



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

January 17, 2012

- ♦ **Wednesday, Jan. 18:** Girls' basketball at Key Elem., 4 p.m.

**PTA meeting**, cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.

**LSAT meeting**, library, 4 p.m.

**Deal Information Night** for fifth grade parents, 5 p.m., gymnasium

- ♦ **Thursday, Jan. 19:** **Family Dinner Night**, Silver Sands Restaurant, 7307 Georgia, 3:30-11 p.m.

**Boys' basketball** at Murch Elem., 4 p.m.

- ♦ **Friday, Jan. 20:** **Half-day**; school ends at 12:15 p.m.

**Awards assemblies**, 9 a.m. (PK-1) and 10:15 a.m., auditorium

- ♦ **Tuesday, Jan. 24:** Girls' basketball at H.D. Cooke Elem., 4 p.m.

- ♦ **Thursday, Jan. 26:** Boys' basketball, home game vs. Whittier Elem., 4 p.m.

**School Improvement Team meeting**, library, 6-7 p.m.

**Science Fair**, 8:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m., auditorium

- ♦ **Friday, Jan. 27:** Girls' basketball at Marie Reed Elem., 4 p.m.

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!



## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd Families!

### Safety

A sincere thank you is extended to every parent and guardian who has accepted our efforts to enforce school arrival policies and procedures. Please remember these policies and procedures are in place to help ensure the safety of our students and to minimize disruptions to our instructional day.



- Please arrive no later than 8:40 a.m.
- All students (PK-5) should report to the gymnasium when they arrive between 8:20 a.m. and 8:40 a.m.
- Students arriving before 8:20 a.m. for breakfast or for aftercare should report directly to the cafeteria.
- After 8:40 a.m., students should enter through the main entrance. Parent must sign in.
- Between 8:40 and 9 a.m. all students are expected to walk to class alone. There are staff members available to assist with transitioning students to class safely.
- Please say your goodbyes in the gymnasium or at the main entrance.
- Parents should only enter the building through the main entrance and always sign in.
- Please do not go beyond the gymnasium during arrival and dismissal without signing in at the security desk.
- When exiting the building please exit via the main entrance or the 14th Street entrance (glass doors located by the library).

(see MILES, page 2)

## FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT...

Dear Shepherd Families,

On behalf of the Shepherd PTA Executive Board, I would like to thank everyone for joining in on the Holidays at Shepherd. Both the Holiday Store and Movie Night were a huge success that would not be possible without the support of dedicated parents like Lisa Deane. Lisa and her wonderful team, including Sabreen Madyun, Tina Wright, Natasha Stovall and Asherra Meskheniten, made the store a huge success. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION!!!

In the spirit of volunteerism, I encourage parents to volunteer their time and talents to continue to make PTA events a success. There are several key events  
(See PTA President, p. 2)





Ron Worthy will be a student teacher in music classes for the next few weeks. Mr. Worthy is a well-respected jazz pianist and keyboard teacher in the Washington area. He is completing his teacher training at the University of the District of Columbia and will then look for a music teacher position with D.C. Public Schools.

Mr. Worthy attended the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and then won a scholarship to Howard University. He spent two decades as a bandleader, musical director, arranger and songwriter. He performed with many well-known musicians and continues to pursue solo and ensemble music in the D.C. area.

For three years, Mr. Worthy taught piano at Jordan Kitts Music, teaching both children and adults. Mr. Worthy will assist Mr. Giles with day-to-day music classes, including keyboard skills. Please welcome Ron Worthy to Shepherd Elementary School.

### **MILES** from p. 1

- If you have a delivery for your child's teacher or for your child, please leave it with the school security guard or someone in the main office area. We will make sure it is received by your student.
- Please be respectful to the individuals who are implementing the policy. If you have an issue or concern, express it to me because they are following a directive issued by me.

### **Retirement News**

If you have not heard, Ms. June Confer has retired from her position as Shepherd's business manager at the end of December. This retirement comes after 40-plus years of dedicated service. Ms. Confer has become an iconic member of the Shepherd family and a tremendous asset. Her "presence" will be

### **PTA President**, from p. 1

and fundraisers happening this semester and we could really use your help.

If you are interested in volunteering for the **Auction Committee** please contact Rose Dawson at [rosietd@yahoo.com](mailto:rosietd@yahoo.com).

If you are interested in volunteering for **Jazz Night** please contact Alicia Anderson at [aea1210@gmail.com](mailto:aea1210@gmail.com).

If you are interested in volunteering for **Shepherd Movies on the Green** please email [info@shepherd-elementary.org](mailto:info@shepherd-elementary.org).

If you are interested in volunteering for **Shepherd SUMMER FEST** email [info@shepherd-elementary.org](mailto:info@shepherd-elementary.org).

Or, if you have other areas in which you would like to volunteer please email [info@shepherd-elementary.org](mailto:info@shepherd-elementary.org) or email me directly at [Bianca.bostic@noaa.gov](mailto:Bianca.bostic@noaa.gov).

This is OUR SCHOOL and YOUR PTA...please help us in helping you to raise funds and support the needs of our children.

Thanks much,

*Bianca Bostic*

2011-12 PTA President

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

missed. Ms. Confer will remain the coordinator of our aftercare program for some additional time.

### **Required 5th Grade Parent Meeting (Optional for 4th Grade Parents)**

All fifth-grade parents are required to attend our Deal Information Night and IB Exhibition Information session. The events will take place in the school's gymnasium on Wednesday, Jan. 18, and will begin at 5 p.m. During the first part of the meeting the fifth grade teachers -- along with Mrs. Hart, our school IB coordinator -- will share information about the required 5th Grade Exhibition project and what is expected of students and parents. Afterward, representatives from Deal will be present to share information about Deal Middle School and what you as a parent can expect if you choose Deal as your child's middle school for the

(see **PRINCIPAL**, p. 8)



Dear Fellow Mustangs!

For the past two years, I have been going to the Shepherd Tifereth Israel Tutoring Program every Sunday afternoon. It has been going well. My tutors really helped me with math. My grades have improved and I am more confident. The program director is Mr. Dan Nathan. I interviewed him two weeks ago. This is what I learned.

Mr. Nathan started the Shepherd TI tutoring program 14 years ago when both of his daughters were going to Shepherd Elementary. Mr. Nathan and Congregation Tifereth Israel wanted to help Shepherd Park's community. His volunteer tutors are members of the synagogue, teens and adults who live in the neighborhood, and parents of the students getting tutoring. Mr. Nathan told me that he loves working with children. The words he uses to describe us are "energetic," "creative," "smart" and "funny." The Shepherd TI tutoring program has about 25-30 students and there is space for a few more. Also, Mr. Nathan is always looking for new volunteers because the tutoring program grows every year.

Here is Mr. Nathan's contact information: Shepherd TI Tutoring, Dan Nathan, Congregation Tifereth Israel, 7701 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20012, [shepherd tutoring program@gmail.com](mailto:shepherd tutoring program@gmail.com).

I encourage you to share cool news tips and comments with me. Please contact me at [snherisse@yahoo.com](mailto:snherisse@yahoo.com).

--Sophia-Rose Herisse, 4th grader

## CORRECTION

In the last issue of the Mustang, we misidentified the Shepherd dad who was the flag fixer-upper on the playground. His name is really Ron Johnson. We regret the error, and give Ron JOHNSon all the congratulations he so richly deserves for taking on this task.

## Parlons Culture Visiting a Home in France

When visiting a home, one should remember that it is considered impolite to arrive early; one should arrive on time or about 15 minutes late. Bringing a small present, such as a bottle of good, expensive wine, a box of chocolates, or flowers, is appropriate. The French never take their shoes off inside, and it would be inappropriate to do so. If dinner preparation is still in progress upon your arrival, it is considered good manners to offer to help with cooking and setting the table. During the meal, always wait to be offered second helpings by the host or hostess. After the meal, one should at least attempt to clear the plates or help clear off the whole table. A dinner party usually lasts around three hours and ends with coffee or tea. After the final beverage is served, the guest may suggest that it is time to leave; certainly by 11 p.m. guests should be preparing to go.



--Mme. Gadie, French teacher

## Auction Committee Meets Thursday

The PTA's Auction Committee will meet this Thursday, Jan. 19, in the library at 6:30 p.m. to solidify plans for this year's gala. If you want to help make things more solid, come join us! To learn more, get in touch with Rose Dawson at [rosietd@yahoo.com](mailto:rosietd@yahoo.com).



## LSAT Meets Wednesday



Shepherd's Local School Advisory Team is scheduled to meet at 4 p.m. this Wednesday, Jan. 18. The meeting will be held in the school library. All parents are welcome to attend; please note that you may be asked to leave the room if confidential matters arise.





## PTA Meeting Is Wednesday

*Come one, come all,  
to the next PTA Meeting!*

**Date:** Wednesday, Jan. 18

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

**Location:** Cafeteria

**Who's Invited:** You!

### What's Included:

- Two guest speakers:
  - ◊ PNC Bank Representative to discuss Early Savings Program for kids
  - ◊ DCPS Representative to discuss Shepherd's AYP Status and CAS Testing
- PTA Business
- Principal's Message
- LSAT Update
- Pizza and a movie for the kids!



Remember that early 1980s hit "She Blinded Me With Science"? Well, prepare yourselves to get blinded by the inquisitiveness and ingenuity of Shepherd students as they present their science projects in the school's annual Science Fair. It's one day only – Thursday, Jan. 26 – in the

auditorium. Because once the dismissal bell rings, the displays come down and returned to our young scientists and researchers.



**Deadline for Next  
Mustang Issue**

**Fri, Jan 27,  
at 5 p.m.**

Send all contributions to:  
[sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com)

## PTA Town Hall Meeting Gets New Date

The PTA's Town Hall meeting, which was originally scheduled for last month, has been given a new date: Tuesday, Feb. 21, starting at 6:30 p.m. at Shepherd. Until the Town Hall is held, the Mustang will continue to use the "Answer Box" feature to answer questions that were submitted in December. There are lots of questions to answer, so make time in your schedule for the Town Hall. As with the original plan, kids that you bring with you will be able to eat a spaghetti dinner.

And here's a bit of good news: The Town Hall will replace the regular PTA meeting which was slated for Feb. 15.

The Town Hall is the same date as the Family Dinner Night Outing at the Outback Steakhouse at PG Plaza, but keep in mind that Family Dinner Night starts at 4 p.m. at Outback, and runs until the restaurant closes at 11 p.m.

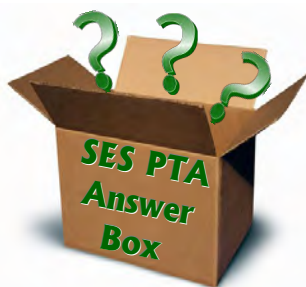
## Girls' Roundballers Score a Victory

The Shepherd Mustangs girls' basketball team split a pair of games last week, beating their foe, Janney Elementary, at home Jan. 10 by a score of 12-8. Then, the next day, they lost to their opponent, Oyster Elementary, by the same score of 12-8. Congratulations to our hoop heroes! Ms. Christenberry, the coach, said, "Both games we played well, great defense and excellent shooting." Remember to take a look at the calendar on Page 1 of the Mustang to see the upcoming schedule of both boys' and girls' basketball games.



## Is there any thought or possibility of having a drama program at Shepherd?

There has been talk about offering drama at Shepherd as an after-school activity. The PTA will pose this to Mr. Huff and Ms. Confer for consideration.  
— Bianca Bostic, PTA president



## What do I view as the biggest strengths and weakness?

**Strengths:** I feel two of Shepherd's biggest strengths are the family atmosphere and dedicated staff members who come to work daily and are always willing to do what needs to be done for our students.

**Area of Growth:** One area of growth is the implementation of an authentic IB program. As a school we are still learning how to embrace change that may go against our traditional instructional practices. Change is hard. In addition, we are learning to balance IB Primary Years Programme expectations with DCPS expectations. The PYP program is a new program in the DCPS and individuals at the District level are still learning about what is expected of an IB-PYP School and how to best service our needs. --Mrs. Jamie Miles, principal

**\*\* Please join us on Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m. for the rescheduled Town Hall Meeting. The Town Hall is a chance for parents and teachers to voice their concerns. Representatives from each area of the school -- School Administration, IB/PACE Testing, Special Education Services, Disciplinary Concerns, LSAT, and PTA -- will be on hand to answer questions. Please submit questions, via the GREEN PTA box in the Shepherd office or via email to [info@shepherd-elementary.org](mailto:info@shepherd-elementary.org) by Tuesday, February 14, to give teachers and staff an opportunity to prepare responses.**

**\*\* Spaghetti dinner will be made available for students during the TOWN HALL.**

## Silver Sands Hosts Family Dinner Night

Our next Family Dinner Night can't get much closer to Shepherd Elementary than the Silver Sands restaurant, 7303 Georgia Avenue just off Fern Street. If you're looking for some great Mexican, Nicaraguan or Peruvian food, you've come to the right place! Silver Sands is out to change your mind about



where to go out for Mexican food. And, the restaurant is offering 20 percent back to the PTA for all of your food and drink purchases – both dine-in and carry-out! See the flyer in this issue of the Mustang for more.

Family Dinner "Night" starts at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19, meaning you can order something (phone 202-291-2244), pick up your kids from school, then pick up dinner to take home. Or, if your kids are in aftercare, you can pick them up and go straight to the restaurant for dinner. And Family Dinner Night runs until the Silver Sands closes at 11 p.m., which means if you need a late snack or drink, you can get it there. Just say "I'm with Shepherd!" to make sure the PTA qualifies for the rebate.

Silver Sands is just the first of three Georgia Avenue restaurants to be featured this year on Family Dinner Night. Come spring, we'll also have events at Charlie's – just two doors down from the Silver Sands – and Ledo Pizza.

## More Recycling News

Not only does Shepherd recycle cell phones for money, it also recycles used toner cartridges for cold, hard cash. When your toner cartridge is used up, bring it to the office. They will be safely stashed and sent to a recycling firm which will give Shepherd money for doing its part to preserve the planet.





## Shepherd IB PYP Corner

Welcome back to the New Year of 2012. This month's Learner Profile is Risk Taker. A risk taker is someone who approaches unfamiliar situations with courage; someone who has the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies; and someone who is brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

This week is a short week and the end of our third unit of study. Students in second through fifth grades will be taking the Paced Interim Assessment tests on January 23 and 24. All classes will also be reflecting on their unit of study.

### Awards Assembly

On Friday, Jan. 20, we will hold our Awards Assembly recognizing students for their hard work during the second academic advisory in Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and those with Perfect Attendance since the beginning of the school year. We will also recognize those students who demonstrated the Learner Profile traits of Thinker during the month of November and Open-Minded during the month of December. The first assembly for pre-kindergarten through first grade students will be at 9 a.m. The second assembly for second through fifth grade students will begin at 10:15 a.m.

### Fifth Grade Exhibition

Our Fifth Grade Exhibition preparation continues. Students have decided on their exhibition focus and have formed their inquiry groups. Each group has been assigned a mentor and are beginning to meet with their mentors to plan and write the first draft of their central idea. All fifth grade parents are invited to attend an information session on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 5:30 p.m. We hope you all can join us to learn more about the Exhibition and how you as parents can support your child and your teachers.

Have a super week!

*Sandra Hart*, IB Coordinator

## Half-Day Friday!

Remember, parents: School lets out at 12:15 p.m. this Friday, Jan. 20. There will be NO aftercare, so please make suitable arrangements for your child that afternoon!



## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM MEETS JAN. 26 IN LIBRARY

As you may know, Shepherd Elementary is in line for renovations in the summer of 2013 -- and the summer for 2015. But what kind of renovations are most critical for us as a school? That's where YOU come in.

A School Improvement Team is being organized. There will be members of the school and neighborhood communities on it. The first meeting is set for Thursday, Jan. 26, 6-7 p.m. in the school library.

Parents who have knowledge and/or training in construction and/or architecture are especially welcome to attend this initial meeting. The team will have assistance from the 21st Century School Fund in preparing our blueprint for renovations. This will likely be our one big chance to declare firmly what we need and what we want in assuring that Shepherd Elementary has the kind of building that can help deliver on the promise we make to ourselves and our children when we send them here.



To learn more on the renovation effort, go to the homepage of the school website, [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org), and click under the picture that says "Shepherd's Slated for Renovations" to see a Power Point presentation first made at the October PTA meeting.

## Readers Are Leaders!

Are there any new or gently used books that your child has outgrown? Consider donating them to Shepherd's Early Readers Program, which meets weekday mornings in the library before school starts. Any and all books ranging from first books through age 8 are welcome. To learn more, contact Cynthia Prather, one of the coordinators of the Early Readers Program, at [scsprather@aol.com](mailto:scsprather@aol.com).







Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers,

Happy New Year! I apologize for letting the end of the year pass me by without sending good wishes to all of you in

the Shepherd family for a healthy and productive new year. To the many families who were so generous in their gifts to me I thank you one and all.

Your artful children are showing their stuff in the art room. Pre-K students are just finishing their Snowy Day collages. Kindergarten students are studying masterwork portraits that picture historical and contemporary figures to observe details that distinguish between 'the old and the new.' First graders are discovering Life Lessons as they sculpt secret forms. In second grade students are learning to paint landscapes in order to show weather. Third graders are creating and critiquing Inventive Wood Sculptures they made in the style of artist Martin Puryear. Colonial-style residential architecture is the focus of

fourth-grade watercolorists. Lastly, the fifth graders invented exciting fonts that show their names in the style of graffiti artists as we talk about the merits of this work as real art.

Thanks to all of you who have reached out to me with questions and corrected my missteps. I welcome your comments and get to know you better as well. Like always, I urge intermediate parents (grades three through five) to check the homework section of this website to keep up with your child's assignments. Currently students are required to write a paragraph about their homework along with the drawing.

Time flies and I can't believe it's 2012! May the new year bring achievement for our students and for your families as well.

Remember, you gotta have art!

--Ms. Joële Michaud, art teacher

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT



Silver Sands Restaurant  
7303 Georgia Ave. NW  
(between Geranium St. and Fern Pl.)

Thursday, January 19

3:30-11 p.m.

→ **SAY YOU'RE FROM SHEPHERD** ←

The PTA gets 20% of your pre-tax tab!

**Silver Sands Restaurant**  
serves up Mexican,  
Nicaraguan and  
Peruvian dishes.



**Good for Dine-In and Carryout (PH: 202-291-2244)**

**PRINCIPAL** from p. 2 \_\_\_\_\_

upcoming school year. Though this meeting is mandatory for fifth-grade parents, fourth-graders' parents are encouraged to attend if they would like to learn more about any of the two topics for the evening.

**Paced Interim Assessment**

On Monday-Tuesday, Jan.23-24, students in second through fifth grades will take their third Paced Interim Assessment (PIA) for the school year. This assessment measures what standards students have mastered during a particular period of time and what standards need to be retaught. This assessment is very important for us and it is imperative we have an assessment from each student in those grades. Therefore, please strive to have your student to school on time every day during the assessment window.

**Afterschool Tutoring**

Last year teachers in grades 3rd-5th offered afterschool tutoring for students in grades 3rd -5th in preparation for the DC-CAS assessment. Though many of our teachers tutored before and after school for free, we were able to provide our teachers with a small token of appreciation for their time. This monetary token was made possible because of the generous monetary commitment by the school's PTA. This year, we would like to continue our efforts by providing select students with intense support three times a week for the months of February, March and April. However, before asking the PTA to support our efforts financially, I thought it was important to give you last year's data.

Our school's overall math performance increased from 63 percent to 66 percent and our reading performance increased from 63 percent to 68 percent. Approximately 91 percent of the students who consistently attended tutoring scored proficient or advanced. Approximately 5 percent of the students' scores increased but remained basic, and approximately 4 percent of the students showed no significant score change and/or we are unable to account for their score.

**Shepherd Does Not Have a Gifted and Talented Program**

The District of Columbia Public Schools does not have a gifted and talented program. Therefore, it is left up to individual schools to find ways to challenge some of our most gifted and brightest students. At Shepherd this is an area of growth but

one we continue to improve upon daily. Below are some of the things we do to meet our students varying needs.

- ◆ Academic Extracurricular Activities: Spelling Bee, GeoPlunge, Math Challenge, Writing Contest and the annual Science Fair.
- ◆ In the classroom
  - ◇ Students are exposed to complex text during instruction
  - ◇ Teachers ask -- and students are taught to ask -- higher-level questions
  - ◇ Students are grouped by their abilities and provided with reading text, work and other tasks based on their abilities
  - ◇ Open-ended tasks are assigned to give students the opportunity to take on additional challenges

It is important to realize that gifted is not always about how well students perform in the common subject areas but students may have a unique gift in the arts, sports, or other areas. Therefore, music classes are offered during lunch and after school, and students are encouraged to play and participate in sports.

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***

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