

Back to School Issue



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

August 27, 2012

► **Thurs., Aug. 30:** Pre-K for kids A-K

► **Fri., Aug. 31:** Pre-K for kids L-Z

Labor Day Weekend Kickoff
Cookout, 3:15-6 p.m., courtyard
behind library

► **Mon., Sept. 3:** Labor Day, no school

► **Tues., Sept. 4:** First day of full-day classes for all in pre-K

► **Wed., Sept. 5:** "Family Dinner Night" at Olazzo Italian Restaurant, 8235 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, 5-9 p.m.

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



From the PTA President

Dear Shepherd Family,

Welcome to all returning families and a big WELCOME to all new families. I am very excited for the new school year and to be serving as president of the PTA.

A successful PTA is comprised of two key elements: parent volunteers and fundraising. Every Shepherd family is a member of the PTA and we want everyone to feel that they are a part of the Shepherd community. Whether you have 30 minutes or a couple of hours, your ideas, time and talents are truly needed. There are endless possibilities in ways you can help. Moms, Dads, Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents and kids can all contribute to the Shepherd community. Please consider volunteering, it will be worth your while and FUN!!! To learn more

(See PTA Pres., p. 4)



A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings, Shepherd families!

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I welcome you to the start of the 2012-13 school year. To our returning families: We are glad that you made a decision to remain a part of the family. To our new families: Welcome to our amazing family. We are so glad you are here! It is going to be a stellar year of learning at Shepherd Elementary and our best is yet to come!



I am happy to introduce to you several new staff members. They are: Elizabeth Guldin (kindergarten), Tenishia Whren (3rd), Claudia Miranda-Mulligan (4th), Anne Charles (4th), Alyssa Rosch (ELL), Miriam Martinez (Spanish) and Dr. Margaret Mallo-ry-Powell (psychologist). Please introduce yourself as you meet these amazing new additions to the Shepherd staff.

SCHOOL START

The first bell rings at 8:40 a.m. The tardy bell rings at 8:45. a.m. Students may begin arriving to school at 8:20 a.m. Please refrain from bringing your student(s) to school before this time unless they are enrolled in Star Achievers before-care. Students eating breakfast should report directly to the cafeteria via the gymnasium doors. Before-care students should report directly to the cafeteria via the lower playground door. At arrival (8:20 a.m.), students gather in the gymnasium.

SCHOOL END

The first dismissal bell rings at 3:10 p.m. This bell is for aftercare and carpool students.

(see MILES , page 10)

The SIT-uation Room

The School Improvement Team at Shepherd kept busy over summer vacation as we gear up for nearly \$5.3 million in capital improvements to the school over next summer.

Some team members began work writing the document that describes Shepherd and its current physical state, plus some of the needs that can be filled by renovations.



Renovations will not be restricted to summer 2013. According to current plans, another \$7.5 million in renovations is slated for summer 2017. And, while District of Columbia planning does not extend beyond six years, a third phase of renovation with a budget of roughly \$12 million could take place in 2021, leaving a legacy to thousands of future students for generations to come.

Thanks to Our Waterers!

We had scorching heat the first full week of summer vacation, but our committed parents and Shepherd Park neighbors kept our trees and plants watered through all sorts of weather. We want to commend them and their families for their efforts all summer long:

- * Ralph Blessing
- * Alesha Dominique
- * Ron Johnson
- * Susan Laudadio (three weeks!)
- * Greg Marchland
- * Liz McNichol
- * Patti Rasmussen
- * Michelle Stevenson
- * Yolonda Walden



Welcome back, Shepherd Mustangs! I hope all of you had great summers like me. I am Colyar Trimble and I am in Ms. Thomas's fifth grade class. I will be one of your school reporters for the Mustang this year.

I had a great summer. We went on a road trip to Texas, then drove to Chicago to see family. It was the best fun I've had in years!

We have one event coming up on Friday Aug. 31... the back-to-school cookout! The cookout will start at 3:15 p.m. It will be outside by the library. There will be snacks for everyone, and we'll all have a blast!

This will be my sixth and final year at Shepherd and I hope it will be my best! If you have any news on events happening at school or anywhere else, please contact me at trimbledc@gmail.com.

--Colyar Trimble, fifth-grader

Uniforms Expected

Shepherd Elementary is a uniform school, and all students are expected to be in uniform on the first day and the days that follow. Students are to wear navy bottoms (pants, shorts, skirts, skorts), white polo or button-down shirts (T-shirts or undershirts should not be worn as uniform tops), and dark rubber-soled shoes.

The PTA has a collection of clean used uniform clothing and makes them available at different points of the school year. It's a wonderful budget-stretcher. Be on the lookout in future issues of the Mustang for the first used-uniform sale of the school year.



Give to the 180 Fund!

Every year the PTA gives money to Shepherd's teachers to buy classroom supplies, and pays for all sorts of things that shouldn't have to come out of the teachers' own pockets. In recent years, the PTA paid for Discovery Communications testing analyses of our students, bought needed office supplies, paid a majority of the costs associated with an Afterschool Academy, bought the tarp that protects the new auditorium floor, and bought the computers and monitors now in the school's computer lab.

But all of this takes money. We rely on your generosity each year to restock the 180 Fund, the economic engine that drives the PTA's efforts to support Shepherd. Can you spare the equivalent of a dollar a day for each day of the school year? We believe you can! Can you do even more? You might as well — all contributions are tax-deductible! Are you unable to afford \$180? Then give what you can to enhance the educational experience of your child, and of all Shepherd students.

Go to <https://www.shepherd-elementary.org/180fund/> to donate online. Or, use the paper form as part of this week's Mustang, fill it out, and enclose it and your check in the PTA box in the school office.



Looking for Healthy Snacks?

Who isn't? This is really true in the early grades, where parents are counted on to bring a week's worth of snacks for their child's class.

Snack food manufacturers would have you believe that their products meet all parents' concerns over healthy snacking. True, many of them have adopted a 100-calorie mantra, and some snacks taste really good. Is it because of the salt content? Is it because of the sugar content? Or is it something else?

The Center for Science in the Public Interest, whose analyses have perturbed both industry and government, delivers its own ideas for what makes for



Family Dinner Night!

With the return to a new school year, we've lined up two Family Dinner Night events on back-to-back Wednesdays next month.

The first one is at the Italian restaurant Olazzo at 8235 Georgia Ave. in Silver Spring. The date is Wednesday, Sept. 5. The hours run 5-9 p.m. Olazzo has been one of the best partners of Family Dinner Night. In the first year, Olazzo was able to rebate \$350 to the PTA. Last year, Olazzo topped all other Family Dinner Night restaurants with an incredible rebate of \$420!



On the following Wednesday, Sept. 12, Shepherd's Family Dinner Night will be at Potomac Pizza, 19 Wisconsin Circle in Chevy Chase (it's near Western and Wisconsin Avenues). Potomac Pizza's Family Dinner Night will run 4-9 p.m. and apply to both dine-in and carry-out orders. To phone in an order, call [301-951-1127](tel:301-951-1127). To take a look at its menu offerings, go to www.potomacpizza.com.



In both cases, tell the person taking the order that you're with Shepherd. That way they will know to apply your order to the rebate. Under the terms of the rebate, the PTA gets 20 percent back from your pre-tax tab. Last year, the PTA collected more than \$2,500 in affinity-style rebates over the year thanks in large part to participating restaurants and hungry Shepherd families. Tell your friends and neighbors to join you for dinner. Make it an event, and give your school a big boost!

Look for flyers promoting Family Dinner Night elsewhere in this issue of the Mustang.

healthy snacks at school for kids with its article "Healthy School Snacks." It mentions brands by name — some to seek out, others to avoid — as well as principles for healthy snacks. Go to http://cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/healthy_school_snacks.html and read for yourself.



PTA Pres. from p. 1 _____

about the Shepherd PTA Committees please visit www.Shepherd-Elementary.org. To volunteer, email info@shepherd-elementary.org.

Fundraising is the second key to a successful PTA. The PTA's goal is to raise funds to provide a wide range of educational enrichment programs for the students. Monies raised through PTA fundraisers like the Fall Fest and Spring Gala help to fund technology, classroom supplies, music, art and academic enrichment activities and much, much more. As the new school year begins, we would once again ask for your support so that we can continue making resources and learning opportunities available to our children. Please learn more about the 180 Fund and other fundraisers on the Shepherd website at www.Shepherd-Elementary.org.

The PTA welcomes you to join our meetings to

raise your concerns and contribute your ideas and talents to better our school. Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:35 p.m. in the school auditorium. Child-care will be provided by the Shepherd Star Achievers Aftercare Program. All meeting dates and activities will be posted regularly on the Shepherd website and in the Shepherd Mustang.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, Bianca.Bostic@noaa.gov. Have a wonderful school year and we look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night, Wednesday, September 19, at 6 p.m.

Sincerely,

Bianca Bostic

Shepherd Elementary PTA President 2012-13

Free Sunday Tutoring Program Starts in Sept.

The Shepherd-TI Tutoring program is about to start its 15th year serving Shepherd Elementary students. Once again, the program will be providing free weekly tutoring to Shepherd Elementary students and we are starting to recruit this year's group of tutees.

The program meets every Sunday (except holiday weekends) at Tifereth Israel, the local synagogue at the corner of 16th and Juniper Streets. The tutors are mostly members of the synagogue and their teenage children, although we also have many tutors from the community and from other neighborhoods. (In fact, as discussed below, we are also looking to recruit additional tutors.) We match up a tutor and a student for the entire year, and they form a delightful relationship that helps fuel the learning. Every week the tutors work with their students on math, reading, vocabulary, current homework, or anything that the child's parent or teacher thinks would be helpful. Our goal is not to teach anything advanced, but to reinforce the lessons learned in school, and to try to add a little fun to doing schoolwork on the weekend. This year, the program starts on Sunday, Sept. 23.

Last year was the most successful in the history of the program. More than 30 students participated, and many new tutors joined the program. Many parents send their children back year after year for the program, because they find that it does encourage the students in their learning.

The program is run by Shepherd Park neighbor Dan Nathan, whose two daughters attended Shepherd Elementary, and who works closely with the school in putting on the program. In the past, some of the program's tutors have come from the families of Shepherd students, such as their parents or older siblings; volunteering in the program is a good source of community service credits. If you know someone who would like to tutor, please put them in touch with Dan. For more information about the program, or to sign up your child, please call Dan at 202-746-2680, or e-mail him at shepherd tutoring@verizon.net.



Shepherd Safety Patrol to Hold First Meeting Friday

Safety at Shepherd Elementary has been a continuous concern of parents, and also a priority for Shepherd's Local School Advisory Team. Yet despite petitions and reviews and complaints, D.C. hasn't done a thing. So, if the city won't do something about student safety in getting to school, then we will!



Safety Patrol training for Shepherd students will be held Friday, Aug. 31, at 11 a.m.

But, in addition to the trained student safety patrollers, we will need parent volunteers to serve as Assistant Supervisors. This is a year-long commitment. These individuals would help monitor patrols in the mornings (roughly 8:15-8:45 a.m.) and afternoons (roughly 3-3:30 p.m.); participate in patrol-related activities/parties and trips -- on a rotating basis if necessary; and attend the Aug. 31 training.

Ms. Holt, who will be the faculty leader of the safety patrol, will also help with the morning and afternoon monitoring, but she will need some coverage on the days when she is scheduled to attend school staff meetings and trainings that conflict with these times. Ms. Holt will also hold weekly meetings to take place during a pre-agreed-upon time during the school day. These are optional meetings for the Assistant Supervisors because Ms. Holt can easily update them via email. Letters to fourth- and fifth-graders who have been selected for Safety Patrol membership have already been mailed.

Parents of children -- in any grade -- interested in helping with the safety patrol can contact Ms. Holt at tia.holt@dc.gov.

Meet the New Star Achievers Director



Claire Riley has lived in D.C. with her husband and three children for almost 30 years. She has been a Shepherd Park neighbor for many years and most enjoys the neighborhood spirit. She also enjoys reading, movies, the Arboretum and the beach. Her son attended sixth grade at Shepherd Elementary and the aftercare program. She is excited to be part of the community again.

Claire was a volunteer Board member and then ran an after-school program at Hyde Elementary. Her

vision for aftercare is a safe, structured and nurturing atmosphere that provides a balance of academic support, outdoor activities and creative opportunities for each child at his or her level of ability.



Join The Mustang Team!

Join our intrepid band of parents who edit and design our school newsletter, the Mustang. We publish weekly for the first couple of months of the school year, then downshift to every other week once school life has settled into more of a routine.



Editors prepare the items found in the newsletter and proofread items written by others. Layout-designers take the edited material and make it look grand. You would be hard pressed to find a better-looking newsletter anywhere in D.C. Public Schools!

If you're intrigued, interested, or merely curious, send an email to this issue's editor, Mark Pattison, at pattison_mark@hotmail.com, or this edition's layout-designer, Yolonda Walden, at yowalden@gmail.com.



Haul out that 16-month wall calendar! Get your thumbs to working on that smartphone! Take a look at these important dates in the life of the school and mark them down.

- **Wednesday, Sept. 5:** *Family Dinner Night, Olazzo, 5-9 p.m.*
- **Wednesday, Sept. 12:** *Family Dinner Night, Potomac Pizza, 4-9 p.m.*
- **Wednesday, Sept. 19:** *Back to School Night, 6-8 p.m.*
- **Saturday, Sept. 22:** *Fall Fest (rain date Sept., 29)*
- **Saturday, Oct. 20:** *5K Fun Run/Walk*
- **Monday, Nov. 5-Friday, Nov. 16:** *Loose Change Collection*
- **Thursday, Feb. 8:** *Curriculum Night*
- **Monday, Dec. 17-Friday, Dec. 21:** *Holiday Store*
- **Friday, Dec. 21:** *Family Movie Night*
- **Monday, Jan. 24:** *Curriculum Night*
- **Friday, Feb. 22:** *Jazz Night*
- **Saturday, March 2:** *Dr. Seuss Breakfast With Friends*
- **Thursday, March 28:** *Curriculum Night*
- **Saturday, April 20:** *Earth Day Event*
- **Saturday, May 18:** *Annual PTA Gala*
- **Saturday, May 25:** *First-Ever "Real Dads Cook" Cook-Off*

Go to <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/calendar/> to see a complete list of activities and dates through June.

Stay Informed

PTA leaders instituted "Stay Informed" last year to let parents know about critical opportunities to grow more involved in the life of the school. And if you haven't joined "Stay Informed" yet, you should! Here's what you do: Go to the homepage of the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org. In the left column you'll find a gold box headlined "Stay Informed." Enter your email address, then click "Subscribe." It's simple and worthwhile.

So When Do We **NOT** Have School?

Glad you asked! There is time off built into the D.C. Public Schools calendar. Take note of them so you won't be surprised when you show up at school only to find there's nobody else there.



- ♦ **Monday, Sept. 3:** Labor Day
- ♦ **Monday, Oct. 8:** Columbus Day observance
- ♦ **Friday, Oct. 19:** Professional development
- ♦ **Monday, Oct. 22:** Parent-teacher conferences
- ♦ **Monday, Nov. 12:** Veterans Day observance
- ♦ **Thursday, Nov. 22:** Thanksgiving Day
- ♦ **Friday, Nov. 23:** Day after Thanksgiving
- ♦ **Friday, Dec. 14:** Professional development
- ♦ **Monday, Dec. 24-Friday, Jan. 4:** Winter break
- ♦ **Monday, Jan. 21:** Martin Luther King Jr. holiday
- ♦ **Friday, Feb. 15:** Professional development
- ♦ **Monday, Feb. 18:** Presidents Day observance
- ♦ **Monday, Feb. 25:** Parent-teacher conferences
- ♦ **Monday-Friday, April 1-5:** Spring break
- ♦ **Monday, April 15:** Professional development
- ♦ **Tuesday, April 16:** D.C. Emancipation Day
- ♦ **Monday, May 27:** Memorial Day observance
- ♦ **June 3:** Parent-teacher conferences

"Great," you're probably saying to yourself. "So what about half-days?" Answer: There are a handful of those built into the schedule as well, mostly for teacher record-keeping. School gets out at 12:15 p.m. on half-days and there is no aftercare provided. Here are the dates:


- ♦ Friday, Nov. 2
- ♦ Friday, Jan. 25
- ♦ Friday, March 29
- ♦ Thursday, June 20: Last day of school!


1/2 day


For those days when school is out but you have to work, check out <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/resources/no-school-days-for-kids/> for a handy listing of nearby centers and one-day camps for children.





Our first music class will take a look at the musical diversity of Shepherd Elementary School students and families. Students will be invited to name the instruments played by family members, their favorite songs, and the types of music they listen to. I'll share my own musical background from Interlochen Academy to my years singing with Bright Morning Star to my current work with the D.C. Youth Orchestra and the D.C. Labor Chorus. In a future article, I'll report some of the interesting results of the family musical survey. Here are some exciting opportunities this school year to hear and perform music:


 D.C. Youth Orchestra (at Eastern High School) teaches students to play instruments: violin, viola, cello, clarinet, trumpet, drums... all the instruments of the orchestra. It costs about \$275 per semester. Register at www.dcyop.org.

 D.C. Labor Chorus (Mondays, 7 p.m., in the music room at Shepherd Elementary) welcomes students and parents who love to sing labor songs, civil rights songs, folk songs, and other topical songs. Free. The D.C. Labor Chorus will sing with Shepherd School students at our Feb. 6 concert.

 Community Sing with Dr. Ysaye Barnwell, leader of Sweet Honey in the Rock (Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Levine School of Music). Beautiful four-part harmony singing without instruments or song sheets. \$5 per person.

 Guitar, violin, and recorder classes in aftercare. Schedule still being finalized.

 "Holiday Concert" on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 6:45 p.m., Shepherd Elementary auditorium. D.C.'s Grammy-nominated beatboxer Christylez will rap with Shepherd's violinists to Pachelbel's Canon. Free.

 "Blues, Jazz, and Message Songs" on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 6:45 p.m., Shepherd auditorium. We will

Join the PTA Listserv!

The PTA listserv is THE parent-to-parent exchange for ideas, reminders, tips and notices about what's happening in and around Shepherd. At the end of last year, there were about 230 members on the listserv. Add yourself. It's easy! Send an email to shepherd_elementary_pta_subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Include your name, plus your child's name, grade and teacher; that way we keep out people who don't belong on the listserv.




The listserv gets really buzzing at the start of the school year, and again in the month prior to the end of school — which includes news on the annual Gala — meaning about three emails a day on average. Most other times of the year, traffic averages two emails a day. You can always ask for the "daily digest" option to keep your inbox from overflowing.

If You're in Pre-K and Can Read This...

Pre-K students' first day is scheduled according to their last names. Children whose last names begin with A-K attend school for a full day on Thursday, Aug. 30. Children whose last names begins with L-Z stay home that day. On Friday, Aug. 31, students whose last name begins with L-Z attend school for a full day, and students whose last names begin with A-K stay home. (All, though, are welcome to the third annual Labor Day Weekend Kickoff Cookout to be held after school Aug. 31.)

The first day for all pre-K students is Tuesday, Sept. 4. The first three days of early Childhood Transition Week are reserved for families to meet with their child's teacher. A representative from the school will contact you to schedule your parent-student-teacher conference.

sing 20 songs representing blues, jazz, reggae and civil rights songs. The D.C. Labor Chorus will join our students. Free.

 Final concert of violins and guitars, along with the BWL rhythm-and-blues band, will be the first week of June. Free.

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT



8235 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring

Wednesday, Sept. 5

5-9 p.m.



→ **SAY, "I'M WITH SHEPHERD"** ←
 The PTA gets 20% from your pre-tax tab!

*Great Italian food, great atmosphere
 ... and a great cause.*



OLAZZO.COM—301-588-2540

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

19 Wisconsin Circle, Chevy Chase
(near Western & Wisconsin Aves.)

Wednesday, Sept. 12

4-9 p.m.



→ **SAY, "I'M WITH SHEPHERD"** ←
 The PTA gets 20%
 from your pre-tax tab!

*Pizza that's worth the drive—
 Close to Mazza Gallerie*

From
the Garden

Pizza

Italian
Specialties

Good for Dine-In and Carryout (PH: 301-951-1127) • potomacpizza.com

LSAT CHOOSES OFFICERS

Congratulations to Sherilyn Pruitt, a returning member of the Shepherd's Local School Advisory Team, for being chosen chair of the LSAT for 2012-13. Mark Pattison, also a parent member of the LSAT, was selected as secretary. The current makeup of the LSAT is:

- ▶ Lisa Connor, *Parent Representative*
- ▶ Mark Pattison, *Parent Representative (LSAT secretary)*
- ▶ Sherilyn Pruitt, *Parent Representative (LSAT chair)*
- ▶ Tia Holt, *Teacher Representative*
- ▶ Joele Michaud, *Teacher Representative*
- ▶ Nancy Ulba, *Teacher Representative*
- ▶ Valena Valentine-Nelson, *Teacher Representative*
- ▶ Robyn Brooks, *Paraprofessional Staff Representative*
- ▶ Bianca Bostic, *PTA President*
- ▶ Carl Bergman, *Community Representative*

Jamie Miles, the principal, while not a member of the LSAT, must be present as per LSAT guidelines for meetings to take place.

At its meeting July 24, the LSAT chose three priority areas:

- ◇ Academic Enrichment
- ◇ Community Engagement
- ◇ Culture and Climate

Look for initiatives throughout the school year that focus on one of these priority areas.

The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 4 p.m. in the school library. Even if you are not on the LSAT, you are welcome to attend; you may be asked to exit, though, should confidential personnel matters arise.

The Mustang is published on the first school day of each week. The deadline is generally the last school day of the previous week.

For example, our deadline is **Friday, Aug. 31, at 5 p.m.**, for our next issue, which will be dated Tuesday, Sept. 4. Send items to sesmustang@gmail.com.

NewsLetter
DEADLine

Pay Your Instructional Fees

In addition to school supplies, there is also an instructional fee of **\$20 per student**. This fee covers the cost of arts and crafts materials for the younger students, communication folders, My Weekly Reader, Time for Kids, National Geographic magazines and student agendas. The fees will also help offset the cost of instructional websites (i.e. Starfall, Study Island, LearnZillion, First in Math, and others) used in classrooms. You can pay them on the first day of school. If you read this after the first day of school and have not paid the fee, please go to the office to make your payment.

Safety First at Shepherd

Please help us to be good neighbors. The traffic flow around the school is clockwise; that means making right turns whenever possible – so adjust your route to school to enable you to make only right turns.



The passenger door should always open to the curb for safety reasons. Make sure to park legally; be aware of blocking driveways and walking in our neighbors' yards.

Look elsewhere in this issue of the Mustang for news of the Safety Patrol students and the call for adult helpers for them.

Obey the instructions of the traffic guard at the intersection of Kalmia and 14th.

Whether walking or driving, give yourself enough time to get to school not only on time, but safely as well.

Please refrain from bringing your dog up to the school; pets are to remain off the school grounds. If you must bring your dog for some reason, please keep it on a leash across the street. Be considerate of children and adults who may be allergic and/or uncomfortable around animals. Parents: Please share this information with your babysitters and nannies.

MILES from p. 1 _____

All other students are dismissed at 3:15 p.m. Parents choosing to walk into the building and physically pick up their student(s) should report directly to the gymnasium. The gym doors will open at 3:10 p.m. Your student will meet you in the gymnasium.

EARLY DISMISSAL

In the event that your student needs to be dismissed early, please notify your child's teacher in writing. In addition, please arrive before 3 p.m. No students will be called for dismissal from the main office between 3 and 3:30 p.m. If you arrive during this time to pick up your student, they can be found in one of the following locations: Aftercare- Cafeteria, Carpool –Library, Everyone Else- Gymnasium.

VISITORS

All guests (parents included) must sign in at the security desk. You must present ID and obtain a visitor's badge. The badge should be worn at all times. When you exit the building, you must exit via the main entrance, sign out and return your visitor's badge. PLEASE DO NOT EXIT OUT ANY DOOR EXCEPT THE MAIN ENTRANCE DOOR!!!!

BREAKFAST and LUNCH

Breakfast and after-school supper are free for all DCPS students. All students are expected to pay for their lunch unless an application for Free And Reduced Meals (FARM) is completed and received by October 1.

2012-13 MEAL PRICES

- ▶ Elementary (Pre-K-5th grade) Lunch \$2.00
- ▶ Secondary (6-12th grade) Lunch \$2.50
- ▶ Adult Breakfast—\$3.00
- ▶ Adult Lunch—\$4.00

Meal Payment

All lunch meals must be paid for in advance of service. Students and school staff can prepay for meals three ways:

- 1) By bringing cash or check made payable to the D.C. Treasurer to the cafeteria staff before, in-between, or after meal periods.*
- 2) By inserting cash into a MyPAL Kiosk, located in or just outside of the school cafeteria (if applicable).
- 3) By paying with a credit or debit card at mylunchmoney.com**, an online prepayment service.

*As of Aug. 22, 2011, DCPS does not take cash during meal service.

**Parents or guardians will be charged a \$1.95 fee per transaction.

FREE AND REDUCED MEALS APPLICATION (FARM)

Each student received a FARM application on Monday (August 27) in their Monday communication folder. All parents must complete and return the form. If you are not interested in applying for Free and Reduced Meals, please write your name on the form along with the word DECLINED across the top. WE MUST RECEIVE A FORM FROM EVERY STUDENT.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICY

This year our school will implement a new school-wide discipline policy. The full policy will be available on our school website at the end of the week and all parents and students will receive an abbreviated copy of the policy on Wednesday. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the policy.

COMMUNICATION FOLDERS

Monday is the official communication day at Shepherd. Each week your student will bring home important information in their folders. Please take time to review the contents of the folder and return the items that need to be returned. The folders have a picture of the world surrounded by students holding hands on the cover. The folder may come home several times during the first week.

(See PRINCIPAL, p. 11)

Hey? What About PTA Meetings?

Shepherd's PTA generally meets the third Wednesday of each month (but not always!). September's Back to School Night on Sept. 19 is a cross between a brief PTA meeting and a quick overview of the school, plus visits to teachers' classrooms. It runs 6-8 p.m.

PTA meeting are generally set for 6:35 p.m. starts. The location shifts between the auditorium and the cafeteria. Childcare is offered during the meeting, too.

There's generally something tasty to eat for adults and children alike (Ledo Pizza has been a big hit for several years, for example) and PTA leaders try to pack a lot into a short meeting to keep everyone from missing their bedtimes.

Here's the tentative schedule of PTA meetings, all on Wednesdays, all at 6:35 p.m.:

- ⇒ October 17
- ⇒ November 14
- ⇒ December 19
- ⇒ January 16
- ⇒ February 20
- ⇒ March 20
- ⇒ April 17
- ⇒ May 15



Carpool Starts A New Year at Shepherd

Parents and caregivers should take advantage of the school's carpool system. Students participating in carpool will be assigned a number. At dismissal, parents should pull to the curb, display their carpool number and wait. Your student's number will be called and your child will come to you. The first week of school will be the LAST WEEK that carpool numbers will be distributed. If you do not sign up for carpool by the end of the school day Friday, Aug. 31, Shepherd will be unable to accommodate you later.



PRINCIPAL from p. 10 _____

INSTRUCTIONAL FEE

Please be sure to pay your \$20 instructional fee prior to the end of the week. The purpose of the fee is to help cover the cost of student agendas, planners, student magazines, instructional websites and other instructional items that will be used throughout the year. You may send cash in a sealed envelope with your child's name or you may write a check made payable to Shepherd Elementary.

BACK TO SCHOOL MEETING

There will be a back to school meeting for parents on Thursday, Aug. 30, at 9 a.m. and another meeting on Thursday, Sept. 6, at 4 p.m. and a final session on Sept. 19, at 6 p.m. The purpose of these meetings are to alert of you key changes at Shepherd during the 2012-13 school year, share with you our academic priorities and address any questions you may have. The meetings will last one hour and they will be held in the gymnasium. A copy of the presentation will be made available on the school's website after the last in-person meeting.

Happy first week of school everyone! Let's make the year great!

Warmest regards,
Jamie B. 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.

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!





Hello Everyone from the Art Room!

Welcome everyone, back or new to school. I'm Joele Michaud, 15-year veteran art teacher here at Shepherd. My mission has and will continue to be to foster a love of visual art in your child and to help develop a vocabulary that will help him or her accurately describe their view of the world. All the art processes used in our classroom will result in authentic student works of varied materials. My goal is that while using processes and media students will see their work in the context of art made all over the world.

As usual, grades 3, 4, and 5 will have homework from the first week, which will be due the following week. Learn your child's art-class day so that you can check that they are ready with completed homework for the next art class. Everyone who ordered "supply boxes" for their children in grades 3, 4, and 5 should have a sketchbook included. For families in those grades who did not, I accept homework in any sketchbook that has a wire binding. However I prefer the Bienfang Sketch Journal, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches, which can be secured at Plaza Art Supplies at Georgia and Silver Spring Avenues in Silver Spring.

The art room is pretty well-supplied this year but we eventually will run out of hand-wipes. I have smocks and aprons for all. Parents with free time please volunteer to help in art. You don't need art skills for this. I'm hoping to have a room parent with whom you can check in if you want to help. Keep looking at the web address <http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art> for notices of what's going on in art and what supplies or objects we might need for projects.

Here's hoping you had art in your life this summer, and that you will have an artful school year at Shepherd.

Remember, you gotta have art!

--Ms. Joele Michaud, art teacher

What Did You Do On Your Summer Vacation?

We hope you collected Box Tops for Education! It's an easy way to raise a little bit of money for Shepherd Elementary.

Go to www.boxtops4education.com for a list of products that carry the Box Tops seal. You'll find hundreds of different items from major brand names across all product lines.

Once you've cut out the Box Tops seals from the package, you can paste them onto a sheet by going to

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/clip/Projects.aspx> and printing a copy. Or, if you prefer, put your collected Box Tops in a sandwich bag. In either case, make sure you include your child's name, grade and teacher to assure proper credit. Deposit them in the "Box Tops Box," a Rubbermaid container with a blue lid, in the main office.

Last year, we raised about \$250 in Box Tops proceeds – but in past years we've collected \$500-plus, making us the third-best school in the city, and second-best within D.C. Public Schools.

To learn more, contact Shepherd's Box Tops coordinator, Sherilyn Pruitt, at spruitt@hrs.gov.



Shepherd Elementary School



7800 14th Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20012
Office Telephone: 202-576-6140
Office Fax: 202-576-7578

Jamie Miles, Principal – jamie.miles@dc.gov
Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant – robyma.brooks@dc.gov
Bianca Bostic, PTA President

The Mustang Newsletter Editor: Mark Pattison

Layout/Design: Yolonda Walden

Production/Distribution: Angela Anderson

Student Contributors: Colyar Trimble and London Downing

Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to:
SESmustang@gmail.com



Shepherd Elementary School PTA
7800 14th Street, North West
Washington, DC 20012-1464
www.shepherd-elementary.org

PTA Membership/180 Fund/School Directory/Permission Slip/Volunteer Form

For the **2012-13 school year**, EVERY Shepherd parent is in the Parent Teacher Association. If you are at a PTA meeting, you will automatically have a vote and a voice. There are no membership dues, either! If you ever thought of money – or anything – as a barrier to participating in the PTA in particular, or more fully in the life of the school in general, your worries are over! [The Mustang](#), the [Shepherd Elementary website](#), and the [PTA listserv](#) will let you know how you can make Shepherd Elementary – and our children’s educational experience -- better than ever.

‘180 Fund’ Finances PTA Activities and School Needs

In place of PTA membership dues and the old “family enrichment fee,” the PTA established the **180 Fund**. There are 180 instructional days in the school year. Parents, can you afford a dollar per day per child to improve Shepherd Elementary? We think you can, and we hope you’ll contribute to the 180 Fund. There are all sorts of things that Shepherd Principal Jamie Miles and PTA leadership have identified to enhance the educational mission of Shepherd that don’t fit into the school or D.C. Public Schools’ budget. Please complete this form and check the boxes:

Household #1 (also for School Directory)

Home address _____

Zip Code _____ Home phone number: _____

Parent 1: First and Last Name _____

Work number: _____ Cell phone number: _____

Parent 2: First and Last Name _____

Work number: _____ Cell phone number: _____

Household #2 (or other important contact, i.e., grandmother, babysitter, etc.; if applicable; also for directory)

Home address _____

Zip Code _____ Home phone number: _____

Parent 1: First and Last Name _____

Work number: _____ Cell phone number: _____

Parent 2: First and Last Name _____

Work number: _____ Cell phone number: _____

☐ You may use the above information for the annual school directory, except for those portions that are shaded or in parentheses. ()

Note: All student names will be included in the directory.

*** My signature here authorizes Shepherd’s PTA to publish the information above in the school directory:**

Your name(s): _____

☐ I am a Shepherd teacher/staff member.

Phone Number(s): _____

Child(ren): _____

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

- ☐ I wish to participate in the 180 Fund. **Enclosed is my lump sum contribution of \$180.**
- ☐ I wish to participate in the 180 Fund and will make **two semi-annual payments of \$90** each by Sept. 16 and \$90 by Jan. 16.
- ☐ I wish to participate in the 180 Fund and will make **four quarterly payments of \$45 each** by Sept. 16, Nov. 16, Jan. 16 and Mar. 16.
- ☐ I wish to participate in the 180 Fund and will be able to pay semi annually \$90 by Sept 16 and \$90 by Jan. 16.
- ☐ I wish to participate in 180 Fund and I would like to be exempt from Fundraising. **Enclosed is my contribution of \$500.**

(Please return form and check made payable to SES PTA to the PTA mailbox in the Shepherd Elementary School Office. You can also pay via credit card online at www.shepherd-elementary.org).

How Can YOU Help? Volunteer in Our Initiatives and Activities!

Check all that you're interested in or intrigued about.

_____ Academic Affairs

_____ Health Committee

_____ PTA Functions

_____ Newsletter

_____ Fundraising

_____ Special Events

_____ Auction

_____ Building and Grounds

_____ Grant Writing

_____ Garden Initiative

_____ Fall Fest

_____ Fall Flower Bulb Sale

_____ Clerical

_____ Book Fair

_____ School Office

_____ Technology/Computers

_____ Used Uniform Sales

_____ Cafeteria

_____ Jazz Night

_____ Green Team

_____ Family Fun Day

_____ As Needed

"Permission Slip"

During the course of the school year, we will be taking photographs of Shepherd students at various school events for inclusion on the Shepherd website, the Mustang newsletter etc. Names will not be included. Please express your preferences for the use of photos containing your child/children:

- ☐ I give Shepherd Elementary School permission to use my child/children's photograph on the Shepherd website, Mustang newsletter, etc. I understand that names will not be included.
- ☐ I do not give Shepherd elementary School permission to use my child'/children's photograph on the Shepherd website, Mustang newsletter, etc.

SIGNATURES:

_____ Parent/Guardian/PTA Member signature

_____ Parent/Guardian/PTA Member signature

Join the Shepherd PTA! Let your voice be heard. Be a partner in your child's education.