



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

June 6, 2011

Mark Your Calendars!



June 6—Spirit Week.

June 7—LSRT meeting, 3:45 p.m.
Pre-K Orientation, 9:30a.m.

June 8—Shepherd's Got Talent Show,
1:30 p.m.

June 9—International Day

June 10—Field Day

June 14--Fifth Grade promotion ceremonies

June 15—Awards Day

June 20—Last day of school; 12:15 p.m.
dismissal

Visit <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/calendar/>
for a month-by-month list of events and activities

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Well, it is finally here... the countdown to the final bell has begun. Once again, time has flown by and the end of another successful school year is upon us. This has been a very exciting school year filled with a lot of memorable events. The school's computer lab was finalized, select classrooms received floor upgrades, we received new water fountains, we started the



year looking at a new gym floor, students visited the White House, we have our own school garden, fresh fruits and vegetables are available to students on our very own school salad bar, our students continued to make academic gains, students performed in and out of Shepherd, sports teams represented our school well, many staff members showed their commitment to being an on-going learner by enrolling in graduate school and/or completing their graduate course work, and probably the highlight of the year was when our school received their International Baccalaureate (IB) authorization and Shepherd Elementary officially became one of the 3 DCPS IB World Schools. It has been a fantastic year and none of it would have been possible without a team of dedicated staff members, parents, students, and community members. Thank you all for your support and working endlessly to make Shepherd a place that others stand up and notice.

The Shepherd Elementary Family wishes to say our final goodbyes to all staff members who will not be returning to Shepherd, and thank them for all their hard work, dedication and devotion to Shepherd students over the year(s). Our best wishes go out to Ms. R. Beale (retirement), B. Byers (wife deployment) and G. Weber (pursuing higher education). The following staff members will not be returning to Shepherd due to budget cuts: M. Scinto, A. Menchen, J. Scott, S. Moore, F. Nobari, L. Flack, T. Stuart, and N. McDowell. Again thank you and know each of you will be truly missed.

Please be sure to register your student for the upcoming school year prior to leaving for summer vacation. It is imperative you finalize your paperwork so that we can begin finalizing plans for the upcoming school year. With that being said, it was my plan to share teacher grade level for assignments for the next school year; however, unfortunately I will not be able to release that information at this time. I will however, share this

From the PTA President...

Dear Shepherd Families,

This is my chance to give thanks to the many, many parents who helped improve and sustain Shepherd Elementary over the past year. You're not going to see a lengthy list of names here. Had I done so, it would probably have included the entire parent-volunteer database and then some!

First, thanks go to every parent who did thankless tasks: helping some crying kid that wasn't one of your own; bringing that sack of snacks for your child's classroom, reprimanding a thoughtless car parker blocking the 14th-Jonquil crosswalk; doing cafeteria or recess duty; and a host of other tasks I couldn't even begin to imagine. For all those things, sometimes big but often quite little, I thank you.

Next, thanks go to all of the parents who volunteered to help out in the PTA's many and varied activities, and served on a growing number of initiatives and committees. When I asked parents early in the school year to "join us in our great work," you responded in droves. Look elsewhere in this issue of the Mustang for a month-by-month listing of the work we accomplished this year. We wouldn't have been able to do so much – or do it as well – without you. Thanks and more thanks.

(See *PTA*, Page 3)

(See *MILES*, Page 4)



Student's Eye-View

On Tuesday, May 24, 2011, the new playground we all have been waiting for has finally opened.

For almost two-three weeks, fantastic construction workers have been taking down our old, broken down playground and building a new and improved playground. The new playground also has new features to it. There is a slide that you sit on and hang your legs over the side of it and you slide down at top speed. I know for a fact that a lot of students are happy about that because now they hang their legs over the side of the slide, and no teachers can put them on the fence for doing it!

There are also "hoops" that we can climb up and down on. They wobble a little bit, but we'll get the hang of it. There is also a new monkey bar but it is so close to the ground, that a two year old could grab them without even jumping! There are so many other features to the playground but find out for yourself by playing with them.

I heard one student say, "This playground is awesome!" and I also heard other students say, "This playground is boring, I like our old playground." I would love to hear what you think about the new playground.

If you would like to comment, please feel free to e-mail me at mutabear10@gmail.com.

—Sandra Stevenson, Fifth grader

New PTA Officers were elected by Shepherd Elementary parents during the May 18th PTA meeting.

The names and functions of the newly nominated PTA Officers are:

President: Mrs. Bianca Bostic

First Vice President: Mrs. Alicia Anderson

Second Vice President: Mrs. Yasmin R. Lewis-White

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Laura Levine

Corresponding Secretary: Ms. Nicole Pethtel

Treasurer: Mrs. Kim Barnette

Also, during the day, Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) Representatives were selected by Shepherd Elementary parents through balloting:

Mrs. Lisa Connor

Mr. David George

Mrs. Jennifer Pauk

Mrs. Sherilyn Pruitt

This team of parents will help insure that Shepherd students have a great learning experience.

Dear fellow Mustangs, let's welcome our new PTA and LSAT team members. Hurray!!

Please submit news tips, comments, or questions to my e-mail address: snherisse@yahoo.com.

Sophia-Rose Herisse, 3rd grader

PTA offers year in review

Here are some of the things PTA leadership did over the past year that we believe helped the school community at large, and made the PTA itself more stable and sustainable for next year and for years to come.

SUMMER

About two dozen PTA elected leaders and committee chairs met for dinner to outline plans to get 2010-11 off on the right foot with their respective responsibilities. The PTA donated all leftover used uniform clothing to the church of a student's grandmother, and introduced all "new" stock in time for the new school year.

We launched both the Green Team and the Health and Wellness Committee with participation from parents, teachers and staff and eventually students. Parents and neighbors took turns over the summer watering plants and keeping tree bags filled.

The PTA activated a Twitter account to keep parents up to date in real time. Our handle? [ses_messenger](#).

AUGUST

We got an early commitment of more than \$5,000 to the 180 Fund from a group of about two dozen PTA "leaders and doers" based on an overnight e-mail appeal before the day-before-school-starts Open Houses.

We got pledges from more than 100 Shepherd families to the 180 Fund – an OK figure, but one that can be improved upon next year.

We also got an early commitment from parents in the PTA's second annual Volunteer Database Sign-Up Sheet. The PTA got great parent turnout for the before-the-start-of-school Beautification Day.

Our second annual Pre-K Play Date with off without a hitch – and incoming parents are already clamoring for a third!

We instituted "Family Dinner Night" at nearby child-friendly restaurants, packing the places with enthusiastic children and parents and raising more than \$1,000 for the PTA with four such dinners.

We continued to support the "Walking School Bus" to encourage families to walk to school and meet up with other families along the way. The PTA also continued its support of cell phone recycling, as the PTA gets a decent fee – and we protect the earth just a little more with every recycled phone.

We continued to sponsor our used uniform clothing sales, offering gently used items at a dollar each. The PTA also continued to sponsor an ongoing "Box Tops for Education" drive, striving toward our goal of \$500 for Shepherd by school year's end.

SEPTEMBER

We sponsored a wildly successful – if, by "wildly successful," you mean "run out of food" -- Labor Day Weekend Kickoff Cook-out in the patio behind the library.

The PTA added parents to its leadership team to serve as liaisons with the Hispanic/Latino and Ethiopian/Eritrean communities, both of which have an increased presence in the neighborhood.

We sponsored a recycling poster contest that drew considerable interest from the student body.

The PTA transferred its bank account to PNC Bank. This gives us a bank that will not charge us any monthly fees at all. PNC not only has a branch on Georgia Avenue, but it also has more branches in and around D.C., so neighborhood of residence should not prove a barrier to participation for future PTA treasurers. PNC also gave the PTA president and treasurer "check cards" to finance the occasional pizza party prize or other expense.

We arranged for a PTA rebate for any Shepherd parent

(See *WORK*, Page 4)

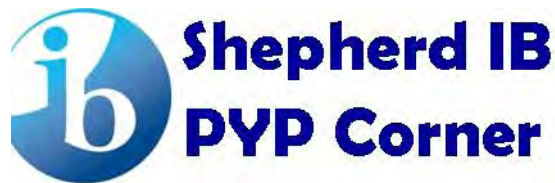
White House garden visit excites

Thirty Shepherd students and six chaperones got to go to the White House to visit first lady Michelle Obama's White House garden May 26. There they met with the White House assistant pastry chef, who told our pupils, "Maybe someday one of YOU will become president and you can hire me as pastry chef!"

They also were guided by White House volunteers who showed them the different things that had been planted in the garden. Students also got to taste-test a couple of plants that had grown and ripened from the garden: mint (which most of them liked a lot) and anise (which they didn't like as much).

Following is the list of lucky students who went to the White House: **Pre-K:** Kennedy Harrison, Yasmina,

(See *LIST*, Page 5)



It so hard to believe June is here already and we only have 11 school days left. The remaining school days will be very busy. The week of June 6th – 10th is Spirit Week and each day will have a theme. The theme for each day will be as follows:

- Monday – Crazy Hat Silly Socks Day
- Tuesday – Favorite College Day
- Wednesday - Wacky Wednesday
- Thursday – International Day
- Friday – To Be Determined

The other scheduled events for the week are New Student Buddy Day and Moving Up Day on Tuesday, June 7th, the Talent Show on Wednesday, June 8th and International Day on Thursday, June 9th. Friday June 10th will be the end of our IB Unit 6 so students, teachers and parents will spend the final week of June 13-17th reflecting on the Unit.

Our IB Ceremony recognizing students who demonstrated the Learner Profile trait of **Communicator** was held on Friday, May 27th, 2011. Congratulations to:

Natasha Dorkin, Jonathan Royall, Jared Bush, Chyna Holloway, Hannah Lucas-Dreiss, Casey Ross, Cyrus Collins, Zoie Walden, Elias Mack, Bianca Popa, Nana Sissoko, Changamire Anderson, Dalia Hochstein, Logan Botwin, Agyeman Nyanteh, Caleb Wilson, Cydni Taylor, Makayla Wright, Kamryn Bowman, Jasmine Greene, Milke Hailu, Jocelyn Bostic, Jaden Brazey, Gavin Rasmussen, Calloway Majette, Saige Ballard, Lesley Maradiaga, Christian Watkins, Alicia Dawson, Taylor Reynolds, Jada Matthews, D'Angelo Gutierrez, Jamar Handon and Eric Nelson.

2011 DCPS Stakeholder Survey

DCPS has decided to extend the survey deadline to **Wednesday, June 8th**. If you haven't had a chance to complete your survey please do so before the deadline. Please visit the website at: <http://DCPS.DC.Gov/survey> to complete your survey before June 8, 2011. If we have the highest overall response rates in DCPS our school could earn \$500.

International Day

Shepherd will celebrate International Day on June 9. We are hoping to include a fashion show and an international food court. If you have any clothing from your country of origin that can be worn in the fashion show please let your teacher (s) know. Your clothing does not have to be from the country your child is currently studying in their classroom. As well, we are requesting donations of ethnic food items from any nationality from our families. If you can either contribute yourself or solicit a donation from a restaurant, please inform your child's teacher before Wednesday, June 8th. We are hoping to have enough contributions so students can sample different world cuisines for \$1.00.

~Sandra Hart
IB Coordinator

PTA (Cont'd from Page 1)

As you've probably grown tired of reading by now, these last few months have been more difficult for me to serve in the way I had imagined as PTA president because of my broken ankle. But to her credit (and my gratitude), PTA First Vice President Lisa Deane stepped up and was more than equal to the task. She was my eyes, my ears, my feet, my wheels, and my voice. And the other officers and committee chairs did a fabulous job in taking matters into their own hands and finishing the jobs started earlier when all I could offer was an "Attagirl!" or "Attaboy!" from the sidelines. In fact, this group of parent activists forms much of next year's PTA officer leadership. They deserve everybody's thanks.

Finally, I have to thank my daughter, Cyntia, and my wife, Judith McCullough. When the possibility of me becoming PTA president was broached more than a year ago, I had to discuss all this with them. Being PTA president has been a great gig, but it requires not only a commitment, but changes in one's life to honor that commitment. Any successes you ascribe to me would not have been possible without their love and support. Thanks and hugs and kisses to them both.

Just because I won't be PTA president next year doesn't mean I won't be active. Hardly! Our investment in Shepherd Elementary compels all of us to be the best possible partners in our children's education. And the myriad of ways we can help gives us all a chance to make a positive mark and be a role model for our kids. Have a great summer!

Best wishes,

Mark Pattison

PTA President
829-9289

pattison_mark@hotmail.com

MILES

 (Cont'd from Page 1)

information with you prior to the last day of school so please look for a flyer on Monday, June 13, 2011.

Though this is the official last Mustang of the school year, the school year is not over. Please review the calendar of events listed on the first page of the Mustang so that you will be able to share with our students during these last couple of weeks. In addition, I will be communicating with you over the summer to keep you informed and to help you be prepared for the start of another school year. Please remember that the school will be open so feel free to call the main office to set up an appointment if you need assistance or stop by between 8 am and 4:30 pm.

Finally, to my 5th grade students, their families, and current family members who will not be returning to Shepherd next year, I wish you the best. As you depart from us physically please remember to always hold Shepherd dear.

Have a great summer everyone and please be safe!

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 think and learn globally and act compassionately.

Word power: junior spelling winners announced

Congratulations to the junior winners of Shepherd's spelling bee held May 25:

First place:

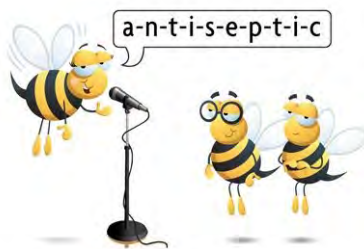
Keshav Metha-Harwitz:

Second place:

Antonino Imbroscio

Third place:

Leela Metha-Harwitz



Last day of school is June 20

Keep in mind that the school year stretches out one extra day due to a snow day we had back in January. Friday, June 17, will be a full day of school.

The last day of school will be Monday, June 20. But look on the bright side: June 20 is only a half-day, with dismissal at 12:15 p.m.!

WORK

 (Cont'd from Page 2)

who gets their hair styled at Michael Anthony Salon on Capitol Hill.

The PTA's annual Fall Fest moved to Friday for the first time, and racked up more revenue than any previous Fall Fest ever did.

OCTOBER

Instead of paying teachers stipend checks every semester, we sent them one check to cover the full year. We also extended the writing of stipend checks to include all classroom aides, 11 in all.

To address chronic paper shortages early in the school year, the PTA sponsored the Great Paper Chase and awarded pizza-party prizes to two classrooms.

The PTA also pledged to buy enough paper each month to keep the Mustang printed. We published the school newsletter weekly through 2010, and moved to every-other-week publication in January, never missing an issue.

PTA leaders were also present at each of the three open houses sponsored by the school to talk up Shepherd to the parents of prospective new students.

With consent from parents, the PTA agreed to underwrite a majority of the costs of a three-month Afternoon Academy with the aim of improving DC-CAS test scores. The PTA purchased Study Island for the school's computer lab. DCPS gets credit for rewiring the lab, but the PTA gets credit for buying the computers and the software.

We sponsored a Fall Flower Bulb Sale, giving parents the choice of planting flowers in their yard or donating their purchases to further beautify the school. PTA parents also got plenty of "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" boxes to school, and we collected more than \$325 – our best mark yet!

NOVEMBER

The annual school directory was issued in a new, improved format that allowed for updated and corrected details to be published. The PTA also offered the option of e-mail delivery of the directory, saving even more trees.

To make learning fun, we sponsored "Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader," showing how well Shepherd students have learned their lessons. We funded a pair of "Go Green" assemblies with a special speaker-entertainer to get students in the mood to recycle both at home and at school.

The PTA improved the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org, to take donations for the 180 Fund, the Brick by Brick campaign, and auction ticket purchases online.

The PTA filed its federal tax forms on time – for the first time in probably at least five years. Parent leaders spoke their mind – and from their hearts – during the November site visit of an International Baccalaureate team. That seems to have worked out pretty well...

PTA leaders renewed their predecessors' purchases of Discovery Testing for Shepherd students.

DECEMBER

We got our second grant in two years from Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A, this time for \$2,500 for our gardening initiative.

The PTA also got a nice rebate of \$486 from Color Me Mine during Shepherd's annual pottery-painting night.

We pulled some strings and made arrangements for that right jolly old elf who lives at the North Pole to make some well-timed phone calls to good little Shepherd boys and girls.

The PTA took a series of three polls on its Yahoogroups site to ask parents their opinions about the school. Our annual

(See *BUSY*, Page 5)

Art Corner



Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers:

We are nearing the end of the school year. Although I look forward to summer, this is always a bittersweet time for me. I know I will miss Shepherd students, family members, and colleagues alike. It is both a time of reflection and anticipation of what is to come in the fall.

I would like to thank so many people for their generosity to the art program. The Trimbles, the Goldens, and the Chumbrises all gave goods or money to the program. Their generosity allowed students to be able to create watercolor paintings on the proper paper. Thanks to Mrs. McKinney and Ms. Downing for the extra set of hands when I needed them. I am grateful to all of you who gave tissues and anti-septic wipes to keep the art room more healthy this year. Also thanks to Mark Pattison for getting the word out about our art event. Special thanks to the student 'curators' in fourth and fifth grade who helped create and hang the displays for our concerts. I apologize for any omissions but please know how I am grateful for all the support I get from everyone.

As we wind down the art making, students will create portfolios in which to bring all of their art work home. Please take the time to look through your child's art work. Ask them to explain their processes and use of materials. After all, art is about making on-the-spot decisions and solving visual problems, both aspects of critical thinking. These are very good reasons to encourage your child's art activities after school is out!

I hope everyone has a great summer. Warmest regards to you all.

As always, remember you gotta have ART!!

—Ms. Michaud, Shepherd Art

LIST (Cont'd from Page 3)

Konate, Brianna Royal, Edward Preston Underwood. **Kinderergarten:** Layla Brent, Grace Kao, Makayla Kennedy, Philip Omuhundro, Janessa Perry, Myra Shalaty. **First grade:** Peter Chumbris, Kyle Jackson-Chang, Keshav Metha-Harwitz, Deborah Okechukwu, Jean Pierre Roberts, Nana Sissoko. **Second grade:** Jamary Calhoun, Caleb Schuster, Cydni Taylor. **Third grade:** Lyndon Downing, Chandler Mabry. **Fourth grade:** Caleb Bush, John Pollock, Cecilia Sneed. **Fifth grade:** Sekai Bonner-Flagg, Marley Majette, Va'Niya Moore, Amani Richardson, Mame Sissoko, Micah White. **Teachers:** Mrs. Bush, Ms. Goldman, Mr. King. **Parent chaperones:** Alicia Anderson, Angela Anderson, Judith McCullough.

BUSY (Cont'd from Page 4)

"Loose Change" drive reached \$1,200, an all-time high. Half went to needy school families, and 50 percent of the PTA's half went to buy tools for Mr. Kelly so that broken items don't always have to be shipped to the abyss of the DCPS central repair shop and an uncertain fate.

JANUARY

We launched our "Brick by Brick" fundraising campaign. Look for the first bricks from the campaign to be laid between the 14th Street sidewalk and the entrance to the original school building.

When the recycling dumpster came to Shepherd, the PTA put in for schoolroom recycling boxes and corridor recycling canisters.

FEBRUARY

Shepherd got International Baccalaureate certification! It was hardly a PTA-only effort, but it took the joint efforts of parents past and present, plus school leaders and staff and our corps of dedicated teachers to make this happen.

To augment the ANC gardening grant, we got \$1,000 from City Blossoms for flower beds in the northeast corner of the school grounds.

MARCH

The PTA sponsored its 21st Annual Jazz Night, our thank-you to the community. To preserve our new auditorium floor, the PTA bought a tarp that protects it from wear, tear, misuse and abuse.

APRIL

We encouraged parents to donate to a library fundraiser to buy 60 in-demand books from popular juvenile fiction series, and the fundraiser topped its \$500 goal.

We got playground improvements at the school, thanks in large part to a new relationship with Greater DC Cares.

Our gardening and outdoor classroom construction day was a huge success, as evidenced by the new plants lining 14th Street and Kalmia Road, the painted bricks in front and stepping stones in back, and the new flower beds in the northeast corner of the school grounds.

The PTA forged cooperative relationships with St. Mary's Baptist Church, Congregation Ohev Shalom and Congregation Tifereth Israel to lend expertise and volunteer assistance with our gardening, beautification and other endeavors.

MAY

We supplemented parents' contribution to the Teacher Appreciation Week lunch, and it turned into a three-day feast for all Shepherd staff.

We installed a salad bar in May so students in grades 2-5 can enjoy healthy veggies along with their regular cafeteria and lunchbox fare. Consistent with the PTA's "Mind and Body" theme this year, we drifted away from the pizza party prize and into healthier prizes, like fruit pops and an extra half-hour of recess.

The PTA's listserv reached a high of 266 participants. If you haven't asked to join yet, you can do so at shepherd_elementary_pta-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Our annual auction netted us a profit of \$23,000, including \$2,500 to buy and install the school's first-ever whiteboard. The auction also netted some lucky raffle winners a Kinect for Xbox 360 and an iPad 2.

With parents' consent, the PTA will allot \$10,000 in its 2011-12 budget should the school need help with buying office supplies. The PTA launched its second straight successful SchoolKidz school supplies ordering program, netting parents an 8 percent discount on next year's supplies for their children.

Thirty Shepherd students (and six parent chaperones) got to visit the White House vegetable garden thanks to the efforts of the PTA's Health and Wellness Committee.

Shepherd recognizes its graduating class of 2011

Congratulations to Shepherd Elementary's fifth grade graduating class of 2011!

This is the first group of Shepherd students to have had language instruction from their first day of school here, regardless of whether they first came to Shepherd in fifth grade or in pre-K. They helped set the standards for language learning for their fellow Mustangs to follow.

Their graduation day is Tuesday, June 14. The ceremony starts at 9:30 a.m.; stop by and give your applause and congratulations. The roll call of fifth grade graduates is:

Mrs. Laughinghouse's class

Preston Evans
Davon Gamble
Dohn Harmon Jr.
Darwin Hayes
Eric Nelson III
Joel Sherman
Shakaliah Smalls
Micah White

Mr. Leonard's class

Nia Anderson
Sekai Bonner-Flagg
Emely Claros
Karim Diaite
Malik Ennis
Kevin Evans
Nathaniel Galbreath
Cassye Hall
Samantha-Leanne Holmes
Immanuel Jones
Ricardo Lindo
Aiden Link
Josiah Marable
Eric Martinez
Jada Matthews
Caleb Okechukwu
Autumn Parrish
Philemon Powell
Everett Reed
Taylor Reynolds
Hannah Schuster
Tijara Smith
Sandra Stevenson
Alexis Thomas
Medgar Webster Jr.

Ms. Ulba's class

Jasmine Barrow
Theo Biddle
Frank Borris
Jaylen Carter
Alandra Corbett-Johnson

Timmya Foreman
Andonny Garcia
Emahni Grant
D'Angelo Gutierrez
Wynton Haley
Jamari Handon
Indya Heyward
Maryam Holt
Iyanna Jones
Marley Majette
Zennon Melnyk
Va'Niya Moore
Tylor Reynolds
Amani Richardson
Zoe Roberts
Kaitlin Robinson
Leslie Rodriguez-Escalante
Mame Sissoko
Kendall Terry

June 15 Awards Day notes student success

It's so big, it had to be split in two! Awards Day recognizes the academic skills and progress of our pupils. Awards Day takes place in the school auditorium. Parents are more than welcome. Students from pre-K to second grade go up first, at 9:15 a.m. Students in third through fifth grades will have their own Awards Day ceremonies after their lunch and recess periods, at 1:15 p.m. It's a great day for all concerned.

Remember to bring your cameras!

Shepherd Elementary School



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