



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

May 7, 2012

A Word from Mrs. Miles!



Greetings,
Shepherd Families!

Beautification Day

Three weekends ago I had an opportunity to spend my Saturday with a wonderful group of parents, students and staff members at our school's beautification day. The weather was beautiful and the scenery -- Shepherd family members (past, present and future) digging in dirt, planting flowers, pulling weeds, spreading mulch, cleaning storage closets, washing cars and registering students -- was uplifting. Their faces gave me the burst of energy I needed to finish this school year. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

My end-of-year energy source came from Beautification Day and sharing with others as they showed love toward their school. Where will your family's source of energy to remain focus and complete this school year come from? Yes, the school year is almost over but there is a lot of work that must be done and energy is needed. We need everyone to remain committed, or recommit, to making sure your students come to school on time, focused and ready to learn.

Healthy Snack Shack

The Snack Shack is a venue run by our school's Student Council. The Shack is open every Wednesday and Friday during the lunch periods. All items are 50 cents or \$1. The majority of the items are healthy (i.e. Nutri-grain bars, Baked Chips, Cheese and

(see PRINCIPAL, page 4)

IT'S GALA TIME!

It's "*An Evening in Paris*"! And there's still time for you to be in on all the fun.

We are selling tickets each morning and each afternoon this week. But on Gala Day itself -- Friday, May 11 -- the ticket cost will rise from \$45 to \$50, so do your buying early.

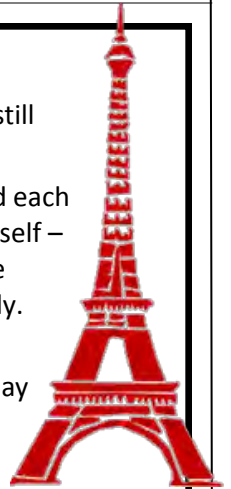
For those of you reading the Mustang online in advance, Monday morning (May 7) before school will be the last chance to purchase bike raffle tickets! The tickets cost \$2 each and three for \$5 and the winner receives a \$200 gift certificate to Silver Cycles in Silver Spring. We will be selling them until either we sell out or we have the drawing, which is scheduled for 9am on Monday morning.

If you are reading this Mustang after that drawing, hopefully you were the winner! But if not, don't worry! We're still selling raffle tickets for a brand-new iPad 3. Those raffle tickets cost \$25 and we'll pick the winning ticket at the Gala. iPad 3 raffle tickets will be on sale, as long as supplies last, until the drawing at the Gala. You need not be present to win, but you might as well get a Gala ticket as well because if you win the iPad you'll be able to take it home with you.

And remember the many features of our Gala this year:

- Our emcee will be Allison Seymour of the Fox 5 Morning News!
- We'll be honoring five retiring members of the Shepherd staff: Ms. Confer, Ms. Crockett, Ms. Chambliss, Mr. Huff and Ms. LaPenna.
- We'll have live jazz throughout the evening, and authentic French music during the band's breaks.
- We'll have silent and live auctions, of course,

(see GALA, p. 3)





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

♦ Wednesday, May 16: LSAT voting, 8-9 a.m. and 3-6:30 p.m.

♦ Wednesday, May 16: PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.



♦ Thursday, May 17: Family Dinner Night, Ledo Pizza, 4-10 p.m.

♦ Monday, May 21: Parent-Teacher Conference Day, no classes

♦ Monday, May 21: Gala Committee meeting, Outback Steakhouse, 7 p.m.

♦ Wednesday, May 23: Strawberries and Salad Greens Day (lunchtimes)

♦ Thursday, May 24: Field Day

♦ Monday, May 28: Memorial Day, no school

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



**Deadline for
Next Mustang**

**Fri, May 18
at 5 p.m.**

Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com



Last PTA Meeting of the School Year!

Date: Wednesday, May 16

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: School cafeteria

Agenda highlights include:

- ⇒ Nominations for 2012-13 PTA officers
- ⇒ LSAT election results
- ⇒ "An Evening in Paris" roundup
- ⇒ Principal's report
- ⇒ PTA president's message
- ⇒ ... and much more!

*School starts on time ...
so do PTA meetings!*

**Kids: Gather in
the auditorium**



Former Shepherd Parent Issues a Fond Farewell

We have decided to sell our beautiful house and reluctantly admit we aren't coming back to D.C. full time. It's time to say thank you.

For an integrated community where people still know their neighbors and work together to make it better. Where adults will scold any kid they see not behaving with respect, and heap praise on achievement, village style. The listserve! The potlucks! Halloween! Brilliant babysitters (then teens, now launched) who helped us raise our kids!

To Shepherd Elementary, where our children learned they are somebody and can do anything. I tell you this not to brag, but to alert all those public school doubters out there to the best deal in education: Our kid is deciding between Harvard and Yale this week, and she says everything she needed for the SAT she learned at Shepherd and Deal. More importantly, she got that all-important confidence as a learner -- Shepherd put those kids up on a stage and made them recite like winners, from the time they were in

(see FAREWELL, p. 4)

GALA from p. 1 _____

including the ever-popular classroom donations and such bodacious items like no uniforms for a week, no homework for a week, principal for day, Nationals tickets, a Suite at the Verizon Center, certificate to your favorite restaurants, and many more. If you want a sneak peak at the items we'll have for auction, look at our online catalog, which you can see by going to www.shepherd-elementary.org and clicking through from the homepage to the Gala site.

- We'll be having complimentary wine, beer, and a special signature drink.
- We will repeat our SEED (Shepherd Educational Enrichment Dollars) contribution during the live auction. Our school has needs that can't be met by tight D.C. Public Schools budgets, and you can make your contribution, and the contributions of other Gala guests, work wonders for the school.
- In keeping with our "An Evening in Paris" theme, we'll have crepe stations for dessert crepes!
- And, mais oui, we'll have plenty of French flags to wave!
- We'll have lots of Mystery Boxes that you can simply buy without having to bid on them. But we can't tell you what's inside. And no fair peeking!

And remember: You can always make your Gala ticket purchases online at the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org. If you want to be a Platinum, Gold, or Silver sponsor to the Gala, you can do that online, too. The one thing you CAN'T do online is bid on auction items. For that you have turn up in person at the Washington Ethical Society, just a block from Shepherd at 7750 16th St. NW at the corner of Kalmia. We've got room for **YOU!**



Next Family Dinner Night Is at Ledo Pizza!

Come one, come all to our next Family Dinner Night at Ledo Pizza on Georgia Avenue next door to McDonald's. The date is Thursday, May 17. The hours are 4-10 p.m.



Ledo Pizza has been a favorite of Shepherd students – and Shepherd parents – ever since it opened its doors. The PTA has gotten generous discounts on Ledo Pizza through the years. Ledo Pizza was the very first sponsor of this year's Gala – and a Platinum sponsor to boot, the biggest and most generous of sponsor levels. (They were top sponsors for at least the two previous years as well.)

And now they continue their generosity by giving the PTA 20 percent of the pre-tax tab for your food and drink. So maybe it's time to order a pizza with an extra topping or two. Or a larger size that you can enjoy as leftovers. Or try their sub sandwiches, or their pasta entrees. Or some of Grandma Ledo's desserts!

Family Dinner Night at Ledo Pizza can be done either at Ledo or by carry-out. Phone 202-726-5336 if you want to call in an order to pick up.

And after Ledo, we still have one more restaurant night out in June where we can pack the place!

No Classes on Two Mondays in a Row

On Monday, May 21, there will be no classes for students. Parents, though, are expected at school to engage in parent-teacher conferences with their children's teachers. The first conferences begin at 8 a.m.; ask your teacher for an appointment. You can also visit the "specials" teachers in music, art, French, Spanish and physical education to learn how your child is doing and to set a course for the summer and for the school year ahead.

The following Monday, May 28, is the national observance of Memorial Day. School will be closed.



PRINCIPAL from p. 1 _____

Crackers, 100% juice, and water). However, we did sell blow pops and will offer students one less-healthy snack option once a week on Wednesday. Though we love that our students are great contributors to the cause, I request that you double check the amount of money your student is bringing to school to purchase items at the Snack Shack. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to charity and the other amount will be used to help make our field day an enjoyable day for students.

Field Day

Field Day is scheduled for Friday, May 25. Next week you will receive a separate memo about Field Day. In order for the day to be a success we will be asking parents to donate their time and items for our Field Day cookout.



Teacher Appreciation Week

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week. Please join us in honoring all of our Shepherd staff members for the tireless work they do.

Monday – Day of Thanks:

Take time to tell your teachers thank you! Give them a hug or a high five and tell them how much they are appreciated.



Tuesday – Sweet Treat

Day: Please bring a sweet treat for your teachers to enjoy.

Wednesday – Flowers for Your Teachers

Day: Brighten your teachers' day with flowers.

Thursday – Make a Card/Note of Thanks

Day: Make a card or write a note thanking your teachers for all they do.

Friday – Creative Expression Day: Sing a song, dance a jig, make a project or present your teachers with a small gift to show your

PTA, LSAT Elections Take Place May 16

Elections for the 2012-13 PTA officers and four parent representatives to Shepherd's Local School Advisory Team will take place Wednesday, May 16.

The PTA officer positions to be filled are:

- ◇ President
- ◇ First Vice President
- ◇ Second Vice President
- ◇ Recording Secretary
- ◇ Corresponding Secretary
- ◇ Treasurer
- ◇ Assistant Treasurer



Nominations for these offices will be made at the PTA meeting to be held Wednesday, May 16, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. If any office has only one nomination, then that nominee shall be declared elected by acclamation.

Elections for LSAT parent representatives must be conducted as per D.C. Public Schools policy. You can cast your ballot on May 16. You can cast your ballot between the hours of 8 and 9 a.m. and also between the hours of 3 and 6:30 p.m.. Results of the election will be announced during the PTA meeting. All parents and guardians are eligible to vote.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Mustang you will be able to read statements from the candidates who had submitted their nominations prior to the newsletter's deadline.

teachers how much they are appreciated. The possibilities are endless!!! Be creative!!!

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.

Hello, everyone,
from the art room!

Shepherd artists are busy as bees these days. Pre-K has just finished drawing themselves waving 'Hello!' while kindergartners drew themselves walkin' in the rain. First graders are making clay vessels while second graders practice Chinese calligraphy in preparation for creating a Chinese scroll. Third graders are learning to draw solid shapes using line and shading. You should see the great Navajo-style blanket designs fourth graders are painting! (Soon you can see on the Gallery or the Art Peeks page on my Teacherweb site: <http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art>) Fifth graders are both mono-printing self-portraits and working on the art component of their upcoming Exhibition projects.

The Teacherweb GALLERY 1 and Art Peeks pages now have photos of student artwork. Keep checking GALLERY 1 and Art Peeks to see kids at work and samples from the art room! I will keep adding images to this so keep looking for your child's work.

Suggestions for postings on the site are welcome. If you have ideas for activities that warrant posting, "e" me at joele.michaud@dc.gov.

Homework for grades 3, 4 and 5 continues to be full swing so look at that Web page for info.

Remember, you gotta have art!

Ms. Joele Michaud, art teacher



PTA, LSAT Candidate Profiles

Following are statements from candidates for PTA officers and for parent representatives to the Local School Advisory Team. These statements are meant to be a guide to inform parents about the candidates. Read elsewhere in the Mustang for details about the May 16 election process.

PTA Candidates

President

Bianca Bostic

SUCCESS!!! That is the vision that I have for the 2012/2013 Shepherd Elementary School PTA. A vision of SUCCESS: in academic enrichment, cultural and community awareness, family engagement, and technological advances. However, a vision without a plan is worthless. I PLAN to achieve SUCCESS for Shepherd through increases in resources. These resources include monetary resources; gained through creative and innovative fundraising methods, academic resources: gained through continued community partnerships, cultural and community resources: by partaking of all of the richness our city has to offer. If you re-elect me, Bianca Bostic, PTA President, my PLAN is for Shepherd to SUCCEED!!!

First Vice President

Alicia Anderson


My interest to serve as first vice president rest solely with my commitment to the betterment of Shepherd ES. It's that simple. As parents we have an obligation to serve in a capacity that will move this school from good to great. And it is that obligation and commitment that calls me to dedicated my time, talent, and abilities to this position.

Second Vice President

Yasmin Lewis

I am a long time parent of Shepherd. Our eldest daughter (Gabriella) graduated from Shepherd in 2000, we currently have a daughter (Courtney) in 3rd grade and a son (Eyan) in Kindergarten. Before this year I regularly responded to shout outs to volunteer and served as the class parent a couple of times. When I said yes to running as 2nd Vice President for

(see CANDIDATES, p. 6)



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.

CANDIDATES from p. 5 _____

the 2011-12 school year, I did not know what I was really committing myself to; the responsibilities of the position were minimally (very much so) described to me. I have decided to nominate myself to serve in this role again for the school year 2012-2013 as I think the work of the current PTA is going in an excellent direction for the school and I would like to continue with that work. The advantage to Shepherd in re-electing me would be continuation and no delay in having to orient one to the role. The room parents already know me, most parents know me, the administration knows me and I know what worked and did not work in communicating with the room parents. My familiarity with the role would allow me to begin working on some of the initiatives for the upcoming school year before the official start of the school year. For example, I could begin soliciting current parents to help with getting the incoming parents initiated, we could start planning for Fall Festival and even next year's auction.

Recording Secretary**Laura Levine**

My name is Laura Levine, mom of Stephen in Ms. Goldman's first grade class. I am the incumbent recording secretary of the SES PTA and I seek re-election for the 2012-13 school year. In addition to my current term as recording secretary, I also served as PTO secretary at the school where Stephen attended preschool.

My husband Doug and I are committed to the success of Shepherd Elementary School. I've always believed that one key trait of any successful organization or enterprise is a clear, complete, and robust communications effort; and as a career-long writer and communicator, I believe I can contribute to Shepherd's success by serving, specifically, as recording secretary. And, while I look forward to another opportunity to put my experience to work, I welcome the chance to contribute to SES PTA initiatives in many ways.

If elected to a new term, I look forward to serving with friends old and new. Thank you for your consideration.

Corresponding Secretary**Christine Kithcart**

My name is Christine Kithcart and I am the proud mother of Jadon Kithcart in Ms. Pethtel's class. I would like to serve as Corresponding Secretary on the 2012-2013. My husband and I fully support Shepherd's PTA and my service would honor our commitment. We participate in the 180 fund, Family Dinner Nights to include hosting the PTA at Outback Steakhouse in Hyattsville. I am a classroom parent and volunteer my time in the classroom. Also, I'm involved in the Auction, Jazz Night and SIT committees.

Parental involvement is key to making Shepherd a great place and I'd like to lend my talents to this effort.

Treasurer**Kim Barnette**

I, Kim Barnette, am humbled to accept the nomination for SES PTA Treasurer. I have enjoyed serving as the current Treasurer and working collaboratively with the PTA executive board, SES administration and our dedicated parents. Over the past nine months, I have tracked requests for PTA funds by line item. I will work with a finance committee to develop a robust budget for 2012-2013 as I continue to carry out the duties of SES PTA Treasurer with utmost quality, accountability and integrity. My husband and I are proud Shepherd Park residents. Our daughters have attended SES since 2007 and 2009.

Assistant Treasurer**Amie Wright**

As a new Shepherd pre-kindergarten parent, I am excited about helping the school in any way I can. I currently serve as the classroom parent for my son's class and am an active member of the PTA, regularly attending PTA meetings and serving on the Auction Committee. As a member of the Nomination Committee, I recently stepped down so that I could become even more involved in the improvement of Shepherd. I wish to be considered for the Assistant Treasurer on the PTA Executive Committee so that together -- with other Shepherd parents, guardians, staff and the PTA Executive Committee -- we can work to promote academic excellence for our children.

(See LSAT Candidates' Statements on page 7)

LSAT Candidates

Lisa Connor

My name is Lisa Connor and I would like serve on the LSAT for the 2012/2013 school year. My husband Ashford and I are the parents of rising 4th grader Ashford Connor and rising Kindergartner Marley Connor. I have been involved at Shepherd since Ashford began attending the school as a pre-K student. I have served on the PTA as fundraising chair and Treasurer and am currently serving on the LSAT team and homeroom parent for Mr. King's class. I have also volunteered for many classroom activities, school beautification day, fund raising, Scholastic Book Fair, and Fall Fest.

I believe that Shepherd is a great school that gets better every year. We have an amazing staff, the best students and a great community of parents and others who all have the same goal- to help Shepherd students get the best education in the best environment possible. I believe the work of the LSAT is critical in thinking about the goals for the school and pushing for an agenda that will move the school forward. I believe in public education and I would be proud to continue to serve the Shepherd Elementary community as a member of the LSAT.

Mark Pattison

I've been a busy parent at Shepherd: past PTA president, recording secretary and Communications Committee chair, and current Mustang editor, listserv moderator and School Improvement Team chair among my varied roles. I was on the LSAT in 2010-11 and generally enjoyed my term of service. With my daughter's time at Shepherd coming to a close in two more years, I want to focus my LSAT efforts on addressing long-term issues so that parents and school staff can spend their time facing down fresh challenges when they arise.

Sherilyn Pruitt

I would like to serve on the Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) for the 2012-2013 school year. I am the parent of two students – one who will be moving on to Deal and one that will be in third grade next year. I am currently a member of the LSAT and I would like to continue in that capacity for another year. My primary interest is to help make the

learning environment within Shepherd as effective as possible so that our students thrive. I am also interested in strengthening the relationship between the school, the families that attend Shepherd, and the local community, so that our students, staff and faculty have all the resources they need and more to succeed in the future. In my day job, I work for the Federal government and lead an office that focuses on increasing access to health care for rural and underserved communities through the use of technology.

YOUR NAME HERE!

Consider nominating yourself for the LSAT. See below for more information about the LSAT.

Seeking One More LSAT Nomination

Shepherd's parent body will elect four parents to serve on the Local School Advisory Team (LSAT), however, we are in need of one more candidate.

The Local School Advisory Team is a specially formed focus group created to provide greater involvement in the decision-making process of neighborhood schools, with key responsibilities including:

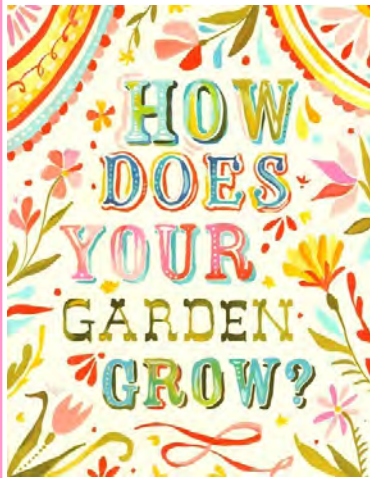
- Developing a local school management plan.
- Making appropriate recommendations and monitoring implementation to the school plan.
- Ensuring compliance with established guidelines, contract and board rules.
- Using assessment results to develop strategies for school improvement.

Meetings are typically held once a month, with a minimum of six meetings a year.

For more details about the LSAT please visit:

<http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/school-advisory-board/>.

If you'd like to be involved in the decision-making process of Shepherd, please send your candidate statement to Sam Collins (samhc65@gmail.com) and Yolonda Walden (yowalden@gmail.com) by this Friday, May 11.



With the help of great students and parents like those listed below. These are the people who turned out for our April 21 Beautification Day; we hope to have a list at least this long filled with volunteers for the May 5 Beautification Day, which took place after the

Mustang's deadline. Anyone with a green thumb and a sharp eye will be able to detect the improvements that we made a couple of weeks ago, and sharp eyes and green thumbs will be able to note the differences made thanks to the May 5 Beautification Day.

Thank you to the following:

Alicia Anderson
Amare Anderson
Angela Anderson
Changa Anderson
Nia Anderson
Quentin Anderson-Watson
Cierra Barnette
Kelci Barnette
Kim Barnette
Bianca Bostic
DeeDee Chambliss

Audrey Chumbris
Amby Connor
Ashford Connor
Lisa Connor
Margaret Golentiani
Gregory Jones
Judith McCullough
Tiffany Missembe
Cynthia Pattison
James Proctor
Colyar Trimble
Katherine Trimble

FAREWELL from p. 2

pre-K. I am watching the list of where those little angels are going to college now that they are all grown up, and it is IMPRESSIVE. (Shepherd alums and parents/neighbors: I'm sure others would love to hear your success stories from our neighborhood role models, please share.)

To Shepherd PTA parents past and present who FOUGHT to get windows, to get slime off the walls, to remove weak teachers, to get us into the Deal school district, etc.: Thank you.

To the teachers and staff at Shepherd ... those saints who are retiring, and to the truly gifted ones who pushed every single child -- we will never forget you, and we are dedicating a gift to the school because of you.

Friends: Our kids grew up with Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas every year, Easter and Passover, and interracial social justice Break Fasts. This is what America could look like if we learned to truly value our multitude of gifts. So far, only in Shepherd Park. I will miss it so much.

Finally, If you know someone looking for a large house, lovingly restored, with a plant collector's garden, 1433 Geranium St. is for sale, and probably going fast, as my heart is breaking.

<http://www.homevisit.com/mobile/iPad.asp?id=58230&ver=1>

Aloha from your former neighbor on Geranium Street.

--Mari Matsuda



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!



Shepherd Elementary School



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