



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

September 24, 2012

Fall Fest Delivers!

Fall officially came in this past Saturday at 10:49 a.m. and shortly after -- at 11 a.m. -- Shepherd Fall Fest 2012 started off with a big bounce. If you weren't there, you missed out on a fun time!

Amid beautiful weather, children bounced away on different moon bounces and slid down the popular Big Kahuna Slide. There was a lot of creativity in the air with Spin Art, Cupcake Decorating, Sand Art and Cookie Decorating. In the midst of the crowd, were children and adults with fancy designs on their faces and arms. Butterflies were spotted fluttering around and Spiderman was spotted in the crowd too--courtesy of the creative face painting and henna tattoo talents of Shepherd parents and volunteers. Local vendors were on hand with displays of jewelry, clothing, and health and beauty items for attendees to purchase.

You can imagine that with all the activity, folks got a little hungry and thirsty. The food and refreshment concession was on hand to curb the hunger and thirst, not to mention popcorn, cotton candy and the ever so popular Rita's Ice.

Yep! It was a great time for all. But it could not have been possible if it weren't for a GREAT team of Shepherd volunteers to help with the set-up, staff the activities and concession booths, prepare and serve the food, help with clean-up, and willingly step in to do other tasks as needed. An enormous, sincere "THANK YOU" to all of you!

—Shepherd Fall Fest 2012 Committee



A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd families,

I hope this message finds each of you happy and well. This past week I had the opportunity to meet with our school chancellor, Kaya Henderson, for my annual school review meeting. During this meeting the chancellor was pleased with the progress we are making at Shepherd in the area of reading; however, we both agreed Shepherd can do more. The challenge is for 90% of our students to be reading at our above grade level within the next two years – and, family, we can do it!



However, as I noted before, we cannot do it alone; parents, teachers, students, community, volunteers: We need you. In the next couple of weeks, you will begin to see a roll-out of additional things we will be doing at Shepherd as we cultivate a culture of reading. We simply ask that you pay attention to the roll-out and take action. The challenge is on!

Making Connections

This week's reading strategy focus is on making connections.

(see MILES, page 7)

- **Friday, Sept. 28:** Picture Day
- **Monday, Oct. 8:** Columbus Day, no school

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





It's hard to believe that we are coming to the close of September for the new school year. Thank you parents for coming out for Back to School Night, and for supporting our Book Fair. Students were quite excited about visiting the Book Fair to purchase a book and/or supplies.

International Peace Day

September 21 was International Peace Day. The United Nations General Assembly declared Peace Day as a day to reinforce the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and people around the world. The International Day of Peace enables people globally a date where they can think about how they as individuals can contribute to making our world more peaceful. We hope you contributed.

Students at Shepherd read stories and reflected on how they can help to make peace in the world. Every class created a mural with thoughts, feelings, and/or drawings about peace.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month began on Sept. 15 and will continue until Oct. 15. We celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Sept. 15 is significant as the start of this celebration because the anniversary of independence for the five Latin American countries - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua -- is Sept. 15th. On Sept 16th Mexico declared its independence, and Chile did the same on Sept. 18.

Suggested reading for Hispanic Heritage Month:

Pre K – 2

- ▶ "Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale" by Carmen Agra Deedy
- ▶ "Doña Flor" by Pat Mora
- ▶ "Juan Bobo Goes to Work" by Marisa Montes
- ▶ "From the Bellybutton of the Moon and Other Summer Poems" by Francisco X. Alarcon
- ▶ "Pablo's Tree" by Pat Mora
- ▶ "Chato and the Party Animals" by Gary Soto
- ▶ "Mama & Papa Have a Store" by Amelia Lau Carling

- ▶ "In My Family" by Carmen Lomas Garza
- ▶ "Rainbow Tulip" by Pat Mora
- ▶ "Xochtil and the Flowers" by Jorge Argueta
- ▶ "Nacho and Lolita" by Pam Munoz Ryan
- ▶ "The Spirit of Tío Fernando" by Janice Levy
- ▶ "Hispanic Scientists: Ellen Ochoa, Carlos A. Ramirez, Eloy Rodriguez, Lydia Villa-Komaroff, Maria Elena Zavala" by Jetty St. John
- ▶ "Get Ready for Gabi: A Crazy Mixed Up Spanglish Day" by Marisa Montes, illustrated by Joe Cepeda

Grades 3-5

- ▶ "Under the Royal Palms: A Childhood in Cuba" by Alma Flor Ada
- ▶ "My Diary From Here to There" by Amanda Irma Perez
- ▶ "Magic Windows" by Carmen Lomas Garza
- ▶ "Hands-On Latin America: Art Activities For All Ages" by Yvonne Y. Merrill
- ▶ "Where the Flame Trees Bloom" by Alma Flor Ada
- ▶ "Amazing Hispanic American History" by George Ochoa
- ▶ "Family Pictures" by Carmen Lomas Garza
- ▶ "Famous Hispanic Americans" by Janet Morey
- ▶ "Charro: The Mexican Cowboy" by George Ancona
- ▶ "The Biographical Dictionary of Hispanic Americans" by Nicholas E. Meyer
- ▶ "Ellen Ochoa: The First Hispanic Woman Astronaut" by Romero Maritza
- ▶ "The Day It Snowed Tortillas: A Classic From the American Southwest" by Joe Hayes
- ▶ "Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez" by Kathleen Krull

History Makers

This week, Shepherd Elementary will participate in Back to School with the History Makers on Friday, Sept. 28. One History Maker will visit Shepherd Elementary School to share their life experiences with our students. Please stay tuned for more in our upcoming issue of the Mustang.

Have a great week!

-- *Sandra Hart*, IB coordinator



Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers,

I really love the reading strategy for last week – visualizing -- which was highlighted in “A Word from Mrs. Miles.” Visualizing is a natural connection to the visual arts. I hear from so many parents, Shepherd's and others, that their kids “love art” and “love to draw.” There was a little book called “Envisioning Writing.” written by a second-grade teacher, Janet Olson in Boston, and two Penn State art-education researchers in the 1980s. The authors found through research with students in Olson's classroom that drawing enhanced students' reading and writing ability exponentially. However what truly made a difference was when students were able to TALK about their art and writing to a peer or an adult! So what I might add to what Mrs. Miles suggested is that you make sure you TALK to your children about the “movies in their minds” and the art you see them creating.

Brain researchers have found that talking to kids about the art they create can help them broaden their range of critical thinking, increase their ability to analyze situations, and leads them to better reading and writing skills. Make them tell you the about details they included that lead up to the big idea. Keep talking even if they struggle to explain. Believe me, they'll get better at it if you persist. Talking to children about their art work and doodling helps them keep art alive in their world. Just your interest is enough to make the difference between them holding on to their drawing interests or letting art go in later years.

Again, some 3RD THROUGH 5TH GRADE STUDENTS still do not have sketchbooks for homework. It is vital that kids be prepared for the home practice ahead. Their grade in art depends on it. At Plaza Art at Silver Spring and Georgia Avenues in Silver Spring, they know the sketchbook your child needs. Just go there and mention Shepherd!

Free Tutoring Program Under Way

The TI-Shepherd Tutoring Program has started another year of sharpening skills and moving from the basics up a step or two. Last year had the biggest turnout in the 15-year history of the free program.

The tutoring takes place Sundays from 5 to 6 p.m. at Congregation Tifereth Israel at the corner of 16th Street and Juniper Street, on the same side of the street as Shepherd Elementary and Shepherd Field. Students are paired up with volunteer tutors from Tifereth Israel – and some parents whose kids are part of the program. The tutoring program can't accept more kids than there are people willing to tutor. To find out if there's still space available for your budding student, send an email to shepherd tutoring program@gmail.com.



Early Readers Starts Next Month

Shepherd Elementary's Early Readers program, which has become part of the school's fabric over the past few years, will resume its activities next



month with 21 volunteers, most of whom come from the neighborhood. This could be the biggest and the best turnout yet for Early Readers yet. Shepherd is a school that loves to read, and its students love to read, too!

To those parents who have supplied sketchbooks, many thanks again.

Remember that you can email me with questions, comments, and concerns anytime at jo-ele.michaud@dc.gov.

Here's to an artful week. Remember, you gotta have art!

--Ms. Joele Michaud, art teacher

<http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art>

MEET OUR CLASSROOM PARENTS!

Here is the latest roster of classroom parents at Shepherd. Right now they're busy collecting contact information for all of the parents in their classroom. If you have NOT gotten an email from your classroom parent, then you should send an email to them so they can communicate more easily with all parents.

- ◆ PK (Ms. Gibbs).....Khaliah McCants (mccants.k@gmail.com)
- ◆ PK (Ms. Holt).....Frida Martinez (frida_martinez@hotmail.com)
Folami Jenkins (folamismith@yahoo.com)
- ◆ KGN (Ms. Guldin).....Kurshana Johnson (shannalj@gmail.com)
- ◆ KGN (Ms. Pethel).....Lisa Connor (lconnor@nea.org)
Shana Curtis (shanakcurtis@gmail.com)
- ◆ 1st Grade (Ms. Goldman).....Christine Kitchart (fischerchristine@msn.com)
- ◆ 1st Grade (Ms. Hill-Dyal).....Pam Marable (pamelamarable1965@gmail.com)
- ◆ 2nd Grade (Ms. Johnson).....Tafia (Tajee) Allah-Pringle (tafiapringle@yahoo.com)
- ◆ 2nd Grade (Ms. Ulba).....Kenya Brent (kenyabrent@hotmail.com)
- ◆ 3rd Grade (Ms. McKenzie).....Shana Curtis (shanakcurtis@gmail.com)
- ◆ 3rd Grade (Ms. Whren).....Alesha Dominique (aleshadominique@gmail.com)
- ◆ 4th Grade (Ms. Valentine-Nelson).....Mark Pattison (pattison_mark@hotmail.com)
- ◆ 4th Grade (Ms. Charles).....Lynette Jones (lphill_jones@yahoo.com)
Nicole Reese (nmreece@verizon.net)
- ◆ 4th Grade (Ms. Mulligan).....Lisa Connor (lconnor@nea.org)
- ◆ 5th Grade (Mr. Leonard).....Patsy-Ann Rasmussen (Rasmussen@si.edu)
- ◆ 5th Grade (Ms. Thomas).....**VACANT**

We continue to look for a parent in Ms. Thomas' class who would do the duty of being her classroom parent. Please step up by contacting PTA Second Vice President Yasmin Lewis-White, the classroom parent liaison, at yaslewis@aol.com.

SPREAD THE MUSTANG AROUND!

The Mustang is now delivered in many handy ways:

Your child's backpack. Look for it each Monday.

The school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org Past issues are archived back to 2007!

The PTA's Yahoo Groups site. To see a folder for all of this year's issues, go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Shepherd_Elementary_PTA/files/2012-13%20Mustang/

Now, all classroom parents are being sent the Mustang to be forwarded to the parents in their class. If you haven't made contact yet with your student's classroom parent, look up the handy directory elsewhere in this issue of the Mustang and send an email.

If you'd like to help put together the Mustang, your help would be welcome. What it requires is a little talent and a little time. To find out how you can help, send an email to either Mark Pattison (Pattison_mark@hotmail.com), the editor, or Yolonda Walden (yowalden@gmail.com), who does layout and design.



The 180 Fund: Better Together

The PTA's 180 Fund pulls together the contributions of each Shepherd parent to do things for the benefit of all Shepherd students.

Let's say you have \$180 just hanging around. You might want to spend it on your son or daughter.

But now let's say that you give that \$180 to the 180 Fund. And 99 other families give \$180 as well. That's \$18,000. And the purchasing power of \$18,000 goes a lot farther than just \$180, and it helps a lot of sons and daughters at Shepherd.

There are about 250 families at Shepherd. If half of them contributed \$180, that would come to \$22,500 — even more good work being done for our kids.

Back when the 180 Fund was started three years ago, the idea was that practically every family could afford a dollar a day for each of the 180 days in the school year.

Some of you may not be able to contribute \$180 in one lump sum. That's OK. You can pay semester, or by quarter. Some may even have a hard time giving that much. In that case, give what you can.

But there are some of you who can spare not only \$180, but a good bit more. We say that if you give \$500 to the 180 Fund, you can consider yourself exempt from future fundraising appeals this year.

When we work together for a common cause, everyone benefits.

Give to the 180 Fund.



TV Turnoff Deadline Is Friday

Do you want your child to sign up for the TV-Video Game Turnoff Club? If so, then get your TV-VG Turnoff Club sign-up sheet back to school by Friday. A copy of it is part of this week's Mustang.



Study after study has shown the benefits of less "screen time" in front of TVs and video games. Decide with your child which level you'll be aiming for this school year: Gold (no screen time on school nights and mornings), Silver (30 minutes a day maximum), or Bronze (60 minutes a day max). Then fill out that sheet and bring it to school.

The Local School Advisory Team, sponsors of the TV-VG Turnoff Club, plans to have its own "picture day" next week with participating student, with photos posted on a bulletin board near the library. Kick the tube to the curb and promote screen-free living!

Newsletter
DEADLINE

Deadline for
submissions:

**Fri, Sept. 28,
at 5 p.m.**

Next Mustang Issue:
Oct. 1

Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

Picture Day Is Friday!

School Picture Day is this Friday, Sept. 28. All students are expected to be in uniform and also wearing their best smiles. You'll receive information on how to order the photos if you like them. You may want to impress far-flung relatives over the holidays with a snapshot of your child. Think of all the refrigerator doors where your student's smile can shine!



FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS



Foods that most often cause an allergic reaction:

PEANUTS
TREE NUTS
WHEAT
SOY

MILK
EGGS
FISH
SHELLFISH

However, other, less common foods can also cause allergic reactions. Reactions can range from mild to deadly.



Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death. The most common causes of anaphylaxis are food, medication, insect stings, and latex.

Common warning signs and symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction:



- Complaint of a tingling, itchiness, or metallic taste in the mouth
- Hives
- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling and/or itching of the mouth and throat area
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Cramps and stomach pain
- Paleness (due to a drop in blood pressure)
- Loss of consciousness

If you see someone showing any of these symptoms, **ACT FAST! Call 911**, mention anaphylaxis, and say you need someone who can administer epinephrine.



The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network
11781 Lee Jackson Hwy., Suite 160
Fairfax, VA 22033-3309
(800) 929-4040
Fax: (703) 691-2713
faan@foodallergy.org
www.foodallergy.org

MILES from p. 1 _____

Why Do We Teach Making Connections?

- By making connections to text, students can activate their prior knowledge (including experiences and emotions), or schema.
- Prior knowledge or schema is important to students' reading comprehension.
- Good readers always draw on prior knowledge and experience to help them understand what they are reading.
- Research shows students who are explicitly taught how to use strategies to activate prior knowledge when they read can comprehend better. (Harvey & Goudvis, 2000)

Students comprehend better when they are taught how to make the following connections:

- Text-to-self: making connection between a text and their own experience or life
- Text-to-text: making connection between a text and another text that has been read previously
- Text-to-world: making connection between what they read and what they learn about things through television, movies, magazines and newspapers.

Sample Text-to-Self Questions Parents Can Ask

- What does this remind me of in my life?
- What is this similar to in my life?
- How is this different from my life?
- Has something like this ever happened to me?
- How does this relate to my life?
- What were my feelings when I read this?

Sample Text-to-Text Questions Parents Can Ask

- What does this remind me of in another text I have read?
- What is this similar to other texts I have read?
- How is this different from other texts I have read?
- Have I read about something like this before?

Sample Text-to-World Questions Parents Can Ask

- What does this remind me of in the real world?
- What is this similar to things that happen in the real world?

- How is this different from things that happen in the real world?

Have a wonderful week!

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.

LSAT Parent Rep Chosen

At Wednesday's Back to School Night, parents voted for Kesha Pendergrast to fill a vacancy on the Local School Advisory Team. Congratulations to Kesha.

As a note to parents, the next LSAT meetings are set for 4 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month for the rest of 2012. Those dates are: Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11. Parents are welcome to sit in on LSAT meetings even if they're not elected. But when confidential matters come up for discussion, nonmembers will be asked to leave.

To learn more about the LSAT and what it does, go to <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/school-advisory-board/>.

Shepherd Elementary School



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



Shepherd Elementary School

TV-VG Turnoff Club

September 2012- June 2013

Mustangs survive in the wild. They use their determination, imagination and creativity to live. They certainly don't spend their time in front of a screen! How about you? Are you ready to join the TV-VG Turn Off Club? You are challenged to use your determination, imagination and creativity to find things to do with your time that limit or do not involve TV or video games during the school week.

I, _____, want to join the TV-VG Turnoff Club. I am willing to use my determination, imagination and creativity during the school week to use my time in creative ways that limit or do not involve the TV or video games.

I am in _____ grade and my teacher's name is _____.

Some of the things I plan to do INSTEAD of watching TV or playing video games are:

Here's the kind of Mustang I strive to be!

___ **Gold:** *No TV or computer or video games* (Sunday night through Friday morning)

___ **Silver** *No more than 30 minutes a day total* (Sunday night through Friday morning)

___ **Bronze** *No more than 60 minutes a day total* (Sunday night through Friday morning)

Student's signature _____

Parent's signature _____

Please turn in to your teacher or the main office.



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

_____ PTA Functions

_____ Fundraising

_____ Auction

_____ Grant Writing

_____ Fall Fest

_____ Clerical

_____ School Office

_____ Used Uniform Sales

_____ Jazz Night

_____ Family Fun Day

_____ Health Committee

_____ Newsletter

_____ Special Events

_____ Building and Grounds

_____ Garden Initiative

_____ Fall Flower Bulb Sale

_____ Book Fair

_____ Technology/Computers

_____ Cafeteria

_____ Green Team

_____ 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.