

Happy New Year! 2013

Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

January 7, 2013

A Word from Mrs. Miles!



Dear Parents/Guardians,
Happy New Year!

I hope each of you had a joyful two weeks celebrating, relaxing and enjoying your time with friends and family.

Reading

I am sure there was a lot of reading and questioning happening during the break, and we are looking forward to receiving completed reading logs. Students are encouraged to turn their logs in weekly. At the end of the week, we count the number of points earned and recognize the top point earners in each grade group (PK-1 and 2nd-5th), and we recognize the class in each grade group with the most number of points earned. Extra logs can be picked up from your child's teacher or in the display rack next to the main office. Please be sure your child's name and teacher's name is written on their log. In the next edition of the Mustang, we will recognize several of our top point earners and give you an update on how our students are progressing.

Attention 4th and 5th Grade Parents

Representatives from Deal Middle School will hold a parent information session at Shepherd. During this session you will meet Principal Albright and learn more about the school. The session will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 10, and it will be held in the gymnasium. Please join us to learn more about our feeder middle school and to get your questions answered.

Parent Reading Meeting

During Family Literacy Night, there was an informative session designed to help parents learn more about reading, reading levels and how to support

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- ▶ **Tuesday, Jan. 8:** Family Dinner Night, Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant, 5-9 p.m.
 - ▶ **Wednesday, Jan. 9:** LSAT meeting, 4 p.m.
School Improvement Team meeting, 5 p.m.
 - ▶ **Thursday, Jan. 10:** Open House, 9:30 a.m.
Deal MS Parent Information Session, 6:30 p.m.
 - ▶ **Friday, Jan. 11:** Boys' basketball, Shepherd at Key, 4 p.m.
 - ▶ **Tuesday, Jan. 15:** Parent reading meeting, 9 a.m.
 - ▶ **Wednesday, Jan. 16:** PTA meeting, 6:35 p.m.
 - ▶ **Thursday, Jan. 17:** Boys' basketball, Shepherd at Whittier, 4 p.m.
 - ▶ **Monday, Jan. 21:** Martin Luther King Jr. holiday/ Inauguration Day, no school
 - ▶ **Tuesday, Jan. 22:** Parent reading meeting, 2 p.m.

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

their student at home. Those in attendance had great things to say about it, and therefore we decided to offer two additional sessions. The first session will be held on the Tuesday the 15th at 9 a.m. and on Tuesday the 22nd at 2 p.m. Please make plans to attend one of these sessions if you were unable to attend the Family Literacy Night session.

Have a great week,
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.

Family Dinner Night is Tuesday

There's nothing like piping hot Chinese food on a chilly evening. That will be the case this Tuesday, Jan. 8, as the PTA hosts another Family Dinner Night by returning to Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant, 8613 16th St. in Silver Spring, just a hop, skip and jump across the Maryland line in the Spring Center strip mall.



Hours of the Family Dinner Night are 5-9 p.m. And you don't have to worry about plunging your chopsticks into some carry-out carton because THIS Family Dinner Night is dine-in only -- which means your food will be served from a nice covered dish onto your plate.

If Chinese food isn't your thing, Spring Garden offers sushi, too -- and some American favorites!

Remember to tell your server *"I'm with Shepherd!"* When you do, the PTA gets 20 percent back from your pre-tax tab.

Can we do better than the \$113.09 we got from our Family Dinner Night partner in January 2012? Absolutely! Can we do better than the \$300 even we racked up the last time we went to Spring Garden for a Family Dinner Night? It'll be fun trying!

Spring Garden seats 100-plus, so let's pack the place!

Recycling, Part 1

Did you get a new smart phone over the holidays? If so, the smart thing to do is to recycle your old phone. Bring it to Shepherd, and put it in the Rubbermaid PTA box in the main office. Every 10 phones we get, we ship to a recycler who harvests the phones for their tech infrastructure, thus saving the earth a little bit more. What's more, even an old-fashioned phone could be worth a couple of bucks for the technology it contains.



PTA Meets Jan. 16

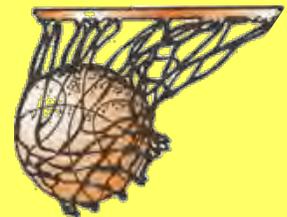
The Shepherd PTA will meet Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 6:35 p.m. in the school



auditorium. Free child care will be provided in the cafeteria. Food will be available for both children and adults who attend. PTA officers and other parent leaders met Dec. 17 to chart a steady course for 2013. Find out for yourself what's new in the PTA, and the part you can play in the school's success. Look to the PTA listserv and the "Stay Informed" email service for agenda items as we get nearer to the meeting date.

Boys' Roundball Action Heats Up

The Shepherd Mustangs boys' basketball team has a pair of games in the next couple of weeks. Both are road games that start at 4 p.m. On Friday, Jan. 11, the Mustangs play at Key Elementary, while on Thursday, Jan. 17, the boys travel to Whittier Elementary to take on the boys' team there. Be a road warrior and help cheer on our Mustangs to victory!





Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a great holiday break like I did. I am going to tell you a bit about my break and then about the upcoming events.

Over my break I went to Illinois. We went to see my new cousin Maille (pronounced Molly) Grace and to see my great-grandmother. Now... upcoming events!

On Jan. 9 the Shepherd GeoPlunge team is going to compete with other schools. We also have an upcoming Family Dinner Night at Spring Garden! It is on Tuesday, Jan. 8. Also, coming up on Monday the 21st ... Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Inauguration Day -- no school!

--Colyar Trimble, fifth grader

Science Fair

The James D. Martin/Shepherd Elementary School Science Fair is Wednesday, Jan. 30, at 9 a.m. in the NOAA Science Center on East-West Highway, about a half-mile north of Shepherd.

Please add this year's James D. Martin/Shepherd Elementary School Science Fair Award Ceremony to your calendar. Shepherd Elementary School will hold its award ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 31, at 9:30 a.m. in the school's gymnasium.

The projects will be displayed for the parents on Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the NOAA Science Center. You are welcome to stop by.



Jazz Night is Feb. 22

Shepherd's annual Jazz Night will be held Friday, Feb. 22, at the school, starting at 6:45 p.m. It's a pot-luck affair. We've divided food and beverage needs alphabetically. So when you come, bring LOTS to share!



The list, and promised contributions, will be published on the listserv and in the next Mustang.

Because this year's Jazz Night will be conducted during Black History Month, we are adopting a Black History Month theme this year. Starting with the next issue of the Mustang, we will profile some African-Americans who were significant contributors to the development of America's native music.

Jazz Night is a family event. We want parents and children to be able to enjoy the music together. While we may have child-friendly activities away from the auditorium, we are counting on parents to mind their children and teach them respect for jazz.

This is more than a school event. Jazz Night is a chance for Shepherd Elementary to show off to the Shepherd Park community, which is also invited. It was 24 years ago that Michael Wallace, a Shepherd parent and a Shepherd Park neighbor, conceived of Jazz Night, still continues to find the acts for the program, and has fostered and nurtured what is now a community institution.

Between acts, we'll pass the hat – a freewill collection to help defray the PTA's costs of hosting Jazz Night. Be generous!

Why Shepherd Needs Renovations: The International Baccalaureate Perspective

“Alexander R. Shepherd Elementary School is named for the territorial governor of the District of Columbia in the early 1870s and it is the product of an active community committed to education,” according to our school’s website, www.shepherd-elementary.org. Shepherd Elementary School is a unique school in the District of Columbia because it is an International Baccalaureate World School.

Shepherd is one of three schools in DC that has the IB Primary Years Programme. Shepherd Elementary serves students from pre-kindergarten to fifth grade.

The curriculum is rigorous and interactive and focuses on stimulating curiosity and inquiry in order to foster a spirit of discovery and an enjoyment of learning. Through the ten traits of the IB learner profile, the IB Program allows for students to be intellectually challenged. The programme permits our students to reflect on real life by encouraging learning beyond traditional subjects with meaningful, in-depth inquiries into relevant global issues.

Specialist subjects like French, Spanish, visual arts, music and physical education are part of the curriculum where these teachers promote imagination, communication, creativity and original thinking, which further enhances the grade-level curriculum explorations. However, at Shepherd due to limited space, a lack of resources, technology and equipment, teachers are struggling to deliver this unique, stimulating and challenging program.

Shepherd Elementary School is part of the Shepherd Park community. A community where “residents of diverse ethnic groups live in harmony on tree-lined streets named after trees and flowers, in charming houses dating back nearly 100 years,” this neighborhood has a rich history and is considered the first truly integrated neighborhood in Washington, D.C. Our school is a support system for the diverse community around the school. We offer a transdisciplinary education program with an international focal point

through the specialist subjects in order to promote imagination, communication, creativity and original thinking. To provide this kind of education our students need a state-of-the-art facility equipped with up-to-date technology of computers, iPads, Kindles, smart boards and a building with well-designed space and equipment -- all of which are currently lacking or in limited supply.

The Arts in the Primary Years Programme provides: a means of communication; opportunities for becoming skillful; a means of expression of both emotional and intellectual perspectives; exposure to other cultures and other times; and a means of accessing other disciplines and a vehicle for wondering, reflecting

and consolidating. (Making the PYP Happen: A curriculum framework for International primary education, 2007) The arts are important curriculum areas of learning in the PYP where students learn the disciplines of visual arts, music, and drama. At Shepherd, world Languages and P.E combine with the Arts to create the Specialist Subjects. These Specialist subjects enhance the Units of study being taught on a daily basis.

Through Visual Arts, the students are given the opportunity to develop their skills and learn new techniques in artworks. They are taught the steps of creating art, from creative brainstorming to preliminary planning all the way to the

end of the creative process with a finished artwork at the conclusion of the units. Students are encouraged to look at art in a global, cultural, and contextual manner in addition to learning about master artists and different types of art forms. The current Art room at Shepherd limits the total experience for a complete Visual Arts program delivery.

Music classes begin with our youngest students in pre-K. In these classes, students learn the elements of music through songs. In the higher grades, a variety of rhythm instruments are introduced. Instruments like violin, recorder, guitar and keyboard are taught helping students to have hands-on experience with making music. This is often challenging for our

“...due to limited space, a lack of resources, technology and equipment, teachers are struggling to deliver this unique, stimulating and challenging program.”

(see IB Perspective, p. 5)

IB Perspective from p. 4 _____

music teacher due to a lack of space, a lack of storage, a shortage of instruments and a lack of acoustical isolation. Dance, another piece of the artistic program, is missing from the music curriculum because Shepherd does not have the space to accommodate it. Through our transdisciplinary curriculum, our music program stages several performances throughout the school year for our school community with students in our auditorium. This also proves to be a challenge because our auditorium and our gymnasium share the same limited space.

Exposing students to world languages teaches them to become more open-minded and open to different perspectives, values and traditions of others. The school attaches importance to two world languages, French and Spanish. These two languages support the learning and the development of some student's mother tongue and enable the acquisition of another language. According to the document, Making the PYP Happen: A curriculum framework for International primary education, 2007, the development of the mother tongue is significant for learners because it is essential for cognitive development, and for maintaining cultural identity. Again, due to space and limited technology and limited resources our World Languages program is suffering.

Physical education plays a vital role in the education of our students. The development of fine motor, gross motor, coordination and movement are important for the development of students' physical ability. P.E educates both mind and body and contributes directly to the development of physical competence and fitness. It also helps students to make informed choices and to understand the value of leading a physically active lifestyle. Throughout the school years, quality physical education can promote the advancement of students' academic, emotional, social, cooperative and problem solving competencies. Quality physical education programs in our nation's schools are essential in developing the physical well-being and understanding of concepts that foster lifelong healthy lifestyles. With a well-designed space and better equipment, Shepherd would be able to offer a more enriched P.E. program to support our transdisciplinary curriculum and promote international minded students.

Being an IB World School is a unique opportunity for our students, our school and the Shepherd Park community. Providing a rigorous, interactive and transdisciplinary curriculum at Shepherd continues to be a challenge daily. We are struggling with our current school facility and lack of technological resources to uphold the IB Programme with fidelity. Therefore, in order to maintain our uniqueness we are desperate for a new, improved state-of-the-art facility with more space and up-to date resources.

--*Ms. Sandra Hart*, IB Coordinator



We are getting ready for our "Blues, Jazz, and Message Songs" concert on February 6. All students are welcome to sing. This is also an intergenerational, educational opportunity to sing with the D.C. Labor Chorus. Labor Chorus members (including some graduates of Shepherd Elementary School) will sing along with our students at the February concert. The songs include Leadbelly's "Good Morning Blues," Billy Taylor's "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to be Free," and Pete Seeger's "Hammer Song." R&B classics are also included: Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come" and Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On." One of our fifth graders will play Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer" on piano. Four of our fourth graders will tap dance to Duke Ellington's "Take the A-Train." The repertoire shows how the blues led to jazz and R&B and eventually to much of the music we listen to now. The concert closes with civil rights songs.

More than 30 students have narrator roles at the microphone. Those students are invited to rehearse with the D.C. Labor Chorus on Monday nights from 7 to 8 p.m. in the music room: Jan. 7, 14, and 28. The final rehearsal (for everyone) will be on Monday, Feb. 4, at 6:45 p.m. in the auditorium. The concert will be Wednesday, Feb. 6, at 6:45 p.m. What a great way to learn some history through the songs!

KEEP COLLECTING BOX TOPS!

With this week's Mustang is a new Box Tops for Education collection sheet. Paste (don't tape!) your box tops to the sheet, or put them in a sealable plastic lunch bag. However you choose to do it, include your child's name, grade and teacher so that proper credit will be given.



Shepherd has historically been out in front among D.C. schools, both public AND private, in our Box Tops receipts, gathering hundreds of dollars the easy way! Just keep up the good work!

Shepherd to Benefit From Politics & Prose Book Fair

Save this date: Saturday, March 23. Shepherd will be the sponsor of a book fair at Politics & Prose, the renowned indie bookstore on Connecticut Avenue. This could shape up to be a major fundraiser for Shepherd's PTA, as well as the perfect way for families to really drive home the point on the school's Get Caught Reading initiative.



Sometime in early February, Shepherd PTA and Politics & Prose representatives to meet to hammer out the details of the book fair. We'll need volunteers to staff the book fair, and we'll also need shoppers to make purchases. Count yourself as able to do both tasks. More details as they become available.



Deadline for next Mustang

**Fri., Jan. 18
at 5 p.m.**

Please send all contributions to :
sesmustang@gmail.com

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT



Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant
8613 16th St., Silver Spring
(inside the Spring Center strip mall)

**Tuesday, January 8
5-9 p.m.**



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

*Tasty Chinese food
and sushi, too!*

Good for Dine-In Only!

Recycling, Part 2

These days, most families have their own computer AND printer at their home. When your printer cartridge runs out of ink, bring it to Shepherd and give it to Ms. Brooks in the office. Manufacturing those cartridges is a large part of their cost, and it's cheaper to recycle them than to just keep making more and more and more of them. Just like with paper and plastic, recycling cartridges is better for the environment, and it makes Shepherd money. Make recycling one of your New Year's resolutions.



Email Works for Parents Two Ways

There are two primary email forms of communication for Shepherd parents.

One is the PTA listserv. It's the parent-to-parent exchange on school issues and needs, and a timely reminder of upcoming events. To join, go to shepherd_elementary_pta_subscribe@yahoo.com. In your message, include your name plus your child's name, grade and teacher. That way spammers stay out!



The other way is "Stay Informed," a service run by the PTA officers. To subscribe, just go to the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org, look for the "Stay Informed" box in the left column, type in your email address, click "subscribe" and you're in!

Stay Informed

Quote to Note

"If you follow your bliss, doors will open for you that wouldn't have opened for anyone else."

--Joseph Campbell



Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers-

Happy, healthy, wonderful New Year to you all! I hope you and yours had wonderful holidays.

For me this year has started off with two gratifying contacts from former Shepherd students. Both remember the art homework fondly, even though they might not have felt that way at the time. Both illustrate the terrific start we have given and continue to give students at Shepherd.

Brendolyn Daniels (Shepherd '03) just graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University. She and I have kept in touch during her young, challenging life. Because of that she asked me for a recommendation for her to be a teacher overseas, which I heartily agreed to give. I can think of no better person for this job.

Another former student, Nikki Hendricks (Shepherd '06) finished her first semester at the University of Bridgeport (Conn.), earning a 3.6 GPA! Nikki, who keeps a sketch journal in her purse -- a habit she began at Shepherd -- just completed her second documentary film, the subject of which is the horrible abuse of African women in the Congo. The film is a testament to the intelligence and insight of its young producer. I have a weblink to this work for anyone who wants to see it.

I am so lucky that Shepherd gave me the opportunity to touch these young people's lives in some way. Just hearing from them has brightened my new year.

PLEASE NOTE: Photos of our kids making holiday peace cards for veterans, which in the last Mustang I promised would be posted to teacherweb.com site, won't be put up until this week. So look at <http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art> in the Gallery and Art Peeks sections for Christmas in January!

For students in grades 3-5, there is homework due the week of Jan. 7.

Again, Happy New Year wishes!

--Ms. Joelle Michaud, art teacher

The Handbook Says: Discipline Policy, Part 3

(We continue with the last excerpts from the new Discipline Policy.)

Lesson 3

Restroom Expectations

Be Respectful - Be Responsible - Be Safe

Be Respectful in the restroom:

- ▶ Observe personal space
- ▶ Lock stalls when entering and unlock when leaving
- ▶ Respect privacy
- ▶ Use a soft voice

Be Safe in the restroom:

- ▶ Use restroom facility appropriately
- ▶ Keep water in the sink
- ▶ Walk in the restroom
- ▶ Tell an adult if restroom needs attention
- ▶ Keep feet on the floor

Be Responsible in the restroom:

- ▶ Follow 1-2-3 Procedures*
- ▶ Use water, soap and paper towels sparingly
- ▶ Tinkle in the toilet or the urinal ONLY
- ▶ If you tinkle on the seat, wipe it up
- ▶ Flush toilet after use
- ▶ Keep restrooms clean
- ▶ Return directly to class or designated area when finished

1-2-3 Procedures*

- ▶ One turn on water
- ▶ Two squirts of soap
- ▶ Three pulls on paper towels
 - ⇒ Dry hands
 - ⇒ Throw paper towels in the trash can
 - ⇒ Walk back to designated area

Lesson 4

Recess Expectations

Be Respectful - Be Responsible - Be Safe

Be Respectful at recess:

- ▶ Respect school property
- ▶ Share equipment
- ▶ Use positive talk

- ◆ Take turns
- ◆ Use good sportsmanship

Be Responsible at recess:

- ▶ Put equipment away when finished
- ▶ Line up quickly when called
- ▶ Listen for instructions
- ▶ Be responsible for jackets and other belongings

Be Safe at recess:

- ▶ Follow playground procedures*
- ▶ Remain on school grounds
- ▶ Follow game rules
- ▶ Inform adult of unsafe behavior or incidents
- ▶ Stay away from unfamiliar adults or animals

Teachers and staff will implement I–HUM strategies.

- ▶ **I** – Interact with students
- ▶ **HU** – Heads up, always looking around at students
- ▶ **M** – Moving constantly in and around students

Playground Procedures*

Be Respectful - Be Responsible - Be Safe

Playground Equipment

- ▶ Get on/off equipment carefully
- ▶ Cross bars should be crossed using hands only
- ▶ One person on cross bars at a time
- ▶ If feet are on a bar, your hands should be on a bar as well
- ▶ Hands and feet to yourself while on equipment
- ▶ Go up the ladder, down the slide

Equipment

- ▶ Take care of all equipment
- ▶ Use equipment properly
- ▶ Return equipment to the designated area when finished
- ▶ Let teachers know when balls go over the fence

Field

- ▶ Share space on field for different activities
- ▶ Follow rules of the games
- ▶ Keep fields in good playing condition
- ▶ Play football and tag on the field

(see DISCIPLINE p. 9)

DISCIPLINE from p. 8 _____

Teachers and staff will implement I–HUM strategies.

- ▶ I – interact with students
- ▶ HU – heads up, always looking around at students
- ▶ M – moving constantly in and around students

*When entering the playground for recess, students should line up against the fence until the all clear signal is given.

Lesson 5

Arrival Expectations

Be Respectful - Be Responsible - Be Safe

Be Respectful during arrival:

- ▶ Keep hands, feet, and objects to self
- ▶ Use soft voice
- ▶ Respect others’ personal space
- ▶ Respond appropriately to adult directions
- ▶ Be Responsible during arrival:
- ▶ Arrive at school on time (between 8:20 am – 8:40 am)
- ▶ Go straight to gymnasium
- ▶ Arrivals after 8:45 am, report to office for a tardy slip
- ▶ Make sure all materials are in backpack (lunch kits, jackets, etc.)

Be Safe during arrival:

- ▶ If you arrive before the doors open, stay seated outside on the benches outside of the gymnasium and the main entrance until the doors open.
- ▶ Enter building when doors are opened
- ▶ Arrive at school no earlier than 8:20 am
- ▶ Walk into the gymnasium and take a seat behind your cone

Lesson 6

Dismissal Expectations

Safe during dismissal:

- ▶ Walk to designated dismissal area
- ▶ Walk with teacher when dismissal bell rings
- ▶ Follow hallway expectations

Organized during dismissal:

- ▶ Be packed and ready to go
- ▶ Keep materials in backpack until arrival at home
- ▶ Bell schedule
 - ⇒ 3:05 Get ready to go
 - ⇒ 3:10 Carpool, Van Riders and After Care
 - ⇒ 3:15 Parent Pickup
 - ⇒ 3:35 Remaining students are escorted to the main hallway

Accountable during dismissal:

- ▶ Be where you need to be when you need to be there.

Respectful during dismissal:

- ▶ Keep hands, feet, and objects to self
- ▶ Use soft voice
- ▶ Respect others’ personal space
- ▶ Respond appropriately to adult directions

Teachers and staff will implement I–HUM strategies.

- ▶ I – interact with students
- ▶ HU – heads up, always looking around at students
- ▶ M – moving constantly in and around students

The Lowdown on 2013

Here’s a long-range planning calendar to cover many important events for the rest of the school year.

PTA meetings (all 6:35 p.m.)

- Wednesday, Jan. 16
- Wednesday, Feb. 20
- Wednesday, March 20
- Wednesday, April 17
- Wednesday, May 15

Boys’ basketball games (all 4 p.m.)

- Friday, Jan. 11: Shepherd at Key
- Thursday, Jan. 17: Shepherd at Whittier
- Thursday, Jan. 24: Shepherd at Cooke
- Thursday, Jan. 31: Shepherd vs. Hyde-Addison at Lafayette
- Thursday, Feb. 7: Shepherd at Janney

No-School Days

- Monday, Jan. 21: Martin Luther King Jr. holiday/ Inauguration Day
- Friday, Feb. 15: Professional development day
- Monday, Feb. 18: Presidents Day
- Monday, Feb. 25: Parent-teacher conferences
- Monday-Friday, April 1-5: Spring break
- Monday, April 15: Professional development day
- Tuesday, April 16: D.C. Emancipation Day
- Monday, May 27: Memorial Day
- Monday, June 3: Parent-teacher conferences

Half-days (out at 12:15 p.m.; no aftercare)

- Friday, Jan. 25
- Friday, March 29
- Thursday, June 20 (last day of school)

Family Dinner Nights

- Tuesday, Jan. 8: Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant, 8613 16th St., Silver Spring, 5-9 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 27: The Daily Dish, 8301 Grubb Rd., Silver Spring, 5-9 p.m.

(see LOWDOWN, p. 10)

LOWDOWN from p. 9 _____

Tuesday, March 26: Franklin's, 5121 Baltimore Ave. (Route 1), Hyattsville, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
... and more coming!

Big School Events

Thursday, Jan. 24: Curriculum Night, 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5: "Blues, Jazz and Message Songs" concert, 6:45 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 22: Jazz Night, 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, March 23: Book Fair at Politics & Prose
Thursday, March 28: Curriculum Night
Saturday, April 20: Earth Day event
Saturday, May 18: Annual Spring Gala

The SIT-uation Room

The Shepherd Elementary School Improvement Team has completed its report. You can access it from the homepage of the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org. Go to the center column, look for the headline "Shepherd Slated for Renovations!" and click on the link that says "READ the SES School Improvement Team renovation report." Warning: It's 46 pages long!

Representatives of Shepherd's School Improvement Team met Dec. 19 with representatives of D.C. Public Schools, the city's Department of General Services, and Lance Bailey Architects to review and discuss the report and to plot next steps. Shepherd is in line for \$5.295 million in renovations this summer, although it is possible that the budget will increase to close to double the original figure. It depends on a lot of factors that are outside of Shepherd's control. But architects and city representatives lent their support to the idea that the basement area under the original school could be made into classroom space; currently, there's just an uneven dirt floor and a lot of junk there.

By the time you read this, it's also possible that a construction firm will have been selected by the city to do the renovation work.

Two more School Improvement Team meetings with city officials are scheduled for 5 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 9 and 23. As more becomes known about the nature and scope of the renovations — this summer's work is just phase one of three phases, each roughly four years apart — we'll keep you informed via the Mustang and via the school listserv. We also hope to post architectural renderings on the school website.

To learn more about school renovations, get in touch with SIT chair Mark Pattison at 829-9289.



Shepherd IB PYP Corner

Happy New Year Shepherd Community! Welcome back to the New Year of 2013. This month, the Learner Profile trait is Risk Taker. A risk taker is someone who approaches unfamiliar situations with courage; someone who has the independence of spirit to explore new roles, new ideas and new strategies; and someone who is brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

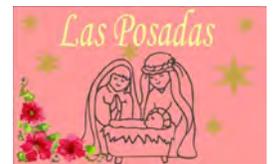
International Day 2012

International Day was a great success. We visited different classrooms where we sampled different foods and learned about different winter holidays around the world. Thanks to all our parent volunteers who were able to assist. We couldn't have done it without you.



The Theme for International Day was Winter Holidays Around the World. Students learned that some winter holidays are linked to religious festivals that are celebrated in a unique way. Here is a small sample of what we learned (more details at www.santas.net)

Ms. Guldin's Kindergarten classroom - Las Posadas (Mexico): Mexicans' main winter holiday celebration is La Posada. This celebration begins with a religious procession that reenacts the search for shelter by Joseph and Mary (parents of baby Jesus) before the birth of Jesus.



During the procession, the celebrants go from house to house carrying the images of Mary and Joseph looking for shelter.

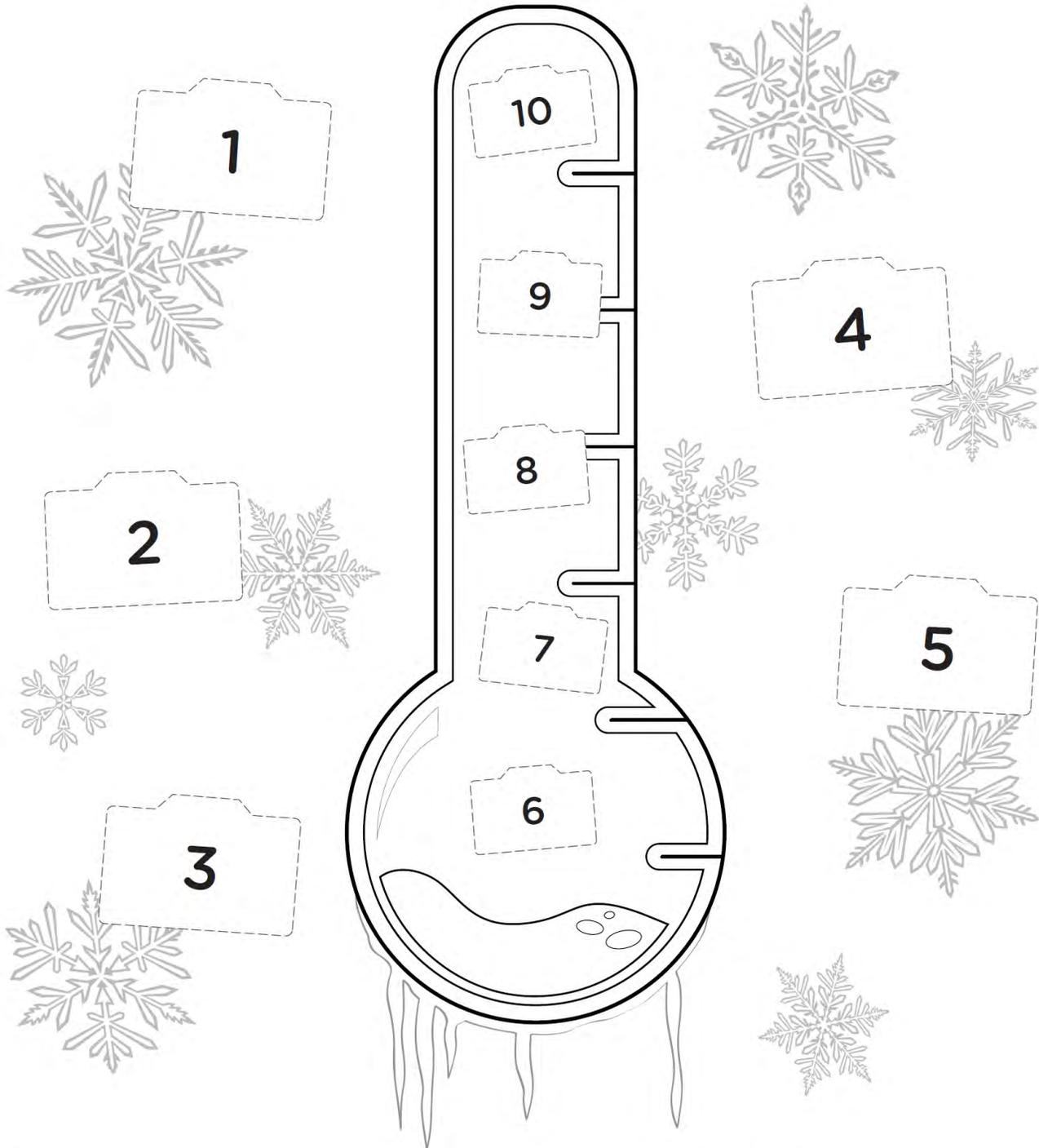
Ms. Johnson's Second Grade classroom - Mardi Gras: Mardi Gras, also known as Fat Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday, Carnival, and even Pancake Day in the United Kingdom, is an annual festival celebrated in February each year. This year, Fat Tuesday will be Feb. 12. Fat Tuesday tradition-

(see IB Corner, p. 12)



heat up your school spirit!

The more Box Tops you add, the hotter your school's earnings will be



Name _____

Grade _____

Teacher's Name _____

Thank you for helping! Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school.
To see more ways to earn cash for your school, go to www.btfe.com/earn

IB Corner from p. 10

-ally marks the last opportunity for fun and feasting before 40 days of "self-denial."



Ms. George's Second Grade classroom - Diwali (India) - Diwali is celebrated by Hindus in India and all around the world in October or November. It is a very colorful holiday. It is the Hindu New Year and is either a three- or five-day holiday depending on where you come from. Homes are cleaned to welcome the New Year and windows are opened so that the Hindu goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, can enter. It is believed that she cannot enter a house which is not lit up, so every household burns special Diwali clay lamps (diyas) to light the way for the goddess, which is why the holiday is also known as the Festival of Lights. Diwali will next be celebrated on November 3.



Ms. Ulba's Second Grade classroom - Saint Lucia's Day (Sweden): Saint Lucia's Day is Dec. 13 and is celebrated in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland. Christmas begins in Sweden with the Saint Lucia ceremony. On the morning of Dec. 13, before dawn, the youngest daughter from each family puts on a white robe with



a red sash. She wears a crown of evergreens with tall lighted candles attached to it. She wakes her parents, and serves them with coffee and Lucia buns. The other children accompany her. The boys dress as star boys in long white shirts and pointed hats.



Ms. Mackenzie's Third Grade classroom - Saint Nicholas' Day (Holland/Dutch): Saint Nicholas Day celebrates the life of Saint Nicholas of Myra, a fourth-century bishop best known today as the real-life model of Santa Claus. Saint Nicholas Day is observed each year on Dec. 6.

Ms. Miranda-Mulligan's Fourth Grade classroom - Epiphany/Three Kings' Day (Ireland): Epiphany is celebrated on Jan. 6. It is an ancient church festival celebrating the three wise men's visit to Baby Jesus. Epiphany is also called "Three Kings' Day" and "Twelfth Day"—the latter name because Jan. 6 is 12 days after Christmas; the eve of Epiphany is called "Twelfth Night." Christmas in Ireland lasts from Christmas Eve to the feast of the Epiphany on Jan. 6, which is a fourth-century bishop best known today as the real-life model of Santa Claus.



Have a Super Week!

--Ms. Sandra Hart, IB Coordinator

LSAT Meets Wednesday

The Local School Advisory Team of Shepherd Elementary will meet Wednesday, Jan. 9, 4-5:30 p.m. at the school.

The LSAT welcomes all parents to attend, although nonmembers may be asked to leave should confidential matters arise. For a look at minutes of previous LSAT meetings and background material on the Shepherd LSAT (and LSATs in general), go to <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/school-advisory-board/>.

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 – robyna.brooks@dc.gov
Alicia Anderson, 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