



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

August 22, 2011

- ▶ **Wed., Aug. 24:** LSAT meeting, 4 p.m., library
- ▶ **Thurs., Aug. 25:** "Family Dinner Night" at Olazzo Italian Restaurant, 8235 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, 5-10 p.m.
- ▶ **Fri., Sept. 2:** Labor Day Weekend Kickoff Cookout, 3:15-6 p.m., courtyard behind library
- ▶ **Mon., Sept. 5:** Labor Day, no school
- ▶ **Tues., Sept. 6:** Labor Day Weekend Kickoff Cookout rain makeup date



Consult the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org, for a full array of events and happenings throughout the school year!

From the PTA President...

Dear Shepherd Families,

WELCOME!!! On behalf of the Shepherd Elementary School PTA I would like to welcome you to the 2011/2012 School Year. I am sure that you are eager and excited to start this year, and we are just as excited to have you.

The PTA is looking forward to enhancing your family's experience at Shepherd Elementary. We have already begun this process with our newly redesigned website. Under the leadership of Ms. Alicia Anderson, Laura Levine and Past-President Mark Pattison, this redesign has jump started our year!! You will also notice that the Shepherd PTA has a new logo, which reinforces our goal – To Support the Vision of Shepherd Elementary. What is that vision you ask – That we be 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

(see PTA Pres., page 2)

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings,

On behalf of the Shepherd Family and Community, it is truly my pleasure to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to you.



With 77 years of commitment to education excellence, Shepherd Elementary School is proud of its rich history and tradition and we are dedicated to the total development of every Pre-K through fifth grade student. The staff is empowered and invested; parents and community are valued and informed; and most importantly students are supported and encouraged to meet the highest level of academic achievement. Our mission, values, and beliefs provide focus and direction to staff, students, parents as well as all stakeholders throughout the community.

Shepherd is a special kind of place. We are a family. Families come and stay. Students graduate and they come back, they bring their children and grand children back. Shepherd is a place where the students are generally committed to working hard and doing well in all areas. Students are taught to be inquisitive critical thinkers who take charge of their learning. Their lives are enriched and they are given opportunities to grow and develop socially, physically, mentally and emotionally through a strong, developmentally appropriate curriculum which addresses all core domains on a daily basis. Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies instruction is aligned with District of Columbia Public School standards.

Specialists in the areas of Music, Art, Media, and Physical Education collaborate with general education teachers and build on the instruction that happens in the regular education classroom.

(see MILES , page 8)

The Walking School Bus: Next Stop — Shepherd!

We're working to promote healthy habits from Day One at Shepherd. One way is to walk to school. It relieves traffic congestion around the school, and children and parents alike benefit from the exercise.



With the Walking School Bus initiative, you can be joined by other Shepherd families as you head to school. There are several routes you can consider taking: 16th Street northbound, 14th Street southbound, Morningside Drive northbound, Kalmia Road westbound - or design your own route!

Watering

Thanks to our many school and neighborhood families who helped keep our new plants and gardens flourishing over a very hot and dry summer. This is involvement at its best.

Our heroic waterers were: Tom and Sharon Jackson Bowman and family; Karen Doty; Yasmin Lewis-White, Eric White and family; Lori and Jay Matthews and family; Vikki and Keith Mont and family; Jennifer and Zora Pauk; Desiree and Ed Savwoir; and Earl Yates and Kristin Wells.

Website Revamped

If you haven't visited the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org, over the summer, you'll see that it's been freshened up – a lot! You'll not only see brighter golds to go along with our plush greens, but also lots more pictures of school life. And all of your favorite features remain in a format that limits the scrolling down by visitors. The website will be the main focus of communication at Shepherd in a very short while, so check it out!



PTA Pres. _____ cont'd from page 1

learn globally and act compassionately.

The PTA is committed to supporting this vision and we hope that you are committed as well.

This year I am asking for your time. While monetary donations are always accepted, your time is most valuable this year. Donate your time by:

- Being a Classroom Parent
- Assisting with PTA Activities – such as the Labor Day Picnic, Fall Fest, Jazz Night, Annual Spring Auction, etc.
- Volunteering during PTA Meetings
- Volunteering in your child's classroom

There are so many ways that you can support the Shepherd Vision. I hope that I can count on you to donate an hour or two a month to Shepherd. I encourage you to be an active member of the Shepherd Community. While teachers and staff are the foundation of the school, parents are the glue that holds it together.



Wishing you all the best and a great school year!!!

Best wishes,

Bianca Bostic

2011-12 PTA President

[202-821-8076](tel:202-821-8076)

Classroom Parents Sought

Every class needs a classroom parent to coordinate parent involvement with other parents in your child's classroom and to be a ready reference for your child's teacher. From snack schedules in pre-K to play dates in second grade to field trips in fifth grade – and everything in between – classroom parents perform a welcome service to their fellow parents and to their teachers. If you want to sign up for 2011-12, send an email to this year's classroom parent liaison, Patsy-Ann Rasmussen, at rasmussens@starpower.net – then start collecting those email addresses!



Hello Fellow Mustangs!

For the new students who do not know me yet, my name is Sophia-Rose Herisse. I

will be the student reporter for The Mustang this school year. I hope you had a wonderful summer. Our teachers have a great year of learning and fun planned for us. Your responsibility is to do your best every single day and do it the SHEPHERD WAY!

I encourage you to share cool news tips and comments. Please contact me at snherisse@yahoo.com.

Thank you for reading my column.

--Sophia-Rose Herisse, 4th Grader

Shepherd Is A Uniform School

Shepherd Elementary is a uniform school for both boys and girls – every day. The dress code is white up top and navy down below. Shirts can be short-sleeve or long-sleeve, but they MUST have collars – no T-shirts! Students can wear navy slacks, shorts, skorts, skirts and jumpers. Sweaters should also be navy.

As for shoes, they must have rubber soles to protect the year-old auditorium floor.

Where can you get uniform clothing? The PTA helps manage used uniform sales throughout the year, usually at PTA meetings or other parent gatherings. Items are just \$1 each. If you can't wait for the next uniform sale, you can go to Kids For Less, inside the City Place mall at 8661 Collesville Rd, Unit C193, in Silver Spring. You can also order online from both French Toast and Land's End. For French Toast, go to www.frenchtoast.com. Shepherd's school code is QS4SJF. For Land's End, specify Shepherd "Preferred School Number" when placing an order from the Lands' End School Uniform catalog or Lands' End School Uniform website. Shepherd's Preferred School Number is 9001-3120-2.

Shopping for Shepherd



eScrip

- Designate your Mastercard or Visa
- Shepherd's Safeway/eScrip designation code: 500018723

Box Tops for Education



- Go to www.bboxtops4education.com to see list of eligible products and marketplace vendors
- Put Box Tops into Collection Box in Main Office.
- Shop through the Box Tops Marketplace when doing on-line shopping.

French Toast School Uniforms



- Go to www.frenchtoast.com
- Shepherd's school code: QS4SJF

Giant A+ Bonus Bucks



- Must designate Shepherd's code each year to participate.
- Shepherd's A+ Bonus Bucks Code: 00154

Land's End School Uniforms



- Specify Shepherd "Preferred School Number" when placing an order from the Lands' End School Uniform catalog or Lands' End School Uniform website.
- Shepherd's Preferred School Number: 9001-3120-2

Safeway Club Card and eScrip



- Must register Safeway Club Card with eScrip each year
- Donations for Safeway purchases from October through May.
- Shepherd's Safeway/eScrip designation code: 500018723

Snider's Super Foods Receipts



- Bring current year receipts to the Main Office in an envelope marked "Snider's Receipts"

Target "Take Charge of Education"



- Designate your Target Card or your Target Visa.
- Shepherd's enrollment code: 39625

The 180 Fund: The School's Pulse!

The PTA's 180 Fund is the pulse that sends the life-blood of the school coursing throughout its corridors. D.C. budget cuts have made the 180 Fund even more vital than in past years. For instance, we've pledged to purchase up to \$10,000 worth of office supplies if the school's own line item for office supplies runs out.

Every contribution is tax-deductible! Can you support the 180 Fund by giving \$180? We think so, and we hope you will. It's the equivalent of one large coffee-and-muffin combo each week during the school year.

If you can, consider contributing \$500 to the 180 Fund. If you join the dozen or so Shepherd families who do this each year, you can consider yourself immune to other fundraising appeals for the rest of the year. (Recent research has indicated, however, that many of these parents continue their generosity until the last day of school.)

If you can't contribute even \$180, please contribute what you can. Not only is every contribution tax-deductible, but every contribution helps support the PTA's mission of supporting Shepherd Elementary.

Use the form in this week's Mustang, or go online to www.shepherd-elementary.org to make your contribution online.



LSAT Meets Wednesday

The Local School Advisory Team will meet this Wednesday, Aug. 24, at 4 p.m. in the library. All are welcome, but non-LSAT members may be asked to leave when confidential matters are to be discussed. For a backgrounder on

LSAT plus copies of LSAT minutes from the past year, go to the "Local School Advisory Team" dropdown of the "Parents" toolbar of the school website,

www.shepherd-elementary.org.

Use Shepherd's Carpool System for Safety

If you use a car to drop off or pick up your child(ren), use Shepherd's carpool system. Numbered carpool tags will be issues – one per family – to parents whose children will be permanent car riders in the afternoon. Those tags should be displayed on the dashboard on the passenger side, or on the window of the passenger-side door of your vehicle. To get a carpool tag, go to the front office.

How does the morning carpool work? The carpool lane is southbound 14th Street alongside the school between Kalmia Road and Jonquil Street. For this, you DON'T need a carpool number. The carpool lane runs from 8:15 to 8:30 a.m. Pull to the curb and let your child(ren) out on the curb side. Staff members and the safety patrol will be available to assist and escort students to their morning destination.



How does the afternoon carpool work? Here is where you'll need your carpool tag! The carpool lane is the same. It runs from 3:15 to 3:30 p.m. As in the morning, parents should pull to the 14th Street curb, display their carpool tag, and wait inside your car. Your number will be called, and your child will exit the school and head to your car. Make sure your child has his or her carpool number memorized!

Family Dinner Night at Olazzo Thursday!

We're revving up the second year of the PTA's Family Dinner Night this Thursday, August 25, at Olazzo, a fine Italian restaurant at 8235 Georgia Ave. in Silver Spring. Olazzo features sidewalk dining as well as indoor dining. The hours are 5-10 p.m., so let's keep the place packed!



Here's a refresher course on how Family Dinner Night works: You bring your family/friends to the restaurant on that specified date. **TELL YOUR SERVER THAT YOU'RE FROM SHEPHERD.** And 20 percent of the pre-tax tab, including all sorts of beverages, will be rebated to the PTA. Last year the PTA was rebated more than \$1,100 from four Family Dinner Nights. And with our school spirit, we can top that mark this year!

PTA's Labor Day Weekend Kickoff Cookout Is Sept. 2

Last year's Labor Day Weekend Kickoff Cookout was such a fine time, the PTA is repeating it. We'll hold it Friday, Sept. 2, starting at dismissal at 3:15 p.m. Be sure to pick up your children from school before enjoying a tasty hot dog or burger. As with last year, the cookout is an everybody-brings-something affair. Here are some of the items we can think of to make the cookout a success:

- ◆ Beef hot dogs and buns
- ◆ Chicken/turkey hot dogs and buns
- ◆ Veggie dogs and buns
- ◆ Hamburgers and buns
- ◆ Veggie burgers and buns
- ◆ Ketchup
- ◆ Mustard
- ◆ Relish
- ◆ Outdoor grills and tongs
- ◆ Charcoal
- ◆ Disposable plates and napkins
- ◆ Plastic silverware
- ◆ Desserts
- ◆ Recycling canisters
- ◆ Potato chips and bowl
- ◆ Pretzels and bowl
- ◆ Coke, ice and a cooler
- ◆ Diet Coke, ice and a cooler
- ◆ Pepsi, ice and a cooler
- ◆ Diet Pepsi, ice and a cooler
- ◆ Root beer, ice and a cooler
- ◆ Orange soda pop, ice and a cooler
- ◆ Sprite/Sierra Mist, ice and a cooler
- ◆ Boombox and music
- ◆ Ketchup/mustard/relish
- ◆ Child supervision on playground (half-hour segments)
- ◆ Bottled water/fruit juices
- ◆ Raw veggies and dip



Here's the method to our madness. Last year, parents had to make two emergency trips to the supermarket to get buns because we ran out. This year, if you sign up for dogs or burgers, bring enough buns for the burgers or dogs you've volunteered for. Also, no "all-meat" or mystery-meat franks because of some parents' concerns about unlabeled pork products. By the same token, if you sign up for soft drinks, please bring a cooler and fill the cooler with ice to keep 'em cold!

If you think of something that should be on this list that you don't see, suggest it to picnicker Mark Pattison at pattison_mark@hotmail.com. Also, contact Mark if you can bring items. Use pattison_mark@hotmail.com or 829-9289.



Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers:

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year of art. I hope all of you had a great summer. I traveled out West to Santa Fe, up to New England, and even over to Europe. I made art all the way!

According to Mona Brookes, author of "Drawing With Children," "Drawing is a teachable subject and artistic talent can be developed." This is exactly how I feel when I teach art to your children. It is why I teach my students the language of visual art, the way visual imagery informs us about our world, and how creative brainpower helps us express our feelings about a subject as we learn. In the Shepherd art room visual art takes students back in time, into the future, and across many cultural boundaries. Please look regularly for announcements about what your child is studying, creating, and/or critiquing each week in art. Your children should have a lot of fun!

Although we need no smocks this year, we can use bottles of anti-bacterial hand wash to keep the germs in check, containers of baby wipes for the same reason, old newspapers we use as table coverings, and of course, Kleenex. Old art calendars are useful as are art postcards. I will occasionally call for other recyclables to use as servers or as media.

For grades 3, 4 and 5, art homework will be assigned every week beginning with the first week of school. All homework must be completed in a wire-bound sketchbook. You can buy the right one at Plaza Art at Georgia and Silver Spring Avenues in Silver Spring, just blocks away from our school. All homework will require both drawing and writing in pencil. Homework in the first few weeks will include an art vocabulary list. Students will be tested on their

cont'd, see ART, page 10

Volunteer at Shepherd!

The PTA and the school have lots of ways for parents to pitch in and help out. The all-in-one form in this week's Mustang shows many of the ways you can help out to improve the school. All offers of help are welcomed, and no offer is turned down.



Fill out that form in the newsletter and return it to the PTA box in the school office, or go online at www.shepherd-elementary.org to indicate how you can volunteer.

If you want to help inside Shepherd during the school day in a more formalized way, there is a process that D.C. Public Schools has to authenticate you as a volunteer. It requires fingerprinting and a TB test, but once the process is completed, you are good for two years as a volunteer at Shepherd. Inquire at the office on how you can volunteer in this way.

School Directory Is A Ready Resource

Each year, new families come to Shepherd and get welcomed in the Shepherd Way. Our school is a family with hundreds of "cousins" living in Shepherd Park and throughout the District of Columbia.

The annual school directory places at every Shepherd household's fingertips the information they need to reach out to other parents. Play dates? Class projects? Homework help? Holiday greetings later on in the year? Maybe just a cell-phone chat?

Please use the form in this week's Mustang so this year's school directory will be as complete as possible. We intend on getting the directory printed and distributed by the end of October. Maybe sooner, if you fill out your sheet today and return it to the PTA box in the school office.

Join The Mustang Team!

Do you have mad skills in writing and editing? How about in layout and design? How about photocopying and walking?



The Mustang Team can use you!

Take a slot in a revolving team of editors, designers and production parents who get the newsletter ready each weekend. Because it's a revolving team, you won't be called on each issue.

If you're interested, email Mark Pattison at pattison_mark@hotmail.com to join this merry band!

Deadline for Next Mustang Issue

Fri, Aug 26, at 1 p.m.

Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

Box Tops Boost Shepherd

Shepherd Elementary raises about \$500 every year - and sometimes more - from the Box Tops for Education fundraiser. Our total puts us third among all schools in the District, and second among schools in DCPS.

Keep the momentum going. If you buy products that contain a Box Tops coupon, clip it and bring it to school with your child. Make sure you put your child's name and his/her teacher's name with the box tops so that credit is given where credit is due.

Go to http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/clip/Brands.aspx?WT.ac=UHP_PartProducts to see what products qualify. But you'll spot some familiar brand names like Cheerios, Kleenex, Nestle, Juicy Juice, Hefty and plenty more.

After you clip your box tops, you can paste them onto a collection sheet (you should be able to find some on the rack outside the main office), or you can just put them into a zipper lunch bag (along with your child's name and teacher). In either case, put them in the Box Tops box in the school office.



To learn more about Box Tops, contact our parent coordinator, Tina Wright, at wright0628@aol.com.

Know Your Fellow Families With Classroom Pot-Lucks

It's both an ice-breaker for parents and a play-date for kids. Organize a classroom pot-luck for your child's class. Every class from kindergarten through fifth grade ought to have a pot-luck. Find one family willing to host, and the other parents can contribute food and drink. At Shepherd, it's a proven way to build parent unity not only now but for years to come.



The best way to organize the pot-luck is through your classroom parent, the mom or dad responsible for collecting e-mail addresses of all of the families in your child's classroom to help arrange everything from teacher support to snack schedules to field-trip chaperoning. If you don't know whether your child's classroom has such a parent yet, inquire of this year's classroom parent coordinator, Patsy-Ann Rasmussen, at rasmussens@starpower.net. Better yet, volunteer for the job yourself.

Shepherd Field Update

Work continues on renovating Shepherd Field, which sits next door to Shepherd Elementary. The field is NOT school property, or part of the DCPS system; it is the responsibility of D.C. Parks and Recreation.

The original plans called for renovation to be complete in October. But more recent estimates have the completion slated for "late summer," which would mean sometime in September. The soccer field takes up the biggest part of Shepherd Field, but the playground area on Jonquil is ready to go. There will be other improvements made to the field, including handicap access for both the Jonquil and Kalmia sides. And don't worry: The slope leading to the field will stay intact, leaving a perfect place for sledding!

If you are interested in keeping the park a vital part of the community, join Friends of Shepherd Park Recreation. Go to its website, www.thefspr.org, and catch the latest. There's also an e-mail group you can join. To do so, send an email to FSPR_Members-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

14th Year for Tutoring Program in Neighborhood

With the new school year upon us, the "Shepherd-TI Tutoring" program is getting ready to start up again. For the last 14 years, the program has provided free weekly tutoring to Shepherd Elementary students, and we are starting to recruit this year's group of tutees.



The program meets every Sunday (except holiday weekends) at Tifereth Israel, the local synagogue at the corner of 16th and Juniper Streets NW. The tutors are mostly members of the synagogue and their teenage children, although we also have many tutors from the community and from other neighborhoods. (In fact, as discussed below, we are also looking to recruit additional tutors.) We match up a tutor and a student for the entire year, and they form a delightful relationship that helps fuel the learning. Every week the tutors work with their students on math, reading, vocabulary, current homework, or anything that the child's parent or teacher thinks would be helpful. Our goal is not to teach anything advanced, but to reinforce the lessons learned in school, and to try to add a little fun to doing schoolwork on the weekend.

We have a long list of successful alumni of the program, and many parents send their children back year after year for the program, because they find that it does encourage the students in their learning. The program is run by Shepherd Park neighbor Dan Nathan, whose two daughters attended Shepherd Elementary, and who works closely with the school in putting on the program. In the past, some of the program's tutors have come from the families of Shepherd students, such as their parents or older siblings; volunteering in the program is a good source of community service credits. If you know someone who would like to tutor, please put them in touch with Dan. For more information about the program, or to sign up your child, please call Dan at (202) 746-2680, or e-mail him at ShepherdTutoringprogram@gmail.com.

MILES _____ (cont'd from p.1)

We have three special education classes where the majority of our students are mainstreamed back into the general education classroom before they graduate. Students are exposed to language when they enter Kindergarten and continue language instruction in Spanish or French throughout their elementary years. Technology integration is also instrumental and instruction is enriched through the use of applications, programs and numerous websites.

If you are a current Shepherd family member we thank you for your support and we encourage you to stay involved because it takes all of us working together to achieve great things. If you are a new Shepherd family, I invite you to contact our office for any further questions you may have and find out for yourself why our families remain our families for life. My/Our door is always open!

Warmest regards,

Jamie Miles

Principal

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.

Join the PTA Listserv!

At last count, the PTA listserv had 267 members. Given Shepherd's size, it should be 357. Or 457. Or 557. Or even 667!

The listserv is where you can get up-to-date information on school events, and a head's-up on future happenings. It's so valuable, it's invaluable!

To join, here's all you have to do:

- ▶ Send an email to shepherd_elementary_pta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- ▶ Include in your request:
Your name • Your child's name • Your child's teacher

That way we can weed out people who are interested only in spamming us.

Moms and dads and any other caregivers your child has are welcome to join.



Hit the Bricks! PTA's 'Brick by Brick' Campaign Resumes

With school back in session, the PTA is bringing back its "Brick by Brick" campaign for parents and community members to show just how much they like Shepherd Elementary.



You have several options:

- ▶ You can get two lines of type on your brick (18-character maximum, including spaces, per line), or you can add a third line for just \$15.
- ▶ You can get your brick installed close to the 14th Street sidewalk – or, for \$50 more, you can be designated an "Old School" supporter and have your brick installed close to the entrance of the original school building.

If you don't know how often you'll see your brick at Shepherd, you can also purchase a copy of your brick for \$39.99 for you to keep at home.

And, you can go the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org, to either download an order form or to place your order online! Look for the "Support Us" bar on the homepage, click on "Brick by Brick," and you're on your way!

Recycle Your Cell Phones!

At home and work, we can recycle paper, plastics and cans. But at Shepherd we can recycle your old cell phone! We have an ongoing cell phone-recycling program with a company that pays us for every cell phone we turn in. Depending on the technology they can extract from your phone, it could net the PTA up to \$30! All we have to do is mail a package with 10 phones and wait for the check to arrive.



So if you've got the new generation of "smart phone," do the smart thing with your old phone and recycle it. You'll be doing your part for the planet, and helping the PTA at the same time! Look for the purple Cell Phone Recycling box in the school office.

Be Part of the 180 Fund! And Our Volunteer Corps! And the School Directory!

With this issue of the Mustang, we are introducing our handy-dandy all-in-one form. This allows you to have to write all your pertinent name and contact information just once!

First of all, there's the 180 Fund. This is the PTA's annual parental contribution plan. Why do we call it the "180 Fund"? Because there are 180 instructional days in the school calendar, and we know that parents can afford the equivalent of a dollar a day to sustain the PTA and support their children's education. Last year, the PTA paid for a majority of the costs associated with the Afterschool Academy – and Shepherd's improved DC-CAS test scores proved that the investment was worth it. The PTA also paid for the tarp to cover our one-year-old auditorium floor to extend its life. And parents also voted to have this year's PTA commit \$10,000 to help pay for office supplies at Shepherd when the school's DCPS line item for office supplies runs out.



Equally as important is our volunteer sign-up sheet. A lot of great things happen at Shepherd, but they don't happen by magic but by the brain power and brawn power of parents. We list more than 20 ways that you can help out and pitch in, so take a look and see which ones suit you best.



When you add your name and contact information for the 180 Fund and the volunteer sign-up, you're also signing up for our annual school directory. DCPS won't let the PTA simply copy names and addresses that are in the office, so we have to ask you. But the PTA was able to find a way to keep you from having to write the information over and over

again with this all-in-one form. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU PRINT CLEARLY! If there is a line or lines you'd rather not have appear in the directory, just shade it with a highlighter or put it in parentheses and we'll honor your wishes.

One last thing: At the bottom of the back page of this form, we've included a "permission slip" which lets you, as parents, give permission to the PTA to use your child's image here in The Mustang, or on our redesigned website, www.shepherd-elementary.org, or in brochures and similar publications. Please give us either your "yes" or your "no" so we can take the right kids' pictures!



Use the form in this week's Mustang and deposit it in the PTA box in the school office, or go to the school website and do it electronically.

For the 180 Fund, go to "Support Us" and then click "180 Fund," which gives you the option of donating online or downloading a contribution form.

For the volunteer sign-up sheet, go to "Support Us," click the "Volunteer" dropdown, then click "Volunteer Sign-Up Form" at the bottom of that page, and an online form will pop up for you.

For the photo permission slip, go to "Parents," then click on the "Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)" dropdown. Once there, click on the "PTA Forms" link on the right, then choose "Shepherd Elementary School Photo Permission Slip."

For the school directory, go to "Parents," then click on the "Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)" dropdown. Once there, click on the "PTA Forms" link on the right, then choose "Shepherd Elementary School Family Directory."

Stay Connected!

School website:

www.shepherd-elementary.org

Join the PTA listserv:

shepherd_elementary_ptasubscribe@yahoogroups.com

To post a message:

shepherd_elementary_pta@yahoogroups.com

To see the archives:

groups.yahoo.com/group/shepherd_elementary_pta

Weekly school newsletter - The Mustang

Delivered each Monday in kids' backpacks.

Copy deadline each Friday at 1 p.m.

To submit an item send to sesmustang@gmail.com

EVERY DAY IS BOXING DAY AT SHEPHERD

When you're on the go and you need to communicate quick with Shepherd leaders, we have three handy boxes in the school office.



The "PTA Box" is a deceptively simple Rubbermaid storage container with a white lid. PTA mail lands there. But parents can use it when submitting forms for the school directory, the volunteer database, contributions to the 180 Fund, and various fundraisers throughout the year.

There's also a "Box Tops Box" – the same kind of Rubbermaid container, but with a blue lid. You can deposit Box Tops for Education coupons and collection sheets there. Each year, Shepherd gets about \$500 from the Box Tops folks to help fund projects. That figure is the third best in the District, and second among all D.C. public schools.

Have an old cell phone that needs recycling? Look for the purple wrapped box marked "Cell Phone Recycling," also in the main office.

Scouts

Many boys and girls – and even their parents - find that Scouting offers great opportunities for growth. There are both Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops located near Shepherd Elementary.



Girl Scouts®

The Boy Scouts meet at 8:30 a.m. Saturdays at Northminster Presbyterian Church on Alaska Avenue at Kalmia Road, right near Georgia Avenue. The next meeting is slated for Saturday, September 10. Contact Barry Hudson, a former PTA president, at 487-5950 to learn more.

People's Congregational Church, 4704 13th St. NW, has troops of all levels that meet on Friday evenings and Saturdays. There is still room in the majority of the Saturday troops and limited room in the Friday troop, depending on the level. The person to contact for girl placement at People's would be Michelle Gill at amgdgg@aol.com. Otherwise, for all Girl Scout placement in the D.C. area, call Aisha Williams, field director, at 534-3764.

ART _____ from page 5

vocabulary knowledge. Later on, writing will require a descriptive sentence or paragraph.

If you need to contact me my email address is joele.michaud@dc.gov or you can leave a note in my office mailbox. Look for other information on my website at <http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art>. I look forward to meeting new families, revisiting with veteran "Shepherdites," and seeing your children create wonders with me in art.

Here's to an artful school year at Shepherd!

--Ms. Joele Michaud, Art Teacher

Shepherd Elementary School



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Shepherd Elementary School PTA

7800 14th Street, North West
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www.shepherd-elementary.org

PTA Membership/180 Fund/School Directory/Permission Slip/Volunteer Form

For the **2011-12 school year**, EVERY Shepherd parent is in the Parent Teacher Association. If you are at a PTA meeting, you will automatically have a vote and a voice. There are no membership dues, either! If you ever thought of money – or anything – as a barrier to participating in the PTA in particular, or more fully in the life of the school in general, your worries are over! [The Mustang](#), the [Shepherd Elementary website](#), and the [PTA listserv](#) will let you know how you can make Shepherd Elementary – and our children’s educational experience -- better than ever.

‘180 Fund’ Finances PTA Activities and School Needs

In place of PTA membership dues and the old “family enrichment fee,” the PTA established the **180 Fund**. There are 180 instructional days in the school year. Parents, can you afford a dollar per day per child to improve Shepherd Elementary? We think you can, and we hope you’ll contribute to the 180 Fund. There are all sorts of things that Shepherd Principal Jamie Miles and PTA leadership have identified to enhance the educational mission of Shepherd that don’t fit into the school or D.C. Public Schools’ budget. Please complete this form and check the boxes:

Household #1 (also for School Directory)

Home address _____

Zip Code _____ Home phone number: _____

Parent 1: First and Last Name _____

Work number: _____ Cell phone number: _____

Parent 2: First and Last Name _____

Work number: _____ Cell phone number: _____

Household #2 (or other important contact, i.e., grandmother, babysitter, etc.; if applicable; also for directory)

Home address _____

Zip Code _____ Home phone number: _____

Parent 1: First and Last Name _____

Work number: _____ Cell phone number: _____

Parent 2: First and Last Name _____

Work number: _____ Cell phone number: _____

☐ You may use the above information for the annual school directory, except for those portions that are shaded or in parentheses. ()

Note: All student names will be included in the directory.

*** My signature here authorizes Shepherd’s PTA to publish the information above in the school directory:**

Your name(s): _____

☐ I am a Shepherd teacher/staff member.

Email address(s): _____

☐ Yes, sign me up for the Shepherd PTA Yahoo Group!

Phone Number(s): _____

Child(ren): _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____
_____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____
_____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

- ☐ I wish to participate in the 180 Fund. **Enclosed is my lump sum contribution of \$180.**
- ☐ I wish to participate in the 180 Fund and will make **two semi-annual payments of \$90** each by Sept 16 and \$90 by January 16th 2012
- ☐ I wish to participate in the 180 Fund and will make **four quarterly payments of \$45 each** by Sept. 16, Nov. 16, Jan. 16 and March 16.
- ☐ I wish to participate in the 180 Fund and will be able to pay semi annually \$90 by Sept 16 and \$90 by January 16th 2012
- ☐ I wish to participate in 180 Fund and I would like to be exempt from Fundraising. **Enclosed is my contribution of \$500.**

(Please return form and check made payable to SES PTA to the PTA mailbox in the Shepherd Elementary School Office. You can also pay via credit card online at www.shepherd-elementary.org)

How Can YOU Help? Volunteer in Our Initiatives and Activities!

Check all that you're interested in or intrigued about.

_____ Academic Affairs	_____ Health Committee
_____ PTA Functions	_____ Newsletter
_____ Fundraising	_____ Special Events
_____ Auction	_____ Building and Grounds
_____ Grant Writing	_____ Garden Initiative
_____ Fall Fest	_____ Fall Flower Bulb Sale
_____ Clerical	_____ Book Fair
_____ School Office	_____ Technology/Computers
_____ Used Uniform Sales	_____ Cafeteria
_____ Jazz Night	_____ Green Team
_____ Family Fun Day	_____ As Needed

"Permission Slip"

During the course of the school year, we will be taking photographs of Shepherd students at various school events for inclusion on the Shepherd website, the Mustang newsletter etc. Names will not be included. Please express your preferences for the use of photos containing your child/children:

☐ I give Shepherd Elementary School permission to use my child/children's photograph on the Shepherd website, Mustang newsletter, etc. I understand that names will not be included.

☐ I do not give Shepherd elementary School permission to use my child's/children's photograph on the Shepherd website, Mustang newsletter, etc.

SIGNATURES:

_____ Parent/Guardian/PTA Member signature

_____ Parent/Guardian/PTA Member signature

Join the Shepherd PTA! Let your voice be heard. Be a partner in your child's education.