



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

October 1, 2012



► **Monday, Oct. 8:** Columbus Day, no school

► **Tuesday, Oct. 9:** LSAT meeting, 4 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,

Let me be the first to inform you that this year's Fall Fest profited \$3,756.30 (gross \$9,453.50 minus \$5,697.20 expenses). GREAT JOB!!!

I would like to thank the Fall Fest Committee Chairs –

Yolonda Walden and Sandra Serrano – who did an excellent job organizing, planning and executing this event. In addition, thanks to the parents and neighbors who volunteered before, during and after Fall Fest to assist in making this event such a success. A detailed expense and revenue report will be distributed during the October PTA Meeting and posted on the Shepherd website.

Are you informed about current and upcoming events of Shepherd Elementary? Well, the only way to be in the know is to be on the Shepherd Elementary PTA Stay Informed List. Go to www.Shepherd-Elementary.org to sign-up for the Stay Informed list. I look forward to seeing everyone at the October PTA

(see PTA President, page 7)



A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd families,

Mid-Term Progress Reports

Today (Monday, Oct. 1) each of you should have received a copy of your student's mid-term progress report. Yes, we are already at the halfway point of the first advisory. Please take time to review your student's report and contact your child's teacher to ask questions and/or to schedule a meeting. Early intervention is the key to a student's success.



Conference Day

The first parent-teacher conference day is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 22, 2012. Please plan now to attend. Teachers will send home a request for conference sign-up sheet on Wednesday, Oct. 10.

Save the Date

Family Literacy Night. Tuesday, Oct. 30!!

Welcome to the Family

Please join me in officially welcoming Ms. Hamer and Ms. George to the Shepherd family. Ms. Hamer has been assisting in second grade; however, she will now move into her position as a resource teacher. As a resource teacher she will be working with small groups of students in reading and math. Ms. George is our newest second-grade teacher. A third second-grade class was created to allow for smaller class sizes in second grade. Welcome to both of you!

Early Readers

This week we welcome back our Early Readers

(see MILES, page 6)



Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers,

In last week's column I urged you to TALK to your kids about their art and writing. If you already are asking them about it you should know about the FUN we are having in art. Fifth graders began sketches this week of their authentic "inventions." In fourth grade students are making outer-space abstract paintings that are out of this world! The architecturally savvy third graders are sketching notable D.C. buildings and monuments. The second graders went out to the Shepherd garden to draw plants "en plein aire" from observation. First graders are learning figure drawing while kindergartners have just finished superb drawings of art room objects free hand! Pre-K students used found objects to create various types of straight lines. As you can imagine, while providing solid content and art learning, all of it was great FUN!

Make your child tell you the about details that lead up to the big ideas of lessons they have worked on in art. Press them to talk even if they struggle to explain. Ask, "Why did you have to create it in that way?" "What was the big idea?" "Why was it easy (or hard) to do?" "Can you show me how to do that?" They'll get better at talking if you persist. Conversing with children about their art work (and other subjects) will help your kids keep it all alive in their world. Just your interest is enough to make the difference between them holding on to their learning or having it fade.

Homework is relevant to the art grades for students in grades 3, 4 and 5. It is vital that kids have a sketchbook to use for these assignments. At Plaza Art at Silver Spring and Georgia Avenues in Silver Spring, they know which sketchbook your child needs. Just go there and mention Shepherd!

Remember that you can email me with questions, comments, and concerns anytime at

Meet the New Third Grade Teacher!

My name is Ms. Whren and this year marks my tenth year in the teaching profession. I am a native Washingtonian who is also a product of the awesome District of Columbia school system. I attended both University of Maryland-College Park and Bowie State University, where I obtained my bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and subsequently my master's degree in Reading. I have taught both kindergarten and third grade in a neighboring school district. Working with children in any capacity has always been my dream, my passion, and my desire.



Deal Middle School Tours

Deal Middle School is hosting a number of school tours this fall:

- Friday, Oct. 5
- Friday, Oct. 26
- Friday, Nov. 9
- Friday, Nov. 30
- Tuesday, Dec. 11



All tours start at 9:30 a.m. and meet outside the Welcome Center at the school.

If you live in Shepherd Park, your child is automatically eligible to attend Alice Deal Middle School. In addition, all 5th grade students at Shepherd Elementary are eligible to attend Deal next year. For more information on Deal, go to www.alicedeal.org.

joele.michaud@dc.gov or see me on the web at <http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art>.

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

--Ms. Joele Michaud, art teacher

Register Your Giant Card for A+ School Rewards Program

Did you know that you must register your Giant card each school year to earn points for Shepherd from the A+ School Rewards Program? Beginning Friday, Oct. 5, you can begin earning A+ School Rewards for Shepherd. But you have to register your Giant Card at https://www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/designate_school.htm?execution=e4s1. It's really easy and doesn't take much time. You'll have to supply your Giant card number and Shepherd's School ID, which is **00154**. If you do not know your number, you will need to call the Giant hotline at 1-877-366-2668, option 2.



Be sure to register your Giant card today. That way, you're sure not to miss out any rewards for Shepherd. Just a little bit of your time can mean big rewards for our school.



Hi, this is Colyar Trimble. Sept. 22 was our school's annual Fall Fest and it was amazing. Everywhere you turned there was at least one fun thing to do! There was a cookie decorating booth, a moon bounce, and a booth where you could win goldfish. There were a lot of people there and it was crowded, but if you had to wait in a line it was worth it!

If you have any suggestions for me please feel free to contact me at trimbledc@gmail.com.

P.S. If anyone won a goldfish during the Fall Fest make sure to take extra good care of them!

--Colyar Trimble, fifth-grader

(Editor's note: The "Student's Scoop" columns of Colyar Trimble and London Downing, after they appear in each Monday's Mustang, are then published in the "Spotlight on Schools" section of the Northwest Current, which is free and available each Wednesday at the Shepherd Park Library and Ledo Pizza.)



By Ken Giles, Music Teacher

Kenneth.Giles@dc.gov

Over the next several months, our second-, third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders will attend performances at the Kennedy Center. This is made possible because Shepherd Elementary School is a "partner school" with the Kennedy Center. In October, our fourth graders will see excerpts from Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni" and our fifth graders will experience the jazz music of Jason Moran and the Bandwagon. In November, our third graders will hear the Civil War-era adventures of a 12-year-old boy named Homer Figg. In February, all fourth- and fifth-graders will see an Alvin Ailey Dance performance. And in May, our second- and third-graders will see the West African percussion-based

story "Baobab." Buses and concert admission are provided by Kennedy Center.

In addition to the performances, the Kennedy Center will send teaching artists to our fifth-grade classes to work on visual art and writing. This will help our fifth graders as they prepare for their International Baccalaureat exhibition at the end of the school year.

Have you been to Ledo Pizza to see photos of our students making drums from pizza sauce cans? Ledo's donated 150 cans, and our students used colorful tape to turn the cans into drums. We learned about West African drumming and played djembe rhythms. Photos of our students and thank-you notes were given to Ledo's to be posted in the restaurant. The same photos are also posted on the wall outside our music room.

Family Dinner Nights a Success!

We had two Family Dinner Nights to benefit the PTA on two Wednesdays in a row last month, and we made a positive dent in the cash registers at both restaurants.



The first Family Dinner Night, held Sept. 5 at Olazzo in Silver Spring (our usual starting-off point), garnered an estimated \$250 for the PTA. And our second Family Dinner Night, held at Potomac Pizza, netted the PTA \$100.46.

We are in the works of scheduling more Family Dinner Nights in the coming months. If there is a restaurant you'd like to suggest for hosting Family Dinner Night, send a note to sesmustang@gmail.com.

Our next Family Dinner Night will be in two weeks -- Tuesday, Oct. 16, to be exact -- at Outback Steakhouse at the Prince George's Plaza in Hyattsville. It's owned by a Shepherd dad, and last school year we got a whopping \$313 from Outback thanks to your patronage. Can we top that number Oct. 16? Yes we can!



BOX TOPS ARE TOPS!

Yes, Shepherd, we are still collecting Box Tops for Education! You don't even have to wait to fill up a completed Box Tops Collection Sheet to contribute. Just put your clipped Box Tops into a Ziploc-style sandwich-size bag and include your child's name, teacher and grade. The last step is to put them into the Box Tops Box in the school office!



Parenting Seminar Set for October 10

"Raising Responsible Children" is the title of a PTA-sponsored parenting seminar to take place Wednesday, Oct. 10, 6:35-8 p.m. in the school auditorium.

You can't MAKE a child be responsible, but you can provide plenty of opportunities for the child to learn how to be responsible. Discover new ways to encourage responsible behavior in your children, and to lay the groundwork for successful adulthood. Linda Keely, parent of two teens (so you KNOW she knows what she's talking about!), will lead the seminar, which is from the Parent Encouragement Program.



*Educating parents.
Enriching families.*

Childcare will be provided in the cafeteria. Kids will get pizza, and adults will get refreshments.

All parents are invited!

Correction

We misprinted the email address of Patti Rasmussen, the classroom parent for Mr. Leonard's fifth-grade class. The correct address is rasmussenp@si.edu. We apologize for the error, and we hope all parents of students in Mr. Leonard's room take advantage of this new information and introduce themselves to Patti.



Next Mustang Issue:
Oct. 8

Deadline for
submissions:

**Fri., Oct. 5,
at 5 p.m.**

Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

Events at Our Neighborhood Library

Tuesday, Oct. 2 (and every Tuesday), 10 a.m.:

Job Seekers Drop-In

Clinic. Need help with your resume, writing a cover letter or filling out a job application? On Tuesdays at the Shepherd Park Library from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., you can get individualized attention at our Job Seekers Drop-In Clinic. For more, contact Marilyn Smith at 202-541-6025 .



Tuesday, Oct. 2 (and every Tuesday), 11 a.m.:

Preschool Story Time. Preschool Story Time, a program for children up to 5 years (and their parents or caregivers), is specially designed to deliver the pre-literacy and early literacy skills that will prepare children to successfully learn to read once they enter school. These essential skills are presented in a fun package that includes stories, visuals, music, movement, and rhyme. The activities from Preschool Story Time (such as rhymes and chants, songs, stretches, and even picture books) can easily be repeated at home, allowing parents and caregivers to play an active role in their child's early literacy learning!

Wednesday, Oct. 3 (the first Wednesday of each month), 1:30 p.m.: **Shepherd Park Book Club.** October's book: "The Obama Hate Machine" by Bill Press. For Nov. 7: "Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics" by Sr. Martha Farley. For Dec. 5: "Brothers and Me" by Donna Britt. For Jan. 2: "Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas" by James Patterson. For Feb. 6: "My Song: A Memoir" by Harry Belafonte. For March 6: "Death Comes to Pemberley" by P.D. James. For April 3: "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. For May 1: "The Grass is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank" by Erma Bombeck. For June 5: "American Pastoral" by Philip Roth.

Wednesday, Oct. 3 (and every Wednesday), 6 p.m.:

Downloadable Media Walk-In Clinic. Need help checking out and downloading digital items from the library? Bring your laptop, Kindle, iPad, Nook or other device in for one-on-one, step-by-step instruction on how to use the library's digital catalog and find out how to download e-books, audiobooks, movies and music. Feel free to walk in on any Wednesday until 7 p.m. For more, call Mia Wisgerhof at 202-541-6100.

Tuesday, Oct. 16, 11 a.m.: **Growing Healthy Schools**

Story Time. At this special story time for Growing Healthy Schools Week, we will read our favorite books about plants and gardening. After story time, please join us for an art activity. Ages infant to 5 years (and parents/caregivers).

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m.: **Start an Orange Plant**

for Growing Healthy Schools Week. In honor of Growing Healthy Schools Week, we will start our own orange plants using seeds from fresh oranges and household materials. Take your seeds home and wait a week for them to sprout. After one week, you can replant them into a pot at home. By spring, you might have an orange tree to plant in the yard! For ages 8-up.

Monday, Oct. 22, 6 p.m.: **Kids' Book Club:** "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." Here's how it works:

- ▶ Check out a copy of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling at your library (This is the first Harry Potter book)
- ▶ Read the book at home, at school, at the library... anywhere!
- ▶ Meet at the Shepherd Park Library for discussion, activities and PIZZA!

If you've already read the book, please re-read or re-view it before coming to the meeting. Please bring your copy of the book to the book club meeting.

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m.: **D.C. Reads book discussion — "Reading Lolita in Tehran."** Join your neighbors and members of the Friends of the Shepherd Park Library for a book discussion of Azar Nafisi's Reading Lolita in Tehran in conjunction with D.C. Reads. Light refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, Oct. 30, 11 a.m.: **Halloween Costume Story**

Time. Wear your costumes to story time! Every child will get a Halloween treat and have an opportunity to make a simple Halloween craft after story time. Ages infant to 5 years (with parents/caregivers).

Wednesday, Oct. 31, all day: **Trick-or-Treat at the Library.** Make a stop at the Shepherd Park Neighborhood Library on your trick-or-treating route this Halloween! We'll be handing out treats to children in costume during trick-or-treating hours. Remember to bring your library card so you can check out scary books to read!

MILES from p. 1

Volunteers. Over 20 Shepherd Park community members have committed to sharing their love for reading with 15 of our most wonderful young scholars from kindergarten through second grade. These volunteers and students meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning during the school year. Due to the fact that we try to keep the volunteer to student ratio to 1 to 3, we are unable to welcome any new students to the club. However, please keep watch for other opportunities. Thank you, Early Readers!

Reading Volunteers Needed

We are currently seeking individuals who can commit one, two, or three mornings between the hours of 8 and 8:30 a.m. to read with students in third through fifth grade. We have several older Shepherd scholars who are eager to share their love for reading with you. If you or someone you know can make the commitment, please email Principal Miles at jamie.miles@dc.gov with your availability.

Focus on Literacy

This week's strategy is asking questions. This week students are learning about how to ask questions when reading. Good readers know how to answer and ask questions when reading text to help them understand what they are reading. There are several ways you can help your student answer and ask questions when reading and or being read to at home. One strategy is the question-answer relationship (QAR) strategy. This strategy helps students understand the different types of questions. By learning that the answers to some questions are "Right There" in the text, that some answers require a reader to "Think and Search," and that some answers can only be answered "On My Own," students recognize that they must first consider the question before developing an answer.

Why use question-answer relationship (QAR)?

- It can improve students' reading comprehension.
- It teaches students how to ask questions about their reading and where to find the answers to them.
- It helps students to think about the text they are reading and beyond it, too.

- It inspires them to think creatively and work cooperatively while challenging them to use higher-level thinking skills.

How to use question-answer relationship (QAR)?

1. Explain to your student that there are four types of questions they will encounter. Define each type of question and give an example.

Four types of questions are examined in the QAR:

- a) Right There Questions: Literal questions whose answers can be found in the text. Often the words used in the question are the same words found in the text.
 - b) Think and Search Questions: Answers are gathered from several parts of the text and put together to make meaning.
 - c) Author and You: These questions are based on information provided in the text but the student is required to relate it to their own experience. Although the answer does not lie directly in the text, the student must have read it in order to answer the question.
 - d) On My Own: These questions do not require the student to have read the passage but he/she must use their background or prior knowledge to answer the question.
2. Read a short story/passage aloud to your student.
 3. Have predetermined questions you will ask after you stop reading. When you have finished reading, read the questions aloud to your student and model how you decide which type of question you have been asked to answer.
 4. Show your student how to find information to answer the question (i.e., in the text, from your own experiences, etc.).

Have a great week everyone and KEEP READING!

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.

It Works for All of Us: The 180 Fund

With roughly 340 students spread across seven grade levels, Shepherd Elementary, despite its small geographical footprint, can seem mighty big at times. But the 180 Fund is the glue that holds together students and their parents plus the staff.

You see all those computers in the computer lab? Those were bought with 180 Fund contributions. The "Afterschool Academy" initiative of two years ago? That's right: our 180 Fund dollars. The tarp that protects our two-year-old auditorium floor for big events? Yes: Purchased with 180 Fund proceeds.



And those are just three examples of what the 180 Fund has done for Shepherd since it was initiated in 2009. If there is a need, and the school's budget can't cover it, perhaps the 180 Fund can. But to fund things properly, it needs contributions from parents.

All contributions are tax-deductible. You can give \$180 in one lump sum, or two installments each semester of \$90 each, or four installments each quarter of \$45 each. If you don't think you can afford even \$180 over the course of the 180-day school year, then please give what you can. On the other hand, if you can contribute more than \$180, contributions of any size are tax-deductible, and if you give \$500 or more, you can consider yourself immune to future fundraising appeals.

Thanks to you, it works for all of us: the 180 Fund.

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!



TV Turnoff Club News

The TV/Video Game Turnoff Club membership roster will close at the middle of next week. A Shepherd parent will take pictures Thursday morning of all Club members.



If you still want your child to join the club, get them to agree to limit how much "screen time" time they'll have each school night and day. Fill out the Club membership form that is part of this week's Mustang, and put it in the "PTA Box" with the white lid on the floor in the main office near the radiator.

Thanks go to Shepherd's Local School Advisory Team for sponsoring the TV/Video Game Turnoff Club this year.

PTA President from p. 1 _____

Meeting at which time we will highlight the New Shepherd Star Achievers Aftercare Program. Also, coming soon will be this month's classroom/parent meeting attendance incentive.

Thanks Again,

Bianca Bostic

Shepherd Elementary PTA President 2012/2013

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 | _____ 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.