



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

February 13, 2012

- ◆ Wednesday, Feb. 15: LSAT meeting, library, CANCELED
- ◆ Thursday, Feb. 16: Annual Gala Committee meeting, library, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Tuesday, Feb. 21: Family Dinner Night, Outback Steakhouse, PG Plaza, 3500 East-West Hwy., Hyattsville, 4-11 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, Feb. 22: PTA Town Hall, cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Thursday, Feb. 23: Open house, library, 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Friday, Feb. 24: Ski Club outing
- ◆ Monday, Feb. 27: Pre-K and out-of-boundary enrollment period ends
- ◆ Wednesday, Feb. 29: School Improvement Team meeting, library, 5:30 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!

## Gala Committee Meets Thursday

Work is zooming right along with the PTA's annual gala. Save the date: Friday, May 11, 6:30-10:30 p.m., at the Washington Ethical Society, just a block away from Shepherd at 7750 16th Street.

The Gala Committee has already chosen a theme for this year, and is in the process of conducting taste-tests for a signature drink related to the theme. If you'd like to drink deep from the work of the committee, or merely take a sip or two, come to the next meeting of the Gala Committee. It'll be held Thursday, Feb. 16, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.

## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd Families!



### Spirit Week Feb. 14-17

This week is Spirit Week at Shepherd. Students are encouraged to participate. It is also a uniform free week.

- Tuesday, Feb. 14: Wear Red Day
- Wednesday, Feb. 15: Pajama Day
- Thursday, Feb. 16: Crazy Hair Day
- Friday, Feb. 17: School Pride Day  
(Shepherd Attire/College Attire is Appropriate)

### Carpool

Attention all carpool parents. School is dismissed at 3:15 p.m. Please arrive between 3:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to pick up your student(s). The doors will close at 3:30 p.m. Please arrive on time!

### Safety At School

Please remember policies and procedures are in place to help minimize distractions and to ensure the safety of all students. Schools are a busy place and it is sometimes difficult to remember the face of every parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sister, brother, babysitter, cousin or friend. Therefore, please remember...

- No one will be allowed to travel throughout the building without signing in and receiving a visitor's badge.
- You must sign in and receive a visitor's sticker each time you enter the building.
- Be prepared to show a picture ID each time you enter the building (If Officer Rhones recognizes you and has previously asked you for your ID, she may not ask you again). However, when Officer Rhones is absent, the substitute guard will ask you to show your ID.
- At arrival and dismissal, parents should not travel beyond the gymnasium. Again, if you would like to proceed you must exit, and sign-in at the front desk.

(see MILES , page 7)



Dear Fellow Mustangs!

Recently, Shepherd Elementary had a Science Fair at NOAA, which stands for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Students in third, fourth and fifth grades looked at each other's cool science projects, and judges rated our work. The judges interviewed us about our projects and asked questions like "What is the title?" and "What is your hypothesis and prediction?" Then, we had the James Martin Science Fair Award Ceremony at school Feb. 2. Our parents and family members came to cheer us. Mr. King, one of the third grade teachers, presented medals and certificates to the students who did the best science projects. Congratulations to all students who participated to the science fair! It was hard work!

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 Grade

### 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!

## Family Dinner Night At Outback Steakhouse!

Our next Family Dinner Night will be Tuesday, Feb. 21, at Outback Steakhouse, at the PG Plaza shopping center located at 3500 East-West Hwy. in Hyattsville. Hours of this Family Dinner Night are 4-11 p.m., so you can have an early family dinner once they've been picked up from school, and/or you can have Grandma or the sitter watch the kids



while you grab a late snack for yourselves and bring home something for her. The Outback Steakhouse is in its own building visible from East-West Highway, so turn at the traffic light and get yourselves ready to enjoy a delicious meal

Why go to Outback? Four reasons come to mind.

- ⇒ First, the PG Plaza Outback is owned by a Shepherd parent! And our thanks to Greg Kithcart for opening up his restaurant for Family Dinner Night.
- ⇒ Second, we recognize that most Shepherd families who live out-of-boundary live east of the school, so the trip home from dinner won't seem so long.
- ⇒ Third, the PTA still gets 20 percent off your pre-tax tab, which includes food and beverages.
- ⇒ And fourth, it's always fresh in the Outback!

Regardless of whether you dine in or use Outback's carry-out service (301-853-5959), just say "I'm With Shepherd!" so restaurant personnel will know to apply the rebate to the PTA.

We also got our rebate check last week from the Silver Sands restaurant. He was quite pleased with the Shepherd turnout. The check came to \$113.09. That brings our year-to-date total to \$1,392.09! Not a penny of that would have been possible without your support. Thank you!

Our Silver Sands outing also shows the power of something seemingly as simple as Family Dinner Night. With Walter Reed Army Medical Center closed, Shepherd Elementary is the place where more people gather on a daily basis in the area from the Maryland line to Safe-way on Georgia. Our dollars carry clout. That's why we'll go to two more Georgia Avenue dining establishments before the school year is out!

## Congratulations to Our Science Fair Winners

There was tremendous ingenuity among Shepherd's third, fourth, and fifth graders this year in the annual James Martin Science Fair. Students had their work displayed at the end of January at the Silver Spring headquarters of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration before the projects returned to Shepherd for display in the school auditorium.



In the awards ceremony held Feb. 2 at Shepherd, students in each grade were awarded first, second and third place, plus honorable mentions. Without further ado, here are this year's winners.

### Fifth Grade

First place: Alex Leonard, "Is Your Water Safe?"

Second place: Mattie Melnyk, "Does U/B Radiation Have a Negative Effect on Plants?"

Third place: SaAnkehessa Meskhniten, "Make Your Mark."

Honorable Mentions: Jaden Inniss, "Battery"; Alicia Dawson, "Apple Test"; Noah White, "The Lemon Cookie Mystery."

### Fourth Grade

First place: Jaden Brazey, "Veggie Power."

Second place: Margaret Goletiani, "Thick or Thin."

Third place: Michael White, "How Long Does It Take to Decompose?"

Honorable mentions: "Julian Mitchell, "Dry Ice"; Tiffany Greene, "Static Electricity"; Quentin Anderson-Watson, "The Effects of Sunlight on Plant Growth."

### Third Grade

First place: Ashford Connor III, "Which Chemical Cleans Best?"

Second place: Nia Carroll, "Temperature Tales."

Third place: Bryan Wilson, "The Cloud."

Honorable mentions: Kelci Barnette, "Make Your Own Kaleidoscope"; Ernestine Lwangu, "Static Electricity"; Caleb Schuster, "Project Popcorn."

Hello again from the Library!



Now that it is February, several teachers have borrowed books on African-Americans throughout history, to use with their classes. We have biographies for all grades, from pre-K through fifth grade. As younger grades come in, we are reading and discussing African-American history, which leads to questions about Ruby Bridges and others. I love that our students need segregation explained to them, but we try to do so in a way that helps them to value all people. As one of our MLK books says "God didn't make flowers of just one color."

In March we will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday! Look for lots of Seussian items in the library.

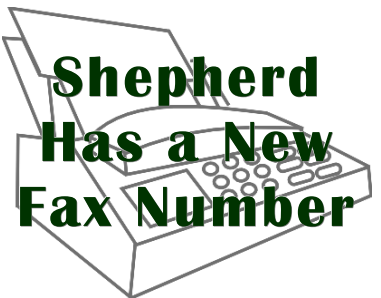
Please make sure all library books get returned. Anyone who loses a book also loses his/her borrowing privileges, and that makes them very sad. Parents, please ask you children to return library books.

Last, we always accept donations of books to our library. If you have books around your house that your child loved to read, chances are that we need them here in the library. "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," "Poison Apple" and "Dork Diaries" are series that often need replenishing (see above). If you want to donate books to honor a birthday, anniversary, alumni, or grandparent, please do so through our Amazon Wish List. Go to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and search for "Shepherd PTA" in the "wishlist" box. We appreciate your support!

--Stephanie Scott, parent and library volunteer

In these days of instantaneous communication, it seems almost quaint that this 25-year-old fax technology seems to be going the way of the dodo ("Adapt or Disappear," right?). But faxes are still important in some quarters.

This is a prelude to announcing the new fax number at Shepherd: **202-723-0011**. If you need to send a fax to the school, use this number, because the old number is no longer usable.





## Parlons Culture!

In France, February 2nd is la Chandeleur or jour des crêpes.

Not only do the French eat a lot of crêpes on Chandeleur, but they also do a bit of fortune telling while making them. It is traditional to hold a coin in your writing hand and a crêpe pan in the other, and flip the crêpe into the air. If you manage to catch the crêpe in the pan, your family will be prosperous for the rest of the year.

There are all kinds of French proverbs and sayings for Chandeleur; here is one. Note the similarities to the Groundhog Day predictions made in the U.S.:

À la Chandeleur, l'hiver cesse ou reprend vigueur (On Candlemas, winter ends or strengthens).

In our class, we celebrated la Chandeleur. Here is what students had to say about this day:

*"On February 2nd, it was la Chandeleur. We made les crêpes. Madame Bush helped us make les crêpes. I poured the milk into the bowl. I liked when we ate the crêpes, when we had to flip the crêpes and when we had a little dance party."* -- Nana Sissoko

*"On February 2nd, it was la Chandeleur, and I really was enjoying myself. We made les crepes. Madame Bush let everyone try to make les crêpes (French pancake). Me and Kayla, and JP set up the tables. Mine had red flowers on it. One table was blue, red, and green with flowers. Madame Bush let us put our pancakes on our plates. Madame Gadie showed us how to flip the French pancakes."* -- Briana Knight

*"We liked it because we got to learn how to make crêpes. Mrs. Bush did this activity with us, it was fun, creative and the awesome day of my life because I got to eat in the class, and what I liked the most was eating those crepes."* --J.P.

Special thanks to Madame Bush (Samuel Bush's mom), and to Mrs. Pringle (Elijah and Tajee's mom) for participating to our celebration.



La Chandeleur - Jour des crêpes



--Madame Gadie, French teacher



## The Origins of Jazz Night

I proposed it to the principal (Mrs. Edith Smith) and the PTA almost 23 years ago, when my daughters were students there.

Just for the record, I am not a professor in the Jazz Studies Dept. at Howard U. However, many of the performers we have had over the years have been students there. For this event, we always have featured full-fledged, veteran professional headlin-

ers, musicians who have agreed to come and work below scale for the cause, to promote the art form and make it so that young children can be exposed to it up close with their families while enjoying dinner simultaneously. It is everything you get at

It is everything you get at Blues Alley... but for the family.

Blues Alley in Georgetown, but for the family. It is about cultural appreciation and audience development.

One thing we have observed (and you can consult Mrs. Confer and Mrs. Miles on this) is that some parents come and really "miss the boat" in terms of the opportunity to have the children to experience the music, the sights and the sounds. It is important to let the parents know that they can prepare the young people to get the most out of it by enjoying it with them, and supervising their children at all times. Ideally, parents should model and teach the respect for the artists, by not talking loudly during the performance and surely keeping an eye on their children. Dancing and movement is expected and great, but running, wrestling, and loud noises are not.

Of course, it is important that there be vigilance in having everyone to stay in the designated area, which has always been the auditorium. Bathroom trips should be monitored. Children

(see ORIGINS, p. 9)

## Jazz Night Notes

Shepherd's 23rd annual Jazz Night will be held Friday, March 2, 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. It's free, but it's a potluck, so bring a delectable dish. Activities will be held for children after dinner in the cafeteria.



Here's a guide to Jazz Night.

It's a potluck. Different grade levels will bring different items:

- Pre-K: Salads
- Pre-K and kindergarten: Vegetables
- Grades 1-2: Starches
- Grade 3: 100%-juice boxes
- Grade 4: Bottled water
- Grade 5: Variety, and desserts (consider nut-free options)
- Anyone can bring vegetarian dishes.

The PTA will get meat, sparkling cider, and jugs with lemonade and iced tea.

Children will eat with their parents. After children are done eating, they are expected to go to the cafeteria, where a variety of activities await them, including arts and crafts, an "instrument petting zoo" and the movie "The Princess and the Frog."

With our New Orleans theme, we'll have beads and masks, plus our own little Mardi Gras parade later in the evening.

Howard University is supplying the musical talent, and we expect it to start at about 6:45. After the second set is over, we'll issue a "last call" for the potluck buffet.

We'll need more than a dozen parents helping in shifts in the cafeteria and in set-up and clean-up. If you haven't already been tabbed yet, consider helping. In fact, bring two cars to Jazz Night: one to take the kids home so they can get to sleep, and one for you to keep at Shepherd and help clean up. To offer your help, email [info@shepherd-elementary.org](mailto:info@shepherd-elementary.org)

At this rate, 2012's Jazz Night will be the best ever. And it's Free!

## School Improvement Team Update

What's happened since we met last month? Let me tell you.

We've added two members: Shepherd parent Keith White and former Shepherd parent Kimberly Brandon, who lives in the Shepherd Elementary attendance area.

One team member went on an open-house tour of Takoma Education Campus, which had to be re-done almost totally after a fire in December 2010, closing the school for a year.

Two team members took a tour of Truesdell Education Campus in Ward 4, which had its phase one renovations done during the 2010 summer vacation.

Team members also scheduled a visit to Tyler Elementary on Capitol Hill, which also had phase one renovations completed.

And a message was sent to all Shepherd teachers and staff asking for their input and involvement in the School Improvement Team process.

There's also room for you on the School Improvement Team. Our next meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 29, 5:30-6:30 p.m. We'll meet in the library. If you have any questions, get in touch with me at 829-9289 or [pattison\\_mark@hotmail.com](mailto:pattison_mark@hotmail.com).

--Mark Pattison, SIT chairman



The last of two open houses for parents considering enrolling their children at Shepherd Elementary will take place Thursday, Feb. 23, starting at 9:30 a.m. in the library. There will be refreshments, remarks from

Principal Miles and PTA and school leaders, and classroom tours. If you know someone thinking of sending their child to Shepherd for pre-K or a higher grade, recommend the open house to them, and ask them to call the school at 576-6140 so enough refreshments will be on hand.

The open house comes just in time for the deadline to get into D.C. Public Schools' annual pre-K and out-of-boundary lottery, which closes Monday, Feb. 27.

And remember, Shepherd students and families are the best public relations for the school!

## Shepherd Basketball News

The Shepherd Mustangs girls' basketball team won their first playoff game last Wednesday by the amazing score of 20 to 2! The girls' team travels to West Elementary, Farragut St. NW, for their next playoff game this Monday at 4:45 p.m. Let's all go out and cheer our Mustangs on!



As for the boys' basketball team, Mr. Burgess, the coach, had this to say: "For the first time in a long time, the boys are not going to the playoffs. They finished in fifth place, and the top four finishers get to go to the playoffs. But we've got some good players coming back, so we should be back there again next year."

## 'Songs of Freedom and Justice' A Big Concert, Radio Winner



Shepherd's auditorium was filled to the gills last Wednesday as 60-plus student singers, accompanied by 20-some adult members of the D.C. Labor Chorus plus two guitarists and a piano, belted out more than two dozen songs of the struggle in the "Songs of Freedom and Justice" concert. The performers received a well-deserved standing ovation at the end of the show.

The day before the concert, four students and Mr. Giles, the music teacher, went to the studios of WPFW (89.3 FM) to speak about the concert for the "Freedom of Speech" program. The show has been archived on WPFW's website, [www.wpfw.org](http://www.wpfw.org). Go to "Archived Programs." Then look up "Freedom of Speech" for Feb. 7. There's a good eight minutes of newscast and jazz instrumentals that you'll have to listen to before the students come to the microphone. We are also working to capture the podcast and get it on the school website.

By the way, Mr. Giles and his video team recorded interviews with dozens of the student narrators from "Songs of Freedom and Justice," and those interviews will serve as segues to some of the music performed during the concert. Every Shepherd student will get a free DVD of the finished product.



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

- Except for arrival and dismissal, please enter the building through the main entrance only and exit via the main entrance or through the 14th Street glass doors.
- Please do not bang on doors and motion for students to open them for you. Our students have been instructed not to open any door.
- Please say your goodbyes in the car, on the sidewalk or in the gymnasium.
- Please be courteous and respectful to individuals who are doing their job.
- Parents are welcome into our building to volunteer, speak with their child's teacher and/or sit and observe what their child is learning. However, this must be arranged via the teacher or the main office. Random visits to the classroom to drop off, or to ask a quick question interrupts instructional time.

**Dismissal**

If you need to pick your student up early from school or if there is a change in your child's dismissal routine, please notify the office before 3 p.m. or arrive before 3 p.m. to pick up your student. I have asked the office staff not to dismiss students from the main office between 3 and 3:30 p.m. When students are called at 3 p.m. or later to come to the office, it is disruptive. Students are not allowed to travel without a partner. Therefore, if your student is called, two other students have to stop what they are doing and escort your student to the main office. In addition, 3 p.m. is when most teachers begin packing up and having students record their homework assignments. As a reminder, between 3 and 3:30 p.m.: carpool students are in the library, aftercare students are on the playground (or in the cafeteria during inclement weather) and all other students can be found in the gymnasium. At 3:30 p.m., all students are brought to the main hallway. The end of day is a busy time for everyone and the fewer distractions, the better.

**We Have a Winner!**

Congratulations to Rashad Biddle. His entry won first place in our school's Pasta Tales competition. His winning entry was submitted to be judged in the national competition. Rashad will receive a Toys R Us gift card and will be recognized during this advisory's award ceremony. Congratulations, Rashad!

**A Day Off is a Day On for Shepherd Staff**

Friday, Feb. 3, was the third professional development

day for staff members. Pre-K teachers spent time analyzing and inputting Gold assessment data and they also had an opportunity to learn more about mathematics in pre-K, kindergarten and first grade teachers spent the morning learning how to build students' reading fluency (a necessary foundational reading skill). Second through fifth grade teachers, plus our Special Education and ESL teachers, spent the morning analyzing assessment data. And special area teachers spent the morning at content-specific training sessions. In the afternoon all teachers learned more about importance of Think-Alouds in the classroom when teaching students how to build their reading comprehension skills and become more successful independent readers.

Below you will find a list of what we expect of Shepherd readers.

**Good readers...**

- Look over the text before they read, noting things like the structure.
- Make predictions about what is to come.
- Read selectively, continually making decisions about what to read carefully, what to read quickly, what not to read, what to reread.
- Construct and revise the meaning they make as they read.
- Try to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words and concepts.
- Integrate their prior knowledge with the material in the text.
- Think about the authors of the text – their style, beliefs, and intentions.
- Monitor their understanding, making adjustments to their reading if necessary.
- Evaluate the text's quality and value, and react to the text in a variety of ways, both intellectually and emotionally.
- Read different kinds of text differently.
- Attend closely to the setting and characters in narratives.
- Construct and revise summaries of what they've read.

*(Adapted from Duke, N.K. & Pearson, D. (2002). "Effective practices for developing reading comprehension." In A.E. Farstrup & S.J. Samuels [eds.]. "What Research Has to Say About Reading Instruction" (3rd ed., 205–242). Newark, Del.: International Reading Association.)*

*(See PRINCIPAL, p. 8)*

**PRINCIPAL** from p. 7 \_\_\_\_\_

### Vocabulary Development

Please continue to support vocabulary development at home. Below is a list of words recently introduced to students in pre-K through fifth grade.

- **expedite:** to make easy; cause to progress faster
- **heed:** pay close attention to; listen to
- **intervene:** come between; interfere
- **lofty:** high
- **optimism:** expecting the best in all things
- **orator:** a skilled public speaker
- **plummet:** steep fall or drop
- **prudent:** wise, careful, cautious

*Possible vocabulary activities:* Make flash cards with the words and definitions and have your student give you the definition of the word; play a matching game; use the word in a sentence, keep track and reward your students when they observe the word or use it correctly.

### Principal's Chat and Chew

Thank you to everyone who attended this advisory's Principal's Chat and Chew. It was well attended and parents were able to speak directly with me to get some of their most "burning" questions answered. We covered a range of topics to include: testing, science in the classroom, homework, outdoor recess, the budget process, and much more. Panera Bread coffee and bagels were available for all to enjoy. If you were unable to attend, please keep your eyes open for the next event. I would love to see you!

Have a great week!

Sincerely,

*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.

## Rock Creek Cleanup This Spring *Save the date!*



The annual Rock Creek clean up will be held 9 a.m.-noon, on Saturday, April 14. We will remove litter and debris from Rock Creek Park and the surrounding areas generally described as 16th Street, North Portal & Portal drives, West Beach & East Beach drives, the Kalmia Road bridge, and East-West Highway. This annual clean up is supported by the Rock Creek Conservancy's EXTREME Cleanup and the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Potomac River Watershed Clean Up.

For additional information go to <http://www.rockcreekconservancy.org/> or [http://potomaccleanup.org/trash\\_initiative/trash\\_cleanup.shtml](http://potomaccleanup.org/trash_initiative/trash_cleanup.shtml)

## Jazz Night Remembers... Sonny Stitt

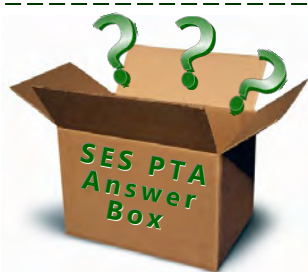
Edward "Sonny" Stitt (Feb. 2, 1924, Boston-July 22, 1982, Washington) was an American jazz saxophonist of the bebop/hard-bop idiom. He was also one of the best-documented saxophonists of his generation, recording over 100 albums in his lifetime. He was nicknamed the "Lone Wolf" by jazz critic Dan Morgenstern in tribute to his relentless touring and his devotion to jazz. He is considered the greatest disciple of Charlie Parker.



Although his playing was at first heavily inspired by Charlie Parker and Lester Young, Stitt eventually developed his own style, one which influenced John Coltrane. Stitt was especially effective with blues and with ballad pieces such as "Skylark". He recorded a number of memorable records with his friend and fellow saxophonist Gene Ammons, quite notably "Stringin' the Jug." The songs recorded by these two saxophonists are regarded by many as some of both Ammons and Stitt's best work, thus the Ammons-Stitt partnership went down in posterity as one of the best dueling partnerships in jazz, alongside Zoot Sims-Al Cohn and Johnny Griffin-Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis. Stitt's daughter, Katea, is music director for WPFW (89.3 FM), and host of its program "Freedom of Speech," heard 3-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays, as well as the jazz revue "Freedom Sounds," which airs 5-8 a.m. Wednesdays.

Look for more particulars on Jazz Night elsewhere in The Mustang.





**To answer a question about traffic expectations:**

*Please adhere to the following traffic rules.*

- Please do not block crosswalks
- Please do not make U-turns anywhere in the school zone
- Please do not stop in the middle of the street to pick up or drop off your student
- Please do not leave your car unattended next to the curb on 14th Street, it is a fire zone.
- Students should always exit the car on the passenger side closest to the school. Students should not have to walk around your car or cross the street to get to school unless they are crossing at the crosswalks
- Please be courteous and allow yourself time.

Arrival and dismissal can be a busy and frustrating time. However, if we all follow the rules and be patient things will run a lot smoother and our students will remain safe. —Mrs. Miles, principal

*Remember that next week the PTA Town Hall meeting will be conducted Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Much of the focus of the Town Hall will be on testing and academic matters, and representatives of D.C. Public Schools will be on hand to address those questions.*

**ORIGINS** from p. 8

should not be running in the hallways upstairs, walking around the building, outside at the entrance, etc.

These are just some things that perhaps you can share with the parents to see how you all might help to make it the most beneficial, enjoyable and safe event possible, as only you all can do.

When asked which was his greatest composition, Duke Ellington would say, "the next one." So, it can be with this Jazz Night as we partner to make it so.

--Michael Wallace, Jazz Night founder



Dear Shepherd Families,

I have been down with a respiratory virus for the past week and it feels like I am just coming up for air. It felt so bad to miss seeing parents on parent-

teacher conference day and to not be able to show the amazing work students created for the Songs of Freedom and Justice concert. However, when I return, students will paint and use art printing processes to produce panels for the upcoming Jazz Night. These panels will be abstract visual responses to the jazz we will listen to as we make the art. Please send me a message at [joele.michaud@dc.gov](mailto:joele.michaud@dc.gov) if you need to contact me.

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

<http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art/>. Look at ARTROOM WISH LIST to see what we need in the art room. Right now we need Kleenex and hand wipes desperately.

Homework has its own website page and the current assignment has a bold due date at its end. The Homework Scoring Guide shows how assignments are graded. Primary and intermediate vocabulary words are listed under FAQs (frequently asked questions).

Remember, you gotta have art!

Warm regards,  
Ms. Michaud

**Tube Stakes!**

The PTA needs your tubes from paper toweling rolls and toilet paper rolls to help make decorations for Jazz Night. Ms. Michaud has some extras, but we're counting on parent power to finish the job. There's a paper grocery sack in the office with the word "TUBES" written in purple marker. Use that as the spot to contribute any and all cardboard rolls you have in the house. Thanks for PRE-cycling!



## Box Tops Update

Remember: You can ALWAYS bag your Box Tops for Education and drop them in the Box Tops Box in the school office. Just be sure to include a piece of paper with your child's name and teacher so he or she can get proper credit.



The Box Tops collection headquarters has said that April will be the deadline for Box Tops to be submitted to them to count for our school-year totals. Please do your part and cut out every Box Tops coupon you've got.

Also: Tina Wright, our Box Tops coordinator at Shepherd over the past two years, is looking someone to succeed her for 2012-13, as her child is graduating in June from Shepherd. If you sign on, she'll be able to show you the ropes now and not leave you hanging not knowing what to do. If you're interested, get in touch with Tina at [wright0628@aol.com](mailto:wright0628@aol.com).

## No School Next Monday

Next Monday, Feb. 20, is Presidents Day. It's a federal holiday, which for residents of the District of Columbia means that there is no school that day, so plan accordingly.



In an era that seems like it was a long, long time ago, there used to be separate holidays, first Feb. 12 to honor the actual birthday of President Abraham Lincoln, and another holiday Feb. 22 to honor the actual birthday of the first U.S. president, George Washington. However, in the federal drive to create more Monday holidays and three-day weekends, the two holidays were mashed together, with Presidents Day occurring on the third Monday of February. And the generic nature of the holiday's name gives Americans of any political stripe an opportunity to revere their favorite presidents, whoever they may be.

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT



3500 East West Hwy, Hyattsville, MD  
(in front of Prince George's Plaza Mall)

**Tuesday, Feb. 21**  
**4-11 p.m.**

**SAY YOU'RE FROM SHEPHERD**

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

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## LANGUAGE NEWS

Dear Parents,

In January, we completed our IB unit 3 and students wrapped up the unit with assessments and reflections. During the month of February, we will begin unit 4 which will end in March.

Students in pre-K will learn geographical features of Spain or France.

Kindergarten will discuss traditions and holidays around the world.

First grade will conduct experiments to learn about the forms of nature. For example, how a solid changes to a liquid and how a liquid change to a solid.

Second grade will learn about cultural differences through exploring fables and folktales from the target language.

Third grade students will focus on a famous person from the target language. Each week we will discuss one aspect of the person.

Fourth grade will learn about different weathers around the world and how the weather impacted the environment.

Fifth grade will experience through historical depictions, media accounts or poetry historical events from various periods of World War I and World War II.

Special thanks to all the parents who attended parent-teacher conferences on February 6. We are still available to meet for conferences.

### How can you stay connected to the language outside of the classroom?

At home, watch the Spanish or French channels. For example: Telemundo or TV5 Monde.

In the community, look for French or Spanish events.

Visit Alliance Française's website, which has many French events for kids.



Teatro de la Luna and Gala Theatre are good places to go with your family.

Read also La Nacion (Spanish newspaper).



On the Internet:

⇒ "Tumble" books in French and Spanish through D.C. Public Library's website.

⇒ [Scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com) in Spanish

⇒ "Mango" language through the public library.



And always remember:

⇒ Check what your child did in class.

⇒ Ask what new vocabulary they learned and use this opportunity to learn with your child.

⇒ Discuss and show interest in your child's class work.

⇒ Check homework if any.

Here are some useful websites for translation and pronunciation:

<http://www.translate.google.com>

[http://www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/tts\\_example.php?sitepal](http://www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/tts_example.php?sitepal)

—Madame Gadie

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

—Señorita Moore, amoorebus@hotmail.com

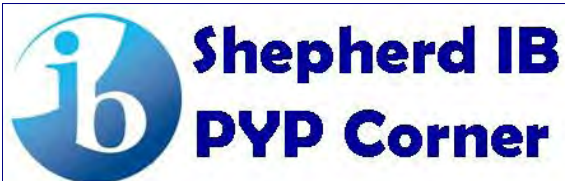


**Deadline for Next  
Mustang Issue**

**Fri, Feb 24,  
at 5 p.m.**

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





### Black History Month Trivia

- 1) Carter G. Woodson started Negro History Week in 1926 through this organization that he founded in 1915. What is the full name of the organization or its initials?
- 2) Who was the first African woman in North America to be elected mayor?
- 3) This person campaigned for freedom and justice in South Africa and spent 20 years in jail for his opposition to apartheid.
- 4) This person is known as the world's greatest footballer ever.
- 5) This person rose to become secretary general of the United Nations and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001.

The first class to submit all correct answers to Mrs. Hart by Friday, Feb. 17, will win a pizza party.

### Awards Day Perfect Attendance Recipients:

Pre-K: Jaylon Newby, Melody Ingram, Roxana Galvez-Rodas, Joyce Kao, Taylor Joiner, Autumn Cowsert, Camden Gorman, and Etta Shalaty.

Kindergarten: Kayla Bethea, Tobias Lindo, Edward Underwood, Yasmina Konate, Malchiah Marable, Sarah Rice, and Eyan White.

First grade: Tashi Cooper, Tamiko Stuckey, Dylan Santiago, Kalkidan Kebede, Myra Shalaty, Casey Ross, Natneal Shiferaw, Grace Kao, Rene Rodas, and Annelise Jefferson.

Second grade: Briana Knight-Rodriguez, Andy Nguyen, Kyle Jackson-Chang, Jean-Pierre Roberts, Nana Sissoko, Weldon Genies, Samuel Bush, Clare Harvey, Tiara Dupee, and David Okechukwu.

Third grade: Miles Davis, Jamarly Calhoun, Jay Matthews II, Ernestine Lwangu, Milke Hailu, Taylor Paraless, Christopher Villalta, Cydni Taylor, Spencer Friddle, Alexandra Abebe, Heidi Nikiema, and Adam Thomas.

Fourth grade: Alvaro Lopez, Tiffany Missembe, Yewoinhareg Kebede, Obed Johannes, Justin Williams, and Michael White.

Fifth grade: Cecelia Sneed, Saige Ballard, Aleisha Hopkins, Janelle Bethea, Noah White, Aaries Askew, Alexander Leonard, Kadija Cash-Taylor, Charles Ross II, Chance Burgess II, Christian Watkins and Leah Pearcy.

### February Concert

The "Songs of Freedom and Justice: 150 Years of American History in Song" concert was held last week. Mr. Giles and the students worked really hard in making this concert a great success. This concert was a joint recording by Shepherd Elementary School and the D.C. Labor Chorus. The CD recording is available from Labor Heritage Foundation which can be found at <http://store.laborheritage.org/songsoffreedomandjusticecd.aspx>.

### Learner Profile

The Learner Profile for the month of February is Knowledgeable. Students who are knowledgeable have explored relevant and significant concepts and can remember what they have learned. They can draw on this knowledge and apply it in new situations.

### Suggested Reading and Activities...

- The local newspapers, listen to and watch the news on the radio and television when appropriate
- Nonfiction books
- Books at home that correspond with the topics being covered in school
- Get engaged in conversations, ask questions such as, "Why do you think that is an important thing to know about?" or, "Can you think of anything happening in the world today that might be similar to that aspect of history?"

Have a great week!

*Sandra Hart*, IB Coordinator

## Shepherd Elementary School



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