



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

November 29, 2010

Mark Your Calendars!



**Dec. 3 — Color Me Mine fundraiser,
6-8 p.m.**

Dec 8 — Holiday concert, 6:45 p.m.

Dec 9 — Open House, 9:30-11 a.m.

Dec. 10 — Loose change collection ends

Dec 15 — PTA meeting, 6:45 p.m.

Dec 20 — Winter break begins

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,

I'm going to continue a bit in the same vein as last week when I publicly proclaimed thanks to just some of the hard-working parents who help make Shepherd Elementary what it is. But this time, I'm going to give it a twist.

First of all, I'm going to thank the PTA officers and committee chairs - I call them the "leaders and doers" - who came to a leadership meeting Nov. 13, at which time we had a thorough discussion of the merits of helping fund a "Saturday Academy" or what may turn-out to be an "Afternoon Academy." We talked pros and cons, expectations and contingencies.

They made, in my view, both the bold and best possible choice. If the school can squeeze \$6,000 out of its budget to get things started, the PTA will pick up the rest of the tab. That commitment could exceed \$11,000, based on one outline offered by the principal on how the Academy would be formatted. (The PTA is going to leave the nuts and bolts about Academy

(See PTA President, Page 3)

New bins mark start of recycling efforts

Shepherd's own set of recycling bins has arrived from D.C. Public Schools. The strategy is to put a squat bin in each classroom.

Those bins will be emptied practically every day, and it will be students who will lead the way in this effort. They will take the bins to a nearby blue 32-gallon wheeled "toter" - just like the kind we use in our households.

From there, Shepherd's custodial crew will empty the toters in a special recycling-only dumpster to be placed close to our trash dumpster. But we're still waiting on the dumpster, and the dumpster collection schedule.

For the time being, we will focus on students recycling paper products. But this is an important "R" in our "Reduce Reuse Recycle" effort.

Look at the homepage of the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org. for a glorious poster on "Recycling the Mustang Way!"





Student's Eye-View

Giving thanks for all...

As we all know, Thursday was Thanksgiving. Many people were very busy on Thanksgiving. Somehow, through all the cooking our parents did and watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, we do not remember the most important reasons why we celebrate Thanksgiving.

A lot of people forget the meaning of Thanksgiving is to be thankful for our family and friends. This whole holiday season, we should be thankful no matter how old we are. We need to love and feel grateful for everyday with our family and we should be happy with our family and forget the problems in our lives.

And, if when you think about what you are thankful for, you think of nothing, you should make a change.

Everyone needs to enjoy the life they are living. That is the true meaning of thanksgiving.

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

—By **Emahni N. Grant,**
5th Grade

School directory will keep you connected

The school directory is at the printer. But if you want your copy as an e-mail attachment instead of a "hard copy," request it now by sending an e-mail to sescommcmte@gmail.com.

You'll be glad you did!

Musical Notes

By Ken Giles, Music Teacher

Kenneth.Giles@dc.gov

In case you haven't read about it in the last couple of *Mustangs*, or heard about it from your kids, our annual holiday concert will be Wednesday, December 8, at 6:45 pm. This is a chance to hear our recorder players, violinists, and singers. All students are welcome to sing. A guest musician -- Christylez Bacon -- will perform with our violinists at the beginning of the concert.

We have 15 violinists and 10 recorder students who can play some traditional holiday tunes. Christylez, DC born and raised, Grammy-nominated rapper and beatboxer, will rap with our violinists when they perform Pachelbel's Canon. Several Shepherd School alumnae will join our violinists for this part of the concert.

Then we all sing songs from many cultures in Spanish, French, Hebrew, and English. Several of the songs are peace songs appropriate to the season.

Violinists will have a special rehearsal with Christylez at 5:30 pm on the day of the concert. All other instrumentalists and singers must be in the auditorium by 6:30 pm. We will start at 6:45 sharp. The concert will be over by 8 p.m. Free admission.

Hardy Middle School Open House Schedule

- December 13, 2010, 9:00 AM
- January 24, 2011, 9:00 AM
- February 14, 2011, 9:00 AM
- March 14, 2011, 9:00 AM

Hardy is located at: 1819 35th Street, NW
Phone: 202 729 4350
Web page: www.hardyms.org

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

PTA President (Continued from page 1)
formatting to Shepherd Elementary's leadership.)

What carried the day? It was the notion that the PTA is here to support the school, not to hold on to a nest egg. And if it means that the PTA bank account is a bit deflated, then it's up to us as parents to replenish it. This leads to the twist. Get ready.

The school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org/180fund/, can now take your contributions online! We had been hoping for this since before the start of the school year. There was a lot of paperwork to funnel through, but it's here now.

The PTA is a federally registered, 501(c)(3) non-profit, so all of your donations are fully tax-deductible. You can make a donation of any size. You can contribute to the 180 Fund. You can make good on that offer to render yourselves immune from further fundraising pitches if you give \$500.

For this I have to thank Lisa Connor, the PTA treasurer, and our Webmaster, Niki Van, who put it all together. While it'll be nice to hear words of thanks from

Shepherd parents, what's even better is that future PTA presidents and treasurers won't have to go through all this rigamarole in the future. (Speaking of rigamarole, you wouldn't believe the paperwork required in getting the Shepherd PTA into the Combined Federal Campaign. But we're thinking about it!)

And speaking of needs, the Auction has about \$10,000 in expenses that must be paid up front before a single item is bid. Any contributions you make now will help us not only now, but five months down the road.

The contributions parents have made already will help our third, fourth and fifth graders not only achieve better scores on the DC-CAS test in April, but they'll come away from it with better proficiency in reading and math that will endure long after anybody remembers what the test results were.

Best wishes,

Mark Pattison

PTA President
829-9289

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Color Me Mine fundraiser is Friday

This Friday, Dec. 3, is the day for the Color Me Mine fundraiser for Shepherd Elementary. Color Me Mine is located at 823 Ellsworth Dr. in downtown Silver Spring. The hours for the fundraiser are 6-9 p.m.

Reserve a table by calling Color Me Mine at 301-565-5105; a table seats four, so bring the whole family, or maybe a classmate friend.

Here's how it works: Pick a piece of pottery, paint it, and leave it with them to glaze and fire. Your masterpiece is ready in one week - in plenty of time for holiday decorating and gift giving.

All of Color Me Mine's paints and glazes are lead free, 100 percent friendly to the environment and completely safe for kids and adults.

Color Me Mine has more than 200 items to choose from for painting and glazing, from ornaments and cookie plates to menorahs, dreidels and unity cups. You can create a special holiday -- made by hand and from the heart!

Fully half - yes, 50 percent - of the proceeds from Color Me Mine will go to the PTA. And you don't even have to say you're "with" or "from" Shepherd. The purchases of everyone who comes in that evening will be applied to Shepherd!

For more info on Color Me Mine, go to <http://www.silverspring.colormemine.com>.



Smart kids make school safety part of their daily lessons

(NAPSA)—Every day, millions of children take to the streets and roadways to get to and from school. They walk, ride their bicycles, take buses and arrive in vehicles with one purpose—getting to and from school safely.

However children get there, it's important that families take time to talk about safety and supervise their children's journey.

"While the vast majority of children get to and from school safely, some children can run into unexpected dangers," said Nancy A. McBride, National Safety Director at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). "If a child has been told how to recognize and avoid potentially dangerous situations, chances are better that he or she will deal with trouble in a smarter and safer way."

Here are some quick and easy tips from "Know the Rules...For Going to and From School More Safely" by NCMEC:

Teach Your Children

- Instruct your child to always take a friend when walking or riding his or her bike to and from school. They should walk and ride in well-lit areas and never take shortcuts. When walking and biking, it's also important they stay aware of their surroundings and observe all traffic rules.
- Even though there is safety in numbers, it's still not safe for young children to walk to and from school, especially if they must take isolated routes. Always provide supervision for your young children to help ensure their safe arrival.
- Your child should stay with a group while waiting at the bus stop. Teach him or her to get away from anyone who bothers your child while going to or from school, and to tell you or another trusted adult. If an adult approaches your child for help or directions, he or she should remember that grownups needing help should not ask children for help; they should ask other adults.
- Tell your children that if anyone they don't know, or a person who confuses, scares or makes them feel uncomfortable, offers them a ride, say no. Children should never accept a ride from anyone unless you have told them it is OK to do so in each instance.
- Children should be taught to never leave school with anyone they don't know and to always check first with you or another trusted adult. If anyone says there's an emergency and wants your child to go with him or her,

your children should always check first before doing anything.

- Teach them to make a scene and every effort to get away by yelling loudly, kicking, screaming and resisting if anyone tries to grab them.

Take Action

Talking with your children, supervising their activities and making safety a priority for everyone in the family are the best ways to help protect them from abduction, violence and exploitation.



Shepherd Elementary School



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Deadline for Next Mustang:

Fri. Dec. 3, at 5 p.m. Send all contributions to:
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