



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

May 23, 2011

## Mark Your Calendars!

- May 23: Salad Bar kickoff, grades 3 and 5
- May 25: Spelling Bee
- May 26: Family Dinner Night at Comet Ping Pong, 5-9 pm
- May 30: Memorial Day, No School
- May 27: SchoolKidz Order Forms Due
- June 3: Career Day

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 Parents,

Just like President Kennedy said in his presidential inauguration speech 50 years ago, "The torch has been passed to a new generation of leaders." It's in that spirit I enthusiastically welcome the new PTA officers, who officially take over July 1, but who have already been concocting fresh approaches to school issues. They are: Bianca Bostic, president; Alicia Anderson, first vice president; Yasmin Lewis-White, second vice president; Laura Levine, recording secretary; Nicole Pethtel, corresponding secretary; and Kim Barnette, treasurer.

The current and future offices met a week ago to review the past year -- what worked well, what didn't, and what could stand improvement. And maybe we'll all get together again, because there's a lot to review.

When I took over from Charisse Brossard as PTA president, she urged me to declare a theme for the year. Given the ambitious agenda that the PTA officers, parent leaders and I envisioned, I selected "Mind and Body." It was all-encompassing, that's for sure, and seemed to fit in well with our desires to get International Baccalaureate certification (which we got, by the way). (see *PTA President*, page 3)

## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd Families!

I trust that this message finds each of you happy and well.



### Budget Cuts

Like most DC Public Schools, Shepherd Elementary was impacted by the District's budget cuts. As a result, Shepherd will lose the following positions: 6 educational aides, 1 librarian, 1 Spanish teacher, and 1 SPED coordinator. Art will become a part-time art position. As with any cut, it will be felt. However, I am confident we will be able to continue to thrive as a school. Though the master schedule is not complete and will not be finalized until this summer, please be assured that students will continue to receive quality language instruction 3-4 times a week, library time, and art. Creative scheduling and parents who have already committed to fulfill certain roles next year is why I can make that guarantee. However, with fewer people in the building next year, everyone will have to add some additional items to already full plates. Therefore, I am urging you to begin now thinking about when and where you can volunteer your time and services.

### Teachers/Students

As we approach the end of the year, all families want to know who the teachers are going to be in a particular grade level and to whose class their child will be assigned. Teacher placement for next year will be announced in the next issue of *The Mustang*. Students will not be assigned a teacher until late summer. When assignment occurs, a ConnectEd message will be sent and a class list will be posted on the doors of the school. Please do not send an email or request a meeting to request a particular teacher. However, I do recognize that certain students learn best in certain settings. Therefore, if there is something you need me to know about your child's personality and/or learning style or the type of environment they work best in, please let me know. Of course, there is no way I can perfectly match every student and teacher. However, it does allow me the opportunity to learn more about your student.

(see *MILES*, page 6)

# Student's Eye-View



During spring break, Shepherd Elementary parents and staff volunteered to construct our new salad bar. My sister and I also helped put it together.

On Monday, May 9, second- and fourth-grade students were the first to taste the salad. Everyone was excited the first day the salad bar was used. Second- and fourth-graders seemed to enjoy the lettuce, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, shredded cheese, and peaches at lunch. A fourth grade student told me, "I love the salad!"

Fellow Mustangs, I encourage you to try yummy salad from our new salad bar. Please make sure you only take what you will eat to avoid waste. Bon appétit!

To submit news, tips, comments; or to contact the Mustang student reporter, please send an e-mail to: [snherisse@yahoo.com](mailto:snherisse@yahoo.com).

—by Sophia-Rose Herisse  
3rd grader

(Mustang readers: You can also catch Sophia-Rose's column in the "School Dispatches" section of the Northwest Current, delivered free to homes in Shepherd Park and surrounding neighborhoods.)

## LAST CHANCE!

The next issue of The Mustang will be our last for the school year. If you have something you'd like to say, anything you'd like to tell the school community, use the pages of The Mustang to express yourself. The **deadline for the next issue is Friday, June 3 at 5 p.m.** Send all submissions to [sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com).

## DCPS Asks Our Opinion

A few weeks ago, you probably got in the mail a survey sent to all parents whose children attend D.C. Public Schools. You can complete the survey mailed to you, or you can choose to complete it online at <http://dcps.dc.gov/survey>. You will, though, need to have the mailed copy of the survey to enter the seven digits that appear in the bar code.

Some school's going to win \$500 when they choose a survey (presumably at random) submitted. So, the more surveys submitted by Shepherd families, the better of a chance we have of winning \$500. As any parent who contributed \$500 to the 180 Fund this year will tell you, every single bit helps.

## Dinner Night Thursday At Comet Ping Pong!



The PTA has already collected more than \$1,000 from the first three restaurants to take part in our Family Dinner Night promotions this year:

- ⇒ \$350 – Olazzo
- ⇒ \$277 – El Aguila
- ⇒ \$400 – Ledo Pizza

Let's see how much more we can contribute to the PTA while having a great time with the family. Our final Family Dinner Night is this Thursday, May 26, at Comet Ping Pong, 5037 Connecticut Ave. NW just south of Nebraska Ave. NW in Washington. In fact, it's in the same block of shops as the venerable bookstore Politics and Prose, so you can park behind the stores for dinner and shopping.

Family Dinner Night starts at 5 p.m. and runs until 9 p.m. The PTA will get 20 percent off your pre-tax bill -- and that includes beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages ordered by parents. Support a good cause, spend your dollars in D.C., and have a great time with your kids. It's an unbeatable combo!



Hope you caught the BWL and Strings show at Shepherd on Friday the 13th. It was your bad luck if you missed it! Mr. Giles' violin students – buttressed by some Shepherd alumni – went through their paces admirably, including several variations on a Mozart melody we commonly refer to as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." And Mr. Velez, with Mr. Thornton's help, helped the BWL Band jam through the evening with such gutsy performances as "Why Can't We Be Friends," "Heaven" and "I Got a Man."

And did you know... not one minute of students' classroom time is used to put together this show? Every rehearsal is conducted during recess or after school. So let's give a big hand to these dedicated performers!

**PTA President** (continued from page 1)

But as the weeks and months passed, the theme fell by the wayside – mostly because we were so busy doing, doing and more doing.

In the next Mustang you'll see a list of accomplishments by the school and the PTA over the past year. All of that ties into two other slogans I used frequently during my term: "Parent Power," and "Together we can do great things!"

Several parents approached me asking if I would run for a second year as president. I might have, but since I cannot run – heck, I can barely walk using these crutches – it's better for me to help Shepherd and the PTA in non-officer ways. I support Bianca fully and without reservations, as well as her officer team – some of whom I helped recruit. I've already given Bianca a list of ways I'm committed to helping the PTA for 2011-12, and I pledge here and now to make good on my commitments. I encourage YOU to make your own pledges to Bianca to help the PTA and the school. And, should Bianca and the officers call upon you to pitch in, lend a hand, or take the lead on an initiative, find a way to say yes. We'll all benefit when you do, because, thanks to parent power, together we can do great things.

Best wishes,

*Mark Pattison*

PTA President  
829-9289

pattison\_mark@hotmail.com



**Deadline  
Friday!**

The order forms for the SchoolKidz class supplies for next year were given last week to teachers for distribution in students' backpacks. If the order form has somehow disappeared into the ether, you can print the order form at the school website, [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org).

The prices listed for each grade level reflect an 8 percent savings over what SchoolKidz would have charged had we waited until the last minute to sign up for this program; we struck our deal back in September, when memories were fresh of how successful SchoolKidz was last May. Not only do you save money, you save time by not having to schlep around store after store. The guesswork is also gone, because this year's teachers at each grade level jointly decided on what supplies would be needed for the year ahead. And back strain will be minimized since the supplies will be shipped directly to Shepherd.

THE HARD AND FAST DEADLINE to order your supplies, though, is -- and remains -- THIS FRIDAY, MAY 27. Write a check for the supplies payable to "Shepherd Elementary PTA," complete the form, send it to school with your child, who will then give it to his or her teacher, who in turn will deliver it to the office, where our PTA parents taking charge of this year's program will tabulate the orders. The May 27 deadline is necessary to ensure that the supplies reach school before classes start.



Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers:

First, many thanks to those families whose gifts keep coming in to me. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

The art room continues to be busy, including work on the recent BWL concert. Third through fifth grades did a fabulous job creating artworks to help us jam along with the concert performers. I hope you noticed them when you came.

Something you might not know is that in January of 2010 Shepherd Elementary was chosen to participate in the Washington Dulles International Airport public art exhibition, "Hello and Welcome." New Hampshire installation-artist Catherine Judge was the project artist. She came to Shepherd during April of 2010 to facilitate our 2nd graders in Ms. Johnson's class creating chalk pastel self-portraits that were to be integrated into a large-scale public art project at the airport this year. During the past year, Shepherd's artwork

be greeted by self-portraits from a number of our region's schools.

However, Shepherd is proud to be the only District of Columbia Public School included in this wonderful exhibition. Tell all your traveling friends to look for our kids work, or better yet have a look-see yourself when traveling inbound to DC. Sorry, but due to security the exhibit is only available to inbound travelers. I will be one of those in August and will bring back LOTS of photos.

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.

Parents of Grades 3 through 5: students have homework on a voluntary basis until the week of June 5th and counts for extra credit but only if it meets the criteria set in the Homework Section of my class website:  
<http://teacherweb.com/Shepherd/Art>.

As always, remember you gotta have ART!!

—Ms. Michaud, Shepherd Art



## PTA Officers Chosen for 2011-12

At last Wednesday's PTA meeting, nominations were held for the six PTA officer positions. All were elected by acclamation and without opposition. They are:

- ◇ President: Bianca Bostic
- ◇ First Vice President: Alicia Anderson
- ◇ Second Vice President: Yasmin Lewis-White
- ◇ Recording Secretary: Laura Levine
- ◇ Corresponding Secretary: Nicole Pethtel
- ◇ Treasurer: Kim Barnette

The new officers will take over from the current officers on July 1. Congratulations to all!

## Parents Choose Four LSAT Representatives

May 18 was Election Day at Shepherd Elementary. In addition to PTA officers, parents voted in the morning, afternoon and early evening for four representatives to the Local School Advisory Team. Formerly known as the Local School Restructuring Team (or LSRT), parent, teacher, staff and community representatives give input and offer perspectives to the principal on how to improve the school and how to sustain that improvement. Winners in the election were:

- ◇ Lisa Connor
- ◇ David George
- ◇ Jennifer Pauk
- ◇ Sherilyn Pruitt

This will be Jennifer's second full term on the LSAT. David served as a parent representative for one meeting until the parent vacancy could be filled by a special election; Sherilyn won that election and has served since that vote. This will be Lisa's first year on the LSAT. Winners are invited to join the current LSAT for a meeting Tuesday, June 7, at 3:45 p.m. at the school library.



## Career Day is June 3

Liggins, the school counselor, is organizing the event. If you've got a gig that makes your kid proud and will make other Shepherd students enthusiastic, volunteer yourself to Ms. Liggins at [gail.liggins@dc.gov](mailto:gail.liggins@dc.gov).

Moms, dads and grandparents who have great jobs and interesting careers will be talking about their work the morning of Friday, June 3, for Career Day. Ms.

## New Students to Dine From Salad Bar

Now that Shepherd's second and fourth-graders have had a couple of weeks' experience with the school's salad bar, the third - and fifth-graders begin this week to enjoy the salad bar. There is a great collection of veggies and fruits three days a week - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday - and it costs just a dollar whether students buy their lunch in the cafeteria or bring lunch from home. It's another step the school and the PTA have taken to making Shepherd a healthier place for everyone.



## Winners Abound At PTA Meeting

Not only were PTA officers elected and LSAT election results announced last Wednesday, but we had not one but two winners in the annual PTA attendance contest.

Mr. Byers' pre-K class and Ms. LaPenna's kindergarten class each had eight parents on hand during the meeting. As a result, each class will get an extra half-hour of recess AND fruit pops to enjoy. Congratulations to all parents for coming to the meeting and raising your hands high; there were plenty of other classrooms that were awfully close to these two co-winners!



## Auction Proceeds to Help Pay For Shepherd Office Supplies

At last week's PTA meeting, Bianca Bostic, auction chair, reported that the PTA netted \$23,000 from this year's auction. The proceeds included funds pledged to "Shepherd Elementary Educational Dollars," or SEED. The goal was to raise \$2,500 in SEED money to buy the school's first whiteboard. But thanks to the generosity of auction attendees, \$6,800 in SEED money was contributed!

Subtracting the cost of the whiteboard, that left \$4,300 in funds which was pledged to purchase office supplies for the school. With DCPS budget cutbacks affecting every school, Mrs. Miles acted in her budget to preserve as much as she could the educational mission of Shepherd. To do that, she submitted a lower figure for office supplies than what she knew would be needed. So the PTA discussed the issue and voted to take \$5,700 from its treasury and make it available for office-supply purchases, making it an even \$10,000!



Our next IB Ceremony will be held on May 27th. The Learner Profile for this month 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.

### 2011 DCPS Stakeholder Survey

All surveys have been distributed. Parent surveys were sent home in an aqua envelope the week of May 9, 2011. If you have not received yours, please check your child's backpack. Our PRELIMINARY response rates as of May 17 are in and here are the results:

- Parent Response Rate = 6%
- Students Response Rate = 90%
- Teachers Response Rate = 85%.
- Staff Response Rate = 39%
- Administrators Response = 50%

Only surveys processed by May 17 are included in this report. There may be a scanning delay for paper surveys. If you need another paper copy of the survey please stop by to see Ms. Hart. Surveys are available in Spanish, Amharic, Chinese, French and Vietnamese. The survey is confidential and can also be done on-line.

Please visit the website at: <http://DCPS.DC.Gov/survey> to complete your survey before June 3, 2011. If we have the highest overall response rates in DCPS our school could earn \$500. The winning school thus far is Beers Elementary. Let's go Shepherd -- we can do it!

### International Day

Parents mark your calendars; Shepherd will celebrate International Day on June 9th. This year, each grade level selected a different continent and each class has selected a different country within that continent. The continent breakdown is as follows:

- ◆ Prekindergarten and Kindergarten - North America
  - ▶ Ms. Gibbs & Ms. Pethtel – Canada
  - ▶ Mr. Byers, Ms. LaPenna & Ms. Holt – United States
- ◆ First Grade – Africa
  - ▶ Ms. Crockett – Sierra Leone
  - ▶ Ms. Goldman – Mali
  - ▶ Ms. Noel - Ghana
- ◆ Second Grade – Asia
  - ▶ Ms. Chambliss – Philippines
  - ▶ Ms. Johnson – India
  - ▶ Mr. King - China

- ◆ Third Grade - South America
  - ▶ Ms. Thomas – Brazil
  - ▶ Ms. Valentine-Nelson - Argentina
- ◆ Fourth Grade - Australia
  - ▶ Ms. Christenberry – Southern Australia & the Outback
  - ▶ Ms. Weber – All other regions
- ◆ Fifth Grade – Europe
  - ▶ Ms. Ulba – Ireland
  - ▶ Mr. Leonard - France

We hope everyone can participate. Please talk with your teachers to find out ways you can help.

### Tour de Cure-American Diabetes Association

According to data from the 2011 National Diabetes Fact Sheet (released Jan. 26, 2011) from the American Diabetes Association, diabetes is becoming more and more common throughout the United States. 25.8 million children and adults in the United States, which is 8.3% of the population, have diabetes. 1.9 million new cases of diabetes were diagnosed in people aged 20 years and older in 2010.

Mr. George Mack III, one of our parents, has lost three family members in the same year to this prevalent disease. He is cycling in the American Diabetes Association's 2nd Tour de Cure fundraising event on June 5th in Reston Town Center. His goal is to raise \$5000. He is reaching out to the Shepherd family to help make a difference in the fight against diabetes. We can help by making a donation and/or recycling old cell phones. Our efforts will help to continue the pace set in the fight against diabetes.

A drop box will be available in the office for you to leave your used cell phones or to make a donation. No matter how small or large a monetary donation or how old or new the recycled cell phone, your generous gift will help to bring us closer to finding a cure for future generations.

Have a great week!

—Sandra Hart, IB Coordinator



With the warming up (and drying up!) of the weather, clothing like jackets, raincoats and sweaters that might have been necessary on the trip to school in the morning suddenly become an afterthought with the warmth of the sun and the excitement that comes with the end of another school day. So before it's too

late, examine the lost and found table inside the auditorium vestibule. You may be very happy you did!

MILES from page 1 \_\_\_\_\_

### Enrollment Forms

Please return your enrollment forms by the end of next week. You must bring your enrollment form to the school and verify you are a resident of the District. Enrollment is considered incomplete until residency has been verified. The sooner you complete your enrollment packet, the sooner I can finalize classes and teachers for next year. This will also give me early notice if Shepherd needs another teacher. Our enrollment progress is monitored and I receive weekly enrollment updates. Please help Shepherd reach its enrollment goal prior to the last day of school.

### Average Daily Attendance

Each week I receive a report outlining Shepherd's average daily attendance (ADA) rate for the year. On my last report it showed that Shepherd has a 97% ADA rate. Though this is still above our school goal of 95%, it is below the 99% ADA rate we have had for the past 3 years. Therefore, I am encouraging you to work to make sure your student is in school every day unless he or she is sick. Please strive to schedule all appointments and trips after the last day of school. Thank you for your attentiveness to this important matter.

### Salad Bar

This week the salad bar will be open to students in 3rd and 5th grades. If your student purchases a hot lunch from the cafeteria, the cost of the salad is included in his or her meal. If students bring their lunch from home and would like to purchase a salad, they may do so for one dollar. The salad bar is open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for students in 2nd -5th grades.

### Renovations

Our playground is up and almost ready for the students to enjoy! The final safety inspection will occur this week and if all goes as planned; it is very likely the students will be enjoying the equipment by the end of the week. If you have not seen the beautiful yellow and green jungle gym-like piece of equipment, please stop by for a quick peek. I am sure it will bring lots of fun to the Shepherd community for many years.

### Career Day

Career Day will be held on Friday, June 3. Please contact Ms. Liggins (gail.liggins@dc.gov) if you would like to share and/or you know someone who would.

### Moving Up Day

On Tuesday, June 7 students will be moving up to the next grade. This day will allow students to spend a few hours in the upcoming grade learning more about what to expect when they return to school in the fall. Look for reflections from students in the last edition of The Mustang.

### Student Behavior

Finally, please remind your students to be respectful, responsible and safe every single day. Remind them to make good choices, think before they act or react, separate themselves from individuals who may be negatively impacting their behavior, keep away from conflict and seek the nearest adult if conflict finds them. With your help, we can end our year in a positive and safe manner.

Warmest regards,

*Jamie Miles*

Principal

### 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!**

## *Shepherd Elementary School*



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