



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

February 5, 2010

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Wednesday, Feb. 10:** Dress rehearsal for Ragtime, Blues, Jazz, Rhythm & Blues and Message Songs," 6:45 p.m. Free!
- **Thursday, Feb. 11:** Performance of "Ragtime, Blues, Jazz, Rhythm & Blues and Message Songs," 6:45 p.m. Free; freewill donation requested
- **Friday, Feb. 12:** No school — professional development
- **Monday, Feb. 15:** No school — Presidents Day observance
- **Wednesday, Feb. 17:** Family Math and Reading Night, 6:45 p.m.

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Shepherd Parents,

Last week you should have received a letter of enrollment intent for Shepherd Elementary for the 2010-11 school year. The form takes 30 seconds to complete and I am personally asking you to return this form IMMEDIATELY. Why, you ask? Because our budget figures are determined by both current enrollment and the upcoming year's projected enrollment figures. I am sure you agree that we need to make sure that our teacher and staff levels remain the same, so it is imperative that we have 100 percent participation.

Speaking of 100 percent participation, congratulations go out to Ms. Chambliss' class, whose entire class has returned their forms. Although the deadline isn't until March 19, we'd like to play it safe and have all forms returned by March 1.

Your immediate attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Charisse Brassard

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

Work for Haiti

Thank you to everyone who encouraged their child to work to raise money for Haiti. Though we did not reach our goal of \$1,000 we will be able to make a donation to ShelterBox. We will let you know our grand total next week.

What's Happening in the Lunchroom?

Have you heard? Shepherd Elementary is now serving hot lunch and the reviews from students have been great. During the past couple of weeks students have enjoyed, Salisbury Steak, Popcorn Chicken, biscuits, Beef Teriyaki Bites, Oven Fried Chicken, Steamed Broccoli, Glazed Carrots and mixed fruit. YUM!! YUM!!! For the first time, I have witnessed clean plates at lunch. Kudos to Ms. Usual and Ms. Lee for their hard work! They work tirelessly and swiftly move almost 200 students through the lunch line a day and they do a tremendous job!!!!

If your child purchases lunch from the cafeteria, please pre-pay. You may send checks or cash to school with your student in a sealed enveloped labeled "Lunch Money." You may also stop by the cafeteria between 8:30-9:30 a.m. to pay for your child's lunch. If you are writing a check please make it out to "DC Treasurer." A copy of the most recent lunch menu and lunch prices can be found at:

<http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/Schools/Food+Service+and+Menus/Food+Services+and+Menus>

We are in need of lunchroom monitors. I am looking for four to eight parents who can volunteer from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on a rotating basis one day a week until the end of the year. Please let me know if you are interested.

Pastries with the Principal

Last week was our February Pastries with the Principal event. Our main topic of discussion was the Stakeholder's survey results. However, we also discussed topics that were weighing heavily on the minds of attendees. If you have not had the opportunity to attend a session, I encourage you to do so. This time is set aside for you to share with me what is on your mind. We want to know and we parents why we do what we do.

Con't on pg 2

Con't from *Principal* pg 1

need to know what we do well and how we can improve. These meetings are also a time to clarify and explain to parents why we do what we do.

The next chat will be held on Friday, Feb. 26th at 2 p.m. Mark your calendars now!

Talking at Lunch

May students talk during lunch? Yes, students may talk during lunch; however, we encourage them to eat first and talk afterward.

Staff Members Are Highly Visible

In our efforts to keep our students and staff members safe and school property secure, we have increased our presence in the mornings and afternoons. As a parent you are always welcomed, encouraged and invited to visit our school, meet with your child's teacher and volunteer. However, we ask that you keep the following in mind: Parents should only enter the building via the main entrance. You must sign in, get a visitor's badge and inform the security guard or an office staff member of the reason for your visit before proceeding through the building. Pick up and drop off will continue to be in the auditorium; however, you should not enter the main building through the gymnasium doors. If you need to visit a classroom, your child's teacher, the lunchroom, or someplace else in the building, you must exit the gym and enter through the main entrance. Please respect staff members who are stationed throughout the building reminding parents and visitors of these expectations.

Have a great weekend!

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Call for Used Cell Phones Still Ringing

If you have a cell phone you don't use anymore, now's the time to turn it in to the big purple box in the school office. Shepherd Elementary is still getting \$2 minimum for every used cell phone turned in so that the organization we send them to can recycle the parts to use in other phones.

Did you drop your cell phone once too often? Does the screen of your BlackBerry look like a spider web? Did you upgrade to a 3G phone? A 4G phone? Give us your old cell phones, no matter how well they work (even if they don't work) and we can get money for them and do the Earth a small favor at the same time.

Cool Black History Facts

- **Black History Month** originated in 1926 by **Carter Godwin Woodson** as Negro History Week. The month of February was chosen in honor of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, both born in that month.
- **Elijah McCoy (1843 - 1929)** invented an automatic lubricator for oiling steam engines in 1872. The term "the real McCoy" is believed to be a reference about the reliability of Elijah McCoy's invention.
- **Garrett Augustus Morgan (1877 - 1963)** invented, among many other things, a 3-way automatic stop sign, which he sold to General Electric. It was used in the U.S. until the 3-light traffic sign was developed.
- **George Carruthers (1939 -)** invented the far ultraviolet electrographic camera, used in the 1972 Apollo 16 mission. This invention revealed new features of Earth's far-outer atmosphere and deep-space objects from the perspective of the lunar surface. Carruthers was inducted into the National Inventor's Hall of Fame in 2003.
- **Mark Dean (1957 -)** along with his co-inventor Dennis Moelle created a microcomputer system with bus control means for peripheral processing devices. This invention allows the use of computer plug-ins like disk drives, speakers, scanners, etc...
- **Dr. Charles Drew (1904 - 1950)** discovered techniques to store blood and developed blood banks.
- **Sarah E. Goode (1850 - ?)** invented a bed that folded up into a cabinet in 1885. Contrary to popular belief, she was not the first African-American woman to receive a patent, but the second.
- **Lewis and Clark** were accompanied by York, a black slave, when they made their 1804 expedition from Missouri to Oregon. York's presence aided in their interactions with the Native Americans they encountered.
- According to the American Community Survey, in 2005 there were **2.4 million black military** veterans in the United States -the highest of any minority group.
- **Booker T. Washington (1856 - 1915)** was the first African-American to be honored on a U.S. stamp, in 1940.
- **Ben Carson (1951 -)** a skilled neurosurgeon, led the first successful operation to separate a pair of Siamese twin infants who were joined at the back of the head in 1987.

(if the link is green you can click it for more info)

Take a Giant Step

Wanted: Shepherd families to sign up for Giant Food's A-Plus Bonus Bucks Program. To date, we have only 21 families signed up. That figure is two-thirds LESS than what we had three years ago. And Giant is the supermarket closest to Shepherd. Next time you go to Giant, ask to sign up. Or, you can do so online.

Shepherd's code is: 00154.

Shepherd, Others Aim For Global Curriculum

Editor's note: Yes, it's true! "Applications Seek Approval to Offer IB Programs," said the secondary headline in the Jan. 24 issue of the Northwest Current. Shepherd's been on a good streak when it comes to coverage in north-west D.C.'s free weekly, and when there's good news to share, we share it. Following is the story, written by Current staff writer Jessica Gould.



As globalization continues to link communities across the world, more city schools are implementing internationally driven curricula.

In Northwest, three D.C. public schools are in the process of applying to become International Baccalaureate programs.

Shepherd Elementary in Shepherd Park and H.D. Cooke Elementary in Adams Morgan have completed the second stage of the application. They are now awaiting visits from International Baccalaureate officials to determine whether the program suits their schools.

Meanwhile, Tenleytown's Deal Middle is in the final stage of its application. It hosted program officials last fall and expects a decision from the International Baccalaureate organization within the next few months.

So what is this sought-after program?

From its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, the International Baccalaureate foundation offers programs for children ages 3 through 19. According to the group's Web site, the mission is to provide all students with "The intellectual, personal emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world."

There are more than 775,000 "IB" students at 2,815 schools in 138 countries, the Web site says. The curriculum is already in place at D.C.'s public Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, as well as three private schools in the city -- Washington International School, British School of Washington and Archbishop Carroll high school.

Deal parent Dianne Torresen said there are plenty of appealing qualities about the International Baccalaureate program, including its emphasis on foreign language, its high standards and its cohesive curriculum. But, she said, "the downside is that (the application process) is an amazing amount of work."

For example, in seeking to host the "primary years program," Shepherd Elementary principal Jamie Miles said, Shepherd had to write and implement a formal language and assessment policy, and provide evaluators with an army of details about the school, from the number of books in the library to how much time students spend in each class.

Miles said the next step is the authorization visit from a team of "IB experts" who will interview a diverse group of people - from Shepherd's leadership, teachers and students to D.C. Public Schools' central office staff.

Miles called the application a "monumental" task but said becoming an International Baccalaureate school would be well worth the effort.

"When this journey began, individuals were looking for something different. They were looking for something that would meet the diverse needs of the student population and set the school apart from other schools in the District," she wrote in an e-mail. "That desire continues today."

In fact, Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee has said it's her goal for district schools to offer a wider array of specialized programs.

Parent Donna Johnson Harvey said she thinks bringing the International Baccalaureate program to Shepherd will help achieve that vision. "We're hoping for her continued support," she said of the chancellor.

Harvey added that a curriculum focused on respect for various cultures simply makes sense in the diverse Ward 4 community.

H.D. Cooke principal Kathleen Black said she feels the same way about her Adams Morgan school.

The International Baccalaureate program's "tenets encourage both global awareness and appreciation of the world around us," she said. "This is particularly important because of the diversity that is (surrounding) our school community."

Black said she is waiting to hear when a site visit will take place.

Auction NEWS

Save this date! And lock down the baby-sitter!

- Friday, April 30
- 7 p.m.-midnight
- Washington Ethical Society
- 7750 16th St. NW -- across the from Shepherd



The Shepherd PTA's annual Auction Gala

This year's theme is "The Carnival for Giving," with a Caribbean flavor, including a tropical DJ for dancing and a steel drum band to entertain auction-goers as they arrive. This year's auction schedule:

- 7 p.m.: Doors open
- 7:30 p.m.: Silent Auction begins
- 9:30 p.m.: Live Auction begins
- 10:30 p.m.: Party time!

Look to the Mustang next week -- and every week -- for exciting auction updates!

THIS JUST IN: Tickets go on sale next Thursday night at Shepherd's "Ragtime, Blues, Jazz, Rhythm & Blues and Message Songs" concert. \$40 for one, and two for \$70! For more info email: shepherdauktion@live.com.

The Sports Section

In boys' basketball, the Mustangs were riding a four-game winning streak. In girls' hoops action, the Mustangs had yet to win a game, but they did achieve a tie in one contest. And both squads are being cheered on by the school's new cheerleading squad. Made up of fourth- and fifth-graders, the cheerleaders wear "Shepherd Cheer" T-shirts to remind everyone whose side they're on. They are sponsored by Ms. Scinto, the librarian, and Ms. Kuawogai, one of the first-grade teachers.

DPR Play Days

As they say in the school morning announcements, "Make it a great day by doing something great!" A great way for your kids to enjoy their Professional Development school days off is to sign up for the DPR Play Days. Hosted by the Department of Parks and Recreation, this fun-filled program offers many benefits:

- full day -- 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- multiple locations throughout the city
- breakfast, lunch and snack provided
- field trips to museums/off-site events, schedule permitting
- professional and friendly DPR program coordinators
- arts and crafts, games, phys ed activities
- FREE

The next dates coming are Fridays, February 12 and March 19.

Make it an even more special outing by having your child's fellow classmates attend the same Play Day location! Go to www.dc.gov, then go to the DPR site to register.

(Between you and me and the fencepost, the parents in one class got together to send their children to the same recreation center so at least they'd know some other kids at the Play Day earlier this month. The kids had a blast. They had such a good time playing with the rec center's equipment they didn't even want to go on a field trip. And at the end of the day, a rec center employee told one parent, "Bring more Shepherd kids next time. They were the best behaved we had.")

Welcome to a New Class Parent

Because of her duties as chair of the PTA's Auction Committee, Bianca Bostic asked to be relieved of her duties as a classroom parent.

So, in her place has stepped up Mr. Alvin Fridie to handle parent matters in Ms. Chambliss' first-grade class. We thank both parents for standing up for Shepherd!

'180 Fund' Parents: Shepherd's Pay Pals!

We laud and applaud all Shepherd parents who have contributed to the PTA's "180 Fund." Your giving has enabled the PTA to buy 10 new computers that are making their way to the school's computer lab.

They are also paying for the must-be-done-by-hand checking and scoring for the two days of testing of our first- and second-graders in January, not to mention the purchase of Discovery software, and plenty of other things that make Shepherd the great school that it is.

Now is the time, though, to remind parents who are paying on either a monthly or per-semester basis to be faithful in your commitment to the 180 Fund. Monthly payments are \$18 per month, and the per-semester payment comes to \$90. We have your pledges in the officially approved PTA budget, but not all of those pledges are in the bank account. If you fulfill your pledge to the 180 Fund, the PTA will be able to buy another 10 computers for students' use at school. Please check your ledger, and write a check to the Shepherd Elementary PTA to get caught up on your pledge.

If you haven't given to the 180 Fund yet, there's always time. It's the way the PTA has chosen to fund activities rather than charge dues money for PTA membership. In this way, EVERY parent is considered a PTA member with a stake in the success of both the school and the PTA. Join in this great work!

Support Shepherd PTA's



Score One for Reading in Pizza Hut's R.E.D. Zone

Pizza Hut has established a program called BOOK IT! which include the R.E.D. (for Read Every Day) Zone, a new online portal for teachers and parents packed with interactive tools and tips to make the most of read-aloud time. Learn how to read aloud effectively -- your enthusiasm helps develop a positive attitude about reading. Take the stories you read beyond the book with our Read & Do set ups. Here's the link:
<http://qa.bookitprogram.com/redzone/defaultworking3.asp>.

Develop thinking skills and stimulate natural curiosity with our wide selection of printables.

Finally, enter the Give Me Twenty Reading Challenge and you're well on your way to establishing a habit of daily reading for children that will likely continue into elementary school. Check out the great prize packages you have a chance to win -- just for reading 20 minutes a day for at least five days per week from March 1 through April 25.

Here's the Give Me Twenty contest link:

http://qa.bookitprogram.com/redzone/20challenge_officialrules.asp

And learn about the Community Challenge at:

<http://qa.bookitprogram.com/redzone/givemetwentychallenge.asp>

Reading aloud to children can inspire them to want to read. The R.E.D. Zone is thrilled to partner with you -- and Corduroy -- in this important task! Don Freeman's character, Corduroy, is one of best-loved bears in children's literature and his story has become a treasured childhood classic. Use Corduroy to make reading come to life for your students and their parents by recording the title of the book read -- or the amount of time read -- on the Corduroy cutouts found on the R.E.D. Zone Web site and then displaying on the classroom wall for all to see. To learn more, go to:
<http://qa.bookitprogram.com/redzone/corduroy.asp>

From March 1 through April 25, hear and see a book during the Give Me Twenty Reading Challenge compliments of onemorestory.com, an online library of the best of children's classic and contemporary literature. Professionally narrated and scored with original music, you can hear and see the selected title as many times as you wish during its featured week. The first featured book, available March 1-7, is "My Little Sister Ate One Hare."

21st ANNUAL SHEPHERD JAZZ NIGHT POTLUCK

When: Feb 26th, 6:30pm

Where: Shepherd Elementary Auditorium

What we need from you: A dish to feed 10 people and your time. (We need volunteers for set up and clean up. Please contact sesmustang@gmail.com if you'd like details)

We will have jazz musicians, food, activities for the kids, dancing and the all-time favorite Marching Line! To avoid duplication of too many items we have created a "what to bring" list:

- Pre-k and Kindergarten classes—Meats (chicken, turkey, beef, etc)
- 1st grade—Vegetable Sides (corn, greens, green beans, etc) & Desserts (cakes, pies, cookies, etc)
- 2nd grade— Hot starchy sides (potatoes, mac and cheese, lasagna, etc)
- 3rd grade— Salads and Breads (green salad, potato salad, macaroni salad, rolls, etc)
- 4th grade— Drinks (water, juices, sodas, etc in individual containers —no cups)
- 5th grade—Paper products (plates, napkins, utensils)

This event is a neighborhood favorite so be sure to let your Shepherd Park neighbors know! And they can bring a dish too!

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 marciebane@comcast.net.

Adventure-Based Camp Fair. Saturday, Feb. 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Hudson Trail Outfitters, 12085 Rockville Pike, Rockville. A slew of sleep-away camps will compete for your attention. For details call 301-216-1248

Audubon Naturalist Society Summer Camps

8940 Jones Mill Rd., Chevy Chase

June 21-Aug. 20

Spring break camps. Separate camping activities for pre-K and K, grades 1-2, grades 3-4, pre-teens, teens. Costa Rica family adventure offered.

301-652-9188, ext. 26

www.audubonnaturalist.org

Casa Italiana Language School

595 Third St. NW

Day camp for boys and girls and teens. Arts and crafts, cooking, drama/theatre, sports
638-1348

www.csaitalianaschool.org

casaitaliana2000@gmail.com

CASA (Creative Arts and Summer Adventure) at Sheridan School

4400 36th "St. NW

For ages 3-16. day camping for boys and girls. Extended day available. Arts and crafts, counselor-in-training, cooking, dance, drama/theatre, educational activities

Open house March 2, 6-7:30 p.m.

507-7729

www.casaatsheridan.org

CommuniKids Children's Language Center

4719 Wisconsin Ave. NW

Co-ed day camp for ages 3-5. Instruction in Spanish, French, Chinese, Arabic and Portuguese, Arts and crafts, educational activities, music, sports, yoga. Extended day available. After-school and weekend enrichment classes available

363-0122

www.communikids.com

www.communikidspreschool.com

info@communikids.com

D.C. Jewish Community Center

16th and Q Streets NW

For pre-K through 12th grade. Swimming, art, music, sports, cooking, trips, ice skating, theatre
777-3270

www.washingtondcjcc.org/camp

National Building Museum

401 F St. NW

For ages 8-11

Extended day available. Arts and crafts, dance, educational activities, field trips, photography
272-2448

www.gonbm.org/summercamp

Enrichment Centers RAP International Ministries
3553 East Capitol St. NE and Cavalry Baptist Church
755 Eighth St. NW

For grades K-12

Extended day available. Arts and crafts, counselor-in-training, computers, cooking, dance, drama/theatre, educational activities, field trips, photography, yoga
Sibling discounts available

301-229-8000

www.enrichmentcenters.com

Evergreen Summer Camp

10700 Georgia Ave, Wheaton

For ages 3-12

Creative and academic activities. Before- and after-care available. Multiweek discounts available

301-942-5979

www.evergreenschool.com

Family Dinosaur Camp

711 E St. SE, #104

One-week spring break camps available

One-week summer camp sessions June-August

Led by paleontologist Peter M. Kranz

202-547-3326

www.dinosaurfund.org

dinosaurfund@juno.com

Grace Summer Program

Grace Episcopal Day School

9411 Connecticut Ave., Kensington

For ages 3-13

June 28-Aug. 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Before- and after-care available

General camp, academic, Spanish instruction, technology, nature, art, soccer, "About Town," body movement, filmmaking

301-949-5860, ext. 54

www.geds.org

summercamp@geds.org

ID Tech Camp

At American University

Massachusetts at Nebraska Avenues NW

For ages 7-18

Game design, 3-D modeling, Web design, filmmaking, programming, robotics.

Online registration offers discount with code DC23

888-709-8324

www.internaldrive.com

Levine School of Music

2801 Upton St. NW

For ages 3-12

Extended day available. Arts and crafts, dance, drama/theatre, educational activities, music (well, of course!), yoga. Sibling discount available
686-8000, ex. 1040

www.levineschool.org

camp@levineschool.org

Check for more camp options next week



Be Kind and Firm at the Same Time

Ask yourself, did I use fear or love to motivate my child? Using love will help the child want to "behave" on their own. Fear will teach them to be sneaky and hide.

The Buck STOPS here!

PTA Meeting Highlights

Couldn't make last month's PTA meeting? Here are some of the highlights you missed -- until now!

Mark Murphy of D.C. Public Schools' new "Early Stages" program made a brief presentation. The program is headquartered at the Walker-Jones Center. It's for children ages 2-5 who may have developmental difficulties. Children need not be enrolled in D.C. Public Schools to take advantage of the program, merely D.C. residents. He is assigned to Ward 4. His partner is Natasha Stovall, an alumna of Shepherd. The aim is to get children ready for school once they are enrolled. He distributed a postcard with program information. He said info on Early Stages is available in both English and Spanish.

Parent Niki Mitchell was officially elected (by acclamation!) as PTA treasurer.

With Niki Mitchell formally in place as treasurer, the PTA's 2009-10 budget was approved.

Donation letters are being worked on to give to those parents who contributed to the PTA during the calendar year 2009. They will be ready by March 15.

Parent Marcie Bane won the 50-50 raffle, with proceeds going to Shelterbox. The raffle raised \$121, and Marcie donated her winnings to the Shelterbox effort.

Shepherd Elementary School Mission:

All stakeholders are committed to the advancement of students' academic, emotional, social, and physical well-being within a supportive, creative and flexible environment in which children learn to think compassionately and learn globally.

The 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@yahoo.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.

Deadline Looms!

for Next Mustang Issue

The deadline for the February 11th issue is MONDAY, February 8, at 5 p.m. Send all contributions to:

sesmustang@gmail.com

You'll be glad you did!

Shepherd Elementary School



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