



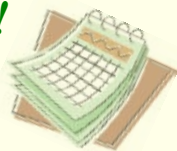
Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

February 14, 2011

Mark Your Calendars!



Feb. 17 —Class photo day

Feb. 17—Family dinner night @ Ledo's

Feb. 18—Professional development, no school

Feb. 21—President's Day, no school

Feb. 24—Family Math/Curriculum Night

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 Parents,

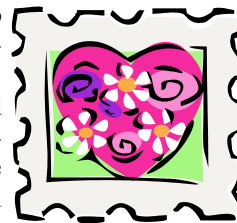
The news is indeed great: We are now certified as an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme school! This is a testimony to the hard work of parents and educators who began this process many years ago but who are no longer at Shepherd to reap the benefits. It's also a testimony to the attention to detail and the considerable work done by the current crop of parents and educators who labored intensely to embody the principles of an IB curriculum — even though, until we got feedback last November from the IB site visit team, we didn't really know for sure whether we were on the right track. And our IB designation is also a tribute to the hopes and aspirations of parents who hope to send their children (including the ones who haven't been born yet) to Shepherd because of this new laurel to our commitment to educational excellence, not to mention the support from people throughout the Shepherd Park community who rightly see Shepherd Elementary as a vital part of neighborhood life. Gaining International Baccalaureate status is truly a landmark achievement — a laurel, as I said in the previous sentence. But do we rest on our laurels?

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A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd Family!

It is with great pleasure I introduce to you the newest International Baccalaureate World School..... Alexander R. Shepherd Elementary. Yes, you read correctly. Shepherd Elementary is officially an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme World School. We received our official congratulatory letter this week informing us that we have been officially authorized and can now refer to ourselves as an IB World school. This is a tremendous accomplishment for the school, community and the District of Columbia Public Schools. This is also a testament to the hard work of every staff member and family member at Shepherd. A sincere thank you to everyone for your help during this journey, particularly our current IB Coordinator, Ms. Sandra Hart. She came on board this year and really helped us "seal the deal" on this wonderful accomplishment. It has been a long time coming but we have officially arrived. As we celebrate in this moment please know that the journey and work continues. Anyone who fully understands IB can tell you it is not just something you do but it is who you are as a school. This requires changes in practices, mindsets and expectations on all levels (School and District). Therefore, as a staff we will continue to learn, grow, change, and reflect on our practices and as a school community we will continue to push the District for funding, flexibility and support.



Family Math Night/Curriculum Night – NEW DATE
Measuring Up to Success is our theme for this year's Family Math Night/Curriculum Night. The event for parents and students will take place on Thursday, February 24, 2011. The night will begin at 6:30 pm and end at 8:00 pm. Attendees may come and stay the entire evening or for a few minutes. There will be a variety of fun measurement activities parents and students can participate in together. There will also be a few informational workshops for parents throughout the evening. Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend this evening of fun.

Safety Alert - Traffic

A few parents and staff have expressed concerns about safety during greeting and dismissal. Please remember to be patient and courteous while driving in the school zone. It is difficult to get in and out of parking spaces while greeting and dismissal are

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Shepherd earns additional Internat'l Bacc. certification

Shepherd Elementary is now an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme school. Mrs. Miles got the letter last Wednesday, Feb. 9, and announced the terrific news at the start of the World Music and Dance Concert to enthusiastic applause.

Here's a sampling of comments from neighbors in the Shepherd Park community when the good news was revealed about their neighborhood school:

"Great News!" – Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser

"Congratulations to the SES leadership, staff, parents and students!! Fantastic news!" – Rosalyn Coates, president, Shepherd Park Citizens Association

"Congratulations to Shepherd Park School." —Regina Rodriguez-Mitchell, Shepherd Park neighbor

"Great ... congrats... working up ideas now." – Rosemary Reed-Miller, mother of a Shepherd Elementary alumnus and Shepherd Park columnist for the Northwest Current

"Congrats!" – Beth Allaben, former president, Shepherd Park Citizens Association

"That's a great achievement for the school." -- Dodie Butler, president, Friends of the Takoma Library

"Great news about the IB program! A major accomplishment-congratulations!" — Debbie Bocian, Shepherd Park neighbor and parent

"Congratulations! Great news for the community." -- Anne Riley

"Wow! I am so impressed and very proud of everyone at the school for making this happen. This is a proud moment for our community too. It is rare to see community desires fortuitously merge with a public school system's agenda that such a change is possible, and achieved, in so few years. I will continue to support my neighborhood school with even greater pride! Congratulations to you both, Mrs. Miles and Mark, and to all at Shepherd who made this happen. (Seems like a party is in order!)" – Kristin Wells, Shepherd Elementary parent

B-ball teams make playoffs

Congratulations to both the boys' and girls' basketball teams and Shepherd, each of which made the playoffs this season – each of them winning one game before bowing out in the second round. Congratulations to our coaches, too, for teaching and nurturing the innate talents of the players. Their next opponent will be the Cleveland Cavaliers (just kidding – or are we??).



Thanks to everyone who helped make possible our "World Music and Dance" concert. Our students sang 20 songs and performed 7 dances from around the world. We sang in more than 10 languages and represented the cultures of more than 15 countries. How appropriate that our "World Music and Dance" concert occurred on the same day Shepherd Elementary School learned that we are approved as an International Baccalaureate school!

Thanks to Ms. Michaud and her art students for the beautiful artwork displayed in the auditorium.

Thanks to Madame Gadie and Mr. Valera and Ms. Menchen for their guidance with the French and Spanish songs.

Thanks to Ms. Conte for the wonderful African dance she taught to our kindergarten students.

Thanks to all of the teachers and administrators (including Ms. Moorefield, Mrs. Crockett, Ms. Pethtel, and others) who helped our students perform so well.

Thanks to the DC Labor Chorus (directed by Elise Bryant) for singing with our students.

Thanks to Barbara Gorin for helping our students with the dances.

Thanks to the parents, grandparents, and other family members who made up a standing-room-only audience.

And thanks to our students...you learned the songs and dances, you performed well, and you became more internationally-minded.

Say cheese, class photo day is Thursday

Remember that this Thursday, Feb. 17, is Class Photo Day at Shepherd Elementary.

This makes it critical that you outfit your child in the Shepherd uniform:

white tops, navy-blue bottoms.

When you see the class photo, you'll be glad you did.

Second language skills build as year goes on, projects planned

Dear Parents,

January is already gone and we are still working with your children to help them master their foreign language skills! We hope that you are also using this opportunity to learn along with your child. During the month of January, we introduced the IB unit 3 for PreK and Unit 4 for the rest of the grades. In February we will continue to work on these IB units as well as reinforcing our language curriculum.

Prek Unit 3: Expressions Beyond Words

Students will learn poems, songs and how to use gestures to express themselves.

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No way! That's not part of the Shepherd Way. We continue to drive, we continue to strive. We lock in those IB principles at school and live them at home. We work together with our children to master their comprehension and understanding – not only of their school subjects, but of the world around them. We make sacrifices, including sacrifices of money and time, to demonstrate to our children how a giving spirit and a spirit of service goes hand in hand with improving the communities we've chosen.

Those communities are many, but include our neighborhood, our workplaces, our friendships and our school. I'll still encourage each and every parent to contribute to the 180 Fund because our work is not done to give Shepherd Elementary the critical support that cannot be sustained by DCPS' budget. I'll continue to exhort each and every family to buy a brick or two for our "Brick by Brick" fundraiser as an outward sign of our love and devotion to our school. I'll ask parents and businesses to buy tickets, advertisements and sponsorships to the annual Auction because it's the most responsible – and most fun! – way to give next year's PTA leaders a running start in assessing how they can help Shepherd for 2011-12.

Let's join hands and lock arms, and march toward our preferred future – together.

Best wishes,

Mark Pattison

PTA President
829-9289

pattison_mark@hotmail.com

Kindergarten Unit 4: Our World Has Cycles

Students will learn about the four seasons and clothing related to the different seasons. Students will learn songs and read books related to different seasons. They will create posters with displays of the clothing used in different seasons.



First grade Unit 4: Marketplace

Students will learn about professions, some specific to the target language countries and others related to students' interests. Students will do a play about different professions learned. Students will also practice numbers up to 50. Basic addition and subtraction facts will be covered through different games, and students will learn sentence structure to ask questions and participate in a market day.

2nd grade Unit 4: Inventors and Scientists – Telecommunications

Students will focus on inventions made by people from Spanish and French speaking countries. Students will learn vocabulary and verbs in order to describe inventions.

Students will work on a project: to create and present a poster related to an invention, or to create an invention related to a device to improve communication skills.

3rd grade Unit 4: Life is Good

Students will focus on ecosystems in different countries. Students will learn about people, plants and animals in different countries. They will review color and size and learn verbs and adjectives to be able to describe things around them.

4th grade Unit 4: Minerals and Rocks

Students will study minerals present in different French or Spanish speaking countries. Students will make posters presenting different minerals and will learn vocabulary and verbs to describe them.

5th grade Unit 5: Should I Stay or Leave?

Students will research information related to Hispanic immigrants in the United States. They will make and describe a graph about immigrant populations in different states.

Finally, please take time to read the language report cards that were sent home along with the regular report cards. The language report cards are related to the past two advisories. If you have any questions or comments, please talk to the language teacher concerned.

Gracias, merci, thank you --

The Language Team

Last week, Shepherd held our World Music and Dance Concert with our entire student body singing and/or dancing to music from around the world. The concert featured songs from Jamaica, the Caribbean, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Germany, Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, and France), Turkey, Russia, Indonesia, Japan and the United States. It was a concert with a truly international flavor. Elise Bryant and others from the DC Labor Chorus sang with our students, the concert was very well attended, and our students performed beautifully.

We are currently in our fourth Unit of Inquiry. The Inquiry for each grade level is as follows:

- ▶ Pre-Kindergarten – How We Express Ourselves – Expressions Beyond Words
- ▶ Kindergarten – Sharing the Planet – Our World has Cycles
- ▶ First Grade – How We Organize Ourselves – Marketplace
- ▶ Second Grade – Where We Are in Place and Time – Inventors & Scientists-Telecommunications
- ▶ Third Grade – Sharing the Planet – Life is Good
- ▶ Fourth Grade – Sharing the Planet – Rocks & Minerals
- ▶ Fifth Grade – How We Express Ourselves –

Should I Stay or Leave?

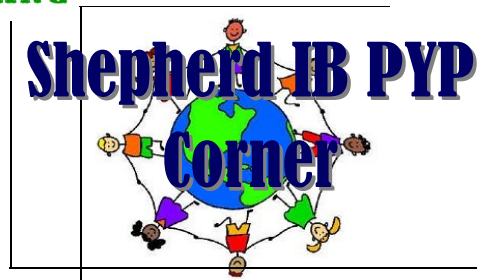
This unit will continue until February 17, 2011. Parents, please talk with your child/children about the central idea for the unit they are studying. Encourage them to share something about what they are learning every day.

In which year did historian Carter G. Woodson propose a Negro History week? 1900, 1926, 1965, or 1975?

The month of February is Black History Month. We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. He spent his childhood working in the coal mines in Kentucky instead of attending school. However, he began high school at age twenty and graduated within two years. He later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University. Dr. Woodson was an active promoter of black education, and in February 1926 he began promoting Negro History Week. He wanted to celebrate the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Finally, in 1960, the month of February became Black History Month.

On February 23, Al Bigger, Landus Burroughs and Fred Valentine will visit Shepherd to share with our students their experiences and the roles they played in helping to develop part of our Hhistory. Mr. Al Bigger will share his invention of the traffic signal and the patent for it. Mr. Landus Burroughs will talk about Integration and how it transitioned into the future. He will also touch on some of the issues that caused schools to be closed in Virginia. Mr. Fred Valentine will share his involvement with Education and Sports. We look forward to becoming more knowledgeable about our history.

"The greatest mistake you can make in life is to continually fear you will make one." (*Elbert Hubbard*)



"If your life is free of failures, you're not taking enough risks." (*Anonymous*)

Risk Takers have the courage to explore new things. Congratulations to our risk takers for the month of January: Micah Charles, Eyan White, Charles Ross II, Kristian Swanson, Tsitsi Shabazz, Nmesomachukwu Ukaegbu, Sean Holmes, Cori-Jaiden Langley, Tiffany Misseme, Sarah Sambou, Maya Ray, Margaret Gole-tiani, Robert Lewandowski, Lillian Beach, Medgar Webster Jr., Jada Culmer, Changamire Anderson II, Alandra Corbett-Johnson, Kelsea Saulny, Dakota Inniss, John Harmon Jr., Kayla Muir, Carlisse Agee, Cecelia Sneed, Jordan Yates, Tony Wilson, Jadyn Lindsey, Jay Matthews II, Ashford Connor III, Nia Anderson, Jamary Calhoun, Khirah George, Andonny Garcia, Jordan Johnson, Malachi Smith and Shakaliah Smalls.

The Learner Profile for the month of February is Knowledgeable. Knowledgeable people explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop an understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

Students – How can you become more knowledgeable?

- Become familiar with current events, read the local newspapers, listen to and watch the news on the radio and television when appropriate.
- Foster your interests with books and activities.
- Read books at home that correspond with the topics being covered in school.

Get engaged in conversations, and ask questions such as, "Why do you think that is an important thing to know about?" or, "Can you think of anything happening in the world today that might be similar to that aspect of History?"

"As knowledge increases, wonder deepens."
Charles Morgan, English novelist

Have a great week. Stay warm!

—Sandra Hart, IB Coordinator

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occurring. For safety and courtesy reasons, please do not block cross walks, do no lay on your horn, do not yell or make obscene gestures, and do not let your student out on the side of the street opposite of the school and have them run across the street.

Safety Alert – Building

We have one main entrance. This is the Jonquil entrance. Please do not enter the building through any other door during the day. Please do not stand or knock on any other door in the building and ask students, staff or parents to let you in. Every non-staff member who comes to Shepherd is a visitor. Yes, parents are visitors. Visitors must sign in and get a visitor's badge. Upon signing in, please let the security guard know where you are going and/or let the front office know if the security guard is not at the front desk. Please do not get offended or impatient when you are asked your purpose in the building or asked to return to the desk to sign in. Please do not enter the school through the gymnasium at arrival or dismissal and proceed to travel throughout the building unless you are with a teacher for a reason. The reason of wanting to walk your student to class is not an acceptable reason. ALL of our students have adjusted and are more than capable of walking to class and unpacking their belonging. There are people in the hallways monitoring students until 8:55. If you arrive after that time and your student is in PK-1st grade, you may walk your student to their classroom once you sign-in and get a visitor's badge. However, please do not try to conference with the teacher and/or begin assisting your students with unpacking his/her belongings. Teachers are attending to students and students are very familiar with their morning routine.

I stress the importance of the two sections above because we all have to do our part. Shepherd is a busy place and we have a lot of things happening at all times. If everyone makes an EXTRA effort to be principled (an IB word) at all times, it will help make our jobs a lot easier.

School Discipline

Shepherd students are expected to be Respectful, Responsible and Safe at all times. When students meet expectations they may receive praise, recognition and some tangible incentive. They also get to participate in some sort of special event held at the end of the month if they earned enough behavior points for the month. If a student does not meet expectations, and after he/she has been warned about his/her behavior, teachers send the student to time out, call parents, or make an office referral. Once a student is referred to the office, we make every effort to fully understand the situation, we reflect with the students, make parent contact (when necessary) and work to implement fair and appropriate consequences. We strive hard to change behaviors.

Our students are young and they are still learning, growing and adjusting socially. As a parent you may find that suddenly your child's best friend is his/her worst enemy but the next day they are friends again. You may learn that your child has participated in an action that is not typical of your child. You can help us help your student by continually reminding them of behavior expectations. Talk to them about making good choices and help them understand that they have choices.

Absence or Tardiness

If your child is absent from school please contact the main office and let us know, or send a note with your student upon his/her return. Often times we receive calls from you informing us that you received a call stating that your child was absent from school when he/she is not. Please continue to call the office but also know this is an automatic call that is made once attendance is put into the system. If your student arrives to school after the data has been input into the system, the call is going to be made even if the attendance has been corrected.

Contact Information –Action Required

Have you changed addresses or phone numbers since the beginning of the year? Has the information changed for person you want us to contact in the event of an emergency? If so, please contact Mrs. Brooks via email (robyna.brooks@dc.gov) and inform her of any changes. You may also stop by the main office to check to see if your contact information is up to date.

Email– Action Required

If you use email, and I sincerely hope that you do, please email Mrs. Brooks and provide her with your email address. Most of the email addresses we have on file are incorrect. This could be because you changed your address or because we were unable to decipher your handwriting and we put the information in our system incorrectly.

Have a great week!

Warmest regards,

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Donors can choose to help library

Ms. Scinto, our hard-working librarian, is going through an organization called Donors Choose to request \$518 to buy 60 in-demand books for the library. We can help out, too!

You can learn more by linking to: www.donorschoose.org/donors/proposal.html?id=512878&sharebar=true&utm_source=dc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=proposal_approve

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Open houses spark interest

If you've flown on a plane in the past 10 years, you have probably heard the pilot or a flight attendant say something like: "We know you have several options when flying, and we thank you for choosing (name of airline)."

The same is true of education. We know parents have several options of where they could send their child for elementary school. And we thank them for choosing Shepherd.

At last Thursday morning's open house, about 20 parents stopped by – the biggest turnout of all three scheduled open houses. Coming as it did a day after Shepherd received its International Baccalaureate certification notice, there was a palpable buzz in the air. Parents remarked at what good condition Shepherd was in given its age (close to 40 – or 80 – years old, depending on what wing you're in). Parents also seemed impressed in their classroom visits at how learning is conducted, from fifth grade all the way down to pre-K. They also enjoyed watching some of the French and Spanish skits presented during a mini-assembly that features students from pre-K, kindergarten and first grade.

With spots for 40 new pre-K students, it will be this group of parents who will grow into the "Shepherd Way."

FYI, odds & ends...

Remember that all contributions to the Shepherd PTA are tax-deductible, since Shepherd is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. If you itemize your deductions, you should get yourself to the school office and pick up your 180 Fund tax deduction letter pronto. Letters inside sealed envelopes are in a box on the same shelf as the PTA box and Box Tops box, with parents' names on the outside. If you made a contribution but cannot find an envelope with your name on it, please get in touch with PTA treasurer Lisa Connor at lisaconnor@verizon.net.

Box tops deadline nears—We're making the final push for box tops! While we're always happy to receive the Box Tops for Education that you've collected, we have to turn in Box Tops by Feb. 28 so that it counts toward the current school year. By winter break, we were just \$100 in box tops shy of our goal of \$500. Use the Box Tops box in the school office to deposit your box tops. Remember, you can use collection sheets that are available in the rack outside the office, or you can simply put them in a sealable lunch bag and deposit them. In either case, remember to include your child's name, grade and teacher so that all parties get appropriate credit!

Deadline for Next Mustang:

Friday, Feb. 25, at 5 p.m. Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

Think now about summer camps

In the dead of winter, a parent's fancy turns to thoughts of ... summer camps for their children. The school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org, has a listing of summer camps – with a strong emphasis on sites in D.C. and the nearby suburbs – that children can attend. Virtually all listings include phone, e-mail and websites for parents to learn details about each camp, including dates, activities, recommended ages, and costs. Go to the "For Parents" bar on the homepage and then click on the "Summer Camps" dropdown. If you know of a summer camp that ought to be part of our webpage, please alert PTA president Mark Pattison at pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

While you're inspecting summer camps, take a look at another "For Parents" dropdown, "No-School Days for Kids," for details on nearby places that make accommodations for students on days when they don't have to go to school, but their parents still have to work. This can come in handy in the next couple of weeks, as both Feb. 18 and 21 are no-school days.

DONORS, from Page 5

You can make your donation online, either through PayPal or a credit card. You can even write a note stating why you made your donation, and you can even attach your Facebook (or some other) photo in conjunction with your gift.

And, if you choose, you can get a thank-you note from student for your donation.

In the first three days, the campaign has already come close to achieving half of its goal! So don't delay – contribute today!

Shepherd Elementary School



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