



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

November 7, 2011

- ♦ **Thursday, Nov. 10:** Loose Change Collection ends
- ♦ **Friday, Nov. 11:** Veteran's Day, no school
- ♦ **Monday, Nov. 14:** Report cards issued
- ♦ **Wednesday, Nov. 16:**  
LSAT meeting, 4 p.m., library  
PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m., cafeteria
- ♦ **Thursday, Nov. 17:** Auction meeting, 6:30 p.m., library



Consult the school website, [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org), for a full array of events and happenings throughout the school year!

## FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Hello Shepherd Family!

With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, it is important that we reflect on the Spirit of Giving. The PTA is doing its part to support Shepherd families who need a little help through the Loose Change Fund. This month's Family Activity will incorporate the Giving Spirit. I encourage each of you to contribute to the Loose Change Fund and come out for Family Day as we give back to those who are in need.

We are already three months into the school year. Wow -- time flies when you are having fun! I would like to remind you that every family at Shepherd has an active voice in the PTA, and that the Executive Board welcomes your feedback, suggestions, ideas and assistance. We need your HELP in making Shepherd  
(see PTA Pres, page 8)



## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd Family!



### Anti-Bullying Campaign

Anti-Bullying Week 2011 will be observed Monday-Friday Nov. 14-18. However, Shepherd is using this week and the month of November to reignite our Anti-Bullying campaign. Our goal is to help students understand the role of the bully, the bullied and the bystander. We want our students to know and understand the steps and their roles in helping to create a safe and peaceful learning environment for everyone. Please look for more information coming soon about students, parent and staff workshops and activities.

### Report Cards

On Monday, Nov. 14, report cards will be issued to all students in grades PK-5. Please take time to carefully review your child's report card with your child and contact your child's teacher with questions, comments or concerns.

### Shepherd's Student Council Has Been Resurrected

Student Council is an elected group of students who come up with ideas to make Shepherd a better place. Student Council strives for good citizenship, respect for all individuals in the school and community, and gives students experience in a leadership role. Student Council helps other citizens in our community through service and makes recommendations to improve the morale and spirit of Shepherd Elementary School. Student Council officers are elected by the entire student body. Students in grades 4 and 5 are eligible to run for an office, and students in grades 2 through 5 are eligible to serve as student council representatives. Classroom elections will be held to determine each classroom representative. Though students in grades PK, K

(see MILES, page 8)



**When:** Wednesday, Nov. 16

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Cafeteria

**You won't want to miss:**

- A presentation from Ms. Hart, the IB coordinator
- A chance to Meet and Greet with local Extra-curricular Activity Vendors
- Traffic petition update
- News from the principal
- Fall Fest report
- PTA president's news
- 180 Fund update
- More from the "Door Corps"
- PTA Bucks award
- Local School Advisory Team update
- ... and much more!

*Childcare in the auditorium*

**School starts on time...**

**...so do PTA meetings!**

**Loose Change Collection Ends Thursday**

The month long Loose Change collection ends this Thursday, Nov. 10. Can Shepherd top last year's collection of \$1,200? We won't know until we empty all of the bags from each classroom that are holding the change that you have helped contribute. To help boost the totals, empty your pockets of change every day and give the coins to your child that evening to take to school the next day. You'll have lighter pockets, true, but also a lighter heart! It's also a fine way to teach our children of the importance of giving. Let's set a good example for them.



Half of the Loose Change money will be distributed to Shepherd Elementary families in financial need. The other half will be retained by the PTA for targeted initiatives, the likes of which won't be determined until the final totals are tallied. Please help out!

**Shepherd's Table Food Comes Courtesy of Shepherd Families**

Thanks to all Shepherd families who made contributions of canned goods and boxed nonperishable foods in conjunction with the Mini-Walk for the Homeless. The food was delivered last Tuesday, Nov. 1, after school to Shepherd's Table, a feeding program for the homeless based in downtown Silver Spring. Your generosity filled up the back of a small station wagon, plus the passenger seat and floor in the front, and most of the back seat and floor, too (we had to leave room for a child in a car seat!).



Several adults, including Mr. Velez, Mr. King and two parents from his third-grade class, Lori Williams and Mark Pattison, helped haul the food out of Ms. Confer's office and into the car, drive to Shepherd's Table and fill up one rolling bin – and then some – (of the size you see commercial laundries use with food). Also helping were several students; our apologies if we did not get every name, but those we can remember include Kamryn Bowman, Spencer Friddle, Mia Heyward, Jay Mathews, Sydnee Montgomery, Cyntia Pattison, Catherine Serrano and Adam Thomas. Thanks to all!



**LSAT Meeting Is Nov. 16**

The Shepherd Elementary Local School Advisory Team will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 4 p.m. in the school library. Anyone interested may attend; portions of the meeting, though, may be closed if confidential issues arise.

It's a "two-fer" meeting day, because at 6:30 p.m. on the 16th, the PTA will meet in the school cafeteria.

Other LSAT meeting dates are Wednesdays, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, April 18, May 16 and June 6. With the exception of the June meeting date, all others are twinned with PTA meetings.

To learn more about the LSAT, its function, role and goals, go to the school website at

<http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/school-advisory-board/>.



Last Monday, October 31, Mr. Velez organized a Shepherd school dance. It was held in the auditorium after dismissal. Everyone was allowed to dress up as either a storybook character or in a career costume. There were many snacks to choose from like hot dogs, chips, and fruit. Students had a fun time dancing! A fourth grader said that this dance was "rocking!!!" Students even had the chance to write a Dance Composition. A few students received a \$5 reward for their participation. After the dance, students and neighborhood children had a huge Halloween parade on Shepherd field next to school. We got lots of candy and cool glow sticks, too. It was the best Halloween ever!

I would like to thank Leo Saunders for covering for me last week.

Please contact me at [snherisse@yahoo.com](mailto:snherisse@yahoo.com) for news tips or comments.

--Sophia-Rose Herisse, 4th grader

## Did You Trick or Treat for UNICEF?

If so, you can return the orange Trick or Treat for UNICEF box to the school office.

Please return your box before the Thanksgiving holiday so that we can tally up the totals and write one large check to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. Thanks for your efforts, and thank all those houses your kids walked up to for donating!



Ms. Michaud needs a parent to serve as a classroom helper. Hours flexible! She is working only part-time this year, and her back,

while on the mend, makes it hard for her to do certain things. If you can help, leave a note in her mailbox in the office, see her in person, or send her an email at [joele.michaud@dc.gov](mailto:joele.michaud@dc.gov).

## Parent Education Events At Lowell School in Nov.

Two parent education events will take place this month at Lowell School, 1640 Kalmia Rd. NW, just a block from Shepherd Elementary.

Rev. Charles Gibbs, executive director of the United Religious Initiative, will speak on "To Believe or Not to Believe: Making Room for All in a Diverse Community," Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. The evening will feature a screening of "What Do You Believe?", an award-winning documentary about the religious and spiritual lives of young people. Using



the film as a springboard, Gibbs will lead a discussion about how religion and spirituality affect the lives of children and teens and about the values that can help guide a diverse and healthy community. Cost is \$10 at the door.

On Friday, Nov. 11, Drs. T. Berry Brazelton and Joshua Sparrow will lead a one-hour seminar, "The Social-Emotional Wellbeing of Children," at 9 a.m. at Lowell's Parkside Auditorium. It's free. Brazelton is professor emeritus of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and one of the world's foremost authorities on pediatrics and child development. Sparrow is co-author with Brazelton of eight books and a weekly New York Times Syndicate column, "Families Today." He is also a contributing editor to Scholastic Services' Parent and Child magazine.

For more details, call 577-2000 or send a message to [parented@lowellschool.org](mailto:parented@lowellschool.org).





This Month's Learner Profile is Thinker. A thinker is someone who exercises initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to make sound decisions and to solve complex problems. Critical thinking means "correct thinking in the pursuit of relevant and reliable knowledge about the world." It can also be described as "reasonable, reflective, responsible, and skillful thinking that is focused on deciding what to believe or do."

### Guidelines for Critical Thinking

- Ask questions: Be willing to wonder. Be willing to ask "What's wrong here?" and/or "Why is it like this, and how did it come to be that way?"
- Define the problem: Ask neutral questions that don't presuppose answers.
- Examine the evidence: Ask yourself, "What evidence supports or challenges this statement?" Just because many people, including experts, believe it, doesn't make it right.
- Analyze assumptions and biases: All of us are subject to biases. Evaluate the assumptions and biases that lie behind statements or arguments, including your own.
- Avoid emotional reasoning: "If I feel this way, it must be true." Passionate commitment to a view can motivate a person to think boldly without fear of what others will say, but when "gut feelings" replace clear thinking, the results can be disastrous.
- Don't oversimplify: Look beyond the obvious, avoid easy generalizations, reject "either/or" thinking. Don't argue by rumor.
- Consider other interpretations: Formulate hypotheses that offer reasonable explanations of characteristics, behavior and events.
- Accept uncertainty: Sometimes the evidence merely allows us to draw tentative conclusions. Don't be afraid to say "I don't know." Don't demand "the" answer.

*(Based on "Critical and Creative Thinking" by Carole Wade and Carol Tavis, Harper Collins, 1993.)*

### PYP Attitudes

The IB Primary Years Programme Attitudes help us to develop positive attitudes towards people, the environment and learning. There are 12 IB PYP Attitudes,

and three of them support the Learner Profile trait of Thinker. How?

- Independence: Thinkers are independent; they think and act independently, making their own judgments based on reasoned principles. Thinkers defend their judgments.
- Creativity: Thinkers are creative and imaginative in their thinking and in their approach to problems and dilemmas.
- Empathy: Thinkers are able to put themselves into other people's situation, in order to understand their thoughts, reasoning, and emotions. This ability to empathize allows for Thinkers to make informed decisions.

### Suggested Reading Books (Thinker)

- \* "I Will Not Ever Never Eat a Tomato" by Lauren Child.
- \* "Elephants Can Paint Too!" by Katya Arnold, 2005 (ages 5-11).
- \* "Alexander Graham Bell: An Inventive Life" by Elizabeth MacLeod (ages 9-11).
- \* "Katie and the Mona Lisa" by James Mayhew, 1999 (ages 8-11).
- \* "Katie Meets the Impressionists" by James Mayhew, 2000 (ages 8-11).
- \* "Catkin" by Antonio Barber and Patrick Lynch. Candlewick Press, 1994.
- \* "Swimmy" by Leo A. Lionni. Knopf, 1997.
- \* "Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!" by Candace Fleming (grades PreK-2).

### Awards Day Perfect Attendance Recipients

As promised, here are the winners of perfect attendance awards during the Oct. 21 awards assembly.

**Pre-Kindergarten:** Frances Coulibaly, Roxana Rodas-Galvez, Angel Flores, Amber Williams, Kao Joyce, Taylor Joiner, Etta Shalaty, Marlon Medley, Aria Jefferson.

**Kindergarten:** Aidan Alston, Tobias Lindo, Edward Underwood, Yasmina Konate, Malchiah Marable, Daniel Wallace.

**First grade:** Zora Pauk, Lillian Beach, Kalkidan Kebede, Zoie Walden, Kyle Bowman, Myra Shalaty, Layla Brent, Marshall Lewis III, Natnael Shiferaw, Dina Johannes, Rene Rodas, Annelise Jefferson.

(see IB CORNER, p. 6 )

## TV Turn-Off Is the Club That's Made for You and Me!

We want to welcome the following students into the TV-VG Turnoff Club at Shepherd Elementary School. You will all be receiving a welcome letter and a small token of appreciation soon, and we'll be coming around to take your pictures for the TV-VG Turnoff Bulletin Board next to the library. Keep up the good work! And use the club sign-up form in last week's Mustang (and online at <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/school-life/tv-turnoff/>) to join your classmates.



### Ms. Gibbs' class

Etta Shalaty  
Aria Jefferson  
Amber Williams

### Ms. James' class

Andy Nguyen  
Kayla Mir  
Wynston Jones  
Kayla Harris

### Ms. Holt's class

Malaika Wande  
Angel Flores

### Ms. Johnson's class

Leela Mehta-Harwitz  
Masai Jenkins  
Fahari Dominique  
Shaina Adams  
Gabrielle Williams

### Ms. LaPenna's class

Malchiah Marable  
Sarah Rice  
Sean Reece

### Mr. King's class

Jamary Calhoun  
Cynthia Pattison

### Ms. Pethtel's class

Chyna Holloway  
Nelson Alston  
Emma Laudadio

### Ms. McKenzie's class

Kamryn Bowman

### Ms. Crockett's class

Myra Shalaty  
Lillian Beach

### Ms. Thomas' class

Cyndi Taylor

### Ms. Goldman's class

Romy Herisse  
Annelise Jefferson

### Ms. Christenberry's class

Sophia-Rose Herisse

### Ms. Madiedo's class

Zora Pauk

### Ms. Ulba's class

Kwaniyah Tuffour  
N. Goodness Ukaegbu

## Muppet Movie Mania Invades AFI Silver

Just in time for the nationwide release come Thanksgiving of the new movie "The Muppets," a Muppet movie festival will take place at the AFI Silver Theatre on Colesville Road just east of Georgia Avenue in downtown Silver Spring. The festival begins Wednesday, Nov. 23 – the day before Thanksgiving – and ends Thursday, Dec. 22, the first day of winter break.



Just about every kid-friendly movie ever made by Jim Henson will be part of the festival. The lineup includes:

- "Muppet History 101" (with a special in-person appearance by puppeteer Fran Brill)
- "Muppet History 201: More Rarities From the Henson Vault"
- "Labyrinth"
- "The Dark Crystal"
- "Jim Henson & Friends: Inside the Sesame Street Vault"
- "Sesame Street Presents: Follow That Bird"
- "Sesame Street at 40: Milestones on the Street"
- "The Muppet Movie"
- "The Great Muppet Caper"
- "The Muppets Take Manhattan"
- "The Muppet Christmas Carol"
- "Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas"
- "Commercials and Experiments"
- "Muppet Music Moments"

To see a full schedule of show dates and times, and to obtain tickets online, go to [www.afi.com/silver](http://www.afi.com/silver).



## Mustang Goes Biweekly

You all love the Mustang, Shepherd's own school newsletter. But effective with this issue, we are switching to bi-weekly publication. You won't see an issue in your child's backpack next week. You won't see a copy attached on the PTA listserv.

And you won't find it in the "files" section of the PTA's Yahoo group site. Our next issue will be Nov. 21. Copy deadline will be 5 p.m. the previous Friday, Nov. 18. With every issue, you'll see all of your favorite Mustang features. If you want to submit something to be published, please send it to [sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com).

Here's the projected publication schedule for the rest of the school year:

### Issue Date      Copy Deadline

Nov. 21	Nov. 18
Dec. 5	Dec. 2
Dec. 19	Dec. 16
*Jan. 3	Dec. 30
*Jan. 17	Jan. 13
Jan. 30	Jan. 27
Feb. 13	Feb. 10
Feb. 27	Feb. 24
March 12	March 9
March 26	March 23
*April 10	April 6
April 23	April 20
May 7	May 4
May 21	May 18
June 4	June 1

\*Tuesday publication date



## 180 Fund Challenge Continues

At last report, we need only **ONE MORE** family to make its contribution to the 180 Fund by the Nov. 16 PTA meeting – which, in turn, will prompt Shepherd parent Sam Collins to contribute another \$180 himself. Sam, as you may remember, issued the challenge at last month's PTA meeting, and he'll stick to his word.

You can contribute either online or with a check. Just go to the homepage of the school website, [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org). Go to the bottom of the center column and click on **"180 Fund."** That will take you to your choice of clicking through to an online donation or to printing a form you can fill out, attaching your check, and depositing it in the PTA box in the school office.

*Remember:* All contributions to the PTA are tax-deductible. **So make Sam pay!** We're awfully close!



## IB CORNER from p. 4

**Second grade:** Andy Nguyen, Benjamin White, Jean-Pierre Roberts, Gabrielle Williams, Masai Jenkins, David Camille, Clare Harvey, Tiara Dupee.

**Third grade:** Miles Davis, Jay Matthews II, Cyntia Pattison, Kemani Cash-Taylor, Ernestine Lwangu, Cydni Taylor, Kerod Shiferaw, Catherine Serrano, Ethan Reece, Kamryn Bowman, Courtney White, Adam Thomas.

**Fourth grade:** Savannah Brinkley, Yewoinhareg Kebede, Jasmine Hopkins, Quentin Anderson-Watson, Aanisah Hasan, Sophia-Rose Herisse, Jaden Brazey, Frank Sheffield, Julianna Ingram.

**Fifth grade:** Cecelia Sneed, Mecca Camille, Saige Ballard, Aleisha Hopkins, Janelle Bethea, Jamal Deane, Noah White, Jason Tyner, Natalia Thomas, Alexander Leonard, Kadija Cash-Taylor, Chance Burgess II, Christian Watkins.

--Ms. Sandra Hart, IB coordinator



## Family Dinner Night Turns Up the Heat!

Thanks to Shepherd families and the generosity of Comet Ping Pong, the Oct. 26 Family Dinner Night netted the PTA \$175 – nearly double the amount we had earned in May. The actually tally from our dinner checks was \$145.45, but “we’ll round up, because we like to support the community, to \$175,” said the manager, Damian Winters, in an email.



Mark your calendars now for future Family Dinner Nights:

- Tuesday, Dec. 6: Fire Station 1 on Georgia Avenue in downtown Silver Spring
- Thursday, Jan. 19: Silver Sands on Georgia Avenue in Shepherd Park
- Tuesday, March 27: Franklin’s on Route 1 in Hyattsville
- Thursday, May 17: Ledo Pizza on Georgia Avenue in Shepherd Park

And don’t worry. We’re still working on securing great places to eat in February and April, too!

## Holiday Concert Slated for Dec. 7

The annual holiday concert will be on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 6:45 p.m.

Our violinists and recorder players will perform several familiar holiday tunes, including “Jingle Bells,” “The Hanukkah Song” and “Ode to Joy.”

Then our all-school chorus (with pre-K students through fifth graders) will sing in French, Spanish,

English, Hebrew and Swahili. We will sing songs of peace and friendship appropriate to the season. Lyrics will be on the chairs so the audience can sing along.

We have already begun rehearsing for the next concert on Wednesday, Feb. 8: “Songs of Freedom and Justice: 150 Years of American History in Song.” More on that ambitious musical history program in a future column.

—Ken Giles, music teacher



## You’re in Luck With PTA Bucks!

Introducing... PTA Bucks! It’s a new and exciting way to get students AND parents engaged, informed and involved.

Each class will get \$30, just for helping with Fall Fest! PTA Bucks can be submitted to the PTA for the purchase of a party, a class activity, etc. And the PTA



will give additional \$10 to the class with most parents in attendance at a PTA meeting — starting with next week’s PTA meeting on Nov. 16.

## Shepherd Outdoor Classroom Report

Have you had the chance to explore our outdoor classroom area? If not, it is not too late. Our outdoor classroom and schoolyard garden is located at the corner of 14th and Kalmia. Last year, some dedicated parents, along with the support of the staff and Principal Miles, formed Shepherd’s Health and Wellness Council. The council applied for and received two grants. As a result of those grants, we built a schoolyard garden and acquired a salad bar.

And on Oct. 27, we were happy to host our first outdoor classroom. The session was overseen by our garden grantor from City Blossoms and our very own Mr. King. The session consisted of four classes, with about 100 students. They did a massive bulb planting throughout the perimeter of the entire school. Come Spring, we cannot wait to see the “fruits” of their labor. They did a great job!



We are looking for more parents to join in our efforts to make Shepherd Elementary a healthier and happier environment. If you are interested in becoming a member of the school’s Health and Wellness Council, please contact Angela Anderson at [Angela\\_C\\_Anderson@yahoo.com](mailto:Angela_C_Anderson@yahoo.com) or go to the website and join the ShepherdSWC Yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ShepherdSWC>. We are looking forward to your commitment in making your child’s school a healthier place.

—Angela Anderson, Shepherd Health and Wellness Council Chair

[Angela\\_C\\_Anderson@yahoo.com](mailto:Angela_C_Anderson@yahoo.com),  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ShepherdSWC>

**MILES** from p. 1\_\_\_\_\_

and 1st are not eligible to run for an office, they will still have opportunities to get their voices heard. Student Council elections will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 30.

Curriculum Matters

When reading with your student at home, consider reading a variety of texts. Most often students are drawn to fiction texts. Though there is a time and place for fiction texts, we need to also make sure our students are exposed to more complex texts. At least once a week, select a piece of nonfiction literature to read to your student. As you read, stop, think aloud, and ask your student questions about the text. It is perfectly acceptable for the text to be above your student's reading level. A student's listening comprehension level is often a lot higher than their reading comprehension level.

Lost and Found

Please take time to visit our school's lost and found area located in the foyer of the gymnasium. We have collected a lot of items since the start of the school year. All unclaimed items will be donated to Goodwill during the Thanksgiving break.

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.



**Deadline for Next  
Mustang Issue**

**Fri, Nov. 18,  
at 5 p.m.**

Send all contributions to:  
**sesmustang@gmail.com**

**PTA Pres** from p. 1\_\_\_\_\_

a success. This is OUR school and each of us has an obligation to give of our time and talents. There are so many wonderful volunteer opportunities. The Spring Auction is a great place to lend your talents in areas such as procurement, logistics, marketing, advertising, organizing, and more. So, join us on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the library as we gear up for this FUN- and FUND-filled event. Other opportunities can be found on the [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org) website.

Thank you for your support and commitment!

Best wishes!

*Bianca Bostic*

PTA President

202-821-8076

[bianca.bostic@noaa.gov](mailto:bianca.bostic@noaa.gov)

***Auction Meeting Nov. 17***

The first meeting to do planning for the PTA's annual auction will take place Thursday, Nov. 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. All are welcome. This means you! (And me too!)

***Shepherd Elementary School***

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