

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Mark Your Calendars!



- Tuesday, Oct. 5: College Awareness Day
- Monday Oct. 11: Columbus Day School Closed
- Tuesday, Oct. 12: School Advisory Board Meeting
- Thursday, Oct. 14: Open House 9:30 -11 a.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 20: PTA Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- Sunday Oct. 31: Halloween Parade-6 p.m.

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Shepherd Parents:

I am SO grateful Shepherd has a book fair every year. I went to my first one in 2004, when my daughter was barely a year old. Among my purchases that year were "Duck for President," "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!" and two collections of poetry from Harold Confer, the husband of our business manager. This year our family made repeated trips, starting with the Fall Fest, and stocked up with titles that can be read (or read to) now and later in the school year. Last year's fair was the most successful ever! Based on the line I saw in the library after school Thursday, I'm confident we'll top that..

Reading is one critical component of the home-school connection. We proclaim the "Shepherd Way" practically every chance we get. But the Shepherd Way has to be practiced away from Shepherd, too. Setting up an environment in the home that makes learning easier is necessary.

Fostering a love for learning is important. Augmenting at home what our children learn at school is a must. In the process, our children will be better off for it, and we parents will probably learn something ourselves. What I'm talking about, actually, is creating a way of life in your household. Nobody ever said it was easy, but the power is in your hands. Don't just let life happen. Take charge!

Best wishes,

Mark Pattison 829-9289, Pattison_mark@hotmail.com

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

The Alphabet Soup of Education

If you have been in any public school for more than a day, you probably have been exposed to the "alphabet soup" of education. In education there are a lot of letters and acronyms used that can be very confusing to everyone. Therefore, occasionally throughout the year, I will share with you what some of these acronyms and letter combinations mean.

Lesson # 1: SST (Student Support Team)

At Shepherd we are committed to increasing the range of intervention supports available to struggling students.

School-based student support teams coordinate services and initiatives related to academics, attendance, positive school culture, and health and wellness to ensure that all students receive appropriate support and necessary intervention, from general school-wide programming through intensive wraparound support involving a wide range of service providers.

The teams may be composed of: guidance counselors teachers, administrators, social workers, school nurses, other support staff and parents.

The teams use a data-based, collaborative process to:

Assess student academic and/or behavioral needs

Identify goals

Design strategies for support and intervention

Evaluate the effectiveness of interventions

Student support teams serve as an early-warning system to identify struggling students and provide them with additional support. They help schools intervene earlier with students who face challenges (e.g., academically not on grade level, chronically absent or truant, at risk for grade level retention).

Want to know more? Please contact our SST chairperson Ms. Gail Liggins (gail.liggins@dc.gov) for more information.

IB Program Notes

This week we had our first IB recognition ceremony. As a candidate IB school the IB Learner profile is the core of who we are. The attributes and descriptors of the learner profile define See **MILES**, Page 6

October 4, 2010

Sign up your 5th grader for Deal Buddy Day, Dec. 9

Are you considering having your fifth grader attend Alice Deal Middle School? Then why not have your student spend the morning with a Deal buddy on Dec. 9.

During Buddy Day, your child will get a taste of a middle school day in the newly renovated, state-of-the-art facility. Did you know that Shepherd Elementary is a feeder school for Deal and that Deal is now constituted as a 6th through 8th grade middle school? Deal has also received recent authorization as an International Baccalaureate World School which has brought significant change to Deal's traditionally strong program.

At Deal, teachers work as teams to manage small groups of students, providing a close connection to families and ensuring that all receive attention. The IB program has expanded the offerings of world languages and arts and music to all students, providing a richer, more developmentally appropriate array of courses. Deal Middle School has refocused its subjects and their curriculum development work around smaller groups of teachers, rather than a whole-school model. Deal also offers great extra-curricular after-school activities such as jazz band, choir, basketball, soccer, volleyball, Model UN, debate team, and fencing...just to name a few.

Even if you plan to send your student to another middle school, this is a great opportunity to have the middle school experience.

During the school year, the bus takes your kids straight to Deal. The D-31 is a devoted charter bus which picks up kids at 16th and Kalmia (with stops along 16th heading south) and takes kids right to the door. Students can either pay the metro bus base fare or can obtain tokens at the student rate through Metro. Contact Deal on other charter buses that serve additional neighborhoods. Or go to www.wmata.com/bus/timetables/dc/d31-34.pdf, to view the bus timetables.

See **DEAL**, Page 6

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.

DCPS keeps promise, raises pay for well rated educators

Three years ago, District of Columbia Public Schools made a promise to its teachers: Work hard, raise student achievement and you will be rewarded for your efforts.

Last month, DCPS honored that commitment by implementing new pay raises for teachers, issuing an unprecedented \$45 million in retroactive pay increases, and announcing details of its pay-for-performance system that will affect more than 650 educators rated highly effective on their <u>IMPACT</u> evaluations last year.

Highly effective teachers can see their compensation more than double in a few short years through <u>IMPACTplus</u>, a new performance-based compensation system. Annual bonuses for highly effective WTU members could range from \$3000 to \$25,000, depending on the IMPACT*plus* category under which they are evaluated and other factors.

Teachers who consistently produce results will become among the highest paid educators in the country, with a possible annual salary of more than \$130,000 after nine years (compared to about \$87,500 after 21 years under the prior system).

Only WTU members who earn an IMPACT rating of highly effective are eligible for performance pay. Learn more at: dcps.dc.gov and search IMPACTplus.



Music Department Notes Activities in September

Here are some recent activities in the music room:

1. We are studying Paul Robeson. He is still NOT mentioned in the DC Public Schools music textbook. We will continue learning about his music and his civil rights activism... and we continue to recommend that Paul Robeson be included in our textbook.

2. Third graders are singing "De Colores" and learning about Cesar Chavez, the founder of the United Farmworkers. Chavez chose "De Colores" as the theme song of the union because most of the Mexican-American farmworkers knew the song.

3. First graders are singing "Solar Carol" (written by members of the topical song group Bright Morning Star) to

See MUSIC, Page 7



Student's Eye-View

At Shepherd, we learn one of two foreign languages -French or Spanish. In Spanish, fifth graders have a project due on Monday, Oct. 4. We were given 2 weeks to work on it.

"Do your best on this project," said Miss Menchen, the Spanish teacher.

We had to make up an imaginary country or choose a real Spanish-speaking country and make a map of it. For the project, we needed cardboard (24x18 inches) and Play Dough.

If we chose to create an imaginary country, we had to draw a map of the nation. We had to name the country as well. Next we used the Play Dough to make a model of different points of nature in our country like mountains, lakes, etc. We learned words for the points of nature in Spanish class. We also have to label all the items represented in the map of the imaginary country we create.

If we choose to do our project on a Spanish country, we have to draw the country on cardboard, then research the information that was needed about the nation. For the writing portion of the project, we had to write eight or more sentences about the future of the country we chose or created.

If we chose to do our project on a Spanish-speaking country, we had to draw the country on the cardboard and research information about the foreign land.

For the writing portion of the project, we have to write eight or more sentences about the feature of the country we chose or created.

To submit news tips, comment or contact the Mustang reporter, send an e-mail to: Emahni5@gmail.com.

--By Emahni N. Grant, 5th Grade

'Great Paper Chase' will net class pizza prize

It may well be due to the start of a new school year, with everybody having messages to get out to everybody else -- the Mustang's size rivals the Sunday Washington Post, for instance -- but twice in September the school ran out of paper, and budget considerations require that orders only be placed on the first of the month.

So the PTA is sponsoring the Great Paper Chase contest! It will be held on ONE DAY ONLY: Tuesday, Oct. 12, the day we get back from the three-day Columbus Day holiday weekend. Have your child bring a ream of paper with her/him to school. A ream is a package of 500 sheets. The class with the most students bringing in a ream of paper wins a pizza party!

While we prefer white paper, you can bring color paper. It doesn't have to be ultra-thick; 20-pound, 8and-a-half-by-11 paper will do just nicely. And it'll tide the school over at the end of the month.

Best of luck to all classes. Start chasing that paper!

CREATE Arts Center hosts classes, camps when school is out

CREATE Arts Center in downtown Silver Spring offers one day art camps when D.C. Public Schools have no school days.

The next no school day camp will be Oct. 11 (assuming minimum enrollment of 5 students).

Space is still available in some of CREATE's afterschool and weekend arts classes that started last week. Tuition is pro-rated for late registrations.



For more information and to register, go to www.createartscenter.org or call 301-588-2787.

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Shepherd IB PYP Corner

This week, we had our first Recognition Assembly for those students who really demonstrated the Learner Profile trait of Caring throughout the month of September. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend

Congratulations to: Eyan White, Tobias Lindo, Spencer Fridie, Kimiko Queen, Chandler Mabry, Sarah Rice, Charmaine Stuckey. Layla Brent, Tiffany Missembe, Priya Smith Tolani Smith Japhet Alemu, Noah White, Zoie Walden, Kenneth Thomas Khalil Davis, Shoa Samad, Grace Kao, Mattie Melnyk, Kobe Jenkins, Sekai Bonner-Flagg, Gabrielle Williams, Karim Diaite, Mertinu Geleta, Jasmine Barrow Leela Mehta-Harwitz, Fama Sissoko, Keshav Mehta-Harwitz, Micah White, Tiara Dupree, Shakaliah Smalls, Nia Carroll, Rahman Hunt, Mia Heyward and Hailey Baptiste.

During the month of October, the Learner Profile trait is **Inquirer.** Inquirers are curious about the world around them. They acquire the skills necessary to See **IB Corner**, Page 7



Do you have a knack for news? A flair for writing, graphic design, presentation or photography and a few stray hours?

If so, there is an opening on the Mustang team for you. Come join our other dedicated volunteer editors, design and layout artists as we tell Shepherd's story each week. It's fun and you'll be in the know.

If you can offer your talents, please get in touch with Communications Committee Chairman Richard J. McIntire at 202/573-4292 or at: sescommcmte@gmail.com.

School lunches can teach food safety lessons

School is back in session, and everyone is transitioning to a schedule jammed with homework and afterschool activities. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) encourages parents and educators to take advantage of this time to teach kids the importance of food safety and how to protect themselves from foodborne illness.

"Children have a higher risk for foodborne illness, and they tend to have much more severe reactions to pathogens than adults," said FSIS Administrator Al Almanza. "Teaching them how to protect themselves means we



can reduce tragic illnesses now and continue to improve the public health of the next generation."

Involving kids in packing their own lunches is a great way to start conversations about food safety in the home, and allowing kids to take part in the activity means they'll remember the four important steps—Clean, Separate, Cook, Chill—better.

When making lunches together, here are some See **LUNCH**, Page 6

Four Shepherd students are American Icons

Congratulations! Three fourth graders and one fifth grader are American Icons. **Drum roll please!**

The three fourth graders are Adia Johnson and Trinity and Tiffany Green! The fifth grader is....me, Sandra Stevenson! This is how it started: we were at our separate Boys & Girls Clubs and signed up for the talent show.

First we performed at our original clubs. I did a speech written in 1883 by Frederick Douglass, and the others were in an acting group. Then we won and went to the regional competition. At the regional competitions we went against clubs in D.C., Maryland and Virginia. Of course, we won there, too.

Now the hardest part isTHE KENNEDY CENTER: the final competition. See us in action, at 5 p.m. on Oct. 6. WISH US LUCK! If you have any tips or comments please e-mail me at: Mutabear10@gmail.com.

-By Sandra Stevenson, 5th grade

School Wellness Council forms

The Shepherd Garden Initiative and the PTA Health Committee are now joining into one entity. Angela C. Anderson and Sabine N. Hérissé will now co-chair the PTA Health Committee under a School Wellness Council (SWC).

The School Garden grant application is being submitted this week. The official decision will be made in November.

The SWC will schedule a planning meeting to discuss school health goals and review the Great American Salad Bar Project grant application due Nov. 1.

The following list of parents and teachers have volunteered and are to be congratulated for guiding Shepherd ES's wellness efforts.

Angela Anderson-angela_c_anderson@yahoo.com

PTA Heatlh Committee Chair/ School Garden Contact (Changomire Anderson, 1st grade & Nia Anderson)

Sabine N. Hérissé-snherisse@yahoo.com

PTA Health Committee Chair, (Sophia-Rose Hérissé, 3rd grade & Romy A Penelope Hérissé, Kg)

Jacqueline Taiwo Ajala, (Sarah & Sophia Sambou, grade Kg)

Victoria Botvin, (Logan Botvin, 1st grade & Natasha Dorkin, Pre-K)

Jarrett Burgess, Physical Education Teacher

Christina Bush, Instructional Coach

Ken Giles, Music Teacher

Kimberly Jackson, (Kyle Jackson-Chang, 1st grade)

Steven King, First Grade Teacher, School Garden Contact

Gail Liggins, School Counselor

Judith McCullough, (Cynthia Pattison, 2nd grade)

Sandhya Mehta, (Keshav & Leela Mehta-Harwitz, 1st grade)

Barbara Sewell, (Karim Sewell, 5th grade)

Beverly Garnes Toussaint, (Morgan Garnes, 3rd grade)

Kenyon Walker, (Shoa Walker, 4th grade)

Candace Norwood Wilson, (Caleb Wilson, 1st grade & Khari Wilson, Pre-KG)

-By Angela C. Anderson



Calling All Bidders an Auctioneers!

Committee Sets Meeting for Oct. 18

It is that time again. Time to get the auction call rolling!!! The first auction committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 18 in the school library, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Held annually in the spring, the Shepherd Auction is a major fundraiser and community outreach event for the school. Its successful implementation plays a pivotal role in the PTA's programming abilities.

Your expertise, resources and connections are welcomed in this effort. Bring your ideas, suggestions and your kids.

If you have questions, please contact Bianca Bostic at (202) 821-8076 or Bianca.bostic@noaa.gov.

Language team provides update

Your children are enjoying our language program, and we are more than happy to work with them. Since the beginning of the school year, we have been working on establishing routines, procedures, and basic vocabulary needed. In order to better meet our students' needs we also tested them.

During the month of October, we will cover the following topics in alignment with IB units:

Pre-K: We will discuss family, family members, and relationships.

Discover ourselves and body parts. We will also work onvocabulary by introducing the letters F, M, O, N, C, H.

K: We will discuss family, family members, relationships and traditions. We will make discoveries about how people's lives have changed. We will also work on vocabulary by introducing the letters F, M, N.

1st: We will discuss family and relationships. The students will learn how to express themselves by establishing preferences. We will also work on vocabulary by introducing the

See LANGUAGE, Page 6

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THE MUSTANG

MILES, from Page 1 _____

the type of learner we want to develop here at Shepherd. In order to help students gain a better understanding of the Learner Profile, we have decided to highlight one trait a month. Last month's trait was **caring**. Select students in grades Pre-K through 5th were recognized by their teacher if they showed that they were caring. The names of the students recognized will be listed in the Mustang next week.

By now you should have received a Learner Profile reflection sheet. We are asking parents to reflect on how their child demonstrated that they were a caring person during the month of September. Please complete your section of the reflection sheet by the end of the week and return it to your child's teacher. These reflection sheets will become part of your child's portfolio.

This month's profile focus is: Inquirers

<u>Pastries with the Principal</u> —Thank you to the parents who attended this month's Principal's Chat and Chew. We had a lot of coffee, fruit and pastries to enjoy. The conversation was informal as parents shared their thoughts about the school year up to this point. Next month's event will be on the 22^{nd} . I hope you will be able to join us.

College Awareness Day —Tuesday, October 5, 2010 is College Awareness Day! Parents, students and staff are encouraged to wear their college attire. So, bring out your hats, t-shirts, socks, and face paint. We want our students to know that we want all of them to go to college when they graduate high school.

Merit Passes

Several times throughout the year, I will be standing on the sidewalk giving out merit passes to students who arrive to school on time. At the end of each month, students may cash in their merit passes for special prizes. For example, if your student receives 15 merit passes, he or she will receive a "no uniform for a day pass." The incentives will change and will be announced some time during the month.

Have a fabulous week!

First Shepherd Open House is Oct. 14

Shepherd Elementary will host the first of three Open Houses for prospective parents on Thursday, Oct. 14, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Let parents on your block or across the alley know. Pass the word on your neighborhood listservs as well. We've got a great school and we're not afraid to boast about it. Tell would-be parents that every grade has a waiting list, so they'd better get in on the ground floor quick. Other Open House dates are Dec. 9 and Feb. 10 from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

LUNCH, from page 4 _____

pointers to keep in mind:

Clean

Start with hand washing. Your child's class probably makes a restroom trip to wash their hands before lunch or snacktime, but reinforce this rule at home.

Separate

Be aware of allergens. It's likely that your child's school has a policy on foods containing peanuts, milk, or other ingredients. Some school cafeterias have a separate table for eating risky foods, while others ban them altogether. Whether or not your child has an allergy, make sure your family follows the rules to keep the whole class safe. Discourage sharing.

Cook and Chill

Know your temperatures. Foods should never remain at room temperature for more than two hours, but that can happen easily in backpacks and lockers. Putting soups, leftover casseroles, and other hot foods in a thermos will ensure they do not drop into the food safety danger zone. If you don't have an insulated lunchbox, double bag them.

Pack at night. Weekday mornings can be hectic for parents and kids alike. Packing lunches at night before going to bed ensures you have the time to pay attention to safety precautions. Just be sure to refrigerate any perishable items overnight. Go to: www.fsis.usda.gov/

Food_Safety_Education, for youth oriented puzzles, coloring pages, interactive games and more.

LANGUAGE, from Page 5_____

letters F, M, N.

2nd: We will discuss body parts and food, healthy food and healthy habits.

3rd: We will discuss the solar system using descriptive and comparative words.

4th: We will discuss climate, natural disasters and comparisons of weather, targeting various language countries and the US.

5th: We will discuss the origin of Hispanic Heritage month in relation to the natural resources of various Spanish speaking countries.

In addition, colors, numbers, days of the week and months are covered on a daily basis with all grades. This month, Hispanic Heritage will be discussed by all the classrooms.

*Don't forget to visit our web site at teacherweb.com for any additional information.

-The Language Team

IB Corner, from Page 4_

conduct inquiries and research while showing independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives. Parents please encourage your child to ask questions and support them in learning how to find answers to their questions.

Friday, October 1, marked the end of the first Program of Inquiry. Most classes spent the week reflecting and wrapping up their unit. Students will select one piece of their work from the unit to put into their portfolio. During the week of, October 4th – October 8th, classes will begin their second Program of Inquiry. The programs are as follows:

Pre Kindergarten – Who we Are – Discovering Me

Kindergarten – Where we are in Place and Time – Stories from the Past

> First Grade – How the World Works – May the Force Be with You

Second Grade – How we Organize Ourselves – Community Systems

Third Grade – How the World Works: Planets, Moons and Stars (begins 10/12)

Fourth Grade – How the World Works: Wind, Water & Wonder



From the Art Room

Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers:

I can't believe it is already the end of September. Can you?

All of the grade levels are beginning new art endeavors. From study of the element of line (the mark of a drawing implement or the edge of anything) we are moving on to shape (any open line that comes back to where it started), value (the quality of light and dark), and color. Pre-K has printed with cardboard to make curved lines and letters. Kindergartners continue to explore types of line in drawing. Second graders will be drawing skeletons. Third graders are creating expressive self portraits. Fourth graders will be beginning big mural panels for types of weather. Fifth graders will create murals

that reflect the effort of the common man in America.

REMEMBER <u>http://</u>

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



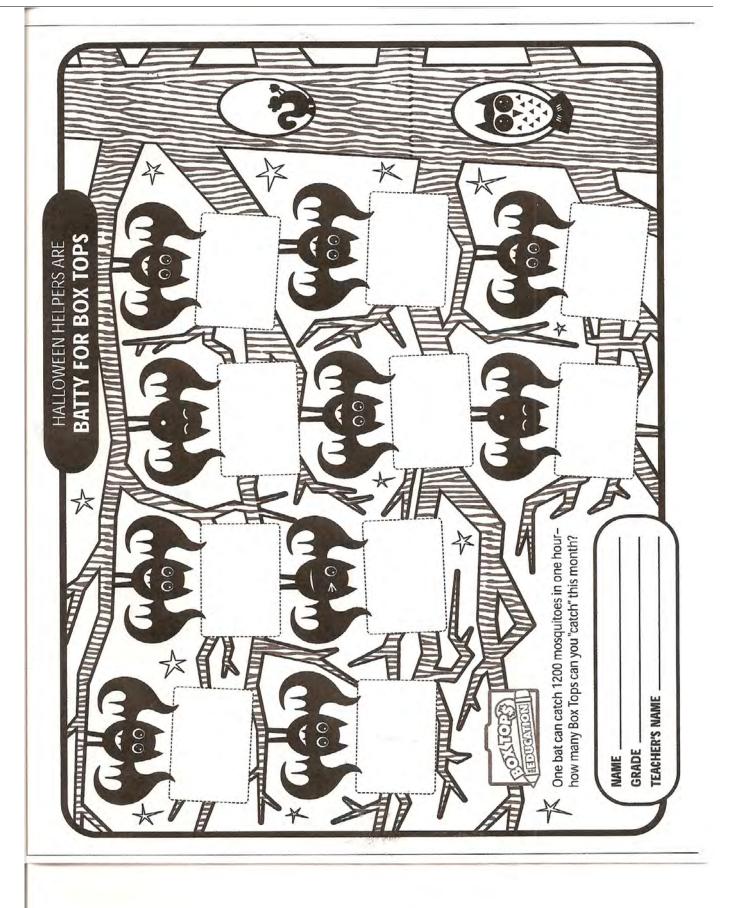
you have the inclination. In the near future I will need styrene meat trays (run through the dishwasher of course) to use for printing. Just send them in to your child's teacher and I will get them. I can always use volunteers to help mount work or to help distribute and collect materials. Let me know if you have free time. Many thanks to all those parents who have donated times and needed items for the art program.

GRADES 3, 4, AND 5--Art Homework continues every week. Although all homework must be completed in a sketchbook that has at least half of each page without lines, many students still do not have theirs. Please note that I am no longer supplying paper to those students without their sketchbooks. 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. If there is a special problem securing the sketchbook for your child please contact me and I will be happy to assist. Late homework will be accepted until the week of the end of the advisory which is Oct. 28. However during that last week I will accept no more than one late assignment. All assignments are listed in the Homework Section of the art website http:// teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art/.

Remember! You gotta have Art!

-Ms. Michaud

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Jazz Night Set for an early *s*pring evening next year

Save the date!!

Friday, March 11 is Shepherd Elementary's Jazz Night— our annual community potluck featuring musical artists from Howard University performing America's indigenous music.

It will be an evening to celebrate, and an evening to remember. If you want to get in on the ground floor, get in touch with Jazz Night chair Patti Rasmussen at: rasmussenp@si.edu or call 202/545-9550.





Join a Walking School Bus!

A walking school bus is a group of children walk-

ing 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 meet-



ing 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@yahoogroups.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, simple 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 <u>www.shepherd-elementary.org.</u>

Deadline Looms!

for Next Mustang Issue

The deadline for the Oct. 12 issue is Friday, Oct. 8, at 5 p.m. Send all contributions to:

<u>sesmustang@gmail.com</u>

You'll be glad you did!

Shepherd Elementary School

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