



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

April 22, 2013

A Word from Mrs. Miles!



Greetings Everyone,

Report Cards

By now all parents should have received a copy of their student's report card. Yes, the year is coming to an end. However, work continues until the last day at Shepherd. Please take a moment to review your student's report card, celebrate your student's successes, discuss how they can improve and if you have questions, please contact your student's teacher.

Testing

Testing begins on Tuesday for students in grades 2 through 5 and will continue through April 30. Please work to make sure that your student arrives to school on time, rested, well fed and ready to do their best. Most students will finish testing around noon. However, students who need longer as well as those students who arrive late will be testing in the afternoon.

Snacks During Testing

A sincere thank you to all parents who signed up to donate snacks for our students to enjoy during testing. The initial request went out to second- through fifth-grade parents, and at the PTA meeting a plea was made to all parents and many of you came through. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Appropriate Attire

Shepherd is a uniform school. Students are expected to be in uniform every day unless informed otherwise. Since our return from spring break, I have witnessed many students out of uniform, and many of them are in inappropriate attire. As a staff we strive to be very mindful of how we address students and their attire because we realize though they came to



► **Tuesday, April 23:** DC-CAS testing starts (through May 1)

► **Tuesday, April 23:** D.C. Council special election, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

► **Thursday, April 25:** Gala Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., library

► **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!



school dressed inappropriately, the adult allowed them to leave the house. However, many of our young ladies' shorts and skirts are too short and pants are too tight (students should not wear leggings to school unless they are under something). Some ladies are wearing spaghetti-strap tops and our young men are wearing white T-shirts as uniform shirts. Students have come to school in flip-flops and other sandals that are not safe to wear outside as students run, play and climb. If your child comes to school dressed inappropriately, you can expect one or all of the following:

- 1) Your child will be given something more appropriate to wear.
- 2) You will receive a phone call requesting you bring appropriate attire to school.
- 3) You will be notified via a note from school.

Thank you in advance for your attentiveness.

Inappropriate Conversations

Please continue to speak to your students about inappropriate conversations about sex and nudity. As a school we are working with our students; however, your help is needed. Please refer to the last

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

MEET THE NEW SPANISH TEACHER!

¡Hola! Shepherd parents, students, and staff. For those of you who do not know me, my name is Señora Giblin. I am the acting Spanish teacher (long-term substitute) here at Shepherd. As you will see below in the "About Me" section, I have a lot to offer in this space and I understand potential student issues. Some of you may know that I spent two weeks in February volunteering at Shepherd. As of April 8, I have been at Shepherd as a long-term substitute teacher.



These few weeks have been such an amazing experience! The children (and Shepherd staff) are wonderful! The students are happy to have a Spanish teacher, to have structure back, and most importantly they are back to speaking and learning Spanish! My door and email inbox are always open. You can reach me at megan.giblin@dc.gov. Further, I am happy to meet with you any time to talk about your child's participation and development.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I will be volunteering my personal time Tuesday after school until 5 p.m. to work with Spanish students. This work will include teaching fifth-graders additional vocabulary to make better sentences, aiding younger students in learning more, as well as assisting students with homework issues. For those students in aftercare, I will create a list and I will ensure that the students get back to where they are supposed to be. For all non-aftercare students, a permission form is necessary, and a parent must fill out and sign it. You can email me for an electronic copy that you can print and/or the students can pick up a copy from me in class.

About me: I have an undergraduate degree in French and Spanish, and an MBA in International Management with a Chinese Studies

School Registrations Due May 1

Registrations are being accepted NOW for 2013-14 at Shepherd. It's pretty simple to register your children, but you have to register in person at the office. All you need besides the filled-out registration form is proof of residency – a driver's license, a utility bill, voter's registration, etc.



Register by Wednesday, May 1. If we get our registrations in on time, then we can be assured of having the funding and staffing we expect to keep Shepherd successful in the year to come.

certificate from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, a graduate school of Middlebury College. I continued my Spanish studies while I was at MIIS. (My course work included, among other items, Doing Business in Latin America – of course, in Spanish.) During the course of my studies, I had the opportunity to spend 4+ years abroad in France, Spain (2+ years), and China. I speak English, Spanish, Mandarin, and I have returning skills in French. In addition, in between undergraduate and graduate work, I took additional Spanish course work (e.g., translation and interpretation).

Prior to this long-term substitute position, I worked 10+ years in the public and private sector, where I spent much of my time educating congressional staff, members of Congress, government colleagues, and members of corporate staff, and developing talking points for everyone from the CEO down to department-level management. This education focused on specific issues, general country topics, country-specific problems, new and impactful congressional legislation and more. In addition, I served as a cleared advisor to the U.S. government.

--Ms. Megan Giblin, Spanish teacher

It's Election Time!

It's time to consider the parents among us who can lead the PTA and the LSAT for the year ahead.

The PTA positions to be filled are:

- ▶ President
- ▶ 1st Vice President
- ▶ 2nd Vice President
- ▶ Recording Secretary
- ▶ Corresponding Secretary
- ▶ Treasurer
- ▶ Assistant Treasurer



In addition, there are four parent representatives to the Local School Advisory Team to be chosen.

If you would like to throw your hat in the ring for any of these positions, get in touch with one of the members of the Nominating Committee below. You may also suggest a parent for PTA or LSAT elective office.

Andrew Cook, andrewphant@hotmail.com

Marcus Hall, marcushall19@gmail.com,
marcushall19@aol.com

LaWanda Jones, lcj1989@gmail.com, 202-468-2928, 703-558-1292

Eve Lotter, elotter1979@gmail.com

Tabatha McNeill, tabatha.c.mcneill@gmail.com, 202-345-2504

Auction Action!

The annual Gala works best with support from the whole community. One way you can support the Gala is by buying an ad in the program book.



Promote your business, your cause, or even yourself. Say thanks or congratulations. Recognize a teacher, celebrate your child!

Prices for ads are good:

- Quarter-page B&W: \$25
- Quarter-page color: \$50
- Half-page B&W: \$50
- Half-page color: \$75
- Full-page B&W: \$100
- Full-page color: \$125

Ask about special rates for special placement in the book.

When you advertise, you'll be reaching an audience of like-minded grown-ups who act like adults and who want to support their neighborhood and their neighborhood school.

Just go to the school website, click on to the "Feria de Sevilla" website, select the [catalog ad tab](#), login and you're there!



Deadline for Next Issue!

Friday, May 3, at 5 p.m.

Next Issue
May 6

Send items to
sesmustang@gmail.com

City Council Election Tuesday

There is a special election April 23 to fill an at-large vacancy on the D.C. Council. Shepherd Elementary is home to Precinct 62. Polls are open citywide from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Regardless of where you vote, make sure you vote. We depend on the D.C. Council to provide full and equitable funding for Shepherd, as well as necessary oversight to D.C. Public Schools.





Congratulations, Shepherd, for a job well done on the St. Jude's Math-A-Thon. As a school community, we raised more than \$3,500 through regular and online donations for the children and the hospital research program at St. Jude's. Everyone who participated will receive a certificate, and prizes will be presented to students who pooled donations. Great work, parents! Thank you.

Awards Day

Our Award Ceremonies for the third Advisory took place on April 12. Thank you to all those parents who came out to support their child at the Award ceremony. The Award winners were as follows:

Math (Most Improved): Samuel Elliott, Michaela Jenkins, Corinne Glover, Malakai Lagasca, Meley Ghermay, Jacob Lotter, Kingston Mason, Erin Askew, Travis Parker, Yasmina Konate, Dai'Ahmir Morgan-Flemming, Priya Smith, Jaylen Hebert, Jalan Gary-Alston, Elijah Pringle, Malik Belmar, Heidi Nikiema, Keyshawn Lee, Jasmine Hopkins and Emperor Campbell

Reading (Most Improved): Nala Wise, Matthew Gomez-Martinez, Taj Johnson, Asanatou Kanta, Imani Akers, Jewel Jones, Payton Jones, Miles Johnson-Dean, Farrah Richmond, Awa Knata, Christopher Castillo-Zapata, Aileen Santacruz, Senay Yemane, Tais Moore, Dakota Joi Inniss, Lauren Curtis, Yesenia Castro, A-Mei Nickens, Mia Heyward, Chase Cook, and Chandler Mabry

Science: Addyson Tyler, Kadar Muir, Hashim Coward, Preston Underwood, McKayla Belmar, Zoie Walden, Stephen Levine, Deborah Okechukwu, Madison Swanson, Spencer Fridle, Anatiyah Worthy-Stewart, and Anthony Harrison II

Social Studies: Aaron Curtis, Amari Mhoon, Kayla Powell, Brianna Royall, Liza Gassaway, Mia Saunders, Amari Hall, Clare Harvey, Victoria Newson, Miles Davis, Taye Moss-Suggs, Victoria Carter, Omari Clarke, Mackenzie Whyte, and Neiman Holton.

IB Knowledgeable: Grace Everitt, Cifani Dakka, Asanatou Kanta, Corinne Glover, Adrian Cook, Payton Jones, Aria Jefferson, Joyce Kao, Aaron Smith, Tobias Lindo,

Tyler Davis, Radha Tanner, Renata Mills, Rashad Biddle, Priya Smith, Aiden Washington, Zora Pauk, Masai Jenkins, Leela Mehta-Harwitz, London Downing, Imani Thomas, Ashford Connor, Julien Kearns, Jocelyn Bostic, Alexandra Abebe, Alexander Kennison, Yewoinhareg Kebede, Savannah Waymer and Tolani Smith

IB Balanced: Ana Castillo-Zapata, Cifani Dakka, Ella Knight, Asanatou Kanta, Jack Chumbris, Payton Jones, Raimon Nelson, Kadar Muir, Tobias Lindo, Lee Bruner, Joia Glover, Tsitsi Shabazz, Bianca Popa, Marshall Lewis III, Priya Smith, Zoie Walden, Gabrielle McKinley, Stephen Levine, Nana Sissoko Jalan Gary-Alston, Elijah Pringle, Deborah Okechukwu, Cydni Taylor, London Downing, Courtney White, Genesis Glover, Alexandra Abebe, Ernestine Lwangu, Gregory Jones, Colyar Trimble, Rasheda White, and Quentin Anderson-Watson.

Achievement on PIA Reading and Math (**students that scored in the Advanced range, ** students with perfect scores*): Jalan Gary Alston, Kahlil Slater, Carlisse Agee, Samuel Bush, Yonatan Shewangzew, *Wynston Jones, *Nana Sissoko, *Amanda Glover, *Clare Harvey, **Shaina Adams, *Fahari Dominique, *Kayla Muir, **Masai Jenkins, **Keshav Mehta-Harwitz, **Jean-Pierre Roberts, Kyle Jackson-Chang, *Samuel Bush, Caleb Wilson, **Marie-Therese Tata, *Henry Trimble, *Victoria Newson, *Ilesha Thomas, *Weldon Genies, *Tiara Dupee, *Benjamin White, Kurt Peacock, Deborah Okechukwu, Blanca Castro, *Briana Rodriguez-Knight, Raphael Afrika, Ezinne Ukaegbu, Gregory Kennison, Adam Thomas, Tony Wilson, Zoe McCullough, Ethan Reece, *London Downing, *Camille Jones, *Caleb Schuster, *Madison Swanson, *Chima Ukaegbu, Taye Moss- Suggs, Kelci Barnette, Jamary Calhoun, Taylor Paraless, Kemau Williams, *Julien Kearns, **Ashford Connor, Jay Matthews, Amirah Willis, *Allison Holmes, Godloves Tata, Keyshawn Lee, Mia Heyward, Ernestine Lwangu, Alexandra Abede, Luke Jennings, Alexander Kennison, *Colyar Trimble, *Obed Johannes, *Savannah Waymer, Quentin Anderson-Watson, Margaret Goletiani, Tolani Smith, Rasheda White, and Bryce Smith

Perfect Attendance: Julius Moore Jr., Nabi Yemane, Cifani Dakka, Aminata Sissoko, Coruan Nunn, Avari Moore, Adrian Cook, Jewel Jones, Joyce Kao,

(see IB Corner, p. 5)

Star Achievers Sneak Preview

Look at what's on the calendar in the weeks ahead for Shepherd Star Achievers Aftercare:

- ▶ **Friday, April 26** – 2nd and 3rd graders: Imagination Stage classes, 4-5 p.m.
- ▶ **Thursday, May 2** – all classes: MAD SCIENCE, 4:15-5 p.m.
- ▶ **Friday, May 3** – pre-K and 1st graders: Imagination Stage classes, 4-5 p.m.
- ▶ **Friday, May 10** – kindergarten and 1st graders: Imagination Stage classes, 4-5p.m.
- ▶ **Tuesday, May 14**—all classes: Jali-D, educational rapper and musician extraordinaire 3:30–4:30 p.m.



IB Corner from p. 4

Roxana Galvez-Rodas, Aaron Smith, Tobias Lindo, Sharon Chirambo, Kristian Swanson, Aidan Alston, Kayla Bethea, Kennedy Mack, Dina Johannes, Aileen Santacruz, Rene Rodas, Marshall Lewis III, Senay Yemane, Layla Brent, Grace Kao, Kalkidan Kebede, Casey Ross, Nana Sissoko, Samuel Bush, Ezinne Ukaegbu, Marie-Therese Tata, Godloves Tata, Miles Davis, Chima Ukaegbu, Madison Swanson, Cydni Taylor, Gregory Kennison, Jah'Mel West, Kamau Williams, Heidi Nikie-ma, Kemani Cash-Taylor, Ernestine Lwangu, Joyce Chirambo, Joy Chibandika, Mia Heyward, Destiny McPherson, Lyndon Downing, Carlita Garrett, Obed Johannes, Yewoinhareg Kebede, Alexander Kennison, Frank Sheffield, and Rasheda White

The DC Comprehensive Assessment for 2013 is here. Good luck, students. We know you will do well! Please remember to get to bed early and to eat a good breakfast every morning.

Have a super week!

--Ms. Sandra Hart, IB Coordinator

GO FOR THE GOLD!

You can be a sponsor of the Gala.

There are great perks that go with being a Gala sponsor.

At the Silver level of \$500, you get admittance for four people to the gala, signage at the gala, a half-page color ad in the auction catalog/program, acknowledgement of your donation at the Gala, your company logo and website link on the Gala website and on the Shepherd Elementary website through Dec. 31 as a Silver Sponsor.



Or, you could go for the gold. At the Gold level of \$1,000, here's what you get: a full table to the Gala for 10, signage, a full-page color ad in the program book, recognition of your Gold Sponsorship at the Gala, and your company logo and website link on the Gala Website and on the school website as a Gold Sponsor though Dec. 31.



Aiming higher? How about the Platinum Sponsorship? For \$2,500, look at what you'll get: a front-row table to the Gala for 10 people, premier signage at the Gala, presentation as a Platinum Sponsor at the Gala, a full-page inside cover (or other prominent placement) in the auction catalog, plus your company logo and website link on the Gala website and on the Shepherd Elementary website as a Platinum Sponsor for the rest of the year.



If all of this is too rich for your blood, you can simply make a cash donation. And you can do it all online. Go to the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org. Click under the "Feria de Sevilla" flamenco dancers, then click on the "Sponsorship" tab. Log in (you can create a new name and password for yourself if you're new to the site), then choose how you can sponsor or otherwise donate. Do it now!



We Want Your Input



Are you interested in volunteering at the Gala?
Do you have decorating skills that you are willing to share?

WE NEED YOU!

Please Join Us

**Upcoming Spring Gala Meeting
Thursday, April 25, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m.
School Library**

Come and find out how you can help make our largest fundraiser of the year a huge success or email us at <http://shepherd-elementary.maestroweb.com>



THE SIT-UATION ROOM

At last Wednesday's PTA meeting, School Improvement Team vice chair Keith White and I led a presentation about the state of school renovations -- at least so far. We tried to answer everyone's questions as best as we could.

The big problem remains proper funding. The renovations which could be done this summer, and that everyone agrees are necessary, take more than the \$5.295 million allotted. That's why I testified last week before the Education Committee of the D.C. Council. (I've included the relevant parts of my testimony at the bottom of this column.) We're asking for at least \$10.1 million to take us through the current fiscal year.

Of course, until we know how much money we can have, it's next to impossible to declare just what work will get done. And once we decide what work can be done, then we have to order equipment and get crews in place to perform those renovations.

We expect the complete renovation of Shepherd to come in at about \$28 million. In a perfect world, we could get it all done in one fell swoop. But one of the imperfect consequences of that is that we'd have to move students to trailers, or to another school. Also, experience has taught the professionals that they can only do about \$10 million of work over the course of summer vacation before they start falling over themselves.

A community meeting to unveil the renovations we're capable of doing this summer, then, will have to wait until sometime the week of June 10.

And now, the testimony:

(D.C. Council Education Committee) Chairman (David) Catania and members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Pattison, and I'm a parent at Shepherd Elementary, in Ward 4. At Shepherd, we're suffering from the same FY 2014 nonsense many of the previous speakers have gone through. But the reason I asked to testify was less on 2014 than to the supplemental budget for fiscal 2013. I'm also the chair of the School Improvement Team at Shepherd. Parents, staff and community members started working a year ago in January to define a preferred future for our neighborhood school and avoid the mistakes committed at other schools -- and on our fact-finding visits, we spotted them. By the time DGS (the D.C. Department of General

Services) was ready to tell us what kind of representation we needed to have for a School Improvement Team, we had a 47-page report ready for them -- thanks to input from teachers, parents and team members' hard work.

Shepherd has the best DC-CAS test scores of any elementary school in DCPS with a majority-African American student body. We're filled to the gills. Out-of-boundary parents covet a spot at Shepherd. Last time I looked, there were 53 on the waiting list for kindergarten. We're successful -- and want to be more so -- but we simply cannot grow with the space we have. There may be only three elementary schools with less square footage than Shepherd. If all we did was bring Shepherd up to contemporary standards for classroom square footage, we'd be forced to cut the number of classrooms. But we've got an architectural plan in place that will increase our square footage by 25 percent while barely increasing the school's footprint, thanks to finishing off a basement, creating an atrium, a second-floor art room with a green roof -- and, later, a cafeteria equipped to serve freshly made meals ... and even staff parking.

What we're asking for is an increase in the FY 2013 supplemental budget to cover the identified costs of initial Phase 1 renovations to Shepherd. An increase to \$10.1 million will help Turner Construction work all the way through the summer. Anything beyond that will allow Turner to continue work on evenings and weekends until FY 2014 arrives in October.

You may remember when Adrian Fenty was a member of this Council. When he introduced the legislation that made school renovations citywide possible, he stood in front of Shepherd Elementary. Pardon the pun, but Shepherd was a textbook example of the need for renovations: always cold in some rooms, always hot in others; one stairwell still resembles a sauna. We've prospered despite antiquated boilers, despite cramped and crowded classrooms, and despite budget nonsense. Now is the time to commit to a successful D.C. public school.

This money isn't going to get us full-time music and art teachers like we've had. It isn't going to cement our feeder patterns to Deal and Wilson. Those are different discussions for a different time. But what we, and you, can do now is reward success instead of treating it like the kid who has to perpetually wait his turn. Thank you.

--Mark Pattison

JOIN US!



SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013

6—10 P.M.

WILSON HIGH SCHOOL ATRIUM

3950 Chesapeake St NW ~ Washington, DC

COCKTAILS ~ DINING ~ ENTERTAINMENT

~ SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS ~

\$45 per person (on or before April 30) — **\$55** (after April 30)

\$750—table of 10 *plus* a full-page ad in the program catalog *and* a \$150 tax-deduction

\$450—table of 10 (no ad or tax-deduction)

To **RSVP** and for more information visit www.shepherd-elementary.org.

Advertising — Honor your child or child's teacher with an ad in the program catalog or place an ad for your business. Advertising forms are available in the rack outside the school office.

Questions? Contact us at shepherd-elementary@maestroweb.com or Judith McCullough at 202-255-2390.



Hi Shepherd Mustangs,

This is London Downing reporting and we should take time to remember the people that died during the bombing in Boston, Massachusetts during the Boston Marathon. Please keep all the victims and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Shepherd participated in our first outdoor track meet on Wednesday April 17. It was very fun but long. We arrived at 2:15 p.m. but left at 6:45 p.m.!! My relay team with Genesis Glover, Jasmine Green, Denija Hudgens and myself came in 3rd place out of 8 teams! The boys team ran great for their first time also. Track is fun and you exercise a lot. Next year I will encourage all of you 4th and 5th graders to run track. (And you get to skip part of school) :-)

—London Downing, 4th Grader

GET GALA TICKETS NOW!

Going to the Gala? Save money by getting your tickets this month. Because once May 1 rolls around, they'll go up \$10. So buy tickets now at \$45 each. But if you want to be generous and pay \$55 apiece next month, we won't stop you.

You can also buy a table. Go in with your class. It takes just 10 to fill a table, and a table goes for \$450, reserved just for you and your group. Or go the deluxe route and get a table at \$750. Not only will you get a full-page photo of your child's classroom in the gala program book, but you'll be able to claim 20% of your ticket purchase as a tax deduction! Go the "Feria de Sevilla" webpage to find out how.



Dear Shepherd Family,

I am writing this the day before my birthday. (Yes, teachers have birthdays too.) By the time you read this that day will have passed. You all will think it's silly to say this but this will have been my last Shepherd-art-teaching birthday, in my favorite season, but bittersweet.

Nevertheless, spring is my favorite because it is the artist's playground. There are dozens of green colors out there. New grass is bursting through the old, trees are laced with new buds. Forsythia, cherry blossoms, and tulips abound. The skies always seem bluer in spring. It's no wonder that I love springtime so much! The tiniest shape of a flower can bring a smile to a child's face. My wish is that no matter how old you are, you allow one of those smiling children to be you.

The art room corridor has springy Paul Klee landscapes by our first graders. Wire animal sculptures hang on art room bulletin boards. This year pre-K, kindergarten, second- and third-graders have made colorful art



books related to their classroom curriculum. These are all on display in the art room. Come up and have a springtime peek. It will do your heart good!

Remember, you gotta have ART!

--Ms. Joelle Michaud, Art Teacher

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

PRINCIPAL from p. 1 _____

edition of the Mustang for more information.

Enrollment 2013-14

Please take a moment to complete your re-enrollment forms for next school year. All students must be re-enrolled if they will be attending a DCPS school in the fall. By now each family should have received an enrollment packet in the mail. If not, we have them in the main office and they can also be found online at www.dcps.dc.gov. Forms must be completed and returned by the person registering the student. Enrollment forms must be returned to the school where your child will be attending for the 2013-14 school year. Please do not send forms with students. When you arrive, please be prepared to verify you are a resident of the District by providing copies of any of the acceptable residency verification items listed in your enrollment packet. THE DEADLINE IS MAY 1. Beginning May 2, we will begin accepting students from the lottery waitlist.

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!

**COMMUNICATIONS INTERNS SOUGHT**

Shepherd parents: It's time to learn some of the critical ins and outs of how to communicate -- especially with your fellow parents.

The Shepherd PTA is offering several unpaid internships in the communications field:

- ▶ Marquee sign changer
- ▶ Mustang editor
- ▶ Mustang layout/design

These internships will put your pay scale at par with what other Shepherd parents are earning in these positions.

Learn now while parents actively in these jobs can guide you in what (and what not) to do.

To apply for a marquee sign changer internship, apply to:

Andrew Reece: areece@verizon.net

To apply for a Mustang editor internship, apply to:

Mark Pattison: pattison_mark@hotmail.com

To apply for a Mustang layout/design internship, apply to:

Yolonda Walden: yowalden@gmail.com

**Shepherd Elementary School**

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