



THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

March 14, 2011

Mark Your Calendars!



- March 16**—PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- March 18**—Professional development, no school
- March 25**—End of third advisory; 12:15 p.m. dismissal
- April 4**—DC-CAS testing begins
- April 15**—Emancipation Day

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,

I got a nice report from one Shepherd parent and neighbor that last Friday's Jazz Night had a good turnout. My daughter came back from Jazz Night with her handmade Mardi Gras mask. And anyone who showed up noticed the new tarp purchased by the PTA with our 180 Fund money. The tarp could be used on the order of once a week for various school activities. It will protect the new floor that was installed over the summer and extend its life. What's more, the tarp folds up nicely and can be laid out with a minimum of wrinkles.

Speaking of laid out, you might have heard that I've been laid out the past couple of weeks after I both broke and dislocated an ankle. It's a bad break -- any broken bone is -- but it was a relatively clean break. Still, I'm going to be away from the Shepherd scene for probably another month or so as I have to keep my ankle elevated and am confined to my house while doing so.

But the leadership team of the PTA that volunteered its services for 2010-11 is stepping up to the plate, and in many instances has already stepped up. Jazz Night, for instance, didn't need me as much as I thought. PTA first vice president

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A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd Family!

DC-CAS is right around the corner for third through fifth grade students. Students have been actively preparing for this year's assessment by working in class and participating in tutoring after school. We are confident in their abilities and we know they will do well.

DC-CAS is scheduled for April 4-14. Third – fifth graders will test in Math and Reading the first week. Fourth graders will test in Writing on April 11th and 5th graders will test in Science on April 12th.

Parents can help in two ways. First, encourage your children to read nightly. This will increase their speed and endurance. Second, review addition/subtraction/multiplication facts with your student every single day. Finally, on the days of tests, make sure your student(s) get plenty of rest and are provided a good warm breakfast in the mornings. They will be working hard right up to their lunch break and will need the additional energy.

We are confident the steps the school has taken will provide students with the greatest opportunity for success. We will continue to polish skills and address areas of weakness.

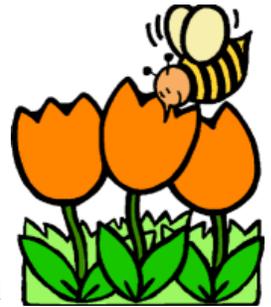
Welcome New Families

Last week DCPS released the 2011-2012 school year lottery results. Parents who live out of Shepherd's boundary and those who wish to enter our Pre-K program had to go through the lottery for a possible acceptance into Shepherd. I am happy to welcome 59 new families to the Shepherd family. Thirty-eight of the 59 families will be entering our pre-K program. The remaining families will be entering various grade levels. To date, we have 245 families on our waiting list and the list continues to grow every day. Shepherd has been through a lot of changes in the past several years but our waiting list numbers tell us it is still a highly respected and sought-after school.

School Budget

By now you should have heard about some of the budget challenges the District of Columbia is currently facing. Over the past several months the District's public school officials have been working with the City Council to discuss how to keep the challenges from affecting one of our most precious resources

See *MILES*, Page 3



Language curriculum moves into IB Unit 5 this month

Dear Parents~

We are already in March and time goes by really fast! During the month of March we are going to introduce the IB Unit 5 for all the grades except Pre-Kindergarten while we are following the language curriculum.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

We are covering the letters and phonics and basic vocabulary to build the language skills.

KINDERGARTEN: "Where We Live"

Students will learn about the community workers and different places around the community. They will create their own book made with the pictures of their community.

FIRST GRADE: "Resources for All"

Students will discuss the importance of water and how can we preserve it. Also, they will make a book including the actions that they can take to save this resource.

SECOND GRADE: "Adapt or Disappear"

Students will create their own dinosaurs. They will learn about body parts of animals and will describe them using a variety of adjectives.

THIRD GRADE: "This Land is Our Land"

Students will learn about Spanish and French speaking countries. They will talk about the culture of those countries: flag, money, food...

FOURTH GRADE: "New Beginnings"

Students will study past civilizations: Aztec in Spanish and Mali in French.

They will create a story as if they were living in those empires.

FIFTH GRADE: "Let's Get Physical"

Students will research information about one Hispanic scientist to make a time line including relevant information about his/her life. After that, they will present that project to the class.

Merci

Gracias

Thank you for your support and your patience.

—The World Language Teachers



By Ken Giles, Music Teacher

Kenneth.Giles@dc.gov

Over the next several weeks, our music classes will take a look at several topics, many of which support our International Baccalaureate units:

1. How do some musicians adapt to disabilities, such as deafness and blindness? Our 2nd graders will study Evelyn Glennie (one of the world's greatest percussionists) who is deaf; and Stevie Wonder and Ray Charles (both blind).
2. How do earlier civilizations affect current society? Our 4th graders have learned about the African roots of the blues and about the importance of drumming in African-based music. Our students learned about "hambone," a form of body percussion used as a substitute for actual drums.
3. How can we save our environment? First graders sang three songs with messages about using safe energy, stopping pollution, and saving the rainforest. We sang "Solar Carol" (by Bright Morning Star); "Garbage" (by Bill Staines); and "Earthsong" (by Michael Jackson).
4. Several of our classes listened to excerpts of the opera "Aida" and pondered the choice between helping her father and helping the person she loved. This is an old story with contemporary themes.

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Be aware, daylight savings time has begun

Setting your clocks ahead one hour is one thing. Getting your children up and ready for the day when they're missing that extra hour of sleep is another.

If you drive to Shepherd, PLEASE be extra careful, as it will be darker early in the morning. And please take extra care in the evening, as children will probably take added delight to that extra hour of sunlight after school. Let's keep our kids safe at all times.

MILES, from Page 1 _____

(our students). Please make plans to attend May's PTA meetings to learn more about the 2011-2012 school budget and what its impact will be on our school.

Salad Bar

Did you hear the great news? Shepherd Elementary is a recipient of the Salad Bar grant. This means Shepherd students and staff will have a full salad bar in the cafeteria and will be able to enjoy a fresh salad with their lunch. The salad bar began arriving last week and this week we will have a meeting with DCPS officials to plan how the salad bar initiative will be rolled out. Please look for additional information coming soon!

Tardiness

Students must be in their assigned classroom when the bell rings at 8:45 a.m. Students who are not their classrooms when the bell rings are considered tardy. Students entering the building late must come to the office to be marked tardy before entering the classroom. Please make every effort to be on time. Teachers appreciate your cooperation so they can get their day started without interruption. If for any reason your child will be late or absent, you must notify the office as soon as possible on the day of the occurrence.

Lost and Found

There are many items, such as hats, gloves, boots, sweatshirts, and coats in our lost and found area. Please check to see if your child is missing items at home,

PTA, from Page 1 _____

Lisa Deane convened a meeting Sunday afternoon of PTA officers and committee chairs to keep things running smoothly. Lisa will run this Wednesday's PTA meeting in my absence. Please support Lisa and the full leadership team just as you've supported me, and we'll be in great shape as we make our way through the school year.

And please remember, the PTA Meeting on Wednesday, March 16 will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria. There will be pizza and child care will be available in the auditorium. I've got access to both the phone number and e-mail address at the end of my column, so feel free to call or write.

Best wishes,

Mark Pattison

PTA President
829-9289

pattison_mark@hotmail.com

they may be at school. The lost and found is located just outside the school gymnasium.

Homework Help

Many parents have expressed difficulty helping their student at home with homework. Here are some helpful tips that just may make homework time a bit more pleasant for both your child and for you!

- Set a regular time and place for homework. Be sure to remove any distractions.
- Set goals with your child....not for your child. Then focus on one goal at a time.

- Make your child aware of his or her improvement. Reward achievement!

- Give your child direct praise.

- Try not to show disappointment if your child

doesn't do as well as you'd like.

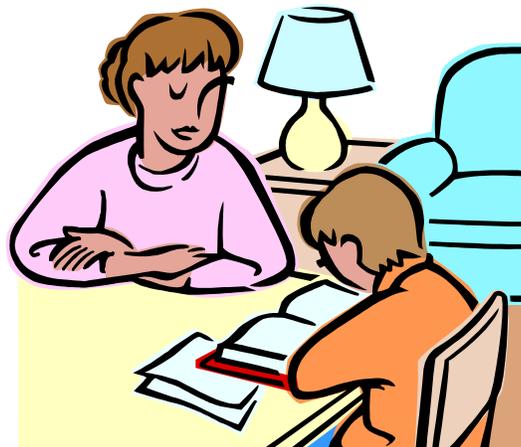
- Be enthusiastic. Show humor.
- Be prepared to teach as well as help.
- Use concrete, hands-on materials whenever possible.
- Help your child build associations between what your child knows and what he or she is learning.
- Provide variety. Switch from one subject to another and take breaks to keep up attention.
- Encourage creative thinking.
- Encourage independence.
- Take every opportunity to build your child's self-esteem.
- Show a positive attitude toward your child's school and teacher.
- Work with the teacher not against him/her.
- Schedule a meeting with your child's teacher to make sure all are on the "same page".

Have a great week!

Warmest regards,

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

**Deadline for Next Mustang:**

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

Sugarfoots offers free event

Whether you are 4 or 94, join us for an exciting, 45-minute, participatory performance celebrating the richness of Black history. This powerful fusion of storytelling and comic overture will leave you wanting more!

The show, being held March 19 at 4 p.m. at the Washington Ethical Society, features Barbara El Wilson a graduate of Howard University's Drama Department, an accomplished actress, comedienne and storyteller.

She has worked with celebrity artists such as Ruby Dee, the late Ossie Davis, Patti Labelle, and Bill Cosby. She is a dedicated and committed performer and delights audiences wherever her path may lead her.

Wilson founded Sugarfoots in 1992, a company which designs cultural soft-sewn rag dolls. She has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *Essence Magazine*, and in numerous local news broadcasts.

The Washington Ethical Society is located at 7750 Sixteenth Street, N.W. To find out more, contact Peggy Goetz 202-882-6650 at ext. 14 or visit www.sugarfoots.com



Shepherd swings during 22nd Jazz Night

Shepherd's PTA hosted its annual Jazz Night March 11. The event honored the late Dr. Billy Taylor this year.



Tune up for band camps during breaks

The DC Youth Orchestra will be offering band and string day camps for students with at least one year of playing experience on their instrument. Camp runs June 20-July 2 with performances on July 3 & 4, DC Residents \$350, MD/VA \$425 (financial aid available for those in need). Before and after care available. Band camp is for rising 7th-9th graders and strings camp is for rising 5th-9th graders. Evening classes for beginner students will be held July 11-29. Go to www.dcyop.org for more information and to register.

Spring Break and Summer Camps—Think Spring with arts camps and classes @ CREATE Arts Center in downtown Silver Spring! Register now for spring break and summer camps. CREATE also offers no school day camps when DCPS is not in session, including March 18, April 15 and April 25. Camps run from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for ages 6-12 (13 & 14 years old can be CITs). Before and after camp care available. The spring session of after school and weekend arts classes starts in early April. For more information and to register, go to www.createartscenter.org.

MUSIC, from Page 2

5. We will learn to play the keyboard, identify Middle C, and play a tune such as "Hot Cross Buns."

6. We will listen to some tunes from different cultures appropriate to the springtime season: "One Love" (Bob Marley's Rastafarian anthem), "Hallelujah Chorus" (Handel's most well-known composition), and "Dayenu" (the lively song from the Jewish Passover Seder).

Shepherd Elementary School



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