



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

October 12, 2010

Mark Your Calendars!



Oct 14 - Open House—9:30-11:00

Oct 18 - Parent Teacher Conferences—No school for students

Oct 20 - PTA meeting—6:45 p.m.

Oct 21 - Picture make-up day

Oct 22 - Pastries with the Principal—9:00 a.m.

Oct 28 - End of 1st advisory—12:15 student dismissal

Oct 29 - Professional development—No school for students!

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

From the PTA President...

Dear Shepherd Parents,

This week's column is brought to you by the letter T. It's the first letter for three important words that solidify the home-school connection: Time, Talent and Treasure.

TIME is something every child needs from Dad and Mom. Not "quality time," not "face time," but time. Spend all the time you can now with your children now, because they'll be leaving the nest before you know it. When they do leave, they'll be better prepared if you spend time reading to them, listening to them read, going over their homework, and giving them consistency and structure. Of course, we in the PTA also make demands on your time. And you've been so generous in your offers, it's taken this long for the Volunteer Database to be completed. Now that it is, expect a phone call (or three or four) seeing how you can contribute your time most effectively.

TALENT is something nearly every parent frets he or she doesn't have enough of in the child-raising department. Love is the first ingredient -- but you knew that already.
(continued on p. 3)

A Word from Mrs. Miles!



Greetings Everyone!

I hope you enjoyed your long weekend!

This year I have said, "We are striving to be better today than we were the day before". After some thought I realize some of you may be unaware of the things that we are doing differently or better at Shepherd. So, this week I thought I would highlight a few.

Grade Level Newsletter

At the end of each month grade level teams, the language team, special education teachers and special area teachers are expected to create and distribute a newsletter. This newsletter highlights past month's events and shares with you things that students will be learning and doing in the upcoming month.

Technology

Thanks to the generous donation from you, the school's PTA, we now have a computer lab. Each class has an assigned a 45-minute technology block of instruction. Ms. Scinto, with the support of the classroom teachers, has been facilitating technology lessons and Ms. Mason has been assisting with maintenance. Please see the message on page 2 from Ms. Scinto, our school librarian.

Academic Intervention/Enrichment

Beginning October 18, students in grades 3rd-5th will receive 45 minutes of intense small group academic intervention or enrichment support in targeted academic areas. Teachers utilize various data sources to determine groups. Group size will range from 5-10 students. Some students will participate in learning activities that will help them master skills/concepts they should have mastered but have not. Other students will participate in enrichment learning activities that will challenge them to take their learning to the next level. If your student is in PK-2nd grade, no worries; teachers are working now to group their students and
(continued on page 6)

What's Up in the Library?

September was a busy month for the Shepherd school library, and October looks to be even busier yet. Perhaps the biggest event of the year to date was our week-long book fair, where we sold over \$5,000 worth of books and other items. Thank you so much to all of our shoppers, and especially to the volunteers who helped to make it all happen! With the profits we made, we were able to purchase \$1,000 worth of new books for the library. Many of these books will support classroom learning, while others will be enjoyed by our enthusiastic student readers.

Speaking of student readers, another recent event has been the resumption of Early Readers. This is a program that allows a small group of students to read with volunteers every Monday, Wednesday and Friday before school starts.



Students at all grade levels are also making weekly visits to the library, the computer lab, or both. Some of the highlights of our library/technology sessions have included online letter and number recognition activities (Pre-K), making a chart comparing past and present (Kindergarten), introductory keyboarding lessons (1st grade), creating PowerPoint presentations (2nd grade), online reading comprehension exercises (3rd grade), reading a book about hurricanes and then learning about disaster preparedness from the FEMA kids website (4th grade), and playing a Jeopardy-style reading comprehension game (5th grade). All of these activities, as well as others too numerous to mention, are either tied in directly with the IB curriculum or are meant to increase technology or reading comprehension skills.

—Ms. Scinto

Musical Notes

By Ken Giles, Music Teacher

Kenneth.Giles@dc.gov

Recorder and violin students are rehearsing for the "Holiday Concert" on December 8. Approximately 10 students (1st grade through 5th grade) play recorder on Wednesdays at 8:00 am. Approximately 25 violinists (2nd through 5th) play violin once a week during their "recess" time.

Fifth graders are getting ready to take a field trip to the Kennedy Center on Thursday, Oct. 14, to see excerpts from several operas. Then our 5th graders will compose and perform their own student opera on "Songs of the Civil Rights Movement."



Open House— October 14

The first of three open houses at Shepherd is set for Thursday, Oct. 14, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. You

already know what a quality school Shepherd is. Here's your chance to tell your neighbors, the parents you used to be in play groups with, and families skeptical about obtaining a fine education for their children in the D.C. Public Schools. Information about Shepherd's dual-language program (for Spanish and French), our impending International Baccalaureate certification, and more will be part of the open house.



Student's Eye-View

This week, Miss UIba's class [5th grade] began a project on war. The project must include a picture and be written like a newspaper article. We looked at many different newspapers to get ideas of our own.

We were given a sheet of black poster paper. Ms. Michaud, our art teacher, helped with the layout and masthead. A masthead is the title of the newspaper. "The masthead should show strength and importance," she told us.

We could choose any war we wanted. We had to research the war we chose. We could not do our projects on the American Civil War or World War I because we are already learning about those in Social Studies.

Shepherd Elementary School is already thinking about summer and doing something different for next year.

Shepherd is partnering with Sugarfoot's Performing Arts Summer Camp, directed by Barbara El Wilson, in 2011. The theme for next summer's camp will be "Sugarfootin' in the Caribbean." It is a seven week camp that runs June 27 to August 12, 2011. The first 20 registrants will get a discount off the full fee. They offer payment plans and sibling discounts too.

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

—By **Emahni N. Grant,**
5th Grade

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

From love flows pretty much everything else you need to raise a terrific family. The PTA component, you ask? Well, I found out twice already this month that there are parents with talents that don't show up even on a Volunteer Database Sign-Up Sheet. One mom has expertise with computers and told me so one morning, so she's on our Technology Committee. One dad makes forms for a living, and he's going to donate his talent so that our forms and other PTA-to-parent materials look sharp.

TREASURE is one thing we feel we never have enough of, even if get an income tax refund. You may have come from a "we-were-poor-but-we-didn't-know-it" family. That's when time and talent took over to make for rich-beyond-belief family. In the PTA, we continue to welcome your contributions to the 180 Fund, which has already helped provide money for some teaching materials this early on in the school year, with the expectation of more help if the District's (and the schools') budget stays tight in these tricky financial times. Each week I spot more checks in the PTA box at school earmarked to the 180 Fund. If you haven't done so yet, please give to the 180 Fund.

*With our combination of **time, talent and treasure**, we can do great things!*

Best wishes,

Mark Pattison

PTA President

829-9289

pattison_mark@hotmail.com



When you go to Giant.com, go to the tab "Our Stores", select "A+" . This goes to a page to "Register Your Card" . You can either select the state, DC and then select Shepherd, or input the school's code—**00154**—and hit enter.

Finally, if you do not know your Giant Card number, you will need to call the Giant hotline at 1-877-366-2668 to get the card number.

New to the School's Website!

D.C. Public Schools has a health and wellness policy, and now you can read it anytime you like at the school's website, www.shepherd-elementary.org. Just hover over the "For Parents" bar and click on the "DCPS Wellness Policy" drop-down.



Also, each week's Mustang gets posted on the website (the complete archive also exists there, too), and the school calendar gets updated regularly, including this Thursday's open house for prospective Shepherd parents, the March 11 Jazz Night, and the May 6 Auction Gala!

You'll also find information on "Shopping for Shepherd," places you can send your child on weekdays when school isn't in session, plus lots of other helpful links.

Healthy Kids Fun Run Oct. 30

The annual Marine Corps Marathon Healthy Kids Fun Run will be held on Saturday, October 30, 2010 in the Pentagon North Parking Lot. Children ages 6-13 are invited to participate in the one-mile just-for-fun event.



Online registration is now open. All participants receive a t-shirt, medal and snacks at the finish line. Registration fee is \$6. To register, go to: www.active.com/framed/event_detail.cfm?EVENT_ID=1815474&CHECKSSO=0



You've seen it on TV! Now witness it live in person! The Shepherd Elementary version of "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" • Starring Shepherd's Fifth Graders (and their parents) • Special guest appearances by Shepherd's Fourth Graders (and their parents, too) • ONE NIGHT

ONLY: Wednesday, Nov. 10 • Admission: \$7 • More details to come!

FREE!**TUTORING**

Here's a great way for you to take advantage of tutoring help for your child.

The Shepherd/Tifereth Israel tutoring program is now in its 13th year! Adults and teen members of Congregation Tifereth Israel, at 16th and Juniper Streets -- just a few blocks from Shepherd Elementary -- provide free weekly tutoring to Shepherd students. Tutors and students are paired up for the year, and spend one hour each week reading, practicing math skills or completing homework assignments. One-on-one tutoring motivates students, improves their skills and offers children an opportunity to learn from someone other than a teacher or parent. There's a fine corps of tutors; all they need now is students to help.

Parents, with their child's tutor, can outline a tutoring program that takes the student through the school year. Thanks to your parental participation, you can agree that your child will reliably attend every week that tutoring is in session, and that you will greet your child's tutor each week, either before or after the tutoring session. Your child should also bring homework or an example of current schoolwork so the tutor knows what to work on.

The tutoring sessions are conducted at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 7701 16th St. NW, every Sunday from 5 to 6 p.m. -- well after the end of the rest of this season's Redskins games.

To learn more about the program, contact the director, Daniel Nathan, at 746-2680.

Shepherd- Lowell Girl Scout Troop Forming



The new
Shepherd-
Girl Scouts®

The new Lowell Girl Scout troop will have its first meeting of the fall on Saturday, Oct. 16, 3-4:30 p.m., at the Lowell School, on Kalmia between 16th and 17th Streets, one block from Shepherd Elementary. Look for signs indicating in what room the meeting will take place. Please save the date on your calendars so you and your daughter can start to plan a year of Girl Scout activities together! Shepherd's Girl Scout contact (for now) is Judith McCullough, 829-9289.

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.



Miles (cont'd from p.1)

they are creating learning activities to meet the diverse needs of students. Some students will be pulled out for enrichment/intervention and additional support will go into the classroom.

Cell Phone

In case you have not heard, I enjoy meeting and talking with parents. I want to hear from you and I try to make myself available. However, if you ever stopped by unannounced or called you may have discovered I am not in the office. My number one priority at Shepherd is to make sure teachers are teaching and students are learning. Therefore, the majority of my day is spent in classrooms monitoring instruction, talking with students to see what they are learning and meeting with teachers. So, if you need me and you can't seem to reach me, please note the following: Each month I have a Principal's Chat and Chew; this is an informal dialogue between me and parents. During these chats we talk about what's going well and what we can improve. My email address is [Ja-mie.miles@dc.gov](mailto:Jamie.miles@dc.gov); email me and I will respond. My office hours are from 1:00-1:30 on Mondays and Tuesdays. 3:30-4:15 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Please contact Mrs. Brooks to schedule an appointment. My cell phone number is 202-579-5371. Feel free to call me any time Monday-Friday between 6:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and in the evenings between 8 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. I attempt to return all phone calls within 24 hours or the next business day.

The Alphabet Soup of Education (cont'd)

Each school in the District that has a Special Education population has a full-time or part-time Special Education Coordinator also known as the SEC. Due to the number of special education students at Shepherd, we have a full-time Special Education Coordinator. For the past few years Mrs. Booth has served as the school's SEC while teaching. However, due to increasing needs of our students and the increasing demands of an SEC, we decided it was time for Mrs. Booth to return to the classroom full time. Therefore, we hired Mrs. Erika Smith-Moss. Mrs. Moss is responsible for facilitating meetings, meeting with parents, and monitoring services provided to our special education students. She strives to make sure we are meeting all

federal and District laws and mandates. If you have questions about special education, please contact Mrs. Moss at Erika.smith@dc.gov.

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!

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. Asst – Robyna.brooks@dc.gov
Mr. Mark Pattison, PTA President – pattison_mark@hotmail.com

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

Deadline for Next Mustang:

Fri, Oct. 15, at 5 p.m. for the Oct. 19 issue

Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com