

# Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

**Home of the Shepherd Mustangs** 

May 6, 2013

# A Word from Mrs. Miles!



Shepherd Family,

90% of Shepherd Students Will Be Reading At Or Above Grade Level By the End of the Year

Are you continuing to read with your student daily? Do you con-

tinually reflect and encourage your student to use their reading strategies? We are still pushing hard at Shepherd to meet our target and we need for you to do the same. Please make sure that your student is reading every night and has an opportunity to read, answer questions and discuss the book that they are reading.

## **Teacher Apperception Week (May 6-10)**

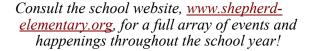
Monday begins Teacher Appreciation Week. Please take time this week to show Shepherd teachers how much they are appreciated. To make it easier, I have provided you with a list of little ways you can recognize your child's teachers. Please see page 5 to learn more about how we will be celebrating Shepherd teachers.

### **Student Registration/Reenrollment Forms**

To date we have received about 45 percent of our student reenrollment forms. Way to go, Shepherd! However, we still have 55 percent to go. If you have not completed your enrollment form or informed Ms. Brooks that your student will not be returning to Shepherd next year, please do so no later than Friday, May 10. As an incentive, any parent who completes their enrollment forms and give them to Ms. Brooks before noon on Friday will be eligible to participate in Parents Night Out. On this day (the exact date has not been determined) parents may leave their students at school until 9 p.m. We will feed your

(see PRINCIPAL, p. 10)

- Monday-Friday, May 6-10 and 13-17: Access to ELL exam
- ► Thursday, May 9: Gala Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ► <u>Tuesday, May 14:</u> LSAT meeting, 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 15: LSAT elections PTA meeting, 6:35 p.m.
- ► Thursday, May 16: Gala Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 18: Gala, "Feria de Sevilla," Wilson High School



# PTA MEETING MAY 15: CATANIA TO SPEAK, PTA ELECTIONS HELD



This will be an end-of-the-year PTA meeting you won't want to miss! Not only will we have our

last big push for the annual Gala at the May 15 PTA meeting, we'll also have David Catania, chairman of the Education Committee of the D.C. Council, speaking to us. After his remarks and a Q-and-A, we'll have nominations and elections for PTA officers for 2013-14, as well as results announced from the Local School Advisory Team elections that day.

Naturally, we'll have food and drink for both the adults and the children at the meeting. It starts at 6:35 p.m., so don't miss a minute of it. School starts on time ... and so do PTA meetings!

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL'S PTA MEETING

#### **Renovations**

School Improvement Team Chairman Mark Pattison and Vice Chairman Keith White, reported on plans for large-scale renovations at Shepherd, starting as soon as this school year ends. Work will begin this summer on some of the oldest classrooms and the installation of a new HVAC system. The air vents under the stage in the auditorium will no longer be needed and will make way for much-needed storage. The foyer area outside the auditorium/gym will be downsized to create more permanent storage.

This is just the beginning -- what we're calling "Phase 1-A" or the "comfort phase," White said. When school starts again in fall, work will continue on the basement level, which will be built out to result in a 25 percent increase in usable square footage. The new basement level will include a library, computer lab, and language rooms. The music room will be enlarged to twice its current size and each of the rooms will be built to take advantage of more natural light.

By the time the full project is complete, Shepherd will have a closed-in atrium, a true kitchen, a green roof and a parking garage. There will be a playground above the garage with a pliable surface -- not asphalt. The new school entrance will move to the corner of Kalmia and 14th, sitting at a diagonal and a walkway will be added to connect the two parts of the second floor. Conceptual renderings of the remodeled school can be seen in Principal Miles's office.

To prepare for summer construction, the school will be looking for parent help. The movers will do the actual moving; but parents can help teachers pack up supplies and equipment. Parents can help with "the big clean." Those interested in helping should talk with their child's teacher.

Initially, a budget of about \$5.2 million was allocated to Shepherd's renovation. We need about \$28 million to do everything we want and truly believe the school needs. We have convinced DCPS to allocate more; but we're still about \$9 million short. Parents are encouraged to talk to Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser; Councilmember David Catania, chair of the Education Committee; D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson and others to help them understand that the funds to modernize Shepherd will help it become the outstanding IB school that it has the potential to be.

## **Leadership Reports**

PTA President Alicia Anderson promoted the Earth Day events on Saturday, April 20— Beautification Day and the Bike Rodeo. She thanked Mark and Keith for their leadership on the SIT and reminded parents that "we made that happen." She thanked the parents who took leadership roles throughout the year for big events, such as Fall Fest and urged parents to get involved.

Principal Jamie Miles began by announcing, "If you didn't notice already, I'm expecting another little one." Mrs. Miles also thanked the SIT members for their hard work on the renovations. She then introduced our new long-term sub for Spanish, Ms. Giblin. She talked about the upcoming testing for second through fifth graders and asked parents help in making sure students were well fed, well rested, and in school when they needed to be.

Ms. Miles stressed the importance of turning in your student's registration for next year, no later than May 1. Don't wait for immunizations; you can submit those later; but you do need to prove residency at the time you register. Teachers are allocated based on registrations; the sooner she gets registrations, the sooner she can assign teachers to grades and students to classes.

(see **PTA** p. 3)

# THE SIT-UATION ROOM

After a busy April with two School Improvement Team meetings, a presentation at last month's PTA meeting, and two visits to committees of the D.C. Council to urge more money for Shepherd Phase 1 renovations and to comment on the performance of the District's Dept. of General Services, we can finally announce a date for a community meeting.

It's going to be Tuesday, June 11, starting at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium. You can expect to see members of Shepherd's School Improvement Team there, as well as representatives of the architects (Lance Bailey & Associates), the contractor (Turner Construction) and the city (the Dept. of General Services). You'll be able to see architectural renderings of what will happen this year and next to increase Shepherd's size without increasing its footprint appreciably. There will also be time for questions and answers.

But there's no sense waiting for June 11. If you have questions now, better to call me at 202-829-9289, or to email me at <a href="Pattison\_mark@hotmail.com">Pattison\_mark@hotmail.com</a>. The questions you ask NOW will help us all determine how to best prepare our presentation at the community to answer questions before they need to be asked.

You'll also see some trucks on occasion between now and the end of the school year as crews work to remove dirt and debris from underneath the original school building, built in 1931. This will result in the enclosed "tot lot" being unavailable for use with the start of for the duration of Phase 1 construction. Crews will do their best to avoid noise and disruption during the school day After the last day of school, though, you'll see more trucks as the pace of excavation picks up.

-- Mark Pattison, SIT chair

tudents
will start
raising
money this
week in the Jump
Rope for Heart
fundraiser to benefit



the American Heart Association. And now's a good time for young jump-roping fundraisers to get into practice, because the Jump Rope for Heart event at Shepherd will happen the first week of June!

**PTA** from p. 2\_\_\_\_\_

### Feria de Sevilla

Shepherd's annual Gala and Auction will be May 18 at Wilson High School. Teachers and staff are invited at no cost. Parents are encouraged to buy tickets and register online through a link on the homepage of Shepherd's website, <a href="https://www.shepherd-elementary.org">www.shepherd-elementary.org</a>

What we need from parents: To register and purchase tickets to attend. To consider buying a ticket for teachers' spouses/guests. The donation of auction items or help in soliciting donations. Think about businesses that you frequent -- stores, restaurants, repair shops -- could you ask for a donation?

This is the one event each year where adults get together to celebrate Shepherd, without the students. The Gala will serve alcoholic beverages and, therefore, is an adult-only event. Bring your friends. We'll be looking for volunteers to help the day of the auction and we'll have specific duties that you can sign up for. We especially need "heavy lifters" for set up and tear down. And we need Flamenco dancers!

--Laura Levine, PTA Recording Secretary

# Auction Time Is Here!

Parents are reserving their tickets
— and, in some cases, even entire tables — for next week's big Gala, "Feria de Sevilla," to be held at Wilson High School on Saturday, May 18, 6-10 p.m. Tickets are now \$55. Get yours now before they run out!

You may have seen in your child's backpack last week an advertising form. (We've also republished it in this issue of the Mustang.) You should buy an or two for your favorite teacher, or student, or parent or cause, or business. It's a great way to show love and support, and to further the cause of the PTA. Submit the text and any ideas you have for graphics. Our extremely talented Art Department can make your words sing with colors, art and images. Just get your ad requests in by this Thursday, May 9. Put the ad form and the check that pays for it in the PTA mailbox in the office. The Gala Committee will scoop them up and get them in the program.

We're always looking for cool items to be auctioned off as part of the Gala. The Gala features both silent auctions and live auctions, plus the ever-popular Mystery Boxes where you get something guaranteed for the price you pay (at least as good as what Wayne Brady gives during "Let's Make a Deal"!). The Gala website leads you to a donation form. Be bold. Be brassy. Be ingenious. Be unique. Whatever you want to be, don't be timid. You may have a great gift or talent to contribute to the auction. All you have to do is say yes — and fill out that form! Please do it by this Thursday, May 9, though, OK?

Last call for sponsors! You can be a Platinum Sponsor for \$2,500, a Gold Sponsor for \$1,000 or a Silver Sponsor for \$500. Each level of sponsorship carries with it some mad perks. Go to the school website, <a href="https://www.shepherd-elementary.org">www.shepherd-elementary.org</a>,



The school's June 7 concert will feature more than 25 violinists, 12 guitarists, and six recorder players. Our more advanced instrumentalists will perform a medley of civil rights songs, including "We Shall Not Be Moved," "Oh Freedom" and "We Shall Overcome." We welcome two of our fourth-grade teachers, Ms. Charles and Ms. Miranda-Mulligan, who will play violin with students. Our first-grade beginner violinists will play Suzuki's rhythm variations on "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Then Mr. Velez and Mr. Thornton will lead the R&B band "BWL" in a concert of popular songs. The June 7 concert begins promptly at 6:45 pm.

The D.C. Youth Orchestra is now accepting registrations for the summer session, July 9-Aug. 2. Instrumental classes (including beginner and intermediate violin and most other instruments) will be held at Eastern High School, 1700 East Capitol St. NE, near RFK Stadium at the eastern edge of Capitol Hill. Classes will be in the evening (5:30 or 6:30 p.m.) so students can go to camp or some other activity during the day. You can register online at www.dcyop.org.

click underneath our Feria de Sevilla flamenco couple, and see for yourself what the perks are. If you get your sponsorship in by this Thursday, your name will be in the program, and you'll be the pride of parenthood!







Silver

Gold

Platinum

# **Teacher Appreciation Week—May 6-10**

YOUR help is needed to make Teacher Appreciation Week special for our teachers here at Shepherd.

We're looking for at least 10 parents to volunteer for a couple of hours on Thursday, May 9 (11:30

a.m. - 1 p.m.) to monitor students during lunch and recess (jobs usually handled by teachers on a rotating basis.) This will ensure that all Shepherd faculty will be able to attend an appreciation luncheon that day. If you're a parent or guardian;



you pretty much have the skills and experience we need! Please volunteer as soon as possible by contacting Principal Miles at jamie.miles@dc.gov.

Another way you can help is by donating a dessert for the teacher appreciation lunch. Homemade or store bought... it's up to you. Please contact the main office to confirm that you'll be donating a dessert. Please let us know what the dessert is and how many it will serve. You may deliver your dessert on Thursday morning when you bring your child to school. Please deliver it to the main office.

Suggested ways to recognize teachers and staff are below.

- Monday: Flowers
- Tuesday: Healthy Snacks
- Wednesday: The "Specials" (Music, Art, Languages, P.E., Special Ed, IB, Counselors and others)
- Thursday: Create a Craft
- Friday: Hug, High Five, and Thank You!



**Next Issue** 

May 20

Deadline for Next Issue!

Friday, May 17, at 5 p.m.

Send items to

sesmustang@gmail.com

# It's Back to Ledo Pizza **For Family Dinner Night**

Our next Family Dinner Night of the school vear will be a new visit to Ledo Pizza on Georgia Avenue. Ledo has been a big supporter of the Shepherd Park neighborhood over the years, and Shepherd Elementary in



particular. For the past several years, Ledo Pizza has been a Gold Sponsor of our annual Gala, and this year is no different. They also contribute cleaned cans of tomato sauce so that Shepherd students can make djembe drums in music class.

We had a Family Dinner Night at Ledo Pizza on Veterans Day -- not a school day -- and we still

reaped \$400 thanks to you, Shepherd families. But on Tuesday, May 21, with a successful Gala under our belt and



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a successful school year nearing a close, we can return to Ledo satisfied. And hungry!

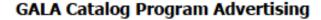
We'll get 20 percent back from our pre-tax tab. All you have to do is say, "I'm with Shepherd!" Hours of the Family Dinner Night promotion are 4-10 p.m. And you can choose to dine in or order carry-out by calling 202-726-5336.

Let's pack the place!

# **ISAT Meeting May 14**

The Local School Advisory Team of Shepherd Elementary will meet Tuesday, May 14, at 4 p.m. at the school. Parents are welcome to attend. If confidential matters should arise, nonmembers will have to leave.

To learn more about the LSAT and its work, go to <a href="http://www.shepherd-">http://www.shepherd-</a> elementary.org/parents/school-advisoryboard/.





- Congratulate Your Children on a Great Year at Shepherd
- Honor Shepherd Teachers and Staff
- Let other Parents know about a Business or Service

## Catalog Advertising Request Form

|  | Sponsor / Official Name<br>hould appear on all materials) |      |                                    |
|--|---|------|------------------------------------|
|  | Contact Name:   |      |                                    |
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|  |   |      |                                    |
|  |   |      |                                    |
|  | Email Address:  |      |                                    |
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| Catalog Advertisement Requested (Amounts not tax deductible):  |   |      |                                    |
|  | Full Page, Color (\$150)                                  |      | Full Page, Black & White (\$125)   |
|  | Half Page, Color(\$100)                                   |      | Half Page, Black & White (\$75)    |
|  | Quarter Page, Color (\$7                                  | 5) 🗆 | Quarter Page, Black & White (\$50) |
| The Gala Catalog is 5.5"x8.5".   |   |      |                                    |
| Payment Information (for credit card payments, please go to the Gala page at <a href="www.shepherd-elementary@maestroweb.com">www.shepherd-elementary@maestroweb.com</a> )  Check Enclosed - Payable to "Shepherd Elementary School PTA" |   |      |                                    |
| 2 Greek District Payable to Stephen Centertary School Fin  |   |      |                                    |

#### **Guidelines/Directions:**

- For catalog advertisements, camera-ready copy should be submitted that can be manipulated using standard word processing tools. Email digital images in applicable format to <u>shepherd-elementary@maestroweb.com</u>
- Payment and all submissions must be received by Monday, May 6, 2013 to be included in the
  Auction Catalog and any other Gala signage and materials. Sponsorships and logos received
  before then will be acknowledged on our website (with logos and links) as they are received.
  Therefore, it is beneficial to submit sponsorship payments with logos and website information
  early to maximize exposure. Logos, if applicable, may be uploaded through our Gala website or
  e-mailed to shepherd-elementary@maestroweb.com.
- All information and any questions should be submitted through our website, by e-mail to shepherd-elementary@maestroweb.com or by mail to:

Shepherd Elementary PTA – Gala Sponsorship/Advertising 7800 14<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20012

Please retain a copy of all materials submitted for your records.

Deadline extended to Thursday, May 9!



Hopefully, everyone had an opportunity to eat something from the Mexican culture this past weekend. On Sunday, May 5, Cinco de Mayo was observed by many in Mexico and throughout the United States. Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of the Mexican army's victory over France in 1862 at the Battle of Puebla. In the United States, May 5 has evolved over the years into a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with a large population of Mexican-Americans. The celebration includes traditional Mexican foods like tacos and mole poblano, parades, mariachi music performances and street festivals. Happy Cinco de Mayo!

#### Fifth Grade Exhibition

The Exhibition is an important part of Primary Years students' journey in the Primary Years Programme. In the final year or the programme, students must undertake a collaborative inquiry that involves them identifying, investigating and offering solutions (action) to real-life issues or problems. The Exhibition offers students the opportunity to demonstrate independence and responsibility for their own learning.

Our Fifth Grade Exhibition is approaching and our fifth graders have been working productively on their Exhibition Projects. Parents, please mark your calendars for the Fifth Grade Exhibition which will take place on May 30.

#### **Program of Inquiry**

This week, we begin our last Unit of Inquiry-Unit 6 which will continue through June 7. The Inquiry for each grade level is as follows:

- Pre-Kindergarten: Sharing the Planet Staying Alive
- Kindergarten: How We Express Ourselves Visually Speaking
- First Grade: How We Organize Ourselves Marketplace
- Second Grade: How We Organize Ourselves Full of Energy
- Third Grade: How We Express Ourselves Creativity – Pass it On!

- Fourth Grade: Who We Are The Story of Us
- Fifth Grade: Who We Are What a Character?

#### **The Learner Profile**

The month of May is the time to demonstrate how well we can communicate. A Communicator understands and expresses ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language. A communicator uses different modes of communication and collaborates with others on a daily basis.

Listening, speaking, reading, writing and nonverbal cues are all ways of communication. How to become a better communicator?

- Practice attentive listening
- Speak clearly at all times
- Read a variety of materials
- Write about things you observe on a daily basis
- Be conscious of facial gestures and visual cues

Have a great week!

-- Ms. Sandra Hart, IB Coordinator

# TOILETRIES DRIVE A SUCCESS

Because of your selfless contributions, Ms. McKenzie was able to deliver approximately 500-plus toiletry items to DASH, the District Alliance for Safe Housing.

Our school counselor, Ms. Liggins, was instrumental in

locating a shelter which matched our criteria. We were in search of a local shelter, situated in D.C. proper, that housed women and children on a permanent to semipermanent basis. Home-



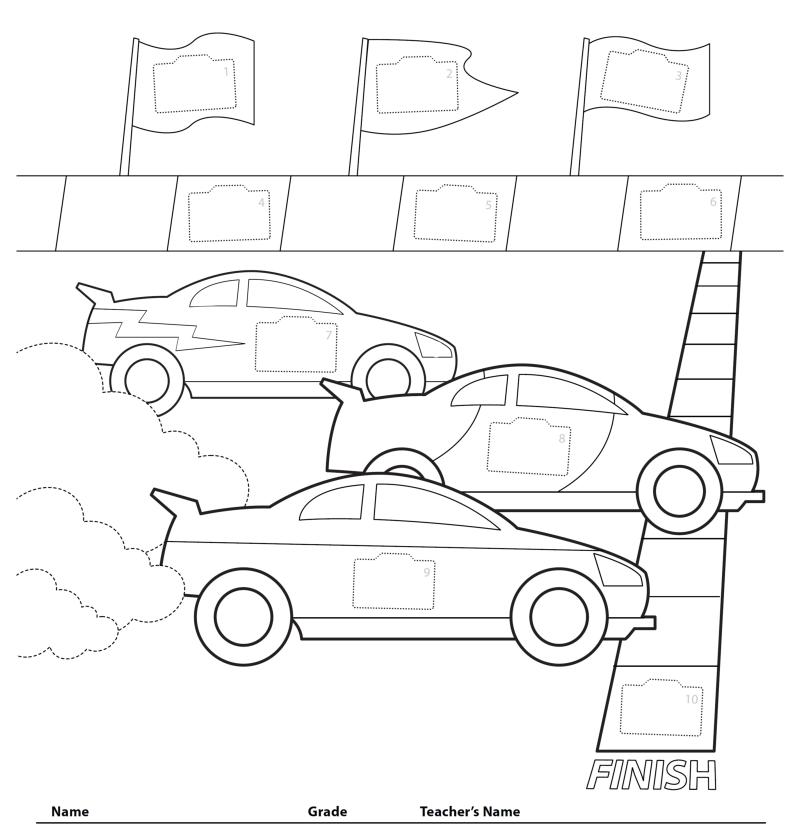
less families at the Northeast location received a trunk load of items donated by YOU!

What a difference a community can make. Let's aim for further success next year so that the far reaching tentacles of the Shepherd community are felt citywide during our 2nd annual toiletry drive. So if your summer travel plans include a hotel stay, scoop up all those shampoos, lotions and soap bars. Always consider others!

--Ms. Evelyn McKenzie, third-grade teacher



It's a race! Fill this sheet with Box Tops and be the first to cross the finish line.



Thank you for helping! Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school. For more collection worksheets and projects, go to www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter

# **Star Achievers News**

Here are some Star Achievers before- and aftercare upcoming events!



- Thursday, May 9: The Children's Arts and Literacy Program for some fourth and fifth graders
- <u>Friday, May 10:</u> Imagination Stage classes,
   4-5 p.m., for kindergartners and first-graders
- <u>Tuesday, May 14:</u> Jali-D, educational rapper and musician extraordinaire, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- <u>Friday, May 17:</u> Imagination Stage classes,
   4-5 p.m., for pre-K and kindergarten
- Wednesday, May 22: Dance Recital, 4-5 p.m., for all grades

Stay tuned for more events and classes to be scheduled in the future.

If you have any questions or suggestions for Star Achievers please email sesstarachievers@gmail.com.

-- Ms. Claire Riley, program director



**SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013** 

WILSON HIGH SCHOOL ATRIUM ~ 6—10 P.M.

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

COCKTAILS ~ DINING ~ ENTERTAINMENT ~ SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS ~



Dear Shepherd Family,

This I strongly urge you to do: Go to the website <a href="http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art">http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art</a> to take a look at the Gallery and the Art Peeks section. There you can view exactly what we've been doing in the art room in the last few weeks.

I wrote the last column just before my birthday. This week my birthday is relevant because Ms. Pethtel's kindergartners are on this site in the Gallery section showing the observational still lifes they drew of flow-

ers which were a birthday gift to me. They did a terrific job! Also by scrolling down in the Gallery you can see Miss Mulligan's fourth-graders showing off their watercolor self-portraits. Interestingly they painted in their skin on these without using the color brown! Ask them about how they used complementary col-



ors to create natural skin tones.

In the Art Peeks section you can see Ms. Gibbs' class with drawings of themselves waving hello. The Gems learned a whole new way to create the human figure in this lesson. Further down in Art Peeks you can see Ms. Ulba's second-graders illustrating scenes from Cinderella. Ask any second-grader what an illustrator does and why, and they should be able to tell you. The last feature of Art Peeks shows Mr. Leonard's fifthgrade students presenting their preliminary drawings for their upcoming Exhibition, their IB year-end project. Look closely to see the cellphone costumes they have designed! They rock!

Make sure to go to these sections to view what we do in art! It will do your heart good!

Remember, you gotta have ART!

--MS. Joele Michaud, Art Teacher <a href="http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art">http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art</a>

# PRINCIPAL from p. 1\_\_\_\_\_

student and entertain your student while you take a few hours to do whatever it is that parents like to do while their children are away. Remember: As part of your registration, you must verify that you are a resident of the District. In your registration packet there is a complete list of acceptable documentation; if you choose to verify residency using a bill, you must include a receipt. If you pay your bills online, please bring a printed copy of the confirmation page that appears once the payment is submitted.

## **Appropriate Dress**

As a reminder, please make sure that your student is dressed appropriately for school each day. This includes navy bottoms, a white shirt and safe shoes. Please take time to make sure that your student's shorts and skirts are not too short and their pants are not too tight. Remember: Leggings worn alone, spaghetti-strap T-shirts and T-shirts designed to be worn under clothing are not appropriate school attire. Thank you for your attentiveness.

## **Cell Phone Policy Reminder**

Student use of a cell phone during the day is prohibited. Cell phones must be turned off prior to students entering the building at arrival and may be turned on again after dismissal. If a student is caught using their cell phone during the day, the phone will be taken and turned in to the main office. For a first offense, the cell phone will be kept until the end of day and may be picked up by the student. For all additional offenses, the cell phone will be kept for two days and will only be returned to a parent or guardian. If your student needs to contact you during the day or if you need to reach them, the office phone is available.

#### **Allergy Season and the Use of Medication**

Spring is here and has brought with it a lot of pollen resulting in seasonal allergies. If your child suffers with seasonal allergies, please make sure to administer allergy medications in a timely manner to prevent symptoms from worsening. You are welcome to bring in medication, including eye drops, and leave them with the nurse in the health suite. Students may not self-administer. All medications must be brought to the health suite and parents must complete a medication authorization form. We are not allowed to administer medication or oversee the

administration of medication until a medication authorization form is complete.

#### The End is Near: It Is Not Here

The end of the school year is getting closer day by day. However, school is in session and will continue to be in session until June 21 at 12:15 p.m. While we have a lot of special activities planned for our students (i.e. field day, talent show, spirit week, field trips, end-of-year programs, games day, awards day, fifth-grade exhibition, graduation) there is still a lot of teaching and a lot of learning to be done. Therefore, please be mindful of this when you are scheduling appointments, planning vacations and arriving late or early to school.

## A Double Dose of Patience and Triple Reminders From Home

In a recent newsletter to staff, I reminded them that we often see changes in students' behaviors. Therefore, I asked them to be extra patient, and to increase their supervision of students. As parents, I am also asking you to be patient and I am asking you to take a moment to remind your student of our school expectations. This time of year students get a little restless, they are often easily irritated and they get very distracted. However, we are confident with all us working together we can end our year on a positive note.

Have a great week!

Jamie B. Miles
Principal

# Shepherd Elementary School

7800 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012 Office Telephone: 202-576-6140 Office Fax: 202-576-7578

Jamie Miles, Principal – jamie.miles@dc.gov Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant – robyna.brooks@dc.gov Alicia Anderson, PTA President

The Mustang Newsletter Editor: Mark Pattison
Layout/Design: Yolonda Walden
Production/Distribution: Angela Anderson
Student Contributors: Colyar Trimble and
London Downing

Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to: SESmustang@gmail.com