



## Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

April 15, 2010

### *Mark Your Calendars!*

Thursday, April 15: Pep Rally, 2 p.m.  
Friday, April 16: No school - D.C. Emancipation Day  
Monday, April 19: Auction Committee meeting,  
6:30 p.m., Ethical Society  
Tuesday, April 20-Friday, April 30: DC-CAS testing  
Wednesday, April 21: PTA meeting, 6:45 p.m.

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

### *FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...*

I know I'm not the only Shepherd parent gearing up the household to help my child succeed with the next two weeks of DC-CAS testing. This is the moment where our students shine. And they shine because we parents get them ready the RIGHT way. And because our students shine, more and more families -- both in the neighborhood and outside the neighborhood -- want to send their children to Shepherd. Let's keep up the good work!

Having attended last week's Auction Committee meeting, I know we're going to be in for a good time come April 30. The preparations are pretty much set, but there's an Auction Committee meeting this coming Monday, the 19th, at the Ethical Society at 6:30 p.m. Not every parent has to go to an Auction Committee meeting, but every parent really has to buy Auction tickets.

After all, how can you win anything if you're not there to bid? I've got my eye on a few things

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### *A Word from Mrs. Miles!*

Greetings!

#### **No School Friday- April 16, 2010 - Emancipation Day Holiday**

Washington, D.C., celebrates April 16 as Emancipation Day. On that day in 1862, President Lincoln signed the Compensated Emancipation Act which ended slavery in our city 8½ months before the Emancipation Proclamation was issued.

#### **DC-CAS**

This is the last week of classes before we take the DC CAS. The DC CAS is an important measure of students' academic achievement. Last year we made a 12-point gain in math and four-point gain in reading. We are striving to make gains again this year.

The assessment begins on Tuesday, April 20, and ends on Friday, April 30, for students in third through fifth grades. The test is untimed and is divided into eight sections (four math and four reading). Students take one test section a day. In addition to reading and math, students in fourth grade take a writing composition assessment and fifth-grade students will take a science assessment.

It will be a long two weeks for everyone. Special-area teachers and many of the education aides will be serving as test administrators or proctors. Students will not be on a normal schedule and the special-area schedule will be adjusted. It is imperative that all students arrive on time and remain in school all day. Our goal is a 100% 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.

### **Breakfast with Principal Miles on April 19, 2010**

On Monday, April 19, all students in grades 3-5 are invited to each 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 and 8:30 a.m.

### **Uniform Reminder**

We are a uniform school. Please do not send your student to school in spaghetti-strap tops, too-short skirts and shorts. If you send your student to school in a skirt please make sure they have bikers or some sort of shorts underneath. Please do not allow your student to wear flip-flops, high heels or sandals to school. Students go outside every day and these type of shoes can be a safety hazard. In addition, they break easily when students run and walk and we often are asked to help repair the shoe or shoes.

### **Behavior Expectations**

Please take time to remind your student about behavior expectations. Warm weather often brings out more frequent misbehaviors among our students. Students who have been friends with one another all year will suddenly decide they do not like one another. Students who have never gotten into trouble at school will suddenly find themselves in the middle of an altercation. Please encourage your student to make good choices, walk away from conflict and seek the nearest adult if they need assistance. Though we recognize the effects of warm weather, we will not tolerate inappropriate behavior. Students have been told consequences will be implemented if they cannot make wise choices.

### **Did You Get the Message?**

There is a lot happening at Shepherd and sometimes it is even difficult for me to keep up with the many events. Therefore I have decided to send weekly voice mail messages. The messages will contain announcements for the upcoming week and any additional need-to-know information. The first message will be delivered on Sunday, April 18, at 3 p.m.

and will continue each Sunday at the same time. Please make sure your answering machine or voice mail box is set to receive the message.

### **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 ease 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 email Ms. Brooks at [robyna.brooks@dc.gov](mailto:robyna.brooks@dc.gov) or call 202-576-6140 and put your name on the list.

### **May 1 is School Beautification Day**

Please join us Saturday, 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 4 Is Family Fun Day and Registration Fair**

Our goal is to get 100% 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. 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!!

### **Birthdays!!**

Nothing is more special to our little ones than the day they were born and each year we celebrate that

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day with some sort of birthday celebration. We recognize the importance of this event and as a school we love to celebrate your student with you. However, please keep in mind that school is not the place for a birthday party. We kindly welcome parents to visit school on their child's birthday and we do not mind if you bring a small treat for your student to share with the rest of the class. However, parties (i.e. balloons and games) should be reserved for another time and another location.

If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday, please check with your child's teacher. Birthday treats are usually shared at lunch, during snack time and at the end of the day. Please respect teachers' instructional time and think about how other students may feel if their parents do not come to school to celebrate their special day.

Have a great weekend!

*Jamie Miles*

Mrs. Jamie Miles  
Principal

## **Pep Rally is Thursday! April 15**

Remember: The big, big, pre-DC-CAS pep rally – featuring a special surprise guest - is 2 p.m. in the school Auditorium. Kick off test prep in style!

# **Art Smarts**

Hello Everyone!

Happy Spring to you all! The weather has been so great and continues to be. Spring has sprung and continues to do so on Shepherd's walls. Classroom work has been so artistic that our school is like a student gallery with beautiful work everywhere. In addition to art room products, I can see the lessons your children learn in art in the illustrations of their classroom displays and that is terrific!

Here's what's happening in the art room. Pre-K classes have painted watercolor rainbows. Kindergartners are painting Flower Mural Panels of tulips, daisies and daffodils. First graders will soon be making trucks from recyclables as they study goods and services. Second and third graders will be creating animals to go with their IB units of study. Fourth graders are weaving and creating figure drawings. Fifth graders are studying the nature of creativity as they compose books and create sculptures.

So as usual the art room is a busy place. And as always, I need help mounting work. No previous experience or expertise is needed. I could use extra hands Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., or on Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays after school.

So a safe and springtime break to all.

Remember, you gotta have Art!

--Ms. Joele Michaud, art teacher

## **Auction Tickets Still Available!**

Cont. from pg 1 PTA President

myself, but if you outbid me, then congratulations to you!

And remember next Wednesday's PTA meeting, on Wednesday the 21st, at 6:45 p.m. inside the auditorium. With so many things happening at school -- and a jam-packed Mustang is ample proof of that -- we're likely to have a jam-packed agenda. But we promise to move through items as quickly as we can without omitting all the relevant details. I'd love to see you there!

Best wishes,

*Charisse Brossard*

Charisse Brossard  
PTA President

## PTA Meeting Next Wednesday

This is an official notice that there will be a PTA meeting next Wednesday, April 21, at 6:45 p.m. in the school auditorium.

We will hear reports from Principal Miles and PTA officers, reports from PTA committees, and get the latest update on Auction activities. Auction tickets will be for sale during the meeting.

Child care will be available during the PTA meeting. Food and drink will also be available to children at \$1 per serving. (Adults' food and beverage will be supplied free.)

Further details of the meeting will be issued on the PTA listserv closer to the date.

**Did you fill out your census form and mail it back yet?**



## Box Tops Clippings

Our current Box Tops coupon contest is currently under way. Instead of just 10 spaces to fill, there are 26 spaces – one for each letter of the alphabet. You don't have to fill up the entire sheet by the contest deadline of Wednesday, May 5, but every little bit you contribute helps!

Remember that you can find Box Tops coupons on most General Foods and Cascadian Farm cereals; Kleenex facial-care products; Hefty disposable tableware and trash-bag items; Avery office products; Cottonelle, Huggies and Pull-Ups baby and child-care products; Betty Crocker, Bisquick and Gold Medal baking items; Juicy Juice; Green Giant and Totino's frozen foods plus Pillsbury Toaster Strudels; Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, Suddenly Salad and Old El Paso meals and sides; Cottonelle, Scott and Viva paper products; Pillsbury and Yoplait refrigerated/dairy products; Chex Mix, Fruit by the Foot, Fruit Roll-Ups and Nature Valley snacks; and Ziploc storage bags.

For a full list, go to:

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/clip/Brands.aspx> to see if your favorites are included.

**Good luck to the  
Shepherd Elementary  
students  
and teachers on  
the DC  
CAS!**



# Auction Action!

Remember the TV game show "Let's Make a Deal"? (It's back on 10 a.m. weekdays on Channel 9 with Wayne Brady hosting instead of Monty Hall.)

One of the chances a contestant had to take was whether to choose box number one, box number two, box number three, or whatever was behind the curtain where Carol Merrill was standing. There was some OK stuff in one or two of the boxes, a really nice prize hidden somewhere, and one box had a terrible gag gift -- like a mule wearing a farmer's straw hat.

At this year's auction, we promise NO MULES! But we will have many, many "mystery bags" that you'll be able to buy without bidding for the modest sum of \$20 or \$25. And, in a much higher percentage than "Let's Make a Deal" ever offered, the value of the contents inside the Mystery Bag will closely approximate -- if not exceed -- what you spent on it.

That way, every Auction-goer can go home a winner. So get ready to give it up for "The Carnival of Giving." Auction Committee Meets Monday The PTA Auction Committee will hold another meeting at 6:30 p.m. this coming Monday, April 19, at the Ethical Society. The Committee needs to dot the I's and cross the T's as auction preparations head into the home stretch.

## Got Camp? Friday, April 16?

Create Arts Center on Thayer Avenue in downtown Silver Spring has a one-day camp on Friday, April 16. You can still sign up for it by calling 301-588-2787.

# SOLD!



## Hey Bidder, Bidder!

- Disney Park Hopper Passes
- Washington Nationals Council Box Seats and Tickets

**Don't forget to  
complete the  
aftercare survey**



## Auction Tickets Still Available!

There will be a parent in the auditorium in the mornings until the hand-clapping routine with auction tickets to sell.

Also, there will be an auction ticket booth following dismissal from school at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 15. It'll run until Star Achievers wraps up for the day at 6:30 p.m. Further, Auction tickets will be available at next week's PTA meeting, on Wednesday, April 21, starting at 6:45 p.m. in the auditorium.

Tickets are \$40 each, or two for \$70. "The Carnival of Giving": Don't dare miss it!

# Auction To Do List

If you have a child that attends Shepherd Elementary then you should check off at least three items on the Auction To Do List. If you can't, quick, go find a member of the auction committee!

- Helped with class item
- Bought a raffle ticket
- Bought a ticket to the auction
- Bought an ad
- Convinced a friend to attend the event
- Donated an item
- Convinced a business to buy an ad
- Convinced a business to be a sponsor

If you are able to check each box, please turn your checklist in to a committee member for a surprise that you will receive at the Auction on April 30th .

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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@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](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org).

## Deadline Next Week!

Next week's Mustang will be distributed. The deadline to submit articles for the Mustang will be 5 p.m. Tuesday. Please send your submissions to [sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com).



### Shepherd Elementary School

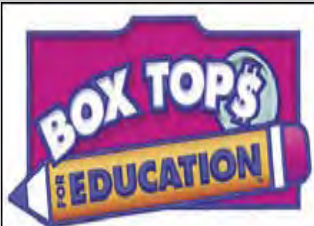
7800 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012  
 Office Telephone: 202-576-6140  
 Office Fax: 202-576-7578

Mrs. Jamie Miles, Principal – [jamie.miles@dc.gov](mailto:jamie.miles@dc.gov)  
 Ms. Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant – [robyna.brooks@dc.gov](mailto:robyna.brooks@dc.gov)  
 Ms. Charisse Brossard, PTA President – [cbrossard65@gmail.com](mailto:cbrossard65@gmail.com)

*The Mustang* Newsletter Editors: Fred Lewis and Mark Pattison  
 Layout/Design: Nayada Cowherd and Rose Dawson  
 Production and distribution: Angela Anderson and Marcie Bane

Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to: [SESmustang@gmail.com](mailto:SESmustang@gmail.com).

Have  
clipped  
top to-



you  
a box  
day?

**SHEPHERD PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AFTERCARE SURVEY  
APRIL 2010**

*To take this survey online, click the link on the Shepherd Elementary Webpage.  
You may send in your responses on this paper if you prefer.*

**1. Please check the grade(s) your child(ren) are in.**

- Pre- K     K     1<sup>st</sup>     2<sup>nd</sup>     3<sup>rd</sup>     4<sup>th</sup>     5<sup>th</sup>

**2. Does your child attend aftercare at Shepherd Elementary now?**

- Yes                       No

**3. If your child does not attend aftercare, please tell us why:**

- Do not need aftercare                       Can't afford it  
 I do not like the current aftercare program

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. If your child attends aftercare, please rate the following components of aftercare.**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The aftercare program is a safe place for my child.					
My child is happy in the aftercare program.					
Children are treated with love and respect in aftercare.					
The aftercare program provides enough opportunities for creativity and self expression					
The aftercare program provides enough opportunities for physical activity					
The aftercare program provides enough academic support					
I am very happy with the aftercare program					
I would recommend the aftercare program to another parent					
Aftercare is an important factor for me in choosing a school for my child					
The aftercare is reasonably priced for the services it provides					
I would be willing to pay more for an enhanced aftercare program					

**5. What do you like the most about the current program? What things would you keep the same in the future?**

**6. What suggestions do you have for changing and improving the current aftercare program? Be as specific as possible, including ideas for activities, staffing, atmosphere, use of the campus.**

**7. What would the 'ideal' aftercare program have that our current one does not have? Please be as specific as possible.**

If you have additional ideas or suggestions that you were not able to include on this survey, please email Jennifer Pauk at [jpauk@hotmail.com](mailto:jpauk@hotmail.com)