



## Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

*Home of the Shepherd Mustangs*

*Friday, April 30, 2010*

### **Mark Your Calendars!**

**Friday, April 30:** DC-CAS testing ends

**Friday, April 30:** Awards Day

**Friday, April 30:** PTA officer nominations due

**Friday, April 30:** PTA Auction, 7-11 p.m.,  
Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16<sup>th</sup> St. NW

**Tuesday, May 4:** Terrific Kid Awards, 9:20  
a.m.

**Friday, May 7:** Concert – Civil Rights Songs  
and BWL/Band, 6:45 p.m.

**Saturday, May 15:** School Beautification Day,  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

### ***From the PTA President***

The time has come! I'm looking forward to having a great time at the Auction at the Washington Ethical Society. Anybody who knows me knows I'm an absolute fiend for the wings from Popeyes. But I'm already whetting my appetite for some delicious Caribbean-flavored food. It's all in keeping with the theme "The Carnival for Giving." If you haven't gotten your tickets yet, you can walk right up to the check-in desk at the Ethical Society, buy a "virtual" ticket, and the ticket price will be added to your auction winnings for the night. And if you hadn't heard, we'll be raffling off one of those new iPads during the auction. Tickets are \$25 each for a chance to win the iPad, so get ready! Parking is free on 16<sup>th</sup> Street, on Kalmia Road, on Jonquil Street, not to mention outside Shepherd Elementary and three parking lots at Lowell School. This is going to be some kind of night!

Best wishes,  
Charisse Brossard  
PTA President

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

#### **DC-CAS**

Thank you for a great week of testing! It was a long two weeks; however, the students were focused and did their best. Results will be released this summer. Thank you to parents for making sure your student was present and arrived to school on time each day during testing.

#### **Student Behavior**

In an earlier edition of the Mustang I talked about student behavior. I decided to bring this matter up again because the number of office referrals for behavior has doubled in the last two weeks. Every day a number of students are being referred to the office for behavior concerns. Usually, when the weather gets warmer, behavior problems increase. However, warm weather is not an excuse for inappropriate behavior. Please remind your student what is expected of them. Please tell them to stay away from conflict, choose their friends wisely, make good decisions, and seek the nearest adult if conflict finds them.

Also, parents please remember there are usually two sides to every story and in most cases no student is 100% innocent. Also, often times altercations occur due to misunderstandings. We are diligently working with our students to encourage them to use their words ("I don't like it when you." "Please do not." "It made me mad when you"). We also want them to use their manners and think before they react.

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

*(continued from page 1)*

### **Beautification Day (Date Change)**

Our annual beautification day will be held on Saturday, May 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please mark your calendars now. Next week we will list our specific needs.

### **Registration**

If you have not done so, please take a moment to register your student or students for the upcoming school year. Our goal is to register 100% of our students prior to May 31, 2010. Please remember, registration includes residency verification. Therefore, we cannot accept registration forms from students.

### **Toys**

A number of students are bringing toys and electronic devices to school. Please be reminded that these items are not allowed at school unless you receive a written request from your child's teacher. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items!

### **Teacher Appreciation**

Monday-Friday, May 3-7, is Teacher Appreciation Week. Teacher Appreciation Week is the perfect time of the year to take a moment to show your appreciation to Shepherd teachers for all they do each. In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, I am asking parents to help us celebrate our teachers by showering them with a small token of appreciation each day during the week. Please remember our special area and language teachers deserve tokens of thanks as well.

**Monday** - Give Your Teacher a Card or Letter. Have your student make a card or write a letter of thanks and deliver it to their teacher.

**Tuesday** - Thank You for Helping Me Grow. Please allow your student bring a flower, flowers or a plant to their teacher.

**Wednesday** - Health Snack Day. Please allow your student bring a healthy snack to their teacher.

**Thursday** - Everyone Deserves a Day of Relaxation. Please allow your student to bring any kind of bath soap, candles, lotions, body

spray, tea or anything that the teacher can use at home to help them relax.

**Friday** - Hug Day. Please tell your student to give their teacher a hug or a high-five and tell their teachers thanks.

Regards,  
Jamie Miles  
Principal, Shepherd Elementary

*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.*

## ***Art Smarts***

Hello Everyone!

Thanks to everybody for your support of our students during this testing period. We all appreciate it. Although we are testing there is still a lot going on in and out of the art room.

Happy Auction Week to you all! Don't miss the chance this coming Friday to bid on a framed still life humbly painted and offered by yours truly. Better yet, don't miss the chance to bid on a half-day guided fishing trip on the Chesapeake Bay with Mr. Michaud, a fly- and spin-fishing guru. He has the boat and is ready to go, that is beginning in June.

Spring has sprung and continues to do so at Shepherd. Take a moment to stop by our library to see dazzling paper sculptures by Mr. Leonard's fifth graders. Across the hall from Ms. Gibbs room, take a look at the textural weavings by Ms. Valentine-Nelson's fourth graders. Then view the Monet Flower Garden Murals on the stair landing near Ms. LaPenna's room, created by her students. Similar gardens by Mr. Byers' class are brightening the window wall of the art room.

Right now second and third graders are into zoological watercolor paintings, with the second graders concentrating on frog camouflage. Look for those pretty soon.

So as usual the art room is a busy place. And as always, I need help mounting work.

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### *Art Smarts (continued from page 2)*

previous experience or expertise is needed. I could use extra hands Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., or on Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays after school.

Remember, you gotta have Art!  
--Ms. Joele Michaud, art teacher

## **School Beautification Day Rescheduled to May 15**

In order to give auction-going parents a breather, the school beautification day has been moved to Saturday, May 15. Things will get under way at 9 a.m. and will continue to 1 p.m. The school has wheelbarrows and some gardening implements. However, if you feel more comfortable using your own tools, you're welcome to bring them. A list is being developed of the tasks that can get done if we have a few green thumbs and many eager hands.

## **Remember to Register Your Child for 2010-11**

Mrs. Miles said she hopes to get 100 percent registration from current Shepherd families for their children. Registrations must be done by the adults in person at the school so that school personnel can verify the family's D.C. residency, so don't return completed forms in a child's backpack – because it'll just be returned to you.

Why is registration important? Consider this: Current enrollment is 336. Our projected count for 2010-11 is 339. There is currently a wait list for ALL grades. All siblings are guaranteed entry, but not all neighborhood children. But if we get the registrations we expect to, then the numbers give us a shot at having an aide per grade for grades 1-5. With more success comes more students. With more students comes more opportunities for success. And success breeds itself.

## **Wanted: Parent Mentors**

We need to welcome new families to the Shepherd Elementary experience and be ready to answer their questions – not to mention getting

them into the swing of thing. Already 10 parents have signed up to be mentors. But we're expecting close to 50 new families for the 2010-11 school year. If you can give incoming families the benefit of your wisdom and experience, sign up with Ms. Brooks in the school office, or send her an e-mail at [robyn.a.brooks@dc.gov](mailto:robyn.a.brooks@dc.gov).

## **Save the Date: June 4 for Shepherd Family Fun Day**

The customary "field day" at Shepherd is going to get a little tweaking this year. The school has declared Friday, June 4, as Family Fun Day. There will be many of the kind of activities that have marked field days of years past, but we are aiming for a real, honest-to-goodness family component for June. See if you can get the day off from work to enjoy Family Fun Day with your child and his or her classmates.

## **School Improvement Time**

At the April PTA meeting, Principal Miles noted that Shepherd Elementary is not high on D.C. Public Schools' list for renovations. While it is true that Shepherd benefited from the "blitz" campaign of three years ago, the installation of new windows two years ago after what seems like forever, and a lot of elbow grease from parents, there are issues that both parents and staff need to consider to upgrade the facilities. After all, some parts of Shepherd were built before the Great Depression. If you would like to help Mrs. Miles identify items inside and outside the school that deserve quicker consideration, as well as items that merit inclusion in a longer-term renovation plan, please call the school at 576-6140, or e-mail Mrs. Miles at [Jamie.miles@dc.gov](mailto:Jamie.miles@dc.gov) to offer your services.

## **Civil Rights Songs and BWL Concert May 7**

The school's final concert of the year will take place on Friday, May 7, at 6:45 p.m. First, the advanced violinists and guitarists will

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### *Concert (continued from page 3)*

play a medley of “Civil Rights Songs.” You can also expect some Shepherd Elementary graduates to perform alongside our current students on some of the numbers. Afterward, the music program’s beginner violinists will play “Twinkles.” Finally the BWL rhythm-and-blues band will rock the house. Performers for the “Civil Rights Song” medley need to be at school for a 6 p.m. rehearsal on performance night. Other performers need to be in the auditorium by 6:30 p.m. so the concert can begin at 6:45 p.m. sharp. Audience members are also kindly asked to take their seats by 6:45 p.m. so you can enjoy the entire performance without interruptions or distractions.

## **AUCTION ACTION!!!**

This is the night the whole school has been waiting for: Auction Night!

This is the night to dress up, show up, and put on the ritz!

The sixth annual PTA Auction goes down starting at 7 p.m. at the Washington Ethical Society at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Kalmia Road, just across the street from Shepherd Elementary.

Virtually every classroom has donated a prize to be auctioned off. That means that your student’s handiwork as well as that of his or her classmates will be on display – and then it’ll go home to the highest bidder!

We’ll have three silent auction tables, each with different “closing” times, for you to get your bids in.

We’ll also have a terrific live auction with prizes that will make your heart flutter – or perhaps pound.

And, we’ve got more than two dozen “mystery boxes” with prizes whose value is at least equal to the purchase price. You don’t have to bid against anyone for them. All you have to do is be the first person to say, “I want THAT box!” and you can claim it as your own.

School historian Victoria Botvin has assembled a slide show featuring some of the photos she’s taken at Shepherd Elementary throughout the year. Better yet, she’s arranged for copies of the slide show to be made. These

will be for sale as well at the auction – and if we run out, we can take an order to get more made!

Oh, and did we mention that we’ll raffling an iPad – an upgraded model yet – at the Auction. It’s \$25 a chance. How many chances are you willing to lay down to win the latest must-have technology from Apple?

And if you don’t have your tickets yet, that’s OK. You can get your ticket at the door. We have enough space to accommodate you and your guests. The tickets will still be \$40 for one, or two for \$70. The cost will be applied to your total auction winnings for the evening.

Just like Hot Chocolate sang back in the day, Every 1’s A Winner! Still have questions? Send an e-mail to [shepherdauktion@live.com](mailto:shepherdauktion@live.com).

## **Box Tops News**

There's still time to buy auction tickets, and there's still time to clip Box Tops for the upcoming collection contest! As you all know by now, we're about \$150 away from our school year goal of \$500, so we need a lot of participation in the current contest. As you also know by now, we have a prize! The contest ends next Wednesday 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!

--Katherine Trimble, Shepherd Box Tops Coordinator

## **PTA Nominating Committee Nears Its April 30 Deadline**

The PTA’s Nominating Committee is still on a search for parents willing to run for one of six offices in the PTA for 2010-11.

Those offices are: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer.

The deadline is TODAY (Friday, April 30). Nominations will be made at the May PTA meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, May 19. You may nominate yourself, or suggest another parent you think will make a good officer. Contact Nominating Committee Chair Leonie Stephenson at [leoniestephenon86@yahoo.com](mailto:leoniestephenon86@yahoo.com) – or talk to her at the Auction!

# Math Corner Week of: 4-26-10

Have fun with Math Facts. Try some of these interesting activities.

## Primary Grades PreK-2

[www.KidZone.ws](http://www.KidZone.ws)  
math readiness

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

Look at the pattern in each row. Circle the picture that continues the pattern.  
Color the pictures.

	
	
	
	
	



