



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

March 1, 2011

Mark Your Calendars!



Mar 1 - NAEP assessments for 4th graders

Mar 8 - LSAT meeting, 3:45 p.m.

Mar 11 - Jazz Night, 7:00 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,

Remember the Tramp song "That's Where the Happy People Go"? I knew they were singing about "the diiiiis-cooooooooooooo," but it seems a lot more like they were talking about Shepherd Elementary.

There are students I see every day with smiles on their faces as they get ready for their day (OK, some may have mischief on their minds, but at least it shows they're thinking!). I'm also impressed with the happy faces among the teachers and staff.

Shepherd Elementary is a place that works! In every sense of the word! Teachers work hard before, during, and after school day; that's even more pronounced with the ongoing Afterschool Academy. Students certainly work, too, if the amount of homework I see my daughter get is any indication. And I can tell that parents are consistently putting in their own best efforts day in and day out.

And, in another sense, Shepherd "works" because all constituencies at the school are dedicated to doing

(see PTA President, page 3)

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd Family!

Family Math Night!

On Thursday, February 24, 2011, over 100 families (110 to be exact) joined us for our Family Math Night - Measuring Up to Success! Parents and students had the opportunity to play/participate in a variety of fun math activities. Participants were able to see the progression of how students learn measurement as they transition from PK through 5th grade. Students in primary grades spent time exploring how to measure using non-standard forms of measurement such as cubes, fingers, footprints, and bears. Students in upper grades explored standard units of measurement as they baked pizza, weighed teachers, measured their jump and reviewed measurement vocabulary. Listed above is just a snap shot of the many activities that took place during the evening. A sincere thank you is extended to all staff members who worked hard to prepare for the evening. I would also like to thank families who took time out of their busy schedules to help make the night a success. If you were unable to attend, we hope that you will be able to attend our next event.

And the Winners are....

Students who participated in math night received a raffle ticket. Participants were asked to hold on to their tickets for a chance to attend an end of year bowling party. The party will be held in June and 10 students will be invited to attend. Keep your tickets close, the winning numbers will be announced at the end of the week.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences were held on Monday (February 28, 2011). I do hope all of you were able

(see MILES, page 8)



Shepherd's big thank-you to the neighborhood is Jazz Night. This year's Jazz Night, the 22nd annual, will be held Friday, March 11 in the auditorium. There will be a New Orleans theme, and great live jazz procured by Michael Wallace of the Howard University music faculty. We'll be passing the hat to help defray the costs of the musicians.

Jazz Night is a pot-luck event, and every Shepherd family attending is asked to bring something to share with dozens of your closest friends! This year we're breaking down the list alphabetically by your last name:

- A-D: appetizers
- E-H: main dishes
- I-M: side dishes
- N-Q: salads
- R-V: drinks
- W-Z :desserts

Classroom parents have been asked to round up parents and families volunteering to bring items!

Jazz Night starts at 7 p.m. – and there WILL be activities for children! By the way, Jazz Night will mark the debut of a new member of the Shepherd "family," but you'll have to be on hand to see!

We'll need volunteers to help before, during and after Jazz Night. Volunteer now to avoid the surprise of being drafted. This year's Jazz Night coordinator is Patti Rasmussen, rasmussenp@si.edu. Get in touch with her to learn how best you can help.

Thank you so much to all the generous donors who have contributed to the Shepherd Library online fundraiser at [donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org)



(<http://www.donorschoose.org/donors/proposal.html?id=512878>). Because of you, we are about two-thirds of the way towards our goal of purchasing the most highly-requested titles for kids from about grades one through five. So often as kids get older and their interests expand, they tend to lose interest in reading, but there are certain types of books that can hook even the most reluctant of readers. The books that kids talk about, ask for, and never stop hoping to see in their school library someday...and with your help, we're pretty close to making that dream a reality! If you haven't had the opportunity to donate yet, the fundraiser runs through June and even a small donation helps. As of February 21, we had just \$175 more to go to reach our goal, at which point the books will be shipped directly to us from Donors Choose partner Barnes and Noble.

On another note, the first Read and Wonder ceremony honoring participants in this year's reading program was held Friday, Feb. 26, right after the IB ceremony. If you're still not sure what this reading program is all about, don't worry. Feel free to drop by the library to ask questions or get suggestions, or just shoot me an email at maria.scinto@dc.gov.

—*Maria Scinto*
Shepherd Librarian

PTA President *from page 1*

their part. I don't see the kinds of dysfunction that be-devils all too many workplaces. That's not to say the school is free of dysfunction. In my view, though, much more dysfunction is imposed on the school by external forces. And all of us seem to do a pretty good job keeping our own issues out of school life.

I use my column a lot to remind parents to ask for them to donate – and generously – to Shepherd and the PTA, and this column is no exception, especially when you can give to the 180 Fund and take part in the Brick by Brick fundraiser entirely online (hint, hint). But I think we should all reach around our shoulders and give ourselves a collective pat on the back. We've earned it, and we keep adding to those earnings each and every day.

Best wishes,

Mark Pattison

PTA President
829-9289

pattison_mark@hotmail.com

Support Shepherd PTA's



Deadline for Next Mustang:

Fri., Mar. 11 at 5 p.m.

Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

Brick by Brick

Sometime this spring, we expect to put in the first paving bricks along the walkway leading to the big green doors of the original school building from our "Brick by Brick" paving program.



You can see all the details of the program on the home-page of the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org. But here are some important details:

- You can put up to 18 characters (including spaces) on each line.
- You get two lines per brick, but you can add a third line for \$15.
- You can buy a duplicate brick as a keepsake for \$39.95.
- And, you can be an "Old School" supporter and get your bricks closest to the doors for \$100 per brick.

A deadline for orders will be announced soon. Don't let this opportunity slip by. Exhibit your class, and be in the debut class of parents, alumni, neighbors and supporters as we go Brick by Brick to educational superiority and love for our school. For more details, get in touch with Lawanda Tyus at lblanchard@howard.edu.

The Twenty-Second Annual Shepherd Jazz Night

March 11, 2011—7:00 PM

We remember the great Dr. Billy Taylor (1921-2010).



William “Billy” Taylor was born in Greenville, North Carolina. His family moved to Washington, D.C. when he was five years old. He graduated from Virginia State College with a B.S. degree in Music in 1942, and later earned a Masters and Ph.D. degrees in Music Education from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He also served as a Duke Ellington Fellow at Yale University, a great honor for musicians.

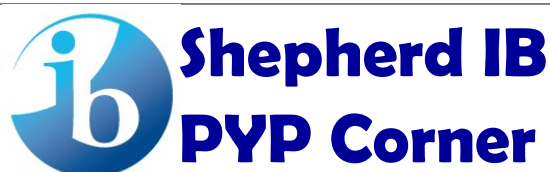
As a child, young Billy began playing the piano and practiced and practiced until he mastered the instrument. He took lessons and listened carefully to older great jazz musicians in order to learn more. Taylor started playing jazz piano professionally in 1944, starting in New York. He later became the house pianist at the Birdland Club. He performed there with pioneers of be-bop jazz, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis. In 1958, he was the Musical Director of NBC's *The Subject is Jazz*. This was the first ever television series where the topic was jazz.

In 1961, Taylor founded New York's Jazzmobile, which provided high quality arts education with music classes for youth, lectures, and outdoor summer mobile concerts that traveled all around the city. He was an artist and a great educator who encouraged many young musicians for many years. He was a distinguished Professor of Music at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. Since 1994, he was the artistic director for jazz at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

Taylor remained active with his educational activities and continued to tour and work into his eighties. He continued to work for over 50 years. He visited the White House several times and received awards from a President and a New York Governor. Taylor received an Emmy award for his work on television.

Dr. Billy Taylor showed us that with practice and love for music and your instrument, you can be a great artist and educator. When you share your talent, you can help others to enjoy. He showed us that you can be great at many things if you really want to.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Taylor - cite_note-cbs-4



Throughout the month of February Shepherd students became more knowledgeable about Black History through trivia, through research, through the media and through classroom discussions. In celebration of Black History Month, we had several African American speakers visit our school to share their fame and experiences with students. Our famous personalities included Fred Valentine, and Baba Jamal Koram. Other speakers were Al Bigger, Landus Burroughs, Pauline Anderson and Larry James—all members of the Kwanis Club.

Fred Valentine made an impact on the third, fourth and fifth grade students as he shared his career experience as a major league baseball player. On September 7, 1959, at the age of 24, he began playing in the baseball big leagues with the Baltimore Orioles. Mr. Fred Valentine is the father of Ms. Valena Valentine-Nelson, one of our third grade teachers and her students were excited to meet him.

Baba Jamal Koram, an African American storyteller, entertained our staff and students in first and second grade with his songs and stories thru a lot of audience participation. He travels across the nation sharing his stories and his presence with thousands of school children and their families.

IB Recognition On Friday, February 25th, we had our IB Ceremony, recognizing students who demonstrated how **knowledgeable** they are in different disciplines. Congratulations to:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Joseph Wells (Gus) | Leela Mehta-Harwitz |
| Lawrence Carbana | Tsitsi Shabazz |
| Caleb Wilson | Chandler Brossard |
| Jared Stevenson | Mertinu Geleta |
| Leo Saunders | Noble Marshall |
| Keshav Mehta-Harwitz | Everett Reed |
| Renata Mills | Zoe McCullough |
| Zennon Melnyk | Jean Pierre Roberts |

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Kelci Barnette | Shakaliah Smalls |
| Xavier Thompson | Amarachi Thompson |
| Kwaniyah Tuffour | Awa Kanta |
| Nia Carroll | SaAnkhessa Meskheniten |
| Rene Rodas | Allison Holmes |
| Sekai Bonner-Flagg | Godloves Tata |
| Theo Biddle | Zora Pauk |
| Dai'Ahmir Fleming-Morgan | Julianna Ingram |
| Deborah Okechukwu | Savannah Brinkley |

The Learner Profile for the month of March is **Balanced**. A balanced individual understands the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional equilibrium to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others. Parents please help and encourage your child to maintain a balanced lifestyle.

Suggested Reading Books (Balanced)

- › **Song and Dance Man**, by Ackerman, Karen 2003, (4-6yrs.)
- › **Me, all alone, at the and of the world**, by Anderson, M.T. 2005, (8-11 yrs.)
- › **I Like Myself**, by Beaumont, Karen 2004, (4-6 yrs.)
- › **Gifts**, by Bogart, JoEllen 1994, (5-7 yrs)
- › **The Village of Round and Square Houses**, by Grifalconi, Ann 1986, (7-9 yrs.)
- › **Little Pea**, by Rosenthal, Amy Krouse 2005, (4-7 yrs.)
- › **A Fine, Fine School** by Sharon Creech Pictures by Harry Bliss, (8-12 yrs.)
- › **The Greedy Triangle** by Burns, Marilyn. Scholastic, 1994, (4 - 7 years)
- › **One of Each**, by Hoberman, Mary Ann 0316367311 c1997, (5-8 yrs.)
- › **My Great-Aunt Arizona**, by Houston, Gloria 1997, (7-9 yrs)
- › **Cinder Edna**, by Jackson, Ellen 1998, (5-9 yrs.)

Have a super week!

— *Sandra Hart*
IB Coordinator

Proposed DCPS Calendar for School Year 2011-2012

Join DCPS for a community meeting to discuss the proposed calendar. Please share your thoughts, either in person or on-line.

A meeting to discuss proposed calendar will be held on Tuesday, March 1 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at Plummer Elementary School (4601 Texas Ave, SE).

If you can't make the meeting, go to:

<http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/homepage-calendar-feedback-feb-2011>

You can view the proposed calendar and provide feedback.

Before a DCPS school calendar is finalized, the following steps occur:

1. Solidification of the assessment calendar, as DCPS proposes to tie the PD days to the BAS/CAS replacements.
2. Presentation of the proposed calendar to the Washington Teachers Union.
3. Approval of the proposed calendar from the DCPS Office of General Council.
4. The proposed calendar is posted to the DCPS web-site.
5. DCPS receives stakeholder feedback on the proposed calendar via an online survey and at a scheduled community meeting.
6. DCPS makes and vets any necessary changes.



LSAT to Meet March 8

Shepherd Elementary's Local School Advisory Team will meet Tuesday, March 8, at 3:45 p.m. in the school library.

All parents are welcome. The public portion of the meeting will be conducted first, followed by confidential matters that will require non-LSAT members to exit.

Shepherd School Pledge

Today is a new day!

I will respect the rights of others.

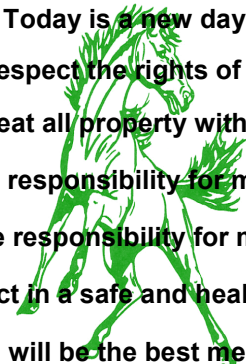
I will treat all property with respect.

I will take responsibility for my learning.

I will take responsibility for my actions.

I will act in a safe and healthy way.

Today I will be the best me I can be!



Auction Committee Meets Tuesday, March 1

The next meeting of the PTA's Auction Committee will be Tuesday, March 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. Plans are well underway for making this year's annual auction the best ever – but there's always a need

for parents to step up and take command of critical areas of the auction effort. If you have some skills in mar-

keting, procuring auction items, raffles, decorating, or preparing food and beverages, then mark this date in your calendar. Your children are welcome and there will be pizza to help make the meeting go even more smoothly. If you come on time, expect to be out in about an hour.



Greater DC Cares Will Help Shepherd

Every student deserves to learn in an environment that is visually empowering, clean, and simply inviting, and on April 16th Greater DC Cares is financing the materials, as well as providing the labor, to ensure that the students of Shepherd Elementary get all that they deserve.

Thanks to the Greater DC Cares' volunteers from this year's Servathon 2011, the students of Shepherd Elementary will walk by a clean landscape with newly planted flowers every morning before entering the building, walk up and down freshly painted stairways, and -- probably the most noticeable to them -- will be looking at the newly stenciled and painted picture of our Mustang mascot every time they walk to and from their classes.

Thanks, Greater DC Cares, for helping to create a learning environment that is fitting to the students of Shepherd Elementary.

--Alicia Anderson



What's New on the Website

If you visit www.shepherd-elementary.org, here are some highlights you'll find:

- ◆ More summer camp options for your children.
- ◆ A thoroughly reorganized and alphabetized listing of places you can send your children on "No-School Days for Kids."
- ◆ A link to print your own Box Tops collection sheets.
- ◆ Best of all, you'll find on our banner the news that we are An International Baccalaureate School!



So stop by and visit frequently!

Family Math Night a Big Hit—To the Nth Degree

Dozens of Shepherd families made it back to school for Family Math Night, where students of all ages could participate in a variety of games and experiments to see how math principles work even in their own lives.

Every student who chalked up at least three Math Night stars or stamps was able to get a ticket for a raffle drawing to be conducted on Tuesday, the day after parent-teacher conferences.

Students in the "numbered" grades were treated to a wide variety of fun activities, including a weighing station, a capacity-checking activity, clock-making (in English and Spanish), the "Balancing Act," a long-jump measuring station, a cooking-with-math demonstration, and a series of story problems that was a cross between, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" and "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grade Teacher."

In the cafeteria, students in pre-K and kindergarten were abuzz with activities of their own, including a rhythmic clapping exercise, a test to see what is lighter or heavier, activities with building blocks, estimations, measuring heads and heights, filling the cup (or bowl), and the ever-popular Marvelous Marble Roll.



MILES from p.1

to attend. If you attended the conference and did not get the opportunity to complete the exit survey, please take a moment to do so by the end of the week. The survey has a total of 3 questions and it will take less than 5 minutes to complete. Directions are below. If you missed conference day, please contact your child's teacher to schedule a conference as soon as possible.

How to Access the Survey

- ⇒ Go to: <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dDIUWU1S3BrY0dILUpjdFJWZIFHcUE6MQ>
- ⇒ Enter your student's ID number in the space provided (contact Ms. Brooks if you need your student's ID number)
- ⇒ Answer questions 1 and 2 by clicking on your answer.
- ⇒ Answer question 3 (optional)
- ⇒ Click submit!

DC-BAS (3rd-5th Grade) Early Skills Assessment (1st and 2nd Grade)

Students in 1st - 5th grade will participate in assessments this week. Please work to have your student to school every day and please strive to get them to school on time. Testing begins promptly at 9:30 a.m.

The Importance of Reading

Are you reading to your child or listening to your student read aloud to you? If not, please make the commitment to do so starting today.

Reading.....

- ◆ Helps students master language development.
- ◆ Builds listening skills, increases a student's attention span, and develops the ability to concentrate at length of which all are learned skills.
- ◆ Develops students' ability to express themselves more confidently, easily, and clearly in spoken AND written terms.

- ◆ Develops and fosters a student's natural curiosity.
- ◆ Develops creativity and a student's ability to use their own imagination!
- ◆ Expands our students' horizons, exposes them to new situations, and teaches them appropriate behavior

Reading is an inexpensive, easy, and fun activity parent and child can do together. If you need help finding appropriate reading materials or if you need recommendations of things you can do at home to help improve your child's reading, please speak with your child's teacher or schedule an appointment with one of the school's instructional coaches Crystal Moorefield (crystal.moorefield@dc.gov) or Christina Bush (Christina.Bush@dc.gov).

Have a great week!

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Shepherd Elementary School Mission:

At Shepherd, we are committed to the advancement of students' academic, emotional, social and physical well being. We, as a community, will provide students with a safe, supportive, creative, and flexible environment in which children think and learn globally and act compassionately.

Shepherd Elementary School



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