



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

May 21, 2010

Mark Your Calendars!



- **Monday, May 31:** Memorial Day - No school
- **Thursday, June 4:** Family Fun Day
- **June 7—11:** Spirit Week
- **Thursday, June 10:** Pastries with the Principal (noon)
- **Tuesday, June 15:** 5th Grade Graduation (9:30 am)
- **Wednesday, June 16:** Awards Day (9:15am/prek—1 grade) (10:15am/2 grade—4 grade)
- **Tuesday, June 22:** Last Day of School (full day)

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Shepherd Parents,

If you missed the PTA meeting, please be sure and congratulate the new Shepherd Elementary PTA Executive Board.

- ♦ Mark Pattison – President
- ♦ Lisa Deane – First Vice President
- ♦ Kimberly Leonard – Second Vice President
- ♦ Lisa Connor – Treasurer
- ♦ Keisha Grant – Recording Secretary
- ♦ Corey Barnette – Corresponding Secretary

The PTA is on solid ground financially and has more members than ever. It is clear by the new PTA board and leadership of Principal Miles that Shepherd Elementary will not only continue to grow, but thrive.

Charisse Brassard

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

Attendance/tardiness

School begins at 8:45. Students are expected to be in line ready to go to their classrooms no later than 8:40. Did you know students who are consistently late and/or absent from school can be denied enrollment at Shepherd if Shepherd is not their home school? It's true. I do not want to recommend anyone to return to their home school. However, if tardiness and attendance continues to be a problem, I will. Please strive to get your children to school every day and please make sure they arrive on time.

Field Day

Have you cleared your calendar for June 4? If not, please put your leave request in now. June 4 is Family Fun Day at Shepherd. Parents are invited to join their students as they participate in various fun-filled sport activities. The day will end with a kickball showdown between parents and Shepherd staff members. Volunteers are needed! If you are interested in playing kickball or managing a game station, please contact the front office.

Aftercare survey

We are in the process of revamping our Star Achiever's Aftercare program and your input is needed. Please take 5 minutes and complete the survey. The survey is available on the Shepherd Web site and in last week's edition of the Mustang.

Registration

Thank you to everyone who came out and registered last week and this week. We have registered 101 students for the upcoming school year. However, we still have a ways to go. If you have not registered your student or students, please take time to do so this week. Remember our staffing and funding is dependent on you!

Beautification Day

Saturday we had our annual school Beautification Day. A HUGE thank you is extended to the Biddle, Hall, Ford, Brossard, Pattison, Pauk, Alaban and Beach families, Ms. Confer and Mr. Kelly. I would also like to thank Mr. Taylor and Ms. Odom for stopping by this week to sign-up to complete some of the work that was not completed on Saturday. We were able to beautify the grounds, freshen up the restrooms, clean the school's library and move equipment. There is still work to be done and much of the work can be completed during the school day. Please stop by the front office to see our needs and how you can assist.

Have a great weekend everyone!



Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Meet Your PTA Candidates

These parents have chosen to run for PTA elective office, but their candidate profiles did not arrive in time to meet the deadline for last week's Mustang.

Second Vice President: Kimberly Jeffries Leonard

My name is Kimberly Jeffries Leonard and I would like your support for Second Vice President of the Shepherd Elementary School PTA.

I am the mother of Alexander Leonard, who is a third grader in Ms. Weber's class. Our family has been a Shepherd Family for the past eight years when our 13-year-old, Victor, began his Shepherd journey as a first grader in Mrs. Crockett's class.

I have seen Shepherd go through many changes during my family's tenure here. I have seen principals come and go, academic programs and foci change, and fundamental philosophies differ. Through it all, the Shepherd PTA has been a constant for our parents and the stalwart force that has kept the focus on what is best for our Shepherd children. Our PTA has had great leaders and has made phenomenal advances for our children and our school. I have been honored to have been a part of several Shepherd PTA teams and I am honored to run for Second Vice President under Mark Pattison's slate.

If successful, my focus would be curriculum development and academic advancement. I have worked closely with past PTA administrations on several initiatives: Spanish language classes, standardized test preparation for children and students, IB accreditation and grant funding. I plan to work to advance upon our academic successes in this role.

A longtime District resident, I came to D.C. to attend graduate school at Howard University. There I received a Ph.D. in Personality Psychology and completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Howard University Cancer Center. I am currently employed with the D.C. Department of Health. I have a background in program development, assessment and evaluation.

Shepherd Elementary School is on solid ground and is ascending to new heights -- we have strong and visionary school leadership that is taking the Mustangs to the next level; a strong PTA foundation on which to build; and a strong slate in Mark Pattison's team. I look forward to being a part of this continued evolution of our beloved school.

Thank you for taking the time to review my statement to serve you, Shepherd Elementary School, and our children. Thank you for your support.

Corresponding Secretary: Corey Barnette

Corey Barnette, Shepherd Park resident and proud father of Kelci, a rising-star second grader, and Ciera, a rising-star kindergartner. Corey is an entrepreneur, very involved in community outreach activities, and creating opportunities for community outreach.

He is a regular speaker at Howard University School of Business, and he enjoys creating opportunities and being a catalyst for people to succeed. Corey brought Arena Indoor Football to Washington, D.C., last season with the D.C. Armor and, using that vehicle, provided fund-raising opportunities for Shepherd Elementary. His wife, Kim Barnette, will serve as his backup when he's off on business travel.

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.

DVD Slide Shows Still Available (for a limited time only!)

If you want a copy of the Shepherd Elementary commemorative 2009-10 slideshow DVD, but didn't make your purchase at the auction or this week's PTA meeting, use the order form in today's Mustang and get one. But hurry! The order deadline is next Friday, May 28. We need to place our order in time to guarantee delivery by the end of the school year.

The DVD has more than 250 photos arranged in a marvelous slideshow taking in the major events of the school year. This includes Jazz Night, the Fall Fest, the Pre-K Play Date, and other school activities.

And it costs just \$25 - that's less than 10 cents a photo (try finding a price like that for "digital prints" at your drugstore) - and will almost certainly contain pictures of your kids, their classmates and friends at school. Fill out the order blank and enclose \$25; if paying by check, make it out to Shepherd Elementary PTA. Every penny of profit will go to the PTA, thanks to the generosity of our school historian, Victoria Botvin!



Arts Corner

Ms. Noelle Michaud, Shepherd art teacher

Hello Everyone!

What a busy time! Pre-K just finished painting shape patterns last week and this week they used white boards to find and draw patterns they found in the art room. Third graders critiqued their own watercolor Animal Portraits to give themselves a grade and justify it against a rubric. Fifth graders are learning more advanced sculpture techniques with clay so that they can replicate in three dimensions the human imagery they created in hand-bound sketchbooks. Fourth graders are in the process of finishing the same human figure sketchbooks - they also wrote what they had learned in creating those books. Second graders are completing wonderful watercolor frog camouflage paintings in which they show how an animal can protect itself with its coloring. First graders, who are working on a unit about goods and money, are creating 18-wheeler trucks that carry their favorite things. Kindergartners also painted colorful pattern paintings in tempera and are now shifting to painting beautiful fish with imaginative tempera colors.

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.

Remember, you gotta have Art!

GOT SCOOPS?

OUR NEWSLETTER IS

YOUR NEWSLETTER!

The Mustang is an informative newsletter issued weekly on behalf of the whole school community. If you'd like to contribute to it, all you have to do is submit something by e-mail to the newsletter's e-mail address:

sesmustang@gmail.com



Music Department Notes

Labor Chorus Concert

Two members of the Shepherd Elementary Class of 2009, Tyler Jones and second-generation grad Joy Nicholas, are members (along with our music teacher, Mr. Ken Giles) of the D.C. Labor Chorus. The chorus will perform this Saturday, May 22, in concert, "One Voice: Songs of Peace and Justice," at First Trinity Lutheran Church. Performing along with the Labor Chorus is Grammy nominated recording artist ("From Banjo to Beatbox") Christylez Bacon. Proceeds go to send people of color, youth and low-income D.C.-area residents to the U.S. Social Forum in Detroit. Tickets are \$20 each. Visit www.dclaborchorus.org to learn more or buy tickets.

--Mr. Ken Giles, Music Teacher

SAVE THE
DATES:

JUNE
7—11

SCHOOL SPIRIT
WEEK

Box Tops Update!

Fundraiser "Tops" Expectations

Congratulations, we did it! Thanks to your efforts we more than exceeded our contest goal of \$150 and successfully reached our school-year goal of earning \$500 in Box Tops for Shepherd Elementary. Specifically, we collected more than 1,700 Box Tops during this most recent collection effort. Nice team work!

Thanks to our students and Shepherd supporters who each won a poster from the Smithsonian exhibition Yesterday's Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future. If you didn't pick up your poster at Wednesday's PTA meeting, they will be dropped off in your child's classroom. Finally, if you/your student contributed, but their name is not listed below, please contact me. In some cases, the names had rubbed off the bags of Box Tops.

Pre-K

Rashad Biddle
Layla Brent
Phillip Omohundro
Mia Saunders
Myra Shalaty

Kindergarten

Samuel Bush
Masai Jenkins
Madeline Lewis
Henry Trimble

1st Grade

Kemani Cash Taylor
Ashford Connor
Nixsovani Gladden
Chanelle Haynes
Cyndi Taylor

2nd Grade

Morgan Garnes
Margaret Goletiani
Charmaine Stuckey
Colyar Trimble

3rd Grade

Caleb Bush
Jovaan McKinney
Leo Saunders
Jason Tyner

4th Grade

Theo Biddle
Jada Matthews

5th Grade

Aujahne Alexander

Office of the Business Manager

June Confer

Thanks again for a successful group effort. Watch The Mustang for information about our next collection effort, which will take us through the summer vacation.

Katherine Trimble

Shepherd Box Tops Coordinator



Once the Homework's Done! Activities for You and Your Family

- ♦ **Rock the Farm Family Festival**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, May 22, Crumland Farm, 7612 Willow Road, Frederick. Performers include Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer, Milkshake, the Dirty Sock Funtime Band, Kidsinger Jim and Friends, and magician Frank Culler, plus strolling entertainers, face painting, balloon twisting, moon bounced, a Guitar Hero challenge, vendors, food, a VIP tent and more. A benefit for the Fallen Heroes Fund. For info, go to www.tots2twins.com.
- ♦ **Building Block Blitz** to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, 12:30-2 p.m., Saturday, May 22, Fashion Centre at Pentagon City, 1100 S. Hayes St., Arlington. Participants will build houses in one hour using 300 building blocks. The winning team is the one that's raised the most pledge money. For details, access www.habitat-nova.org.
- ♦ **Wordgirl Day** at the Ballpark, Sunday, May 23, Prince George's Stadium, Md. Route 197 at U.S. Route 301, Bowie. WordGirl, from the popular PBS cartoon series "WordGirl," arrives live and in person from the planet Lexicon before the 2:05 game between the Bowie Baysox and the New Hampshire Fisher Cats. She'll be available to take pictures with fans throughout the game. In addition to WordGirl, the first 1,000 fans ages 3-12 through the stadium gates will receive an adorable Webkinz Husky Dog plush pet toy. Bring your glove and baseball to the game and show up early because fans can play catch in the outfield from 1-1:30 p.m. Tickets \$6-\$14. For more, visit www.baysox.com.
- ♦ **"Humor in Our Lives,"** a talk by "Pickles" comic strip creator Brian Crane, 7-8:15 p.m., Sunday, May 23, Washington D.C. LDS Temple Visitors Center, 9900 Stonybrook Drive, Kensington. Free. For details, call 301-587-0144.
- ♦ **Delaplaine Strawberry Festival**, Saturday-Sunday, May 29-30, Sky Meadows State Park, 11012 Edmonds Lane, Delaplaine, Va. Live music, arts and crafts, old-fashioned kids games, petting farm, hayrides, historical exhibits, silent auction, food -- and strawberries, of course. Admission charge. For details, visit www.delaplainestrawberryfestival.com.

You are Cordially Invited

2010 SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 5TH GRADE GRADUATION

Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 9:30 am

Location: Shepherd Auditorium

2010 SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY AWARDS DAY

Date: Wednesday, June 16, 2010

9:15am— Prek-1 grade

10:15am— 2 grade—4th grade

Location: Shepherd Auditorium

School Serves as Starting Point For Neighborhood Garden Tour



Mark your calendar for the Shepherd Park Garden Tour on Sunday, May 23, 1-4 p.m. The gardens are always amazing -- view photos from past years at www.shepherdpark.org. See below for details.

Be prepared to meander through a sampling of some of the beauty that Shepherd Park, Colonial Village and North Portal Estates have to offer. These gardens show how nature and man can create a visual wonderland. These gardens represent the realistically obtainable and the dream. Small city and family friendly gardens and expansive palatial estates await your inspection.

The tour starts at the Shepherd Elementary School (meet at the corner of 14th and Kalmia), where you will pick up tickets and tour directories. The cost is \$15 per adult and a discount price of \$7 for Shepherd Park Citizens Association members.

For more information, visit www.shepherdpark.org.

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.

Holidays You Didn't Even Know



Saturday, May 22, is the International Day for Biological Diversity.

May 22 has been "International Day for Biological Diversity" since the United Nations changed it (in 2000) from Dec. 29, because the original declared date (chosen in 1993) coincided with too many other significant holidays. The day is intended to highlight the Earth's biological diversity -- or biodiversity -- as a global asset of tremendous value, while bringing attention to the myriad threats (all-too-often caused by human activities) to species and ecosystems, and stimulating discussion about possible solutions.

Sunday, May 23, is World Turtle Day!

Regarding the history of World Turtle Day on May 23, the holiday began in 2000 and was launched by a Malibu, Calif.-based group called The American Tortoise Rescue. Its intention is to highlight ways we can protect and preserve these historic, gentle, but jeopardized animals and their habitats. The U.S. Humane Society runs surveys at this time of the year to discover how well turtles are thriving in different parts of the world. The reason this date was chosen is because May is a busy month for turtles. Many of them have recently emerged from winter hibernation and are starting their search for mates and nesting areas.



School Beautification Day Is Successful, But More Work Remains



All you had to do was drop off your child Monday morning to see how much work a dedicated group of parents and neighbors can do in four short hours.

On the outside, there was a lot of leaf-bagging, bush-pruning, weed-pulling, trimming and edging, giving the walkway to the main entrance a terrific appearance. On the inside, a lot of work focused on the library/media center and computer lab. The school's printers were tested to see whether they worked. Most did, but not all had enough of the right kinds of cords for all to be in use. They were sent from the library to the computer lab. (The ones that didn't work will be sent to the Fort Totten transfer station.) The old couch was removed from the library and the carpet shampooed. After that, the table legs were tightened. Parents also cleaned the teachers' restroom across from the library, and volunteers helped assemble two bookcases for use in the "book room" (an educational supply closet close to the library).

We probably didn't get all the beautification projects that were completed mentioned on this list. And we probably don't have all of the families and neighbors who helped on THIS list. But they include Ben Chambers, Pete Ford and family, Charisse Brossard and family, Sekou Biddle and family, Marcus Hall and family, Jennifer Pauk and family, Judith McCullough and family, Nashwa Beach and family, business manager Ms. Confer and custodial head Mr. Kelly (and his super helper James).

But, since not all of the beautification efforts got done, there will be another one. There's no telling whether it will happen before the school year is over, or whether it'll take place before the next school year begins. But count on it happening!

Register Your Child Pronto!

Registering your child is like filling out the Census form.

How?

The Census tries to record where everybody in America lives. And, based on where they live, federal and state dollars flow to cities and programs based on population.

It's the same way with registering your child for school.

Shepherd is expected to have 339 students next year. But if only 64 are registered, where will DCPS' dollars go? Not to Shepherd!

So register now. Bring a completed registration form to the office with proof of D.C. residency – a driver's license or utility bill - to add your child's name to the list published this week and last. If you can't find a form, the school office has blank forms. Do it - you'll be relieved and thankful that you did!



Spring Fling in Silver Spring

Join CREATE Arts Center for its Spring Fling for the whole family on Saturday, May 22, 6-9 p.m. At the Photogroup, 8040 Georgia Ave. in Silver Spring (behind the former Mayorga building).

Dinner, dessert, beer, wine and soft drinks available; art show and sale, crafts and movie for kids; live music by the bands Icarus and 3 Drink Minimum. Open stage jam after 10 p.m. Adults: \$25. Kids age 12 and younger: \$5.

Proceeds benefit smARTkids and Studio Downstairs, CREATE's flagship programs serving at-risk populations.

For more information, go to www.createartscenter.org or call 301-588-ARTS (2787).

****Parking available next door at the Veridian, 1133 East West Highway.**

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!

Thank You Corner

A presidential thanks goes to the 2009/2010 PTA Board! Thank you for your committed and dedicated service. Our children are and school is better for it!

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!



Donate Your Used Bike

If you have bikes that are no longer being used -- please mark your calendar for this upcoming event:

The ELL (English Language Learner) Department at Alice Deal Middle School, at 3815 Fort Drive NW, is sponsoring its annual Bikes for the World collection on Saturday, June 5 from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. This year, the bicycles will go to Costa Rica to support FINCA, an organization that helps low-income rural people develop small businesses.

If you would like to support this project, please volunteer June 5 or donate that tax-deductible unused bicycle and \$10 to help defray the shipping costs. Sewing machines, usable bike parts, accessories and tools are also gratefully accepted.

For more information, call Winn-Ritzenberg at 202-363-6769.

Visit Bikes For The World at www.bikesfortheworld.org



The Parent Stop

Encouraging Positive Behaviors
Some good ways to reward your child.



Beat the Clock (good method for a dawdling child)

Ask the child to do a task. Set a timer. If the task is done before the timer rings, your child gets a reward. To decide the amount of time to give the child, figure out your child's "best time" to do that task and add 5 minutes.

The Good Behavior Game (good for teaching a new behavior)

Write a short list of good behaviors on a chart and mark the chart with a star each time you see the good behavior. After your child has earned a small number of stars (depending on the child's age), give him or her a reward.

Good Marks/Bad Marks (best method for difficult, highly active children)

In a short time (about an hour) put a mark on a chart or on your child's hand each time you see him or her performing a good behavior. For example, if you see your child playing quietly, solving a problem without fighting, picking up toys or reading a book, you would mark the chart. After a certain number of marks, give your child a reward. You can also make negative marks each time a bad behavior occurs. If you do this, only give your child a reward if there are more positive marks than negative marks.

Developing Quiet Time (often useful when you're making supper)

Ask your child to play quietly alone or with a sibling for a short time (maybe 30 minutes). Check on your child frequently (every 2 to 5 minutes, depending on the child's age) and give a reward or a token for each few minutes they were quiet or playing well. Gradually increase the intervals (go from checking your child's behavior every 2 to 5 minutes to checking every 30 minutes), but continue to give rewards for each time period your child was quiet or played well.



**Sending well
wishes to:**

Mrs. Chambliss

Ms. Kuawogai &

Ms. "Tutu" Pierce

**We hope you get
better soon!**

**(Parents can contact the school
office to send cards and flowers.)**

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.

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 28 issue is Tuesday, May 25, at 5 p.m. Send all contributions to:

sesmustang@gmail.com

You'll be glad you did!

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
Ms. Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant – Robyna.brooks@dc.gov
Ms. Charisse Brossard, PTA President – cbrossard65@gmail.com

The Mustang Newsletter Editors:

Fred Lewis & Mark Pattison

Layout/Design: Nayada Cowherd & Rose Dawson

Production/Distribution: Angela Anderson & Marcie Bane
Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to:

SESmustang@gmail.com