



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

October 25, 2010

Mark Your Calendars!

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

Oct 28 - IB Ceremony

Oct 29 - Professional development —
No school for students

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

Nov 15 - Rescheduled: Picture make-up day

Visit www.shepherd-elementary.org/calendar/
for a month-by-month list of events.

FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Shepherd Parents,

I want to offer a big thank you to each of the 60 adults who came to last Wednesday's PTA meeting.

We had a lot of initiatives to unveil, and if we added a couple of minutes to the meeting by giving well-deserved applause to parents, principals and staff, then so be it.

But we also got down to serious business with a wide-ranging discussion under the title "Saturday Academy" to determine how best to move forward with educational enhancement efforts. The discussion was more evidence of how we can come together as a parent body to work toward a preferred future. By a show of hands, parents by a 2-to-1 margin said they favored some kind of "Afterschool Academy" that could save the school and PTA some money, but deliver the same high-quality academic enrichment now offered to students.

Cont. on pg 4

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

I trust all is well. Thank you to everyone who attended last week's PTA meeting. Many parents were in attendance, a lot of important information was discussed and you were missed if you were not there!

Tardiness

Tardiness continues to be an area of concern. Please strive to get your student to school on time. The gymnasium doors close at 8:40. Therefore you should strive to arrive at school before the door closes. Though there is a five minute grace period between the time the gymnasium doors close and when the tardy bell rings it is difficult for a student to get to their classroom on time if they arrive after 8:40. Below you will find the tardiness rate from August to October, 2010.

Byers	15 Tardies; 12 students with no tardies
Gibbs	41 Tardies; 8 students with no tardies
Holt	34 Tardies; 8 students with no tardies
LaPenna	83 Tardies; 9 students with no tardies
Pethtel	18 Tardies; 9 students with no tardies
Goldman	30 Tardies; 12 students with no tardies
Crockett	98 Tardies; 3 students with no tardies
McKenzie	51 Tardies; 5 students with no tardies
Johnson	70 Tardies; 7 students with no tardies
King	42 Tardies; 10 students with no tardies
Chambliss	66 Tardies; 5 students with no tardies
Thomas	96 Tardies; 6 students with no tardies
V. Nelson	45 Tardies; 7 students with no tardies
Christenberry	48 Tardies; 7 students with no tardies
Weber	83 Tardies; 8 students with no tardies
Ulba	63 Tardies; 9 students with no tardies
Leonard	60 Tardies; 6 students with no tardies
Laughinghouse	19 Tardies; 1 student with no tardies
Total	962 Tardies; 132 students with no tardies

Cont. from Principal pg 1

Behavior

For the past two weeks, I have been meeting with students on each grade level during their lunch/recess time to discuss their behavior. During our conversation the students and I talked about what it means to be respectful, responsible and safe at all times. Some of our biggest areas of concern are as follows:

Keeping hands and feet to ourselves- Students push and shove and they push and shove on the stairwells. As you can imagine, this can be dangerous and we have had students fall down the stairs.

Teasing-We do not expect every student to get along at all times. However, we do expect students to separate themselves from people they may have a conflict with. Students should not bully, tease, call people names, etc.

Restrooms-This year alone, we have had 3 soap dispensers pulled or kicked from the wall. We have had 3 known incidents of students urinating on the floor and wall, and 1 incident of a student or students spreading feces on the wall.

Cafeteria-Students continue to share food (though they have been told many times not to), they drop things and pretend they did not, and they are constantly jumping up out of their seats (they know they are to raise their hand if they need assistance).

Though the above list is limited, I share these with you so that you can begin/continue to address these issues and concerns with your student(s) at home. Students are easily influenced by their peers and even the most well behaved students often times find themselves "caught up" in negativity. Next week, Ms. Liggins, our school counselor, will continue to address behavior and provide parents with tips and activities you can do at home with your student.

Half Day/No School

Please be reminded that October 28th is a half day for students. School dismisses at 12:15 p.m. There will be no aftercare. Dismissal will proceed as normal. October 29th is teacher professional development day. There will be no school for students. Please plan accordingly.

IB Ceremony

Our IB ceremony for the month of October will be held on Wednesday. Each month we focus on a different IB Learner Profile in order to help build students' understanding. This month's profile is inquirers. Students have been learning what it means to be an inquirer

and have been looking for evidence of inquiry. During our IB ceremony each classroom teacher will recognize a student from their classroom who has displayed the profile throughout the month. The ceremonies are open to all parents; however, if your child will be recognized you will receive a special invitation.

Warmest Regards,

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary



The Milk-y Way

Principal Miles said during the PTA meeting that she's fielded complaints from more than a dozen students about the milk in the school lunches: "It's sour,"

"It's nasty," and so on. And each time, the principal says, she's taken a sip and pronounced it just fine.

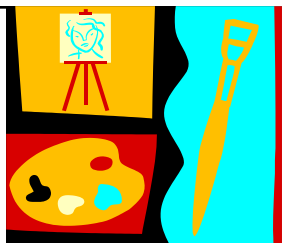
Parents should take note that 2 percent low-fat milk is included with school lunches this year. If your child doesn't drink that kind of milk at home, it may taste differently, which would account for some of the complaints. You may want to work your way up from skim milk (or work your way down from whole milk) to get your child accustomed to the taste.

The Green Team would like to reduce waste throughout the school, and the more milk – and lunch – that goes into students' mouths and not in wastebaskets is an important step in not only cutting down on waste, but standing up for nutrition.

Health and Wellness Committee Wednesday

Shepherd's new Health and Wellness Committee will meet at 8:05 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27. The likely meeting place is the school library. Get in on the ground floor of this important new effort!

Art Corner



Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers:

Again time has flown. It was great to see so many parents on Conference Day. Thanks to those who came to the art room.

All grade levels are beginning new art units. We have gone from the study of line (the mark of a drawing implement or the edge of anything), to shape (any open line that comes back to where it started), value (the quality of light and dark), and color.

Pre-K students are going to learn to draw themselves with varied media. Kindergartners will be drawing "big" and "little." First graders are learning how to draw the human figure in various motions. Second graders will be drawing portraits, using fruits and veggies in the style of the artist Arcimboldo, for whom there is an exhibit currently at the National Gallery. Third graders are looking to night skies for their art inspiration. Fourth and fifth graders will begin large mural panels on weather and American workers, respectively.

Remember, go to <http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art/>, and click on Announcements to see what's happening in art.

Many thanks to all who donated hand wipes, glue sticks and recyclables. And double thanks to Mrs. Downing, Mrs. McKinney and others who have given me their hands and their time in the art room. Let me know if you have free time. The need for help continues ...

GRADES 3, 4, AND 5

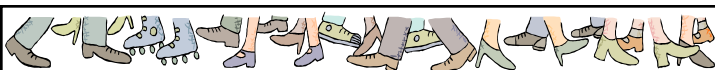
Art Homework continues every week, and makes up a good part of a student's grade. Although all homework must be completed in a sketchbook, many students still do not have one. The sketchbook I recommend is sold at Plaza Art at Georgia and Silver Spring avenues in Silver Spring, just blocks away from our school. It is 5½-by-8½ inches. Please note: I do not

supply paper to students without a sketchbook! If you have any problems associated with purchasing a sketchbook for your child, please contact me at joele.michaud@dc.gov or stop by room 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/>, until the end of the advisory. We will start a new homework assignment list on Nov. 1!

Remember – You gotta have art!

Ms. Michaud



Shepherd Students Join Food Drive and Walk for the Homeless

On Nov. 1, Shepherd ES students will participate in the 10th annual Food Drive and Walk for the Homeless. Staff from our partner organization, Hope and a Home, will present a short program in the auditorium. Students will then circle the track and deposit their donation of a non-perishable food item in the bins and boxes provided. The food will be taken to a nearby family shelter.

Everyone will participate. Fannie Mae supports all DCPS students in this free activity. Those who return their registration form will receive a Help the Homeless T-shirt.

Hope and a Home works with single parents with school-age children to provide transitional and more permanent housing as well as support in job and life skills training. Every registration means a \$15-\$25 donation to Hope and a Home from Fannie Mae if the organization gets 1,200-1,500 walkers. Shepherd has always had 300 or more walkers.

DO YOUR PART. Fill out, sign, and return your form by Thursday, Oct. 28.

Thank you,

June Confer

Cont. from pg 1 PTA President

Assembling a learning program of this nature will likely take some doing at both the school and the PTA ends of the equation, but we'll keep you informed as to our progress.

The turnout was the highest for a non-Back to School Night PTA meeting in at least two years. I also saw more teachers in attendance than I can ever remember seeing at a PTA meeting – and they're deserving of our thanks, too.

I really, really enjoy seeing and working with fellow parents in all of these school endeavors. It's their dedication to making Shepherd even better than it already is that impresses me.

I must also confess that it's been a blast for me making calls to parents to double-check and proof-read their entries in the upcoming school directory. You know how, if you've got caller ID, you see an unfamiliar number pop up and that faint wave of dread crosses your mind?

I've heard that in the voices of a dozen parents, easily, when making these calls. But when I say, "I'm Mark Pattison from the PTA at Shepherd," it's like all of that melts away and we chat like magpies about school issues for a few minutes around verifying addresses, phones and e-mails.

I'm really gratified to be serving as PTA president, and I have to thank you once again for all you do, both individually and collectively, to make it all work.

Best wishes,

Mark Pattison

Mark Pattison
PTA President

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.

New on the Website!

We have minutes from last month's PTA meeting - plus all minutes from the last two years of PTA meetings.

The PTA bylaws are also posted.

Interested in volunteering? The Volunteer Database Signup Sheet can always be expanded, since it's an Excel file. Print the document in "Volunteer Signup" and place in the PTA box in the school office.

Want to see what the PTA is up to? Look at "PTA Committees" and volunteer for what strikes your fancy.

Look for all of these as part of the "Staff/PTA" bar on the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org.

We've also gotten the School Directory form available as a dropdown on the "School Life" bar, added the 180 Fund form as a dropdown under the "Support Us" bar, and expanded both the opportunities to support the school in the "Shopping for Shepherd" dropdown (under "Support Us") and the list of places able to take in your child in the "No-School Days for Kids" dropdown (under "For Parents").

The calendar is updated regularly as well, with more info than the sign on 14th Street can hold. Consult www.shepherd.org frequently. You'll be glad you did!

A Short School Week

Remember that Thursday, Oct. 28, is a half-day, with dismissal at 12:15 p.m. There will be an International Baccalaureate program in the school that day, but no aftercare. Please be prompt and safe when picking up your child.

Also, Friday, Oct. 29, is a professional development day, and there will be no school. If you have to work that day, consider placing your child at one of the facilities listed in the "No-School Days for Kids" section of the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org.



hopping for hepherd



Cell Phone Recycling:

If you've purchased a new cell phone, don't throw away the old one. Recycle it at Shepherd! There's a brightly wrapped purple box in the office. The school gets at least \$2 for each cell phone recycled and - depending on how sophisticated the technology is on the phone you're recycling - as much as \$30.

The firm accepting the phones will strip them for useful components to reuse in other phones.

Hair Styling:

Shepherd parent Mickey Bolek, owner of Michael Anthony Salon, is offering a 5 percent rebate to the PTA for anyone coming into the salon for hair, nail, or associated work. You could say the PTA gets a "cut" of the proceeds! This offer is good not just for one day, but the whole school year!

If you were wondering, Michael Anthony Salon does women's, men's and children's hair -- all hair lengths and textures, including extensions. The salon is located at 661 C St. SE at Seventh Street SE, across the street from Eastern Market on Capitol Hill, and just a one-block walk from the Eastern Market stop on Metro's Blue and Orange lines. The phone number is 202-506-3609. Michael Anthony is open Tuesdays-Saturdays.

To see more about its range of services and products, go to www.michaelanthonysalondc.com/

Family Dinner Night:

About four times each school year, the PTA arranges a Family Dinner Night at a nearby kid-friendly restaurant. The PTA gets 20 percent of the pre-tax bill for every table that says that they're with Shepherd Elementary.

Color Me Mine:

Each year, Shepherd has a "night" at Color Me Mine, the make-your-own art shop at 825 Ellsworth Ave. in downtown Silver Spring. For 2010, it's Friday, Dec. 1. The PTA gets 50 percent of the proceeds for the evening (6-10 p.m.). You can reserve a table by calling 301-565-5105. A table (studio fee) costs \$15, and can seat up to four people.

Auction Committee To Meet Monday

The school's Auction Committee is revving up. It rescheduled its first meeting from last Monday to this Monday, Oct. 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. Pizza will be available, and if you need to bring your children to the meeting, that's OK.

The auction date has been secured - Friday, May 6, at the Washington Ethical Society, site of the 2010 auction. Now the work begins to make next year's auction an even greater success.

Halloween in Shepherd Park



Next Sunday is Halloween (you didn't know?). Here's a list of Halloween things happening in the neighborhood.

This week: All students will get Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF boxes in their boxes. Last year, Shepherd Elementary children collected about \$115 through Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. If you lose the box, or need more of them, the office has extra.

Wednesday, Oct. 27: The Juanita E. Thornton-Shepherd Park Library will host a Halloween Party for young readers starting at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call the library at 202-541-6100.

Friday, Oct. 29: The annual Shepherd Park house and pumpkin-decorating contest will take place near dusk. A team of judges will review the best and funkiest-looking pumpkins and houses from the addresses entered. You can see for yourself which houses entered by going to the Shepherd Park listserv on Yahoo Groups.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat List: Every year, you can see a list of close to 100 addresses in Shepherd Park, North Portal Estates and Colonial Village (on both sides of 16th Street!) that will be giving out treats on Halloween. If you want to get your house on the list, send an e-mail to Mark Pattison at pattison@hotmail.com. The deadline is Friday, Oct. 29, at 4 p.m. If you want to plot out your Halloween trick-or-treating route, you can pick up a copy of the complete list at Mark's house, 1221 Floral, or you can go to the...

Halloween Parade: The seventh annual Halloween Parade will start at 6 p.m. (sharp) at Shepherd Field, right next to Shepherd Elementary. You can come to the field anytime after 5:30 p.m.

Costumed kids (and their parents) walk for one lap around the track. Along the way, the first paraders will get glow sticks and all paraders will get a head start on their Halloween candy collection before fanning out into the neighborhood to ring doorbells.

Sunset officially takes place at 6:09 p.m. (and twilight at 6:37 p.m.) in our nation's capital on Halloween. Obey all traffic laws and signs, and give extra consideration to our littlest pedestrians.

Was: LSRT; Is: SAB

What we've known for years as the Local School Restructuring Team, or LSRT, has been given a new, friendlier-sounding name: School Advisory Board, or SAB (pronounced "sab"). The purpose of the group is still the same: find ways to improve Shepherd.

All SAB meetings are open to nonmembers, but they may be asked to leave at least temporarily should a sensitive or confidential issue be discussed.

The next SAB meeting is set for Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 3:45 p.m., in the school library.

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!

Alice Deal Buddy Day

Are you considering having your fifth grader attend Alice Deal Middle School next school year? 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 sixth through eighth 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 curriculum development work around smaller groups of teachers, rather than a whole-school model. Deal also offers great extra-curricular afterschool 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.

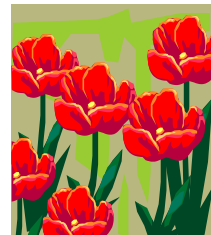
During the school year, the bus takes your kids straight to Deal. The D-31 is a devoted charter bus that picks up kids at 16th and Kalmia (with stops along 16th heading south) and takes kids right to the door. Students can either pay the Metro bus base fair or can get tokens at the student rate through Metro. Contact Deal for information 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. Please note that the Deal buses pick up kids for home between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m., so parents are responsible for picking up their children following extra-curricular afterschool activities.

A parent letter will be given to fifth-grade students providing all details of Buddy Day, which is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 9. In addition to Buddy Day, there will be scheduled chats with Deal's Principal

Kim to provide additional information and answer your questions. There will also be several open houses for parents during the school year.

Any questions regarding Deal Buddy Day can be directed to Gail Liggins, Professional School Counselor for Shepherd Elementary, by e-mailing: gail.liggins@dc.gov

Fall's Fastest Fundraiser!



For ONE WEEK ONLY, we will be taking orders for flower bulbs. Plant them now for years of springtime beauty. WHY?

1. The Shepherd PTA will receive HALF of all sales – money we can use to help educate our kids.
2. We want people to purchase bulbs for the kids to plant at the school. It's a great way to teach them about gardening. So "I don't have anywhere to plant bulbs" is not an excuse.
3. Your coworkers need flower bulbs.
4. Touch of Nature has online ordering. So you can always buy more after our week-long sales ends. It is also very useful for those out-of-town relatives who might need some bulbs and want to help support your kids.
5. The Shepherd PTA will receive HALF of all sales. So for less than \$10, you can help the PTA and beautify the school.
6. WHY NOT??

For information, please contact Stephanie Scott-Melnyk (stephaniescott@dc.gov or 202-431-9716), or refer to the brochure your child brings home.

All order forms are DUE BACK ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1. Once we receive the bulbs, you will hear about opportunities for your child to participate.

Music Notes



Third graders will listen to Don McLean's "Starry Starry Night" to supplement their IB unit on stars and planets. This song is a musical/artistic memory of Van Gogh's famous painting. It shows how creativity can be inspired by the stars and planets.

Last week, several students (Morgan Garnes, Saige Ballard, Savannah Brinkley, London Downing and Steele Downing) joined me at the Levine School of Music's "Community Sing" with Ysaye Barnwell. Dr. Barnwell (head of "Sweet Honey in the Rock") leads this monthly sing-along. It is the best four-part harmony singing I've ever done!

D.C. Labor Chorus continues to sing every Monday (7-9 p.m.) in the music room. Some Shepherd alumnae are singing with the DC Labor Chorus. We are preparing for a December concert.

Ken Giles, music teacher
kenneth.giles@dc.gov

Support Shepherd PTA's

The 180 Fund



Recycling Poster Contest News

Judging for the Shepherd Elementary recycling poster contest will take place Monday, Nov. 1. If your child has not yet submitted a contest entry, she or he can do so before the (early) end of school on Thursday, Oct. 28. All poster entries should be turned in at the library.



Shepherd Elementary School students (left to right) Steele Downing, Savannah Brinkley, London Downing, Morgan Garnes, and Saige Ballard singing with Ysaye Barnwell. Dr. Barnwell (head of "Sweet Honey in the Rock") leads her "Community Sing" at Levine School of Music every month.

ONE WEEK BULB SALE!

**Please help raise \$\$ for our PTA by selling/
buying Spring Flower Bulbs.**

**ORDER & PLANT NOW FOR BEAUTI-
FUL SPRING BLOOMS YEAR AFTER
YEAR**

**No Garden at Home? No Problem! Order some
bulbs for SHEPHERD! Help us get the kids in-
volved in sprucing up their school!**

**Online orders come straight to your door, and still raise \$ for
SES: www.touchofnature.com**



CONTACT: Stephanie Scott – stephaniescottcdc@gmail.com – 202-431-9716.

DUE DATE: All forms due NOVEMBER 2 – Make Checks Payable to: SHEPHERD PTA

Student's-Eye View

Recently, Shepherd Elementary's two fifth grade classes went on a field trip to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. They saw four excerpts of operas—Madame Butterfly, The Barber of Seville, The Magic Flute and Lucia di Lammermoor.

The Washington National Opera Company brought all the operas together for the special performance. All of the operas we saw were sung in Italian.

During our time at the Kennedy Center we learned what it takes to create and show an opera. "Operas take a lot of work," said fifth grader Timmya.

Madame Butterfly was about a woman and a man in love. It's a classic love story. Madame Butterfly takes place in Japan. In the Barber of Seville, there are two men. Figaro is a barber who is well known in his community.

The Magic Flute is about a bird catcher, Papageno, and a prince, Tamino. Papageno does not have a girlfriend which makes him sad. The Magic Flute came from the imagination of the great composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Lucia di Lammermoor is about a woman named Lucy. Lucy's family does not like the man she loves.

If you would like to see what the fifth graders saw, go to: www.dc-opera.org. There you can also learn about other operas.

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

-- Emahni Grant, 5th grader

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, 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 Next Week!

The deadline to submit articles for the next Mustang will be Thursday, October 28. Please send your submissions to sesmustang@gmail.com.



Shepherd Elementary School

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Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to: SESmustang@gmail.com.