



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

February 19, 2010

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Thursday, Feb. 18:** Performance of "Ragtime, Blues, Jazz, Rhythm & Blues and Message Songs," 6:45 p.m. Free; freewill donation requested
- **Tuesday, Feb. 23:** NAEP (The National Assessment of Educational Progress).
- **Friday, Feb. 26:** Snacks with the Principal, 2 p.m.
- **Friday, February 26:** 21st Annual Jazz Night Potluck, SES Auditorium 6:30pm
- **Monday, March 1:** Parent-Teacher conferences; no classes
- **Monday, March 1:** Auction Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Ledo Pizza

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Shepherd Parents,

I am sure you are as glad as I am that our children are back in school this week!! I hope everyone was able to attend Family Reading & Math Night on Wednesday. A good time was had by all in attendance. Thursday, February 18, was the Ragtime, Blues, Jazz, R&B, and Message Songs Concert led by Ken Giles and the DC Labor Chorus. American Music has spread all over the world and influenced the culture and history of the past century. The concert represent a sampling of Ragtime, Blues, Jazz and R&B to show how powerful and important this music is in our lives.

Please don't forget to return your letter of intent form for the 2010-2011 school year. We have collected a 100 forms thus far, but we still have a long way to go.

Thanks for your support.

Charisse Brassard

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Welcome Back!

It was great seeing the students after our unexpected break. I think most of the students had mixed reviews about coming back. However, parents were ecstatic. I greeted many of you on the sidewalk Tuesday morning early as you eagerly dropped your students off to begin their week. I think Tuesday was the lowest tardy rate of the year.

Countdown to DC-BAS

Now that we are back in the routine, it is time to buckle down and gear up for the last part of the school year. We have 61 calendar days — and only 31 instructional days — until DC-CAS. This means teachers will spend time reviewing as well as introducing a few additional tested concepts before the comprehensive assessment. Please review your students' work with them and encourage them to listen and focus in the classroom.

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found table is filling up quickly. Please take a moment in the morning or afternoon to check the lost and found table located in the entrance way of the gymnasium. Any unclaimed items will be bagged and delivered to Goodwill.

Shelterbox

A total will be coming soon! We did not count the money during the recent snow break.

Safety

Please do not enter the building and proceed into the hallways and classrooms without signing in, obtaining a visitor's pass and getting permission from security or front office staff.

Summer School

Currently there are no plans for a summer enrichment program at Shepherd Elementary.

Dismissal

Please be reminded that the school day ends at 3:15 p.m. Please be prompt when picking your student(s) up in the afternoon.

Treats

Please help us promote good healthy habits by sending healthy and nutritious snacks to school. Please refrain from sending candy and other sugary snacks that lack nutritional value.

Thank you and have a great weekend!

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

'180 Fund' Refresher

In place of PTA membership dues and what had been known as the Family Enrichment Fee, the PTA has established the "180 Fund"™ There are 180 instructional days in the school year. Parents, can you afford a dollar per day per child to improve Shepherd Elementary? We think you can, and we hope you'll contribute to the 180 Fund. There are all sorts of things that Shepherd Principal Jamie Miles and PTA leadership have identified since the end of the school year that will enhance the educational program at Shepherd that don't fit into the school or D.C. Public Schools' budget. These include, but are hardly limited to:

- Plastic folders to be provided to each student at the start of the school year to facilitate communication between the school and the home.
- A redesign of the Shepherd Elementary Web site to make it easier to use – and this year with individual Web pages for each teacher!
- Discovery Education software for the school (available at half price because a Shepherd parent works for Discovery Communications).
- Workshops and seminars conducted by renowned International Baccalaureate educator John Burnell.
- "White boards" to augment and supplement the school's blackboards.

More laptop computers for teacher use. Currently, we have about one laptop for every three teachers – and that just won't do.

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

Five Reasons Henrietta Lacks is the Most Important Woman in Medical History

(reprinted from *Popular Science Magazine*)

In 1951, Henrietta Lacks, a poor woman with a middle-school education, made one of the greatest medical contributions ever. Her cells, taken from a cervical-cancer biopsy, became the first immortal human cell line—the cells reproduce infinitely in a lab. Although other immortal lines have since been established, Lacks's "HeLa" cells are the standard in labs around the world. Together they outweigh 100 Empire State Buildings and could circle the equator three times. *PopSci* contributor Rebecca Skloot's book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, tells the story behind the woman who revolutionized modern medicine. Here, five reasons we should all thank Henrietta Lacks.



1. Before HeLa cells, scientists spent more time trying to keep cells alive than performing actual research on the cells. An endless supply of HeLa cells freed up time for discovery.
2. In 1952, the worst year of the polio epidemic, HeLa cells were used to test the vaccine that protected millions.
3. Some cells in Lacks's tissue sample behaved differently than others. Scientists learned to isolate one specific cell, multiply it, and start a cell line. Isolating one cell and keeping it alive is the basic technique for cloning and in-vitro fertilization.
4. A scientist accidentally poured a chemical on a HeLa cell that spread out its tangled chromosomes. Later on, scientists used this technique to determine that humans have 46 chromosomes—23 pairs—not 48, which provided the basis for making several types of genetic diagnoses.
5. It was discovered that Lacks's cancerous cells used an enzyme called telomerase to repair their DNA, allowing them, and other types of cancer cells, to function when normal cells would have died. Anti-cancer drugs that work against this enzyme are currently in early clinical trials.



When: Feb 26th, 6:30pm

Where: Shepherd Elem
Auditorium

What we need from you:

A dish to feed at least 10
people & your time.

**We will have jazz musicians, food,
activities for the kids, dancing and
the all-time favorite -- the Second
Line!**

(We need volunteers for set up and clean up.
Please contact sesmustang@gmail.com if you'd
like details)

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

To avoid duplication of too many items we
have created a "who's to bring what" list:

- **Pre-K and Kindergarten**—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)

Sponsored by Shepherd Elementary PTA, SPCA Shepherd Park Citizens Association, Ledo's Pizza and Cork 'n' Bottle.



Comprehension is the process

of constructing meaning from text. The goal of all reading instruction is ultimately targeted at helping a reader comprehend text. Reading comprehension involves at least two people: the reader and the writer. The process of comprehending involves decoding the writer's words and then using background knowledge to construct an approximate understanding of the writer's message.

Literacy Corner



Here are some activities that you can try at home to help build your child's vocabulary:

Activity 1

COMPREHENSION: The Comics

Directions:

1. Read and look at the Sunday comics with your child.
2. Cut boxes of comic strips apart.
3. Have your child tell the story by putting the strips in sequence.

Activity 2

COMPREHENSION: Who/What/Where/When Card

Directions:

1. Create a card that gives them cues on how to answer various types of questions.

Example:

Who - tells a character/person

Where - tells a place where action took place

What - tells the problem

Why - tells the reason something happened (because)

2. After reading a selection, show the cue cards to your child and asking him/her to respond to the cue.

*Instructional Coaches
Crystal Moorefield and Christina Bush*

The 21st Annual Shepherd Jazz Night honors:

Ronnie Wells-Elliston
1943 – 2007



A native of Washington, D.C., Ronnie Wells was president and founder of the Fish Middleton Jazz Scholarship Organization and director of the former East Coast Jazz Festival that was held each year in Rockville, Maryland. This event has drawn jazz performers and patrons from this area and across the country. As an outstanding jazz vocalist (singer), she shared stages with such greats as Billy Eckstine and Clark Terry. As a teacher, she shared her gift with many other great artists in the Washington Metropolitan area. Ms. Wells was also a professor and mentor at Maryland University, where she started the Jazz Vocal Studies Program. She “buckled down,” studied and practiced her music. She developed into a great jazz artist! She did not stop there. She, along with her husband Ron Elliston, taught many others to be great too in their own school for jazz vocalists. She lived the African proverb that says, “Each one, teach one” (or more than one). You can too.

The festival that Ronnie Wells started is now called the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival and will be held on February 19 – 21, 2010 at the Hyatt Hotel in Rockville. Many of the performances are free and the event is family friendly.

**See you at the Shepherd Jazz
Night!**

**Great music, potluck dinner,
great company, and Second Line
tribute to New Orleans!**

21st ANNUAL SHEPHERD JAZZ NIGHT POTLUCK

**Alexander Shepherd Elementary
School Auditorium**

Friday, February 26, 2010

14th and Jonquil Streets, N.W.

Jazz Video 6:30 PM

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.

Combating Peer Pressure

Practice the following steps to resist peer pressure:

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a calm voice.
3. Say clearly that you do not want to engage in that activity.
4. Suggest another activity. Give a reason.
5. If the person tries to convince you, keep saying "No."
6. Leave or ask the person to leave.



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](mailto: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.

Support Shepherd PTA's



Deadline Looms!

for Next Mustang Issue

The deadline for the February 26th issue is Tuesday, February 23, at 5 p.m. Send all contributions to:

sesmustang@gmail.com

You'll be glad you did!

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 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.

Shepherd Elementary School



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