

Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

March 19, 2010

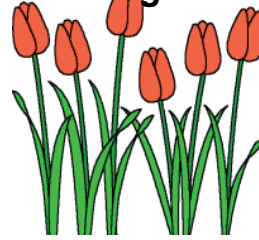
Mark Your Calendars!

- **Mar 25, 2010** Snacks with the Principal
- **Mar 26, 2010** 12:15 Dismissal/Spring Break Begins
- **April 6, 2010** Students Return
- **April 6, 2010** Terrific Kid/B.U.G. Awards
- **April 8, 2010** LSRT meeting, 3:55
- **April 15, 2010** DC CAS Pep Rally
- **April 16, 2010** No School (DC Emancipation Day)
- **April 19-29, 2010** DC CAS



A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!



Assessment

Last week our students in grades 3 through 5 participated in their final benchmark assessment. Thank you to parents for making sure your student arrived to school on time. The students

were focused and have shown growth. Teachers will be sharing results with parents soon.

Pastries with the Principal

This month's Pastries with the Principal will be held on March 25 at 9 a.m. The topic is internationalism and how we can promote that in home and at school. As always, there will be time allotted for parents to ask questions and share any concerns they may have.

Spring Has Sprung

Please remember we are an elementary uniform school. Please make sure your student is in uniform and dressed appropriately. I would also like to encourage you to speak with your young lady about lipstick and lip gloss. It is becoming a distraction as our ladies spend extended time in the restroom putting on gloss. They are sharing lip gloss/stick and they are using it during class time. Finally, please remind your student about behavior expectations. Encourage them to walk away from conflict, choose their friends wisely, think before they react and make good choices.

Thank you for all you do!

Have a great weekend!

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Shepherd families:

It is tax time! A number of families have inquired about receiving a tax receipt for their donations to Shepherd Elementary. Please e-mail Shepherd Elementary School Treasurer, Niki Mitchell for a tax receipt for any donation you made to the school this past year. This includes your contribution to the 180 Fund. Reach the treasurer at nikimtchll@aol.com. If you need a hard copy, please leave a note in the PTA mailbox in the school office with alternative contact information.

I hope everyone found the Shepherd PTA meeting informative regarding the IB update and our guest speaker regarding Good Touch/Bad Touch. Our Next PTA meeting will be April 21.

Only 43 days to the auction!

Charisse Brassard

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.

National Geographic Adventures at Home

- Film, "The Two Horses of Genghis Khan," Thursday, March 18, 7 p.m. 91 minutes. English subtitles, \$10 (\$8 for National Geographic members).
- Film, "Expedition Wild With Casey Anderson," Friday, March 19, 7:30 p.m. The explorer visits Kodiak Island off the coast of Alaska. \$10 (\$8).
- Family program, "Up," the 2010 Oscar winner for Best Animated Feature, Saturday, March 20, 1 p.m.; a discussion with writer-director Pete Docter follows the movie. All ticket \$5.
- Lecture, "Waters From the Roof of the World," Tuesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m. Norwegian photographer Jonas Bendicksen shares images of his photographic work in the Tibetan Plateau. \$18 (\$15).
- Film, "'Africa's Lost Eden," Wednesday, March 24, 7 p.m. The documentary will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by "Hardball" host Chris Matthews. \$18 (\$15).
- Film "2501 Migrants: A Journey," Wednesday, April 7, 7 p.m. After the film, there will be a discussion with its director, Yolanda Cruz. \$10 (\$8).
- Tasting, "Chocolate: From Bean to Bar," Wednesday, April 14, 7 p.m. Need we say more? \$80 (!! (\$75).
- Lecture, America's Endangered Species, Tuesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m. With photographer Joel Sartore offering 80 images of threatened life forms in our country. \$18 (\$15).
- Lecture, "Tracing the Family," Wednesday, April 21, 7:30 p.m. With writer Donovan Webster, who wrote: "Meeting the Family: One man's Journey through His Human Ancestry." \$18 (\$15).
- Family program "The Sippy Cups." The Bay Area band sings songs from its third album, "The Time Machine." Adults \$16, children 12 and under \$12.

All events are at National Geographic's Grosvenor Auditorium, 1145 17th St. NW Free parking. For details call 857-7700 or go to www.nglive.org/dc.

Win Big! Win the Tops Prize!



Sorry about any technical difficulties with the collection sheet for the Space Age Box Tops collection effort. If you can't use the robot collection sheet sent out previously, please use the following:

www.boxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?Id=60. As noted earlier, we're about \$150 away from our school year goal of \$500, so we need a lot of participation. With that in mind, we have a prize! The contest ends May 5 and the top 40 contributors will receive a poster from the Smithsonian exhibition "Yesterday's Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future" (see link), just perfect for a bedroom or classroom wall!

Remember the rules: no expired Box Tops or Box Tops without a visible expiration date. Box Tops only. Please tape or glue (no staples) one Box Top to each square on the collection sheet for a total of 10 per sheet. Also, you may submit Box Tops loose in a bag - just be sure to include student name and teacher/grade.

Thanks for your continued efforts to raise money for the Shepherd PTA. Any questions, please contact me at kctrimble@mac.com.

Katherine Trimble,

Shepherd Box Tops Coordinator

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.



Student's Eye-View

Shepherd Students Take on the Test

On March 9 and 10, Shepherd Elementary School students participated in D.C. Benchmark Assessment System (DC BAS) Testing. Only Shepherd upper elementary students - third, fourth and fifth graders - had to take the test.



DC BAS testing takes place at the beginning of the year and two additional times during the school year in grades 3 to 5. The tests are given to all District of Columbia Public School students in the appropriate grades. Test results are used to help teachers determine how much of the prior year's curriculum was retained by students, how much is being learned and where further work is needed.

To prepare, Shepherd students reviewed previous DC BAS tests. Before the test, students talked about how they felt.

"I am ready to start testing," said fourth-grader Ebonie Hilton. "Bring on the test!"

"Test, meet your match!" fourth-grader Philemon Powell shouted, without fear.

Once we all stretched, we were ready to take the test.

"I felt good about the test but some of the questions were hard," concluded Jada Mathews.

The series of assessments also provide educators with information about how our students are progressing on each of the reading and math categories that are assessed during the end-of-the-year exam, known as DC-CAS, or the DC Comprehensive Assessment System.

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

--Compiled by Emahni Grant, 4th grade

Auction Time Is Here!

Auction Sponsorships Available

Did you know that ...

- **For \$500, you can be a Mustang Sponsor of the Auction?**
- **For \$750, you can be a Silver Sponsor of the Auction?**
- **For \$1,000 you can be a Gold Sponsor of the Auction?**
- **And, for \$2,500, you can be a Platinum Sponsor of the Auction?**

Each sponsorship package comes with its own set of perks. Go to the school Web site, www.shepherd-elementary.org, to view the range of auction packages and pick one that best suits you.

Be the Big Man (or Big Woman) On Campus and be an auction sponsor!

Although our record-keeping doesn't go back real far, live-auction items of classroom gifts have been the biggest-ticket items each year!

Literacy Corner



This month our focus is on Writing!

Kids enjoy fun activities and there are fun writing activities for children to do at home such as making a dinner menu, writing a letter to grandparents, and being a newspaper reporter (the 5 W's -- who, what, when, where and why).

Writing does not have to be a chore for kids. By offering writing activities at home that are meaningful and exciting, children will not even be aware they are exploring literacy – they will just think that writing is so much fun!

In the right hands, language can be a powerful and awe-inspiring instrument, and this month we will introduce some writing activities for kids that are great first steps to understanding the limitless possibilities of the written word.

Mix and Match Story Activity

In this mix and match story activity, kids can jumble their stories' beginning, middle and end.

What You'll Need:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Pens or pencils
- Ruler

Using a ruler, take 10 pieces of paper and divide each into six even sections. Have your child write a very simple story, using six sentences, with a sentence in each section. Make the first sentence a "Once upon a time" character introduction, such as "Once upon a time, there was a green tree frog."

The second describes where the character lived: "He lived in the wilds of a South American rain forest."

The third sentence describes the character's special talent: "He was able to hop better than any animal in the realm."

The fourth sentence describes the character's feelings: "But he was sad."

The fifth tells why the character felt that way: "He was a very lonely frog."

The last line tells how the character solved the problem: "So he found a friend in the pond."

Write a story for each of the pieces of paper. Now cut the sections of each page, and mix and match the lines of the stories. See what wacky combinations come out.

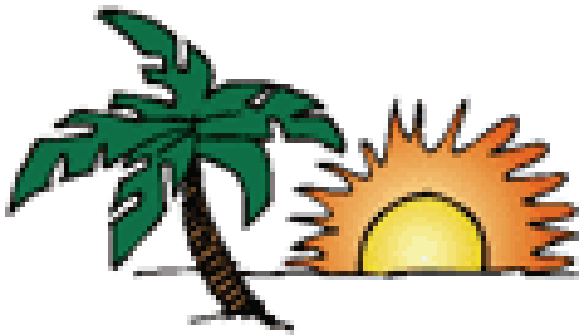
*Instructional Coaches
Crystal Moorefield and Christina Bush*

And in more Auction News...

Auction Update

Hot on the heels of last Friday's ticket sales booth at the school, we'll repeat the ticket-booth concept for next Friday's half-day, March 26. We hope to have parents at every exit point of the school to make it easier for you to buy tickets. Remember: Tickets are just \$40 for one ticket, and \$70 for two tickets. You can't go wrong with a deal like that!

Parents are beginning to ask what kinds of items will be auctioned off. Some of the best items in the auction are the class-project items. Each teacher has been asked through their classroom parent to devise a little something special that parents of those kids will just flip over - and bid big, big, big on. Ask your classroom parent what's in store for the gift from your class. Although our record-keeping doesn't go back real far, live-auction items of classroom gifts have been the biggest-ticket items each year!



**Come to the
Annual Shepherd Auction!**
Caribbean Carnival: The Carnival for Giving™



Friday, April 30th

7-11:30 p.m.

At the

Washington Ethical Society

It's not too late to make a donation!

No item is too big or small, and creativity goes very far!!! **All donations should be submitted by April 2, 2010.**

If you have any questions contact Marnie Keller at marniekeller@gmail.com or 202-329-3170.

Thank You Corner

**A Carnival of Thanks
to the
Auction Committee for
their efforts!**

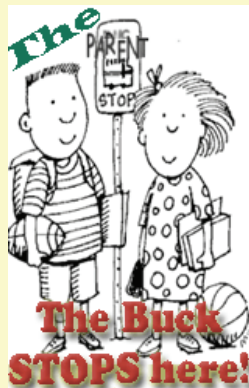
In the Thank You Corner, ANYBODY connected with Shepherd Elementary can thank ANYBODY ELSE connected with Shepherd. Just send in your thanks, whatever they are, to sesmus-tang@gmail.com.

If you prefer to stay anonymous, you can. Or, if you want everyone to know you're the one who appreciates someone's good deeds, you can do that, too!

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.



Support Shepherd PTA's



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.

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.

Deadline Looms!

for Next Mustang Issue

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

sesmustang@gmail.com

You'll be glad you did!

Shepherd Elementary School



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