



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

May 9, 2011

Mark Your Calendars!



May 10—Local School Advisory Team meeting, library, 3:45 p.m.

May 13—BWL and Strings Concert, 6:45 p.m.

May 16—Parent-teacher conferences, no classes

May 18—LSAT election, 7:30-9 a.m. and 3-7 p.m.; End of year PTA meeting and election, cafeteria, 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,

I was so pumped up after Friday night's auction that I got only four hours sleep. So many great things happened! I'll tell a few of them here.

- ◆ We invited the parents of new Shepherd students for 2011-12 to buy auction tickets to get into the swing of things. Not only did some of them buy tickets, but one of them won the raffle for the iPad 2!
- ◆ The biggest auction item -- literally! -- was a sectional sofa. Not only did a Shepherd parent win it, but it was delivered to her home **THAT NIGHT!**

Remember the "special secret announcement" I alluded to in an e-mail Friday morning to the PTA listserv? Well, the secret is out. At the auction, we established "SEED," an acronym for Shepherd Elementary Education Dollars. Our goal was to raise \$2,500 for the school's first-ever whiteboard. It would be placed in the computer lab, so all teachers could utilize it, and all students could benefit from it. Not only did we get the \$2,500 for the whiteboard, but we got an extra \$3,800 in contributions for a total of \$6,300. As you know,

(See PTA, Page 3)

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

Well, the date has passed and if you were not present at the Washington Ethical Society on Friday, May 6, 2011, you missed out on a wonderful evening (The PTA annual school auction). The building was beautifully decorated, the food was delicious and the time spent socializing with current Shepherd family members, future parent members and Shepherd Park community members was priceless. Thank you auction committee for your hard work and the endless hours you spent planning and preparing for this event. Also, thank you to everyone who gave of their time and/or money. Your actions demonstrated just how much you love and support your local school! You are sincerely appreciated.



White House Garden Tour

I am super excited to announce 30 Shepherd students will be visiting the White House and participating in the White House garden tour. Select students and six chaperones will be traveling on May 26, 2011 to learn more about the importance of healthy eating and how foods get from the garden to the table. More information about the students selected and their visit will be in the next edition of the Mustang.

Earn Money for Shepherd by Giving 7 Minutes of Your Time!

What do you like about your local school? What would you like to see us do differently? Please take a moment to complete the District's stakeholder holders which is administered every two years to students, staff and parents of DCPS schools. If you complete your survey before June 3, 2011 Shepherd could earn \$500. The survey can be found at <http://DCPS.DC.Gov/survey> <<http://dcps.dc.gov/survey>> .

Do You Love Your Job?

Career Day at Shepherd is scheduled for Friday June 3, 2011 from 9:00 to noon for grades Pre-Kindergarten to 5th. If you have a great job and or know someone who does, you are invited to come and share with students. We want our students to begin thinking about their future now!

(See MILES, Page 4)



Student's Eye-View

Please join the Mustang and extend a warm welcome to Sophia-Rose Herisse, our new student reporter. Welcome Sophia!

Hello my fellow Mustangs! My name is Sophia-Rose Herisse and I am the new Shepherd Elementary School student journalist for The Mustang.

Last Saturday, Shepherd Elementary parents, students, and teachers as well as neighborhood volunteers worked to create a garden. It was a beautiful day and everybody worked hard. The garden will help us learn about the ecosystem. Now, we have a space to observe vegetables, plants, fruits, herbs, and flowers grow. There is also a picnic table so teachers can sit with their students in this outdoor classroom. Colorful English, Spanish, and French signs welcome visitors.

I am glad we now have a garden because that means my school is becoming greener. Make sure to visit our new garden because it is a fun way to learn.

I am happy to join The Mustang team, so please submit news tips, comments, or questions to my e-mail address: snherisse@yahoo.com

—By Sophia-Rose Herisse, 3rd grader

SchoolKidz class supplies campaign is underway

Last year the PTA put the pedal to the metal and put together a program through Staples' "SchoolKidz" class supplies order program. Teachers are asked what supplies their students should need for the year ahead, and SchoolKidz finds suitable products from its inventory. Most supplies parents need for their children are in the bundle, they pay one low price, and the supplies are delivered directly to the school, eliminating a lot of hassle.

This year, because the PTA sealed the deal with SchoolKidz to do it again for 2011-12, the prices parents pay for their child's supplies bundle will reflect an 8 percent discount. Shepherd parent Katherine Trimble is heading up this year's effort. Look for SchoolKidz order forms to be distributed in your child's backpack as early as this week. Order forms will also be made available on the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org, and at the May 18 PTA meeting!

But don't waste any time. Orders MUST be turned in by THURSDAY, MAY 26 so that SchoolKidz can process it properly. We expect all the supplies you order to be delivered to Shepherd the week of Aug. 15, one week before the 2011-12 school year starts.



By Ken Giles, Music Teacher
Kenneth.Giles@dc.gov

On Friday, May 13, 6:45 pm, we will present our final concert of the school year. Our violinists (including several alumnae who still play violin) and guitarists will play a medley of "Civil Rights Songs." Then our beginner violinists will play Suzuki's rhythm variations on "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."

The BWL rhythm-and-blues band, led by Mr. Velez, will perform. Mr. Velez says, "This has been the most challenging year for BWL in the seven years we have been playing. For the first time, we have 3rd graders in the band. Some of our female singers are quite talented. Dancers are part of the BWL performance too." Some BWL alumnae have gone on to musical and academic success at schools such as Duke Ellington School of the Arts and School Without Walls. Mr. Velez and Mr. Giles encourage everyone to come to the May 13 concert and enjoy our students' performances.

On Tuesday, May 17, Jali-D (David Forman) -- a progressive rapper and djembe drummer -- will visit several of our music classes and afterschool. Jali-D performs raps about math, reading, and even geology. Jali-D is a Howard University graduate and frequently performs at schools and community organizations in the DC area.

Alice Deal Internat'l Baccalaureate Night for rising 6th graders is May 11

Curious about what the IB Middle Years Program will look like for next year's sixth graders?

All interested families are invited to the Sixth Grade IB Night to get a better understanding of how IB looks at Deal - how our units are designed, what your students will be studying, how we assess and reflect, and what types of academic expectations you can expect. Start time is 6:30 p.m.

Anderson wins board seat



We congratulate D. Kamili Anderson, the grandmother of Shepherd students Chang-amire Anderson II and Nia Anderson, who was the victor in the April 26 special election for a new Ward 4 representative to the D.C. State Board of Education. We also salute Shepherd parent Sekou Biddle,

(See *SEAT*, Page 4)



Welcome back from Spring Break everyone. Shepherd has been a very busy place since our return to school. During our first week back, on April 29th, we held our IB Ceremony and celebrated World Wish Day. Our IB Ceremony recognized those students who demonstrated the Learner Profile trait of Principled. Congratulations to: Jadon Kithcart, Hashim Coward, Claudia Goletiani, Yasmina Konate, Kyle Bowman, Andre Jones, Elizabeth Melaku, Rhyon Baldwin, Romy Herisse, Rosa Robles, Moise Pringle, Henry Trimble, Sheridan Easterling, Kurt Peacock, Camille Jones, Kaden Mont, Madison Swanson, Ernestine Lwangu, Alexandra Abebe, Christopher Villalta, Rasheda White, Kaitlyn Hunter, Tiffany Greene, Omari Clarke, John Pollock, Imani Allen, Kadija Cash-Taylor, Aleisha Hopkins, Sandra Stevenson, Josiah Marable, Emahni Grant, Tylor Reynolds, Micah White, and Joel Sherman.

A special thank you goes out to our School community for our fundraising efforts in partnership with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic Region. On Friday, April 29th, we participated in World Wish Day by doing the "Jeans for Wishes" fundraiser. Our goal was to raise \$500 to help make wishes come true for local children with life-threatening medical conditions. We raised a total of \$1276 in one day. Way to go Shepherd! Congratulations to everyone on a job well done!

2011 DCPS Stakeholder Survey

DCPS is conducting a survey to get parent feedback. This is a very important survey that will help the Chancellor and the school administrators better understand what 5th through 12th grade parents, students, and staff think about their schools. The survey focuses on school climate, school safety, the principals, the teachers, the staff, the instructional practices and how to make it better. The survey will be confidential and can be done on-line or in paper form. Please visit the website at: <http://DCPS.DC.Gov/survey> to complete your survey before June 3, 2011 and our school could earn \$500. Parent surveys will be sent home the week of May 9, with students. Please look out for yours.

We are currently in our final Unit of Inquiry-Unit 6. The Inquiry for each grade level is as follows:

-Pre Kindergarten – Sharing the Planet – Staying Alive

-Kindergarten – How We Express Ourselves – To be determined

(See *CORNER*, Page 5)

PTA (Cont'd from Page 1)

D.C. Public Schools cut our budget (and everyone else's), so the remaining \$3,800 will be spent on office supplies. Once we get a preliminary tally of auction proceeds, the PTA will make a recommendation at the May 18 meeting on using more funds from the PTA treasury on supplies.

- ♦ Oh, speaking of the PTA meeting, we'll have some unsold auction items up for bid during the meeting. Come ready to buy!

At the auction, we had terrific live music from the Anthony Walker Trio, whose jazz and classic-soul grooves were absolute dynamite. Sorry, but they won't be playing at the PTA meeting.

I want to extend my deepest thanks to Bianca Bostic and EVERYONE who helped out on the Auction Committee. We'll have a list of advertisers and sponsors on the listserv and at the meeting. Go to them and say, "Thank you for helping Shepherd Elementary!" The same goes for Alicia Anderson and Angela Anderson and EVERYONE who helped with the April 30 gardening and outdoor classroom day. Help out on Sunday, May 22, to complete the work that wasn't finished.

Remember that we'll nominate and elect new PTA officers for 2011-12 at the May 18 meeting. You'll get to meet them up close and personal if you come. It starts at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. See you then -- if not before!

Best wishes,

Mark Pattison

PTA President
829-9289

pattison_mark@hotmail.com

MILES (Cont'd from Page 1)

For more information please contact Ms. Liggins, our school counselor, at: gail.liggins@dc.gov.

Teacher Appreciation Week

This past week Shepherd staff was showered with flowers, cards, food, and other small tokens of appreciation. The highlight of the week was a pot luck luncheon sponsored by parents. We had enough food to feast on for 3 days. Thank you for helping me celebrate our Shepherd teachers and staff.

Student Behavior

Before your student leaves to begin their day at Shepherd, please take a moment to remind them to be respectful, responsible, and safe at all times. I need for you to encourage your student(s) to make right decisions, think for themselves, separate themselves from negative behavior, seek the nearest adult if they have a problem and walk away from conflict. Remind them that we expect for them to give their academic best and behavior best everyday and nothing less will not be tolerated from you or any staff member at Shepherd.

Please Keep Reading

There are a lot of great things happening at Shepherd and Principal Miles does not do most of it! Things get done because of committed students, staff members, and parents! Please keep reading this edition of the Mustang to learn more about all the wonderful things happening at Shepherd. Also, don't forget to read all memos and listen to ConnectEd messages. Shepherd is a busy place and I do not want you to miss out!

Have a great week!

Warmest regards,

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

SEAT (Cont'd from Page 3)

father of Theo and Rashad Biddle, and the former Ward 4 Board of Education representative, who left the seat to serve on the D.C. Council as an at-large member this year. Although Sekou lost his bid to serve the remainder of the unexpired term, he deserves our thanks for keeping school-age children first and foremost in the minds of the city's political leaders.

Comet Ping Pong hosts final family dinner night

The date for the PTA's last Family Dinner Night of the school year has been set back one week. Family Dinner Night, at Comet Ping Pong on Connecticut Avenue NW just south of Nebraska Avenue NW in D.C., will now be held on Thursday, May 26, starting at 5 p.m. and running until 9 p.m. The PTA gets 20 percent of the pre-tax proceeds. The PTA has already gotten rebates closing in on \$1,000 from the first three Family Dinner Nights.

PTA, LSAT elections to be held May 18

LSAT elections will be held May 18. Polls will be open from 7:30 to 9 a.m., and from 3 to 7 p.m. If the weather is nice, look for day-time polling to be held outside near the school's main entrance. If the weather's not good, that table will be inside near the school office. The polling place will shift in the evening to the school cafeteria in conjunction with the PTA meeting. Parents may write in a name if they so choose. The PTA's Nomination and Election Committee will conduct the election via paper ballot, and issue the results. PTA nominations will be made during the PTA meeting. If there is no opposition, a candidate will be declared elected by acclamation. If there is a contested election, the Nomination and Election Committee will conduct another paper-ballot election, with the results to be announced before the end of the meeting.

3rd ANNUAL SPRING FLING
SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011 6:00p.m.
LOCATION:
 PHOTOGROUP
 8040 Georgia Ave.
 Silver Spring, MD
COST:
 \$25 (adults), \$10 (teens), \$5 (12 & under)
FEATURING:
 dinner, drinks & music by
 The Dukes, Ladle Fight & Wiley Sonic
 Art Show & Sale, art project
 and movie for kids
CONTACT:
www.createartscenter.org
create@createartscenter.org
 301-588-ARTS (2787)
 Proceeds benefit sm4THids and
 Studio Downstairs, CREATE's flagship
 programs serving at-risk populations.
CREATE Arts Center

Art Corner

Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers:



Thanks to all for the fabulous lunch for teachers and staff members. It couldn't have been more wonderful. Also thanks to those families who gave us gifts. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

The art room has been quite busy these days. Fourth graders have rendered drawings of important buildings and monuments in our city for the auction decoration. Fifth graders have been illustrating their authentic books or creating landscape paintings. Third graders have been drawing outdoors, en plein aire, recreating the nearby homes or rendering sketches of the new garden. Pre-K has also drawn outdoors, creating chalk drawings of the signs of spring. Second graders have been looking at images of artifacts such as baskets and quilts, noting their origins and their contribution to American culture. First graders are creating colorful garden collages of spring flowers.

Remember to take time to see the DCPS Citywide Student Art Show on the Arrivals Level of Terminal C at Reagan National Airport. It will up until May 30th on the Arrivals Level between Door 11 and USAir Baggage Carousel 12. Shepherd's 12 artist exhibitors are: Kindergardner, Zora Pauk; 1st Grader, Masai Jenkins; 2nd Graders, Chima Ukaegbu and Amarachi Thompson; 3rd Graders, Rasheda White, Neiman Holton, Morgan Garnes, and Chandler Mabry; 4th Graders, Sankhessa Meskineten and Rahman Hunt; and 5th Graders, Andonny Garcia and Joel Sherman. Again, thanks to Michael Hairston of Hairston Art and Framing in Silver Spring, the Shepherd alumnus who made our students' work look more fabulous than ever.

As always, remember you gotta have ART!!

—Ms. Michaud, Shepherd Art

Shepherd makes \$\$\$ from old cells

Is that old cell phone of yours finally dead? Don't throw it in the trash! Put it in the purple cell phone recycling box in the school office.

Every time we amass 10 donated cell phones, the PTA can mail them in to a recycling center. Even the most primitive of cell phones garner some cash, and depending on how sophisticated the technology is—that's why they're called "smart phones." We could get up to \$30 depending on how much of the chips and other technology can be harvested and reused.

CORNER (Cont'd from Page 3)

- First Grade – Who We Are – Who's Right
- Second Grade – How We Express Ourselves – Cultural Expressions
- Third Grade – Where We Are in Place and Time – Communities over Time
- Fourth Grade – How We Express Ourselves – The Beat Goes On
- Fifth Grade – Who We Are – Where Do I Fit In?

This unit will continue until June 10, 2011. Parents please talk with your child/children about the central idea for the unit. Encourage them to communicate something about what they are learning every day.

The Learner Profile for the month of May is Communicator. Communicators understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and using different modes of communication. They also collaborate with others. Students, how you become a good communicator: Listening: Listening to directions, to others, and to information.

Speaking: Speaking clearly, giving oral reports to small and large groups. Expressing ideas clearly and logically, and stating opinions.

Reading: Reading a variety of sources for information and pleasure; comprehending what has been read; making inferences and drawing conclusions.

Writing: Recording information and observations; taking notes and paraphrasing; writing summaries, reports, journals and records.

Non-verbal communication: Recognizing the meaning of visual and kinesthetic communications (for example, facial gestures, handshakes, etc.)

How can parents help develop students who are communicators?

1. Encourage your child to stay in touch with relatives and friends who live in other countries, other states, and other cities by writing letters, using the phone or sending emails.
2. When working on mathematics homework, encourage your child to explain his/her answer to you orally or by adding a drawing or a picture.
3. Ask your child thought provoking questions and encourage them to discuss them with you.
4. Work with your child to improve his/her listening skills. Being a good listener is an important part of communicating with others.
5. Catch your child being a communicator. Make sure your child knows he/she has done something good. Expressing your approval is a powerful way to reinforce profiles. "To effectively communicate, we must realize that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others"

—Anthony Robbins

Shepherd Gardening Day: a great success

What happens when you put together a small group of passionate parents, a dedicated teacher, a committed building manager, an engaged principal, and a gardening enthusiast... CHANGE! That's what was realized last weekend. A change from a lifeless area to a place that is full of great energy, a potential array of beautiful colors, aromatic scents, and most importantly – learning opportunities for our little ones. As of April 30th, our school has a garden that is designed so as to be recognized by the National Wildlife Federation as a wildlife attraction as well as a garden that has multiple areas to foster students' learning.



The experiences of the elementary years are critical and as parents and teachers we must support initiatives that foster an environment that provides for maximum learning and valuable experiences. If the school community wants to see the full fruition of this garden then it needs the involvement of all parents and teachers. We have a long way to go and the Green Team needs your help to maintain the garden.

A maintenance schedule requires that everything gets proper attention. We need your help to clean and fill bird feeders and baths; weed gardening plots; and water trees, flowers and garden beds. Please contact Alicia Anderson at aea1210@gmail.com if you are able to donate one hour per week of your time to care for the garden. Anyone interested in task specifically tied to the vegetable garden should contact Angela Anderson.

You can take a look at all the work we've done to improve our gardens, and you'd be right to be impressed. But the work isn't done. We're calling for a new Gardening Day to start at 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 22.

We have commitments from the two synagogues in the neighborhood, Congregation Tifereth Israel and Congregation Ohev Shalom, to recruit their members to help out. Both synagogues have in the past expressed a willingness to help out if only a gardening day weren't scheduled on a Saturday, which conflicts with their worship. Any and all Shepherd parents who don't have conflicts with Sunday morning gardening are also welcome. Please bring gardening gloves, your favorite shovels and other garden implements.

Deadline for Next Mustang:

Fri, May 20, at 5 p.m. Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

Year end PTA meeting is May 18, be in the know!

When: Wednesday, May 18

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: School Cafeteria

Childcare: In the auditorium

More school uniforms for sale!

Free pizza and drinks!

Agenda items to include:

- Nomination and election of PTA officers
- Local School Advisory Team election results
- PTA vote on school supplies funding
- Children's summer fitness initiative, Approval of March PTA meeting minutes, Keisha Grant
- Principal's report
- Treasurer's report
- Auction results
- Gardening project report
- SchoolKidz class supplies update; Plus...

Our annual contest. The class with the most parents in attendance will win not only a box lunch, but also fruit pops AND an extra half-hour of recess!

School starts on time...And so do PTA meetings!

Shepherd Elementary School



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