

New Year—**New!** Attitude



THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

January 22, 2013



- ▶ **Tuesday, Jan. 22:** Parent reading meeting, 2 p.m.
- ▶ **Wednesday, Jan. 23:** School Improvement Team meeting, 5 p.m.
- ▶ **Thursday, Jan. 24:** Class pictures — in uniform

Boys' basketball at Cooke, 4 p.m.

Curriculum Night, 6:45 p.m.

- ▶ **Friday, Jan. 25:** Records Day, out at 12:15 p.m.; no aftercare
- ▶ **Monday, Jan. 28:** Pre-K lottery opens
- ▶ **Tuesday, Jan. 29:** Science Fair setup at NOAA HQ, 9 a.m.
Science Fair parent preview, NOAA HQ, 4-7 p.m.
- ▶ **Wednesday, Jan. 30:** Science Fair exhibit at NOAA HQ
- ▶ **Thursday, Jan. 31:** Science Fair awards ceremony, 9:30 a.m.
Boys' basketball vs. Hyde-Addison at Lafayette, 5 p.m.
Gala kickoff meeting, library 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Friday, Feb. 1:** Rose and carnation ordering deadline
- ▶ **Monday, Feb. 4:** RSVP deadline for Valentine's Day bake sale contributions
Concert dress rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.
- ▶ **Tuesday-Wednesday, Feb. 5-6:** Paced Interim Assessment testing
- ▶ **Wednesday, Feb. 6:** "Blues, Jazz, R&B and Message Songs" concert, 6:45 p.m.

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

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings, Shepherd Family!

I hope this message finds each of you happy and well. The second half of the school year has gotten off to a great start as students returned to school focused and ready to learn.



Get Caught Reading

A special thank you to students and parents who have been reading nightly, completing reading logs and turning them in weekly. We believe it is making a difference for some. However, parents, your help is needed. While we are excited to see many logs returned, we are also disappointed at how they are returned. The goal is for students to read and comprehend text, hence the reason why written responses are required for some grade levels. It is not a writing assessment; however, in the area of writing, following directions, honesty and completion, we must do better! The number of misspellings, incorrect grammar, poor handwriting and below-standard responses is dismal and parents are signing off on the logs. In addition, some students are reporting reading 6, 7 and 8 hours at night and parents are signing off. In other cases we have students reading books way below their grade level and parents are signing off. Parents, we have to do better. On our end, we have stopped giving points and steps if logs are not a true reflection of our students. We have high expectations of our students and we expect nothing but their best at all times. Please continue to support our efforts by continuing to raise the bar for your student at home and letting them know you will not sign off on anything but their best! Thank you in advance for your support.

(see PRINCIPAL, p. 12)

Family Dinner Nights Going Strong

We're still waiting for the results of December's Family Dinner Night at the Society Restaurant, and this month's Family Dinner Night at Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant. But we do have totals from our two-for-one night in November at Nando's Peri-Peri and Color Me Mine, both a block from each other in downtown Silver Spring. Together, they raised just a shade under \$300 — a greater tally than we experienced the year before just solely from going to Color Me Mine.



Our next Family Dinner Night is Thursday, Feb. 28, at the Daily Dish on Grubb Road in Silver Spring in the Rock Creek Shopping Center — home also to the Parkway Deli, the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Co-op and the Rock Creek Fitness Center.



Hours are 5-9 p.m. for the next Family Dinner Night. The PTA will get 20 percent of your pre-tax tab. Give the Daily Dish a try before city crews shut down the Kalmia Road culvert for repairs in March!

Girls' Hoop Action

Catch the Mustangs girls' basketball team in action this season. Only four games remain. Check out this year's squad:

- ▶ Wednesday, Jan. 23, Shepherd at Oyster, 4 p.m.
- ▶ Tuesday, Jan. 29, Shepherd vs. Murch at Lafayette, 5 p.m.
- ▶ Friday, Feb. 1, Key at Shepherd, 4 p.m.
- ▶ Tuesday, Feb. 5, Shepherd at Lafayette, 4 p.m.

Cheer our team on to victory!



Shepherd Gets Grant From Exxon Thanks to Gas Station Nomination

Shepherd Elementary is getting a \$500 grant from ExxonMobil after the neighborhood Exxon station at 7401 Georgia Ave.

NW nominated it to win such a grant from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance.



"The Exxon station located at 7401 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, D.C., was able to submit an application that was approved for one of the many grants available across the country this school year, and is especially happy that it could be part of your continued efforts to provide the best education to students at Alexander R. Shepherd Elementary School," said a Jan. 14 email from Megan Wenger, business coordinator for Capitol Petroleum Group in Springfield to the principal, Mrs. Jamie Miles.

Nationwide, nearly \$2 million in grants to support local schools nominated by ExxonMobil-branded gas stations were approved in the past year.

"ExxonMobil, in partnership with Capitol Petroleum Group, LLC, has a long history of supporting educational programs," Wenger said. "We believe it is fundamentally important to encourage the next generation to pursue studies and careers in fields involving math and science."

With that in mind, make sure that you've saved Wednesday, Feb. 27, on your calendar. Because that's STEM Night — meaning, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics — at Shepherd.

Gala Kickoff Jan. 31!

Football's not the only thing around here with a kickoff. The annual Gala will have its big kickoff on Thursday, Jan. 31, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. Pitch in and let's run up the score, revenue-wise, with this year's Gala. Come to the meeting and learn what you can do to make it the biggest success yet!



Looking for a French Event?

If so, consider La Chandeleur, on Saturday, Feb. 2, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Ave. NW.

In France La Chandeleur, also known as "Crepe Day," is celebrated with food and games. Alliance Française DC and Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens invite families to celebrate this holiday in festive French fashion by eating crêpes, enjoying classic tales told in French and English, and experiencing the exciting culture of Brittany, where crêpes originated.



Discover the myths and legends of the Brittany region, whose enchanting forests are said to be the setting of many stories of the wizard Merlin, King Arthur, and the Knights of the Round Table. Embark on a quest to discover tales of knights and mythical creatures in the art in Hillwood's mansion, and create your own artwork by making a knight's shield to take home.

Tickets are required. For more details, contact Madame Gadie at Koutouan.gadie@dc.gov.

Join the Mustang Team!

Join our intrepid band of parents who edit and design our school newsletter, the Mustang. We publish every other week, so you would be called on to do no more than one issue each month.

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



Express your interest to this issue's editor, Mark Pattison, at pattison_mark@hotmail.com, or this edition's layout-designer, Yolonda Walden, at yowalden@gmail.com.

The SIT-uation Room

Good news, and the potential for great news, coming out of the School Improvement Team meetings.

First, we got a look at the educational specifications that the city developed, thanks in goodly part to the renovations framework produced last month by Shepherd's SIT group. The link to the document is posted on the homepage of the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org.

Second, we saw a rough architectural rendering of what improvements COULD look like, and when they could get



done – provided that the money's there. We are in line currently for \$5.295 million in improvement. But the estimate we got for the materials alone in the improvement suggested would come to about \$8.5 million, plus labor. But city staffers know about our crowded and growing situation and are working to free up more money.

The initial plans call for an atrium with an entrance on 14th Street that would serve as the main entrance of the school, with administrative offices behind it linking to all of the various buildings that currently make up Shepherd. Plus, we'd get that basement area under the original school totally souped up. Both additions, taken together, would add about 25 percent to our existing square footage, relieve some severe cramping we've got going on now – some days it seems like every room is a multipurpose room – and enable Shepherd to offer two classrooms for pre-school for 3-year-olds!

Third, we've benefitted by the addition of four student members to the School Improvement Team: Fourth graders Kelci Barnette and Genesis Glover, and third graders Masai Jenkins and Benjamin White.

The next School Improvement Team meeting will be this Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 5 p.m. If you want to come, great! If you want to learn more about the SIT group's work, call SIT chair Mark Pattison at 202-829-9289.

PTA Meeting Highlights

What, you missed last Wednesday's PTA meeting? Well, we'll overlook it THIS time. But here are some highlights to get you pumped up to attend the next PTA meeting, set for Wednesday, Feb. 20, 6:35 p.m.



- PTA president Alicia Anderson thanked volunteers who responded to her "Stay Informed" appeal.
- Liz Folk laid out plans for the PTA's Valentine's Day Bake and Flower Sale on – of course! – Thursday, Feb. 14. Look for flyers in backpacks soon, if you haven't already seen one, because orders are due Feb. 1. To lend a hand or to ask questions, send an email to info@shepherd-elementary.org.
- Alicia Anderson offered thank you's to all of the parents who mobilized in November to attend or give spoken and written testimony on the School Boundary Review Act. While the bill appears to be currently in limbo, D.C. Public Schools is looking at feeder patterns, first with the schools it intends to close this year and then the rest of the system next year. But there are no changes in Shepherd's feeder patterns for 2013-14.
- Alicia also updated parents on School Improvement Team issues, noting that DCPS' "ed specs" document incorporated a lot of what Shepherd's SIT group did last year rather than designing first and asking questions later.
- Mrs. Miles, in her Principal's report, stressed the importance of notifying teachers and the school office when you know in advance that your child will not be in school – because an accumulation of unexcused absences will veer into unwanted territory like "attendance conferences" and even reports to Social Services. (The attendance policy and protocols are in this week's Mustang.) She also promoted the Jan. 22 parent reading session set for 2 p.m. Mrs. Miles also reported on the Jan. 15 meeting for the parents of pre-K and kindergarten students, noting that a packet would be sent for at-home use to check on the progress of students' cognitive and developmental abilities.
- Former PTA president Bianca Bostic, who had to step down due to health reasons, gave a tearful thank-you to the parents for their support. Parents responded with sustained applause.
- PTA corresponding secretary Christine Kithcart gave an update on spending, approved in October, for teacher wish lists. Almost all the money for each grade and "specials" teacher is spent. Among the items bought were books – in all grades – more Kindles, multimedia project for fifth grade, an overhead project for first grade, recess play equipment for Mr. Burgess, and file folders and lots of printer ink. Kindergarten teachers Ms. Pethtel and Ms. Guldin ordered supplies as a team, focusing on manipulatives that related to International Baccalaureate units, and books on CD.
- Mr. Leonard, a fifth grade teacher, gave a demonstration of STMath.com, which Shepherd is using free this year thanks to a grant. It teaches students the "why" of math skills rather than just a rote recitation of math facts, breaking everything down conceptually, STMath goes from kindergarten to high school. Teachers can look in to see their students' level of mastery. (Shepherd also uses First in Math as well as Study Island.)
- PTA treasurer Kim Barnette gave the treasurer's report, noting that the PTA hopes to recoup triple its budgeted \$10,000 of expenses for the Spring Gala. She asked parents to see her if they accidentally recorded multiple donations to the 180 Fund through the school website. A glitch was fixed on the website that now should allow parents to know within about four seconds that their credit card donation will be processed. She said the PTA recently received a \$480 check from Box Tops for Education, and that she would look into rebates due the PTA from Giant and Safeway, plus eScrip.
- Barnette moved, and Alicia Anderson seconded, approving the minutes of the November PTA meeting. The motion carried. (The minutes are posted on the school website.)
- LSAT Chair Sherilyn Pruitt gave a report on LSAT activities, noting that every activity proposed by the LSAT has met with Mrs. Miles' approval. The

(see HIGHLIGHTS, p. 5)

HIGHLIGHTS from p. 4 _____

LSAT is focusing on three areas: community engagement, culture & climate, and academic achievement. Pruitt noted that asking people face-to-face to volunteer gets the best results, and that it can take two years to really move the needle on community engagement, citing the example of a Connecticut school that found some adults to take responsibility for each student in that school, with successful results.

- Michael Wallace, the parent who started Jazz Night 24 years ago, talked about its origins as a cultural benefit to both the school and community. The acts that play do so for less than club scale but are eager to do so. Kids can get closer to the performers and the music, unlike the clubs, where kids aren't even allowed. He mentioned H.R. 57, the bill sponsored by Rep. John Conyers that declared jazz a national treasure and the use of jazz ambassadors by the State Department to foster goodwill for America.
- Lisa Connor and PTA First Vice President Toby Susse talked about the PTA's fundraising activities, and how the point is to get maximum return for the investment of time and energy. With the Spring Gala coming up May 18, classroom parents need to talk with their teachers to see what kind of student-created work could be made for auction. A Gala kickoff meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 31, at 6:30 p.m. The theme will be Feria de Sevilla, a Carnival-like festival in Seville, Spain, suggested by Senorita Martinez – who will help with the event. Lisa suggested that parents buy a table as a class and to buy ads thanking teachers. Sponsorship packages will also be available. And parents should hit up merchants, restaurants and businesses they know for gift cards and merchandise that can be used at the auction.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

**Next Issue
Feb. 4**

Deadline for Next Issue!

Our next deadline is

Friday, Feb. 1, at 5 p.m.

Send items to

sesmustang@gmail.com

SAFETY PATROL NAMES OFFICERS, TRAINEES

Six members of Shepherd's Safety Patrol received promotions Dec. 19.

Named captains were Margaret Goletiani and Colyar Trimble.

They will wear the blue badge.

Chosen as lieutenants were Caleb Schuster and Courtney White. They get to wear the red badge.



Promoted to sergeant were Kayla Boyde and Catherine Serrano. They will wear the green badge.

In addition, eight third-graders have been chosen this month to begin training to join the Safety Patrol later on as full-fledged members. They are Shaina Adams, Jada Culmer, Weldon Genies, Clare Harvey, Masai Jenkins, Keshav Mehta-Harwitz, Deborah Okechukwu and Elijah Pringle.

Students and grown-ups alike: Please do your part to help the Safety Patrol keep Shepherd's students safe!

Stay Informed

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

Jazz Night Salutes... Clark Terry



Clark Terry (born December 14, 1920) is an American swing and bop trumpeter, a pioneer of the flugelhorn in jazz, educator, NEA Jazz Masters inductee, and recipient of the 2010 Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. Only four other trumpet players in

history have ever received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award: Louis Armstrong (Clark's old mentor), Miles Davis (whom Clark mentored), Dizzy Gillespie (who often described Clark as the greatest jazz trumpet player on earth) and Benny Carter. Clark Terry is one of the most prolific jazz musicians in history, having appeared on 905 known recording sessions, which makes him the most recorded trumpet player of all time. In comparison, Louis Armstrong performed on 620 sessions, Harry "Sweets" Edison on 563, and Dizzy Gillespie on 501.

He has played with Charlie Barnet (1947), Count Basie (1948–1951), Duke Ellington (1951–1959) and Quincy Jones (1960), and has recorded regularly both as a leader and sideman. In all, his career in jazz spans more than 70 years.

Shepherd's 24th annual Jazz Night will be held Friday, Feb. 22, 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Performing this year will be the Coolidge High Jazz Ensemble and the Jackie Hairston Trio, which wowed the crowd last year. We'll pass the hat between acts to defray the PTA's costs of hosting Jazz Night.

Jazz Night is a potluck. Look for what you should bring LOTS OF to Jazz Night so that all can enjoy:

- ▶ **A-F:** Beverages/Water/Juice
- ▶ **G-M:** Entrees/Meats/Casseroles
- ▶ **N-S:** Side Dishes/Salads/Appetizers
- ▶ **T-Z:** Desserts/Snacks

Jazz Night is a family event. Increase your child's appreciation for jazz.



BOX TOPS BONANZA!

This month, the PTA received a check from the Box Tops for Education people for \$488! That means we're just \$12 from our annual goal of \$500. Help us get over the top by cutting out those Box Tops, and pasting them onto a Box Tops Collection Sheet, or just putting them in a sealable sandwich bag with your child's name, grade and teacher. Looking for a collection sheet? Looking for a collection sheet? Just print one yourself at <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?Id=51>



Musical Notes

By Ken Giles, Music Teacher

Kenneth.Giles@dc.gov

On Thursday, Feb. 7, all fourth and fifth graders will go to the Kennedy Center to see the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. The performance will include excerpts of Alvin Ailey's "Revelations," a powerful combination of dance, costumes, and African-American spirituals. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is recognized worldwide as a unique performance ensemble. It is called "dance theater" because it uses costumes, props, lighting, music, and dance to communicate.

This field trip is another benefit to Shepherd Elementary from our partnership with the Kennedy Center. All of our fourth and

fifth graders will be able to attend the Alvin Ailey performance free.



GIVE TO THE 180 FUND!

How has the PTA spent this year's treasury? It's allocated \$1,000 per grade, and \$500 per "specials" teacher, to buy items on the faculty members' "wish lists."



It's also bought 30 Kindle Fires.

And it can buy more -- and DO more -- with your financial support.

The PTA's 180 Fund is THE vehicle for parents to make tax-deductible contributions to the PTA. The more parents who give, and the more each individual family gives, helps the PTA do more for the school.

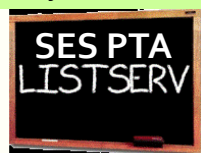
The back pages features a form that helps you and the PTA consider how you can best give of your time, your talent and your treasure.

There are some things that only money can buy -- Kindles, for instance -- but there are some things money can't buy, like your participation in school activities. Consider placing a check mark next to Jazz Night, the Spring Gala, the Book Fair at Politics & Prose, and any of a wide range of places where your efforts will be appreciated.



Join the PTA Listserv

The PTA listserv is THE parent-to-parent exchange for ideas, reminders, tips and notices about what's happening in and around Shepherd. At the end of last year, there were about 230 members on the listserv. Add yourself. It's easy! Send an email to shepherd_elementary_pta_subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Include your name, plus your child's name, grade and teacher; that way we keep out people who don't belong on the listserv. There's no limit to the number of parents who can join!



More Dates That Rate

Pull down those wall calendars and pull out that smartphone. We've got another list of school-related events for you to take note of. All of these listings can be found in the



"Calendar" dropdown of the "News & Events" toolbar of the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org.

January

- 22 -- Parent Reading Meeting 2 p.m.
- 24 -- Class Pictures (in uniform!)
- 30 -- Science Fair NOAA HQ, East-West Hwy., Silver Spring
- 31 -- Science Fair awards ceremony, 9:30 a.m.

February

- 5-6 -- Paced Interim Assessment testing
- 6th Music Concert 6:45
- 27 -- Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Night

March

- 7 -- Spring Pictures (no uniform!)
- 11 -- Family Dinner Night, Fire Station 1 Restaurant, 8131 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring
- 27-28 -- Paced Interim Assessment testing

April

- 10 -- DC-CAS parent meeting
- 22-- May 3 -- DC-CAS testing

May

- 4 -- Mother and Daughter Tea
- 6-31 -- Access to ELL exam
- 22 -- Family Game Night
- 31 -- Field Day

June

- 12 -- Talent Show
- 14 -- Field Day (rain date)
- 19 -- Fifth Grade promotion

The Handbook Says: Attendance Policy

During last week's PTA meeting, Principal Miles said the attendance protocol from the school handbook would be reprinted in the next issue of the Mustang. So here it is!

--

Attendance

Regular school attendance is vital to academic success. When students are absent, they miss valuable instructional time. Families, schools and communities must work as a team to support school attendance. Our system-wide goal is to improve local school attendance at every grade level.

Is school attendance required?

Yes, school attendance is required for all students who reach 5 years of age on or before September 30 of the current school year. Students must attend school until their 18th birthday. Students who reside in D.C. must be enrolled in a public, independent, private, parochial or home school each year during the period that schools are in session.

The administrators, teachers and staff of Shepherd Elementary School take daily attendance very seriously. Regular attendance in school is vital to your child's progress. Students should attend school each day and be on time. If your student is absent from school, please call the office at 202 576-6140 by 10 a.m. When your child returns to school, be sure they have a note explaining the absence inclusive of a parent/guardian signature. If we do not receive a written excuse, the student will be issued an unexcused absence.

Here is our school attendance intervention protocol.

# of Absences	Action
1 Total	Phone call
3 Total	Phone call and letter home
5 Total	Phone call and letter home
5 Unexcused	Letter home; attendance conference; home visit conducted if parent does not attend conference;
7 Unexcused/10 Total	Letter home; attendance conference; attendance plan developed
10 and 15 Unexcused	Education Neglect Referral sent to chancellor's office
20 Unexcused -	Court referral
25 Unexcused - Consecutive	Court and Social Services

On-Time Arrival

Attendance and punctuality are priorities for students and faculty. Students and staff are expected to attend school every day during the academic year. The school day begins for all students at 8:45 a.m. Student arrival time is 8:20 a.m. Children should not be dropped off at school before 8:20 unless they are participating in a supervised morning activity (i.e. before-care, breakfast, tutoring, early readers, music club...).

No student will be accepted into the building prior to 8:20 a.m. Supervision is not available prior to the aforementioned time and it is therefore unsafe for students to be in the building. Breakfast is served in the cafeteria for all students from 8 to 8:30 a.m.

Upon arrival, students should report directly to the cafeteria for breakfast or to gymnasium area to meet their teachers. Parents are asked not to escort their students to class. Your cooperation will help us maintain the safest possible environment for your child.

What can parents do? Parents can help improve student attendance in the following ways:

- ▶ Let your child know that you think school is important.
- ▶ Set a regular bedtime schedule. Age should not be a factor.
- ▶ Provide your child with plenty of time to get ready for school.
- ▶ Plan an alternate way for your child to get to school on time, just in case the usual method isn't available one day.
- ▶ Schedule medical, dental and other appointments before and after school hours whenever possible.

Late Arrival

Students are expected to arrive at school on time. Late arrivals slow down not only your student's learning, but also interrupt valuable instructional time. If your student arrives late, he/she must check in at the office and pick up a tardy pass before going to class. In an effort to minimize instructional time interruptions, all students must independently transition to their classroom with the exception of students in grades Pre-school through Pre-Kindergarten.

Early Dismissal/Release Of Students

Students are released to the parent/guardian on record only. Parents/guardians are asked give advance written notice to the school when requesting a child to be released to other designated persons. No telephone notifications will be accepted. Dismissal time is 3:15 p.m. Parents wishing to pick their student up before dismissal time, should plan to arrive before 3 p.m. There will be no dismissals from the office between 3 and 3:30 p.m.

(see ATTENDANCE p. 9)

ATTENDANCE from p. 8 _____

Carpool students will exit the building via the 14th Street doors by the library. Walkers and students who are physically picked up by their parent will exit through the gymnasium doors. After-care students will be dismissed to the playground. Please make sure that you are at the school by 3:15 p.m. if you pick your child up after school. If an emergency occurs and you will be late picking up your child in the afternoon, please let the office know immediately. Children who are not picked up by 3:30 p.m. will be escorted to the main hallway. There will be a \$5 late pickup fee for every 15 minutes you are late picking up your child after 3:30 p.m. The money will be placed in the Student Activity Fund account and will be used to sponsor a student event.

New on the Website

In line with our New Year -- New Attitude outlook, we've spruced up some vital parts to the school website,

www.shepherd-elementary.org.

Go to the homepage. There, in the center column, you'll see links to all of the documents made available thus far relating to this summer's renovation, with more to be added as they come in.



In the left column of the homepage, you'll find links to Shepherd's feeder schools: Alice Deal Middle School and Woodrow Wilson High School.

In the "Staff" dropdown of the "About" toolbar, you'll find e-mail links for most Shepherd teachers and staff. Just click on their name, and you're ready to send a message!

We've also made touchups to the "Summer Camps" dropdown of the "Resources" toolbar. If you have suggestions for summer camp listings, or have revisions to our current listings, send a message to sesmustang@gmail.com.

The "Calendar" dropdown of the "News & Events" toolbar has all the listing found in this issue of the Mustang, plus plenty more until the end of school.

And the latest approved PTA and Local School Advisory Team minutes have been loaded onto their respective pages on the website.

LSAT Meeting Focuses On Community Engagement

The Local School Advisory Team spent a busy and fruitful hour focusing on community engagement at its January meeting.



There's much follow-up and follow-through. Because of this, the LSAT has recruited a parent to design bulletin boards in the auditorium vestibule showcasing the LSAT-sponsored TV-Video Game Turnoff Club, and two retired librarians to work twice a week in the school library. The next task is to find volunteer readers for Wednesday lunch-period reading.

The LSAT is also looking into conducting a Bicycle Rodeo for safety training as part of an Earth Day event in April in advance of National Bike to School Day in May.



LSAT community representative Carl Bergman will serve as a liaison between the school and the Shepherd Park Citizens Association until an in-boundary Shepherd parent can be found to take on the job. One parent distributed Shepherd promotional folders at the SPCA's Jan. 13 potluck.

Other things the LSAT will do on behalf of the school is to offer the use of Shepherd's facilities for family-friendly performances, get a "principal's note" in each issue of the Shepherd Park News, place volunteer requests on the SPCA listserv, and send a Shepherd Elementary newsletter to each address in the neighborhood.

The next LSAT meeting will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12. All parents and staff are welcome to attend, though they may have to leave should confidential matters arise.




Shepherd Elementary School

Valentine's Day Floral and Bake Sale





THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Floral Arrangements—Choose between two different sizes of beautiful rose arrangements—the perfect gift for parents, grandparents, teachers and friends. Flower orders are due by February 1 and will be distributed on February 14.

Valentine's Day Flower Exchange—Every student, faculty staff and parent will have the opportunity to send a (red, pink or yellow) carnation and accompanying note to brighten someone's Valentine's Day for only \$2. Send one or send until your heart's content: let your child show admiration for their teacher, gift to their friends and family or bring one home for mom. Also, don't forget to send one to your child to let them know you care! Orders due by February 1.

Baked Goods—Satisfy your sweet tooth (or someone else's) with a baked sweet treat. Choose from a scrumptious variety of baked goods that will be available for sale on February 14. Remember to send your child to school with a few bucks that day and don't be afraid to stop by to scoop up some for yourself, your home or for work! **Best of all, each purchaser will be permitted one entry to win a \$25 gift card for each item purchased!**





Suggested Ways for YOU to Demonstrate Love, Kindness and Sharing on Valentine's Day at Shepherd

Donate Baked Goods—Whatever your specialty is—cupcakes, cookies, brownies, or another sweet treat (nut free, please)—your donation will be graciously accepted. Please respond by February 4 with your donation form and bring your baked goods to Shepherd on February 14.

Volunteer Your Time— The success of the floral and bake sale depends heavily on volunteers. Willing folks are needed to assist with the sale. Time slots will be available throughout the day. Please email info@shepherd-elementary.org indicating your interest and you will be contacted with additional information.

Purchase Away! — Support Shepherd by purchasing floral arrangements, flowers for the exchange and baked sweets. Send a flower to let your children know you care and let them participate in the flower sending and selection of delicious baked goods! Order forms for flowers are attached. Please submit by February 1. Sales for baked goods will take place the day of the event.




Proceeds to benefit the Shepherd Elementary PTA.

Shepherd Students **Shine** at GeoPlunge

Nine Shepherd students competed at the 8th Annual GeoPlunge Tournament Jan. 9 at the National Portrait Gallery. The nine students were placed into teams of three. One team consisted of Godloves Tata, Chima Ukaegbu and Taye Moss-Suggs. That team won a special award for Sportsmanship. Another team consisted of London Downing, Quentin Anderson-Watson and Gavin Rasmussen. That team finished in 11th place (out of 74 teams) and won a special award for Teamwork. The final team consisted of Margaret Goletiani, Colyar Trimble, and Savannah Waymer. That team finished in 2nd place! Way to go guys! Shepherd grad Colin Powell was on the 1st-place team from Deal.

GeoPlunge is a multi-award winning series of geography card games that teaches players in a fun-filled way U.S. state capitals, the border states for each state, 150 large U.S. cities, the states' rankings in size, population, and order of entering the union. Teams competing must learn about strategy, speed, and teamwork.

The next time you see Margaret, Savannah, Quentin, Godloves, Chima, Taye, Colyar, London or Gavin -- be sure to congratulate them on their hard work and wonderful achievement!



It's Our First Annual Valentine's Day Floral and Bake Sale - **Thursday, February 14** And We Are in Need of Your Tasty Baked Donations!

Here at Shepherd, February 14th will be remembered as the day of kindness, sweet smells and great snacks. Whether student's choose to purchase a bake sale item to enjoy by themselves, to *share* with a friend or family member or *give* to a teacher or favorite office staff, February 14th is a day to express *kindness*. Parents will also have the opportunity to purchase some for the road; whether it is for home or work. But in order to make all of this possible, we need your help! We are asking for parents to donate items for the bake sale. Choose cupcakes, cookies, brownies or any other of your Valentine's specialties! Our only guideline is our school's "No Nut" policy. All proceeds will go directly to the benefit of Shepherd Elementary. Parent may also donate water and 100% juice.

Name*: _____ Contact Number*: _____

Email Address: _____

I PLAN TO DONATE:

Item	Quantity

So that we can have a sense of how best to prepare for this event, please return this sheet to the PTA Drop Box in the front office by Monday, February 4th.

All donations should be delivered to the front office by start of school, Thursday, February 14th. For those that are able, any deliveries that would allow for us to make items available for sale at 8am would be greatly appreciated.

PRINCIPAL from p. 1 _____

Get Caught Reading – The Winners Circle

Classes with the most steps earned:

1. Whren 226
2. Mulligan 186
3. Valentine-Nelson 106
4. McKenzie 73
5. Charles 53

Students with the most steps earned:

1. Asford Connor 69
2. Jean-Pierre Roberts 51
3. Marie Tata 36
4. Genesis Glover 36

Parent Reading Sessions (Last Offering)

The final parent reading information session will be held on Tuesday at 2 p.m. and again at 2:45 p.m. Please make plans to attend. This initial session was offered during Family Literacy Night and again last Tuesday. If you did not attend one of the previous sessions, please come out this week to learn more about how to support your child when reading at home.

Early Childhood Screening

On Tuesday, Shepherd Elementary and Early Stages co-sponsored a workshop for parents. The workshop was designed to help parents understand more about the early childhood screening instrument and how it can be a valuable tool for parents and teachers. On Tuesday, all pre-kindergarten and kindergarten parents will receive a screening tool. This tool is parent-friendly and engages students and parents in fun activities designed to help parents learn more about their child's growth and development. After completing the activities parents may use the information gathered to discuss their child's progress during parent-teacher conferences. If you have questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Attendance Protocol

If your student is absent, they must bring a note to school. All absences are unexcused unless your child is absent for sickness, religious reasons or the death of an immediate family

member. Notes may be sent via email to Mrs. Brooks at robyna.brooks@dc.gov or given directly to her in the main office. A copy of the DCPS attendance protocol can be found on page 8 . Thank you for your attentiveness to this matter.

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.

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



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



Shepherd Elementary School PTA

VALENTINE'S DAY FLORAL ARRANGEMENT SALE!

ORDERS DUE BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2013

Total Order:

Total \$ Enclosed:

There are Two Arrangement Options:



The **SMALL** floral arrangement consists of a red heart-shaped glass vase and 3 red roses, complete with a ribbon and card attached. **\$10.00**



The **MEDIUM** floral arrangement consists of a clear glass hurricane vase, 6 red roses and filler, with a decorative ribbon & card. **\$15.00**

Purchase an unlimited quantity by completing the card information below and submitting to the PTA drop box with payment prior to 2/1/13. Then specify 'pick up' instructions. Pickup will take place after 9:30AM on Valentine's Day; February 14, 2013.

To (Recipient): _____

Recipient's Class (if applicable) _____ GRADE: _____ TEACHER: _____

Pick up Instructions: (if applicable: Note parent pickup or send home with child) _____

Size (circle) **Small Floral Arrangement (\$10)** **Medium Floral Arrangement (\$15)**

Special Message _____
(optional) _____

From: _____

To (Recipient): _____

Recipient's Class (if applicable) _____ GRADE: _____ TEACHER: _____

Pick up Instructions: (if applicable: Note parent pickup or send home with child) _____

Size (circle) **Small Floral Arrangement (\$10)** **Medium Floral Arrangement (\$15)**

Special Message _____
(optional) _____

From: _____

To (Recipient): _____

Recipient's Class (if applicable) _____ GRADE: _____ TEACHER: _____

Pick up Instructions: (if applicable: Note parent pickup or send home with child) _____

Size (circle) **Small Floral Arrangement (\$10)** **Medium Floral Arrangement (\$15)**

Special Message _____
(optional) _____

From: _____

To (Recipient): _____

Recipient's Class (if applicable) _____ GRADE: _____ TEACHER: _____

Pick up Instructions: (if applicable: Note parent pickup or send home with child) _____

Size (circle) **Small Floral Arrangement (\$10)** **Medium Floral Arrangement (\$15)**

Special Message _____
(optional) _____

From: _____

****Need more space? Additional order forms are available in the Main Office to accommodate your needs.**

****Remember to attach payment (cash or check) in order to secure your order. Orders submitted without payment will not be filled.**



Shepherd Elementary School PTA

First Annual: VALENTINE'S DAY FLOWER EXCHANGE

ORDERS DUE BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2013

Total Flowers:

Total \$ Enclosed:

*****Send out Carnations until your hearts content for only \$2 each! Each stem comes with a card to let your friends, teachers, parents know that you care! Choose the flower color and message and return your form (with payment) by 2/1/2013.**

To (Recipient): _____

Recipient's Class _____ GRADE: _____ TEACHER: _____

Choose Color (Circle) RED (apple of my eye) PINK (you're amazing) YELLOW (my true friend)

Special Message _____
(optional) _____

From (write or circle) _____ or YOURS TRULY or YOUR FRIEND FOREVER

To (Recipient): _____

Recipient's Class _____ GRADE: _____ TEACHER: _____

Choose Color (Circle) RED (apple of my eye) PINK (you're amazing) YELLOW (my true friend)

Special Message _____
(optional) _____

From (write or circle) _____ or YOURS TRULY or YOUR FRIEND FOREVER

To (Recipient): _____

Recipient's Class _____ GRADE: _____ TEACHER: _____

Choose Color (Circle) RED (apple of my eye) PINK (you're amazing) YELLOW (my true friend)

Special Message _____
(optional) _____

From (write or circle) _____ or YOURS TRULY or YOUR FRIEND FOREVER

To (Recipient): _____

Recipient's Class _____ GRADE: _____ TEACHER: _____

Choose Color (Circle) RED (apple of my eye) PINK (you're amazing) YELLOW (my true friend)

Special Message _____
(optional) _____

From (write or circle) _____ or YOURS TRULY or YOUR FRIEND FOREVER

To (Recipient): _____

Recipient's Class _____ GRADE: _____ TEACHER: _____

Choose Color (Circle) RED (apple of my eye) PINK (you're amazing) YELLOW (my true friend)

Special Message _____
(optional) _____

From (write or circle) _____ or YOURS TRULY or YOUR FRIEND FOREVER

****Need more space? Additional order forms are available in the Main Office to accommodate your needs.**
****Remember to attach payment (cash or check) in order to secure your order.**
Orders submitted without payment will not be filled.



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.

Email address(s): _____ ☐ Yes, sign me up for the Shepherd PTA Yahoo Group!

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.