



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

September 12, 2011



- ♦ **Wed, Sept. 21:** LSAT election, 6:30-8 p.m., auditorium
- ♦ **Fri, Sept. 23:** First-term midpoint
- ♦ **Tues, Sept. 27:** Family Dinner Night, Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant, 8613 16th St., Silver Spring, 5-10:30 p.m.

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



**Wed,
Sept 21:**

**Back to School Night
6:30 PM**

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings,

I hope that this message finds you well. We are now in the fourth week of school and students have adjusted well. Again, thank you for your help. It has made the first weeks of school go smoothly.



Welcome New Staff Members

I would like to welcome Ms.

Marvette James (not Ms. Mavette James as originally communicated), Ms. Melleane D. Simmons Conyers and Ms. Akilah Moore to our staff. Ms. James and Ms. Conyers will be joining the second grade team and Ms. Moore will fill our Spanish teacher vacancy. Ms. James is scheduled to begin Monday, September 12. Ms. Conyers will join the Shepherd team prior to the end of the week and Ms. Moore will report to school once she successfully completes the necessary paperwork and screening process. We are happy to have them on board.

Spanish

As most of you know, due to budget cuts our second Spanish teacher position was eliminated. This was/is unfortunate for us as a school, but we are committed to maintaining a high quality language program. Therefore, in addition to the direct language instruction students will be receiving from the language teacher, they will also participate in language lab. Language lab will allow students the opportunity to get some skills reinforcement and practice through Spanish software and other tech tools. More information about the lab and what it will look like will be provided during our October curriculum event.

(see MILES , page 8)

Volunteer AT Shepherd, Volunteer FOR Shepherd!

Did you know that you can volunteer at Shepherd for all sorts of one-day events? And you can volunteer for PTA events just as easily! You can sign up for one or more of 20-plus volunteer functions at Shepherd at <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/volunteer-form/> -- or, you can use the all-in-one form in the back of this issue of the Mustang to indicate where your own talents and skills are.



If you're interested in helping out at school with students on a more regular and sustained basis, go to <http://www.dc.gov/DCPS/Parents+and+Community/Volunteer+in+Our+Schools> to get the scoop on what it takes to be officially certified as a volunteer. The process may seem laborious, but our kids are worth it!

LSAT Parent Vacancy Exists; Nominations Sought for Slot

Due to a resignation, there is a vacancy for one Parent Representative on Shepherd Elementary's Local School Advisory Team. The call is now being made for nominations to fill the vacancy for the rest of the 2011-12 school year. You may nominate yourself. Candidate statements serve as proof of nomination. Candidate statements must be received by 5 p.m. THIS Thursday, Sept. 15, by Jennifer Pauk at jpauk@hotmail.com. Statements will be posted on the PTA listserv and in the Sept. 19 issue of the Mustang.

The election will take place in the auditorium during Back to School Night on Wednesday, Sept. 21. All Shepherd parents are eligible to vote, as they are to be nominated. Balloting starts at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m. To learn more about the LSAT, its function and mission, see the LSAT page on the school website at <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/school-advisory-board/>.

PTA Partners With Plum District

The busiest people in the community—moms—are often the most plugged-in. And for them, the Internet is often the best tool to (re)discover what's in their own backyard. Plum District was created just for them. Plum District connects moms with daily deals and inspirations from businesses in their community, and helps them get the most out of their day—for their families and for themselves.



Sign up now for daily offers from your local favorites. Just click on the link below:

<http://www.plumdistrict.com/?ref=u575a5e60d35>

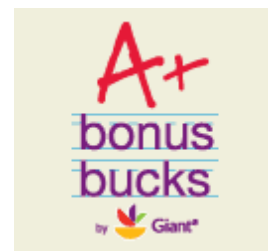
Plum District will donate \$3 to Shepherd Elementary PTA for each new subscription using the link above. The fundraiser ends October 2.

Thanks for supporting our PTA!

Designate Shepherd for Giant A+ Bonus Bucks

Did you know that you must register your Giant card every school year for the A+ Bonus Bucks Program? So, if you haven't done so already, go to https://www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/designate_school.htm?execution=e2s1 or call the A+ School Rewards Hotline at 1-877-ASK-APLUS (1-877-275-2758) and register yours today for the 2011-12 school year!

Be sure to designate Shepherd Elementary School. **Shepherd's A+ Bonus Bucks Code is 00154.**





The following is only a partial and incomplete list of the many, many parents and others who helped make the Labor Day Weekend Kickoff Cookout such a success! Everybody had a terrific time. And once the grills got fired up, everybody had an even more terrific time!

Garrett Alston
Michelle Alston
Malaika Alvaro
Anna Anagnostopoulos
Angela Anderson
Ghermay Araya
Kimelia Austin
Neela Banerjee
Nashwa Beach
Melissa Bethea
Sekou Biddle
Postelle Birch-Smith
Melika Brown
Khupiure Chirambo
Ashford Connor
Lisa Connor
Princess Mhoon Cooper
Rose Dawson
Alesha Dominique
Thomas Dominique
Star Downing
Lynnette E. Ecraela-Duckenfield
Jill Genies
Josh Gorman
Karen Grose
Chinyere Hubbard
Candyce Hughes
Florescia Ibarra
Joan E. Ingati

Shawn Jenkins
Denise Jones
Laura Levine
Yasmin Lewis-White
Pamela Marable
Tabatha McNeill
Barbara Mickens
Tiffany Missembe
Apoline Nikiema
Judy Parkins
Cynthia Pattison
Mark Pattison
Kesha Pendergrast
Phuong Pham
Sherilyn Pruitt
"Revsoc"
Benedia A. Rice
Alzata Ross
Charles Ross
Jessica Saunders
Kim Sinkford
Brandy Spears
Michelle Stevenson
Toby Susse
Cassandra Watkins
Courtney White
Eric White
Felicia Binion Williams
Stephanie Williams
Maumoune Youssef

New Family Dinner Nights

Keep in mind that the next Family Dinner Night is set for Tuesday, Sept. 27, at Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant, 8613 16th Street in the Spring Center in Silver Spring. It runs from 5 to 10:30 p.m. and has Chinese and American favorites, plus sushi! Remember two important things: This is for dine-in only – no take-out or delivery options if you want the PTA to claim that 20 percent rebate of your pre-tax tab – and **TELL 'EM YOU'RE WITH SHEPHERD!**



The Family Dinner Night that follows will be a return visit to Comet Ping Pong, 5037 Connecticut Ave. NW here in D.C. It shares a parking lot with the venerable bookstore Politics and Prose, so you may want to feed both body and mind. The hours for us to take advantage of Comet Ping Pong are 5 p.m. to closing. Comet Ping Pong features pizza, salads, microbrews, and plenty of ping pong tables.



We're also working on a Family Dinner Night with Fire Station 1. Details to come!

All-in-One Form: One Form for All

The PTA has worked hard to make things easier for parents and families to get into the swing of things with the start of a new school year at Shepherd. To that end, even more helpful information is on the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org. This includes links to give to the 180 Fund, the school directory, the volunteer sign-ups, and the school photo permission slip.

But for those who still like to use paper, you can complete the form that serves as the back page of the Mustang, fill it out, include a check (you ARE giving to the 180 Fund, aren't you?), put the works into an envelope and put it in the PTA box in the school office. There's no time like the present, so do it now!



Teachers have begun implementing the new Common Curriculum in English Language Arts across all grade levels and in Math from Kindergarten through to Second Grade. The Units of Inquiry for our IB curriculum are also embedded into our new curriculum and teachers will continue to collaborate to move their PYP units to the next level.

Each grade level has begun working on their first Program of Inquiry which is as follows:

- Pre Kindergarten: Who We Are - Discovering Me
- Kindergarten: How We Express Ourselves - Visually Speaking
- First Grade: Where We are in Place and Time – The Meaning of Print
- Second Grade: Who We Are – Being a Good Citizen
- Third Grade: Where We Are in Place and Time – Communities Over Time
- Fourth Grade: Who We Are – Healthy Bodies
- Fifth Grade: How the World Works – Eureka! Let's Get Physical

Each unit will be taught for five or six weeks and students may be involved in conducting inquiry and investigation activities at school and at home. Please guide, support and encourage your child to seek the answers to their questions on their own, so they can develop their inquiry skills.

The Action Cycle

We need your help in capturing all the moments of "Action" that may occur at home during each of the six units over the course of the school year. Action is defined as "doing something or having a reaction as a

Continued →



Greetings Fellow Mustangs!

Shepherd Elementary had a cookout on September 2. The cookout was held after dismissal on the library's patio. Many parents, students and teachers attended. Mrs. Miles, our principal, also stopped by. Students got to spend a lot of time on the playground with friends. There were hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, fruits, raw vegetables, pretzels, cake, and lots to drink. The food line was very long, but at the end, there was more than enough to eat for everyone.

The cookout really felt like a fair. There were large gray clouds in the sky, but we were lucky it did not rain. Everything went well, and we all had fun. I heard many students say that their favorite thing about the cookout was the extra free time on the playground. That was my favorite part too!

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

--Sophia-Rose Herisse, 4th grader

result of learning that took place". Action in the Primary Years Program is part of a cycle where the students Choose, Act and Reflect. Students choose by answering the question(s), "How will I find out what I need to know"? and/or how will I show what I've learned"? They Act by doing something with the information they've learned as they think about "what actions can I take now that I know these things"? Finally, they Reflect as they wonder about and ask themselves "what will I need to know to answer my questions"? Through the action cycle students are able to grow both personally and

(see IB Corner, page 5)

Give to the 180 Fund and Make the Thermometer Move!

If you look at the home page of the school website, you'll see a thermometer that reads "\$75,000" at the top. This is the amount that the PTA hopes to raise through its many initiatives over the school year to help Shepherd Elementary fulfill its mission of quality education for our children.

We ask that every Shepherd family does its part by contributing to the 180 Fund. It got that name because there are 180 instructional days in the school calendar – and because we believe that each family can afford the equivalent of a dollar a day to enhance their child's education.

Let's make that thermometer move. Give to the 180 Fund. It's a solid barometer of support for your children and their school. Either use the form provided in the back of this week's Mustang, or go to <https://www.shepherd-elementary.org/180fund/> -- and you can make your donation entirely online!



IB Corner _____ from page 4

socially. Please encourage and support your child/children when they are stimulated to take action. Share what you observe with teachers and encourage children to share with their classmates.

Parental Involvement Activities

This year, our school will host several Family Nights and parental involvement activities throughout the year. These activities will provide suggestions and directions on how you can incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities at home in order to help your child/children become more successful at school. These events will be coordinated by faculty and/or parents and are based on the needs of our community. Activities such as:

- ▶ **Math/Literature Family Nights:** Parents are given the opportunity to play math/literacy games and to share related literature with their children.
- ▶ **Book Fair Family Night:** Students, parents and families are able to take part in fun activities, read and purchase books.
- ▶ **Back to School Night:** parents and families get to meet all staff members, learn about the curriculum and daily routines of the school day from teachers, meet and learn more about the PTA and members of the PTA.
- ▶ **Holiday Programs** (Winter and Spring)
- ▶ **Parent Workshops** (i.e., International Baccalaureate)
- ▶ **Assemblies**

Our first of such activities will be Back to School Night which will take place on Sept. 21. Hope to see all of you!

Have a super week!

Sandra Hart
IB Coordinator

YMCA Youth & Family Services Parenting Programs Start This Week



The YMCA sponsors plenty of parenting programs in the area. Here are some that are close to us.

"Homework Hassles: Encouraging Student Responsibility."

Would you like to get organized for the coming school year with a new and improved homework plan? Create a family homework policy? Develop positive study habits? Sidestep power struggles over homework? Advocate with school staff to make homework productive for your child. Then we'll see you *Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7-9 p.m., Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda.*

"Ending Power Struggles Without Casualties." Giving in or fighting tends to increase the child's or teen's desire for power. Come and learn new approaches that will change the patterns of interaction and develop cooperation within the family. *Thursday, Sept. 22, 7-9 p.m., Long Branch Library, 8800 Garland Ave., Silver Spring.*

"Promote Honesty: Dealing with Lying, Stealing and Sneaky Behavior." Trust is critical in all relationships. How do we develop trust in our children? How do we build it back once it has been damaged? How can parents react to show the seriousness of these behaviors without losing their cool, shutting down communication or being manipulated? *Monday, Sept. 19, 7-9 p.m., Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Dr., Potomac.*

"What to Do When Kids Fight: Sibling Rivalry." Get into your kids' heads to understand their feelings of competition and jealousy. Parents will learn strategies to lessen the intensity of the conflicts and the unhappy feelings. *Monday, Sept. 26, 7-9 p.m., White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring.*

(All the above classes are free; donations are welcome.)

"Parenting Children." Parents will learn to identify the purposes of a child's misbehavior and develop effective discipline and encouragement strategies for positively redirecting these behaviors. Skills include developing effective consequences, structuring choices, and ending power struggles. Required text, available first night: \$20; class fee: \$30. *Wednesdays, Oct. 5-Nov. 9, 7-8:30 p.m., YMCA Aylawn Program Center, 5650 Oakmont Ave., Bethesda.*

"Parenting Teens." A down-to-earth and practical way to meet the challenges of raising teenagers. The group discussion format teaches skills to help improve parent-teen relations, develop teen self-esteem and self-reliance, and promote responsible teen behavior at home, school and in the community. Required text, available first night: \$20; class fee: \$30. *Thursdays, Oct. 6-Nov. 10, 7-8:30 p.m., United Church of Christ, 9525 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring.*

"Honey, I Wrecked the Kids" with Alyson Schafer.

For parents who have tried every parenting trick in the book but nothing seems to be working. In fact, you're pretty sure they are making matters worse! "Why won't they do as I say?" "Why do I lock horns with my kids?" Alyson Schafer uses visual props and humor to help parents understand how they unwittingly trigger power struggles and learn a four step method moving from conflict to cooperation. Registration: \$15/person, \$25/couple. Call 301-896-3939. *Thursday, Oct. 20, 7-9 p.m. (registration begins at 6:30 p.m.), Suburban Hospital Auditorium: 8600 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda.*

Proceeds fund the prevention services of YMCA Youth & Family Services. To register and for information, call 301-229-1347 or email: parenting@ymcad.org.

The School Directory Needs Shepherd's Parent Power!

Be a parent who's willing to get connected with the rest of Shepherd Elementary's parent community.

Use the form at the back of this issue of the Mustang for, among other things, the annual Family Directory. DCPS won't just give us your name.

That means you have to take charge yourself and tell us what information you want in the directory – even the simple stuff like your name, address and phone number. You can also go online to

<http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/parent-teacher-association-pta/pta-forms/> and click on "Shepherd Elementary Family Directory" to get your own version!



Classroom Parents Found!

<u>Grade/Teacher</u>	<u>Classroom Parent</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
<i>Pre-K</i>			
Ms. Holt	Jermaine Bowens	202-250-0104	jermainedennee@hotmail.com
Ms. Gibbs	(your name here)		
<i>Kindergarten</i>			
Ms. LaPenna	(your name here)		
Ms. Pethtel	Christine Kithcart		fischerchristine@msn.com
	Kesha Prendergast		skeeme08@aol.com
<i>1st Grade</i>			
Ms. Crockett	(your name here)		
Ms. Goldman	Lynnette Ecraela-Duckenfield	202-489-4659, 202-687-5386	Leeduckenfield2@gmail.com
Ms. Madiedo	(your name here)		
<i>2nd Grade</i>			
Ms. Johnson	(your name here)		
Ms. Chambliss	Selma Simms	202-212-9690, 202-390-2358	selma.simms@yahoo.com
Ms. James	(your name here)		
<i>3rd Grade</i>			
Ms. McKenzie	(your name here)		
Ms. Thomas	(your name here)		
Mr. King	Lisa Connor		lconnor@nea.org
<i>4th Grade</i>			
Ms. Valentine-Nelson	Nairy Hudgens		NairyHudgens@yahoo.com
Ms. Christenberry	(your name here)		
<i>5th Grade</i>			
Mr. Leonard	(your name here)		
Ms. Ulba	(your name here)		

Patsy-Ann Rasmussen is this year's Classroom Parent Coordinator. If your child's teacher already has a Classroom Parent, let her know right away at rasmussens@starpower.net. And if there is no Classroom Parent yet for your child's classroom, why not you? Communication and coordination are key to parent-teacher involvement and a smoother-running classroom. If you've got email and a telephone, you're already more than halfway there. Get in touch with Patsy-Ann to get the ball rolling.

You Can Be a STAR at The Shepherd Park Library

The Juanita E. Thornton-Shepherd Park Public Library is hosting a STAR (Sing Talk and Read!) program, a six week early literacy program based on the national "Every Child Ready to Read" initiative. The program is designed for parents, caregivers, teachers, or anyone who is interested in learning about early literacy, birth to 5 years old. Please join us for one or all of the sessions, there is no requirement to attend all. We will meet each Monday evening from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., from Sept. 12 through Oct. 17. At each one-hour session we will:



- ✦ Introduce one early literacy skill
- ✦ Highlight research findings
- ✦ Recommend developmentally appropriate activity and book ideas
- ✦ Give away a free book
- ✦ Share ideas to enhance your child's day-to-day early literacy world

This is not a reading program, but a program designed to build a foundation for a child being ready to read. Children are welcome to attend along with parents; we will have light refreshments and toys. If you would like to attend or have questions, please email Pam Rogers, children's librarian, at pamelamrogers@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!



**Deadline for
Next Mustang**

Fri, Sept 16, at 5 p.m.

Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

MILES _____ from p. 1

Instructional Fees

If you have not paid your instructional fee of \$15, please do so. This money is used to pay for classroom magazine subscriptions, workbooks and learning programs.

Back to School Night

Please join us for Back to School Night. During the event you will have the opportunity meet the Shepherd staff, hear from the school nurse, get a look at our school data and goals for the year and most importantly spend time meeting with your child's teacher and hearing more about their classroom expectations and learning goals.

Have a great week!

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.

Shepherd Elementary School



7800 14th Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20012
Office Telephone: 202-576-6140
Office Fax: 202-576-7578

Jamie Miles, Principal – jamie.miles@dc.gov
Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant – robyna.brooks@dc.gov
Bianca Bostic, PTA President

The Mustang Newsletter Editor: Mark Pattison

Layout/Design: Yolonda Walden

Production/Distribution: Angela Anderson

Student Contributor: Sophia-Rose Herisse

Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to:
SESmustang@gmail.com



Shepherd Elementary School PTA

7800 14th Street, North West
Washington, DC 20012-1464
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'/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.