



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

March 18, 2013



- ▶ **Wednesday, March 20:** PTA meeting, 6:35 p.m., auditorium
- ▶ **Friday, March 22:** Dr. Seuss Day, featuring "Drop Everything and Read," 2:30-3 p.m.



- ▶ **Saturday, March 23:** Book Fair, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Politics & Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW
- Family Dinner Day, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Comet Ping Pong, 5037 Connecticut Ave. NW*
- ▶ **Tuesday, March 26:** Family Dinner Day AND Night, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Franklin's Restaurant & General Store, 5121 Baltimore Ave. (Route 1), Hyattsville
- ▶ **Wednesday-Thursday, March 27-28:** PIA testing, mornings
- ▶ **Friday, March 29:** Records Day for teachers, half-day for students — out at 12:15 p.m.
- ▶ **Monday-Friday, April 1-5:** Spring Break
- ▶ **Monday, April 8:** Back to School!
- ▶ **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!

## PTA MEETING WEDNESDAY!

Come to this month's PTA meeting! It's Wednesday, March 20, at 6:35 p.m. in the auditorium. Child care will be provided in the cafeteria. Pizza, salad and water will be available to both children and adults.



In addition to regular PTA business, we must choose three to five parents to serve on a PTA Nominations Committee to prepare for May's election of PTA officers and Local School Advisory Team parent representatives.

School starts on time ... so do PTA meetings!

## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings, Shepherd Families!

### Drop Everything and Read

Shepherd students continue to impress me about how knowledgeable they are about their reading level, their goals and what they need to do to meet their goals. Have you taken time to ask your student their reading level, their reading goal, and their plan for reaching their goal? If not, please do so. Every student in this school is expected to know the answer to those questions and as a parent you should know as well. We are working diligently to create a school of readers at Shepherd and we will with all of us working together. Our most recent assessment data shows that 79 percent of our students are reading at or above grade level. As wonderful as that may be for some, it is not good enough for us! We have 21 percent of our students who are NOT reading at or above grade level, and that is unacceptable! As a school we are committed to 90 percent of our students reading at or above grade level and continuing to increase that each year until we have 100 percent of our students reading at or above grade level.



### Family STEM Night

Family Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Night was a huge success! We had over 75 students in attendance. During the evening, students participated in everything from estimating weight of items to building a gigantic roller coaster. The evening ended with a presentation by a representative of Mad Science of Washington. During her presentation she talked about chemical reactions. Students saw the effects of acid, color mixing and dry ice. It was a fun evening for all. Thank you, teachers and the Academic Committee, for your planning efforts!

(see **PRINCIPAL**, p. 10)

# Book Fair Kickoff

**Celebrating**



On Friday, March 22 students can wear their comfy pajamas or favorite

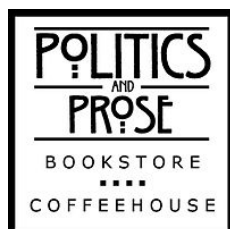
Dr. Seuss attire and, bring their favorite book to school.

Between 2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. we will drop everything and read.



On Saturday, March 23

will host a book fair fundraiser



at

9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.



**Please support our PTA!**

Shepherd School Culture and Climate Committee



Shepherd students have studied some of the old and some of the new.

The 150-year-old opera "Aida" presents timeless questions for all of us. What would we do if we had to choose between our family and the person we loved? Could we run away from our problems, or would we stay and deal with them? Is there any way to overcome conflict so love and friendship can prevail? Our students wrote about these questions and came up with some "alternative" versions of the story of Aida. And some students did a great job coloring the costumes of the characters in the opera.

In addition, our students wrote a "Shepherd School Rap" with lyrics and rhymes about school, International Baccalaureate, and education. Here are a few samples from our students' raps:

*Our playground is nice, it's as cool as ice.  
There are monkey bars and games and no field mice.  
There are slides and swings and other fun things.  
But the fun has to end when the school bell rings.  
Give me I to B, International you see.  
Give me Baccalaureate to explain the B.  
It means we're caring and open-minded too.  
It means we're thinkers, yes, me and you.  
Shepherd's teachers have many nice things to say.  
We learn math and reading, we learn every day.  
My teachers help us do our very best,  
So everyone can read and pass the test.  
We're risk-takers ready to try new things,  
Like Spanish and French and learning to sing.  
Here comes the Principal who tells you what's right,  
You do something wrong, think about it overnight.  
Communicator talks to brand new people.  
Balanced means you like all kinds of people.  
Principled means honest and fair to all.  
Caring will share if you make the call.*

## LSAT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Much of the March 12 Local School Advisory Team meeting dwelt on the 2013-14 budget figures handed to Shepherd by D.C. Public Schools headquarters, and how best to make use of the money allocated.

DCPS is making more personnel positions mandatory for the upcoming school year, and granting fewer exceptions and exemptions. And even though all schools in DCPS are getting a 2 percent per-pupil increase, it would take more than that just to maintain everything — and everybody — that Shepherd has right now.

The LSAT gives advice and makes recommendations to the principal on budgetary matters, but the final decisions on how to move the money around rest with the principal. However, Mrs. Miles made a successful case to the powers that be at DCPS that allows Shepherd to keep almost — but not quite — everything we have this year.

Minutes from February's LSAT meeting are now posted on the LSAT page of the school website, at <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/school-advisory-board/>.

The next LSAT meeting is set for Tuesday, April 9, at 4 p.m. inside the school. Parents are always welcome to attend meetings, and since term limits will automatically create two vacancies on the LSAT, you may want to consider service on the LSAT for 2013-14— one way that you can help Shepherd. Get in touch with LSAT chair Sherilyn Pruitt at [spruitt@hrsa.gov](mailto:spruitt@hrsa.gov) to learn more.

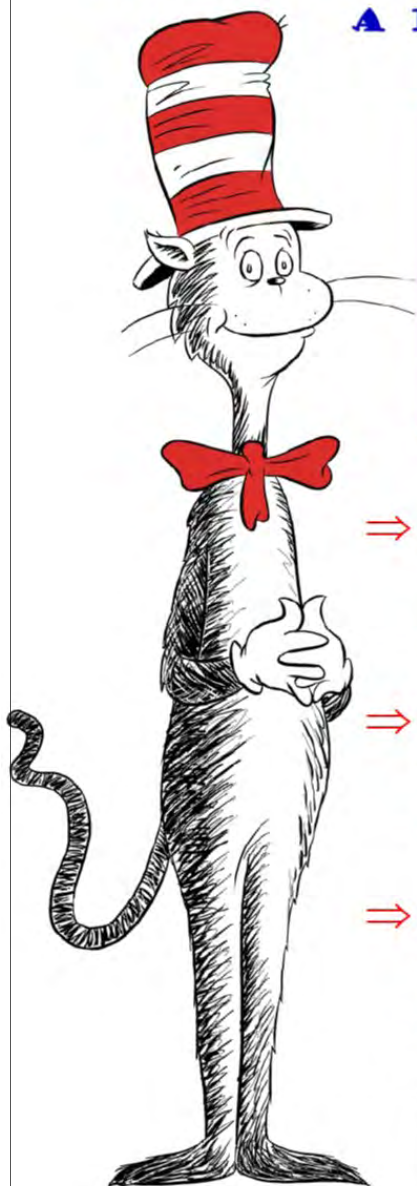
## MUSTANG GOES ON SPRING BREAK!

Just like Shepherd and many families, the Mustang is going on spring break. Our next issue will be dated Monday, April 8. Because of spring break travel plans by the Mustang team, the **deadline for the next issue will be NOON on THURSDAY, APRIL 4.** Send all items to [sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com).





**YOU WOULD NOT, COULD NOT WANT TO MISS,  
A BOOK FAIR LIKE THIS!**



**SATURDAY, MARCH 23**

**9 a.m.—10 p.m.**

**Politics & Prose Bookstore  
5015 Connecticut Ave NW**

- ⇒ **Everyone:** Shepherd will receive 20% of all our sales storewide during the fair! (Excludes gift certificates, special orders, membership and coffee house items)
- ⇒ **Teachers:** Create “wish cards” for books you’d like the Shepherd community to buy and donate to you or your classroom!
- ⇒ **Parents and Students:** Purchase books for yourself or donate “wish card” books to your classroom teacher and the school library!



After the book fair, take a few steps to Comet Ping Pong for Family Dinner DAY (11:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). Say “I’m with Shepherd,” and the PTA gets 20% of your pre-tax tab!

## Star Achievers Updates

Star Achievers students will soon enjoy the fun and drama of IMAGINATION STAGE teachers. Students will develop their individual performing arts talents by using improvisation and other techniques in team and self-esteem building activities. The classes will take place between 4 and 5pm as follows:



- ▶ Friday, March 22—grades 4 & 5
- ▶ Friday, April 12—grades 4 & 5
- ▶ Friday, April 19—grades 2nd & 3rd
- ▶ Friday, April 26—grades 2nd & 3rd
- ▶ Friday, May 3—grades Pre-K and 1st
- ▶ Friday, May 10—grades Kindergarten and 1st
- ▶ Friday, May 17—grades Pre-K and Kindergarten

The Science Club meets each Friday for all classes; we are learning about the anatomy, habits and the ecosystem of worms. We will be caring for worms in a worm farm in April and use the compost produced by the worms to fertilize plants in the Shepherd Garden and around the school. We will be taking hands-on science to a new level as we feed worms garbage and handle our wiggly friends. As scientists we will document our observations and determine which classes are the most productive farmers.

"Mad Science" will be at Shepherd Star Achievers for two special programs - "Things That Go Boom" and "Spectacular Science." Dates to be announced soon! These special presentations will take place from 4:15 to 5 p.m.

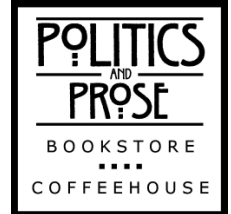
With the warmer weather and longer daylight hours we will be outside more often. Please be patient when you pick up your students, as we will have to track them down on the lower field kicking a soccer ball or in the garden tending their science experiments.

Have questions? Please ask at:  
[sesstarachievers@gmail.com](mailto:sesstarachievers@gmail.com)

--Ms. Claire Riley, program director

## Politics & Prose Book Fair Is Saturday!

The best way to get kids reading more is to give them books that they'll gobble up -- and that will make them ask for another. Yes, it's that simple.  $1 + 1 = 2$ . Kids say the No. 1 reason they don't read more is that they can't find books they like. Freedom of choice is a key to getting them motivated and excited. Where can you find books that your child is sure to gobble up? Why, Politics & Prose Bookstore, of course.



What better way to spend a few hours on a Saturday than encouraging your child to read while supporting our school? Mark your calendars so that you are sure to remember that the Politics & Prose book fair is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. The bookstore is located just minutes from the school at 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW (less than a block south of Nebraska Ave. NW) and has a vast offering of literary fiction and nonfiction alike, and an excellent children's department. A perfect place for children of all ages. After finding your child's favorite book(s) -- a maybe one for yourself -- be sure to present the coupon at checkout so that Shepherd can receive 20 percent of your sale! (Note: gift certificates, special orders, membership and coffee house items are excluded.)

If you get a little hungry after perusing the shelves of the bookstore, you can take a few steps down the block and have lunch or an early dinner at Comet Ping Pong (hours are 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.). Let them know that you are with Shepherd so that 20 percent of your pre-tax tab will get donated to the school.



Look elsewhere in the Mustang and in the racks outside the office for coupons that you and your friends can use to benefit Shepherd!



## COULD YOUR MUSTANG BE A TIGER? A TIGER-ELITE BASKETBALL CAMPER, THAT IS

The warmer weather and longer days are noticeable reminders that summer is coming ... and we need to register our kids for camp. Here in D.C., we're fortunate to have an almost unlimited choice of sports camps, art camps, academic camps -- camps to fit every age and interest.

The Tiger Elite Basketball camp is one of those great choices; but with a very special twist: It's operated by a fellow Shepherd parent!



Desmond Dunham -- father to Niles (second grade) and Nia (kindergarten) -- joined the teaching and coaching faculty at Wilson High School this school year, where he has already begun to make his mark in girls' track. In his spare time, he's been coaching Niles' second-grade team in the Takoma Park Winter Basketball League. That's just the tip of iceberg, as it pertains to "Coach D's" coaching experience, but two of the elements that converged to inspire the new Tiger Elite Basketball Camp, to be held at Wilson this summer (yes, the same Wilson that we expect our students to attend).

The Tiger Elite Basketball Camp is open to boys and girls who will be entering grades one through eight -- in other words, most Shepherd students and some of their older siblings. There will be five week-long sessions offered in June and July with options for half-day participation and full-day participation, as well as both before-care and after-care. Each week is a self-contained session, but the camp offers multiple-session discounts. Camp will be held in Wilson High's newly renovated gym and sessions will be led by experienced, certified instructors.

Through speed and agility training, the Tiger Elite Basketball Camp will provide an excellent foundation for your child's future in basketball, as well as other sports. Each week, camp will include five days of skill development, training, conditioning, and motivational activities. And while the focus will be on the development of basketball skills, campers will enjoy a variety of other fun and enriching activities, including arts and crafts, games, and reading.

"Tiger Elite campers will have a ton of fun, while learning fundamental skills that will allow them to grow as young and potential athletes," said Coach

## THE SIT-uation ROOM

You've heard the expression, "My eyes were bigger than my stomach?" The same is true, in a sense with the upcoming renovations at Shepherd: Our eyes -- really, our vision -- is bigger than the budget the city is giving us.

So what we WON'T get in time for the next school year is a brand-spanking-new atrium and courtyard, or a fully finished ground floor underneath the original 1931 building. But what we WILL get instead is an extension of that ground floor immediately west of the original unfinished basement to house Shepherd's HVAC system and telecom/IT systems.

So what it looks like, to date is this: Shepherd will get \$10.1 million in renovations this summer, up from the original allocation of \$5.295 million, and another \$2.7 million or so in work after the new fiscal year kicks in come October.

A "future courtyard phase" including the unfinished basement, costing \$10 million, and cafeteria/kitchen and parking improvements slated at an estimated \$6 million, will be at some point in the future, quite possibly the 2017-18 school year. In total, D.C. is committing close to \$29 million to Shepherd, up about \$5 million from its original projections.

And staff from Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser's office is fully informed of developments, and if we need to fight for full and equitable funding, she'll be on our side.

We expect to have a combined PTA and Shepherd Park community meeting after the PTA meeting slated for April 17 -- which may very well be the same day work crews make their first appearance at Shepherd (but outside of school hours) -- to show our somewhat altered vision to everyone.

To learn more about renovations, get in touch with School Improvement Team chair Mark Pattison at 202-829-9289.

Dunham. "Parents can expect a safe, interactive, and engaging experience for their children."

Coach D and his talented staff look forward to working with campers of all abilities and at all levels. Ready to register? Want to know more? Visit the camp's website at [www.tigerelitebasketballcamp.com](http://www.tigerelitebasketballcamp.com). Who knows? You might even see some familiar Shepherd faces. Or if you prefer, call 888-707-5080 for more information.

## Early Start for Family Dinner Night As Shepherd Returns to Franklins

We at Shepherd need to show some love from time to time for the many great Shepherd families who live east of the school. That's easy to do when you've got a Family Dinner Night partner like Franklins.



And Franklins returns the love by offering its 20 percent rebate to the PTA not only for dinner but for lunch and that between-meals repast, too – PLUS the general store with all sorts of fun stuff inside.

The date is Tuesday, March 26. The hours are 11 a.m.-9 p.m. The address is 5121 Baltimore Ave. (Route 1) in Hyattsville. There's a parking lot across the street, but both on-street and off-street parking require you to feed the meter.

Remember: You have to say "I'm with Shepherd!" both to your server AND to the clerk at the general store so that proper credit is given to the PTA.

Franklins is very kid-friendly, with a wide range of menu items with child-appeal. It's also very adult-friendly, as many of the beers it offers are made right on site!

Last year Franklins rebated \$213 to the PTA. We can certainly better that mark this year. Let's pack the place!



## 'Feria de Sevilla' Gala Site Is Live!

The website for Shepherd's annual Gala — this year with a festive Spanish theme — is now up and running, and ready for you to take advantage of it.

Go to the homepage of the school website, [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org). Smack dab in near the top of the center column is the logo for our Gala, "Feria de Sevilla," with plenty of places you can click to get your going.



Do you want to RSVP and get your tickets? You can do that! Hint: It's Saturday, May 18, in the atrium of Wilson High School on Chesapeake St. NW just off Nebraska Ave NW.

Do you want to donate an item for the Gala's auction electronically? You can do that! There are also a bevy of ideas from last year's gala to get you started. (And there are paper copies in the rack outside the office to fill out donation forms on paper, too.)

You can even ask questions online thanks to an email feature. And when we get closer to the date, you'll be able to browse the auction catalog online!

But the first thing to do is get a sitter and make plans to go. You won't want to miss this gala – no way, Jose!

## Spring Break Gets Head Start

Leave it to the schedule makers at D.C. Public Schools. Students get a week of spring break the first week of April, but students get a head start on Friday, March 29, when school lets out at 12:15 p.m. for the day, for the weekend, and for Spring Break. Parents should make arrangements to pick up their students when school ends, because there will be no after-care provided that day.



## Toiletries Collection Now Through March 29

In observance of Women's History Month, Shepherd Elementary is collecting toiletries to donate to a women's shelter.

You can bring things, or have your children bring things, to the school right up to the start of spring break on Friday, March 29.

You can bring things ONLY women can use, and you can bring things ANY woman can use.

They can be the small "travel sizes" you find in hotels, and they can be the jumbo economy size products, too.

Please be generous!





# THE MUSTANG

FAMILY DINNER DAY

FAMILY DINNER DAY

FAMILY DINNER DAY



## COMET PING PONG

5037 Connecticut Ave NW  
(Just a few steps from Politics & Prose)

Saturday, March 23  
11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

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

Stop by for lunch or an early dinner after the  
Shepherd Book Fair at Politics & Prose!



PH: (202) 364-0404 • [www.cometpingpong.com](http://www.cometpingpong.com)

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT



**FRANKLINS**  
Restaurant • Brewery • General Store

5121 Baltimore Ave., Hyattsville, MD  
[Baltimore Ave. (Route 1) at Gallatin St.  
in the Heart of Historic Hyattsville]

TUESDAY, MARCH 26  
11 A.M.—9 P.M.

→ **Say "I'm with Shepherd!"** ←  
The PTA gets 20% of your pre-tax tab!

*Good for BOTH — the Restaurant  
and the General Store Next Door!*

Check out the menu at  
<http://www.franklinsbrewery.com/our-specials/>



**Good for Dine-In and Carry Out (PH: 301.927.2740)**



Use these coupons for your purchases at the Shepherd Book Fair at Politics & Prose — Saturday, March 23!



## SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

**THANK  
YOU!**

"The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you'll go."  
— Dr. Seuss,  
*"I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"*

Thank you for supporting  
our book fair!  
Twenty-percent of your  
pre-tax sale will be donated  
to the Shepherd Elementary  
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**PRINCIPAL** from p. 1 \_\_\_\_\_**Sweet 16**

Shepherd Elementary made it to the Sweet 16 in the First in Math competition. During the month of March, elementary and middle schools are competing for their chance to be the District of Columbia Public Schools First in Math champs! Students earn stickers for problems completed correctly. In order to win we must earn more stickers than our opposing team. Our current opponent is Watkins Elementary. The competition began at 12:01 am March 15, and will end this Monday, March 18, at 11:59 p.m. Weekend use of the program does NOT count toward competition totals. All students in Kindergarten through fifth grade have user names and passwords. Please allow your students to log in and play First in Math at home.

**It's Budget Season**

This past week I worked with members of the Local School Advisory Team to finalize the 2014 school budget. It took a lot of deliberation and collaboration, but a final budget was submitted on Thursday. Please join us at our next PTA meeting (Wednesday, March 20) to find out how the budget will impact programming next school year.

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!



Dear Shepherd Family,

I just came back this week from a convention of art teachers in Fort Worth, Texas. Therefore I will postpone art news until the next issue of the Mustang.

Until then see <http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art> for homework information and reach me at [joele.michaud@dc.gov](mailto:joele.michaud@dc.gov) if you need me.

Remember, you gotta have ART!

--Ms. Joele Michaud, Art Teacher

**EXTREME CLEANUP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

The Rock Creek Extreme Cleanup is upon us! On April 6, Rock Creek Conservancy--with your help--will mobilize volunteers to pick up trash at 50+ locations along the full 33-mile length of Rock Creek. Our goal is a total stream cleanup of Rock Creek and its tributaries and the parks connected to Rock Creek. Sign up now! Contact Karen at [kzeiter@rockcreekconservancy.org](mailto:kzeiter@rockcreekconservancy.org).



This will be the fifth annual cleanup, and we need your help to make it the best ever! Whether you're a novice or a seasoned trash pro, we want you alongside us this April! Some sites are wildly popular, so sign up today to reserve a spot.

Are you willing to lead a cleanup? Check out the 2013 Extreme Cleanup Map for sites that still need a leader and contact Karen at [kzeiter@rockcreekconservancy.org](mailto:kzeiter@rockcreekconservancy.org). You can bring your own group, or we can recruit volunteers for you. You can schedule a more convenient date and time. We will provide bags, gloves, and training on everything you need to know for a successful cleanup!

**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](mailto:jamie.miles@dc.gov)  
Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant – [robbyna.brooks@dc.gov](mailto:robbyna.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](mailto:SESmustang@gmail.com)