



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

January 3, 2011

Mark Your Calendars!



- Jan. 11**—Local School Advisory Team, 3:45 p.m., library
- Jan. 12**—Family Dinner Night, El Aguila Restaurant, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 14**—Professional development, no school
- Jan. 17**—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King holiday, no school
- Jan. 19**—PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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 Families,

Happy New Year to one and all! The new year gives us all a chance to re-set our schedules and even our lifestyles. That's what New Year's Resolutions are all about.

How can we - how can I - be better, and do better?

We can watch less TV. That's what the TV Turn-Off campaign is all about. There's an article and the pledge form in this issue of the Mustang. Read it and fill it out. Your whole household will benefit.

We can prepare our children for the excellence we've come to expect from them by participating in the new After-school Academy, which starts before month's end. We expect those DC-CAS test scores to rise like a helium balloon.

We can support our school's fundraising efforts. We've done well with Box Tops and Color Me Mine. But in 2011 we NEED you to step up and contribute to the 180 Fund, as the PTA is paying half the cost of the Afternoon Academy. You can also buy a brick or two (or more!) of our new "Brick by Brick" fundraiser campaign - and an article and the order form are in the Mustang as well. There's also a new Family Dinner Night next week, on January 12th, at El Aguila, a Mexican restaurant in Silver Spring, a hop, skip and jump from Shepherd. We'll get 20 percent of the bill, so put off

See PTA, Page 3

A Word from Mrs. Miles

Welcome back to the start of second part of the 2010-2011 school year. I hope each of you enjoyed your break and I trust you were able to accomplish all you wanted to and more. As I write this message it is hard to believe we have less than 6 months of school remaining. It seems like yesterday I was welcoming you to the start of another school year. As we start the second half of the year, I ask that each of you take a moment to reflect at home about your role as a Shepherd family member and decide now if you need to recommit yourself to the Shepherd family and make Shepherd a part of your New Year's resolutions.



Reflection Points

Have you attended a PTA meeting?

Have you reviewed the school's Essential Agreements with your student?

Have you introduced yourself to someone new and arranged a play date for your student?

Have you attended a Pastries with the Principal event?

Have you contributed to the PTA 180 Fund?

Have you attended a parent-teacher conference?

Have you volunteered in your child's classroom?

Have you volunteered in other areas of the school?

Do you spend time checking your child's homework each evening?

Do you have a quiet place for your student to complete his/her assignments?

Do you read with your student nightly?

Do you limit TV time in your home?

Do you make sure your student arrives to school on time each day?

Do you pay your aftercare fees on time?

See MILES, Page 5

PTA is clear with IRS

In past years, the PTA's volunteer parent treasurer did not file timely tax returns with the IRS, which is a requirement of every nonprofit organization. There was one year where we almost got caught up, but the unexpected death of a subsequent treasurer's relative resulted in us missing the filing deadline by just one day.

However, after a series of "please be gentle with us" letters to the IRS, the Government has forgiven all of our fines and other penalties. What's more, the PTA met the most recent IRS filing deadline of last November.

As with any all-volunteer organization, the Shepherd PTA strives to be a responsible and effective steward of your money. We hope we shall continue to merit that trust.

Other tax info—

PTA treasurer Lisa Connor has prepared individual letters for each contributor to the PTA. As a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, any and all contributions to the PTA are fully tax deductible. If you have not yet obtained your letter, e-mail Lisa at lisaconnor@verizon.net.

If you donated to the 180 Fund, your personalized tax deduction letter will be available in the office starting Monday, Jan 3rd. There will be a box next to the PTA box on the ledge by the window. If you don't have a letter and were supposed to get one, please e-mail Lisa at lisaconnor@verizon.net.

Thanks to everyone who has donated so far. If you made a commitment to donate and haven't done so already, please make your donation.

Brick fundraiser builds momentum

School parents, Shepherd alumni and Shepherd Park neighbors are already responding to the PTA's new "Brick by Brick" fundraiser. You can buy a brick, get it etched with what you want to say (Twitter users have a head start on this!), and get it placed alongside the walkway leading from 14th Street to the steps bounding up to the green double doors of the original school building.

For \$50, you'll get your brick! For an extra \$15, you can get a third line inscribed (18 characters, including spaces, maximum). For \$50 more, you get to be an "Old School" supporter and have your brick(s) closest to the old-school steps. And you can buy a duplicate brick for \$39.95 as a keepsake, just in case you can't make it to Shepherd every day to admire your brick.

See **BRICKS**, Page 7



Musical Notes

By Ken Giles, Music Teacher
Kenneth.Giles@dc.gov

Here are three music activities that will happen in January and February:

1. "Songs of the Civil Rights Movement" Our 5th graders will perform their own 15-minute presentation about how songs were used in the civil rights movement. The performance will be for our 4th graders on Friday, January 7, 2011, at 9:00 a.m.
2. "World Music and Dance"... All students are invited to sing (and dance) in our February 9, 2011 concert, featuring 30 songs and dances from around the world. Several students will have "leads" as narrators. These students are invited to rehearse on Monday evenings with the DC Labor Chorus from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the music room. These special rehearsals will be held on the following Monday evenings: January 3, 10, 24, and 31. We will have a final dress rehearsal on Monday, February 7, before we sing the concert on February 9. The DC Labor Chorus will join our students for the concert.
3. DC Youth Orchestra is accepting registrations for the second semester (which begins January 18). Students can learn violin, guitar, percussion, flute, and all other instruments of the orchestra. The top-level DC Youth Orchestra plays at the Kennedy Center and the White House and goes on tour. Over the years, dozens of Shepherd Elementary School students have performed with the DC Youth Orchestra. About 15 Shepherd School students are now enrolled in the program, and more are welcome. Check this site: www.dcyop.org

Seriously seeking Snider's receipts

If you have receipts from Snider's Super Foods in Silver Spring, please give them to Ms. Confer at the school. Shepherd gets 1 percent of EVERY receipt turned in. The next deadline to turn in receipts is Thursday, January 13, since there's no school on Friday, January 14th. Don't delay - do it today!



Student's Eye-View

Welcome back to school! On December 27, 2010, 5th graders Sandra Stevenson, Vaniya Moore, and Kevin Evans attended the Pre-Inaugural Youth Luncheon at the Verizon Center, with mayor elect Vincent Gray. The luncheon was held because Mr. Gray wanted to hear young peoples' voices of the District. He wanted to hear our suggestions about what he could do for the community as well as our complaints.

For example, at one point in the luncheon, we started talking about the lunches our school feeds us. At the beginning of the luncheon, an 11th grader stood up and said that she had got arrested for fighting. When Mr. Gray asked her what we could do to stop fighting, she put her hand up with a serious face and said, "Don't stop the gogo". Everyone started cracking up laughing! When Mr. Gray asked a boy to stand up and ask his question, the boy stuffed a cookie in his mouth and tried to ask his question. Mr. Gray said let's play a game. The game is do not talk with food in your mouth. At the luncheon it was very funny. When an 18 - year old said we should have longer school years I shouted, "No!" really loud, and the man who was video taping us on Channel 13 got me on video doing that!

After the luncheon, we took pictures with Mayor-elect
See VIEW, Page 5

Box Tops for Education update

Big thanks to all of our student contributors to the Box Tops for Education program. We started out slow, with only \$8 to show for our efforts. But by the middle of December, students had contributed another \$393 in Box Tops coupons.

Assuming that the Box Tops people accept them all, that will put us more than 80 percent toward our 2010-11 goal of \$500! But we have only until the end of February for Box Tops to be collected at Shepherd if we want them to be counted in the current school year's total. There are always handy Box Tops collection sheets in the rack outside the office.

You can also do some searching online for a Box Tops collection sheet if you run out. And, it's always OK to put your Box Tops in a sandwich bag and put the bag in the Box Tops container in the school office. Remember to include your child's name and teacher so that the student gets proper credit for a job well done!

Poll will guide efforts

Remember to take the poll offered through the PTA's Yahoo Groups site. The poll asks participants to name up to three priorities the school has (or should have). The choices are:

- Communications: listserv, Mustang, robocalls, website
- Creating an environment for learning
- Figuring out why so many families leave at third grade, and fix it
- Foreign-language instruction
- Full adoption/embracing of IB curriculum by faculty and parents
- Fundraising
- Green Team/recycling
- Improving student achievement by standardized measures
- Increasing parental involvement
- Music and art
- School renovation and maintenance.

Since there is an "other" option on the survey, if the survey does not permit you to state your concern, please contact PTA president Mark Pattison at pattison_mark@hotmail.com and let him know.

To get to the survey, go to:
groups.yahoo.com/group/Shepherd_Elementary_PTA/survey?id=2339944. **The poll closes this Wednesday, Jan. 5.**

PTA, from Page 1 _____
the dieting resolution for a day.

We can go green by reducing, reusing and recycling. We will now publish the Mustang every other week. One benefit is fewer sheets of paper being used, and a reduced carbon footprint. As your children start recycling in their classrooms this year, give them hints on how they can be better stewards of the earth's resources - and listen to tips they can offer you.

And, on a personal note, we can all stand to be kinder to one another. On the last day of school, I got snippy with a parent who didn't deserve it. I've apologized to the parent. It may have been due to my nerves getting frazzled at Christmas, but don't let the cold, or the snow, or the morning rush be an excuse for you to act less than kindly to your fellow parents. Shepherd is a school where we watch out for each other and support each other. And that's a resolution where we can all benefit.

Best wishes,

Mark Pattison

PTA President
202/829-9289



The Ultimate Shepherd Challenge:
TV-Turnoff Year
January-June 2011



Students in TVTO will be recognized and celebrated at Shepherd in various ways throughout the year

Last year, hundreds of students around the country kept the TV off school nights and school mornings for eight months! Are you ready to show that you have the determination and imagination to be one of them -- and to see your grades rise?

What happened to those kids? They used their time and imagination to explore other things, like reading, playing outside, writing, and drawing. In fact, studies have shown they do better in school!

If you think you are up to this awesome challenge, **get your parent or guardian to sign below.**

To help you along, you will be honored with special gifts and parties this year. Show us—and yourself—what you can do!

TV-Turnoff Year
Pledge Sheet

I, _____, accept the ultimate TV Turnoff Challenge. I am in this class (teacher's name): _____.

____ **Gold** on school nights and mornings (Sunday night through Friday morning) I will **NOT WATCH ANY** TV or play any computer or video games.

____ **Silver** on school nights and mornings (Sunday night through Friday morning) I will watch TV and play computer or video games *no more than a maximum of 30 minutes TOTAL.*

____ **Bronze** on school nights and mornings (Sunday night through Friday morning) I will watch TV and play computer or video games *no more than a maximum of 60 minutes TOTAL.*

Parent's signature _____.

Please turn this in to your teacher.

MILES, from Page 1

Do you arrive on time to pick your student up after school?

Do you obey all traffic rules around the school (i.e. not stopping or parking in crosswalks, not parking in the carpool lane and leaving your car unattended...)

Do you read the Mustang?

Do you limit negative conversation about other students and parents?

DCBAS

The 3rd DCBAS assessment will take place on January 11-January 13, 2011. Please make sure your 3rd -5th grade student arrives to school on-time and prepared!

Pastries with the Principal

This month's Pastries with the Principal will take place on January 24, 2010 at 8:45 a.m. All are invited to attend this informal dialogue.

Volunteers

We are still seeking volunteers in the following areas:

- Carpool Duty (Monday-Friday, 2:30 pm -3:15 pm)
- Early Morning Readers (Monday-Friday, 8:15 am -8:45 am)

Please contact Principal Miles (Jamie.miles@dc.gov)

Shepherd Book Club (*Shepherd Parents and Staff*)

Please join me for our first Shepherd Book Club meeting. The book of the month is *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander: From Preschool to High School--How Parents and Teachers Can Help Break the Cycle of Violence* Barbara Coloroso. As a school community, we want to make sure we are doing our part to make sure all students feel safe. The book can be purchased at your local bookstore or online.

When: January 19, 2010

Time: 5:30 pm (before the PTA Meeting)

Where: The School Library

A light dinner will be served! Please RSVP to Principal Miles no later than January 10, 2011.

Mickey and Minnie

There have been several sightings of mice in the last couple of weeks. Please be assured the school and school system is actively working to help us rid our building of our four-legged friends. Actions steps to date: bi-weekly visits by the exterminator, trap boxes set around the building, holes/entrances have been sealed, teacher snacks have been asked to be kept in sealed plastic bins and teachers are asked to purge constantly. Pest control has recently started visiting weekly and will continue to do so until we are happy. At this time fumigation is not an option. The Pest

Control contractors for the district puts safety first and due to the hazardous materials used, no one can occupy the building for 8-10 days.

Computer Lab Update

Our school's computer lab finally got the makeover it deserved. After several months of calling, emailing and complaining, our lab has been upgraded. This upgrade includes 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! Feel free to stop by and take a look. Thank you for your patience and remember your financial contributions to the PTA's 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

During the break we carried 4 bags of lost of found items to the Goodwill. Please speak with your students about keeping up with their possessions and please label everything with your child's name.

Recess

Our goal is to get students outside everyday even if it is 32 degrees. However, if the wind-chill factor makes it feel 30 degrees or less, we keep students inside. PLEASE send your student to school dressed appropriately. Many of our students come to school without hats and complain of being cold.

Shepherd's Afterschool Scholars Program

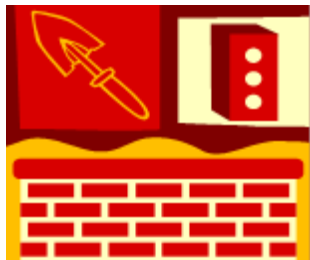
Afterschool Scholars is an after school tutoring program for students whom we feel will benefit from some extra support outside of the normal school day. Students were selected based on their 2010 DC-CAS scores, their 2010-2011 DC-BAS test data and teacher observation. We are targeting students who are high basic or low proficient. Our goal is to move our basic students to the proficient level and the proficient students to high proficient or advanced. During the last three weeks, all students will be invited to attend.

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VIEW, from Page 3

Vincent Gray. We signed our names on a paper and they invited us to the Inaugural Ball. Mr. Gray said he was going to form a young peoples' council. We are going to meet every Saturday on Channel 13 or 16. That was a fun day! If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact the Mustang reporter at mutabear10@gmail.com.

—By Sandra Stevenson,
5th Grade



BRICK BY BRICK
SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PAVING PROJECT
An Invitation to participate in making a good school Great!

Please complete the form below, and return or mail to:
 Shepherd Elementary Paving Program
 7800 14th Street, NW
 Washington, DC

For further information, please call (202) 369-1446.
 For more than one brick, please duplicate this form.

INSCRIPTIONS

(up to 2 lines of 18 characters each, including spaces and punctuations; no * or @)
(This would be blocks for individual letters)

Optional Third Line @ \$15

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Year/Degree: _____

____ 14TH STREET PATHFINDER (Walkway) @ \$50 per brick. \$ _____

____ "OLD SCHOOL" SUPER SUPPORTER @100 per brick. \$ _____

____ OPTIONAL THIRD LINE @ \$15 \$ _____

I'd also like a keepsake replica of the inscribed brick @ \$39.95 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Contribution is tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Method of Payment

____ Check/Money Order payable to Shepherd Elementary PTA

____ Visa:

____ Mastercard:

____ American Express:

Account #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Classes win school's loose change challenge

Congratulations to the classrooms who won last month's Loose Change collection.

Ms. Gibbs' pre-K class won for yet another year, as students and their parents were as generous as they had been last year.

And Ms. Valentine-Nelson's third-grade class contributed EVERYTHING in coins. Not a single piece of paper currency was used. To recognize the outstanding efforts of both classrooms, they're each going to be rewarded with a pizza party.

The Loose Change collection netted \$1,195 - and change, of course! The PTA rounded up the figure to an even \$1,200. Half of the money is staying with the PTA for school improvement efforts.

The other \$600 (in unmarked bills!) was given to Mrs. Miles

before classes started on the last day before Winter Break to distribute to the families of Shepherd students who are facing hard times.

Mrs. Miles reported that the money was split among five families. Thanks to all for your generosity.

BRICKS, from Page 2

There is a Brick By Brick order form in this week's Mustang. You may also be able to find order forms in the rack outside the school office. You can even print as many forms as you need from the school website at <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/support-us/brick-by-brick/>

Be part of Shepherd's living history by getting your brick order in now!

REPORT, from Page 5

Afterschool Scholars will run every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday beginning Tuesday, January 11, 2011 and will end on Thursday, March 31, 2011 (the start date may change to the following Tuesday, parents will be notified). Students will remain after school and will be ready for pick up at 5:55 pm (unless they are in aftercare). Parents will be responsible for providing a healthy snack. Shepherd teachers will provide the instruction.

We understand many of our students are busy in the afternoons and may have other standing commitments (i.e., gymnastics, dance, etc.). However, in order for your student to participate and for us to yield the results we are striving for, your student may not miss more than 1 session per week. There will be accommodations made for our school athletes.

Invitations were sent to 75 students. Parents were asked to confirm their students' participation in the program no later than Wednesday, December 15, 2010.

As you may have heard, our District is in a budget crisis. This crisis impacts everything, including funds for academic enrichment such as (Saturday School). However, thanks to your generous contributions to Shepherd, we will be able to compensate teachers for the time.

Finally, a big thank you to the custodial team - Mr. Kelly, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Friday - for the work they did during the break. If you notice a difference, please let them know!

Have a great week!

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Deadline for Next Mustang:

Fri, Jan. 14, at 5 p.m. for the Jan. 17 issue

Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

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.

Shepherd Elementary School



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