



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

March 4, 2013



► **Thursday, March 7:** Spring Pictures Day (no uniforms)

► **Monday, March 11:** Family Dinner Night, Fire Station 1, 5-9 p.m.

► **Tuesday, March 12:** LSAT meeting, 4 p.m.

► **Thursday, March 14:** Gala Committee meeting, library, 6:30 p.m.

► **Wednesday, March 20:** PTA meeting, auditorium, 6:35 p.m.

► **Friday, March 22:** Dr. Seuss Day



► **Saturday, March 23:** Book Fair at Politics & Prose, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

Family Dinner DAY at Comet Ping Pong, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

► **Saturday, May 18:** Gala, "Feria de Sevilla," Wilson High School



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!

## Join the Gala Committee!

Shepherd's Gala Committee is meeting Thursday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the school. We've had parents step up to handle many of the critical elements of mounting a gala. Now those parents need additional parents to support them in the many different aspects of that work. Can you lend your aid? If so, come to the meeting. If March 14 is a bad day for you, get in touch with PTA First Vice President Toby Susse at [toby\\_susse@boleksusse.com](mailto:toby_susse@boleksusse.com) and let him know how you can help.



## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings, Shepherd Families!

### Reading

Our students have made great gains in reading. However, there is still a lot of progress to be made. Please continue to read with your student nightly and spend time having them use their reading strategies.



### Spanish

We are still working diligently to find a long-term substitute or permanent teacher to fill our current Spanish teacher vacancy. We have some promising options and as soon as I am able to finalize some things, I will share more about our next steps. Mrs. Hart has been working closely with our language department to put a plan of support in place in the interim.

### Preschool at Shepherd

We have received several calls and inquiries about Shepherd possibly having a Preschool (3-year-old program) next year. Shepherd will not have a 3-year-old program for the 2013-14 school year.

### School Visitor Policy

All schools in the DCPS system have an open-door policy. Parents have the right to visit their child's school and be actively involved in their education. However, visits must be with a purpose and not cause disruption or interruption to the school's daily operations and instruction. At Shepherd most parents are respectful of this policy; however, we need your support in making sure we all are respectful. Please do not interrupt your child's day to bring them lunch, money, homework, backpacks or other things that may have been forgotten. Please leave those items with personnel in the main office and we

(see **PRINCIPAL**, p. 8)

## PTA Meeting Highlights

Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser was the special invited guest to the Feb. 20 PTA meeting, speaking primarily on boundary redrawing issues.



In Ward 4, she said, the big shift has been the introduction of more school choice and competition than we've had in the past. The District has had to deal with areas where school populations are growing.

Councilmember Bowser said she has told D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Kaya Henderson, both publicly and privately, that both Lafayette Elementary and Shepherd Elementary are unique and she expects their feeder pattern into Deal Middle School to remain the same. The problem is overcrowding at Deal and Wilson High School. Councilmember Bowser said that she values diversity and that "we won't draw a line down the middle of Rock Creek Park."

A DCPS panel or task force will be formed and we want to hold the chancellor accountable for the task force. What can the PTA do? Councilmember Bowser says to be vocal and forceful — and to invite the chancellor to Shepherd to meet with parents and to ask her questions.

Councilmember Bowser said the city needs more quality high schools, but we can't build another school west of the park before we fix the schools east of the park. And even if we build shiny new schools, they still need good leadership to succeed. Some people say that Ward 4 doesn't need both Coolidge and Roosevelt high schools. Councilmember Bowser also said that the chancellor is considering the option of making all high schools "application schools."

She added the D.C. Council is creating a new education committee this year that will be chaired by David Catania. So far, his focus has been on truancy, but Councilmember Bowser promised to brief him on boundary issues.

When asked about the boundary redrawing timeline, Councilmember Bowser said she really didn't know at this point and it would depend on how fast the new task force did its work. A parent commented that the timeline must be adjusted so that the public comment period isn't shrunk to meet it.

Councilmember Bowser said it's important that the plan is not just for new buildings and facilities, but for strong new programs. Another parent commented that we must make sure that Shepherd students -- coming out of elementary school with a background in French and Spanish -- have someplace to go to continue that.

The reputation of a "bad" school is hard to change and this must be dealt with in rebuilding Coolidge and Roosevelt. A parent suggested moving every-

one to a swing space for a short time and then sending everyone back into a new culture at the same time. It's an expensive way to do it, but the break could change the culture.

McFarland Middle School, now set to close, was not able to change its reputation in time.

Other suggestions included putting new, safe schools near Metro stations to help families commute to other areas. Also, to offer a gifted and talented

program at Coolidge and Roosevelt, or something else no other school has, to make them desirable locations that some families will seek out. Another parent suggested a name change for these schools, following the concept that corporations use for re-branding to change the image of their products or programs.

The discussion included the observation that Ward 3 was the only ward without PreK-8 schools, which is why Deal is so popular. The feeder policy — once you get into an out-of-boundary elementary school you are entitled to follow that path to middle and high school — is good for those who get in, but not fair to those who don't because there's seldom another option of getting into the better schools later. The development of Walter Reed is going to add to traffic congestion for Shepherd families to cross the park to Deal and Wilson.

(see PTA Highlights, p. 3)

**"...it's important that the plan is not just for new buildings and facilities, but for strong new programs."**

## OVER THE (BOX) TOP!

Sherilyn Pruitt, Shepherd's Box Tops coordinator, reported that as a result of our end-of-the-month push for parents to turn in Box Tops for Education, she was able to process 1,984 Box Tops! They were mailed Friday, to Box Tops HQ, and if HQ accepts all of them, that means close to \$200 more than the \$488 already credited to Shepherd Elementary this year. Sherilyn said she thought Shepherd might become the District's best Box Tops school, and with this result, we're eager to see the final standings!



## PTA Highlights from p. 2\_\_\_\_\_

Cathy Reilly, director of the Senior High Alliance of Parents, Principals and Educators, the meeting's other special guest, said that about five years ago, feeder rights were added to boundary rights, causing overlaps. There has been discussion that maybe DCPS will move toward a policy where our only boundary is elementary school, and then, the only rights will be feeder rights.

Even at SHAPPE meetings, Reilly acknowledged, parents stressed the importance of neighborhood schools, but a high percentage of them were sending their kids elsewhere. She said it is important to think about the legacy of our neighborhoods and invest in the local schools, beyond just the school path of our own children, especially with an anticipated huge increase in kids starting school right behind our own kids. Even while advocating for our own rights to send our kids to Deal and on to Wilson, Reilly said, we must be on the side of success of Coolidge and Roosevelt for citywide consistency and success in education.

School diversity is good, but there are many types of diversity. The overcrowding at Deal and Wilson are a product of their success. A parent commented in favor of the feeder policy; without it, many parents would not opt for the out-of-boundary lottery in elementary school if they didn't know what would happen to them after that, and the alternative might be that families would leave the system. Reilly said we have to use our voices, to speak up, which will help not only our schools but other schools that don't have as strong a voice. Ms. Reilly promised to keep us informed and said to let her know if we want to be on the mailing list for SHAPPE or Coolidge.

--Laura Levine, PTA recording secretary

## Politics & Prose Book Fair March 23 — And a Family Dinner DAY, Too!

Here's a chance to really use your book-buying budget wisely. Shepherd's PTA is sponsoring a Book Fair at the renowned Politics & Prose bookstore on Connecticut Avenue just south of Nebraska Avenue NW on Saturday, March 23. You can buy books and Shepherd can get credit for your purchases all day at the bookstore, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. There will be Shepherd parents inside the bookstore during most day-time hours, so don't hesitate to ask for help.



All classroom teachers should have "wish lists" of books that you can buy for them, not to mention your own wish lists of books you'll want in your own house – for both you and your children. Watch for an announcement in backpacks, and more details in the next issue of the Mustang.

Naturally, all of this book buying can really work up someone's appetite, so we've arranged for a Family Dinner DAY at Comet Ping Pong, just up the block from Politics & Prose on Connecticut, closer to Nebraska. Hours for the Family Dinner Day are 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., and management will give us 20 percent of the pre-tax tab as a credit for all food and drink, including personal pizzas, dinner salads, craft brews and more.



There's parking behind the stores, but it fills up fast. Parking is permitted on one side of Nebraska Avenue, in case you were wondering.





## Shepherd IB PYP Corner

Welcome to March, Women's History Month. Our Learner Profile for this month is Balanced. When you understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance you can achieve personal well-being for yourself and others.

This month we are having an All School



Math-A-Thon – and parents, we need your help. Shepherd students will be participating in a Math-A-Thon in an effort to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital opened its doors in 1962 and has changed the way the world treats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. No family ever pays St. Jude for the care their child receives, and thousands more have been saved worldwide through St. Jude discoveries. The hospital has played a crucial role in changing the pediatric cancer survival rates from 20 to 80 percent in the U.S, and is the first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center devoted to children. You can find out even more about St. Jude at: [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org).

The Math-A-Thon is a free educational program designed to supplement the existing math curriculum and teach students the importance of helping others. The program includes a fun, free math curriculum supplement provided by Scholastic featuring comic book characters for grades K-8.

All participants collecting donations will receive a certificate of appreciation regardless of how much money they raise. Participants have the opportunity to earn prizes starting at the \$35 level with the opportunity to earn more prizes as they raise more money.

### How to get involved:

*Parents:* Please look for the permission form coming home this week. Children must get parental

permission to participate. Once the permission form is signed and returned to the school, you will receive a Math-A-Thon Funbook and a Sponsor Form Envelope.

You will need to obtain pledges from family and friends, supporting your efforts to improve your math skills and to support St Jude's Hospital. After completing the Funbook, you will need to collect the pledges and turn them in to the school office.

Come on, Shepherd: Let's help St. Jude in its mission of saving the lives of children battling cancer and other catastrophic childhood diseases.

### IB Program of Inquiry

Our students are well into their fourth Unit of Inquiry this year. It began on February 11 and will end on March 22. The Inquiry for each grade level is as follows:

- ▶ Pre-Kindergarten – How the World Works – Our Environment
- ▶ Kindergarten – Where We Are in Place and Time – Tales From the Past
- ▶ First Grade – How the World Works – The Wings of Change
- ▶ Second Grade – How We Express Ourselves – Fairytales
- ▶ Third Grade – Who We Are – Notable People
- ▶ Fourth Grade – How We Organize Ourselves – New Beginnings
- ▶ Fifth Grade – Sharing the Planet – War and Peace

Have a nice week!

*Sandra Hart*, IB Coordinator

Shepherd Elementary School's Annual Gala



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18**

At Wilson High School

**FERIA DE SEVILLA**

A Gala to Benefit Shepherd Elementary School

## THE SIT-uation ROOM

The expanded School Improvement Team -- which includes not only the original School Improvement Team at Shepherd, but Shepherd students, representatives from D.C. Public Schools, the D.C. Department of General Services, Lance Bailey Architects and Turner Construction -- is inching ever closer to developing a comprehensive plan to renovate Shepherd for not only our generation, but our children's generation.

Representatives from Turner, which was awarded the construction contract by the District government, have been walking in and around the school virtually every day since the pact was signed. The "professional" members of the expanded SIT group are now meeting Tuesday mornings at the school to architecturally dot their I's and cross their T's. Shepherd teachers and staff know they're going to have to purge items and box the rest, and they're making decisions even now about how to best do that.

The one drawback is that our collective vision is too rich for the city's budget. The hard work of trying to defer an estimated \$2.5 million in renovations has yet to be made, and cannot be done until we get more solid estimates of the cost of each element of the renovation.

The expanded School Improvement Team will next meet Wednesday, March 13, at 5 p.m. in the school library. If there's anything you need to know about the renovations, or the process that's taken place so far, get in touch with Shepherd SIT chair Mark Pattison at 202-829-9289 or [Pattison\\_mark@hotmail.com](mailto:Pattison_mark@hotmail.com).

--Mark Pattison

## NEW FAMILY DINNER NIGHT COMING

The PTA's next Family Dinner Night brings us back to Fire Station 1 on Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring on Monday, March 11. The hours are 5 to 9 p.m.



Fire Station 1 is featuring more live music late in the evenings, and they've cut way back on the number of big-screen TVs on the first floor since our last Family Dinner Night in December 2011. Their menu is large enough to accommodate just about everyone's tastes -- and remember, both food and beverages count toward the PTA's rebate. So let's pack the place!

We'll be getting 15 percent back from the restaurant for all purchases credited to Shepherd. But you **MUST** have the Family Dinner Night flyer with you to get its full credit. But no fair soliciting on the premises or on the sidewalk. Photocopy or tear off from this week's Mustang the Family Dinner Night flyer. Copies of the flyer will also be on the rack outside the school office. We can pass them out as much as we wish around Shepherd, our neighborhood and our friends -- just not at or outside the restaurant.



And mark these other PTA restaurant promotions on your calendar:

*Saturday, March 23:* A Family Dinner DAY at Comet Ping Pong at Connecticut and Nebraska Aves. NW from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in conjunction with the PTA's Book Fair at Politics & Prose down the block that same day. We'll get 20 percent!

*Tuesday, March 26:* Our third outing to Franklin's on Route 1 in Hyattsville. Good for all hours between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. Our 20 percent rebate is good for lunch, dinner AND the general store attached to the restaurant.

NewsLetter  
**DEADLine**

### Deadline for Next Issue!

Our next deadline is  
**Friday, March 15, at 5 p.m.**

**Next Issue  
Mar. 18**

Send items to  
**[sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com)**

CHEESE!



## IT'S PICTURE TIME!

This Thursday, March 7, is Spring Picture Day. Even though spring hasn't officially sprung yet, students will be the blooming flowers of our educational garden. It's a NO-UNIFORM DAY. If you have not yet seen a picture order form, please go to the office for additional forms.

MEETING!!



## LSAT to Meet March 12

The Shepherd Local School Advisory Team will meet Tuesday, March 12, at 4 p.m. at the school. With DCPS' "budget season" upon us, more agenda items than usual may turn out to be confidential, at which point non-members will have to be excused. But the LSAT will have a full enough agenda of non-confidential items for parents to be able to sit in and listen.



Hi, everyone! This is Colyar Trimble for the Student's Scoop! On the 28th (of February) there was Family Dinner Night at The Daily Dish (my favorite restaurant). Many Shepherd families came, but I expect to see more at the next Family Dinner Night, this time at Fire Station 1 in Silver Spring, on the 11th of March. It will be from 5 to 9 p.m.

Also, on the seventh of March, spring pictures are taken and students do not need to wear their uniforms. Also -- there are many events in March! -- on the 22nd it is Dr. Seuss Day. Students can dress up as their favorite Dr. Seuss character. Finally, on the 29th, it is a half-day for students. Thanks for reading!



--Colyar Trimble, fifth grader

## FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

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Shepherd's  
FAMILY  
DINNER  
NIGHT

Fire Station 1 Restaurant  
8131 Georgia Avenue  
Downtown Silver Spring

Monday, March 11  
5-9 p.m.

→ **BRING THIS FLYER WITH YOU** ←

Attach It to the Check,  
And Give It to Your Server  
The PTA gets 15% of your bill!

*Maybe they'll have  
the fire truck out!*

SOUPS &amp; SALADS

PIZZA

SANDWICHES

POP POP'S

BURGERS

VEGETARIAN

SEAFOOD

JR. FIREFIGHTERS

DESSERTS



Good for Dine-In and Carryout (PH: 301-585-1370) [www.firestation-1.com](http://www.firestation-1.com)



## Jazz Night Grooves On

In case you missed it, the 24th annual Jazz Night at Shepherd was its usual success; after all, if it was a flop, we wouldn't have had 24 of them!



The Coolidge High School Jazz Ensemble showed much instrumental versatility and percussive dexterity in the opening set. And the Jackie Hairston Trio, again this year's Jazz Night headliner, got everyone in the groove with an explosive set of up-tempo classics and smooth standards.

Congress once declared jazz a national treasure. But as such, treasure doesn't come cheap. But Shepherd families and Shepherd Park neighbors responded to the freewill offering, which netted \$324 that very night, with the promise of more to come. This helps pay for the cost of the performers, the Star Achievers help and the custodial services.

Thanks to the many Shepherd parents who volunteered their services, and to Ms. Michaud and her daughter Lauren for affixing dozens of student-made posters to the auditorium walls to set the atmosphere. Thanks also to the parents who brought food to the potluck. With Jazz Night firing on all cylinders, we're looking forward to next year's Silver Anniversary celebration in 2014!

## Parent Education Event March 6 at Lowell School

Lowell School invites you to attend their next Parent Education event: "Candid Conversations: Gender and Sexuality Diversity," Wednesday, March 6, 7-9 p.m. The panelists (including Lowell alum Clara McCreery, '05, Dr. Edgardo Menvielle, Deborah Roffman, and Kisha L. Webster) have a wealth of knowledge to share about the ways that parents and schools can partner to support children in their gender and sexuality identity development — <http://www.lowellschool.org/parent-education-panel-discussion/index.aspx>. Their Director of Diversity will moderate the discussion, and Deborah Roffman will be selling her new book afterward.



Dear Shepherd Family,

Wow! What a busy two weeks in art. Pre-K have just started their Sky Object Accordion books, with drawn pictures of the sun, a cloud, the moon and a star. In kindergarten students have drawn people or things from the past, like castles and royals. First graders are drawing themselves flying a kite to prove the existence of air. Second graders just completed their Weather and Season Landscape books which contain four watercolor paintings. Third graders are beginning to draw self-portraits of themselves as Notable People. Fourth graders have begun drawing self-portraits that will show us something about their personalities. Fifth graders just finished a sculptural unit where they worked with paper and then wire to create a variety of types of art. Whew! That's a lot of wonderful work.

Just to let you know, I will be in Ft. Worth, Texas, this week attending the convention of the National Art Education Association. In November I was elected president of the local chapter, Art Education DC, and as such I serve in their National Delegates' Assembly. I always learn a lot at



these events and have presented there six times. I return on March 10 and will be back in school the week of March 11. Homework deadlines have been extended accordingly. Go to <http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art> to see the specifics.

That's the news from the Art Corner. Remember, you gotta have ART!

--Ms. Joelle Michaud, Art Teacher

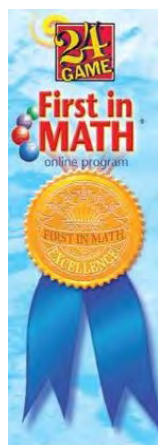
<http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art>

**PRINCIPAL** from p. 1\_\_\_\_\_

will make sure the items get to your child. Please refrain from dropping by your child's classroom unannounced with a message for the teacher. When you do, the teacher has to stop instruction and address your needs. If you need to meet with your child's teacher or would like to visit and observe in your child's classroom, please make arrangements with your child's teacher or schedule a time via the main office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**First in Math**

Our students are doing great things in First in Math. Congratulations to our third-grade students who are currently ranked first out of all third-graders in the District, and congratulations to Shepherd Elementary School. Out of all the schools in the District we are currently ranked 10th. First In Math is an online math program offering comprehensive content -- ranging from single-step addition to complex algebra -- in an engaging format. Students progress at their own pace to master basic and advanced math skills. As students progress, their progress is reported and compared to other schools in the District and nationally.



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.



## Save Money With SchoolKidz Supplies

Shepherd, for the fourth year in a row, will offer the convenient services of SchoolKidz and its "teacher-tailored" back-to-school supply kit program. Why fight long lines trying to find every single requested item on your child's supply list? Let SchoolKidz do the shopping for you!



SchoolKidz offers brand-name items, such as Crayola, Fiskars, Elmer's and Staples. Each item has been chosen by Shepherd's teachers and is exactly what is on your child's supply list for 2013-14. Furthermore, the prices are as good or better than what you'll find in the store.

Please watch for more information in future issues of the Mustang. If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Trimble at [kctrimble@mac.com](mailto:kctrimble@mac.com).

**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***

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