



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

October 23, 2012



- ▶ **Tuesday, Oct. 23:** Spirit Days -- Crazy Hat or Hair Day
- ▶ **Wednesday, Oct. 24:** Spirit Days -- Wear Your Pajamas to School Day
- ▶ **Thursday, Oct. 25:** Spirit Days --  
- Crazy Socks and Backwards Day
- ▶ **Friday, Oct. 26:** Spirit Days -- Shepherd or College Gear Day
- ▶ **Monday, Oct. 29:** Spirit Days -- Wear Something Pink Day for Cancer Awareness Month
- ▶ **Tuesday, Oct. 30:** Spirit Days -- Dress Your Best
- ▶ **Family Literacy Night,** 6:45 p.m.
- ▶ **Wednesday, Oct. 31:** Spirit Days -- Book Character Dress-Up Day  
Halloween Parade, Shepherd Field, 6 p.m.
- ▶ **Thursday, Nov. 1:** School Enrollment Audit, 9:15 a.m.
- ▶ **Friday, Nov. 2:** Walk for the Homeless  
Half-day -- out at 12:15 p.m.
- ▶ **Monday, Nov. 5:** Chat and Chew With the Principal, 9-10 a.m.

Loose Change Collection Starts (through Nov.16)

Consult the school website, [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org), for a full array of events and happenings throughout the school year!

## Ring-a-Ding Ding!

Are YOU getting the Sunday evening voicemail blasts from Mrs. Miles? If not, then it's likely that Shepherd does not have your correct phone number. You choose the number you want -- home, cell or work -- and give that number to Ms. Brooks in the office, so that you can stay informed with the rest of the parents!



## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings, Shepherd Parents!

### Get Caught Reading

The start of each session will be about reading. If our students can read and comprehend text, they are more likely to be successful in other content areas. To remind you, we are striving for 90 percent proficiency in reading. This means every time I communicate with you, you will hear me talk about reading and it is our desire that each of you will make **READING** the topic of conversation in your homes.



### A Day ON, Not a Day Off

What have you done at home this week to help your student to become a better reader? One thing Shepherd teachers did was spend the week focusing on Guided Reading Instruction and working to make sure we are Guided Reading Experts.

"Guided reading" is a strategy that helps students become good readers. The teacher provides support for small groups of readers as they learn to use various reading strategies (context clues, letter and sound relationships, word structure, and so forth). Although guided reading has been traditionally associated with primary grades, it can be modified and used successfully at all grade levels. For example, older students may need to learn new strategies to understand how to read an information book in a way that is going to give them access to the information they are seeking.

### Reading Tip

This week during Parent-Teacher conferences each kindergarten through fifth-grade parent learned their child's reading level. In addition,  
(see MILES, p. 3)



Hello Shepherd Mustangs, this is London Downing. Some of you may know it is almost time for basketball season. This week some boys met up with Mr. Burgess to condition and work out. I only watched this week but I can't wait until it is the girls' turn. The girls' basketball team will be conditioning with Ms. Hamer and Ms. Moorefield hopefully beginning next week. The basketball teams were pretty good last year. Good luck to the boys and all of you girls trying out for the team (including myself). Let's make Shepherd, Mr. Burgess, Ms. Hamer, and Ms. Moorefield proud!

--London Downing, fourth-grader

## BWL Band Announces Auditions

Tryouts for the BWL Band will be held for third-fourth-and fifth-grade students the week of Nov. 5-8 at 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium, so please come prepared.

- ⇒ Percussion tryouts will be Monday, Nov. 5.
- ⇒ Guitar tryouts will be Tuesday, Nov. 6.
- ⇒ Piano tryouts will be Wednesday, Nov. 7.
- ⇒ Dancer tryouts will be Thursday, Nov. 8.

If you are interested, please arrive promptly at 12:30 p.m. and give it a try.

BWL stands for "Black, White, Latino." We are ... B-W-L!



## 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 moment, we've got about 230 members on the listserv. And there's room for you. Add yourself. It's easy! Send an email to [shepherd\\_elementary\\_pta\\_subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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.

You can ask for emails as they are posted, the "daily digest" option, or even the "no emails" setting to keep your inbox from overflowing.

## 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](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org). In the left column you'll find gold box headlined "Stay Informed." Enter your email address, then click "Subscribe." It's simple and worthwhile.

## Principal's Chat and Chew

Mrs. Miles will have a pair of "Chat and Chew With the Principal" sessions next month, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The morning session will take place Monday, Nov. 5, at 9 a.m., and the afternoon session will take place two weeks later, on Monday, Nov. 19, at 5 p.m. Both sessions should last about one hour. Learn the latest on the school's instructional and discipline plans while engaging in lively conversation and tasty treats.

**MILES** from p. 1

each of you received a mClass Home Connect report. Utilize this information received during the conference to help you structure your reading time home.

**Reading Strategy**

This week's reading strategy is summarizing. Fountas and Pinnell (reading experts) remind us that as readers, we are constantly extracting information from a piece of text and condensing that information in some type of summary form. To summarize a piece of text, a reader need not just recap the text after reading, though that is indeed a needed skill. Readers must constantly engage in some sort of ongoing interpretation of what they are reading, by putting together what has been read so far as they continue to process the text. A reader must be able to identify information while reading, extract that information from the print, and form an ongoing synopsis of what it means.

The art of summarizing involves bringing all that information in a concise form so that the reader then takes that information from the text and makes it his own. Sound difficult? It is. Summary is a difficult skill for students for a variety of reasons. First, the student must identify the genre — generating a summary of narrative text is different from summarizing expository text. Second, the student must be able to discriminate between trivial details and important ideas. Good summaries do not have many trivial details. Finally, if the passage being summarized is narrative, then the student must identify information that is important to the plot. And if the passage is expository, the student must identify information that is important to the topic.

What can you do? When reading with your student, have them tell you what happened at the beginning, middle and end of the story. Help them to identify the main points and leave out all of the extraneous details. The goal is for your student to be as concise as possible.

**Lost and Found**

Please be sure to put your student's name in his/her clothing. All lost and found items will be taken to a local shelter on Mondays or the first

**Girls' Basketball Fundamental Skills Camp**

Girls' basketball season is quickly approaching. With this excitement comes a bit of eagerness to begin getting our girls equipped for the physical and mental challenge ahead by encouraging them to participate in Fundamental Skills Camp. The camp is designed for young ladies in fourth and fifth grade who are interested in playing basketball during the 2012-13 school year. Dates for the camp are this Tuesday thru Thursday, Oct. 24-26, 3:30-4:30 p.m. and next Tuesday thru Thursday, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 3:30-4:30 p.m. It is imperative that every student that has aspirations of playing for the girls' basketball team be in attendance; as we will go over essential skills that are needed to be successful in the game of basketball. However, this camp is NOT mandatory and WILL NOT ensure a spot on the team.



--Ms. Crystal Moorefield and Ms. Renee Hamer,  
coaches

school day of the week.

**Free and Reduce Meal Application (FARM)**

We must have a FARM application from every student. If you are not interested or if you feel as if you do not qualify for free or reduced lunch meals, please write "declined" across the top, sign the form and return it.

**Spirit Week (Days)**

Spirit Week is scheduled for October 22 through October 31. All students are encouraged to participate.

- October 23: Crazy Hair Day
- October 24: Pajama Day
- October 25: Crazy Socks and Backwards Day
- October 26: School Spirit Day (Shepherd or College)
- October 29: Pink Out Day (Cancer Awareness)
- October 30: Dress Your Best
- October 31: Book Character Dress-Up Day (Students must have their book)

(see PRINCIPAL, p. 10)



## Lending a Helping Hand

Here are four ways in the coming month that students and their parents can lend a hand to various causes and needs in our community.

The first opportunity is Monday, Oct. 29. At school, it's Wear Something Pink Day for Cancer Awareness Month. You've seen NFL games where the players are wearing pink shoes. The same principle will apply at Shepherd.



Next up is Halloween, Oct. 31. All students will be getting Trick or Treat for UNICEF collection boxes. If they trick or treat for UNICEF in addition to (or instead of) candy, please return the boxes to the main office. We'll have the change machine at PNC Bank on Georgia Avenue count the total and we'll report back to you.



At the end of that week, on Friday, Nov. 2, comes Shepherd's annual participation in the Walk for the Homeless. See the letter republished in this issue of the Mustang for more details.



Finally, for two weeks starting Monday, Nov. 5, the annual "Loose Change" drive starts in earnest. Canisters will be placed in each classroom for students to deposit their coins. There have been years when the collection has approached \$1,200. Half of the money addresses immediate needs at the school and half is reserved for Shepherd families that are known to the principal as having a tough go of things.



These are all wonderful opportunities to teach, and learn, lessons about responsibility and generosity. Please instill these two traits with your child via these worthwhile initiatives.

## Spirit Days Start Tuesday

Got a crazy-looking hat or hairstyle? Some outta-this-world pajamas? A favorite team (hint: It could be the Shepherd Mustangs!)? What about weird socks, or pants or shirts so big you can wear them backwards? Spirit Days is just the thing for the student (or parent) seeking a break from the daily routine of wearing uniforms. Let your mind run wild with anticipation for the days ahead. Spirit Days run through next Wednesday, Oct. 31. See the calendar for the list of what wild things you can wear to school on which days.



## Enrollment Audit Nov. 1

Don't let your kids gorge too much on Halloween candy when they come home from trick-or-treating. An enrollment audit at Shepherd will take place the next day – Thursday, Nov. 1 – starting promptly at 9:15 a.m. If your child is not where he or she is supposed to be inside the school, then Shepherd is at risk of losing its per-pupil funding for that child. And in an era where funding is scarce, we want every dollar we have rightfully coming to us. So if you've ever had trouble getting your kids to school on time, Nov. 1 is THE day to break that pattern once and for all.

Important  
Information

## Earlier Deadline Next Issue!

Because of the editor's travel plans, please submit ALL copy for the Mustang no later than noon on Friday, Oct. 26. This will enable the Mustang to be produced on its regular Monday schedule. Thanks for your cooperation.



Next Mustang Issue:  
Oct. 29

Send submissions NLT  
12 Noon  
Friday, Oct. 26, to  
[sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com)

## The Dirt on Our Garden

This year marks the first annual Growing Healthy Schools Week, which is the fusion of DC School Garden Week and DC Farm to School Week. DC School Garden Week was launched in 2006 to celebrate school gardens throughout the District of Columbia. In honor of this event, this past week, Shepherd's very own Garden Team hosted two outdoor classrooms. The two classes involved learned about the differences between vegetables and fruits that grow above ground and those that grow below ground. We discussed the importance of farming and how it relates to the foods we eat at school and at home. Also, the two groups were allowed to plant lettuces, cabbage, collard greens, and tour the existing herbs and plants within the garden beds.

Shepherd's Garden Team's mission is to increase, improve and promote environmental literacy, healthy eating habits and environmental awareness among students, teachers, parents and the surrounding community. If you would like to be a part of this mission and are interested in being involved in the Garden Team's initiative, please contact us at [sesgardenteam@gmail.com](mailto:sesgardenteam@gmail.com).

Angela Anderson  
Garden Team Chair



## Ski Club News

Fourth- and fifth-grade students, please put these important dates on your calendar. Mr. Velez will hold the first Ski Club meeting for the 2012-13 ski season on Wednesday, Oct. 24, at 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium. If interested, please arrive early and bring your lunch.



## PTA Meeting Highlights

Here's just some of what happened at last Wednesday's PTA meeting:

Mrs. Miles, the principal, told parents to be on the lookout for a flyer promoting Oct. 30's Literacy Night program. She also asked parents to ask their students' teachers about the reading level of their children during parent-teacher conferences.

First-grade students won a uniform-free day since parent turnout in that grade had the highest percentage of all grades, with nearly one-third in attendance.

The PTA approved a proposal to restructure the budget to allocate \$1,000 per grade level, and \$500 per "specials" classroom, from the 180 Fund, for items and activities specified by those teachers. (See related story in this issue for full details.)

Ms. Riley, the new Star Achievers director, gave an overview of the aftercare program. She noted that a volunteer parent board has been meeting every three weeks or so to effect a smooth transition from the program run in the past by Ms. Confer and Mr. Huff to the current model. Star Achievers tries to shape its activities to the school's academic program – such as a book club or monthly visits by the neighborhood library's children's librarian -- with an emphasis on safety. While Star Achievers was originally structured to accommodate 150 students, only 110 are currently enrolled in aftercare. The activities schedule will be adjusted so that there are 15-18 students per activity. Each grade has an adult accompany them throughout the aftercare sessions, which can include things like homework and snack time, computer lab, dance, language, physical education and other activities. Ms. Riley held out the possibility that some students not enrolled in Star Achievers might be able to participate in some aftercare activities. A newsletter will be started soon for parents of children in Star Achievers, and she hopes that online payments will be in place by Nov. 1.

The school bank is back in business. A schedule will be set up for students to deposit their money into their own savings account with PNC Bank.

(see **PTA Meeting**, p. 10)

## Local School Advisory Team Meeting Highlights

In **September**, LSAT members heard a report on the new Safety Patrol, with an eye toward finding funding for ponchos and rewards for Safety Patrol students. They also agreed to sponsor the TV/Video Game Turnoff Club. The LSAT started drawing up measurable goals for its three core priorities for 2012-13: academic enrichment; community engagement; and climate and culture. While Shepherd's DC-CAS test scores were up pretty much across the board, the task of how to explain what the numbers mean in an individual student's DC-CAS report will be sent to the school's Academic Committee for a planned "Testing Night" at the school, which would also include examples within categories being tested at different grade levels. Rosetta Stone was being installed on all computers in the computer lab so Spanish students could enhance their learning of Spanish when not in direct classroom instruction.

In **October**, much of the meeting's focus was on the school's push to bring the percentage of students who score "proficient" or "advanced" to 90 percent. The goal of Shepherd's "Get Caught Reading" campaign is to match students' love for reading with performance on the final TRC assessment. Among the avenues that may be explored to get more books into the hands of more students is Pizza Hut's "Book It" program, the monthly Scholastic Book Club catalogs, a Shepherd Park Library free-book incentive program, a weekly "Mystery Reader" during lunchtime, and Reading Is Fundamental book inventories. A visual component will be posted at the school to remind students of what needs to be done to reach reading and test-score targets. One LSAT member will investigate the possibility of bringing DCPS/MPD fingerprinting equipment to

...much of the meeting's focus was on the school's push to bring the percentage of students who score "proficient" or "advanced" to 90 percent.

Shepherd, or using some acceptable alternative, to make volunteer recruitment easier, since volunteers from among parents and the neighborhood will be critical to the success of this initiative. With photos on the school website being out of date, new banner photos are slated to be installed, and individual photos on each individual page, by the end of October. Three Shepherd student teams will compete Jan. 9 in the Geo-Plunge, and classroom spelling bees were being set up to prepare for a school-wide bee. Also, contacts have been made with NOAA for Shepherd's participation in a science fair

with individual entries for grades 3-5 and classroom entries for K-2. An LSAT member was going to try to convince some retired librarians he knows to volunteer some of their time at Shepherd. Another LSAT member was going to ask a kickball teammate to coach the school's co-ed kickball team. The PTA was asked to work with the D.C. PTA to advocate for DCPS' fair share of any D.C. budget surplus, currently estimated at \$140 million. While a traffic control officer is assigned to Shepherd, that person has been sick since the start of the school year. Substitutes have

recently come to Shepherd to perform those duties. Queries have been posed to the D.C. D-DOT director, with no reply. One parent is interested in improving the traffic situation, and a D-DOT representative observed the morning drop-off routine for her evaluation.

The LSAT's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 13, 4 p.m. at the school. Non-members are welcome to attend, but may be asked to leave when confidential issues arise. To learn more about the LSAT, contact LSAT chair Sherilyn Pruitt at [spruitt@hrsa.gov](mailto:spruitt@hrsa.gov). To find out more yourself about the LSAT, along with a compendium of minutes from past meetings, go to <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/school-advisory-board/>.



## 180 Fund Reallocated to Help Classrooms

At last Wednesday's PTA meeting, those in attendance approved an amendment to the 2012-13 PTA budget that had been approved the month before. Here are the details:

That \$7,000 be taken from the projected 180 Fund revenue of \$18,400 and be reallocated to give each grade level from pre-K through fifth grade \$1,000 for its own dedicated use.



An additional \$4,000 be taken from the same 180 Fund revenue and be reallocated to give each of the "specials" classrooms – French, Spanish, physical education, art, music, reading and the two special education classrooms— \$500 for its own dedicated use.

These funds are intended to enhance the curriculum with additional resources such as International Baccalaureate materials, science kits, software, books and field trips not covered by the school budget.

Fifteen separate line items will be created in the budget so that each grade and special can plan and track its own spending separately.

The amount is upwardly scalable should 180 Fund revenue exceed the original projection, but not be less than \$1,000 per grade or \$500 per special.

Look elsewhere in the Mustang for an exhortation for all families, including yours, to contribute to the 180 Fund.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY UPDATE

We have a crossing guard again. The guard assigned to Shepherd had been sick since before the start of the school year. Our current crossing guard has been stationed at the intersection of Jonquil and 14th. He not only wears the bright green vest, but painted on the palms of his gloves are red STOP signs just to emphasize the point that the intersection is a four-way stop. Please practice safety at Shepherd no matter what time you arrive or leave the school.



Shepherd families: We need your help! At present, more than 40 percent of the local homeless population is comprised of families -- and 35 percent of those families are headed by working adults. Over the last decade, D.C.-area rents have grown faster than in most major cities and out-paced most households' incomes. The low-cost rental stock has shrunk by more than 33 percent.

Our school has teamed up with an organization called Hope and A Home to raise money for the homeless program. On Friday, Nov. 2, Shepherd Elementary staff and students will participate in a walk to raise money. Parents and family members are urged to join us. Hope and a Home will do a 15-20 minutes presentation focused around the issue of homelessness, followed by a walk on the school's lower field. We will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the pre-K through second grade students, followed by third through fifth Grade students at 10:00 a.m.

The Hope and A Home program offers housing to homeless families and works with parents to help them complete their education, improve their job skills, and learn to manage family finances. In partnership with the Fannie Mae Foundation's Help the Homeless program, this event will help Hope and a Home raise funds that are greatly needed to carry on their work with families. Walking for the Homeless will help Hope and a Home provide housing and supports for homeless families in Washington.

This event is free for students. 100 percent of your contributions are tax-deductible and will directly serve children and families in Hope and A Home. Please go on line to our school's website to register. We need at least 1,000 walkers, in person or virtual, to register and this will earn us

(see IB Corner, p. 10)

## The 180 Fund: The Challenge Is On to Help All Students

With last week's PTA action to reallocate \$11,000 from 180 Fund revenue to be given to teachers at each grade level and in each "specials" classroom for their needs not covered by the school budget (see separate story), it's now up to us — ALL of us — to contribute to the 180 Fund.

The PTA budget, based upon revenue assumptions from last school year, is based on 80 families contributing to the 180 Fund. To date, five families have given \$500, and 23 families have already given the full \$180 — equivalent to a buck for each of the 180 days on the school calendar. Still others have given contributions on the installment plan — a monthly, quarterly or per-semester amount that works better with their family budget.



With upwards of 340 students at Shepherd, that means we have upwards of 240 households. We need at least a third of those families to give to the fund. Ideally, ALL families should give, since ALL students will benefit. And the PTA has the authority to add money should our 180 Fund revenues exceed projections.

Now it's your turn. You can use the form that's been the back page of every issue of the Mustang since school started. But did you know that you can also give online? It's true! Just go to the homepage of the school website, [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org). In the left column closer to the bottom, you'll see a green bar with the Mustang logo that proclaims, "NOW! You can contribute to Shepherd online!" Click on that bar, which takes you to a page with another click-on underneath the story behind the 180 Fund. That'll get you on your way. Or, if you like keeping your copy of the Mustang intact, you can print a 180 Fund donation form from that same web page.

Either way, your contribution will benefit all teachers and all students at Shepherd. So what are you waiting for?

## *The Handbook Says:* What You Need to Know About The International Baccalaureate's Primary Years Programme

Shepherd Elementary is an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) school.



### How does the PYP operate?

At the heart of the Primary Years Programme philosophy is a commitment to structured inquiry as the main way of learning. It is based on a constructivist view of learning. "Our beliefs, models or constructs are revisited and revised in the light of new experience and further learning". Each year from KG-Grade 5 each student will be involved in 6 units of inquiry matching the following six universal organizing themes (Early Childhood students are engaged in 4 units each year):

- ▶ Who we are
- ▶ Where we are in place and time
- ▶ How we express ourselves
- ▶ How the world works
- ▶ How we organize ourselves
- ▶ Sharing the planet

Students explore universal ideas and subject areas through these themes into which are integrated trans-disciplinary skills in the following domains: thinking, social, communication, self-management, research.

Shepherd has developed and continually purchases items to support the 44 units of inquiry to give students a well-rounded and developmental educational experience. Each unit is carefully planned and students are encouraged to contribute their own curiosity to the development of each unit. The units are trans-disciplinary, spanning and integrating traditional subject areas where desirable. They are

(see PYP, p. 9)





October 18, 2012

Dear Parent:

Shepherd Elementary and Hope and a Home invite you to participate in an important event about children and homelessness. On **Friday, November 2**, Hope and a Home is partnering with Shepherd Elementary School for our annual Walk for the Homeless event. Shepherd has been our wonderful partner in this event for over 15 years. This year our goal is to raise a total of 1,000 walkers through our partnerships with Shepherd Elementary and other groups. As an award, when we reach our goal, Hope and a Home will receive a \$10,000 donation from Fannie Mae, the organizer of the Walk events.

Hope and A Home program offers housing to homeless families and works with parents to help them complete their education, improve their job skills, and learn to manage family finances.

In partnership with the Fannie Mae Foundation's Help the Homeless program, **this event will help Hope and a Home raise funds that are greatly needed to carry on their work with families.**

Your Child should have already received their free registration form, but we are asking if any parent would like to donate and become a registered walker for this event, we encourage you, your relatives, even your pets to join the team. Again we are striving to reach our goal of 1,000 walkers which will earn us the \$10,000 to go towards all of our programs and families. If you would like to donate and participate, the suggested amount is \$30 for adults, \$20 for students 25 yrs and under, and \$35 to be a virtual walker (for those that choose to be sponsor and not walk). Please follow

the instructions below:

► Click the following link to be directed to the Shepherd Walk Team Page: [http://www.hthwalks.org/site/TR/Walk/General?team\\_id=19021&pg=team&fr\\_id=1746](http://www.hthwalks.org/site/TR/Walk/General?team_id=19021&pg=team&fr_id=1746)

► Select "Join this Team" and complete registration process

Thank you so much for your consideration and participation. If you have any questions please contact Mary Jo Schumacher at [mschumacher@hopeandahome.org](mailto:mschumacher@hopeandahome.org)

**PYP** from p. 8 \_\_\_\_\_

connected to a set of key concepts that underpin the curriculum:

Form: What is it like?

Function: How does it work?

Causation: Why is it like it is?

Change: How is it changing?

Connection: How is it connected to other things?

Perspective: What are the points of view?

Responsibility: What is our responsibility?

Reflection: How do we know?



**Will my child be taught traditional subjects in the PYP?**

Your child will develop essential skills, concepts, knowledge, understanding and attitudes through the trans-disciplinary programme. The PYP provides a scope and sequence of skills and understandings in the major curricular areas of language, mathematics, social studies, science, the arts, and personal, social and physical education.

**PRINCIPAL** from p. 3 \_\_\_\_\_**Family Literacy Night**

Please join us on Tuesday, Oct. 30, for Family Literacy Night at 6:45 p.m. The theme for the evening is: Asking Questions. Each grade level will have fun, interactive and engaging reading activities for parents and students to participate. Prizes and food will be provided.

**Chat and Chew Series**

This first Principal's Chat and Chew session will be a repeat of the Back to School sessions held at the start of the school year. Attendees will learn more about Common Core math and reading instruction and our new school-wide discipline plan. Parents who have attended commented that the session was informative. With only two sessions left, please make plans to attend. The first will be held on Nov. 5 at 9 a.m. and the second will be held on Nov. 19 at 5 p.m. The session will last for one-and-a-half hours. Please make plans to attend.

**Get Caught Reading Campaign**

We are still seeking volunteers to read one-on-one or with small groups of students two to three times a week from 8 to 8:30 a.m., or 3 to 3:30 p.m. Books, students and guidance will be provided. All we need is 30 minutes of your time. If interested, please contact Principal Miles ([jamie.miles@dc.gov](mailto:jamie.miles@dc.gov)).

Warmest regards,  
*Jamie B. Miles*  
Principal

**PTA Meeting** from p. 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Students act as tellers and tally the deposits. All that's needed to open an account is \$5. Only cash and checks are accepted for deposits at the school, but students may add to their account at any PNC branch anywhere in the country (including the one on Georgia Ave. NW).

After considerable discussion, a motion directing the PTA to establish a restricted account for the parents of first graders to enable them to make purchases of supplies and equipment specifically for those students was withdrawn.

The next PTA meeting is set for Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 6:35 p.m. in the cafeteria.

**IB Corner** from p. 7 \_\_\_\_\_

a \$10,000 donation from Fannie Mae. Students that are registered will receive a free T-shirt. Please be on the lookout for the permission form coming home this week.

**Awards Assembly**

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2012. We will hold our Awards Assembly to recognize students' achievements. Pre-K through second grade will take place at 9 a.m., and third through fifth grade will follow at 9:50 a.m. Please join us!

Have a Super Duper Week!

--*Ms. Sandra Hart*, IB coordinator

**Shepherd School Pledge**

Today is a new day!

I will respect the rights of others.

I will treat all property with respect.

I will take responsibility for my learning.

I will take responsibility for my actions.

I will act in a safe and healthy way.

Today I will be the best me I can be!

**Shepherd Elementary School 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 Elementary School***

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[www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://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](http://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.*