



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

April 8, 2013



- ▶ **Tuesday, April 9:** Local School Advisory Team, 4 p.m.
- ▶ **Wednesday, April 10:** Green School assembly, 10-11 a.m.
DC-CAS parent meeting, 6 p.m.
- ▶ **Monday, April 15:** Professional development day, no classes
- ▶ **Tuesday, April 16:** D.C. Emancipation Day holiday, no school
- ▶ **Wednesday, April 17:** PTA meeting, 6:45 p.m., auditorium
- ▶ **Friday, April 19:** Report cards issued
- ▶ **Saturday, April 20:** Beautification Day and Bike Rodeo, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- ▶ **Monday-Thursday, April 22-25, and Monday-Wednesday, April 29-May 1:** DC-CAS testing
- ▶ **Tuesday, April 23:** Special election for D.C. Council vacancy, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
- ▶ **Saturday, May 18:** Gala, "Feria de Sevilla," Wilson High School



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 Families!

Welcome back! I hope each of you had an enjoyable break. We at Shepherd are well rested and ready to begin the last few months of school.



DC-CAS

At the end of the month, students in grades 2-10 throughout DCPS will participate in the DC-CAS (D.C. Comprehensive Assessment System). The tests of the DC CAS have been designed to measure the academic proficiency of students in the District of Columbia relative to their mastery of the DC Content Standards. These tests are aligned to the approved English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Health standards used by the District of Columbia Public Schools. Shepherd students in grades 2-5 will take assessments in reading and math. In addition, our fourth-grade students will take a writing assessment and fifth graders will take assessments in science and health. Shepherd's assessment calendar is listed on page 10. If you have a student in grades 2-5, please work to make sure your student arrives on time,

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

PTA MEETING APRIL 17

Come one, come all, to the PTA meeting on Wednesday, April 17. The meeting starts at 6:35 p.m. in the school auditorium. You'll hear an update on the Gala, get a report from the principal, and hear about other important upcoming events, like the combined beautification day and bicycle rodeo on April 20, plus an update on what's happening with upcoming renovations at Shepherd..

Pizza, salad and water will be provided for both adults and children. Childcare will be provided in the cafeteria.

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



FOUR-DAY WEEKEND FOR STUDENTS

Once school lets out this Friday, students can enjoy a four-day weekend. There will be no classes on Monday, April 15, as staff has a professional development day. The next day — Tuesday, April 16 — is a holiday in the District of Columbia, as Emancipation Day is observed. School resumes on Wednesday, April 17.



Hi! This is Colyar Trimble. I hope everyone had an amazing spring break. (I know I did!) But now it's back to school.

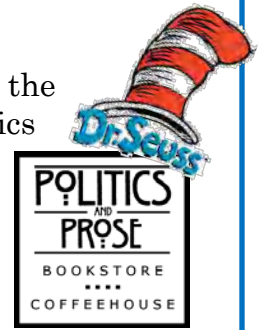
We have DC-CAS testing from the 22nd of April to the 1st of May. Report cards are issued on the 19th of April. On the 16th of April, there is no school because of D.C. Emancipation Day. And lastly, on the 17th, the St. Jude's Math-A-Thon ends.

Over my spring break I visited the National Portrait Gallery to do an activity planned there. I also went to Splash Pool and to an amusement park. I went to the library to learn how to do an activity called "Cups." It was really fun. You need to learn a certain way to move the cup. Then if you want, you can get into a group, start at the same time and pass the cups to each other.

--Colyar Trimble, fifth grader

GREAT RESULTS FROM BOOK FAIR

The PTA earned \$496 from the March 23 book fair at Politics & Prose. We had 52 buyers ID themselves as coming from Shepherd. They spent an average of \$47 and change while inside the store. These are impressive numbers, especially for a first-time book fair beneficiary. In fact, the much-vaunted KIPP Charter School could generate only \$400 in rebates.



And here's the big plus: Comet Ping Pong says Shepherd will be getting "around \$250" in rebates from the concurrent Family Dinner Day.



We also got an even \$100 from the Daily Dish, our Family Dinner Night partner from February. No results yet from Franklins and Fire Station 1, both of which hosted a Family Dinner Night last month. But when you can patronize local businesses and help out your kids' school at the same time, everybody wins!

Keep a lookout for our next Family Dinner Night coming soon.

DC-CAS Parent Meeting April 10

Parents: Don't bust a blood vessel trying to get your kids ready for two weeks of DC-CAS testing. Find out for yourself what DC-CAS is all about and keep both you and your family sane. There will be a parent meeting on DC-CAS Wednesday, April 10, starting at 6 p.m. at school.

Part of what drew us to Shepherd in the first place were its exceptional test scores. Learn how you can maintain that legacy for future years of prospective parents considering Shepherd without stressing out.



We are looking forward to May 14 when Jali-D (David Foreman) will visit a couple of music classes and aftercare to rap about math and reading. This will be the eighth year in a row for Jali-D to bring his djembe drum and his educational raps to Shepherd Elementary School.

Never before have children looked at math and reading in such a hip way. This rhythmic and lyrically engaging performance demonstrates the power of music as an educational tool, and inspires both students and teachers to view learning in an exciting new way. In this program, Jali-D raps about math, reading, science, video games, the brain, and more. He also instills important academic lessons and a strong emphasis on the value of achievement. Students will even get an opportunity to display their math and reading prowess in clever "call and response" exercises.

David Foreman, aka "Jali-D," is an accomplished percussionist and spoken word artist who combines his talents into an art form he calls "Rapperceptions." He rhymes, raps, and drums. Along with his work in schools, Jali-D has recorded an educational music CD called "Mind Rhymes," and has written a score for an FDA/ Cartoon Network health campaign. His positive raps are about academic lessons and the value of achievement. Students get an opportunity to display their math and reading skills, and a few students may get a chance to "free style."



Order Schoolkidz Supplies Online Now!

Schoolkidz school supply order forms for the 2013-14 school year will be sent home soon. However, you can start ordering supplies online now! Please visit www.shopttkits.com and enter Shepherd Elementary code 61006 to view the Shepherd teacher-customized supply kits for each grade, Pre-K through 5, and to place our order. Be sure to order for the grade your child will enter next fall.



Supply kits will be delivered to the school and sent to your child's classroom prior to the first day of school. How easy is that?! If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Trimble, Shepherd's Schoolkidz coordinator, at kctrimble@mac.com.

LSAT Meeting Set for April 9



The Local School Advisory Team for Shepherd Elementary will meet on Tuesday, April 9, at 4 p.m. The LSAT will be following up and following through on a number of items, including the upcoming Bike Rodeo on April 20 — an event co-sponsored by the LSAT.

Parents are welcome to attend LSAT meetings, although they may be asked to leave if confidential matters arise. With at least two parent vacancies being created for 2013-14 due to term limits, parents interested in serving on the LSAT should consider coming to the April 9 meeting to get a better handle on the group's work. For more details, get in touch with LSAT chair Sherilyn Pruitt at spruitt@hrsa.gov.



Shepherd IB PYP Corner

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a restful Spring break. The St. Jude's Math-A-Thon is off to a great start. Thus far, we have 140 students participating. Our School goal is to raise \$7,000 for the hospital for those children battling cancer and other catastrophic childhood diseases. 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.

Students: Please remember that you will need to obtain pledges from family and friends, supporting your efforts to improve your math skills as you complete your Funbook. After completing the Funbook, you will need to collect the pledges and turn them in to the school office. Pledges are due back to school the week of April 15; that's next week. Our Math-A-Thon ends on April 17. You can find out even more about St. Jude at: www.stjude.org.

Our new Learner Profile for the month of April is Principled. A principled person acts with integrity, honesty, a sense of fairness, justice and respect for individuals, groups and communities. Principled people take responsibility for their own actions.

IB Program of Inquiry

This week, classes will begin Unit 5 of the Program of Inquiry, which will end on May 3. The Transdisciplinary Theme for each grade level will be:

- ▶ Pre-Kindergarten – How the World Works – Our Environment
- ▶ Kindergarten – Where We Are in Place and Time – Tales From the Past
- ▶ First Grade – Who We Are – Life Lessons
- ▶ Second Grade – Where We Are in Place and Time – Exploring the World
- ▶ Third Grade – How We Organize Ourselves – Yes We Can
- ▶ Fourth Grade – How We Express Ourselves – Heroes
- ▶ Fifth Grade – How We Organize Ourselves – Know Your Rights

THE GALA COMMITTEE WANTS YOU!

The schedule for planning meetings for the Gala Committee is:

- ◆ Thursday, April 11
- ◆ Thursday, April 25
- ◆ Thursday, May 9
- ◆ Thursday, May 16

(All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.)



Come and lend your support to Shepherd's biggest fundraiser of the year. With your savvy, you can help make it Shepherd's biggest fundraiser EVER.

Fifth Grade Exhibition

This year, our fifth grade classes have the pleasure of working with Mr. Tom Minter, a playwright, and Ms. Serena Wills, a visual artist, both from the Kennedy Center. The Transdisciplinary Theme for this year's exhibition is "How We Express Ourselves" and students are currently working on writing the scenes for a reality TV show in which they will participate for their summative assessment. This theme relates to an inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values -- the ways, in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity and our appreciation of the aesthetic.

For the exhibition, the students have identified four global issues that are important to them: Media, Peace and Conflict, Human Rights, and Technology. Their central Idea: "People's unique points of view are reflected through actions and decisions because of our differences." Their lines of inquiry thus far are the impact of points of view on creativity and the aesthetic of varying cultures, values, and beliefs.

Please stay tuned for more on the Fifth Grade Exhibition which will take place toward the end of May or the first week of June.

Awards Day

Please join us on April 12th for our Awards Assembly. The assembly for pre-kindergarten to second grade students will take place at 9 a.m., followed by the assembly for third through fifth grade students at 10 a.m. We hope you can join us.

Have a super week!

--Ms. Sandra Hart, IB Coordinator

Star Achievers News

End-of-the-year excitement; mark your calendars!

Star Achievers Aftercare Program will be holding a Dance Demonstration for all grades, Pre K - 5th, on Wednesday, May 22, from 5 to 6 p.m. in the auditorium.

Ms. Nya Johnson, our dance teacher, will be playing the hits and showing off all the students have learned in class this year. Do not miss this great opportunity to see your child in action!



Mr. Johnnie Thornton will conduct an end-of-the-year martial arts exhibition and awards presentation -- date to be determined -- also in the auditorium. A boy and girl from each class will receive "Top Form" and "Most Improved" awards and all will receive a ribbon for participation and hard work learning martial arts moves. Please come and share the moment with us.

MAD SCIENCE will be in the house on two upcoming dates:

- ▶ Thursday, April 18, from 4:15 to 5 p.m. in the auditorium.
- ▶ Thursday, May 2, from 4:15 to 5 p.m.



Make certain your child does not miss the spectacular experiments and explosions of MAD SCIENCE.

And, on Monday, May 14, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Shepherd Aftercare will host Jali-D, a popular children's rapper, excellent drummer and all-around awesome musician.

Each Friday from 4 to 5 p.m. we have Imagination Stage for different classes, and Science Club featuring The Wonderful World of Worms!

--Ms. Claire Riley, program director

APRIL 20 EARTH DAY EVENTS: BIKE RODEO, BEAUTIFICATION

At Shepherd, we've got a one-two punch lined up to celebrate Earth Day in advance. Make Saturday, April 20, a date that rates on your calendar!

For kids from the school and the whole neighborhood, there will be a Bike Rodeo co-sponsored by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association and Shepherd's Local School Advisory Team. The event runs 10 am.-1 p.m. WABA will have a few bikes and helmets handy, but it'll be better if parents can bring their kids' bikes along. The goal of the Bike Rodeo is bicycle safety. The Earth Day tie-in National Bike to School Day is coming up May 8, and there's no better way to practice what we preach!



For adults, the PTA is sponsoring its annual Spring Beautification Day also on April 20. Bring your work clothes and garden implements -- rakes, hoes, trowels, gloves and such. We'll supply the mulch.



Mother Nature has already supplied the weeds!

We need six adults to help WABA with the Bike Rodeo, three for a 10-11:30 a.m. shift, and three for an 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. shift. As for Beautification Day, we're aiming for 20 adults helping. The more adults we get, the more weeds will be gone and the smaller that mound of mulch out back will be! To volunteer, get in touch with Sandra Serrano at sandra.d.serrano@gmail.com.



Newsletter
DEADLINE

**Next Issue
April 22**

Deadline for Next Issue!
Friday, April 19, at 5 p.m.
Send items to
sesmustang@gmail.com

APRIL IS FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

Janet Bodnar, editor of Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine, has often said that the time to start teaching kids about money is as soon as they're old enough not to put it in their mouths. She should know; she's also the author of "Raising Money Smart Kids," and is a mom herself.



So it seems we can safely say that Shepherd students are old enough to learn about money. But what should elementary school-aged children be learning -- and who should be teaching them?

The President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability has undertaken a project to demonstrate how personal finance content can—and should—be integrated into Common Core Math and English Language Arts. Shepherd's own first grade teacher, Ms. Goldman, was among a select group of teachers who submitted lessons for this project and it looks to be a very promising initiative. In the meantime, though, what should parents and guardians be doing at home?

The "Money As You Grow" website (moneyasyougrow.org), also a product of the President's Advisory Council, gives families ideas about appropriate money lessons for kids at different ages. The site suggests simple activities to try and discussions to have with your children that will get them started down the right path --even if you, the adult, aren't that comfortable with financial topics yourself.

Some additional suggestions for elementary school-aged kids:

- ▶ Encourage your child to pick a "money story" from the library or bookstore. Try "Rock, Brock, and the Savings Shock" by former FDIC chairman Sheila Bair, or Judith Viorst's "Alexander Who Used to Be Rich, Last Sunday." If your kid likes comic books, go to practicalmoneyskills.com and look for "Avengers: Saving the Day."
- ▶ Have your child create -- and stick to -- a special activity budget. A birthday party. Vacation. A bedroom remodeling. Back-to-school supplies. Offer your child a pre-set allocation of funds and work with him or her to develop a corresponding budget. Don't forget to set some ground rules, but give your child enough room to make decisions -- and possibly some mistakes.
- ▶ Next time you go out for dinner, let older kids help calculate and determine the waiter's tip. What is 15 percent of the check? What is 20 percent? Now, math aside, how much should you decide to

THE SIT-uation ROOM

The School Improvement Team is at the point where the rubber meets the road. SIT chair Mark Pattison and vice-chair Keith White will lead a presentation and discussion at the April 17 PTA meeting on the nature of the renovations being planned and proposed for Shepherd, and the variables involved in getting improvements from the drawing board to reality -- including the monetary, political and bureaucratic factors.

This is in advance of a scheduled May 1 meeting for Shepherd parents and the Shepherd Park neighborhood where, SIT leaders hope, more details will be available on the scope of the renovations that can be accomplished this summer and the funds available to put changes into effect now and into the near future.

To learn more about the School Improvement team and its work, get in touch with Mark at either 202-289-9289 or Pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

leave; and why? If you're not rushed and distracted (I know, I know), take on the conversation about the cost of dinner and its relative value.



What? I forgot to mention saving? No, I figured that was a no-brainer and already covered in our "School Bank" partnership with PNC Bank. And before you bring your money in to deposit in the school bank, a transparent piggy bank or savings jar at home will encourage your child as he or she watches the money accumulate.

For teachers and families: The national standards in K-12 personal finance education can be ordered free through the Federal Citizen Information Center. Other educational resources can be found online at jumpstartclearinghouse.org or mymoney.gov. There, you can find great resources for adult consumers, as well. Or just use your search engine. There's no time like the present to raise your own financial awareness and set a great example for your family.

Happy Financial Literacy Month!

--Laura Levine, PTA recording secretary



2013 Gala to Benefit Shepherd Elementary School

6-10 pm, Saturday, May 18, 2013

Wilson High School Atrium (3950 Chesapeake St. NW)

Featuring Cocktails, Dining, Entertainment, and Silent & Live Auctions

Do you know a business that would make a donation to the auction?

Do you have some connections? Or know someone who does?

We're looking for donations!

Use the back of this form or go online to www.shepherd-elementary.org to make a donation online.

Kid's Camps... Activities... Performances... Lessons... Tutoring...
Salons... Spas... Gyms... Fitness Training...
Your Favorite Restaurant... Bar... Winery...
Boutique... Jewelry Store... Bookstore...
A Friend with Season Tickets... Theater... Sports...
Celebrity Items... Signed Memorabilia... Breakfast with Movers and Shakers...
Dinner with a Local Celebrity
Getaways... Vacation Homes... Hotel... Frequent Flyer Miles...

AND – Don't forget to make your reservation to attend the Gala!

Go online to www.shepherd-elementary.org to RSVP.

\$45 per person if you RSVP on or before April 30, 2013.

Admittance includes food, drinks, entertainment, and access to the silent and live auctions.

Questions? Email shepherd-elementary@maestroweb.com or call Judith McCullough at (202) 255-2390.

Return completed forms to PTA Box in front office. Forms may be copied and distributed.

Interested in being a sponsor or advertising? Forms will be available by the front office – or contact us at the email or number above.

Feria de Sevilla - 2013 Shepherd Gala & Auction

Donor Information

Please fill in with Ball Point Pen



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Gala News: Win Big!

How would you like to have lunch have a retired big-leaguer? Maybe you'd like the D.C. region's famed "Banjo Man" play at your kid's birthday party. Or how about a basketball autographed by the principal and all the teachers?



Those are just some of the items that will be featured in the auction that's part of the PTA's annual Gala. With a festive, pan-Latin "Feria de Sevilla" theme, this year's Gala promises to be the best you've ever attended. The date is Saturday, May 18, and the big event will be held at in the new atrium at Wilson High School near Nebraska and Wisconsin Avenues — the very same Wilson High we expect our students to be able to attend when they're old enough to go to high school.

Not only will it be fun for all, this year you'll be able to sit down and enjoy your dinner! The Gala Committee took note of the growing crowds the past three years and chose Wilson because of its size. But you've got to do your part and help fill up the atrium.

Go online to www.shepherd-elementary.org. click on the link under the festive flamenco dancers and RSVP, and even consider donating additional auction gifts that will make the winners beam with pride.

GREEN SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

The D.C. Department of the Environment will come to Shepherd this Wednesday, April 10, DC Department of Environment (DOE) regarding scheduling a DC Green School assembly. The assembly will take place from 10 to 11 a.m.

The assembly is only for students in second through fifth grades. However, DOE will bring enough giveaways for the entire school. The assembly will cover energy efficiency and conservation.



Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers,

As many of you probably know and for those of you who don't, I am retiring at the end of this school year. I planned the date at this time a year ago so that I might have a retirement "process" instead of just "walking out the door." What a rich year this has been so far. Everything about it has taken on an emotional tone for me. I have savored every positive aspect of the work I have loved so much, teaching art to Shepherd students.

At this moment I am enjoying my last spring break with DCPS. As I look forward to end of the year I am planning some clay and wood sculpture projects, monoprinting for several grades, and "en plein aire" (outdoor) drawing if the weather ever improves. Fifth-graders will be hard at work on special "out of the box" artworks for their culminating IB project that's called Exhibition.

Look in the art room corridor for kindergarten "Dot and Circle Abstracts" done in the style of the first abstract painter, Vasily Kandinsky. There is a display in the art room of second grade abstract landscapes in the style of Paul Klee. Also you can see wire animal sculpture by the fifth graders!

There was homework assigned two weeks ago that's due this week. 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. Joele Michaud, Art Teacher

PRINCIPAL from p. 1 _____

is well-rested and well-fed. Testing begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. and continues until all students are done.

Testing Schedule

- ▶ April 23 – Reading Sections 1 and 2
- ▶ April 24 – Reading Sections 3 and 4
- ▶ April 25 - Math Sections 1 and 2
- ▶ April 26 - Math Sections 3 and 4
- ▶ April 29 - Writing and Science
- ▶ April 30 – Health
- ▶ May 1 - Make-ups
- ▶ May 2 - Make-ups

Inappropriate Conversations and Internet Surfing

Recently, we have had increased incidents of students being referred to the office for inappropriate conversations and attempted explorations of inappropriate sites on the Internet. Please help us curtail this behavior by addressing this matter at home with your students. In each of the incidents parents have been notified and consequences have been implemented. If you have specific questions or need suggestions on how to talk with your students, please contact Ms. Liggins, our school counselor. She can be reached at 202-576-6140 or gail.liggins@dc.gov.

Registration

By now each of you should have received your student registration packets for the 2013-14 school year. Please take a moment to register your student. If your student will be returning to Shepherd next year, the form should be returned to Shepherd. If your student will be attending another DCPS school, the registration form should be returned to their new school. If your student will not be returning to Shepherd or another D.C. public school, please inform Ms. Brooks. When registering your student you must come into the school and verify you are a resident of the District. All registration forms are due no later than May 1!

School Budget 2014

Recently the Local School Advisory Team and I worked together to finalize the 2014 Fiscal Year budget. To see Shepherd's budget and to read more

about the budget process, please visit:

<http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/About+DCPS/Budget+and+Finance/FY14+Fiscal+Report+Card>.

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

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