



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

October 19, 2010

Mark Your Calendars!



Oct 20 - PTA meeting—6:45 p.m.

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

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

Oct 28 - IB Ceremony

Oct 29 - Professional development—No school for students

Oct 31 - Halloween parade, Shepherd Field, 6 p.m.

Nov 15 - **Rescheduled:** Picture make-up day

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,

Wednesday's PTA meeting promises to be a real eye-opener, and I hope you can attend and participate.

We'll be introducing some new school initiatives, the details of which I won't go into here, but among them are the debut of our Health and Wellness Committee, a "TV turn off" program, and exciting news from our Green Team, including a pair of "Go-Green" assemblies for our students next month.

But there will also be a couple of financial items that the PTA will need to vote on come Wednesday. One of them is the resumption of the "Saturday Academy."

If you were at Shepherd two years ago, you will recall that Saturday Academy drew a lot of students back to Shepherd for a sixth day of learning. It attracted children whose test scores needed to be boosted, and Saturday Academy did just that! Last year, without Saturday Academy, our DC-CAS scores softened up too much for anybody's liking.

This year, as you can see when you enter the school, there

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A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

I hope this message finds you happy.



Parent Teacher Conferences

A sincere thank you to everyone who attended parent-teacher conferences yesterday or who made arrangements to conference with your child's teacher at a more convenient time. As you know, it takes all parties working together to help our students succeed. Next week, I will post the total number of parents in attendance.

Calling All Volunteers!

We are seeking individuals to volunteer from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. or from 2:15 to 3:00 p.m. one, two, or three times per week. Volunteers will spend their time working with students in areas where they need additional support. If interested, please email me at jamie.miles@dc.gov.

Safety

A part of me is reluctant to write this piece for I am constantly reminding you of the importance of getting your student to school on time. However, safety is a priority so I must. PLEASE do not drop your student off at school before 8:15 a.m. Many students are being dropped off as early as 7:40 or 7:45 a.m. Although the building is open, there is no one available to supervise students. If you need to drop off your student early, please enroll them in before care. Before care begins at 7:30 a.m. each day and students gather in the cafeteria.

Tardiness

If your student is late, you must park your car, escort

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Area Classes For Our Creative Kids

Looking for a creative outlet for the kids on week-ends, evenings, or even on no-school days? Well, our area has a lot to offer and you won't have to travel far. Here are just a few opportunities in and around our neighborhood.

CREATE Arts Center in downtown Silver Spring, MD, offers arts classes, arts camps, and art therapy to children, teens, adults, and families. Go to their website at <http://www.createartscenter.org/> to check out the different pages and perhaps register for one of their classes or camps online. You can also call 301-588-2787. Also, "No School Day Camps" registration is open! (As always, CREATE offers "No School Day Camps" for the D.C. school calendar.) CREATE is located at 816 Thayer Ave # 1 in Silver Spring, MD.


The Children's Theatre Workshop: For 14 years, The Children's Theatre Workshop (TCTW) Performing Arts Training Institute has provided high quality theatre training to youth in the Washington, D.C. metro area and to youth from around the country. Through year round theatre classes and programs, TCTW, provides high caliber training for those students interested in intensive study with career aspirations as well as those students who simply love theatre and expressing themselves. Accepted ages are 6-16 and the training focuses on: Acting, Dramatic Writing, Musical Theatre and Directing. TCTW's philosophy emphasis is on building a strong foundation of craft, process, creativity, discovery, leadership, and fun while not forsaking the value of performance. TCTW





Musical Notes

By Ken Giles, Music Teacher

Kenneth.Giles@dc.gov

 All classes have been learning to read notes with alphabetic note names (A, B, C) and solfege (do, re, mi). We saw that a simple 5-note pattern (re-mi-do-do-so) was used in the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" to communicate with visitors to earth. Who knew that science fiction could be helpful in learning to read musical notes?

 Our fifth graders visited the Kennedy Center and saw excerpts of several operas. The live orchestra, the opera singers, and the Duke Ellington School narrators presented a very informative program. Now, our 5th graders will write, rehearse, and perform their own "student musical" on "Songs of the Civil Rights Movement." The performance will be Friday, January 7, 9:00 am, and we will invite 4th graders to come to the performance.

 We have sung three songs from the era of the Great Depression to show how historical songs can have relevance to modern times. The songs are "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime," "Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out," and "Solidarity Forever."

also offers Creative Play No School Days. Classes are held at the Takoma Park Studio, 6925 Willow St. NW, WDC 20012. For more information, go to: <http://www.thechildrenstheatreworkshop.com/main/>.

The Princess Mhoon Dance Institute: PMDI has recently joined the D.C. arts community and believes that dance and movement is for everyone - those seeking a professional career, as well as the novice. Classes are offered for 2-year olds on up to teens and adults. PMDI emphasizes a balance between serious study and a winning mindset. For more information, go to: <https://princessmoondance.com/About.html> or e-mail princess@princessmhoondance.com.

Picture Makeup Day Rescheduled

If you missed Picture Day last month, you can gussy up your kids for Picture Makeup Day. But it's been rescheduled away from later this week to Monday, Nov. 15. We are told that photo proofs from September's Picture Day will be available before then, and if parents are dissatisfied, they can have a re-sitting.



Girl Scouts Meeting Is Rescheduled for Oct. 23

The Shepherd-Lowell Girl Scouts meeting originally scheduled for last Saturday will now be held this coming Saturday, Oct. 23, 3-4:30 p.m., at Lowell School, tentatively set for the Marjorie Webster building. For more info, call Judith McCullough, 829-9289.



Deal Middle School Open House Schedule

- **November 16, 2010, 9 AM - 2:30 PM**
- **December 14, 2010, 9 AM - 2:30 PM**
- **January 8, 2011, 9 AM - 12 PM**

Deal is located at: 3815 Fort Dr, NW
Phone: 202-939-2010

Web page: www.alicedeal.org

See a list of all DCPS open houses at www.dcps.dc.gov under the "Learn about Schools" tab.

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 \$5.

To register, go to:

www.active.com/framed/event_detail.cfm?EVENT_ID=1815474&CHECKSSO=0



PTA President *(continued from page 1)*

are teaching professionals anywhere and everywhere. The Shepherd Elementary budget was designed to add more personnel as a means of instilling academic excellence. The school administration believes a new Saturday Academy will help even further.

The problem: Shepherd's budget is so personnel-driven that it cannot afford the cost of Saturday Academy, even as its focus has been narrowed to concentrate on students in grades 3-5 -- the ones who take the DC-CAS test. The PTA has been asked to fund Saturday Academy --teachers, support staff, even snacks -- to the tune of \$14,000.

I cannot tell you what the PTA officers will recommend to the parent body, because that meeting will not be held until after this issue of the Mustang goes to press. I can tell you, though, that it will pretty much wipe out the PTA's treasury - and half of what remains is committed to the man who's going to lead those Go-Green assemblies next month.

When it comes to important financial decisions, that's why it's best to reach out to all parents. Last spring, the PTA offered a choice to parents of spending \$20,000 on a new floor or \$20,000 on additional computer equipment. The parents voted for the floor; when the D.C. government finally committed to installing a new floor over the summer, the PTA bought the computers as it was the clear second choice of parents.

It's also why we want ALL parents in on the decision. There are no PTA dues, so there's no need to go through

membership lists to see who's "eligible" to vote. The educational welfare of our children is the concern of EVERY parent, so no one deserves to be shut out from the process.

But I'll tell you this: If we as the PTA say "yes" to a new Saturday Academy at the Oct. 20 meeting, it will be necessary for us to say "yes" to a host of other things that follow. That includes signing up as many third, fourth and fifth graders as humanly possible. It includes getting them to school, and on time, each Saturday. It includes monitoring schoolwork whatever day of the week it's given.

It also includes making -- and following through on -- our commitments to the 180 Fund to replenish the PTA treasury. It's because parents have been so generous to date that we're even able to consider funding Saturday Academy. But in order to triumph over whatever future challenges may come, we need to have the financial resources to stare those challenges down.

At the start of the school year, I said I want to see 180 families contribute to the 180 Fund -- up to and including the \$500 exempt-from-fundraising donation. I still do. We'll have 180 Fund forms at Wednesday's meeting. If you want to vote "yes," bring your checkbook. It's true that together we do great things, but doing great things together often requires each of us to step up as individuals.

Best wishes,

Mark Pattison

PTA President

829-9289

pattison_mark@hotmail.com



Wednesday, October 20
6:45 p.m. SHARP!
School Auditorium

Agenda will include:

- Saturday Academy
- Green Team
- Health and Wellness Initiative
- TV Turn-Off Program
- Halloween Activities
- Local School Restructuring Team Update
- Principal's Report
- 2010-11 PTA Budget
- Voice of the Parents

FREE PIZZA for parents at the meeting!

School starts on time so do PTA meetings!

Free childcare available.

**Children may buy pizza,
drinks at 50 cents each.**

HALLOWEEN HELPERS ARE
BATTY FOR BOX TOPS



One bat can catch 1200 mosquitoes in one hour—
how many Box Tops can you “catch” this month?

NAME _____

GRADE _____

TEACHER'S NAME _____

Stay connected...

School website:

www.shepherd-elementary.org

Join the PTA listserv:

shepherd_elementary_ptasubscribe@yahoogroups.com

To post a message:

shepherd_elementary_pta@yahoogroups.com

To see the archives:

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

Weekly school newsletter - *The Mustang*

Delivered each Monday in kids' backpacks.

Follow us on Twitter:

Follow "SESmessenger" at twitter.com

To submit an item send to

sesmustang@gmail.com

Support Shepherd PTA's


Deadline for Next Mustang:

Fri, Oct. 22, at 5 p.m. for the Oct. 25 issue

Send all contributions to:

sesmustang@gmail.com

Miles (cont'd from p.1)

your student into the building, and sign them in. Please do not send them running down the sidewalk. Next week I will provide you with a tardiness update.

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

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