



THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, April 9, 2010

Mark Your Calendars

Thursday, April 15: Pep Rally,
2:00 p.m.

Friday, April 16: No School, D.C.
Emancipation Day *

Monday, April 19-Friday, April
30: DC-CAS testing

Wednesday, April 21: PTA
meeting * Friday, April 30: Annual
Auction, "The Carnival for Giving,"
7-11 p.m., Washington Ethical
Society, 7750 16th St. NW

From the PTA President

Dear Shepherd Parents:

I hope everyone had a great Spring Break! Our children are going to be tested in the upcoming weeks and I thought it would be fun to give our parents a little test as well. Please answer the following questions with a yes or a no:

1. Do you know when the next PTA meeting will be held?
2. Have you bought auction tickets?
3. Do you know what your child's class is contributing to the auction?
4. Do you know what the grand prize is for the auction raffle?
5. Do you know the date of the auction?

If you answered no to all of the questions, we need you to get involved and act upon one of these questions!

Here are the answers: 1) April 21 at 6:45 p.m.; 2) If you need tickets, you can buy from me by e-mailing me at cbrossard65@gmail.com; 3) Contact our class parent; 4) Nintendo DS; 5) April 30 at the Washington Ethical Society at 16th and Kalmia.

Sincerely,

Charisse Brossard, Shepherd PTA president

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Welcome Back! I hope you enjoyed your break and the beautiful weather!

"Fuel-Up" for DC-CAS - Breakfast with the Principal on April 19
On April 19, all students in grades 3-5 are invited to eat lunch with Principal Miles in the cafeteria. The breakfast choices are pancakes with scrambled eggs, turkey sausage and home fries, or assorted cereal with graham crackers, orange juice low-fat or fat-free milk. Students should plan to arrive between 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

Countdown to DC-CAS

Did you know we only have four school days remaining before students in grades 3 through 5 participate in the District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment (DC-CAS)? The teachers have been working extremely hard and they will be ready to experience success! Our goal is a 10 percent increase in reading and math and a 100 percent test participation rate. Students in grades 3-5 who arrive to school on time every day during testing and do their best work will be invited to attend an "After Test Jam" with live music and food.

Adopt a Family!!!

We are excited to welcome 49 new families to the Shepherd Family! I have met many of the families and they are equally excited to join our family. As you know, any new experience can sometimes bring a certain level of anxiety and a sea of questions. As a school we try to answer as many questions as possible and address any feeling of uneasiness. However, we cannot do it alone. Therefore, we are seeking families to adopt a new family. Your primary responsibility will be to reach out to the family, welcome them to Shepherd and answer any questions they may have, share with them your experiences and possibly arrange a play date or lunch so that the children can get to know one another as well. Hopefully, relationships will form and friendships will develop. If interested, please e-mail Ms. Brooks at robyna.brooks@dc.gov or call 202-576-6140 to put your name on the list.

Mark Your Calendars Now!!

As you know we are quickly coming to the close of another school year. As we approach the end of the year, please be sure to read all memos, newsletters, Web sites and listen to all voice messages from the school. A lot of will be happening during the last three months of school and we do not want you to miss out on anything!

May 1st School Beautification Day

Please join us on May 1 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. as we do a little building, painting, gardening, cleaning, gluing and cutting. A specific list of needs will be coming soon!

June 4th - Family Fun Day and Registration Fair

Our goal is to get 100 percent of our families registered for the first day of school prior to the last day of school. To help with the initiative we will be having a Family Fun Day.

Students'-Eye View

With the school year more than halfway over, spring break gives students a rest period and time to think about what they have learned and done in class - particularly as they consider the final round of D.C. Benchmark Assessment System (DC BAS) Testing before summer.

"I am going to visit family for spring break," said Indya Heyward.

"This spring break is going to be so fun [much] for me," Ebonie Hilton said without telling her plans. "I really like spring break."

Several weeks ago, Shepherd Elementary School students also participated in DC BAS Testing. Only Shepherd students in graders 3, 4 and 5 third take the test.

DC BAS testing takes place at the beginning of the school year and two additional times in those grades. 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.

And don't forget to attend the Shepherd Auction, being held this month at the Washington Ethical Society, located at 7750 16th St. NW. Bid on prizes ranging from valuable artwork and televisions to fine dining packages, weekend vacation trips and much more. Proceeds from the PTA sponsored event go toward expanding educational opportunities for Shepherd students. Get more info at: www.shepherd-elementary.org.

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

Compiled by Emahni Grant, fourth grade

Box Tops contest continues – Help Us Reach Our Goal

As you know, we're about \$150 away from our school year goal of \$500, so we need a lot of participation in the current contest. 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," 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

Music Corner

Happy Birthday, Paul Robeson! April 9 is his birthday.

Several Shepherd school students (and families) will visit the "Paul Robeson Archives" at Howard University Library on Friday, April 16, at 10:30 a.m. We will see photos of Robeson, posters from his movies, documents from his long civil rights career, and his passport. Paul Robeson's personal and professional papers are at the Moorland Spingarn Research Center at Howard University.

Looking ahead, we will present our final music concert of the year on Friday, May 7, at 6:45 p.m. Advanced violinists and guitarists will play a medley of civil rights songs. Beginner violinists will play the "Twinkles" rhythm variations arranged by Suzuki. Then our own BWL rhythm-and-blues band will play.

Ken Giles, music teacher

'STAR' Workshop Series Starts Next Week at Library

We are still only half full for this workshop, so please let anyone who has small children in your neighborhood know! This also counts as 12 training hours for those working on their child-care certificate!

"STAR - Sing, Talk And Read" is for parents/grandparents/caregivers with children newborn to age 5. It will be held at the Juanita E. Thornton-Shepherd Park Branch Library, 7420 Georgia Ave. NW. Learn what you can do now to help your child be ready to read. Get new early-literacy tips every week. Plus, free books for you and your child!

The workshops will be held 7 p.m. on six consecutive Wednesdays:

- April 14, 21, 28
- May 5, 12, 19

Pre-registration is required for this six-week series. Sign up by calling the Shepherd Park Library at 541-5917.

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Parents are invited to attend school with their child on this day, register for next year and participate in fun health and fitness activities with their students. There will be games, prizes, food and a lot of fun! Volunteers are needed! Please contact Mr. Burgess at Jarrett.burgess@dc.gov

June 16th – Awards Day Students in grades pre-K-4 will be recognized for Perfect Attendance, Academics and Behavior. The first ceremony will take place at 9:15 a.m. for students in pre-K and first grade and 10:15 a.m. for our students in grades 2 through 4. Our fifth graders will be recognized during their promotion exercise.

June 15th – Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony Parents and invited guest are invited to join us as we celebrate our fifth graders transition from elementary school to middle school. The ceremony will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Have a Great Weekend

Mrs. Jamie Miles, Shepherd Principal

Deadlines make headlines as annual auction looms

Auction Draws Near!

Friday, April 9, is supposed to be the deadline for auction items to be included in the auction program book, and for ads to be placed for the auction program.

But you can always try asking for a reprieve from Bianca Bostic, our Auction Committee chairwoman, by e-mailing her at

shepherdaction@live.com.

While it's never too late to join in on the auction fun, some deadlines will still have to be met so that auction-goers can actually read descriptions of the items they'd like to buy. And the print shop is going to need time to prepare the auction book, too.

If you need ANY of the important auction forms go to

<http://groups.yahoo.com/>.

Then, under "Find a Yahoo Group," type in Shepherd_Elementary_PTA.

Click on the big "Shepherd Elementary PTA" to get to the site.

Then, in the left column, click on "Files."

Next, click on the folder marked

"Auction 2010."

There, you will find five items to make the auction a bigger success with your help:

An advertising contract for the auction program booklet. Ads start at \$25 and go up to \$125 (auc-ads).

- A letter to businesses asking them to contribute goods and/or services to the auction (auc-biz).
- A letter to parents touting this year's auction, "The Carnival for Giving" (auc-letr).
- A sponsorship agreement for the auction. There are four levels of sponsorship ranging from \$500 (Mustang Sponsor) to \$2,500 (Platinum Sponsor). Be true to your school! (auc-spon).
- A donation form for anyone contributing something to be auctioned during either the silent-auction or live-auction part of the April 30 auction (aucdonor).

There are just three weeks until the big auction. After you've helped out by getting auction items, sponsorships, and advertising, remember to buy a ticket or two to the auction! Tickets are just \$40 each, or two for

\$70. A limited number of tables (seating six) are still available for \$210.

If you don't have a parent nearby offering to sell you tickets, e-mail shepherdaction@live.com to reserve yours today!

Auction Items to Open Your Eyes

Remember all that squabbling between Mayor Fenty and the D.C. Council the past couple of years about the "council box" tickets at new Nationals Park?

Well, how would YOU (and a dozen or more of your closest friends) like to sit in the "council box" for a game: the Aug. 1 contest against Nats' NL East rivals and defending two-time National League champion Philadelphia Phillies?

It can be yours - for the right price! The tickets were contributed by Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser.

Maybe you can't drag a dozen or so people to the ballpark. So what if the entertainment were to come to you? "Banjo Man" Frank Cassel, a fixture for more than a decade at the Takoma Park farmers market, is donating his services for your son or daughter's birthday party.

It's yours for the bidding, so don't be shy on Auction Day!

Early Deadline Next Week

Due to next Friday's District of Columbia holiday, there will be no school. As a result, all Mustang submissions are due next Monday, April 12, at 5 p.m. Please send all items to sesmustang@gmail.com. The Mustang will be distributed Thursday, April 15.

Franklin's in Hyattsville: Worth the Trip - And Maybe Worth Big Bucks for Us!

Go to Franklin's Restaurant, Brewery and General Store any time this coming Monday, April 12, mention Shepherd Elementary's fundraiser to your server or the cashier, and Franklin's will donate 20 percent of your pre-tax receipt to the PTA!

Franklin's, in Hyattsville, has great unpretentious American cuisine. It also brews the beer it sells on the premises. And, if you've ever been to the general store next door to the restaurant, you'll find all sorts of toys, games, knickknacks, gag gift items you haven't seen probably in decades, and (thinking way in advance) you can get a jump on finding Christmas stocking stuffers.

This is a great deal that just cannot be missed. Franklin's is located at 5121 Baltimore Ave. (a.k.a. Rhode Island Avenue) (a.k.a. Route 1) in Hyattsville in a converted hardware store. Look for the marquee; free parking across the street. Their phone is 301-927-2740.

Check out the Web site at www.franklinbrewery.com for a full menu, description of the restaurant and driving directions.

Learn the History of D.C. Emancipation Day

The enslaved people in Washington were freed nine months before President Abraham Lincoln issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation, telegraphing the eventual end of slavery to the rest of the nation. On April 16, 1862, President Lincoln signed the Compensated Emancipation Act, "for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia," making D.C. residents the "first freed" by the federal government.

Emancipation Day celebrations were held annually from 1866 through 1901, and resumed in 2002. In 2005, Emancipation Day was made an official public holiday in the District of Columbia. Each year, a series of educational and commemorative activities is held during the week prior to the holiday that celebrates the end of slavery in Washington.

When Mayor Adrian Fenty came into office in 2007 he dedicated Emancipation Day to the continued pursuit for full democracy with a voting rights march to the Capitol building, demanding equal representation for D.C. residents in Congress.

Last year, the Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia and the Office of Cable Television produced "Enslavement to Emancipation," an hour-long documentary examining D.C. history from slavery through emancipation. A 20-page booklet, "Ending Slavery in the Nation's Capital," was also published, highlighting the District's struggle for freedom.

And that's why there's no school next Friday.

You can read the booklet online at www.os.dc.gov/os/frames.asp?doc=/os/lib/os/info/emancipation_day/dc_emancipation_booklet.pdf.

You can view the documentary online at www.os.dc.gov/os/cwp/view,a.1207,q.608954.asp and clicking

"Enslavement to Emancipation Documentary."

For a list of this year's Emancipation Day events, go to www.os.dc.gov/os/cwp/view,a.1207,q.645466.asp. Don't delay! Some start April 9!

In the Community ...



Shepherd Park Welcomes 'Peace Thru Culture'

Experience the art, dance, and food of The Americas at the Juanita E. Thornton-Shepherd Park Branch Library, 7420 Georgia Ave. NW. It's for all ages, 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, April 10.

Peace Thru Culture has partnerships with the D.C. Public Schools, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington, and the Peace Corps. For more information on the work done by Peace Thru Culture see its Web page at www.peacethruculture.com/.

For more information on the April 10 event, call Anina Ertel at 541-5917.

It's Clean-Up Time!

Mark your calendar for the annual Rock Creek/Potomac Watershed cleanup on Saturday, April 10. Hours are 9 a.m.-noon. Once again, Cliff Grandy will lead a cleanup site nearby at the Fenwick Tributary near North Portal Drive NW and East Beach Drive NW. This site is appropriate for kids (with parental supervision), so make it a family affair!

The Friends of Rock Creek's Environment (FORCE) and the Alice Ferguson Foundation sponsor the annual Rock Creek Extreme & Potomac River Watershed cleanups to improve the environment of the Potomac River and Rock Creek watersheds. One of the cleanup sites, the Fenwick Tributary, is in your backyard! The cleanup is a community service opportunity to help improve our environment. Volunteers are needed!

The Fenwick Tributary consists of several underground and aboveground streams that drain 1,200 acres in the District of Columbia, Silver Spring and Chevy Chase. This stream is significant for the direct impact that it has on Rock Creek, the Potomac and the Chesapeake Bay. The two largest above-ground streams runs between North Portal and Portal drives and East Beach and West Beach drives near East West Highway, 16th Street and Rock Creek Park.

For advanced registration, curriculum materials and other information, visit the Web sites of the sponsoring watershed organizations: www.PotomacCleanup.org and www.friendsofrockcreek.org/.

If you prefer, you can register on-site at North Portal Drive and East Beach Drive NW that morning, or, you may e-mail Cliff Grandy at clifathebeach@starpower.net.

A second cleanup is scheduled in Rock Creek Park at 16th Street NW and Holly Street NW on Sunday, April 11, from 9 a.m. to noon. There are steep slopes and some potential for poison ivy, so this site is not for everyone. The cleanup needs 10-15 volunteers to reach maximum effect. There is parking on Holly Street just off 16th Street NW.

If you would like to help out, send Steve Saari an e-mail at flick_9@yahoo.com. If you want to see other sites in/around Rock Creek, go to www.friendsofrockcreek.org.

Blair Pool Passes Available

Did you know that you can buy pool passes for the outdoor pool at the Blair Apartment complex? Now is the time to apply for the passes.

This year it's \$325 per family (maximum six members) or \$120 for a single pass.

The pool is open daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day. In past years, the hours have been 11 a.m.-8 p.m. There is a large pool that ranges from 3 feet to 8 or 9 feet, a separate wading pool for children 6 and younger, showers and changing rooms. The pool has adult-only swim for 15 minutes every hour. The policy on guest passes has varied over the years; in some years non-residents have not been permitted to buy guest passes.

This year, the applications are available online. You can pay with a credit card or print the application and mail it in with a check.

For the application, go to www.gcwpbethesda.org

The passes often sell out well before the pool season begins.

For questions, send an e-mail to poolpass@gcwpbethesda.org or call Gina Beckman at 301-692-1440. She is the one who distributes the passes. Do not inquire at the apartment complex. They are not involved in the sale of the nonresident pool passes.