



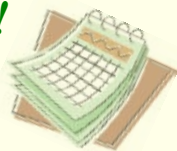
Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

December 6, 2010

Mark Your Calendars!



**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.18-31 — Winter Break, No School

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,

Every PTA president should be as lucky as I was to be at their school two hours before their newsletter column is due to be on hand for some galvanizing stuff!

Just this past Friday, a team of energetic pros from the Alliance for a Healthy Generation and from City Blossoms came to Shepherd to meet an equally energetic team of parents and staff. They toured the school grounds with an eye on winning a Safeway Stores-funded grant to build a garden outside the school.

Not just one garden, but possibly two! There's been interest in a vegetable garden for some time now, and that's primarily what our visitors were there for. But Shepherd also wants to create a rain garden using runoff from rainfall.

Both serve as excellent opportunities to incorporate real-life experiences into lesson plans. Science is the obvious example, but what about Mrs. Laughinghouse's every-other-Friday cooking class? Think of our International Baccalaureate Unit of Inquiry subject.

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A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

I hope each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I enjoyed my time away celebrating with family and friends in North Carolina.

Now it is back to work as we count down our last few weeks until the Winter Break.



Shepherd is a Top Ten School – But It's Not Good News

Shepherd Elementary School has been identified as one of the Top 10 schools with Highest Negative Balances in Food Service charges. Shepherd owes \$7,355.17 to DCPS food services.

Students fall into three payment categories: free, reduced or paid. Schools will start to accrue negative balances in Food Service charges when:

- Students who have been classified as paid make purchases without payment
- Students who do not qualify for free and reduced meals make purchases without payment
- Students who are eligible for free and reduced meals do not submit a FARM application and make purchases without payment

DCPS never turns away a student from the lunch line.

Two years ago, DCPS accrued nearly one million dollars in negative balance charges. Through aggressive processing of FARM applications, the balance was reduced to \$260,000 last year. This year there is a goal to reduce the total to less than \$100,000. The dollar savings will be utilized to provide food service programs such as salad bars and nutritional education.

How can you help? 1) If your financial status has changed, please contact the office for a Free and Reduced Lunch Meal application. Though you will still be responsible for your balances, your child will not accrue any additional charges. 2) Contact Ms. Frost in the cafeteria to see how much you owe and pay the amount. 3) Consider paying weekly/monthly 4) Check your child's account periodically and make payments.

Shepherd has been charged with the task of helping reduce the budget shortfall. Please do your part!

Mustang Bucks Celebration

At the end of each day, students earn 1 point for being respectful, responsible and safe. Students who accumulate a pre-

See MILES, Page 5



Student's Eye-View

Review Tutoring Sessions Prepare Youngsters for Upcoming Tests

At Shepherd, all fifth grade students have "review tutoring" from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The teachers and adults at the school who help with the review are: Ms. Laughinghouse, Ms. Hart, Ms. Stewart, Mr. Leonard and Ms. Ulba.

We have math one week and reading the next. The tutoring classes are held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. These classes are meant to help us improve our DC BAS (Benchmark Assessment System) and DC CAS (Comprehensive Assessment System) test scores.

The first day, we worked on rounding numbers in Ms. Ulba's tutoring class. We worked on rules and how to understand rounding. "The tutoring class will give you a better understanding of past skills," said Ms. Ulba.

On the second day, Mr. Leonard's tutoring class worked on partial sums dealing with fractions. These classes will be very helpful.

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

'IB PYP Corner'

Hello, Shepherd Community! I hope everyone had a very happy Thanksgiving. We started off our week on Tuesday, Nov. 30 with our IB Recognition Ceremony for those students that really demonstrated the Learner Profile trait of Thinker throughout the month of November. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend and congratulations to:

Kelsie George, Zara Vrooman, Sarah Rice, Yeabsera Tekabe Rashad Biddle, Niles Dunham, Irvin Scott Lillian Beach, Roman Carter, Benjamin White, Deborah Okechukwu, Clare Harvey, Quin Montgomery, Madeline Lewis, Tiara Dupee, Jasmine Greene, London Downing, Chimauchem Ukaegbu, Allison Holmes, Colyar Trimble, Miles Davis, Anthony Harrison II, Quentin Anderson-Watson, Zaria Wilson, Calloway Majette, Isaiah Moneme, Kenneth Redman, Autumn Parrish, Nathaniel Galbreath, Andonny Garcia, Marley Majette, Eric Nelson and John Harmon Jr.

This month, the Learner Profile trait is **Open-minded**. Open-minded people understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories. They are open to perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

An open-minded person is comfortable with differences, and has a variety of lenses to view issues. Throughout the month of December, I challenge you to exercise your mind in order to stimulate new ways of thinking about the world around you. I encourage you to do things differently, and randomly. I dare you to be and to do ridiculous things. Here are a few ideas of which will help you to see things in a unique light:

See IB, Page 3

Keep change coming, 'Secret Santa' will not show

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the "Secret Santa" shop that was planned for the end of this week has been canceled. We're sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused students and parents alike.

'Loose Change' project ends Friday

Remember to keep giving kids your loose change every day this week for our annual "Loose Change" collection. We want those Ziploc bags to be bursting at the seams! Half of the money will go to the PTA, but the other half will be given to the school, which in turn will give it to a needy family with a child at Shepherd. Last year's collection netted nearly \$1,000. Let's top that this year!

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.

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1. Stimulate your ears differently. Try different music you haven't tried before such as: Classical, New Age, Zouk, Rap, Mariachi, Country, Afro-Blues, Calypso, and Reggae.
2. Stimulate your eyes in new ways. Go to art galleries, and read comics. These can be stimulating and thought provoking.
3. Try foods you have never tried.
4. Try building ridiculous things with Legos, like radios, robots, trebuchets.
5. Watch movies in genres that you normally don't partake in, such as cyberpunk, horror, anime, documentaries, and stand-up comedy.
6. Learn about different people and different lifestyles. Read articles on a wide variety of practices.

For the month of December, all classes will be learning about Holidays around the World. Some of these holidays include Diwali, Kwanzaa, Hanukah, and the Festival of Lights. The Language Department will focus on Christmas in other countries around the world. Please pass by on Wednesday, 12/15 to view the class displays.

—Sandra Hart, IB Coordinator

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And don't you think some students in our Star Achievers aftercare program would be interested in helping maintain a garden?

I'm trying not to get ahead of myself too much, but you can see at least some of the possibilities here. We'll find out by the end of next month whether we've got the grant. We've got an energized cadre of parent volunteers ready, willing and able to help, thanks in part to our parent volunteer database, and our Building and Grounds Committee and our Health and Wellness Committee. They all deserve the same kind of Thanksgiving-style thanks I was ladling out over the past two weeks.

See you at the Holiday Concert on Wednesday, if not sooner!

Best wishes & happy upcoming holidays,

Mark Pattison

PTA President

829-9289

pattison_mark@hotmail.com

Healthy snack sale a tasty success, funds trip

Ms. Christenberry's and Ms. Weber's fourth grade classes held a Healthy Snack Sale at Shepherd Elementary School from November 1-15. The students needed to raise money to pay for a bus to go on a field trip to the Newseum.

Each child brought in snacks to sell and made posters that were put up all over the school to advertise the sale. By the end of the first three days, the students had raised enough money to pay for the bus.

"We are so grateful for the support," said Ms. Weber. "Students and staff really enjoyed our healthy snacks and thanks to them, we will have a great experience at the Newseum."

Ms. Christenberry said, "The students really worked hard to run the sale. I could tell that they enjoyed the experience."

Shoa Samad, a fourth grader, said "I think the snack sale went great."

The students raised more money than they needed to pay for a bus. They plan to pick a charity to make a donation.

Stay tuned next week for an article about our trip to the Newseum!

—Alicia Dawson, 4th grader



MILES, from Page 1

determined amount of points each month gets the opportunity to participate in the Shepherd Mustang Bucks event. This event takes place on or near the end of the month and students have to wait in anticipation until the end of the month to find out the surprise. This month's event was movie and popcorn. Students in all grade levels enjoyed the movie Toy Story 3 and a bag of Smart Choice popcorn. Our next event will take place on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 and students have to earn 9 points to attend the event. This month approximately 220 students earned enough points to participate. Next month I would like to see the number increase to 300. You can help by reminding your students to be Respectful, Responsible and Safe at all times.

Have You Heard??!!

Our school's computer lab is finally getting the makeover it deserves. After several months of calling, emailing and complaining, our lab will be getting an upgrade. This upgrade will include, a new ceiling, a new floor, half walls to support the electrical outlet and network cables, a new door, paint job and a set up for an interactive whiteboard. I am still working on getting the actual whiteboard! Thank you for your patience and remember your financial contributions to the PTA 180 fund paid for the computers.

Toys

Parents please be reminded that toys of any sort are not allowed at school. Please check your child's book bag and pockets before they leave the house and remind them of the expectations. The school cannot be responsible for lost, stolen or broken toys.

Lost and Found

We currently have a tremendous amount of coats, jackets, hats and lunchboxes collecting in the lost and found area located in the foyer of the gymnasium. Please stop by this week to see if you can identify any items that may belong to your child. All items will be donated to Goodwill at the end of the week.

Please take a moment to label your child's clothing. This will help us get missing items in the proper hands.

Reading Logs

A few issues back; I discussed the nightly reading logs. This initiative will begin but with a twist. In January we will kick off our Reading in the New Year reading competition. The actual name of the event has not been finalized but all the details will be coming soon!

Deadline for Next Mustang:

Fri. Dec. 10, at 5 p.m. Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

Weekly Message

The Sunday night weekly message has returned. There have been no messages for the past few weeks due to some technical glitches. Please be sure to set your answering machine to receive the message if you will not be home. Also, please contact the main office if you are not receiving messages.

Warmest regards,

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary



Joseph Califano will speak at Lowell School on January 11, 2011 at 7 p.m.

Califano is the founder and chairman of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University and author of *How to Raise a Drug-Free Kid*.

The talk is open to the public. The Lowell School is located at 1640 Kalmia Road N.W. (School entrance on 17th Street).



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