



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

January 31, 2011

## Mark Your Calendars!



- Feb. 4**—Report cards issued
- Feb. 8**—LSAT meeting, 3:45 p.m.
- Feb. 9**—World Music Concert, 6:45 p.m.
- Feb. 10**—Open House, 9:30-11 a.m.
- Feb. 16**—Curriculum Night, 6:30 p.m.

Visit <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/calendar/> for a month-by-month list of events and activities through June.

## From the PTA President...

Dear Shepherd Families,

You know it and I know it: Shepherd is a great school to be a part of. It didn't get that way by itself. It took the collective hard work of the hundreds and thousands of parents and staff who came before us. They made this school attractive enough to us for us to want to send our children here.

It's our job – just like it was theirs – to keep it that way. While we're here, we also have the opportunity to make our own special mark on the school.

And there's no way that we're going to let a little snow slow down the momentum.

February is a chilly month, but one that's packed with activities. That includes the Auction committee meeting on Feb. 1 to parent-teacher conferences (plus a special election to fill an LSRT vacancy) on Feb. 28. In between we have report cards (Feb. 4), an LSAT meeting (Feb. 8), the World Music Concert (Feb. 9) an open house (Feb. 10), a special meeting for PTA officers and committee chairs (Feb. 12), Curriculum Night (Feb. 16), Class Photo Day (Feb. 17), Family Dinner Night at Ledo Pizza (also Feb. 17), and the inaugural meeting of the Parents' Book Club (Feb. 25).

That doesn't even count Valentine's Day (Feb. 14), or the four-day weekend we get when DCPS combines a

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## A Word from Mrs. Miles

Greetings Shepherd Family!

### Snow Updates

During last week's school closing and 2 hour delay, I sent out 3 phone messages. The purpose of these messages was to let you know the status of DCPS, whether schools were open, closed, or delayed. If you did not receive the messages or if you would like messages sent to another number please send an email to [emailshepherd@elementary@gmail.com](mailto:emailshepherd@elementary@gmail.com). In your message please be sure to include your name, your student's name, and the phone number where you would like the messages sent. I will provide updates up to 11:00 p.m. and/or between 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. in the event of a change to the normal school schedule or an emergency.



### Facebook

Shepherd Elementary has an organizational Facebook page and you are encouraged to visit and "like" our page. Facebook will be used as another method of communication. I will utilize this page to announce upcoming events as well as to announce changes to the normal school day due to unexpected emergencies. Please visit, <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Shepherd-Elementary-School/176502085694257>.

### EmailShepherdElementary@gmail.com

If you would like to receive occasional emails from Shepherd, please send an email to [emailshepherd@elementary@gmail.com](mailto:emailshepherd@elementary@gmail.com). We will add you to our distribution list.

### Group Pictures

Classroom group pictures will take place on February 17, 2011. Please plan to send your student to school dressed in their SCHOOL UNIFORM; navy bottoms and white top.

### Science Fair

If you have not done so already, please take a moment to visit the school's gymnasium to view our students' science fair projects. Students in grades 3-5 spent the last couple of months preparing for our annual science fair. The projects are great and

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## ***PTA brick campaign is off to a solid start***

*Shepherd 4 Ever  
Matty, Joe, Eric*

*Green and Gold  
Rules! So Does  
The Class of 1992*

*Go Mustangs!  
Joseph B. Browne*

The PTA's "Brick by Brick" paving program is in full swing. Those were some ideas of inscriptions YOU could put on YOUR brick. You're limited only by your imagination – and 18 characters per line (2 lines, with a optional 3rd line available)

Shepherd's two alumni Facebook groups have been notified about this Brick by Brick program. But let's show our alumni that the current crop of parents and teachers what they can do to be true to their school.

Remember: The bricks will line the walkway between the 14<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk and the entrance to the original school building. The "basic" brick is \$50, but you can be an "Old School" supporter for \$100 and have your bricks placed closest to the steps. You can order an additional third line of text for \$15 extra, and you can get a duplicate brick for yourself to keep at home or work for \$39.95.

You can order by printing the form and sending a check payable to Shepherd Elementary PTA, or you can order online and pay with a credit card. The choice is yours – and both options are linked to the home page of the school's website:

[www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org).

## ***Local School Advisory Team election is Feb. 28, nominees sought***

An election date has been set for Monday, Feb. 28, for a special election to fill a vacancy on the Local School Advisory Team. It's the same date as parent-teacher conferences at Shepherd.

If you want to serve the rest of the term of LSAT parent representative Marcus Hall, notify PTA Nomination and Election Committee member Yasmin Lewis-White at [yaslew-is@aol.com](mailto:yaslew-is@aol.com); to be considered a candidate, you MUST submit a statement of candidacy no later than 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11.

Candidate statements will be published in the Feb. 14 issue of the Mustang and also posted on the PTA listserv.

The election will be held whether there are 10 candidates or just one; D.C. Public School says so. We hope to have the ballot box stationed near the school office for the whole day of parent-teacher conferences (8 a.m.-6 p.m.), so make a point to cast your ballot when you come for a conference with your



We will perform the "World Music and Dance" concert on Wednesday, February 9, at 6:45 pm. All students are welcome to sing. The D.C. Labor Chorus will sing along with our students. We will perform 20 songs and 7 dances from around the world, singing in English, Spanish, French, Swahili, Zulu, German, Russian, and other languages.

Rehearsals with the D.C. Labor Chorus continue on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in the music room.

All performers must come to the final rehearsal on Monday, February 7, 6:45 pm, so we can put the whole program together on stage in the auditorium. Fifty of our students have speaking roles at the microphone. Several 5th and 4th graders will dance all of the dances, and our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders each have one dance.

The "World Music and Dance" concert helps us be more international-minded and gives us a glimpse of other cultures. Lyric sheets will be on every chair so you can sing along with our students on February 9.

child's teachers.

Other Nomination and Election Committee members are Ann Wallace, Bill Wilson and Lynette Jones. This group will stay intact for the spring round of nominations for four LSAT parent reps and six PTA officers for 2011-12. If you wish to serve on this committee, please get in touch with Yasmin.

## ***Ledo's Family Dinner Night is Feb. 17***

Mark your calendar for Thursday, Feb. 17. That's the date of the PTA's next Family Dinner Night at Ledo Pizza! For the time being, it's set to start at 6 p.m., but we're asking Ledo if it would start earlier – because Shepherd families love Ledo's so much they would overwhelm the place. Keep an eye peeled on the PTA listserv for added details. But know that Ledo Pizza is awfully tasty, and that the PTA will get 20% of all the pre-tax proceeds!



## Auction Committee meets Tuesday

The Auction Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. There was lots of interest shown during the last PTA meeting in making this year's auction a super success. And a sign-up sheet was passed around and filled up pretty fast with parents and teachers who want to help.

Children are welcome to come, and there will be pizza at the meeting; please contribute something to defray the cost.

If you can't make the meeting but still want to help, call Auction Chair Bianca Bostic at 202-821-8076, or e-mail her at [bianca.bostic@noaa.gov](mailto:bianca.bostic@noaa.gov).

## Is my child too busy?

It's pretty common to hear parents talk about racing their child from one club sport, to the next—or to an academic debate, school club or other roster of activities. For some children, adding extra-curricular activities may be due to the pressure of building a resume to get into a good college, while others feel peer pressure to hang out with a group of friends. Some parents might feel their child is "missing out" if he isn't constantly occupied. There are various reasons, but it all adds up to overload.

Boys Town Pediatrics helps parents look for signs of being overloaded, such as:

- ▶ Feeling tired, exhausted or depressed
- ▶ Not enjoying the activity they once loved
- ▶ Lower grades in school
- ▶ Complaining of headaches or body aches, which may be due to stress or lack of sleep
- ▶ Having stomach pain, which may be due to missed meals or stress.

Take a moment and carefully examine your child's schedule. If you feel there are too many activities scheduled, talk with your child and together decide where you can cut back. Keeping a structured active schedule can play a role in the health and well-being of your child. Learn more at: [www.parenting.org](http://www.parenting.org).

## George is chosen as interim LSAT rep

Due to the resignation of Shepherd parent Marcus Hall as a parent representative from the Local School Advisory Team (LSAT), PTA president Mark Pattison made a temporary appointment of David George, the father of a pre-K student, to fill the vacancy left by Hall's resignation.

He'll start work with the other LSAT members on Tuesday, Feb. 8, when the LSAT's next meeting is scheduled to start at 3:45 p.m. in the library. The LSAT meeting is open to the public, but because budget issues will be discussed during the meeting, the meeting will be restricted to LSAT members after its public business is done.

## Final open house is Feb. 10

The last of three scheduled open houses for parents of prospective new students, especially in pre-K, is set for Thursday, Feb. 10, from 9:30 to 11 a.m., starting in the school library. Parents will hear from Mrs. Miles, the principal, and Mark Pattison, the PTA president, as well as visit classrooms. If you know of parents who would like to come to the open house, have them call the school at 576-6140 and RSVP.



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professional development day (Friday, Feb. 18) with the Presidents Day observance (Monday, Feb. 21).

Nor does it count on ongoing initiatives, such as the Afterschool Academy or the Brick by Brick fundraiser.

Just as we as parents pave the way for our students to achieve excellence, those of us who are parent leaders pave the way for parents to be the best possible school parents they can be. I welcome your ideas, especially if you have something in mind to you your own special mark on the school.

Best wishes,

*Mark Pattison*

PTA President

202/829-9289

[pattison\\_mark@hotmail.com](mailto:pattison_mark@hotmail.com)

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the students deserve an applause for their hard work. A special thank you is also extended to Mr. King for coordinating the event. Science fair winners will be announced on Wednesday, February 2, 2011, at 9:00.

### Chat and Chew and Book Club

A special thank you is extended everyone who attended this month's Pastries with the Principal event. We discussed everything from the carpool, to mice, to extra curricular activities. In most cases these events are an opportunity for parents to meet other parents and engage in informal dialogue. However, in February we will be discussing the topic of bullying and the book, "The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander: From Preschool to High School - How Parents and Teachers Can Help Break the Cycle" (updated edition) by Barbara Coloroso. So, mark your calendars for February 25<sup>th</sup>! We will begin at 8:45 a.m. and everyone is encouraged to attend.

### What Students Are Learning

To learn more about what your student is learning and what we expect them to master by the time they leave their current grade, please visit the DCPS homepage at [www.dcps.dc.gov](http://www.dcps.dc.gov). When you arrive there click on the *In The Classroom* tab located at the top of the page. There you will find a wealth of instructional information teachers use to guide their instruction.

### Perfect Attendance

Congratulations to the following students for having perfect attendance from August to January. Keep up the great work! In the next coming weeks, I will provide you with a tardiness update and begin recognizing students who currently have no tardies.

## Report cards will be out Friday

It's a favorite stereotype that kids like to hide report cards from parents.

But with the academic performance we've come to expect at Shepherd, boys and girls should be fairly bursting through the door on Friday, when report cards are issued, to show everyone else in the house the great grades they've earned. Look for report cards in your child's backpack at the end of this week!

### **Deadline for Next Mustang:**

**Fri, Feb. 11, at 5 p.m.** for the Feb. 14 issue

Send all contributions to:  
**sesmustang@gmail.com**

Those students are:

Frank Borris, Layla Brent, Savannah Brinkley, Caleb Bush, David Camille, Mecca Camille, Jada Culmer, Justin Edwards, Jr., Milke Hailu, Julianna Ingram, Brooklyn Jenkins, Kobe Jenkins, Grace Kao, Makayla Kennedy, Yasmina Konate, Ernestine Lwangu, Eric Martinez, Tiffany Missembe, Heidi Nikie-ma, Caleb Okechukwu, David Okechukwu, Deborahh Okechukwu, Kenneth Redman, Ethan Reece, Sean Reece, Everette Reed, Amani Richardson, Jean-Pierre Roberts, Kaitlin Robinson, Rosa Robles, Caleb Schuster, Frankie Scinto, Irvin Scott, Myra Shalaty, Mame Sissoko, Nana Sissoko, Aaron Smith, Marie-Therese Tata and Emmanuel Wolde.

Best regards,

*Jamie Miles*

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

### **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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