



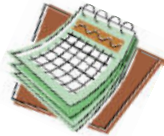
Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

May 14, 2010

Mark Your Calendars!



- **Saturday, May 15:** School Beautification Day, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Monday, May 17:** FULL DAY OF SCHOOL (no parent-teacher conference day)
- **Wednesday, May 19:** PTA meeting, 6:45 p.m.
- **Thursday, May 20:** LSRT meeting, 3:55 p.m. (rescheduled from May 13)
- **Monday, May 31:** Memorial Day - no school

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Shepherd Parents:

We only have a few weeks of school left, and there are a number of school activities that you can participate in. **School Beautification day** is May 15th and we need volunteers for the **Annual Shepherd Field Day** on June 4th. If you can volunteer for either event, please contact the school office.

Please remember next Wednesday's PTA meeting, May 19th, at 6:45 p.m. inside the auditorium. While the executive board has had the pleasure of serving you for the past year it is time to elect new PTA officers and we have some great candidates. Please see the proposed agenda below:

- PTA Elections for next year's officers
- Principal's report
- Auction update (silent auction of remaining items)
- Treasurer's report
- Approval of April Meeting Minutes
- Proposed New Auditorium Floor
- Staples School Supply Program

I hope to see you there!

Charisse Brassard

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

Have you registered your students for next school year? If not, please do so this week. Currently only 64 students have registered. Did you know staffing decisions and budgetary decisions are made based on student enrollment. Well, they are and if we only have 64 students registered for next year, I am afraid we will have displaced teachers and money taken away from us. PLEASE take time to register now. Students who register will receive two Bowie Baysox tickets.

School Beautification Day is scheduled for this Saturday from 9:00-1pm. Volunteers are needed to move items, put together bookshelves, plant, weed, dust, paint and scrub. Please bring your gloves, bucket, cleaning supplies, toolbox and garden material. If you are in outdoorsman or you prefer the inside, we will find something for you to do!

On Thursday our 5th grade students will take Deal Middle School's math placement test to determine their middle school mathematics point of entry. Please ask your child for the copy of the letter that was sent home this week.

This month's Pastries with the Principal event has been cancelled for this month. The new date and time is June 10th at noon.

Please plan now to come and hear about Shepherd's future plans and to offer your input. More information will be coming soon! Finally, a tremendous thank you to everyone for making Teacher Appreciation Week great. Teachers were showered with cards, flowers and sweet desserts. They even had the opportunity to enjoy a duty free lunch due to several parents donating a few hours of their time to do lunch and recess duty.

Have a great week!
Jamie Miles



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.

Candidate Statements From 2010-11 PTA Officer Nominees

Nominations will be made, and an election held, during next Wednesday's PTA meeting, which begins at 6:45 p.m. in the school auditorium.

According to the PTA's bylaws, each candidate must submit a candidate's statement, which gets published in the school newsletter and on the PTA listserv. Here are the candidate statements that we received in time for publication for the May 14 issue:

For President: Mark Pattison

Since my daughter Cyntia started going to Shepherd, I've gotten increasingly involved in PTA activities. I've been on the Communications Committee for three years, serving the last two as committee chair. I've also been one of the Mustang's editors over the past two years, and I've served as PTA recording secretary the last two years. I've also helped out on the Auction Committee the last two years. Where I can pitch in, I do. In the year ahead I'd like to substantially increase both parent and community participation -- parents because children need to see their folks active at the place where they spend most of their waking hours, and the community because a successful school means a successful neighborhood and vice versa.

For First Vice President: Lisa Deane

I am Lisa Deane, proud parent of three and currently an active member of the Shepherd Elementary School community. My youngest, Jamal, is in Ms. Thomas' 3rd grade class. He has been at Shepherd since Pre-K and I have been an active member of the Shepherd Elementary School community for the past five years. I strongly believe in and support the Shepherd academic program and welcome the opportunity to help the Shepherd Elementary School PTA (SESPTA) grow. To that end, I am seeking the position of 1st Vice President of the SESPTA. As your VP my ultimate goal is to assist our President by fulfilling all assigned duties by him/her. My main focus will be increasing parent participation in the PTA and school as a whole. Parent participation is absolutely critical to ensuring our children have a successful academic career. Shepherd has made great strides in the past few years, but we still have so much room for improvement. It is imperative that we, the SESPTA, unite all grade level families (Pre-K to 5th Grade) to support the school through time and financial commitments. We need to provide more opportunities for families to interact with SESPTA board members, Shepherd faculty, and other members within the Shepherd community. We need to focus on school socials, regular grade-level meetings, etc. The single most important aspect of serving the SESPTA is to help raise resources to provide our children with a complete educational experience. I welcome the opportunity to serve the Shepherd community.

For Second Vice President: TBA (insert your name here)

For Recording Secretary: Keisha Grant

This was my first year at Shepherd. I was a member of the Auction Committee and I served on the Communications Committee (I did a lot in putting together the Family Directory) -- and I attend the PTA meetings. It's my daughter, Ehmani, whom I persuaded to write the "Student's-Eye View" column that appears in the Mustang and in the Northwest Current. I look forward to serving if you elect me.

For Corresponding Secretary: TBA (insert your name here)

For Treasurer: Lisa Connor

My name is Lisa Connor and I would like to serve as the Treasurer for the Shepherd Elementary PTA. My husband Ashford and I are the proud parents of two boys, Ashford who is in Ms. Kuawogai's first grade class this year and Marley, who is three years old. I am originally from Iowa and a graduate of the University of Iowa. I am employed by the National Education Association an recently switched from a field staff position to a DC based position which allows me more time to volunteer with community activities. Ashford has been a student at Shepherd since pre-K and we have been active participants in the school community. I would appreciate your support and look forward to serving the Shepherd Elementary family if elected.

Parents have not yet stepped up to be nominated for the positions of Second Vice President and of Corresponding Secretary. If you are interested in nominating someone, or yourself would like to serve, please notify Leonie Stephenson, chair of the Nominations Committee, at leoniestephenon86@yahoo.com.

And in more Auction News...

Auction Committee to Meet Just One More Time (Really!)

On the heels of this year's highly successful PTA Auction, the Auction Committee will meet once more, on Monday, May 17, at 6:30 p.m., inside the school library. As with past meetings, your kids are welcome. Please bring \$5 to defray the cost of pizza and drinks for children and grown-ups alike. The meeting will review each element of the auction and see what bears repeating for the 2011 Auction, and identify areas where we can make the auction even better.

Auction Committee chair Bianca Bostic has already agreed to run the 2011 auction for the PTA. So if you have any ideas, based on your own auction attendance, on how to make next year's auction better than this year's, send your ideas to shepherdauction@live.com. If you send your ideas and comments in time for Monday's meeting, the committee will be able to discuss them.

School DVDs for Sale!

Get your own precious keepsake of the 2009-10 school year. More than 250 pictures of school life at Shepherd, from the pre-K play date to concerts and everything in between! And it's only \$25 -- that's less than 10 cents a picture.

Plus, it's all been arranged into a slide show just for YOU. Copies will be on sale at the May 19 PTA meeting. If we sell out, order forms will be available at the meeting. If you can't make the meeting, order forms will be available in the rack outside the main office. And EVERY PENNY of profit goes to Shepherd. Our thanks to school historian Victoria Botvin, who took the photos and assembled them into a slide show.

Come to the PTA Meeting and Win a Popsicle Party for Your Child's Class

How? Just show up at Wednesday's (May 19th) PTA meeting. The class with the most parents at the meeting will win a Popsicle Party courtesy of the school. It's just that simple!

Remember: School starts on time — and so do PTA meetings!

6:45pm SHARP!

Monday is a Full Day of School!

Keep in mind that, to pack in 180 days of learning despite that huge February snowstorm, some days had to be changed on the master calendar. One of those is this coming Monday, May 17. It HAD been a parent-teacher conference day with no classes, but instead it will be a FULL DAY OF SCHOOL for all students at Shepherd and throughout D.C. Public Schools. You don't have to fret about making arrangements for the care of your children, because they'll be at school, learning and growing!

Attention: Parents of 5th Graders

Deal Middle School will hold a Registration Open House this Saturday, May 15.

All students must be registered for the 2010-11 school year by June 22 (the last day of the current school year). Deal will have a special Open House this Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon for families who are not able to come to the school during the week.

So far only 80 students have been registered at Deal for next year. These registration numbers will have negative implications for receiving Deal's projected budget and for master scheduling. Please come between 9-noon on Saturday to register your child.

Registration for incoming 6th graders will take place in the cafeteria. Parents of current sixth and seventh graders will register in the auditorium. Please be sure to bring documentation of proof of residency.

You can also register your child any school day at Deal.

DCPS registration forms and requirements for proof of residency are online at <http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/Learn+About+Schools/Enroll+in+a+School/Enrollment+Forms+for+DCPS>

Incoming sixth grade math assessment: If you haven't gotten your incoming sixth grader's math assessment done yet, there will be makeup days for that conducted right at Deal, 3815 Fort Dr. NW off Nebraska Ave. NW. The makeup dates and times are Saturday, May 15, at 10 a.m. or Thursday, May 27, at 4 p.m.

Call the school at 939-2010 for more details.

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.

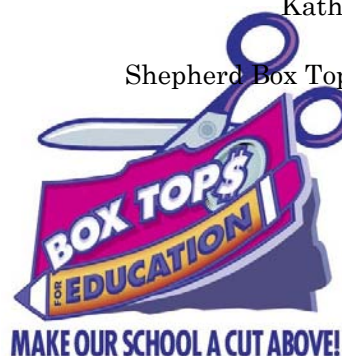
Box Tops Update!

Thanks so much to all those who participated in the most recent collection effort and "Space Age" poster contest.

Given the large amount of collection sheets and baggies o' box tops that I picked up from the front office, there's a good chance we met our goal of collecting \$150 in Box Tops to meet our school year goal of \$500. I'll be back soon with the results and the list of participants who have won a free Smithsonian Institution poster from the exhibit "Yesterday's Tomorrows."

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 Department Notes Activities in May!

On Wednesday, May 12, our fifth graders were scheduled to perform their "student opera rap" for other D.C. school students at the headquarters of the Washington National Opera. Next year, we will take fifth graders to see an opera at the Kennedy Center, and then they will compose and perform their own "student opera."

This coming Tuesday, May 18, "Jali-D" (David Foreman), a djembe drummer and rapper, will perform for two music classes and aftercare students. Jali-D plays dynamic rhythms on djembe and composes "clean" educational raps. His recent CD is "Mind Rhymes." Jali-D has performed for Shepherd ES music classes for the past five years.

--Mr. Ken Giles, music teacher



Student's Eye-View

Shepherd Students Took on the Test... AND SURVIVED!

On Thursday May 6, students at Shepherd Elementary had a pizza party to celebrate the end of DC CAS testing.

DC CAS testing takes place at the beginning of the school year and two additional times in third, fourth, and fifth grades. The tests are given to all District of Columbia Public Schools 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.

After lunch, playing fraction bingo and reading in our social studies books, it was time for the pizza party. Fourth grade teacher Ms. Thurber got the pizza from Jerry's. We had lemonade to go with it.

Students talked about the tests being over as they ate. "I am so happy testing is over!" said Hannah Schuster. "The last two weeks have been busy."

Next week learn the results of Shepherd's annual spring fundraising auction, held April 30 at the Washington Ethical Society.

Proceeds from the PTA-sponsored event go toward expanding educational opportunities for Shepherd students.

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

Is YOUR Child Registered?

The following students have registered for next year... Thank you. If you have registered and you do not see your name, don't panic.

This list does not reflect our most current data. We will update the list each week.

Felemon Abebu	Gabrielle McKinley
Rashad Biddle	Mattie Melnyk
Theo Biddle	Zennon Melnyk
Kamryn Bowman	Quin Montgomery
Kyle Bowman	Zora Pauk
Caleb Bush	Bianca Popa
Samuel Bush	Deja Redd
Kadija Cash-Taylor	Amani Richardson
Kemani Cash-Taylor	Jean-Pierre Roberts
Ashford Connor	Zoe Roberts
Miles Davis	Savannah Robinson
William Davis	Casey Ross
Margaret Goletiani	Charles Ross
Wynton Hailey	Frank Sheffield
Aniya Hamilton	Jumel Silver-Rhodes
Anthony Harrison	Nina Sinkford
Aanisha Hasan	Nana Sissoko
Chanelle Haynes	Fama Sissoko
Romy Herisse	Amaya Smith
Sophia-Rose Herisse	Godloves Tata
Antonino Imbroscio	Marie-Therese Tata
Dakota Innis	Cyndi Taylor
Jaden Innis	Efrata Tesfaye
Masai Jenkins	Carson Wheeler
Luke Jennings	Rasheda White
Andre Jones	Caleb Wilson
Camille Jones	Zaria Wilson
Grace Kao	Justin Williams
Everett Keller	Sabrina Witter
Darius King	Jordan Yates
Briana Knight	
Alexander Leonard	
Madeline Lewis	
Ricardo Lindo	

Uniform Giveaway

The PTA, which for several years has conducted used uniform clothing sales at the beginning of the school year, will be conducting a used-uniform giveaway during next Wednesday's PTA meeting. All sizes, all items, boys' or girls' - it doesn't matter. It's FREE! Take as many items as you want. It's FREE! There's no limit to what you can take. It's FREE! But it's a limited-time offer. We cannot guarantee that we'll be able to bring out our stock of used clothing.

At the end of the school year, though, we will be collecting your gently used uniform clothing for sale next year. Please drop off all items that your child may have GROWN OUT OF at the office. This includes blouses, shirts, polos, golf shirts, socks, pants, shorts, skorts, skirts, and sweaters. The PTA will get them ready for resale at prices as low as \$1 an item when the 2010-11 school year starts in August. If the item is worn out, please don't bring it. If the item is stained and the stain cannot be removed, please don't bring it. The same is true if it's missing buttons or clasps.

Mustang



Can you help us with the layout and design of the Mustang?

We're hoping you could take turns with our other design and layout parents through the end of the school year next month. It would serve as a great introduction to doing this kind of service for 2010-11, though!

If you can offer your talents, please get in touch with Communications Committee chair Mark Pattison at 829-9289 or at

pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

"Pastries with the Principal" Is Rescheduled to June 10

The "Pastries with the Principal" originally scheduled for Friday, May 28, has been rescheduled to Thursday, June 10. Parents might have first gotten wind of the change from Mrs. Miles' phone message earlier this week. But take note in planning, and come hungry for pastries -- and hungry for more knowledge of what's happening at the school.



No LSRT Elections --At Least Not Yet

Unlike in past years, this May's PTA meeting will not include elections for the Local School Restructuring Team. D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee is reassessing the value of LSRTs throughout the system. For now, as a result, there will be no LSRT election. If Rhee decides to continue the LSRTs, then candidates will be sought, and an election will be conducted.

In the meantime, take note in your calendar that the LSRT meeting has been rescheduled from May 13 to this coming Thursday, May 20, at 3:55 p.m. in the school.

School Beautification Day Comes to Shepherd May 15



The school beautification day originally scheduled for last Saturday has been moved to at this 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. Look to the Mustang or the PTA listserv for the list once it becomes available.

Remember to Register Your Child for 2010-2011



Mrs. Miles said she hopes to get 100 percent registration from current Shepherd families for their children. Although we've gained new registrations since a noticed was published in last week's Mustang, we're not at 100 percent yet.

Registrations must be done by the adults in person at the school so that school personnel can verify the family's D.C. residency, That means: Don't return completed forms in a child's backpack -- because it'll just be returned to you. What counts as proof of residency? Driver's licenses, pay stubs, even utility bills.

Why is registration important? There is currently a wait list for ALL grades. All siblings of current Shepherd students are guaranteed entry, but not all neighborhood children. If parents don't register their children, then children on the wait list will get these coveted spots. But if we get the registrations we expect to regardless of source, 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 builds upon itself.

Register now!



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TIME

At April's PTA meeting, Principal Miles noted that Shepherd Elementary is not high on DCPS' 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. Still, there's only so much that elbow grease can do.

Some parts of Shepherd were built and in use 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 to offer your services and/or suggestions.

Mentor Incoming Parents

Because It's Meant to Be

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 things. Many parents have already volunteered to be mentors. But we're expecting close to 50 new families for the 2010-11 school year, mostly in pre-K but in all grade levels. 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.

Thank You Corner

A Vote of Confidence goes to the PTA nominating Committee!

We thank you for your time energy and efforts to keep the PTA Board fully staffed!

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!

Shepherd Family Fun Day! June 4th..Let's All be There!

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 this time out.. For one thing, there's talk of a parents-vs.-teachers kickball game! See if you can get the day off from work to enjoy Family Fun Day with your child and his or her classmates. If you can help in any way to prep for Family Fun Day or during Family Fun Day itself, call the school at 576-6140 and give your name!



The Parent Stop

Dealing with a Spirited Child

Practice the following steps to work with spirited children:



1) Get Moving — Spirited kids have a lot of energy and what better way to burn it off than to let them run around outside. Try to make time for heading outdoors every day by going to a local park or playing active games like soccer or tag in the yard. If

that is not possible, see about finding a community centre that offers a children's gym time for running around or find an indoor physical activity for them to join. Community centres offer a wide range of activities, available for toddlers to teens. Families can also hit up the local swimming pool or skating rink to get a good workout.

2) Have Back-up Activities for Busy Kids — Help spirited children focus their energy. Have a variety of indoor activities at the ready, especially for those rainy days. Playing with play dough, finger-painting, coloring with crayons, cutting and pasting are great hands-on fun. Families can also enjoy doing puzzles, building blocks and indoor games like Hide and Seek together.

3) Be Consistent With Rules for Spirited Kid — Spirited kids tend to push the boundaries more and rebel against a lot of rules. They can also act out if limits are not consistently enforced. It doesn't mean parents can't be flexible once in a while, but when they relax a rule, they need to be clear with children that this is a special exception and not a change of the rule.

4) Make Following the Rules Fun for Children — Using threats or pleading with spirited children rarely ever works. Parents are better off finding way to gain a child's interest and cooperation in following rules. Moms and dads can do this by providing children with choices when possible and within reason. For example, kids still have to go to bed at a set time, but parents can let kids choose which books they are going to read before bed and what pajamas they want to wear.

Win a Popsicle Party For Your Child's Class

How? Just show up at Wednesday's (May 19th) PTA meeting. The class with the most parents at the meeting will win a Popsicle Party courtesy of the school. It's just that simple!

Remember: School starts on time — and so do PTA meetings!

6:45pm SHARP!

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@yahogroups.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 May 21 issue is Tuesday, May 18, at 5 p.m. Send all contributions to:

sesmustang@gmail.com

You'll be glad you did!

Shepherd Elementary School



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Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to:

SESmustang@gmail.com

SHEPHERD PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AFTERCARE SURVEY

MAY 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.

Please check the grade(s) your children are in.

- Pre- K
 K
 1st
 2nd
 3rd
 4th
 5th

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 Dis- agree	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					

Survey Continued

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.