

Shepherd Elementary School THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

September 20, 2010

Mark Your Calendars!

Sept 24 - Picture Day

Sept 24 - Fall Fest (3:30-8:00)

Sept 24 - Book Fair begins (through Oct 1)

Sept 24 - First advisory midpoint

Visit <u>http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/calendar/</u> for a month-by-month list of events and activities through next June!

From the PTA President...

Dear Shepherd Parents,

If you find me bumped off the front page again this week, it's because Fall Fest is that big of a deal! Our family started going to Fall Fest its first year, in 2005, well before my daughter was old enough to go to Shepherd. We all got more into the spirit of things in 2006, and by 2007, when our daughter was old enough to attend pre-K at Shepherd, Fall Fest became an all-uppercase, bold and underlined item on the wall calendar.

I'm bummed because I'm going to miss it this time, since I'm on assignment for work out of the country. I still haven't figured out how to be in two places at once.

About the only way I could make it is if it rains on Friday (rain, rain, go away!). That would postpone Fall Fest until the following Friday, Oct. 1. Since there will (continued on page 4)

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Happy Monday!!

Back to School Night



On Wednesday we had our first PTA meeting in conjunction with our annual Back to School night event. Parents who were in attendance had an opportunity to visit classrooms to learn more about their child's teacher and his/her expectations. If you were unable to attend, please contact your child's teacher and request that they send home an information packet. You may also request a parentteacher conference.

School Security

Our security system has been updated and individuals who wish to gain access to our building during school hours must be "buzzed" in. If you arrive at school between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., please push the call button located on the box between the two doors and someone in the main office will grant you access. Upon arrival, please check in at the security desk and with Mrs. Brooks in the main office before proceeding to class.

<u>Visitors</u>

Instructional time is sacred time at Shepherd and we do not like it when our instructional day is interrupted. Parents, please do not "show-up" at a teacher's door expecting them to stop what they are doing to answer your questions and/or address your concerns. If you would like to volunteer and/or sit-in and observe during the day, please coordinate the visit with your child's teacher. Teachers' number one priority between 8:45 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. is the students and their needs. Often times when parents show up unannounced the teacher feels "pressed" to stop what

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BTS Night: parents, pupils, pizza & continued progress

By Richard J. McIntire, PTA Communications Chairman

Shepherd Elementary's 'gymatorium' was filled with activity last Wednesday evening as more than 150 excited parents, teachers, students and school volun-

teers gathered for Back to School (BTS) Night, co –hosted by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Principal Jamie Miles.

Shepherd PTA President Mark Pattison facilitated the evening by introducing the school's instructor



Shepherd PTA Pres. Mark Pattison emphasizes parent participation in his Back to School remarks.

corps and promoting participation in the 180 Fund, which raises extra dollars to enhance the Shepherd student experience beyond what the D.C. school budget provides. Pattison would also explain the importance of being active in the PTA.

"Every parent has a stake in their child's development," Pattision said, as parents departed to visit their child's classroom, learn about expanded Shepherd programming and view many of the upgrades to the school's infrastructure completed over the summer. "Children need to see both parents involved. It

sends a positive message. Children now spend more of their waking hours at school than home. We aim to make that time as enriching as possible." Principal Miles held a 'parent chat' during the event and touted the school's



Students walked away with some prime reading material during the book give-away.

International Baccalaureate program that focuses on development of the child as an inquirer, in the classroom and the world outside. Shepherd is seeking designation as an International Baccalaureate World School.

Parent volunteer Charisse Brossard invited all to the Sixth Annual Shepherd Fall Fest, taking place Sept. 24 from 3:30 to 8 p.m. The family-oriented, community invited event will take place on the grounds of the school and along 14th Street featuring food, games, creative arts &

"Every parent has a stake in their child's development."

crafts, a book fair and a visit from Ronald McDonald around 5 p.m. About 200 thrill seekers are expected to attend the fun'draising event.

It was also announced that the PTA's Fundraising Committee is developing a cookbook comprised of healthy, kid-friendly Shepherd family recipes and youth artwork. All recipes are due Sept. 30 and may be left in the school's main office.

D.C. School Board member Sekou Biddle, a Shepherd a parent, also attended BTS Night. He updated the crowd on the board's recent work related to teaching and learning standards, teacher certification and increasing high school graduation



D.C. school board member Sekou Biddle makes remarks.

high school graduation rates.

Over the summer, he said, D.C. joined a coalition comprised of 46 states in approving 'common core' standards. Students in those jurisdictions will benefit from being taught common curriculums across subjects. He also noted that D.C. public schools received \$75 million in federal Race to the Top grant *(continued on page 3)*

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THE MUSTANG

An Invitation to Participate in Shepherd History

Each academic year proves to be an exciting time for the Shepherd family. We continue to work to make Shepherd Elementary a stellar school for our children, and to implement many changes to strengthen our commitment to our school. The "Brick by Brick" Program is one of many important initiatives taking place this school year. I invite you to take part in "Brick by Brick," the engraved brick paver program which provides the Shepherd family an opportunity to

participate in shaping Shepherd Elementary for future generations. Through this program, you can have your



name or the name of a loved one (i.e., your child -- whether currently enrolled or a Shepherd alumnus) engraved on a brick in the entry and walkway which lead to the school's entrance. The sale of the pavers endows programs sponsored by the school's PTA and funds will be designated to our most critical initiatives.

Please take this important opportunity to become a living part of the tradition and spirit that is uniquely Shepherd Elementary. Your support of this initiative is tax-deductible.

--Lawanda Tyus

Now That's Italian!

The numbers are in, and the PTA's first Dinner Night, held last month at Olazzo Restaurant in Silver Spring, turned out to be a huge success! We earned more than \$308 under the 20% pre-tax formula, and Olazzo's owners decided to round up our total and make the donation \$350!

Stay tuned for the next Dinner Night. And come hungry!

BTS Night cont'd from p. 2

funding that will implement a city-wide student tracking system to essentially chart a pupil's educational history and success. Other initiatives, involve boosting teacher quality and receiving data from student assessment tests sooner, so teachers can adjust instruction to optimize student performance, Biddle added.



A group of fifth grade parents listen intently to a teacher's comments about her class' daily routine and interactions.

Helping Out Shepherd— Part II

Last week in the Mustang, we printed lots of details about some of our intriguing and exciting initiatives. Well, here's some more detail, as provided by the Shepherd parents responsible for these programs:

UNIFORM EXCHANGE

The PTA coordinates the collection and resale of used uniforms to provide Shepherd families with an affordable option to outfit their children in uniforms. Donations are received on an ongoing basis and kept sorted by size for easy presentation during PTA events. Each item of clothing is sold for \$1 each, and the proceeds of sales goes to the PTA general budget. Those families in need may receive uniform items at no charge.

- Marnie Keller

LOOSE CHANGE

At the outset of the holiday season, the PTA coordinates a Loose Change program. The goal of the program is three-pronged:

- 50% of the money raised goes to a needy family whose child attends our school;
- 2) 50% of the money goes to the PTA general funds; and
- 3) it's an opportunity for the students to learn about counting currency as well as give to those less fortunate. The class that collects the most change from its students receives a pizza party paid for by the PTA.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The goal of the Shepherd Elementary School Health and Wellness Committee is to help Shepherd Elementary School (SES) provide all of its students with affordable, nutritious, whole, and high quality lunches.

The following strategies will be used:

 Take advantage of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Initiative (to solve the epidemic of childhood obesity) as a springboard to improve the quality of school lunches at SES. Utilize the Let's Move! website, <u>www.letsmove.gov</u>, to learn about specialized tool kits, strategies, and tips to help SES become healthier. Help develop an action plan for creating a healthier school environment through the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. (Schools@HealthierGeneration.org, 1-888-KID-HLTH)

- Create a School Wellness Council which is an advisory group concerned with the health and wellbeing of staff and students that includes SES faculty and staff, community members, parents and students.
- Create, plan and implement an Action Plan for SES students, families, faculty, staff, parents, and students.

PTA Health Committee Chairs, Sabine N. Herisse <u>snherisse@yahoo.com</u>, 202-222-8199 and Angela Anderson <u>angela_c_anderson@yahoo.com</u>, 202-425-8280

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From the PTA President *cont'd from page 1*

be no school-provided aftercare on Fall Fest day, parents will get one day's notice if it has to be rescheduled due to weather concerns.

Fall Fest has grown year by year. While it helps the PTA fund its many initiatives, Fall Fest is at its best when it brings parents and families together. Many parents get acquainted or reacquainted taking a shift on the Fall Fest activity sponsored by their class and even by just waiting with their children in line for a ride or some food.

Just because I can't go to Fall Fest doesn't mean you can't go. By all means, have a great time at Fall Fest for me!

Best wishes,

Mark Pattison

PTA President 829-9289



Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers:

Thanks to all who stopped by the art room on Back to School Night. It was a pleasure to speak to you all. Also many thanks to those of you who have been generous with your art-room donations of hand wipes and tissues. They will be put to good use.

For those of you who missed it, there is student work from every grade (some of it IN PROCESS) hanging on the art room bulletin boards. Everyone school-wide is

learning about art element, the tools of art making. We are starting with line, the mark of a drawing implement or the edge of anything. Pre-K has printed with cardboard to make lines and letters. First graders are painting U.S. flags. Second graders are making Metrorail Maps. Third and fourth graders are using the lines of the initials to make illuminated (decorative) letters. Fifth graders are using line to create mastheads and demark text sections for newspaper front page layout designs.

REMEMBER : Go to http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art/, and click on Announcements to see what's happening in art.

We continue to need hand wipes to keep the germs in check and remove art goo from little hands. I can also use glue sticks whenever you have the inclination. In the near future, I will need styrene meat trays (run through the dishwasher of course) to use for printing. Just send them in to your child's teacher and I will get them. I can always use volunteers to help mount work or to help distribute and collect materials. Let me know if you have free time.

GRADES 3, 4, AND 5--Art Homework is assigned every week. All homework must be completed in a wire-bound sketchbook that has at least half of each page without lines. The one I recommend is sold at Plaza Art at Georgia and Silver Spring Avenues in Silver Spring, just blocks away from our school. Its size is 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches. Homework will always require writing, and will sometimes ask for sketching, pasted clippings, etc. The first few weeks' homework will focus on vocabulary and definitions. Later assignments will require a descriptive sentence. Ultimately, students will learn how to create a paragraph that explains or analyzes artwork. All assignments are listed in the Homework Section of the website http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art/.

As I always say, You gotta have ART!

Ms. Michaud

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Shepherd Elementary School 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders made drums from Ledo's pizza sauce cans. We studied djembe' rhythms and learned to play these rhythms on our drums. We also started to read notes for rhythm.

Photos of our students will be on the wall outside the music room and on display at Ledo's Pizza!



SHEPHERD'S 6TH ANNUAL



Friday, September 24, 2010 3:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.



Caroline Barrow (caroline_barrow@hotmail.com



Helping Out Shepherd continued from page 4

TECHNOLOGY

1) How will technology be used? Have teachers created a needs assessment to indicate which applications and/or software packages will augment their work plans?

2) Based on the technology needs assessment, does Shepherd have the necessary hardware (workstations & servers) to host those applications?

3) Does the technology needs assessment have requirements that might extend past the local area network (LAN) into a DCPS wide area network (WAN) or public Internet?

4) Will each student be required to have their own credentials (username/password) to access specific work-stations and/or applications?

5) Are there DCPS requirements/restrictions which need to be adhered to?

AUCTION

The Shepherd Spring Auction is the "it" event of the year. All of the parents come out to enjoy great fun and socializing, while raising money for our wonderful school. Last year's auction grossed over \$30,000, and this year we are looking to surpass that! If you are interested in being part of the Auction Team, please feel free to contact Bianca Bostic at 821-8076 or email at <u>Bianca.bostic@noaa.gov</u>. I look forward to working with a great team, and seeing everyone at the Spring 2011 Auction. It is sure to be a great time ... with lots of surprises in store.

-- Bianca Bostic

Box Tops for Education

• Go to ww.boxtops4education.com to see list of eligible products and marketplace vendors

• Put Box Tops into Collection Box in Main Office.

• Shop through the Box Tops Marketplace when doing on-line shopping.



A Word from Mrs. Miles! (cont'd from p.1)

they are doing to assist the parent and this takes away instructional time.

As we begin another week please help us make it a great week by reminding your students to be respectful, responsible and safe at all times!

Have a great week!

Warmest regards,

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Shepherd Elementary School Mission:

At Shepherd , we are committed to the advancement of students' academic, emotional, social and physical well being. We, as a community, will provide students with a safe, supportive, creative, and flexible environment in which children think and learn globally and act compassionately.

Shepherd School Pledge

Today is a new day!

I will respect the rights of others.

I will treat all property with respect.

I will take responsibility for my learning.

I will take responsibility for my actions.

I will act in a safe and healthy way.

Today I will be the best me I can be!

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Have It Your Way: Mustang On Paper or Online

Last year, the PTA offered an opt-in on the Mustang, meaning that you had to ask for it to be put into your child's backpacks. This year, based on a show of hands at last week's Back to School Night, we'll offer an opt-OUT system. This means you pledge to read the Mustang online every week, either at the school website, <u>www.shepherd-</u>

<u>elementary.org</u>, or in the "Files" section of <u>http://groups.yahoo.com</u> (look it up under "shepherd_elementary_pta") and look for the folder named "Mustang 2010-11"; there are automatic notifications each week on the listserv, too.

Look for the coupon in this week's paper (page 11) if you want to take the pledge. You'll do your part to reduce, reuse and recycle.

School Directory Deadline Extended...

... but not by much! The deadline had been last Friday, the 17th, but we'll extend it by one week, to Friday, Sept. 24. Response has been



terrific thus far, and - based on some parent feedback at Back to School Night, we'll do our best to verify the phone numbers and e-mail addresses you provide to make sure they're accurate. To ensure accuracy, please print clearly! Use the form here in the Mustang, or take a copy from the rack outside the school office.

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THE MUSTANG



STAY CONNECTED!

School website: www.shepherd-elementary.org

shepherd_elementary_ptasubscribe@ yahoogroups.com

To post a message: shepherd elementary pta@yahoogroups.com

To see the archives:

Join the PTA listserv:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/

shepherd_elementary_pta

Weekly school newsletter - The Mustang

Delivered each Monday in kids' backpacks.

Copy deadline each Friday at 5 p.m.

Follow us on Twitter:

Follow "SESmessenger" at twitter.com

To submit an item send to

sesmustang@gmail.com





HEALTHY RECIPES COOKBOOK TO FEATURE YOUR FAVORITES



The PTA's fundraising committee is assembling the first-ever Shepherd Elementary Cookbook. This will be a collection of healthy and kidfriendly recipes contributed by you and your family members. Please drop off a copy of your favorite recipes in the office! Make sure to note your child's name with the recipe. All recipes must be submitted by September 30!

Deadline Looms!

for Next Mustang Issue

The deadline for the September 27 issue is Friday, September 24, at 5 p.m.

Send all contributions to: sesmustang@gmail.com

Shepherd Elementary School



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The Mustang Newsletter Editors: Fred Lewis, Laura Lewandowski & Laura Smyth **Layout/Design:** Nayada Cowherd, Yolonda Walden, Rose Dawson, & Safiyyah Abdal-Haqq **Production/Distribution:** Angela Anderson **Student Contributor:** Emanhi Grant **Communication Committee Chair:** Richard McIntire Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to: **SESmustang@gmail.com**



Students may use a variety of media, such as watercolor, pen and ink, crayon, chalk, markers, etc. Brighter colors, however, reproduce better for the calendar, light pencil marks will not show up. Students are encouraged to incorporate recycled or recyclable materials into their creations. Keep in mind most posters will likely be on public display, and should be easy to see or read.

<u>Note:</u> If students are incorporating recyclables into their artwork, <u>depth is restricted to half an inch.</u> <u>Only original artwork created by the student. No clipart or licensed characters permitted.</u>

Size & Layout: Minimum: 8 1/2" x 11" · Maximum: 18" x 17" · Landscape (horizontal) Layout Only

Judging Criteria:

- Clear message conveyed by the text and artwork;
- The poster theme listed above is addressed;
- Creativity, originality and artistic quality;
- Visual clarity easily read; and
- Bright and colorful.

The posters will be grouped into four categories: PreK-K; 1st -2nd grade; 3rd –4th grade; 5th grade.

Awards:

12 posters will be selected for a possible 2011 Shepherd Elementary recycling calendar. Four grand prize winners will be selected from the group of 12. (one from each category). Prizes will include Visa Cash Card, Game Stop gift card, and Regal Movie tickets.

(Please provide the following information on back of poster):

Student's Name	•	Grade	•	Home Phone #	٠	Parent/	/Guardian	email	address
Staacht Shanne		Grade				i ai cii c	Guaraian	Cinan	4441655

(Cut out and return to your child's teacher.)	YES! We'll read
Name	The Mustang
Child's name	online.
Teacher/Grade	
WE PLEDGE to read the Mustang EVERY WEEK onlir section of the PTA Yahoo Group page. Because we make newsletter in our child's backpack.	
Signature	

Shepherd Elementary School 2010-11 Family Directory

The names of all Shepherd Elementary students will appear in this year's Family Directory. Please complete the following to authorize inclusion of your household contact information. Please complete and sign one form per family. **The directory will be distributed only to Shepherd families and staff**.

Shepherd Elementary School's Family Directory is for personal, school, and PTA use only. It may not be used for solicitations. Shepherd's Parent Teacher Association respects your privacy and will not share this information with any commercial organization. If we don't receive your signature your information will not be posted.

Return completed form to your child's teacher by Friday September 24, 2010.

>> Please PRINT clearly <<

Student's First and Last Name Grade Teache
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II I I I I		
Household #	<i>‡</i> 1	
Home address		
Zip Code	Home phone number:	
Parent 1: First and La	ast Name	
Work number:	Cell phone number:	
E-mail:		
Parent 2: First and La	ast Name	
Work number:	Cell phone number:	
	Cen phone number	
E-mail:	Cen phone number	
Household #		babysitter, etc.;
Household #	#2 (or other important contact, i.e., grandmother, b	pabysitter, etc.;
Household # Home address Zip Code	42 (or other important contact, i.e., grandmother, b	pabysitter, etc.;
Household # Home address Zip Code Parent 1: First and La	#2 (or other important contact, i.e., grandmother, b	babysitter, etc.;
Household # Home address Zip Code Parent 1: First and La Work number:	42 (or other important contact, i.e., grandmother, bHome phone number: ast NameCell phone number:	pabysitter, etc.;
Household # Home address Zip Code Parent 1: First and La Work number: Parent 2: First and La	#2 (or other important contact, i.e., grandmother, bHome phone number: ast NameCell phone number: ast Name	pabysitter, etc.;
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