



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

May 21, 2012



- ◆ Wednesday, May 23: Strawberries and Salad Greens Day (lunchtimes)
- ◆ Thursday, May 24: School Bank Day, 1-3:30 p.m.
- ◆ Friday, May 25: Field Day
- ◆ Monday, May 28: Memorial Day, no school
- ◆ Friday, June 1: Violin, guitar and BWL Band concert, auditorium, 6:45 p.m.
- ◆ Monday, June 4: Field Day (rainout date)

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

From the PTA President

Hello Shepherd Family!

Last Friday, May 11, was quite an affair. The Eighth Annual Spring Gala/Auction, *An Evening in Paris: The Romance of Giving*, was a night to remember. Parents and community members, along with sponsors and guest celebrity host Allison Seymour from Fox 5, came out to raise money for our students. There was great food, drinks, music and fun competition during the live auction. A special thank you to the class parents and teachers who put together such jaw-dropping Classroom Treasures. I would like to also take time to thank the members of the Gala Committee who put in countless hours toward making this event a success; in alphabetical order, Alicia Anderson, Kim Barnette, Jermaine Dennee Bowens, Elizabeth Folk Coppock, Rose Dawson, Christine Fischer Kithcart, , Laura Levine, Yasmin Lewis-White, Tabatha McNeill, Mark Pattison, Nicole Pethtel, Toby Susse, Yolonda Walden and Amie Wright; congratulations on a job well done.



(see PTA President, page 5)

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings!

Have You Reenrolled?

As we close this school year and move into next, the most important thing I can stress at this time is the importance of reenrolling your student for the 2012-13 school year. If we do not meet our enrollment benchmark by June 8, we will not be able to hire for the three teaching vacancies Shepherd is projected to have for next school year. Next week we will be aggressively encouraging parents to register. Please do not get offended if you are approached more than once during the week about registering your student. If you are uncertain whether you will be returning, register. If you know you will not be returning, tell us. To be considered registered, you must complete the enrollment packet and come into the school to verify your residency. You may wait to turn in your health forms.



Did You Know?

Enrollment is a key measure in planning and operationalizing learning in school buildings. Both increases and decreases in enrollment can add to or take away from a school's budget. Without students, schools lose staff. Further, knowing enrollment early in the summer allows for more efficient planning with respect to operations and instruction. Knowing your student population early makes scheduling, ordering textbooks and supplies, and staffing easier. What's more, early enrollment also allows teachers to begin "vertical planning" for students returning in the fall.

(see PRINCIPAL, page 8)

Family Dinner Night in June at the Daily Dish

Just having come off of a successful Family Dinner Night at Ledo Pizza, we have one more Family Dinner Night for this school year.

In fact, it's not one night but two! The dates

are Tuesday-Wednesday, June 5-6, 5-9 p.m. each evening, at The Daily Dish, 8301-A Grubb Rd. just south of East-West Highway in Silver Spring; It's in the Rock Creek Shopping Center, between the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Co-Op and the Sherwin-Williams paint store; that's the same strip mall that also houses the Parkway Deli, the Rock Creek Sports Club and the Emerald Door nail salon. In fact, you can cut through Rock Creek Park using Kalmia Road and West Beach Drive, then turning left onto Primrose St., to get to the restaurant.

The Daily Dish features an outdoor seating option – especially welcome as summer comes knocking on our doors this time of year. There's also a children's menu, and we've gotten student reports that the mac and cheese is terrific. The Daily Dish features American cuisine spiffed up a notch. If you need to carry-out your order, call them at 301-588-6300. What a way to celebrate your child's advancement to a new grade, or even graduation!

Best of all, the PTA will get a 15 percent rebate on your pre-tax tab, regardless of which night you go. All you have to do is tell your server, "I'm with Shepherd!" If you can't go Tuesday, go Wednesday. If you can't go Wednesday, go Tuesday. If you're stressing out in the kitchen, go both nights. Let's pack the place!

To learn more about The Daily Dish and to look at sample menus, go to

www.thedailydishrestaurant.com.

By the way, not counting last week's Family Dinner Night at Ledo, our total funds raised through dinners and the Color Me Mine fundraiser have come to \$1,986.72. **Way to go, Mustangs!**



Shepherd's School Bank Program Resumes

"Cha-Ching!!" That was the sound made during Shepherd's School Bank Days held April 25-26 at Shepherd Elementary as students in grades Pre-K through fifth grade opened real bank accounts and made deposits.

Shepherd's School Bank Program is a partnership with PNC Bank to encourage students to take an interest in banking and saving.

For all students who opened their accounts before April



30, PNC will provide an additional incentive of \$10 into their accounts.

If you missed the first School Bank Day, don't fret; the next School Bank Day is scheduled for Thursday, May 24, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Students will have an opportunity to open their account and/or make a deposit into their PNC bank account. To open an account, simply fully complete the forms located on Shepherd Elementary's website under the School Bank Program and return it to school on May 24 along with a minimum of \$5 or maximum of \$20 cash or check.

Happy Savings!

--Kesha Prendergast

Beautification Work At Shepherd Is Spreading!

You didn't have to be hale or hardy to pitch in May 21 at the second Beautification Day at Shepherd this spring. But those parents and students who were on hand spent most of their morning spreading mulch and a little weed killer, then watering the plants surrounding the original entrance of the school where the mulch was laid.

Thanks go to Alicia Anderson and her son, Quentin Anderson-Watson; David Jefferson and his daughters, Annelise and Aria; and Mark Pattison and his daughter, Cyntia, for doing their part to make our school more beautiful.





Our final concert of the school year will be on Friday evening, June 1, at 6:45 p.m. sharp. Violinists, recorders, guitarists, clarinetists and the BWL band will perform.

Sixteen intermediate violinists and four recorder players will start the concert with "Pachelbel's Canon." Then 20 beginner violinists will play the Suzuki rhythm variations for "Twinkles." Twenty guitarists will play "Sweet Home Chicago" (a classic blues song by Robert Johnson) and "Duke of Earl" (made famous by Gene Chandler). Ms. Goldman's class of clarinetists will perform "Lightly Row" and "Ode to Joy" (by Beethoven).

Finally, Mr. Velez, Mr. Thornton, and the BWL band will present their annual extravaganza. The concert is free and open to the public.

Thanks From Ms. Confer

As the school year winds down, I would like to thank the Shepherd PTA for its honoring of retirees at the Gala and for the continuing support over the 39 years of my life with Shepherd Elementary School. Having the opportunity to share what service at Shepherd has meant to me was a special occasion. As I looked out over those present and saw students from days gone by who are now parents, plus recently arrived parents and those who have supported the school with time, money, and ideas – not to mention and colleagues - it made me happy.

My wish for the future is that everyone will come to know what excellence really is and strive for it every day, that everyone will learn how important it is to show thanks and appreciation for the effort of others, and that the joy of learning fills the hearts and minds of each person that enters the doors every day, in every way.

--June Confer



Shepherd IB PYP Corner

We are in our final few weeks of the school year and our fifth-grade students have been working diligently on their exhibition projects. Parents please mark your calendars for Shepherd's first Fifth Grade Exhibition which will take place on Thursday, June 7.

International Day

Shepherd will celebrate International Day on Monday, June 11. Each class will select their country depending on the backgrounds of the students in that class. We will be highlighting Asia, Africa, Europe, the Caribbean, plus North, South and Central America. Each of these areas will have a parent volunteer as the station leader. Please talk to your child's teacher to find out the area and country that will be studied and highlighted. We hope everyone can participate. If you would like to contribute and participate please talk to Madame Gadie or to Mrs. Hart.

Program of Inquiry

We are currently in our final Unit of Inquiry-Unit 6 which will continue until June 9. The Inquiry for each grade level is as follows:

- ◆ Pre-Kindergarten – Sharing the Planet – **Staying Alive**
- ◆ Kindergarten – How the World Works – **Objects Around Us**
- ◆ First Grade – How We Organize Ourselves – **Marketplace**
- ◆ Second Grade – How we Organize Ourselves – **Full of Energy and Movement**
- ◆ Third Grade – How the World Works – **Planets, Moons, and Stars**
- ◆ Fourth Grade – How we Express Ourselves – **The Story of Us**
- ◆ Fifth Grade – Who We Are – **Where Do I Fit In?**

The Learner Profile

The month of May is the time to demonstrate how well we can communicate. A **Communicator** understands and expresses ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language. A communicator uses different modes of communication and

(see IB, p. 7)

A Message From the Chancellor

DCPS Parents and Caregivers:

Our purpose at DCPS is to ensure that every school provides a world-class education that prepares ALL our students, regardless of background or circumstance, for success in college, career and life. As parents, you are one of the most important stakeholders in the public school system. Without your support, our children and our schools will fail to reach their full potential.

Parents, it is time for us to come together if we are going to create the type of school system that can be the anchor for thriving, growing and productive communities. This is why I am inviting you to join me and Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Thursday, May 24 at the 2012 Ward 4 State of the Schools meeting. At this event, parents and other interested community members will have an opportunity to:

- Hear what DCPS plans to accomplish next year and over the next five years in our public schools;
- Learn more about the progress and areas of growth for Ward 4 schools;
- Interact with central office and Ward 4 school leaders; and
- Meet fellow parents and community members.

The work of improving our schools is too large and complex for anyone to do alone. The path to improving DC Public Schools is one that includes participation from the entire community. It is ultimately everyone coming together that will enable our children to succeed in the classroom and in life. Everyone has a role to play in this effort.

I am asking you to take a step toward improving your neighborhood schools by joining me at the Ward 4 State of the Schools meeting. This is an opportunity to strengthen partnerships between parents, families and school leaders, and also to discuss new strategies for helping our students attend great schools that they love, that also prepare them for life.

If you have any questions about the Ward 4

PTA Officers Elected

Let's offer our congratulations to the parents who stepped forward to serve as PTA officers for 2012-13:



- *President* – Bianca Bostic
- *First Vice President* – Alicia Anderson
- *Second Vice President* – Yasmin Lewis-White
- *Recording Secretary* – Laura Levine
- *Corresponding Secretary* – Christine Kithcart
- *Treasurer* – Kim Barnette
- *Assistant Treasurer* – Judith McCullough

Kithcart is succeeding Nicole Pethtel, a kindergarten teacher, as corresponding secretary.

McCullough is taking on a position that is spelled out in the PTA's bylaws but had never been formally filled; Amie Wright had been nominated for the position during the April PTA meeting, but had to withdraw last week. The other five officers are serving in the same position for the second year in a row.

Toby Susse was nominated from the floor for president during the May 16 PTA meeting. In a secret-ballot election that evening, Bostic prevailed by a vote of 19-16. All of the other officers were elected by acclamation.

Thanks to Yolonda Walden and Sam Collins, the PTA's Nomination Committee, for staffing the election table and counting the ballots!

State of the Schools meeting, you may contact the DCPS Office of Family and Public Engagement at (202) 487-6796 or send an email to Jennifer.skates@dc.gov. Thank you in advance for your support and participation. I look forward to seeing you at a State of the Schools meeting in your community.

Sincerely,

Kaya Henderson
Chancellor



Hello, everyone, from the art room!

Shepherd artists are busy as bees these days. This week most kids worked on decorative panels for the upcoming BWL Con-

cert. Their work really rocks the house. However, this is what was happening the week before. Pre-K finished drawing themselves waving 'Hello!' while kindergartners drew themselves walkin' in the rain. First graders were making clay vessels while second graders created Chinese calligraphy and brushes with new Chinese brushes! Third graders drew solid shapes using line and shading. Great Navajo-style blanket designs were painted by fourth graders! Fifth graders mono-printed their self-portraits in an impressive manner.

The Teacherweb Gallery 1 and Art Peeks pages now have photos of some student artwork. Keep checking those pages to see kids at work and samples from the art room at the web address: <http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art>! I will keep adding images so keep looking for your child's work even after school is out for the summer. Suggestions for postings on the site are welcome. If you have ideas for activities that warrant sharing "e" me at joele.michaud@dc.gov. You can do that by clicking on "Email" on the top right of this page.

Homework for grades 3-5 ends with assignment #27. All homework must be turned in by Thursday, May 31, at the latest to earn credit.

I eagerly want to thank the parents and teachers who put on a fabulous bash at the Gala/Auction. Food and drink were good and plentiful, business transactions were handled efficiently, and everything looked artfully gorgeous. What a wonderful way to send off the retirees! Many, many thanks to all of you who worked hard to put on such a great event.

Remember, you gotta have art!

--Warm regards,

Ms. Joele Michaud



Last Thursday, May 17, the Jammy-Jam was the main attraction in the auditorium. We had a good time. We did the limbo dance contest. We had refreshments such as hot dogs, juices, Airheads, M&Ms, Starburst, Snickers, chips, water and more. I heard students say, "I love this song," or "Yum!" I saw some students with hula-hoops twisting to the beat. We listened to artists like Justin Bieber, Katy Perry, Adele, Niki Minaj, Chris Brown, Rihanna and Willow Smith – oh, and LMFAO! Hey, I also think Mr. Velez did a great job as DJ and helping out, so thank him. It was the best. All the money benefits BWL. BWL's performance will be held on Friday, June 1, so come, come, come! Well, fellow Mustangs, I hope to see you at the performance. Bye-bye!

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

--Sophia-Rose Herisse, 4th Grade

PTA President, from p. 1_____

This year's pleas for Shepherd Educational Enrichment Dollars tallied \$4,725, which will be allocated specifically for academic and cultural enrichment for next school year. The remaining \$20,000 raised will go toward sustaining PTA events and Shepherd activities. There are a few items still up for grabs, so be on the lookout for bidding opportunities.

For those of you who were unable to attend I look forward to seeing you in your finest next year!

As always, thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Bianca Bostic

PTA President 2011/2012

Field Day Is Friday!

It could be the best tonic ever for our hard-working student body: the annual Field Day. It's slated for Friday, May 25 – the day before the three-day Memorial Day weekend. (Rain date is Monday, June 4.)

There will be food, games, competitions, and lots of fun. But it doesn't happen by itself. We'll need plenty of parents to offer their help for some or all of the day, according to your schedule. Volunteers top the list, but here's what else we'll need:

- ◆ Volunteers
- ◆ Ice
- ◆ Coolers
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Chips
- ◆ Napkins
- ◆ Plates
- ◆ More Volunteers (PLEASE! If you haven't had a chance to volunteer this year, this is your opportunity!)



The PTA will be donating hot dogs and Rita's Ice. If your child doesn't eat hot dogs, you may want to consider sending something in.

To keep the 350 or so students straight, we are asking parents to outfit their children in T-shirts in these colors:

- ◆ Pre-K: Pink
- ◆ Kindergarten: Yellow
- ◆ First Grade: Red
- ◆ Second Grade: Light Blue
- ◆ Third Grade: Gray
- ◆ Fourth Grade: Orange
- ◆ Fifth Grade: Dark Blue

(Consult the PTA listserv if there are any changes to this color scheme.)

Contact your room parent to find out what your classroom needs to make Field Day a success. If you don't know who your room parent is, get in touch with your child's teacher directly. If you can do some general helping out, contact Mr. Burgess at jiburgess@yahoo.com or 576-6140.

LSAT Reps Elected

Congratulations to the four parents who won parent-representative slots on Shepherd's Local School Advisory Team. They are, in alphabetical order: **Lisa Connor, Mark Pattison, Sherilyn Pruitt and Jacqueline Ajala**. They were elected during balloting that took place at school in both the morning drop-off and afternoon/aftercare pickup hours of May 16.

Current and future members of the LSAT will meet jointly on Wednesday, June 6, at 4 p.m. in the school library to review activities from the past year and to chart a course for the year ahead.

Because Jacqueline Ajala was a late addition to the ballot, we reprint her candidate statement here:

Jacqueline Taiwo Ajala

I have a vested interest in seeing both the school and its students flourish! As a former Shepherd student and current parent I want to make sure that changes made at Shepherd not only have an immediate but lasting impact on our students and for those to come. Beyond being a parent, I lead a Girl Scout Troop and stay actively involved in the DC arts community. I plan on sharing my passion and vision towards helping our kids' get the tools they need to excel as students and the exposure they need to be global citizens. In my professional life I am charged with building and developing relationships globally towards the development of policies and best practices. I plan to bring this skill to the work of the LSAT and look forward to serving the Shepherd community.

SIT Team Meets May 30

Shepherd's School Improvement Team has spent its last three meeting going room by room, floor by floor, inspecting the school and assessing how best to spend the money the D.C. government is allotting for renovations when they are made during the summer of 2013.

Now comes the hard part: prioritizing what can be done next year, and deciding what will have to wait for 2017 and beyond. That process gets started in earnest when the School Improvement Team meets Wednesday, May 30, at 5:30 p.m. in the school library. If you want to learn more about the team and its work, reach its chair, Mark Pattison, at 829-9289 or pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

Last Issue Is Coming Up!

The next issue of the Mustang, dated June 4, will be the last for the coming school year. The deadline for this issue is 5 p.m. Friday, June 1. If you have any notes of thanks for teachers, staff, students, parents or anyone else in the Shepherd community, this is your last and best chance. We invite you to take advantage of it! Send your items to sesmustang@gmail.com.



IB from p. 3

collaborates with others on a daily basis.

Listening, speaking, reading, writing and non-verbal cues are all ways of communication. **How to become a better communicator?**

- Practice attentive listening
- Speak clearly at all times
- Read a variety of materials
- Write about things you observe on a daily basis
- Be conscious of facial gestures and visual cues

Have a great week!

Sandra Hart, IB Coordinator



Library Corner

It is time to **RETURN ALL LIBRARY BOOKS!**

Please check all backpacks, lockers, desks, classrooms, cars, bedrooms, basements and family rooms. We need

those books back in the library so next year's students can enjoy them. Please find your books, and send them in to the library!

It has been a pleasure serving as your volunteer librarian this year, along with my partner, Ed Underwood. I loved getting to know so many young Shepherd faces (even if I couldn't always remember your names).

Keep on reading!



--Stephanie Scott



Deadline for Next Mustang Issue

**Fri, June 1
at 5 p.m.**

Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT FAMILY DINNER NIGHT FAMILY DINNER NIGHT



The Daily Dish

8301-A Grubb Rd, Silver Spring
(just south of East-West Highway,
in the Rock Creek Shopping Center)

Tuesday-Wednesday, June 5-6
5-9 p.m. each night

➔ **SAY, "I'M WITH SHEPHERD"** ➔

The PTA gets 15% of your bill!

*Serving "comfort food with a twist"
that's locally sourced and made from
farm fresh ingredients*



Good for Dine-In and Carryout (PH: 301-588-6300) • thedailydishrestaurant.com

Neighborhood Yard Sale June 2-3

The Shepherd Park Citizens Association will sponsor its annual neighborhood-wide yard sale Saturday-Sunday, June 2-3. Dozens of homes will have yard sales – 60 to 75 in all, if past years are any indication.

While you're cruising your favorite blocks of the yard sale, stop by Shepherd Elementary. There will be a big-group sale going on there, including a table with Ms. Christenberry selling all sorts of educational materials and organizing aids.

Yard sale hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day.

To print your own map of yard-sale addresses with major items being sold at each, go to www.shepherdpark.org.



Strawberries & Salad Greens Day is Wednesday

If you're looking to green-up your life, Strawberries & Salad Greens Day is for you.

If you're looking to give your child some healthier food at lunch, Strawberries & Salad Greens Day is for you.

If you're looking to add locally grown fruits and vegetables to your diet, Strawberries & Salad Greens Day is for you.

The date is Wednesday, May 23, during each of the lunchtimes in the school cafeteria.



PRINCIPAL from p. 1 _____

Ward 4 State of the Schools Meeting

The State of the Schools meeting for Ward 4 is scheduled to take place Thursday, May 24, 5-8 p.m., at the Takoma Education Campus, 7010 Piney Branch Rd. NW here in Washington, DC. To learn more, please read the message from Chancellor Henderson found on page 4.

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.

Water You Doing This Summer?

As with past summers, we've got a great need for people who can satisfy the great thirst of the many trees and plants and bushes planted on the Shepherd Elementary grounds. We ask families to take one-week blocks of time over summer vacation. During that week, you should go to the school every other day -- less if we've had rain, and more if it's been dry -- to water our plants and bushes and to fill the tree bags. The work could take about an hour to do.



But if you make it a family affair, you may be able to spend less time overall since we have multiple hoses hooked up outside the school. While it's best to go in the morning, when it's still cool outside and the water can mimic the dew, any time you can make it will be welcomed by our horticulture.

Here is a listing of weeks (starting on Mondays) that you and your family can take turns.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| ◆ June 18 | ◆ July 23 |
| ◆ June 25 | ◆ July 30 |
| ◆ July 2 | ◆ August 6 |
| ◆ July 9 | ◆ August 13 |
| ◆ July 16 | ◆ August 20 |

If you can take one or more weeks, please get in touch with Mark Pattison at pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

Shepherd Elementary School



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Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to:

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