first hand; and see our amazing students and teachers in action!

For more information, go to
www.alicedeal.org

'Loose Change' Continues Until Winter Break Starts

The PTA is asking Shepherd students to help with the Loose Change fund-raising effort. This is a great effort that teaches the joy of giving and helping others at the same time. It's happening right now will continue through Friday, Dec. 18, the last day of school this year. Proceeds will benefit a needy family for Christmas as well as support needed school updates.

Here's what you and your children can do: Bring quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies to school and fill up the Loose Change container in your classroom. And there's a pizza party for the class that brings in the most loose change!

If you have questions, reach PTA Fundraising Committee Co-Chair Leonie Stephenson at leoniestephen-son86@yahoo.com.

'Walking School Bus' Gets Its First Route

Who wants to make a point of walking to school together on the Walking School Bus? We've got our first route planned! Meet at the bus stop at the corner of Alaska Avenue and 13th Street, and then everyone walks along Morningside Drive down to Jonquil Street for on-time delivery to Shepherd Elementary! To sign up for this Walking School Bus, call Keisha Grant at 556-8948 or e-mail her at kgrant@hollingsworthllp.com.

FOOD DRIVE BY SECOND GRADERS

The second-grade students of Mr. King and Ms. Johnson have organized a food collection drive to help the less fortunate. You can do your part, too. Bring non-perishable food to school through next Wednesday, Dec. 16. All donations will go to Shepherd's Table in downtown Silver Spring, which for the past 25 years has provided help to people who are homeless or in need by providing basic services, including meals, social services, medical support, clothing, and other assistance in an effective and compassionate manner.

Shepherd Basketball News

Ladiesssssss and gennnnn-tlemennnnnn: Introducing your 2009-10 Shepherd Mustangs girls' basketball team!

Your coaches: Ms. Moorefield and Ms. Christenberry.

Your managers: Jasmine Barrow and Hannah Schuster.

Your players: Ayanna Agee, Sekai Bonner-Flagg, Kennedy Gullette, Marley Majette, Jada Matthews, Autumn Parrish, Deja Redd, Kyra Redman, Kaitlin Robinson, Benea Smith, Kayla Steward, and Moriah William.

And, the boys' team will tip off the season next Thursday, Dec. 17.

More details to appear in the Mustang and the listserv when they become available.

Go teams!



BoxTops For Education

Disposable Tableware

Many Shepherd families were caught up in the boil-your-water crunch this week. One way to avoid using water in times like that is to use disposable tableware. Luckily, Box Tops for Education lists several Hefty-brand products that carry the Box Tops logo. Look for them to replenish your cupboard:

- Hefty Clear Colors Disposable Cups
- Hefty Crystal Clear Disposable Cups
- Hefty Crystal Clear Plates
- Hefty Diamond Deluxe Paper Plates
- Hefty Easy Grip Disposable Cups
- Hefty Elegantware Plates and Bowls
- Hefty Everyday Foam Plates and Bowls
- Hefty EZ Foil Pans
- Hefty Hearty Meals Plates and Platters
- Hefty Superweight Plates and Bowls
- Hefty Supreme Plates and Bowls
- Hefty Zoo Pals Cups
- Hefty Zoo Pals Funtensils
- Hefty Zoo Pals Plates and Bowls

These items would also work great for birthday parties and play dates.

Holiday Concert



Once the Homework's Done! Activities for You and Your Family

"TERRIBLE TEDDY" Dec. 11 at 7:30. In this timeless tale, Santa has made a teddy bear too big to fit in the sleigh. But Teddy doesn't want to be in a department store, so Teddy uses the stars to find his way back to Santa. A tour of the night sky follows the presentation. Howard B. Owens Science Center, 9601 Greenbelt Rd., Lanham. 301-918-8750.

<http://www1.pgcps.org/howardbowens/>. \$4, seniors and students \$2.

SHABBAT: HANUKKAH STYLE Dec. 11 at 6:30. Musical and interactive Shabbat with Rick Recht. Happy hour before the 7:15 service and dinner afterward. Sixth and I Historic Synagogue, 600 I St. NW. 202-408-3100. \$6.

CHRISTMAS DOLL AND TRAIN EXHIBIT Dec. 11-13, 16-20, 23-Jan. 3 from noon to 4. Antique and character dolls, working trains and more. St. Clement's Island Museum, 38370 Point Breeze Rd., Coltons Point, Md. 301-769-2222. \$3; seniors and military \$2, ages 6-17, \$1.50; younger than 6 free.

FAIR OAKS MALL SNOW GLOBES Daily through Dec. 24. "The Polar Express" themed display features a walk-through 28-foot holiday tree, an interactive train engine room and life-size sculptures of characters from the film. Three six-foot snow globes include three-dimensional scenes from the movie. See Web site for hours. Fair Oaks Shopping Center, 11750 Fair Oaks, Fairfax. 703-359-8300. <http://www.shopfairoaksmall.com/infodesk/hours.html>. Free.

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF TRAINS through Jan. 10. Dec. 11-12, 14-19, 21-23, 26, 28-31, Jan. 2 and 4 from 10 to 4 and Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Jan. 3 from 11 to 4. Several different layouts. Train rides with Santa or Frosty the Snowman offered weekends through Dec. 20. B&O Railroad Museum, 901 W. Pratt St., Baltimore. <http://www.borail.org>. \$14, seniors \$12, children ages 2-12 \$8, younger than 2 free.

HOLIDAY TRAIN EXHIBIT Dec. 11-Jan. 3 from 10 to 5. Trains wind through a miniature tree farm and forested parkland in the south conservatory. Brookside Gardens visitors center, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Free.

MODEL TRAIN GARDEN Daily through Jan. 10 from 10 to 5. The garden's annual winter exhibit features trains that chug through locales of favorite childhood stories, one of Washington's largest indoor holiday trees, blooming poinsettias and a collection of D.C. landmarks crafted from natural materials. U.S. Botanic Garden, 100 Maryland Ave. SW. <http://www.usbg.gov>. Free.

"THE NUTCRACKER" through Dec. 31. Dec. 11, 17-18 and 31 10 and 11:30, Dec. 12-13, 19-20 and 26-27 at 11:30 and 1. For age 5 and older. Glen Echo Park, Puppet Co. Playhouse, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. 301-634-5380. \$10.

SEASONS OF LIGHT. Dec. 11, 16 and 18 at 10:15, 11:30 and 1, Dec. 12 at noon, Dec. 14-15, 17, 21-22 at 10:15 and 11:30. A multicultural celebration of global winter holidays. Learn the customs of Ramadan, Devali, Hanukkah, Saint Lucia, Kwanzaa, Las Posadas, Christmas and winter

solstice. Discovery Theater at S. Dillon Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Dr. SW. 202-633-8700. 202-633-3030. \$6, children \$5, younger than 2 free; Saturday program \$10, children \$9.

BULL RUN FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AND WINTER WONDERLAND HOLIDAY VILLAGE. Dec. 11-13, 18-20, 25-27, Jan. 1-3, 8-10 from 5:30-10 and Dec. 7-10, 14-17, 21-24, 28-31 and Jan. 4-7 from 5:30 to 9:30. A 2 1/2 -mile drive-through display features more than 75,000 lights; holiday village includes carnival rides, an ice skating rink and entertainment. Holiday village is open from 5:30 to 10 Dec. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 and 21. Monday-Thursday, cars \$15, vans \$25, buses \$50. Friday-Sunday, cars \$20, vans \$30, buses \$55. Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Dr., Centreville. 703-359-4633.

<http://www.nvrpa.org/parks/brfestoflights>. \$15-\$55.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS Daily through Jan. 1. from 5 to 10. Holiday display includes 450,000 lights, 16 decorated Christmas trees, crèches and nightly live music. Washington D.C. Temple Visitors Center, 9900 Stonybrook Dr., Kensington. <http://www.dctemplelights.lds.org>. Free.

GARDEN IN LIGHTS, Dec. 11-13, 15, 17-23, Dec. 26-Jan. 2 from 6 to 9. A quarter-mile walk-through light show. There will be holiday exhibits and programs at the Arts Building, plus hot drinks and holiday entertainment at the cafe. Dec. 13 is Pet Night; pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet, \$1 per pet. Annmarie Garden, 13480 Dowell Rd., Solomons.

<http://www.annmariegarden.org/Events/GIL/index.htm>.

\$3, seniors and children ages 5-12 \$2, younger than 5 free.

GARDEN OF LIGHTS. Dec. 11-23, Dec. 26-Jan. 3 from 5:30 to 9. A half-mile walk through holiday display that includes more than 700,000 lights. Last entry at 8:30. Musical entertainment from 6:30 to 8. Brookside Gardens, visitors center, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. 301-962-1453.

<http://www.mcparkandplanning.org/Parks/brookside/light.shtm>. Cars or vans \$15-\$20 (cash only), buses \$50-\$120.

LIGHTS ON THE BAY. Dec. 11-Jan. 3 from 5 to 10. A two-mile drive-through holiday light show with more than 70 displays with proceeds to benefit Anne Arundel Medical Center. Sandy Point State Park, 1100 E. College Pkwy., Route 50, Exit 32, Annapolis. 443-481-3161. <http://www.aahs.org>. \$14 per car.

SYMPHONY OF LIGHTS Dec. 11-Jan. 3 from 6 to 10. More than 70 larger-than-life, animated and stationary light creations. Walk-throughs available to groups of 50 or more at \$5 per person from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. Tail Lights, for dogs and their owners, is Dec. 18 from 4 to 6 p.m. Leashes and clean-up are mandatory. Symphony Woods, 10475 Little Patuxent Pkwy., Columbia. Cars \$20, vans \$35, buses \$125.

WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS Dec. 11-Jan. 3 from 5 to 9:30. See animated displays made up of a million twinkling lights in a drive through the park. Canned goods collected for local food banks. Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Dr., Upper Marlboro.

Once the Homework's Done! Activities for You and Your Family

301-699-2456. \$5 car or minivan; minibus, bus or limo \$15; multi-visit pass \$10; free on Dec. 25.

WINTER LIGHTS FESTIVAL Dec. 11-12, 18-19, 26 and Jan. 2 from 6 to 10 and Dec. 6-10, 13-17, 20-24, 27-31 from 6 to 9. A 3.5-mile drive featuring 380 illuminated vignettes and 65 animated displays. Seneca Creek State Park, 11950 Clopper Rd., Gaithersburg. 301-258-6350, Ext. 120.

<http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/winterlights/08>. Cars \$12-\$14, limos \$20, passenger vans \$30, buses \$60.

ZOO LIGHTS Dec. 11-13, 18-23, 26-30, Jan. 1-2 from 6 to 8:30. A display of animal light sculptures made from thousands of LED lights. Animal houses remain open during the event. National Zoo, 3001 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-397-7328. <http://www.fonz.org/zoollights.htm>. \$8, FONZ members \$5, younger than 2 free.

HANUKKAH WONDERLAND Dec. 11 and 18 from 10:30 to 12:30, Dec. 13 and 20 from 10 to 5:30, and Dec. 14-17 from 10:30 to 12:30 and 2 to 5:30. Judah Maccabee greets children and guides them through the many Hanukkah activities, including make-your-own-menorah and a Hanukkah sand art project. Make an edible menorah or jelly doughnuts and, on Friday mornings, bake challah. Grand Hanukkah party Dec. 12 at 7. Chabad Lubavitch of Upper Montgomery. Kentland Market Square, 120 Market St., Gaithersburg. 301-926-3632. <http://www.OurShul.org/CW>. Free.

FAMILY GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOP Dec. 12 from 10 to 1. Children must be accompanied by a parent. All materials included. Thomas Farm Community Recreation Center, 700 Falls Grove Dr., Rockville. 240-314-8840. <http://www.rockvillemd.gov>. \$35.

CHANTILLY MODEL TRAIN DISPLAYS Dec. 12 from 10 to 3. A holiday model train display for families with children, featuring Lionel, HO, Lego and a wooden train area for hands on fun. Chantilly Bible Church, 4390 Pleasant Valley Rd., Chantilly. 703-263-1188. Free.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING CLASS Dec. 12 at 10:30. Materials and refreshments included. Fairmont Washington Hotel, 2401 M St. NW. 202-457-5019. <http://www.fairmont.com/Washington>. \$50.

MONTPELIER MANSION HANDS-ON HISTORY DAY Dec. 12 from 10 to noon. Experience holiday traditions of Maryland's early immigrants, from Europe to Africa to Central and South America. Make crafts, play games and enjoy holiday treats. Montpelier Mansion, 9650 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel. 301-953-1376. \$7.

ONCE UPON A TIME Dec. 12 from 5 to 7:30. The museum's rooms are transformed into scenes from favorite fairy tales, nursery rhymes and children's stories. Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Rd., Glenn Dale. 301-464-5291. \$5.

PARENT AND CHILD HOLIDAY BAKING Dec. 12 from 10 to 11:30 and 1 to 2:30. Create homemade goodies to enjoy over the holidays or to give as gifts. While the cookies bake, the children will decorate aprons and assemble gingerbread houses. Rockwood Manor, 11001

MacArthur Blvd., Potomac. 301-299-5026.

<http://www.MontgomeryParks.org>. \$20.

PARENT AND CHILD VICTORIAN HOLIDAY HIGH TEA Dec. 12 at 1, 2:30 and 4. Hosted by Girl Scout Troop 1165. Cady-Lee House, 7064 Eastern Ave. NW. 301-495-4851. \$8, children \$3.

CHRISTMAS MODEL TRAIN SHOW Dec. 12-13 from 9 to 5. Sponsored by the Rappahannock Model Railroad Club. Extensive displays of model trains, including Thomas the Tank trains. National Guard Armory, 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Fredericksburg. 540-373-0911.

<http://rmrrclub.org>. \$5, children 4-12 \$1.

SANTA VISITS FREEMAN STORE Dec. 12 from 1 to 3. Children can bring their wish lists to Santa. Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. 703-938-5187. <http://www.historicviennainc.org>. Free.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP AND LUNCH WITH SANTA Dec. 12 from 11 to 12:30. Games, crafts and a pizza lunch. Sterling Community Center, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. 703-430-9480. \$8, \$3 parent lunch.

SNOWFLAKE FAIRIES AND SNOWMEN Dec. 12 from 9:15 to 1. Ages 3-7. Kids have fun dancing, reading holiday stories, making snowflake ornaments and 3D snowmen, and watching "Frosty." Children should bring a bag lunch with drink and wear comfortable clothes. Claude Moore Community Center, 46111 Loudoun Park Lane, Sterling. 571-258-3500. \$33.

TOY TRAIN SHOW Dec. 12 from 9-3. Collectible and new trains, accessories and train related items for sale; operating train layouts, "train doctor" on-site to fix broken trains. Santa will visit. Bring an unwrapped toy for a child at Shriners Hospital. Sponsored by Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis chapter Train Collectors Association. Kena Temple, 9001 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. 703-455-6154. <http://www.wbachapter.org>. \$5; 12 & under, free.

CRUISIN' WITH SANTA Dec. 12-13, 19-20 at 10:30, 11:40 and 12:50. The one-hour cruise includes singalongs and Santa stories. The boat stops at National Harbor. Reservations required. Alexandria Marina, King and Union Streets, Alexandria. 703-838-4265.

<http://www.potomacriverboatco.com>. \$16, children \$10.

HOLIDAY HELPERS Dec. 12-13 from noon to 4. While parents run errands and shop, the staff keep kids busy with fun and educational games, crafts, animal encounters and a few short films. Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington. 703-228-4747. 703-228-6535. \$20.

HOLIDAY MODEL TRAIN SHOW AND DISPLAY Dec. 12-13 from 10 to 5. Sponsored by the Rappahannock Model Railroad Club. Model train layouts and displays. National Guard Armory, 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Fredericksburg. 540-854-8955. <http://rmrrclub.org>. \$5, children ages 6-12 \$1.

Once the Homework's Done! Activities for You and Your Family

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY RECEPTION Dec. 12 at 1. Reptile World's Michael Shwedick, a professional reptile handler, will present information on the reptile's general characteristics, habitat, roles in the balance of nature, present status in the world today, conservation and value to man. Following the performance, Santa Claus will visit with the children. Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, 91 Key St., Hagerstown, Md. 301-739-5727.

<http://www.wcmfa.org>. \$5.

EASTPORT YACHT CLUB LIGHTS PARADE Dec. 12 at 6. More than 40 power and sailboats show off their holiday decorations. Annapolis Harbor, 1 Dock St., Annapolis. 443-621-9842. <http://www.eastportyc.org>. Free.

"THE BLACK CANDLE: A KWANZAA CELEBRATION" Dec. 12 at 4:30. Filmed across the United States, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean, the movie illuminates why the seven principles of Kwanzaa are so important to African Americans. Discussion to follow. Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. 703-838-4356. <http://www.alexblackhistory.org>.

KWANZAA WORKSHOP Dec. 12 from 11 to 1. An interactive program that guides visitors through the principles of the African American holiday. Good for those who are not familiar with the traditions and for those who want to know more. Make Kwanzaa gifts. Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. 703-838-4356. <http://www.alexblackhistory.org>. Free.

COMMUNITY HANUKKAH PARTY Dec. 12 from 6 to 8. A "latkes and more" dinner, a bring-your-own-menorah candle lighting, a Hanukkah singalong and a dreidel tournament. Kehilat Shalom Synagogue, 9915 Apple Ridge Rd., Gaithersburg. 301-869-7699.

<http://www.kehilatshalom.org>. \$10, ages 4-13 \$7, younger than 4 free, families \$28.

MODEL TRAIN AND CHRISTMAS TOY SHOW Dec. 12-13 from noon to 4. Sandy Spring Museum, 17901 Bentley Rd., Sandy Spring. 301-774-0022.

<http://www.sandyspringmuseum.org>. Free.

SANTA TRAINS Dec. 12-13 at 11, 1 and 3. Ride the rails with Santa. Walkersville Southern Railroad, 34 West Pennsylvania Ave., Walkersville, Md. 301-898-0899. 877-363-9777. <http://www.wsr.org>. \$10, seniors \$9, children \$7, reservations recommended.

"THE SNOW QUEEN" Dec. 12-13, 19, 24 and 30 at 12:30 and Dec. 20, 26-27, Jan. 1-3 at 12:30 and 3:30. For age 4 and older. This magical holiday show is based on the well-known story by Hans Christian Andersen and is created in collaboration with puppet artists from Varna National Theatre in Bulgaria. Synetic Theater, 4041 Campbell Ave., Arlington. 800-494-8497. \$12.

"TEDDY ROOSEVELT AND THE GHOSTLY MISTLETOE" Dec., 12, 19 and 26 at 11, 1:30 and 5 and Dec. 13, 20, 27-30 at 1:30 and 4. A holiday-themed mystery starring our bold president. Kennedy Center, Family Theater, 2700 F St. NW. 202-467-4600. 800-444-1324. <http://www.kennedy-center.org>.

TRAIN GARDEN through Jan. 3. Dec. 12-13, 19-20, 26-27, Jan. 2-3 from 11-8, Dec. 9-11, 16-18, 23, 30-Jan. 1 from 6:30 to 8:30 and Dec. 24 from 11 to 6 and 6:30 to 8:30. Eight trains including coal locomotives, switch tracks and flashing train signals wind their way around a carousel and a North Pole scene complete with Santa Claus and his elves. Ellicott City Fire Company No. 2, 4150 Montgomery Rd., Ellicott City. 410-313-2036. Free.

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S MUSICAL Dec. 13 at 9:30 a.m. Clarendon United Methodist Church, 606 N. Irving St., Arlington. <http://www.morefaith.org>. Free.

GLENVIEW MANSION CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, ART AND SONG Dec. 13 from 1:15 to 3:15. Crafts for children, visits from Santa, Frosty and Rudolph, music by Home School Talents, the Supertones of Wootton High School and the Heavenly Handbells of Trinity Lutheran Church. Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., Rockville. 240-314-8682. <http://www.rockvillemd.gov>. Free.

STRATHMORE FAMILY SINGS! CHRISTMAS SING LED BY BARBARA BAKER Dec. 13 at 4. Music Center at Strathmore, Room 402, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. 301-581-5100. \$7.

HANUKKAH CONCERT Dec. 13 at 4:30. Mama Doni Band, funky music with a Jewish twist. Sponsored by Hebrew Day Institute and the joint youth department of Tikvat Israel and Shaare Tefila congregations. Hanukkah dinner follows concert: \$12, \$9 for children ages 3-12. Congregation Tikvat Israel, 2200 Baltimore Rd., Rockville. 240-399-6100. Free.

HANUKKAH FEAST IN CONCERT Dec. 13 from 7 to 9:30. The Alexandria Kleztet, Lox and Vodka, Klezcentricity, Alan Oresky and Mark Novak a.k.a. MC Maccabee performs. Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, 7995 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. 240-582-6193. 202-674-3000. 240-567-5775. <http://www.hungryformusic.org>. \$20-\$25.

HANUKKAH FESTIVAL Dec. 13 at 6. Chabad Lubavitch of Alexandria-Arlington sponsors the grand Hanukkah menorah lighting in Old Town Alexandria. Chocolate gelt and dreidels, latkes and doughnuts. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Old Town Alexandria, 901 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. 703-370-2774. <http://www.chabadaa.org>. Free.

HANUKKAH MAGIC AND MIRACLES Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A family celebration with food, crafts and singing. D.C. Jewish Community Center, 1529 16th St. NW. 202-777-3278. <http://washingtondcjcc.org/kids>. \$15 per family.

HANUKKAH ON THE ELLIPSE Dec. 13 at 4. Lighting the menorah, with hot latkes and doughnuts. Free tickets are required for the seating area. Standing room is available to all. The Ellipse, 1600 Constitution Ave. NW. 202-332-5600. <http://www.nationalmenorah.org>. Free.

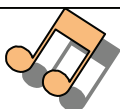
School Music Notes

Six Shepherd Elementary students (Alex Leonard, Jason Tyner, and Mattie Melnyk in third grade; Zoe Roberts, Autumn Parrish, and Tijara Smith in fourth grade) were interviewed by WAMU (88.5 FM) about the letter-writing campaign to get Paul Robeson into the next D.C. school music textbook.

Jessica Gould from WAMU came to Shepherd School on Dec. 4 to interview our students. The students read their letters urging that Robeson be in the music textbook. Then they sang "Old Man River," Robeson's best-known song.

The radio broadcast of the interview was scheduled for Dec. 9, although we do not have the time yet. We will provide a link to the broadcast at the WAMU Web site when available. This is a good example of student activism achieving recognition by the community.

--Mr. Ken Giles, music teacher



Increasing Family Literacy? The Library's Here to Help

The National Children's Museum is offering a free parent/child workshop at Shepherd Park Library. The workshop is based on their book, "Family Literacy Projects on a Budget." The workshop will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16. Museum staff will present reading activities and ideas for complementary creative art projects using recycled materials. The National Children's Museum will provide materials for the projects. The workshop is open to everyone in the community and appropriate for all ages.

If you have any questions, please call Anina Ertel at the library at 541-5917.

Shepherd Park Library is located at 7420 Georgia Ave.

It's Beginning to look a lot like ... Halloween!

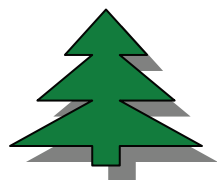


Even though other holidays are coming to the forefront in our lives, three enterprising Shepherd students recently turned in their Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF boxes to the school office recently.

When they were opened, and the contents totaled up. It came to \$16.37. This brings Shepherd's total to an even \$115. Thanks once again to Shepherd families for taking part in such a worthwhile fund-raiser.

You know how folks say around Christmastime, "What if it were Christmas every day?" A nice thought. But maybe at Shepherd Elementary, the day we're observing every day is Halloween.

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 to the school so that they can be included in the school's tally.



It's Tree- Mendous!

As you may know, Casey Trees has sponsored several wonderful tree planting efforts in the area, including Shepherd Elementary. Here is an opportunity to learn more.

Casey Trees invites you to participate in a winter treasure hunt in the neighborhoods of North Portal Estates, Colonial Village, and Shepherd Park, which are adjacent to Rock Creek Park and Silver Spring.

Learn to identify common area trees with winter interest using seeds, bark, buds and twig structure. Get a bare-bones look at the importance of trees in an urban residential neighborhood. Learn about the neighborhoods.

The tour will begin at the 7800 block of 16th Street NW at the intersection of Kalmia Road. We will explore trees on the campus of Lowell School, in Rock Creek Park along East Beach and North Portal Drives; Redwood Terrace; Birch Drive, and 16th Street NW. The tour will pause at the holiday display at the Bishop's House on North Portal Dr.

The vital statistics:

Saturday, Dec. 19 from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet at the intersection of 16th St & Kalmia Rd., NW. There is no fee for this tour.

For additional information contact Carol Herwig at Casey Trees at 349-1907, or go to cherwig@caseytrees.org.

Free Concert Dec. 17 By School Without Walls

Come to a free concert next Thursday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. presented by the School Without Walls. You'll be able to spot some Shepherd Elementary graduates among the performers. It is also a good way to see the results of the new instrumental music program at School Without Walls -- not to mention the results from Hardy Middle School, where most of the School Without Walls' Jazz Band learned to play their instruments!

The concert will take place at the Betts Theater of the Marvin Center, 800 21st St NW. Performing will be School Without Walls Guitar Ensemble, Jazz Band, Orchestra and Stage Band. For details contact Susan Catler at scatler@yahoo.com.

BAG IT!

As part of the District's "Skip the Bag, Save the River" campaign, the District Department of the Environment and CVS/pharmacy have teamed up to distribute reusable shopping bags. Beginning January 1, District businesses that sell food or alcohol must charge you 5 cents for every disposable paper or plastic carry-out bag. You can save a nickel by bringing your own. To learn more about the new bag law, and DDOE's efforts to clean up the Anacostia River, please visit <http://green.dc.gov/bags> today.

In the meantime, CVS stores at the following locations are GIVING AWAY reusable bags. All of the giveaways take place between 10:30a. m. and 1:30 p.m. Go on the following dates and times and get one today!

- Thursday, Dec. 10, 6514 Georgia Ave. NW
- Friday, Dec. 11, 110 Carroll Ave. NW
- Monday, Dec. 14, 1403 Wisconsin Ave. NW
- Tuesday, Dec. 15, 4859 MacArthur Blvd. NW
- Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1201 Maryland Ave. SW
- Thursday, Dec. 17, 1100 New Jersey Ave. SE
- Friday, Dec. 18, 401 M St. SW

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.



2009-10 Directories Are Still Available

If you're writing those Christmas, Kwanzaa or Hanukkah cards and you don't know all the addresses of your child's classmates, what better way to collect them in one fell swoop than to get a copy of the new Shepherd Elementary Family Directory?

We've still got copies. They are free. All you have to do is ask for one. Send an e-mail to sesmustang@gmail.com with your name and your child's name and teacher. The following school day, a copy of the directory, with your child's name on it, will be placed in his or her teacher's mailbox for distribution to your child. It's just that simple!

You do not have to have your contact information in the directory to request one.

You can also use sesmustang@gmail.com if you've spotted any errors or updates that need fixing.

Thank You Corner

Thanks to all of the parents who sold merchandise during this fall's QSP Fall Fun-Raiser. Every penny counts when it comes to supplementing Shepherd Elementary's budget, and we got LOTS AND LOTS of pennies and nickels and dimes and quarters and dollars all because of you. Parents, please thank all the people who bought merchandise from you, and let them know that their purchases are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU!

Remember, in the Thank You Corner, ANYBODY connected with Shepherd Elementary can say Thank You to ANYBODY ELSE connected with Shepherd. This includes students, parents, staff and teachers. You can include your name when saying Thank You, or you can choose to remain anonymous. Send your messages of thanks to sesmustang@gmail.com.

Art Smarts!

It was wonderful to have so many parents stop by the art room during Parent-Teacher Conference Day. I hope it was enjoyable for the visitors as it was for me. I learned so much. I hope they did too. Two items came out of the visits. One was that folks were not sure how to reach the art room site on the Web, and two was that art vocabulary has not been listed anywhere on my Web site. For the 1st just type the URL

<http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art/> to reach my site. You will get Ms. Michaud's Art Room. Then click any of the buttons shown to get where you need to go. Announcements change every week or two and are usually the same as the uMstang Art Smarts. Homework is listed weekly under its button for grades 3-5.

As for the second item, primary and intermediate vocabulary lists are listed under FAQ's (frequently asked questions) since that's what was most asked on Conference Day. Thanks parents for that suggestion.

Ms. Thomas' class had a great trip to Washington Dulles International Airport to decorate a tree with Shepherd's beautiful Winter Wonderland ornaments. The bad news is that our lovely tree is viewable only by incoming international passengers who will see it as they pass to the baggage area. It is estimated that tens of thousands of travelers will see our work before it comes down next month! We will not be able to view it because the tree sits beyond the security area at the airport. So sorry, folks.

The art room continues to be a festive place. We completed decorative panels for the holiday music concert on Wednesday, December 9th. You will see the fruits of our labors if you attend that 'don't miss' event! Note weavings from Ms. Thurber's fourth graders, "Starry Night" drawings from Ms. Kuawogai's first graders, and snowman drawings from all our kindergartners. Shepherd will continue its change to snowy weather with some changes coming in January.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF 3RD, 4TH, AND 5TH GRADERS!: Art homework continues to be an issue for many students. It does not have to be. Assignments are due the week after they are given. All assignments are listed on the Web site with their due dates. I do take late assignments for current advisory but not the week report cards are due. Only assignments completed in sketchbooks will be accepted. The proper sketchbook can be purchased at Plaza Arts on Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring. Please help your child do well in art by providing the proper supply for art. Ask them to see me if they need any help.

Hope your pre-holidays are going great! Help your child keep art close to the heart.

-- Ms. Joele Michaud, art teacher

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.

Support Shepherd PTA's



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