



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

March 12, 2012

A Word from Mrs. Miles!



Greetings Shepherd Families,

I hope this message finds each of you well.

Spring Weather

As we approach spring and warmer weather, the days often begin cool and end warm. As a

result, students come to school in jackets and sweaters and leave with nothing. Please, please, please label your student's clothing. When we collect items in the lost and found, we look to see if there is a name. When we see a name, we strive to get the item back to the owner. Continue to remind your student that they are responsible for keeping up with their items throughout the day.

Behavior Expectations

At Shepherd we expect for our students to be respectful, responsible and safe at all times. This means: Students must keep their hands to themselves, listen when others are talking, use appropriate language and adhere to all the safety rules. Please remind your students that we expect their best every single day. Peer pressure is tough; however, they must learn to make good choices, stay away from conflict and seek an adult if they need help. They cannot "take matters" into their own hands.

At Shepherd, we strive to keep our students in school. Our discipline model is positive and we spend time reflecting with our students when they do wrong and brainstorm with them things they can do if they find themselves in the same or similar situation. Our behavior model, which can be found on the Shepherd Elementary website in the Student-Parent handbook is:

Step 1: Verbal Warning

Step 2: Written Warning

Step 3: Time Out

Step 4: Phone Call Home

Step 5: Detention

Step 6: Office Referral

(In-Out of School Suspension)

*Fighting and/or causing physical harm to another student or destroying school property is an automatic office referral. In addition, some minor but repeated offenses may result in an office referral.

It Is Budget Season

The 2012-13 budget allocations for all DCPS (schools) can be found on the DCPS website. To learn more about Shepherd's budget, enrollment projections and the implications it all has on our school for the next school year, please join us at this month's PTA meeting.

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

This is the time of year many of you are making decisions about where you would like for your child to

(see MILES, p.10)



- ◆ Friday, March 16: St. Patrick's Dance, 3:15 p.m., auditorium
- ◆ Wednesday, March 21: PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m. cafeteria
- ◆ Friday, March 23: Professional development day, no school
- ◆ Tuesday, March 27: Family Dinner Night, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Franklins, 5121 Baltimore Ave., Hyattsville
- ◆ Wednesday, March 28: School Improvement Team meeting, 5:30 p.m., library

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

March Language News



Dear Parents,

In February, we started our IB unit 4 and we will finish the unit during the month of March with assessments, projects and students reflections.

Students in Pre-K will continue to learn geographical features of Spain or France.

Kindergarten will review traditions and holidays around the world.

First grade will finish their book and their experiments to learn about the forms of nature.

Second grade will continue to explore cultural differences through fables and folktales from the target language.

Third-grade students will do a project on a notable person and will do a presentation in class related to their project. Please, tell your child to complete the project.

Fourth grade will do a project on famous weather events and their effect on the environment.

Fifth grade will start to look at the role of France or Spain during World War I and World War II.

Special thanks to kindergarten and first grade parents who attended and volunteered during Shepherd's Carnival.

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](#) website, it 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 (a Spanish newspaper).
- ◆ On the Internet:
 - ◇ Tumble books in French and Spanish through www.DClibrary.com

Primary Election Day Is Coming

Heads up, parents: Election Day (Tuesday, April 3) falls during spring break. If you will be away, you can vote early at these sites. For a list of all early voting sites and information on requesting an absentee ballot, go to:

- <http://www.dcboee.us/>

- Old Council Chambers
One Judiciary Square
441 4th St. NW
Monday, March 19-Saturday, March 24 and
Monday, March 26-Saturday, March 31
8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.



OR

- Takoma Recreation Center- Ward 4
300 Van Buren St. NW
Saturday, March 24, and
Monday, March 26-Saturday, March 31
8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

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.

Useful websites for translation and pronunciation:

- ◆ <http://www.translate.google.com>
- ◆ http://www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/tts_example.php?sitepal

Madame Gadie,

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

Senorita Moore, amoorebus@hotmail.com

*Come one,
come all!*



PTA MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

6:30 P.M., CAFETERIA

(childcare in auditorium)

- ⇒ News on our upcoming Gala
- ⇒ Reports from the principal and the PTA president
- ⇒ Special presentation from a D-DOT representative on traffic and parking at Shepherd
- ⇒ and much more!

SCHOOL STARTS ON TIME...

... SO DO PTA MEETINGS!

St. Patrick's Party

Students: Put on your dancing shoes for an after-school St. Patrick's Dance in the auditorium. The fun will start at 3:15 p.m. on Friday, March 16 (the day before St. Paddy's). There will be music, dancing, and lots of FUN!



Gala Committee Meets Monday

It's two months to our annual Gala, "An Evening in Paris – The Romance of Giving." To make sure everything is just as it should be, come join the Gala Committee to help it happen. The committee meets this Monday, 6:30 p.m., in the school library. Here's what's on the agenda:

- ◇ Report from PTA President
- ◇ Budget Update
- ◇ Procurement Update
- ◇ Marketing Update
- ◇ Food and Beverage Update
- ◇ Maestro Update
- ◇ Next Steps
- ◇ Close Out



Jazz Night Review

Shepherd's 23rd annual Jazz Night brought in plenty of current Shepherd families, plus some school-alumni families and a fair share of Shepherd Park neighbors to groove to the melodies. Our thanks to Dr. Michael Wallace, himself a former Shepherd parent and the originator of Jazz Night all the way back in 1989, for securing the talents of the Archie Edwards Blues Foundation and the Jackie Hairston Jazz Ensemble to play this year. Their obvious skills made for a terrific night for all. Everyone had their fill from the potluck, and those who didn't had a chance to buy Girl Scout cookies to take home at the end of the evening. The children were, by and large, well behaved both in the auditorium and in the cafeteria, where they worked on Mardi Gras masks and watched "The Princess and the Frog." And many thanks to the D.C. Youth Orchestra Program, which served as an opening act during the last 90 minutes of aftercare by bringing several instruments for an Instrument Petting Zoo that captivated the student body.



Two Summer Music Options With D.C. Youth Orchestra

Students can attend a two-week day camp (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) or a three-week evening session (6-8 p.m.) with the D.C. Youth Orchestra this summer.

The two-week day camp starts Monday, June 25, and concludes on Friday,



DC YOUTH ORCHESTRA
PROGRAM

July 6. Beginners can play instruments, move and sing to the music, and learn the basics of reading notes. Intermediates will play in either a string orchestra or a band, and there will be classes with each instrumental teacher and occasional master classes and performances.

The three-week evening program starts Monday, July 16 and finishes on Friday, August 3. Beginners will have classes two evenings each week, and intermediates will have classes four evenings a week. This program concludes with a concert.

Financial aid is available for the day camp and the evening program. For more details, check www.dcyop.org or call 202-698-0123.

*--Mr. Ken Giles, music teacher
(and violin teacher at D.C. Youth Orchestra)*



Calling all Library Books!

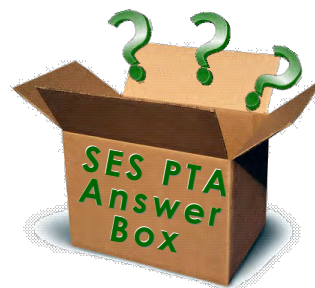
How long has it been since your class has been to the school library? If it's been a while, please check in with your students, and ask them to return their library

books! We are staffed Tuesday-Friday, and we love sharing books with the students, but we are also working on being responsible for belongings, and that goes for all grades.

And if you or your child is finished with books that you know other kids would love, why not donate them to the library? Kid-to-kid recommendations are invaluable! I will even inscribe the book with the donor's name.

--Stephanie Scott, Shepherd parent

Q: For pre-K parents, how can we "work as a team" with our child's teacher when there doesn't seem to be anything to work with? (I have observed a lack of work; mainly play.) Also, how can pre-K parents begin to prepare for the standardized testing?"



To learn more about what your student is learning in the classroom and how to support your child at home, please speak with your child's teacher. At the Pre-K level our students do participate in learning centers which are essential to their growth and development. However, in addition to centers they participate in an array of other learning activities that can be quiet challenging for some of Pre-K students. In the last issue of the Mustang in the "Curriculum Matters" section, I shared some things you can do to prepare your student for standardized testing. We will continue to provide tips throughout the remainder of the year. However, at this stage, the most important thing you can do for your student at this level is read to them or have them read to you. Ask your student questions that extend beyond recall (example: instead of asking, "Was it sunny or cloudy outside?" ask them, "Look at the picture and/or based on what you read, how do you know it was a sunny day?") In math, have your student practice and apply math in the real world. Encourage them to count and sort objects they see, have them identify shapes and encourage them to add and subject objects. —Mrs. Miles, principal

(To get a question answered, all you have to do is ask. Write your question, and put it in the new PTA mailbox mounted on the wall in the main office near the teachers' mailboxes. Make sure it says "Answer Box" or some such so that we'll know who to get your query answered.)



A professional development day is scheduled for Friday, March 23. No classes will be held. If you need to find a place to put your child for the day while you are at work, consult the "No-School Days for Kids"

listings under the "Resources" tab of the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org.

HERE WE GO — TO FRANKLINS!

The PTA's next big Family Dinner Night will be at Franklins Restaurant, Brewery and General Store, located at 5121 Baltimore Ave. (aka Route 1) in the heart of Hyattsville's arts district.

Take a look at what Franklins has to offer for Shepherd families and friends seeking the 20 percent PTA rebate:

Family Dinner Night is good for BOTH lunch AND dinner! The restaurant opens at 11 a.m. for lunch, and stays open for dinner until 10 p. m.

Franklins honors Family Dinner Night for BOTH dine-in AND carry-out! Call Franklins at 301-927-2740 to phone in your order, and go to <http://www.franklinsbrewery.com/our-specials/> to check out their menu offerings.

And Family Dinner Night is good for BOTH the restaurant AND the general store next door! There are all sorts of toys, games, nostalgia and downright kitsch. Parents who like to plan ahead should think in terms of birthday gifts – and even stocking stuffers nine months from now!

BUT... you MUST have the Franklins flyer below,



printable from the school website at www.shepherd-elementary.org, or pull a couple of copies from the rack outside the main office. Patrons must turn in their itemized receipts to the host and ask that their receipt be added to the fundraiser.

Remember: Franklins prides itself in being fun for both old and young, but it is not a playground. There are employees carrying heavy trays and hot plates in and out of the kitchen and up and down the stairs. Please do not allow your children to run in the restaurant or play on the staircase. Also, please remember that children are not allowed in the store without supervision.

And this part is really important. From the Franklins website: *"Organizations will not be permitted to hand out flyers or solicit receipts/donations from other patrons. All advertising must be done prior to the fundraiser and not on Franklins' property. Doing so may result in the forfeiture of the organization's entire donation."*

Now that we've got all of the Debbie Downer stuff out of the way, listen up: At last month's Family Dinner Night at Outback Steakhouse, the PTA got \$312. That's the best response to a Family Dinner Night since our first one held during the first week of school. This pushes our total so far this year \$1,704.09. Congratulations to everybody!

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT



5121 Baltimore Ave., Hyattsville, MD
[Baltimore Ave. (Route 1) at Gallatin St.
in the Heart of Historic Hyattsville]

Tuesday, Mar. 27
11 a.m.-10 p.m.

➔ **You MUST Bring This Flyer!** ➔

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

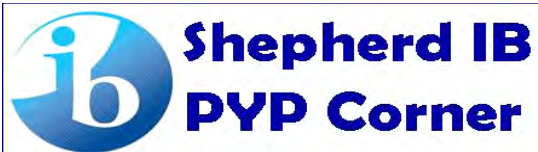
*Good for BOTH — the Restaurant
and the General Store Next Door!*

Check out the menu at

<http://www.franklinsbrewery.com/our-specials/>



Good for Dine-In and Carry Out (PH: 301.927.2740)



March is Women's History Month. In 1911, March 8 was first celebrated as International Women's Day in Europe. Back then, in many European countries, as well as in the United States, women having rights in society became a widespread topic. Many women organizations were occupied with the task of acquiring the right to vote for women. Many women (and men) began writing books on the contributions of women to history.

By 1978 in California, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women began a "Women's History Week" celebration. The week was chosen to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8.

In 1987, the U.S. Congress, at the request of the National Women's History Project, expanded the week to a month.

The purpose of Women's History Month is to increase consciousness and knowledge of women's history: to take one month of the year to remember the contributions of notable and ordinary women, in hopes that the day will soon come when it's impossible to teach or learn history without remembering these contributions.

Women's History Trivia

This month's trivia focuses on famous women. The first class to submit all the correct answers to Mrs. Hart by Friday, March 16, will win an ice cream party. Please read all the questions carefully.

1. She was a British chemist who worked in the field of protein crystallography. She discovered the structure of penicillin, vitamin B12 and the chemical composition of insulin.
2. This Italian neurologist, aged 99, is the oldest living Nobel Prize winner for her discovery of the nerve growth factor.
3. Known as "The Queen of Soul," born on March 25, 1942, has influenced a whole new breed of R&B, soul and gospel singers. Blessed with a heart-warming voice, and has won 20 Grammy Awards

in her career.

4. More known for her now-famous outfits, she has a huge, larger-than-life presence in the music industry today. At just 25, Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta has four Guinness world records, five Grammys and 13 MTV Video Music Awards, in addition to album sales of 23 million-plus.

5. Known for makeup and skin care. Recognized as one of the 20 most prestigious business moguls of the 20th century by the Time magazine in 1998, and she taught the world how to sell cosmetics.

IB Program of Inquiry

Our fifth Unit of Inquiry begins the week of March 19 and ends on April 20. The Inquiry for each grade level is as follows:

- *Pre-Kindergarten* – How We Express Ourselves – Expressions Beyond Words
- *Kindergarten* – Sharing the Planet – Cycles Around the World
- *First Grade* – How We Express Ourselves - Cultures Here and There
- *Second Grade* – Where We Are in Place and Time – Exploring the World
- *Third Grade* – How We Organize Ourselves – Yes We Can
- *Fourth Grade* – Where We Are in Place and Time – Survival Is Key
- *Fifth Grade* – How We Organize Ourselves – Change – How Do I Cope

As you know the Month of March is dedicated to the Learner Profile of Balanced. As Parents, you can help your child to become balanced by:

- Making sure they participate in a variety of structured activities, indoor and outdoor.
- Encouraging them to exercise daily, eating healthy and choosing food from the four food groups.
- Providing positive feedback when you observe balanced behavior and modeling balanced behavior yourself.

Have a nice week!

Sandra Hart, IB Coordinator



Dear Fellow Mustangs!

On Feb. 24, Mr. Velez, Mr. Bailey and Mr. Burgess had their second ski trip of school the year. There were about 15 students in the fourth grade who participated, including me. Also, four parents went skiing with us. It was the best field trip I ever had! We went and came back from skiing safely, with no injuries. Everyone had a great time. A big THANK YOU to Mr. Velez for organizing this fun ski trip.

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

--Sophia-Rose Herisse, 4th Grade

If You Got It, We Can Use It!

If you've got Box Tops for Education on your General Foods, Hefty, Kleenex, Avery, Cascadian Farms, Cottonelle and many other products, we can use them! There's a Box Tops box in the school office. If you want your child to be eligible for a prize, put his/her name, grade and teacher on a slip of paper and include it with the Box Tops in a zip-lock bag.



If you've got unused cell phones, we can use them! Every batch of 10 we collect, we ship off to a cell phone recycling firm which takes the parts for reuse – and we get \$2 minimum for every phone we turn in! Put any cell phones in the white-lidded PTA box in the school office.



If you've got empty toner cartridges, we can use those, too! A recycling firm pays a decent bounty to those organizations that collect them. Please give your toner cartridges to Ms. Brooks in the office, and she'll know what to do with them.



Hello Everyone!

The Artroom is back online!

Illness, absence and Jazz Night left me postponing due dates for homework. It also found me neglecting to update my website, <http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art>, like I normally do. Therefore, the site was briefly taken down. A LOT of folks were left in confusion, and for that I sincerely apologize. So I will push back the due date for all homework a week since so many students could not access the site. (Parents, you might use this as an object lesson with your kids for what happens when duties are not promptly done.)



Now the site is restored, I'm back, I can talk to you, everyone can see the Artroom information, and it's all good!

Didn't our kids do a fabulous job with the Jazz Night Abstract Artwork!! If you haven't seen it, just stop in the gymnasium and see how the space was transformed by the colorful panels.

Again the artroom website is: <http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art>. Homework will continue to have its own page there and the current assignment will have a bold due date at its end. The Homework Scoring Guide page shows how assignments are graded. Primary and intermediate vocabulary words are listed under FAQ's (frequently asked questions.)

Remember, visual art is music to the eyes and food for the soul.

--Warm regards,

Ms. Michaud



Deadline for Next
Mustang Issue

**Fri, Mar. 23,
at 5 p.m.**

Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

Just the FAQs, Ma'am!:

What You Need to Know About the Shepherd Gala

When is Shepherd's Gala?

Friday, May 11, 7–11 p.m.

Where will the Gala be held?

At the Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16th Street NW, just a block from the school. Note that parking is limited. Guests are encouraged to walk or carpool, and remember to park legally on surrounding streets.

Is the "Gala" replacing the "Auction?"

No, the event is really both! The auction is, and has always been, the featured activity; however, we have taken to referring to the event as "the Gala," which better reflects the social nature of the affair — like a really great party that features a live and silent auction.

Why is this an important event to attend?

This is Shepherd's one and only grown-up social function for the Shepherd Elementary community, as well as prospective parents and guardians. If you're new to the school, it's a great opportunity to get to know lots of us in a fun and friendly environment. The added benefit is that the cost of your night out also supports the school and its activities.

What is the price of admission?

RSVP in advance and each ticket is \$45; same-day tickets are \$50. We will happily take cash, your personal check made out to Shepherd Elementary School PTA, or a major credit card. For those of you who have attended in the past, you may notice the ticket price is a little higher. That's because we have included drinks in the price of admission this year, so there will not be any add-on charges for drinks — in fact, if you bought a wristband last year, this year's cost is actually less! This is being done to make for a more enjoyable and hassle-free evening. Please remember, this is a fundraiser to support the school.

What is included in the ticket price?

Admission, food, drinks, and entertainment. This year, with our "Evening in Paris" theme, the dinner buffet will feature all sorts of Parisian

delicacies. Beer, wine, soft drinks and our surprise "signature cocktail" of the evening are included. For entertainment, there will be live music throughout the evening. Your ticket also entitles you to register as a bidder, but anything you bid on is extra.

How do I RSVP to attend?

You may RSVP and purchase your tickets directly through the Gala page on our website (www.shepherd-elementary.org). You may also fill out an RSVP card and place it in the PTA Gala Box in the school office. Gala Committee volunteers will also be selling advance tickets, periodically, on campus at drop-off, pick-up, and at the end of aftercare.

Do I need an advance ticket or can I pay at the door?

You can pay at the door, but it will cost more. (\$45 in advance; \$50 on the day of the Gala) We are asking the Shepherd community to help us anticipate food/beverage quantities, room capacity, etc., by purchasing advance tickets if at all possible.

Is the Gala open to the public?

Absolutely! The more people who attend, the more money we raise — so, yes, we'd be delighted to have your family, friends, colleagues and neighbors join us! The event is a celebration of our school and is open to all adults; but, please note that it is not appropriate for children.

If the event is to benefit the school, why can't I bring my kids?

The music, food, drinks, general ambience and late hour of the Gala have been planned with adults in mind, and there won't be room for little ones to run around. And while many Shepherd students are well enough behaved to attend an adult function, please be considerate of your fellow parents who are enjoying a grown-up night out.

Will there be child care onsite?

No, there will not be child care or play areas for children at the Washington Ethical Society. To help parents enjoy the evening, the PTA is looking into some private child-care arrangements that can be made available for those interested. Watch for more information in future announcements, but please note that these options would not be sponsored or endorsed by the PTA or the school; costs and responsibilities would be borne by parents and guardians. The PTA also encourages Shepherd

(See GALA, p. 9)

GALA from p. 8

families to “sitter share” for the evening.

What is the suggested attire?

The event is festive, though not formal. Pictures from last year’s Auction/Gala (on the website, under “Support Us”) will give you some ideas. Keep in mind this year’s “Parisian” theme.

How does the auction work?

You will register as a bidder when you arrive. You will be given a bidder number to use throughout the evening.

During the Gala, guests are encouraged to browse the displays of silent auction items. Each item will have a bid form, where bidders write in their bid number and signature at the bid amount they’re willing to pay. Other bidders may outbid the last bid entered — so it’s a good idea to check back on items you really want. When the auction closes, the highest bidder gets to purchase the item at their bid amount.

Some items are saved for the live auction at the end of the evening, where an auctioneer leads the bidding and guests bid by raising their hands or bid numbers. Whether or not you’re actively bidding, this is a fun and exciting part of the evening.

During the live auction, the auctioneer will also be making an appeal for donations towards our Shepherd Education Enrichment Dollars (SEED) Fund, during which all participants may show their support for Shepherd.

What happens if I place the winning bid on an auction item?

For the live auction, the auctioneer will identify the winning bidder on the spot. Winning bids for the silent auction items will be posted at the end of the evening. In either case, you can pay for your items at the end of the night — you can pay for multiple items at once — by cash, check or credit card. You will be provided a full statement, outlining your purchases for the evening, including any potential tax deductible contributions. If you leave before the end of the evening, Gala volunteers will contact you to pay for and retrieve your purchase.

If I attend, must I bid?

No, all bidding is strictly optional. We raise money from ticket sales, so you’ve already helped us just by attending. However, the auction is where the

real money is raised and we hope you will consider bidding on some of the truly unique items in a variety of price ranges. If you’re new to bidding, Gala Committee volunteers will be on hand to offer help.

What types of items are auctioned?

The auction items vary from year to year, depending on donations. Among the many highlights are the classroom donations — often personalized mementos or decorative items, such as a handprint area rug and student-painted ceramic serving bowl. This year, the PTA has set up an auction website that will let you preview auction items.

I can’t come on May 11, is there a way for me to bid on items?

Unfortunately, no; both live auctions and silent auctions are based on bids taken during a limited period of time; i.e. during the event. If you’re not able to join us this year, you can still help by simply making a donation or volunteering to help the Gala Committee with activities such as tickets sales and donation solicitation.

Is my contribution tax-deductible?

Generally, contributions are deductible over and above any value received. Your admission is tax deductible above the value of food, beverage and entertainment. If you buy an item in the live or silent auction, the amount you pay over the fair market value of the item is potentially tax deductible. At the end of the auction, winners will receive a statement showing purchases and donations made that night, including the potential tax deduction.

Cash donations are considered tax-deductible, as is, in most cases, the fair market value of any items donated. Raffle tickets and advertisements in the catalog are not considered tax-deductible. Donors of items and monetary donations received before the Gala will receive a letter acknowledging and thanking them for their donation(s) that may be used for tax purposes. This information is provided as guidance; for additional information, you should speak with a tax professional.

When is the raffle?

The raffle is also conducted onsite at the Gala. Attendees can purchase as many raffle tickets as they want. The raffle item(s) will be announced at the Gala and the winner(s) will be drawn that night. Last year’s raffle prize was an iPad2.

(See FAQs, p. 10)

FAQs from p. 9

How does the PTA use the money raised?

Funds raised at the Gala — through ticket sales, the auction, and the raffles — go directly to the Shepherd PTA and to a special fund known as Shepherd Educational Enrichment Dollars (SEED). The SEED fund was created last year in response to a request from Principal Miles to allocate funds for the purchase of white boards. The SEED fund lets parents direct their contributions to a specific, predetermined educational goal. This year, PTA Treasurer Kim Barnette is coordinating the effort to determine use of the SEED funds for the 2012-13 school year. To see the current PTA budget and how PTA funds are allocated, look on the Shepherd website under Parents.

How do I get involved?

There are a number of ways to get involved with, and support, the Gala and auction, whether or not you'll be able to attend the event yourself:

- ♦ Join the Gala Planning Committee. Before the event, you can help with advertising, ticket sales, procurement of donations, logistics and more. The day of the auction, we'll need help with things such as set up and registering bidders as they arrive.
- ♦ Another way to support the event is to make a donation. We are accepting cash donations and sponsorships to help with the expenses of the evening. You may also donate or solicit donations for Gala products or services to sell at auction. Donations (both items and cash) may be made through the auction website or by using an auction donation form. The deadline for submitting information on an auction donation is Friday, April 20. If you can make a donation or know someone who can, we want to hear from you!
- ♦ Purchase an ad in the Auction Catalog -- whether for your business, to thank your teacher, or congratulate your child, an ad in the Auction Catalog is a great way to show your support for Shepherd.

To get involved, please speak with any member of the Gala Planning Committee or send an e-mail to shepherdauktion@live.com.

MILES from p. 1

attend school next year. As principal, I hope all of you will remain committed to DCPS and the Shepherd school family. As I always say, we are not a perfect school but we are striving to get better every day. However, as a parent I feel strongly about parents making a decision that works best for their family. Therefore, if you are not planning to return to Shepherd next year, please let Mrs. Brooks know as soon as possible. We have families on our waiting list who want to join our Shepherd family. Finally, if you make a decision to leave because you feel as if there is something/somewhere better for your student, I would love to speak with you. This feedback is needed and helpful as we strive to become a better school.

Fitness Fridays at Shepherd

In April we will begin Fitness Fridays at Shepherd. On this day, students, parents, and staff will be asked to gather on the lower field to walk or run the track or participate in some sort of morning kinesthetic. More information about this initiative along with procedural details will be announced at the end of the month. However, I am currently seeking volunteers to help with activities, supervision and traffic control. If interested, please email Mr. Burgess at Jarrett.burgess@dc.gov with your name and contact information.

Have a great week, everyone!

Sincerely,

Jamie Miles

Principal

***Shepherd Elementary School***

7800 14th Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20012
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