



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

April 23, 2012

A Word from Mrs. Miles!



Greetings, Shepherd Families!

Registration

A sincere thank you to everyone who has taken the time to register their student for the 2012-13 school year. If you have not done

so, please take time to register your student this week. Though you must complete the registration packet in its entirety before the start of the school year, you may submit all but the health forms now! Remember, you must come inside to verify you are a resident of the District before your registration package can be processed. The registration deadline is June 1. If you have questions about registration, please see Mrs. Brooks.

Reading Challenge

A reading challenge has been issued to our students. If 90 percent of the students meet their reading goal on or before June 6, I have agreed to be made into a human sundae. Yes, a sundae, complete with whipped cream, syrup and cherries on top! I will ask you again: Do you know your child's reading level? Have you asked your child's teacher for your child's reading level? Do you know what your child's teacher is doing to help your child meet and exceed their grade-level reading expectations? Do you know what you can do to help your child? If you answered "yes," good for you! However, if you do not know, it is not too late to find out. In order for our students to meet their reading goal this year and every year it will take all of us working together.

Chancellor's Tweet

District of Columbia Public Schools Chancellor Kaya Henderson announced a new \$10 million grant program to dramatically improve student outcomes across the district. Beginning today, all schools will be able to apply for the program, called Proving What's Possible (PWP).

(see PRINCIPAL, page 4)

ALLISON SEYMOUR TO EMCEE OUR BIG PTA GALA!

Our big PTA Gala, "An Evening in Paris," just got bigger with the addition of Allison Seymour, anchor of the "Fox 5 Morning News," to be our master of ceremonies! Allison said she'd do it as long as she didn't have to conduct the auction part of the evening. That's OK;



we've got a professional auctioneer at the ready to take your bids on all kinds of swell prizes. And take it easy on poor Allison; our gala runs from 7 to 11 p.m., and she's going to be up way past her bedtime! But she IS coming to celebrate with us, so be sure to put on not only your festive attire, but a grand, celebratory spirit as we celebrate our school, our hard-working children, our hard-working teachers and staff, and our unswerving commitment to excellence in public education at Shepherd.

We're out to clear \$40,000 from this auction, and we'll need your help to do it. We'll have PTA coffees this week and next, as well as new after-school ticket sales for you to get your spot on the Rive Gauche (that's "Left Bank" in French). Tickets are just \$45 each – less than a cab ride from the Paris airport to the Louvre; the price goes up on Gala day to \$50, so don't wait.

In this Mustang we have a donation form for auction items. We want to get EVERYTHING in by next Monday, April 30 – auction items, ads, sponsorships, the works – so we can assemble the best-looking program book you've ever seen.

Go to the school website now – www.shepherd-elementary.org – to get your tickets, make your RSVP, sponsor our Gala, buy an ad in the program book, and make auction donations. Every part counts in making our Gala a huge success, and every parent counts, too!





◆ **Monday, April 23-Friday, April 27:**

DC-CAS testing continues

◆ **Monday, April 23:** *Gala Committee meeting, library, 6:30 p.m.*

◆ **Tuesday, April 24:** *Report cards issued*

◆ **Wednesday, April 25:** *Ready! Set!*

Read! Meeting, 5 p.m. (invitation only)

School Improvement Team meeting, library, 5:30p.m.

◆ **Thursday, April 26:** *Family Dinner Night, Charlies, 7307 Georgia Ave., NW, 4-11 p.m.*

◆ **Friday, April 27:** *PTA coffee, 7:45 a.m.*

Gala ticket sales, 2:45-6 p.m.

Gala Committee meeting, Washington Ethical Society, 6 p.m.

◆ **Monday, April 30:** *Gala Committee meeting, library, 6:30 p.m.*

◆ **Wednesday, May 2:** *PTA coffee, 7:45 a.m.*

Gala ticket sales, 2:45-6 p.m.

◆ **Friday, May 4:** *Gala ticket sales, 2:45-6 p.m.*

and, of course...

◆ **Friday, May 11:** *Annual Gala, "An Evening in Paris," 7-11 p.m., Washington Ethical Society*



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

Gala Committee Gets BUSY!

If you want to latch onto the bustling beehive of activity that's known as the Gala Committee, you've got three chances to do so in the next two weeks.

The first of these chances is Monday, April 23, 6:30 p.m., in the school library. Critical updates and targets will be discussed, no doubt!

The second chance is Friday, April 27, at 6 p.m., at our Gala site, the Washington Ethical Society at 7750 16th St. NW, just a block from Shepherd. While there, we're going to examine the layouts and possibilities for achieving not only a glorious social event, but also a smooth-running one.

The third opportunity will be Monday, April 30, in the school library at 6:30 p.m. With so much to do, we gratefully welcome parents who can plug into the framework and give us a hand. See you there!



School Improvement Team Meets for Shepherd Tour

The School Improvement Team at Shepherd, which is on track to recommend improvements and renovations to the physical plant for summer 2013, will meet Wednesday, April 25, at 5:30 p.m. The team will assemble in the library, and will tour the second floor of both the old wing and the new wing to see what needs to be preserved and what needs to be improved.

If you want to be part of the team, get in touch with the chair, Mark Pattison, at either 829-9289 or pattison_mark@hotmail.com.



**Deadline for
Next Mustang**

**Fri, May 4
at 5 p.m.**

Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

Family Dinner Night Is This Thursday!

The Shepherd Elementary community should amble on over to Georgia Avenue once again later this week for the next Family Dinner Night.

Our host is Charlies, at 7307 Georgia Avenue between Geranium Street and Fern Place. (On the

same block is a new spa and salon especially for girls called Tutu Cute; we do not make up this kind of stuff.)

This Family Dinner Night is Thursday, April 26, from 4 to 11 p.m. It'll be a great time for families to exhale from the rigors of DC-CAS testing. And the PTA gets 20 percent back from your pre-tax tab. The rebate is good for both dine-in and carry-out meals. So take advantage! See the flyer in this issue of the Mustang for more details.

Our Georgia Avenue businesses have long supported Shepherd Elementary. With this Family Dinner Night, they can help us yet again, and we can help them at the same time.



Parents Vote to Have PTA Take Responsibility for Aftercare

In a show of hands at Wednesday's PTA meeting, parents voted to have the PTA assume responsibility for Shepherd's aftercare program.

The program, often referred to as "Star Achievers," has been a popular feature for parents, with 130 students taking part. But there have been several complicating factors in the mix, according to PTA President Bianca Bostic and Jennifer Pauk, a Shepherd parent and Local School Advisory Team member, who led the discussion.

Most D.C. Public Schools facilities are Title I schools, and aftercare is structured much differently. Since Shepherd is a Title II school, a separate nonprofit to administer aftercare was established several years ago. However, both Ms. Confer and Mr. Huff have indicated that they will retire. That also leads to several options.

One option, which the parents overwhelmingly voted for, was to have the PTA administer Shepherd's aftercare. Another option was to hire a company that specializes in aftercare, but there could very well be insurance issues and more restrictive use of the school building. The cost would also likely be higher than what parents pay for aftercare now.

Another option would be for no aftercare at Shepherd, forcing all parents to pick up their children at 3:15 p.m. and find childcare providers on their own. While that option may be more expensive (or even less expensive), parents at the meeting did not relish the thought of having to leave their jobs early every day to pick up their kids.

After the vote, a sheet of paper got filled up quickly with parents' names, phone numbers and email addresses to indicate their willingness to serve on an aftercare board. The most immediate tasks include establishing a set of bylaws to govern its activities, and hiring a program manager for aftercare.

"...both Ms. Confer and Mr. Huff ...will retire."

TV-VG Turnoff Goes National With Screen-Free Week

Shepherd's year-long TV-Video Game Turnoff Club is going national next week, as communities around the country are making great plans for Screen-Free Week, which will be celebrated April 30-May 6. Here's just a sample:

- The Early Years Institute in Long Island is working with local businesses and community organizations to provide free or reduced-cost screen-free activities for kids.
- The Iowa Department of Public Health and Live Healthy Iowa have partnered with five Iowa YMCAs to reduce screen-time. Participating Ys agree to eliminate TV viewing during Screen-Free Week and revise their year-round television viewing policies for before and after school.
- In Montana, Unplug and Play Missoula is partnering with Missoula Parks and Recreation and the County Health Department to offer a variety of fun and active events throughout the week.
- In Napa, Calif., Community Resources for Children will offer screen-free activities every evening.



And if you have any Screen-Free Week resources you'd like to share with other parents, please email screenfree@commercialfreechildhood.org.

Here's to a great Screen-Free Week!



PTA Coffees Continue; With Gala Ticket Sales in the PM

And maybe sometimes we'll actually have coffee! We've got two such coffees scheduled in the next two weeks: Friday, April 27, and Wednesday, May 2. We aim to be out on the sidewalk as early as 7:45 a.m. We'll have Gala tickets for sale, and other exciting school news to share with our fellow parents.

And if that isn't enough, parents will be at Shepherd in the afternoon to sell Gala tickets as early as 2:45 p.m. until aftercare lets out. The dates for the ticket sales are Friday, April 27, Wednesday, May 2, and Friday, May 4. Bring your cash or bring your checkbook. It's all good!



PRINCIPAL from p. 1

"In order to achieve the ambitious goals we've outlined for our schools, we need to do more," said Henderson. "Innovation and continuous improvement are essential to growth in any industry, and education is no different. Our students deserve nothing less than our very best."

All schools in DCPS are eligible to apply for either of the two types of PWP grants. Major Grants (\$250,000-\$400,000) are designed for schools with the largest population of students in need of academic improvement or a group of students who need to make the largest academic gains. Targeted Grants (\$50,000-\$100,000) are designed for schools that want to focus on supporting a targeted intervention for a subgroup within a school.

Schools are encouraged to propose research-based approaches that have a track record of success in urban schools. They are also encouraged to focus their applications on how time, talent and technology can help them to make dramatic academic gains, such as extending the school day, utilizing technology in innovative ways, and rethinking how they ensure that their highest-caliber staff are reaching as many students as possible.

In Response to the Chancellor's Tweet

Shepherd Elementary School is in the planning stage of a proposal to expand school time for select grades. An expanded learning time will help us improve student outcomes in core academic subjects, broaden enrichment opportunities, and improve instruction by adding more planning and professional development time for teachers. Due to the many competing factors during the course of the school day, our students are engaged in less than three hours of instruction time per day. This limited time creates barriers and challenges as we strive to prepare our students for success beyond Shepherd. We want our students prepared for middle school, high school, college and the workforce, and we want them to lead healthy, fulfilling lives. In the next few days you will be receiving an announcement asking you to participate in a survey. The purpose of this survey is to get your thoughts about the idea of an expanded learning time.

Snack Shack

Starting Wednesday and every Monday, Wednesday and Friday until June, students may purchase healthy snacks from the Snack Shack located in the school cafeteria. The Snack Shack is

sponsored by the student council. Half of the proceeds raised will go to charity and the other half will help sponsor an activity during field day! All items will cost 50 cents or \$1. The Snack Shack will sell things such as fruit snacks, water, cereal bars, baked chips, and cranberry and raisin snacks among other things. Please support the Student Council by sending money on the days the Snack Shack is open.

Fitness Friday

Beginning Friday, April 27, students who arrive between 8:10 and 8:30 a.m. may gather on the playground and burn off some energy before the start of the school day. Students arriving during this time should enter the gymnasium and travel to the PE doors and exit to the playground. Pre-K and kindergarten students should play on the smaller lot. All other students may play on the larger lot. In the event of inclement weather, students will gather as normal in the gymnasium. Students must arrive on Fridays between 8:10 and 8:30 a.m. to play.

Strawberries and Salad Greens Day

Wednesday, May 23, is Strawberries & Salad Greens Day! Parents are invited to come and enjoy a scrumptious lunch with their student. The menu for the day will be: Rotisserie Style Bone-In Chicken with Whole Wheat Biscuit, Roasted Corn on the Cob, Side Salad with Local Greens, and Locally Grown Strawberries. Shepherd has also been invited to be a demonstration school where chefs will be on hand to conduct demonstrations and do activities with the students. If you think you may be interested in attending, please let your child's teacher know so that we can make accommodations in the lunch room on this day (if needed).

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.

Raffles Support Our Gala!

The Gala will not have one, but TWO raffles supporting our "Evening in Paris" event.

One is for the kids. It's a gift certificate good for a new bicycle! Tickets are \$2 each or three tickets for \$5. You'll be able to get them at PTA coffees and the after-school Gala ticket sales tables.

The other is for the adults. If you've been to the last two Galas, you'll know that we raffled off an iPad, and then an iPad 2.

This year, we worked very closely with Apple to get its new iPad 3 launched in time for this year's Gala. And, unlike in past years when you actually had to be at the Gala to get raffle tickets, we'll be selling tickets in these closing weeks to our May 11 "An Evening in Paris" event. So if you want an iPad 3 with plenty of bells and whistles, you may want to buy a ticket or two or three or four. Even at \$25 each, it's a great deal that you simply cannot pass up!



Snider's Partnership Reaps Big Bucks for Shepherd!

Snider's Supermarket has presented Shepherd Elementary School with a check for \$341. The school "earned" this money by collecting and turning in Snider's grocery receipts from January 2011 through February 2012.



Snider's gives the school 1 percent of the money spent (excluding taxes and stamps). Shepherd has been participating in the Snider's program for eight years and this is the largest check yet! Thanks to all the Snider's shoppers at Shepherd Elementary, in the Shepherd Park neighborhood and from Tifereth Israel Congregation, all of whom contributed to this outstanding result.

The parent who started the program back then was Susan Catler. She has been processing the receipts since her daughter was in Mrs. Crockett's first-grade class; she's finishing Hardy Middle School this year.

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

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FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

Shepherd's
FAMILY
DINNER
NIGHT



Charlie's
restaurant

7307 Georgia Ave. NW
(between Geranium St. and Fern Pl.)

Thursday, April 26
4-11 p.m.

→ **SAY YOU'RE FROM SHEPHERD** ←
The PTA gets 20% of your pre-tax tab!

Serving American and Soul Food

Good Food
—
Good Music
—
A place
"where
everybody
knows your
name"

Good for Dine-In and Carryout (PH: 202-726-3567)



Shepherd IB PYP Corner

Earth Day 2012, fell on Sunday, April 22 this year. Earth Day was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson and focuses on our environment. The purpose of Earth Day is to inspire awareness and appreciation for the earth and the environment. Hopefully, this past weekend everyone did their part and spent some time thinking about our planet and planning ways to keep the environment beautiful and healthy. "Reduce," "reuse" and "recycle" are the key words we need to think about as we plan for our future earth.

To reduce is one important aspect of Earth Day -- reducing the amount of things we use in our day-to-day lives. The next time you go out to buy things for the home, ask yourself if there is something you already have that can do the same job.

By reusing everyday objects, we will consume less and thus, a reduced amount of waste items. Reusing everyday objects will help students to find other uses for old things.

Recycling paper, cans, plastic and bottle objects will save trees and reduce our landfills.

What You Can Do

*When you see litter in the street
And the air smells of pollution
When you feel like it's all piling up
Remember there is a solution*

*There's something each of us can do
To keep the rivers clean
To keep fresh the air we breathe
And keep the forest green*

*Help clean a beach
Or recycle bottles and cans
Learn about the problems we face
And help others to understand*

*It doesn't have to be a lot
If we each just do our share
So take time out on Earth Day
To show the Earth you care*

--Classroomjr.com

Awards Day Perfect Attendance Recipients:

Pre Kindergarten: Cailey Edmunds, Melody Ingram, Nubek Hailu, Roxana Rodas-Galvez, Joyce Kao, Taylor Joiner, Camden Gorman, Etta Shalaty, and Marlon Medley

Kindergarten: Aaron Smith, Tobias Lindo, Erin Askew, Edward Underwood, Sharon Chirambo, Malchiah Marable, Sean Reece, Yasmina Konate, Helen Nguyen, Olivia Addie Waymer, and Christopher Zepeda-Castillo

1st Grade: Bianca Popa, Tamiko Stuckey, Maya Ray, Asantewaa Nyanteh, Dylan Santiago, Kalkidan Kebede, Kyle Bowman, Myra Shalaty, Layla Brent, Casey Ross, Natneal Shiferaw, Grace Kao, Renata Mills, Rene Rodas, and Micah Stovall

2nd Grade: Andy Nguyen, Benjamin White, Deborah Okechukwu, Nana Sissoko, Masai Jenkins, Clare Harvey, Ezinne Ukaegbu, Tiara Dupee, David Okechukwu, Dakota Inniss, Marie-Therese Tata, and Agyeman Nyanteh

3rd Grade: Miles Davis, Bryan Wilson, Jamarly Calhoun, Jay Matthews II, Cyntia Pattison, Victoria Carter, Kemani Cash-Taylor, Ernestine Lwangu, Milke Hailu, Spencer Friddle, Kerod Shiferaw, Tony Nguyen, Heidi Nikiema, Kamryn Bowman and Adam Thomas

4th Grade: Carlita Garrett, Savannah Brinkley, Tiffany Missemebe, Obed Johannes, Gavin Rasmussen, Yewoinhareg Kebede, Justin Williams, and Jaden Brazey

5th Grade: Nmesomachukwu Ukaegbu, Cecelia Sneed, Janelle Bethea, Jamal Deane, Noah White, Natalia Thomas, Aaries Askew, Alexander Leonard, Charles Ross II, Chance Burgess II, Christian Watkins, Trinity Greene, Shoa Samad and Leah Pearcy

Have a wonderful week!

Sandra Hart

IB Coordinator





april showers bring may flowers!

Thank you for helping! Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school.
To see more ways to earn cash for your school, go to btfe.com!



Name _____

Grade _____

Teacher's Name _____

FOR COORDINATORS ONLY Total # of Box Tops on this sheet: _____

Shepherd Parent Testifies at D.C. Council's Education Budget Hearing

On March 28 I had the opportunity to give some testimony to the D.C. Council Committee of the Whole's budget oversight hearing on education. I decided to do this after being on the Shepherd Elementary School LSAT (Local School Advisory Team) for two years and being a small part of the annual budget process that takes place each year. I was impressed that some schools were very well represented and got a lot of attention. I also realized that budget cuts have affected many schools and some much worse than Shepherd.

There are so many things about D.C. Public Schools and the budget process that need addressing. I decided to focus on two main points. The first seems to affect Shepherd directly and I think it could potentially be changed with advocacy by parents. The second is something that just really annoys me because it seems to showcase a lack of transparency and understanding that pervades many of the DCPS systems.

I urge you to restore funding for the position of IB coordinator to IB schools and to keep this funding in the budgets of these schools. DCPS only financially supports schools such as SES with efforts to become an IB school for three years while the program is being established. Then the school has to be able to "sustain" the program. Since schools are not businesses that can generate revenue, sustaining any new program will come at the expense of other services that students benefit from. I've seen this as a member of the LSAT for the past two years. In addition to general budget cuts, SES has also had to assume responsibility for funding of the IB program, at the expense of other things at the school. These cuts have affected SES in a number of ways, including reduced the number of professional and paraprofessional staff who are available to work with children and support classrooms, reduced support for our art teacher to half-time, and cut the librarian position, among others.

Allow for enough time in the DCPS budget process to allow for planning and advocacy. A lot of us probably have jobs that work with budgets and budget

processes, and we all have personal budgets to manage. So, have you ever had to plan out an entire year's expenses in less than a week? Well, that is what happens in DCPS. Every year in the spring, principals are given information on the next year's budget allocation for their school. The principal has less than a week to share and exchange ideas about the budget with the LSAT, then submit requests to reprogram a part of the money, wait to see if these requests are approved, and then submit a final budget proposal. This process and these decisions really impact teachers, staff and our children. Yet there is no time to really explore options, let alone allow parents and staff to advocate for their schools' needs. I believe the process is designed to limit understanding and advocacy by school communities, and I think it should be changed.

I'm not sure if it makes any difference if one parent testifies at something like this, but I do think it makes a difference if a group of parents does this over time, as well as take other actions. If you are interested in hearing more about this or have ideas about how to better position SES for resources, please let me know. Whether right or wrong, we know that the squeaky wheel gets the oil.

-- Jennifer Pauk, jpauk@hotmail.com

Help Us Meet Compliance on Immunization Requirements

According to Nurse Roberts, Shepherd Elementary is still NON-compliant on immunization for the current school year. She is asking all parents to turn in their immunization forms ASAP. If you are unsure whether your family is compliant, please check with Nurse Roberts.





2012 Gala & Auction Item Donation Form

An Evening in Paris - The Romance of Giving - 2012 Gala & Auction

Donor Information		<i>Please fill in with Ball Point Pen</i>
Donor or Company Name (as to appear in the catalog):	Donor Phone #:	
Donor Contact Person (not listed in the catalog):	Donor FAX #:	
Donor Address (include City and Zip):	Donor Email:	
	Donor Website:	
Donor 2 or Company Name (as to appear in the catalog):	Donor 2 Phone#:	Donor(s) Signature (Required):
Donor 2 Contact Person (not listed in the catalog):	Donor 2 FAX #:	
Donor 2 Address (include City and Zip):	Donor Email:	Donation Date:
	Donor Website:	Please send me an Invitation to the auction. <input type="checkbox"/>
Solicitor:	Solicitor Phone #:	Team Name:
		Code/Category:

Donated Item Information		Catalog Deadline: 4/20/2012	
Tracking Number:	Catalog Item Name:		
Detailed Catalog Item Description: (Quantity, Size, Color, Restrictions, & other information to ensure proper understanding of the donated item:)		Item Value: (Fair Mkt Value)	Minimum Bid:
		Expiration Date:	
		Storage Location:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tangible Item - Display at Auction	<input type="checkbox"/> Delivery by Donor	<input type="checkbox"/> Pick Up by Solicitor	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tangible Item - Do Not Display	<input type="checkbox"/> Donor to Provide Gift Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Auction Committee Provide Certificate	
<input type="checkbox"/> Intangible Item	<input type="checkbox"/> Donor to Provide Promo Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Matching Funds	

Item Label			
Brief Item Name:		Donor's Name(s) as it should appear in the catalog:	
		Donor Phone #:	
Tracking Number:	Catalog Number:	Code/Category:	Package With:

Please return forms to:

Shepherd Elementary School PTA

7800 14th Street NW
Washington, DC 20012

(202) 576-6140 Fax: (202) 723-0011

Copy 1: Office

2: Catalog/Database

3: Solicitor

4: Donor Receipt

Email: shepherdauktion@live.com / www.shepherd-elementary.org

Fed Tax ID

47-0879109

Your donation may be tax deductible. Check with your tax advisor.

Hello Everyone!

Sorry to go quiet for so long but there was Spring Break ages ago and now we are just finishing testing. So we will be back at art making the week of April 23.



As for my website at <http://teacher.com/DC/Shepherd/Art>, I did begin a Gallery with photos of student artwork and took a LOT of photos. However I had tech problems with my camera and my iPhone. Once these are resolved you'll be able to see work samples from the art room on the Gallery page of the site.

The new Links page on the website will connect you to websites that will show you family art activities you can do with your kids. Kids.gov is listed there, and this is great because you'll see several amazing links to regional places of interest. Look for the link to the Corcoran Gallery's summer and Saturday classes for kids. Registration for summer classes began March 21! They now have art classes for children as young as 5! I suggest you go there soon because the classes fill up fast.

Any suggestions for my site are welcome. If you have ideas for art activities that you want posted email me at joele.michaud@dc.gov.

There was no homework during the break and during testing. However it will come back in full swing beginning the week of April 23.

Remember, you gotta have art!

Ms. Joele Michaud, art teacher

AN EVENING IN PARIS:
The Romance of Giving

2012 Gala to Benefit Shepherd Elementary

Friday, May 11th
7-11 p.m.
Washington Ethical Society

Visit shepherd-elementary.org for more information.

Shepherd May Be Taking a Giant Step for 'Second Step'

A program that helps elementary-age students identify and deal with emotions that may crop up in their lives has had a welcome reception in first grade at Shepherd, and the possibility exists for the program to be expanded into other grades.

The program is called Second Step, and Shepherd parent Sam Collins explained how it works at last week's PTA meeting.

secondSTEP

What it takes, he said, is 65 minutes a week of presentation and discussion among the students. Large poster-size photographs help illustrate the emotions and feelings of the child pictured. The script text for the presenter is on the back of the poster.

It is, as Collins said, intended to raise the children's "EQ," or emotional quotient – along the lines of IQ.

One parent asked what academic subjects would suffer if 65 minutes were devoted each week to Second Step. Ms. Goldman, one of the first-grade teachers, responded that instructional time would actually increase because students will have learned to regulate the emotions that can disrupt learning in the classroom.

No action was taken on Second Step beyond the presentation, but the program offers curricula from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Shepherd Elementary School



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