



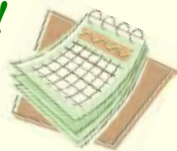
Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

April 26, 2011

## Mark Your Calendars!



- April 29 - Jump Rope for Heart
- April 29 - Health and Wellness Fair
- April 29 - World Jeans Day
- May 6 - Auction, Wash. Ethical Society, 7-11 p.m.
- May 9 - Salad Bar Kick-Off Grades 2-4
- May 10 - LSAT meeting, 3:45 p.m.
- May 12 - Deal MS Math Placement Test
- May 13 - BWL and Strings Concert
- May 16 - Parent/Teacher Conference Day, No School

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,

*This is the last time I'll be able to use The Mustang to encourage each and every one of you reading to come to the annual PTA Auction, which will be held Friday, May 6, at the Washington Ethical Society. Hours are 7-11 p.m. and tickets are \$40 for one, or two for \$70.*

*When my daughter was in pre-K, the call came then (like it did this year) for parents to donate items for the auction. I managed to cobble together a few gifts.*

*Also, a call came from the auction committee (like it did this year) to advertise in the auction program book. I had to scratch my head. I didn't have my own business, but I put an ad together for the book – because it was for a good cause.*

*Then came the urgent plea to buy tickets. So I said to my wife, "Hmpf. So do you actually want to GO to the auction?" And she said yes. So we bought tickets, rang up a babysitter, and made our plans.*

(see PTA President, page 3)

## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd Family!



I hope this message finds each of you well. I also hope each of you had a wonderful spring break and got the opportunity to create some great family memories!

This is it! We are in the final stretch of the 2010-2011 school year. Yes, it is hard to believe but it is our reality. However, the year is not over. As a staff, we will be reflecting on our practices and putting some things in place to help prepare our students for their transition to the next grade. You can help by reminding your student(s) that school is not over and you expect them to give their best every day all day!

As with the beginning of the year, the end of the year is an extremely busy time. Please be sure to check your child's book bag daily, read all notices, read The Mustang and listen to the ConnectEd messages that will be coming more frequently. We do not want you to miss out on any of the many, many, many end of year events!

Have a great week everyone and I look forward to seeing you around.

Warmest regards,

*Jamie Miles*

Principal  
Shepherd Elementary

## Get Your Shovels Ready!! Volunteers Needed!!

**Saturday, April 30th @ 9 a.m.**

### Shepherd Elementary School's Outdoor Classroom

Shepherd Elementary PTA has secured enough funding to make the concept of an outdoor classroom a reality. To help bring this dream to fruition please join us on Saturday, April 30th, at 9 a.m. **to rake, dig, plant, mulch and enjoy great company. Please bring a shovel.** To register, all interested volunteers must contact Alicia Anderson at 240-603-0143 or by email at [aea1210@gmail.com](mailto:aea1210@gmail.com).



Sometimes the simplest ideas are the most profound. "Take those kids outside!"? This simple idea has become a river into which some very robust streams of thought are pouring, streams which draw from the watersheds of environmental education, education reform, human ecology and beyond. While the schoolyard as wildlife habitat is a major current in the schoolyard movement, it does not define it. Nor is science the only subject that benefits. There is also a strong current flowing around gardening, emphasizing the cultivation of plants as a window into literature, nutrition, history and math.

The schoolyard movement flows from a concern that has echoed through environmental education literature: the belief that the next generation absolutely must possess a fundamental ecological literacy if it is to have a chance of dealing with such daunting challenges as global warming and the loss of biodiversity and other natural resources."—*Stephen R. Coffee, Executive Director of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment.*

**We need your help to make Shepherd Elementary School Outside Classroom a reality.** Whether you are a garden enthusiast or novice; whether you love the smell of mulch; whether you are looking for a morning workout outside of the gym; whether you are a community member and just want to lend a helping hand for a great project; or whether you are a parent or student and see value in this project and would like to be a part of history.....*You are welcomed!*

**PTA President**, from page 1 \_\_\_\_\_

*And we had the time of our lives! It's one thing to see other parents on the tot lot or the playground, or in the auditorium or on the sidewalk. But at the auction, we got the chance to relate to each other not just as parents, but as adults! We knew each other on one level, but we got to learn more about each other on an entirely different level. Folks got dressed up as dressed up could be.*

*And the auction had plenty of cool items you could bid on. I still remember one mom urging me to outdo another bidder on the prize she had donated because "I don't know that person." So I did. And let me say: I'm glad I brought my check-book!*

*This year, you can also pay for your auction winnings with a credit card. But all the fun of spending an evening with your fellow parents just one block from Shepherd Elementary – but, in truth, a world away – is a rush the likes of which you don't often get to experience. Wild horses couldn't stop me from going to next week's auction, and certainly crutches aren't going to stop me, either. Refuse to let anything stop YOU. You'll not only help the school and PTA, but have a ball doing it. See you at the Auction!*

Best wishes,

*Mark Pattison*

PTA President

829-9289, pattison\_mark@hotmail.com

### **Pickup Needed Friday Before Big Gardening Day**

Scott Opis, a community member of the school's Gardening Group, has this request:

*"I have a lot of plants and some shrubs at my house and really need someone with a truck to help move them to Shepherd. Ideally this would occur on Friday evening 4/29 so the plant materials would be ready at the school Saturday morning.*

*"If the person with the truck is willing to help load, I think we won't need any other labor (although one more couldn't hurt.) He or she should anticipate some soil falling onto the flatbed, so if that is a problem they should bring a tarp."*

If you can help, get in touch with Scott ASAP at scott\_opis@hotmail.com.



## **Jump Rope for Heart Happens on Thursday**

There's still time left for students to register for Jump Rope for Heart, which will take place this Thursday, April 29. Students must register to participate.

Jump Rope for Heart is an awareness and exercise program of the American Heart Association. Mr. Burgess, the school's physical education teacher, is the point man at Shepherd for the program. Register online. Here's how:

- ▶ Go to [www.heart.org/jump](http://www.heart.org/jump) and click on the button that says "Students Sign Up."
- ▶ Click on "District of Columbia" and follow the screen instructions to find Shepherd Elementary (you may be able to find it near the bottom of that column even without the instructions). Then click "Join This Team."
- ▶ Set a fundraising goal. You may help your child get a, er, jump-start on the goal by contributing something during the registration process.
- ▶ If you HAVE NOT ever registered in past years for Jump Rope for Heart, select the option that says this is your first time making a web page.
- ▶ If you HAVE registered in the past, select the option that says you made a page last year.
- ▶ Fill out your information, and come up with your own username (5 to 60 characters) and password (5 to 20 characters).
- ▶ Parents and guardians MUST sign off on the online waiver.
- ▶ Double-check your information. Click the button "Complete Registration" to finish signing up.
- ▶ Now, reach out to family members and neighbors about your child taking part in Jump Rope for Heart, directing them to the web page and asking them to contribute.

If you need more info or help, call toll-free at 877-824-8531, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. weekdays.



## A Big "Thank You" From Greater DC Cares



You might not have noticed it, but 70 volunteers from Greater DC Cares came to Shepherd the morning of April 16 and braved the rains to spruce up our playground. Then, we got a letter from Greater DC Cares thanking us for letting them help us. (Thank us? We should be thanking them!) The letter was addressed to Alicia Anderson, the head of the PTA's Green Team. Excerpts follow:

*Dear Alicia:*

*First, we here at Greater DC Cares want to say THANK YOU for participating as a project site for Servathon 2011! With the support of nonprofit organizations and schools across 150 project sites, Greater DC Cares mobilized 8,023 volunteers, which turned out to be our largest volunteer mobilization effort ever. Hundreds of school children will be thrilled by brighter school hallways and inspirational murals. Thousands of community members will be able to enjoy cleaner, safer parks, while hundreds of children will be wowed by new murals, flowers, and fresher-looking recreation centers. We couldn't have done it without you!*

*Thank you,*

*Monique N. Caston,  
Manager, Nonprofit Outreach & Development  
Greater DC Cares*

## Deadline Here for School Pix

There is a deadline of Tuesday, April 26, for school photo orders placed through Masterpiece Studio. That's the first day back to school from spring break. If you have not already submitted your photo order, either put it in your child's backpacks ASAP, or walk it into the office yourself to avoid getting socked with a \$10 late fee.



## Teacher Appreciation Week Is Coming!

**T**eacher Appreciation Week is May 2-6. It's observed by PTA groups across the country. At Shepherd, we'll honor not only all teachers, but support staff as well. It will be a full week of activities to show the adults who care for our children how much we care for them.



- \* **Monday, May 2 – Flowers for Your Teacher:** Students are asked to shower their teacher with flowers.
- \* **Tuesday, May 3 -- Token of Appreciation for Your Teacher:** Students and parents are asked to send a small token for their child's teacher, like an apple, bookmark, homemade goodies or craft, "World's Greatest Teacher" mug, coffee shop gift card, and the like.
- \* **Wednesday, May 4 -- Make Your Teacher a Card/Write a Letter:** Students are asked to make a thank-you card or write a letter to their teacher.
- \* **Thursday, May 5 –Cafeteria Workers and Custodian Appreciation Day:** Students are asked to do anything from these first three days to recognize our cafeteria workers and custodians.
- \* **Friday, May 6 – Special Area, Teacher Assistants and School Counselor Appreciation Day:** Students are asked to do the same, but this time to recognize the music, art, PE, language, library/media, teacher assistants and the school counselor.

## AUCTION TICKETS ON SALE!

The PTA's seventh annual Auction is all set for Friday, May 6, from 7 to 11 p.m., just a block away from Shepherd, at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16<sup>th</sup> St. at Kalmia Rd.

And we've held the line on ticket prices: \$40 for one, or two for \$70.

Even better, this year you can buy tickets at the school office. Exact change is preferred, or feel free to write a check made out to the Shepherd Elementary PTA.

And, if you're brimming with Shepherd Elementary school spirit, there's more you can do to enhance everyone's auction experience, including yours.

One thing you could do is donate an auction item or two. It could be merchandise, tickets, gift cards or certificates, or services. You just never know what will drive up the bidding at an auction, so be creative!

**"A Taste of D.C.:  
Shepherd's Recipe  
for Success"**

Another thing you can do is to work with your child's teacher and the other parents in your child's classroom to come up with a top-notch classroom donation. These auction items – many of which feature the creativity of the students in that classroom – not only spur on some of the most spirited bidding on auction night, but they also fetch the highest sums of any auction item. (You can see how a fundraiser such as an auction might benefit from this!) If your teacher is distracted from participating in classroom donations due to the upcoming DC-CAS tests, then work jointly with your classroom parent and your other parents from the homeroom to chip in on a terrific prize. The sky's the limit when it comes to your imagination.

A third way is to buy an ad in the auction program. Rates are highly attractive, from \$25 for a quarter-page black and white ad to \$125 for a full-page color ad. Promote your business, your sideline, offer a testimonial to the school, or congratulate your child, his or her teacher, or the whole class. Look elsewhere in the Mustang for more details.

You can even include yourself and your spouse and/or your family as auction sponsors. You can be a sponsor of the auction for as little as \$500 – or, if you're feeling particularly generous, you can step it up to \$750 or \$1,000. See a separate Mustang article in this issue about the perks you get when you sponsor the auction.

This year's theme is "A Taste of D.C.: Shepherd's Recipe for Success." And YOU are an essential ingredient.

To learn more about the auction, reach Auction Chair Bianca Bostic at 821-8076 or [Bianca.bostic@noaa.gov](mailto:Bianca.bostic@noaa.gov).

## Be an Auction Sponsor!



Did you know that sponsorships help raise critical funds for the Auction? It's true! Every sponsorship, regardless of the level, not only brings proceeds into the PTA treasury but it also brings more people to the auction itself, where they can bid on a wide range of ultra-cool things.

You can be a **Mustang Sponsor** for just \$500. Here's what you get:

- Two tickets to the Auction
- Signage applauding your sponsorship at the Auction
- A half-page ad in the auction program booklet
- A live shout-out acknowledgment of your sponsorship at the Auction
- Recognition of your sponsorship on the Shepherd Elementary website

You can also be a **Silver Sponsor** for \$750. Take a look at these perks:

- A reserved table at the Auction (trust me, you'll be glad you've got one!)
- Signage at the Auction
- A FULL-page ad in the auction program booklet
- Recognition of your donation during the Auction itself
- Your company's logo on the school website as an auction sponsor

Or, shoot the works and become a **Gold Sponsor** for \$1,000. Get a load of what Gold Sponsors get:

- A reserved table at the Auction (naturally!)
- Premier signage at the Auction
- A presentation of a check during the Auction representing your contribution
- A FULL-page ad in the Auction program booklet
- Your company's logo on the school website as an auction sponsor
- And YOU being listed as a Gold Sponsor in various Shepherd Elementary materials over the next year!

So why wait? Sign up for a sponsorship TODAY. Call Auction Chair Bianca Bostic at 821-8076 or e-mail her at [Bianca.bostic@noaa.gov](mailto:Bianca.bostic@noaa.gov).

## AUCTION TIME IS HERE!

- ◆ *Would you like to have breakfast with the president/CEO of the NAACP?*
- ◆ *How would you like to sit in on a live broadcast of “The Diane Rehm Show” and “The D.C. Politics Hour” in person at the WAMU studios?*
- ◆ *Maybe you’d like to have breakfast (or lunch) with Kaya Henderson, the new D.C. Public Schools chancellor?*
- ◆ *On the other hand, wouldn’t you like the chance to invent your own ice cream flavor and have it for sale to the public?*
- ◆ *Possibly, you’d like to have lunch with a big-league ballplayer who was a teammate of Hall of Famers Brooks Robinson, Frank Robinson and Jim Palmer, plus “The Capital Punisher,” slugger Frank Howard, for good measure.*
- ◆ *And, for your kids, wouldn’t you like to be able to win for them having no homework for a week? Not having to wear uniforms for a week? Or to be principal for a day?*

These are just some of the terrific prizes that will be won by somebody at the PTA’s seventh annual auction: “A Taste of D.C.: Shepherd’s Recipe for Success.” And that somebody could be you!

But you’ve got to be on hand to bid – and to win. So clear your calendar for Friday, May 6, 7-11 p.m., at the Washington Ethical Society, a block from Shepherd.

Tickets are \$40 each, or two for \$70.

There are four ways you can get your tickets:

- ▶ Buy them from Ms. Brooks at the office.
- ▶ Buy them in front of the school during our “Ticketpalooza” drives on selected mornings and afternoons over the next two weeks.
- ▶ Order them online at the school website, <https://www.shepherd-elementary.org/auction2011/>. The homepage also has a form you can print in case you want to do more than buy tickets, like buy advertising in the auction program book, become an auction sponsor, donate an auction item, or make a contribution to the cause.
- ▶ And, you can get your tickets at the door – but the two-ticket discount won’t be in effect.

Watch daily for auction updates on the PTA listserv!



## Be an Auction Advertiser!

The auction program booklet is not only thick with descriptions of items up for auction, but it also ought to be thick with advertisements from businesses and parents alike. Reserve your space in the booklet today. Take a look at how you can advertise:

- ◆ **\$25 for a black-and-white quarter-page ad**
- ◆ **\$50 for a color quarter-page ad**
- ◆ **\$50 for a black-and-white half-page ad**
- ◆ **\$75 for a color half-page ad**
- ◆ **\$100 for a black-and-white full-page ad**
- ◆ **\$125 for a color full-page ad**

And inquire about the availability of premium “real estate” in the booklet, such as the back cover, the inside front cover, the inside back cover, or a center spread. Reserve your ad space ASAP, by sending a message to [shepherdauktion@live.com](mailto:shepherdauktion@live.com).



## PTA, LSAT Nominations: The Clock is Ticking



Final notice in The Mustang! We need four parent representatives for Shepherd's Local School Advisory Team. To get your candidate statement in The Mustang, the deadline is THURSDAY, MAY 5, at 4 p.m.

We are also seeking parents to be nominated for the following PTA offices:

- President
- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary
- Treasurer

To be nominated, we need your candidate statement also by THURSDAY, MAY 5, at 4 p.m. Send candidate statements to Yasmin Lewis-White at [yaslewis@aol.com](mailto:yaslewis@aol.com).

LSAT elections will be held during the morning drop-off and afternoon pickup hours, plus all through aftercare and the first half-hour of the PTA meeting on WEDNESDAY, MAY 18.

PTA nominations will be made during the PTA meeting that evening. In the case of a contested election, ballots will be distributed to parents at the meeting. Before the PTA meeting is over, not only will we know who our 2011-12 PTA leaders are, but also our LSAT representatives.

## Parents Needed for Recess, Cafeteria Duty May 4

Plans are in the works for all of the adults who work at Shepherd to enjoy a Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon together on Wednesday, May 4. But in order for that to happen, parents need to relieve teachers and staff who are on recess and cafeteria duty that day.

Shepherd needs TWO PARENTS FROM EACH CLASS to assist with recess duty:

- 11:45-12:15 (Pre-K recess)
- 12:00 – 12:30- (K, 1st, 2nd and 4th recess)
- 12:30-1:00 (3rd and 5th recess)

We also need THREE VOLUNTEERS for each lunch period:

- 11:15-11:45 (Pre-K)
- 11:30-12:00 (K and 1st)
- 12:00-12:30 (3rd and 5th)
- 12:30-1:00 (2nd and 4th)

To volunteer, call Ms. Brooks at the school office at 576-6140.



## Salad Bar Is Installed!

Our thanks to Shepherd parents Angela Anderson, Judith McCullough, and Sabine Herisse, plus custodial supervisor Mr. Kelly, who helped oversee the assembly and installation of a salad bar the PTA obtained through a grant. The salad bar was delivered and constructed over spring break.

Next month, students in grades 2 and 4 will get first crack at how to use the salad bar. Later in May, students in grades 3 and 5 will get their turn at salad bar use. Come the 2011-12 school year, the first and second graders will have a chance in learning how they can each fresh and healthy food each and every school day.





## D.C. Election Day April 26

Remember: Tuesday, April 26, is a Special Election Day for all D.C. residents. We get to choose one at-large D.C. Council member, plus a new Ward 4 member on the D.C. State Board of Education. If you live in-boundary, your likely polling place is here at Shepherd – Precinct 62. Parents living on the other side of Georgia Avenue in Takoma D.C. will vote at the Takoma Recreation Center – a move from the Takoma Educational Campus, still closed after that late-December fire. Regardless of where in D.C. you live, vote! Polls are open until 8 p.m.



### 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!**

**May 20** - 3rd-5th  
Skating Field Trip

**May 23** - Principals' Chat and Chew, 2:00

**May 25** - Spelling Bee, K-2nd

**May 26** - Spelling Bee, 3rd-5th

**June 6** - New Families Orientation, 9:30 - 11:00

**June 6-10** - Spirit Week

**June 7** - College Day

**June 8** - Talent Show

**June 9** - International Day

**June 10** - Field Day

**June 14** - 5th Grade Promotion, 9:30

**June 15** - Awards Day

**June 17** - Last Day of School (12:15 Dismissal)



### *Deadline for Next Mustang:*

**Fri., May 6 at 5 p.m.**

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

### **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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