



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

January 30, 2012

- ♦ **Monday, Jan. 30:** Out of boundary and pre-K lottery begins
- ♦ **Tuesday, Jan. 31:** Girls' basketball, home game, 4 p.m.
- ♦ **Thursday, Feb. 2:** Principal's chat 'n' chew, 8:30 a.m.
Boys' basketball, home game vs. Brightwood, 4 p.m.
- ♦ **Friday, Feb. 3:** Professional development, no school
- ♦ **Monday, Feb. 6:** Parent-teacher conferences, no classes
- ♦ **Wednesday, Feb. 8:** "Songs of Freedom and Justice" concert, 6:45 p.m.
- ♦ **Wednesday, Feb. 15:** LSAT meeting, 4 p.m., library
- ♦ **Thursday, Feb. 16:** Gala Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., library



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,

Jazz Night is March 2!

Do you remember your introduction to jazz? Do you remember thinking, once you heard it, "How can anybody NOT like jazz?"

This is why the PTA has sponsored a Jazz Night at Shepherd Elementary for 22 years. The love of jazz transcends generations. It sure transcends whoever the PTA president is any given year! Jazz Night is also a big thank-you to the surrounding Shepherd Park neighborhood for their ongoing support of the school. You see, they love jazz, too! And by sponsoring Jazz Night, we plant the seed in our children for their own love of jazz: ragtime, swing, bop, fusion, and every genre in between.

(See PTA President, p. 2)



A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd Families!



Paced Interim Assessment (PIA)

Last week students in second through fifth grade completed their third PIA round of the school year. This assessment is used to determine what standards students mastered or did not master during the advisory. Next week teachers will spend time analyzing the data and developing re-teach plans to address any deficiencies. In addition, during parent-teacher conferences you will have the opportunity to review your student's results and learn more about what your students are learning. In the meantime below you will find some sample math test items to help you better understand what is expected of our students on the test. Also, on February 22, we will have a testing information session for parents. It is important for all parents – regardless of your child's grade level -- to attend this session to learn more about what is expected of our students in grades 2 through 5. The more educated you are about the assessment, the more effective we will all be when it comes to helping our students reach their maximum potential.

Here's a sample question for third grade.

What happens when you subtract 440-10?

- a) The digit in the hundreds place goes up by 1.
- b) The digit in the tens place goes up by 1.
- c) The digit in the hundreds place goes down by 1.
- d) The digit in the tens place goes down by 1.

Here's a sample question for fourth grade.

You have one straw that has been cut into four equal pieces. Which of these is a true statement about the pieces of the straw?

- a) $\frac{1}{4}$ of the whole straw is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the whole straw because when there are more pieces, the pieces are smaller.
- b) $\frac{1}{4}$ of the whole straw is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the whole straw because when there are more pieces, the pieces are larger.
- c) $\frac{1}{4}$ of the whole straw is more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the whole straw because when there are more pieces, the pieces are smaller.
- d) $\frac{1}{4}$ of the whole straw is more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the whole straw because when there more pieces, the pieces are larger.

(see MILES, page 8)

Dinner, Art Fundraisers Show Shepherd Strength

The PTA's Color Me Mine outing on Dec. 2 netted the PTA \$224 for the evening. Thanks to all of our child and adult pottery painters.

Also, the Dec. 6 Family Dinner Night outing at the Fire Station 1 restaurant in Silver Spring netted the PTA \$133 and change, but management boosted it to \$150. While the tables were filled with Shepherd families, keep in mind that we got only 15 percent of the pre-tax tab.

We don't have numbers yet from the Silver Sands restaurant, site of our last Family Dinner Night on Jan. 19, but we'll get 20 percent of your pre-tax tab.

Even so, our series of fundraisers like these has added up to \$1,279 since the school year started.

And keep in mind that the next Family Dinner Night will be next month -- Tuesday, Feb. 21, 4 p.m. until closing -- at the Outback Steakhouse at the PG Plaza shopping center on East-West Highway.



Students Get a Four-Day Weekend

There will be NO SCHOOL on Friday, Feb. 3, due to professional staff development.

Likewise, there will be NO SCHOOL on Monday, Feb. 6, due to parent-teacher conferences. Parents may want to consult the "No-School Days for Kids" section of the "Resources" toolbar of the school website,

www.shepherd-elementary.org, for a robust listing of places you can send your child while you work.



PTA President, from p. 1

Here's how Jazz Night works.

- ◆ It's a potluck. Different classrooms will be assigned different foods to bring. That way we can assure enough for everybody in attendance.
- ◆ There's music. Michael Wallace from the Howard University jazz faculty picks some of the brightest and best students in the program to perform at Shepherd.
- ◆ It's child-friendly. Children can eat with their parents, but our plans afterward call for an "instrument petting zoo" where Shepherd students can get to touch other instruments and listen to how they sound. After the petting zoo, we'll screen "The Princess and the Frog," the New Orleans-set, jazz-themed animated movie -- Disney's first to feature an African-American lead character.
- ◆ And best of all, it's free to parents and community alike.

Now that you know what to expect, we expect to see **YOU** at Jazz Night.

Date: Friday, March 2

Time: 6:30

Location: Auditorium (cafeteria and library for children's activities)

To learn more about Jazz Night, contact PTA First Vice President Alicia Anderson at aea1210@gmail.com.

Best wishes,

Bianca Bostic

2011-12 PTA President

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



**Deadline for Next
Mustang Issue**

**Fri, Feb 10,
at 5 p.m.**

Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

New on the Website!

We've got lots of new things for parents and students to look at on the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org:

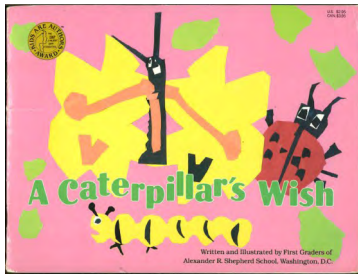
For one thing, we ALWAYS update the calendar. As more dates get confirmed and new ones get added, they get on pronto. Take a look at February, March, April and May for important dates and times.



On the homepage, we've raised the mercury on our fundraising thermometer. We've also added a PowerPoint presentation given at January's PTA meeting on testing and No Child Left Behind issues. But please forgive the folks from DCPS who misspelled the name of our school on the very first page; they probably didn't know there was going to be a test!

We've updated and refreshed the photos on the 2011-12 staff directory, making it easier for you to match a name with a face.

We've also posted minutes from PTA and Local School Advisory Team meetings, and even found a few back issues of the Mustang from the previous school year that somehow had slipped through the cracks.



Also on the homepage is a book written by Shepherd students circa 1988: "A Caterpillar's Wish." Now you can read it yourself on the privacy of your own computer!

Parlons Culture!

Celebrate La Chandeleur: A Family Gathering Event

At The Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens
4155 Linnean Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20008

Sometimes known as "Crêpe Day," La Chandeleur, is celebrated in France with food and games. The Alliance Française and the Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens invite families to celebrate this holiday in festive French fashion by eating crêpes, listening to storytelling, and experiencing the exciting culture of Brittany.



Jan Zollars, who worked as the American representative for *Festival Interceltique de Lorient* for 10 years, will take you on a journey that reveals exquisite traditional costumes, unique musical traditions and, finally and above all, will have you on your feet dancing!

Saturday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

10:30 a.m. — Breton Dances with Jan Zollars

11:15 a.m. — Story time

12 noon — Breton Dances with Jan Zollars

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Breton Hat craft workshops

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Enjoy Crepes with your favorite toppings

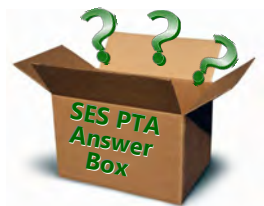
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Treasure Hunt in the Mansion

To RSVP and info: <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/> or 202-686-5807 or contact me.

--*Mme. Gadie*, French teacher

Q: How can we as parents receive more information about the aftercare program, what activities our children will receive as part of the program, and have input into supporting and improving the aftercare program?

A: Ms. Confer is the currently the after-school coordinator. She is available to answer questions about the aftercare program. As we begin to prepare for next year and make decisions about our school's aftercare program, it is important for parents who utilize the service have a voice and help us decide the direction of our aftercare program. If you are interested in serving on an Aftercare Committee, please let Principal Miles or Ms. Confer know. — Mrs. Miles, principal



Q: How many teachers at Shepherd have been rated at the highest level in the new rating system? Please explain the process.

A: Currently all classroom teachers who are teaching at Shepherd were rated as effective for the 2011-12 school year, and two were recognized as being highly effective. Details about the teacher evaluation systems can be found at: [http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/In+the+Classroom/Ensuring+Teacher+Success/IMPACT+\(Performance+Assessment\)](http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/In+the+Classroom/Ensuring+Teacher+Success/IMPACT+(Performance+Assessment)) --Mrs. Miles, principal

Look for more questions to be answered in the next issue of the Mustang, out Feb. 13. Also, save Wednesday, Feb. 22, for the PTA Town Hall meeting. Though the focus is on testing, there may be an opportunity to answer even more questions originally submitted for the town hall. If you can't wait that long, go to the Principal's Chat and Chew this Thursday, Feb. 2, 8:30-9 a.m. in the library.

180 Fund Update

Kim Barnette, PTA treasurer, reported at the Jan. 18 PTA meeting that we're more than halfway home from all pledges made for the 180 Fund. That means we're on track pledge-wise, since we've just passed the halfway point of the school year. She added that letters were being prepared for families that they can use for their tax returns if they itemize charitable deductions.

Thanks to your generosity, we've nearly doubled our fundraising since the middle of autumn to \$16,779. You can see for yourself on the thermometer on the homepage of the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org. Keep up the good work!

Kim finished assembling the latest updated status list of 180 Fund donors just a couple hours before the PTA meeting, and we reprint it here. If you recognize your name, great. Keep those pledge checks coming! If you don't see your name, join us as we close in on the 100 mark of Shepherd families contributing to the 180 Fund. Make checks out to Shepherd PTA. You can either put them in the green PTA mailbox affixed to the wall in the school office, or mail them to PTA, Shepherd Elementary School, 7800 14th St. NW, Washington, DC 20012.

And now, for that list of 180 Fund contributors.



Completed pledge -- more than \$180

Samuel Collins
Jami and Desmond Dunham
Donna Johnson Harvey and Guyton Harvey
Makini Nyanteh
Phillip Omohundro and Karen Grose
Mark Pattison and Judith McCullough

Completed pledge

Anna Aurillo
Simret Belai and Ghermay Araya
Melissa Bethea
Cara Biddle
Postelle Birch-Smith and Steward Smith
Aurelia Brazeal (and Joan Ignati)
Lisa and Ashford Connor
Akili and Princess (Mhoon) Cooper
Lizabeth Folk Coppock
Alesha and Thomas Dominique
Monica and Temuri Goletiani
Zanetta Gross and Geraldine Riley
Iris and Henry Hernandez
Jean Holmes
Sharon Jackson and Thomas Bowman
Shawn and Wanda (Dorsey) Jenkins
Christine Kithcart
Steve and Kim Leonard
Douglas and Laura Levine
Lori Matthews
Sandhya Mehta
Jennifer Pauk
Kesha Pendergrast
Sherilyn Pruitt
Andrew and Nicole Reece
Stephanie Scott
Jose and Sandra Serrano
Jay and Kathryn Shalaty
Daniel and Sarah Gershman Silverberg
Kim and Stan Sinkford

Aliza Sperling
Leonard and Magda Taylor
Barbara Turner-Fridie
Shawna and Edward Underwood
Ralph and Tonisia Waymer
Camille and Keith White
Katherine Woods and Mama Kanta
Amie and Barry Wright
Ed and Yolonda Walden

Made pledge payment(s):

Alicia Anderson
Shantelle Ballard
Corey and Kim Barnette
Nashwa Beach
Rose Dawson
Tiffany Flores
Ken Giles
Yasmin Lewis-White
Mark and Patsy-Ann Rasmussen
Jean-Pierre and Rachel Coles Roberts
Syafrika Syafrika
Katherine and David Trimble
Leon and Annie Wallace

Made a pledge:

Jason and Sherri Alston
Joseph and Michelle Alston
Angela and Changamire Anderson
Franklin and Kimelia Austin
Bianca Bostic
Fillie Dakka and Shewaye Negra
Monclisa Delves
Lynnette Ecraela-Duckenfield and Thomas Duckenfield
Johannes Kebede and Alpha Meresa
Dwight and Pamela Marable
Lauren Newsome
Toby Susse and Mickey Bolek
Jennifer White and Eric Ruffin

Stephanie Williams

Submitted PTA form but forgot to check pledge box:

Kenya and Dattagga Brothers
Aurelie and Joe Nathan Bush
Yolanda Bush
Star and Neal Downing
Maria Galvez and Santiago Rodas
Weldon and Jill Genies
Florescia Ibarra and Gustavo Bolanos
Tyisha McCarter and Carlton Agee
Columbus and Sandra McKinney
Tabatha McNeill
Erika Mercer-Epps
Jamillah Moss
Tony and Elyy Popa
Benidia and William Rice
Robert and Selma Simms
Dovga and Mimouna Sissoko
Treva and Eric Smith
Monica Watson and Ivan Holloway

We also got a \$50 gift from Jack and Juliet Marrkand, parents of two Shepherd graduates. Jack used to be the PTA treasurer, so he knows how the PTA can stretch the dollars of contributors. Let's all follow the Marrkands' example before our own children graduate!



School Improvement Team Launched

Shepherd's School Improvement Team conducted its first meeting Jan. 26, with Mark Pattison agreeing to serve as chair, with Christine Kithcart as vice chair and Alicia Anderson as secretary.

But far more important than deciding who the officers were was starting the process of assessing our school's building and grounds and figuring out what needs improvement the most based on the money the D.C. government is willing to advocate.



The first phase of renovations will begin in the summer of 2013, and the second phase in 2017. A third phase will occur, but no earlier than 2019. But to get the renovations rolling in time for summer 2013, the School Improvement Team has to have its work done by the time an architect comes to turn our priorities into blueprints – sometime in October.

The “original” school was built in 1932. The “new school,” with the auditorium and school offices, was built in 1972. This means that the decisions we make now will not only affect our children, but quite likely our children's children. This means we have one chance to do it right.

If you want to join the work of the School Improvement Team, join us at our next meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 29, 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the school library. If you have ideas on what priorities Shepherd should seek, email Mark at pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

'Songs of Freedom and Justice' Comes to Shepherd February 8

It's the biggest musical event of the school year, featuring 60 student narrators, a school-wide chorus, and the participation of the D.C. Labor Chorus (and even some parents) to help things along. It's “Songs of Freedom and Justice,” which looks at 150 years of music in the service of rights, equality and freedom. The event is FREE, and it will be held Wednesday, Feb. 8, in the school auditorium. The concert will be recorded on video, and all of the student narrators will have had a chance before the concert to be interviewed on camera about the historic figures who wrote and inspired songs about the struggle. It is a not-to-be-missed event!

**RIGHTS
EQUALITY
FREEDOM**



PTA Town Hall Changes Date, Focus

The PTA Town Hall meeting date has been changed to Wednesday, Feb. 22. It will start at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. The town hall's focus is going to be almost entirely on D.C. Public Schools testing procedures, scoring, No Child Left Behind and Adequate Yearly Progress. Why? Well, three speakers from DCPS at the January PTA meeting speaking on these subjects fielded so many questions from parents that the meeting ran way past its expected ending time – and still several parents stayed behind to chat informally with the DCPS representatives. Take a look at the homepage of the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org, to get your own primer in testing and its implications in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.



Don't worry. We've asked the principal and the PTA president to continue to answer questions you submitted for the original Town Hall in the Mustang's “Answer Box” feature.

Shepherd and SchoolKidz: Back Together Again!

Shepherd Elementary will again be participating in the Staples SchoolKidz school supply program. Shepherd provides the class supply lists for the upcoming school year to Staples, which in turn will pre-package and deliver individual supply kits for any and all Shepherd students. Supply kits will be delivered to your student's classroom before the first day of school next year.

Please watch the Mustang for more information in the coming months.


--Katherine Trimble

OH, HANG IT ALL!

Volunteers to hang art are desperately needed every month. Two and a half work days leave no time to mount the beautiful work your kids are creating in art. Come help me hang it for all to see.



--Ms. Michaud



Shepherd IB PYP Corner

This week is the start of our fourth Unit of Inquiry.

In pre-K students will be exploring the theme of How the World Works; Students will be inquiring about our environment and learning about the earth's surface.

In kindergarten their theme is Who We Are. They will be inquiring about how our history and our traditions help to define who we are as a society.

In first grade the theme for this unit will be How the World Works. Students will be inquiring about force and motion and investigating matter all around us.

In second grade students will be exploring the theme of How We Express Ourselves. They will look at the messages in folktale and fables and learn about ways in which people express their uniqueness.

In third grade the theme of Who We Are will be explored. Students will be looking at notable people and why we value them as role models.

In fourth grade their theme is Sharing the Planet. They will take a closer look at wind and water and how these elements shape and reshape our earth's surface.

In fifth grade their theme is also Sharing the Planet but they will look at society's approach to wars and conflict.

This unit will continue until March 9. Parents, please encourage your children to share something about what they are learning every day.

Awards Day

Our Awards Day assembly took place on Jan. 20 and many students were recognized for their hard work. We recognized students for their achievements in math, reading, science, social studies, IB learner profiles of Thinker and Open-Minded, perfect attendance and outstanding achievement on the Paced Interim Assessments of reading and mathematics. Names that appear in the following category generally run from lower to upper grades. Congratulations to:

Math: Sofia Prentice, Kadar Muir, Aria Jefferson, Tobias Lindo, Awa Kanta, Malchiah Marable, Claudia Goletiani, Micah Stovall, Annelise Jefferson, Jared Stevenson, Myra Shalaty, Tashi Cooper, Truth Woods, Kahlil Slater, Peter Chumbris, Jalan Alston-Gary, Caleb Wilson, Clare Harvey, Domonique Cherry, A-Mei Nickens, Jamarly Calhoun, Taylor Paraless, Tony Wilson, Madison Swanson, Chase Cook, Luke Jennings, Jordan Johnson, Cecelia Sneed, Jerrod Nolan, Devon Dunn, Natalia Thomas.

(see IB, page 10)

Pre-K and Out-of-Boundary Lottery Starts Jan. 30

As most Shepherd parents will remember, there is no guarantee that if you live in Shepherd's attendance area that you'll be able to send your child to Shepherd for pre-K. Likewise, there is no guarantee of a pre-K spot for parents who already have a child at Shepherd.



Parents who live out-of-boundary just cross their fingers and hope that one of those precious slots in pre-K (or any grade) at Shepherd opens up and can accept their son or daughter as a pupil.

The pre-K and out-of-boundary lottery has begun effective Jan. 30. It runs through Monday, Feb. 27. This means you have to go to the DCPS website, <http://dcps.dc.gov>, for information on the registration process and for the lottery registration itself. All applications MUST be done online.

If you'd like some face time on the top, there will be a preschool, pre-K and out-of-boundary lottery info session Wednesday, Feb. 15, 6-8 p.m., at Powell Elementary, 1350 Upshur St. NW. This is the only such forum scheduled for Ward 4.

Shepherd Elementary Jazz Night Salutes ... Etta James

Etta James (born Jamesetta Hawkins; Jan. 25, 1938–Jan. 20, 2012) was an American singer whose style spanned a variety of music genres including blues, rhythm and blues, rock and roll, soul, gospel and jazz. Starting her career in the mid-1950s, she gained fame with hits such as "Dance With Me, Henry," "At Last," "Tell Mama" and "I'd Rather Go Blind,"



for which she claimed she wrote the lyrics. She faced a number of personal problems, including drug addiction, before making a musical resurgence in the late 1980s with the album "The Seven Year Itch."

James is regarded as having bridged the gap between rhythm and blues and rock and roll, and is the winner of six Grammys and 17 Blues Music Awards. She was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1993, the Blues Hall of Fame in 2001, and the Grammy Hall of Fame in both 1999 and 2008. Rolling Stone ranked James number 22 on their list of the 100 Greatest Singers of All Time and number 62 on the list of the 100 Greatest Artists.

Shepherd's 23rd annual Jazz Night is set for Friday, March 2, 6:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. Look for more information elsewhere in this issue of the Mustang.

Bienvenido a 2012/ Bonne année 2012

Hope you and your family enjoyed the winter break! Now that school is back in session the language classes are getting off to a great start in the New Year.

It has been about four weeks since the new Spanish teacher has begun. The transition for Senorita Moore into the language department has been a success.



The French classes with Madame Gadie are going well, and the students are enjoying learning the language.

During January, we will have completed International Baccalaureate Unit 3 and cover the language curriculum through our studies in this unit.

Pre-K will study how the school functions more effectively through parts of the school, its members and the rules.

Kindergarten will explore different genres in reading. For example, the students will take a look at poems, children's stories and folktales.



First grade will learn about tradition and culture through celebrations.

Second grade will discuss seasons, weather and daily activities.

Third grade will express their creativity through different forms of art. They will learn about famous artists, writers and popular forms of dance in the target culture.

Fourth grade will compare past and present civilizations. They will take a look at the presence of the target language in present day communities.



Hi there from the Art Room.

Most of what students will be doing in the next week is in preparation for the "Songs of Freedom and Justice" concert.

Afterward we will be painting abstract visual responses to jazz music as we listen to some of the swingin' essentials of that music genre. On parent-teacher conference day come by to see the painting and sculptures third and fourth graders created in the last month or so. They are fabulous. Ask me to show you the amazing life lessons first graders came up with while modeling clay. I will be there from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reminder: To reach the art website, Ms. Michaud's Art Room, just type in this URL:

<http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art/>. Then, click any of the buttons shown to get where you need to go. Announcements change every week or two and are usually the same as the Mustang Art Corner. Homework is listed weekly for grades three through five, and the current assignment has a bold due date at its end. Primary and intermediate vocabulary words are listed under FAQs (frequently asked questions.) Current homework asks for a written paragraph in addition to a color drawing.

Remember, you gotta have Art!

-Ms. Joëlle Michaud, art teacher

Fifth grade will write and perform a dialogue by using their skills with verbs and vocabulary. The dialogue will be informal and performed among language classes.

--Madame Gadie, <http://teacherweb.com/DC/ShepherdElementarySchool/Gadie/apt1.aspx>

--Senorita Moore, amoorebus@hotmail.com

Fare Thee Well, Mrs. Confer!

Ms. June Confer, Shepherd's long-time business manager (she's worked at the school through the tenures of eight U.S. presidents, starting with Richard Nixon), was given a surprise party Jan. 21.



Current and former students, current and former Shepherd parents, and current and former Shepherd teachers were among the 50-plus on hand to honor and celebrate her life.

At each table for the soiree was placed a couple of copies of this bit of wisdom titled "Noah's Ark" and "presented with much respect, love and appreciation to Mrs. June Confer, Dedicated Friend and Advocate of All Children Everywhere." It reads:

Everything I need to know, I learned from Mrs. June Confer.

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat!

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic, by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm there's always a rainbow waiting.

But even though we won't likely see Mrs. Confer in the morning, she'll continue to run Shepherd's aftercare program – hooray!

MILES, from p. 1_____

My Beliefs About Testing

Each year I hear comments and receive questions about testing. Many parents (new and prospective) feel as if students test too much and schools place too much emphasis on tests. Then there are those who feel as if testing is the only true measure of what students are learning and it is a great indication of the quality of the school. The higher the test scores, the better the school. As a leader, I think it is important for me to communicate my thoughts about testing and the message I communicate to parents who ask. I feel assessments are important if they are appropriately used. Assessments should be used to track growth, measure progress and guide teaching. However, it should only be one of the several factors used to determine the quality of education a student is receiving. I believe students should be engaged in an environment where they can explore their interest, ask questions and learn from their mistakes. They should be engaged in meaningful hands-on learning experiences. They should be allowed to work in cooperative groups and have dialogue with their peers and teachers about what they are learning and their interests. They should be challenged to think critically and creatively. Students should be provided with several opportunities and many ways to demonstrate what they have learned and these demonstrations should be beyond pencil and paper.

The reality: Let's be honest. Currently we live in a society where there is a great emphasis on tests. Schools, teachers, administrators and school districts are judged by student performance on high-stakes tests. Though it is up to each individual parent to decide what defines a quality of education for their child, it is expected that each individual school works diligently to meet the federal mandates and expectations that we are measured by until policies are changed.

Welcome

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Delores Hebron and Mr. Luezone Stackhouse to the Shepherd family. Ms. Hebron is our school's new Business Manager. You will find Ms. Hebron in the main office from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.. Mr. Stackhouse is our newest custodian.

Principal's Chat and Chew

On Thursday, Feb. 2, we will have our first Chat and Chew of 2012. This is a drop-in event that will begin at 8:30 a.m. and go until 9 a.m. This is an opportunity to meet with other parents and share with me what is working, what is not working and get questions answered. The event will take place in the library.

Have a great week!

Warmest regards,

Jamie Miles

Principal

Sleep, Glorious Sleep!

Winter is a great time to develop good sleeping habits. There's a lot of press coverage of how sleep deprivation affects children's academic performance, weight, behavior, safety and mental health. We all know they need to sleep. The problem is helping them get the sleep they need.

The National Sleep Foundation recommends these basic daily sleep requirements for children, adolescents, pre-teens and teens:

- Preschoolers: 11-13 hours
- Elementary school students: 10-12 hours
- Pre-teens: 9-11 hours
- Teens: 8½-9 hours

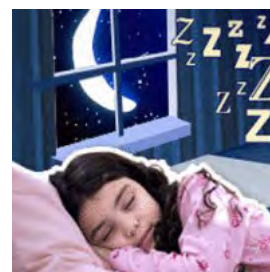
Put some thought into finding your child's ideal bedtime. In the evening, look for the time when your child really is starting to slow down and getting physically tired. That's the time that they should be going to sleep, so get their bedtime routine done and get them into bed before that time. If you wait beyond that time, then your child tends to get a second wind. At that point they will become more difficult to handle, and will have a harder time falling asleep. Here are five tips for healthy back-to-school sleep habits for children and teens.

The effects of going to bed late or sleeping in on the weekends can create sleep problems...

- 1) Keep a regular wake-up time and bedtime: If a child is having sleep problems, oversleeping or missing school, it's important to create a regular sleep routine for them that will work seven days a week. Children who only have occasional sleep problems may not require an extremely rigid schedule, and sometimes tolerate slightly greater flexibility of bedtime and wake-up time.
- 2) Establish a bedtime routine. A bedtime routine can help promote an easy and quick transition to nighttime sleep. For younger children, try 15 to 30 minutes of quiet activities before bedtime, such as reading. Activities parents should discourage before bed include watching television, exercising, and using the computer or video games.
- 3) Create a balanced schedule. Identify and prioritize activities that allow for downtime and sufficient sleep time. Help students avoid an overloaded

schedule that can lead to stress and difficulty coping, which can contribute to poor health and sleep problems.

- 4) Don't use the weekends to catch up on sleep: The effects of going to bed late or sleeping in on the weekends can create sleep problems, especially for adolescents. "Children who are weekend night owls or sleep in on the weekends will often have a very different sleep pattern than they do on weekdays, increasing the likelihood for insomnia during the week and making it more difficult for them for them to fall asleep at an appropriate time on school nights.
- 5) Be a role model: Parents can be role models for school-aged children by establishing their own regular sleep schedules and a home environment conducive to healthy sleeping habits.



These tips come from University of Michigan Health System Pediatric Sleep Specialist Timothy Hoban, M.D. For more info on healthy sleep habits, consult these websites:

www2.med.umich.edu/prmc/media/newsroom/details.cfm?ID=981

www.helium.com/items/1627943-effects-of-sleep-deprivation-on-children

www.med.umich.edu/yourchild/topics/sleep.htm

Pleasant dreams!

Shepherd School Pledge

Today is a new day!

I will respect the rights of others.

I will treat all property with respect.

I will take responsibility for my learning.

I will take responsibility for my actions.

I will act in a safe and healthy way.

Today I will be the best me I can be!



IB from p. 6 _____

Reading: Morgan Hubbard, Nia Dunham, Meley Ghermay, Hashim Coward, Kayla Bethea, Yasmina Konate, Sarah Rice, Romy Herisse, Grace Kao, Kahini Austin Elias Mack, Edward Hubbard, George Alvaro, Briana Knight, Kayla Muir, Victoria Newson, Gabrielle Williams, Rosa Robles, Ezinne Ukaegbu, Camdyn Thigpen, Christopher Villalta, Chanelle Haynes, Camille Jones, Joyce Chirambo, Elijah Johnson, Mercer Epps, Omari Clarke, Savannah Waymer, Mecca Camille, Jovaan McKinney, Shoa Samad, Jason Tyner.

Science: Alex Carter, Chyna Holloway, Khari Wilson, Micah Charles, Dina Johannes, Tajee Pringle, Natnael Shiferaw, Lillian Beach, Amari Hall, Rashad Biddle, Benjamin White, Amanda Glover, Henry Trimble, Jasmyn Brothers, Kurt Peacock, Tiara Dupee, Keyshawn Lee, Ashford Connor, Miles Davis, Ethan Reece, Heidi Nikiema, Michael White, Colyar Trimble, Alvaro Lopez, Richelle Coward, John Pollock.

Social Studies: Edward Underwood, Nicholas Anagnostopoulos, Eyan White, Jonathan Royall, Nina Sinkford, Stephen Levine, Philip Omohundro, Layla Brent, Zora Pauk, Kayden Tuffour, Wynston Jones, Yonatan Shewangzew, Kyle Jackson-Chang, Samuel Bush, Agyman Nyanteh, Keshav Mehta-Harwitz, Mia Heyward, Jay Matthews, Victoria Carter, Chima Ukaegbu, Darius King, Jaden Brazey, Kaitlyn Hunter, Rasheda White, Saige Ballard, Jerrod Nolan.

IB Thinker: Maxwell Wright, Betya Sperling-Milner, Amber Williams, Joyce Kao, Malachiah Marable, Morgan Jealous, Isaiah Mullen, Tsitsi Shabazz, Sophia Sambou, Dina Johannes, Radha Tanner, Khalil Davis, Cierra Barnette, Asantewaa Nyanteh, Jean-Pierre Roberts, Shaina Adams, Briana Knight, Malachie Smith, Clare Harvey, Kerod Shiferaw, Godloves Tata, Taye Moss-Suggs, Tony Wilson, Chanelle Haynes, Ernestine Lewangu, Margaret Goletiani, Chandler Mabry, Jordan Johnson, Tolani Smith, Natalia Thomas, Zaria Wilson, Mattie Melnyk, Richelle Coward.

IB Open-Minded: Gyasi Tyus, Kai Smith, Kadar Muir, Amber Williams, Olivia Waymer, Morgan Jealous, Kristian Swanson, Jadon Kithcart, Ailene Santacruz, Niles Dunham, Marshall Lewis, Kofi Hall, Sarah Sambou, Tashi Cooper, Leela Mehta-Harwitz, Victoria Newson, Kayla Harris-Diggs, Benjamin White, Changamire Anderson, Kurt Peacock, Cydni Taylor, Mia Heyward, Jocelyn Bostic, Adam Thomas, Malik Belmar, Jasmine Greene, Justin Williams, Aanisah Hasan, Lyndon Downing, Yewoinhareg Kebede, Noah White, Leah Pearcy, Damia Basil.

Achievement on PIA reading and math (* = students who scored in the advanced range): Kayla Harris-Diggs, Yonatan Shewangzew, Kahlil Slater, *Amanda Glover, *Wynston Jones, *Andy Nguyen, *Benjamin White, *Shaina Adams, *Jalan Alston-Gary, Jasmyn Brothers, Samuel Bush, Peter Chumbris, *Jean-Pierre Roberts, *Nana Sissoko, *Fahari

Dominique, *Weldon Genies, Kyle Jackson-Chang, *Masai Jenkins, *Leela Mehta-Harwitz, Victoria Newson, Gabrielle Williams, *Clare Harvey, *Caleb Wilson, *Changamire Anderson, *Yao Tyus, *Tiara Dupee, *Keshav Mehta-Harwitz, *Agyeman Nyanteh, *Marie-Therece Tata, Dakota Inniss, Domonique Cherry, Spencer Fridie, Godloves Tata, Kelci Barnette, *Kayla Boyde, *Zoe McCullough, *Allison Holmes, *Kerod Shiferaw, *Cydni Taylor, Chanelle Haynes, Camille Jones, Jay Matthews, Miles Davis, *Malik Belmar, *Jamary Calhoun, *Taylor Parales, *Nia Carroll, *Ashford Connor, *Madison Swanson, Adam Thomas, *Khirah George, *Caleb Schuster, *London Downing, Courtney White, Tony Wilson, *Chima Ukaegbu, *Ethan Reece, *Taye Moss-Suggs, Heidi Nikiema, Joyce Chirambo, Anthony Harrison, *Julianna Ingram, Luke Jennings, Tyler Thomas, Jaden Brazey, *Colyar Trimble, Margaret Goletiani, *Quentin Anderson-Watson, Aanisah Hasan, *Savannah Waymer, *Gregory Jones, Neiman Holton, Yasmine Hopkins, Damia Basil, Alicia Dawson, Aleisha Hopkins, Jerrod Nolan, Jovaan McKinney, Mattie Melnyk, *Cecelia Sneed, Saige Ballard, John Pollock, Kwaniyah Tuffour, King Campbell, Caleb Bush, Shoa Samad, Colin Powell, Steven Adams, *Alexander Leonard, *Devon Dunn, *Natalia Thomas.

Students with perfect attendance will be posted in the next issue of the Mustang.

The Learner Profile for the month of February is Knowledgeable. To truly enhance our in-depth knowledge, we must investigate concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance.

Have a super week!

Sandra Hart, IB Coordinator

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