



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

May 20, 2013

A Word from Mrs. Miles!



Greetings Everyone!

Reading Update

We have just entered our End of Year (EOY) DIBELS and TRC assessment cycle. At the Middle of Year (MOY) we were at 79%.

Our goal is 90%. If 90% of our students are at 90% by the end of the year, Principal Miles will be preparing herself to get made into a giant ice cream sundae. I can't wait! I have my cap, goggles, and raincoat waiting. I will be sure to let you know when we reach our goal!! Keep reading.

Parent Night Out

For those of you who met the registration deadline, Parent Night Out is scheduled for Friday, June 14. A separate communication will be sent to those families who are eligible to participate.

Registration

Thus far, we have met all of our district enrollment benchmarks. Way to go, Shepherd! However, we still have a ways to go. If you have not registered or informed Ms. Brooks that you will not be returning next year, please do so no later than the end of this week. Families who register between May 20 and May 24 will be place-eligible to participate in a Toys R Us gift card giveaway. Four lucky winners will be selected at random to win \$25 Toys R Us gift cards. Remember, you must come into the school and verify residency. Medical forms are not due immediately and can be turned in anytime before the first day of school.

Renovations Are Underway

It is an exciting time at Shepherd as we watch the Phase 1a modernization get underway. If you have not noticed, our tot lot located next to the library is gone. However, at some point our youngest learners

(see PRINCIPAL, p. 10)

► **Monday, May 20-Friday, May 31:**

Access to ELL exams given

► **Tuesday, May 21:** Family Dinner

Night, Ledo Pizza, 7435 Georgia Ave. NW, 4-10 p.m.

► **Friday, May 24:** Cultural Arts Night,

auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

► **Monday, May 27:** Memorial Day, no school

► **Wednesday, May 29:** School Improvement Team

meeting, 5 p.m., library

► **Thursday, May 30:** Fifth Grade Exhibition

► **Friday, May 31:** Field Day (rain date June 14)

► **Friday, June 7:** BWL & Strings concert, 6:45 p.m.

► **Monday-Friday, June 10-14:** Spirit Week

Consult the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org, for a full array of events and happenings throughout the school year!



GALA REPORT

Here's a preliminary tally on proceeds from Saturday night's Gala and auction:

\$8 JILLION

Just kidding. We hope to have a clearer picture in time for the next newsletter.



PTA MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The big draw at last week's PTA meeting, was At-Large D.C. Councilmember David Catania, chairman of the Council's reconstituted Education Committee.

Catania answered questions following small-group discussion by parents and focusing on renovations, specialty programs like International Baccalaureate, and boundary redrawing.

Parents at one table noted that D.C. Public Schools touts IB and other programs as hallmarks within the school system, but doesn't give any extra money to fund those programs, leading to cuts elsewhere and threatening the very purpose behind those programs.

Catania responded that he is trying to develop a "weight" system in which a little extra money beyond the typical D.C. per-pupil formula would be given for a variety of different considerations. Academic programs like IB would benefit from one such weight. So would poverty, expressed by whether the pupil is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.

On boundary redrawing work currently being done by a DCPS task force, Catania said he has recommended that any new feeder patterns don't take effect until 2015. Further, he issued his doubts that removing Shepherd and Barnard elementary schools from the feeder pattern to Deal Middle School would "survive the Department of Justice problem," meaning the

resegregation of minority groups in a majority-minority school district. Shepherd's population is majority-African American, while Barnard's is majority-Hispanic.

The touchy topic of renovations got a good going-over, as Catania said Shepherd was slated to receive only \$8.4 million in the current fiscal year ending Sept. 30 for Phase 1 renovations. He apparently misspoke. The D.C. Department of General Services, in tracking the budget line items for school renovations, said Shepherd should receive the \$8.4 million in addition to the \$5.295 million previously allocated.

The meeting was held in the cafeteria, which isn't slated to get its renovations until at least 2018. By holding the meeting there, Catania and his aide, Jamaal Jordan, were able to walk through the school and see for themselves the condition of the building, the newest part of which is 43 years old and hasn't seen any systematic renovation since that wing of the school was added in 1970.

Catania touched on the "go west" phenomenon as parents seeking better schools for their children head west, and often west of Rock Creek Park, to find a suitable school. "It's not helping the high schools either," he added, as capacity at Ward 4's Coolidge and Roosevelt high schools have sunk to 41-42 percent, while other high schools hover in the 50s. DCPS is spending \$8.5 million to expand Deal Middle School even more while Hardy Middle School in Ward 2 "has 250 empty seats and 60 percent enrollment."

He also criticized the DCPS budget process. "'Opaque' does not even begin to describe it," Catania said. School personnel should be able to track where each dollar goes "from the time it enters the system to the time it gets to the student," he added, noting that 35 cents of each dollar spent is retained by DCPS administration.

--Mark Pattison

Field Day Is May 31

Shepherd's annual Field Day is Friday, May 31 (rain date Friday, June 14).



The teachers and staff will need parent volunteers to monitor students during this event. If you can help, email Mr. Burgess at jarrett.burgess@gmail.com.

THE SIT-UATION ROOM

For those who were at the PTA meeting Wednesday, we heard D.C. At-Large Councilmember David Catania say that the supplemental fiscal year 2013 budget for Shepherd was not going to be increased to \$10.1 million as we had expected, but only to \$8.4 million.

This was bad news, and set off several unhappy questions directed at Catania, who is chair of the Education Committee. It also set off a series of emails to the District's Department of General Services, plus contractor Turner Construction and architect Lance Bailey Associates, wondering if work was going to have to be delayed to later in Phase 1, deferred to Phase 2, skipped altogether, or done with cheaper materials and processes.

The answer: Catania apparently misspoke. The \$8.4 million is not the new final FY 2013 supplemental budget figure, but is IN ADDITION TO the original \$5.295 million in the original budget, making for a total of \$13.7 million. There is no change in the FY 2014 Phase 1 budget allocation of \$6.678 million, but when put together, the \$20.5 million to be voted on Wednesday by the full Council is more than the \$20.1 million our recent petition campaign and D.C. Council testimony had asked for (\$10.1 million for 2013, and at least \$10 million for 2014).

We should all closely monitor the situation, even to the point of watching the government access channel on cable. This is serious money we're talking about, and we have come too far and worked too hard to be insulted budget-wise.

The School Improvement Team has one more meeting left, on Wednesday, May 29, at 5 p.m. in the school library. At this meeting we expect to be able to dot our I's and cross our T's when it comes to preparing for the big community meeting on June 11 -- to which you are invited. The meeting begins at 6 p.m., and should take an hour or so.

You may have noticed that the patio north of the library has been fenced off so that more digging

work can be done in the basement. By the time winter break comes around in the NEXT school year, we should be able to call it the "ground floor." Workers are already at it. When I was doing some playground duty during the Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon, we had to shoo some students from one section of the playground so that a pickup truck could get to the service drive safely. The students were champs about it and could return to their play in two minutes.

For now, most work is being done on evenings and weekends, and disruptions like the one I've described are rare. But when school lets out for summer vacation, workers will descend upon Shepherd in earnest. It's part of a renovation plan that will stretch across this summer and the following school year and take up all of next summer, too -- with more work likely in 2018. If you have questions in advance of the SIT meeting or the community meeting, feel free to contact me at 202-829-9289 or Pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

--Mark Pattison, School Improvement Team chair

WHERE DOES YOUR CELLPHONE GO TO DIE?

According to an article in the New York Times, Americans change their cellphones every 22 months. And only 11 percent of them get recycled.

Shepherd Elementary is a cellphone recycling spot. Bring your old cellphone to the office for recycling -- and your used toner cartridges, too -- and Shepherd gets a rebate. Bring them in now, before renovations get underway in earnest once school ends. We need a batch of 10 to send at one time. And we'll get \$2 for every phone we turn in -- maybe more, depending on what features and technology it contains.



Help Planet Earth, and our school, too!

(To read the awful truth about cellphones in America, go to:

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/05/opinion/sunday/where-do-old-cellphones-go-to-die.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130505)



Hello, Shepherd Mustangs. This is London Downing. On Tuesday, May 13, our track team went to the East-West Championship track meet. The track meet was held at Spingarn High School. We ran a lot and it was scorching hot. We placed in several events. The girls won third place in the 4x100 relay event. Jasmine Green and I both ran in separate heats in the 400-meter dash and both got first place! (That was a full lap around!) Margaret Goletiani took home a third-place medal in the 400-meter dash as well. Genesis Glover placed third in the 100-meter dash. Jasmine Green also placed first in the 100-meter dash.



The boys did a great job, too, and brought Shepherd some medals home as well. A shout-out to my brother, Lyndon Downing, who came in third place in the 400-meter dash, and Emperor Campbell who won first place in the shot-put event. I would just like to thank Mr. Thornton for helping us stretch correctly, run faster, and help us win medals and have fun. It was really fun running track. I am happy the season ended because we had to run too much. I am also sad it ended because I liked running at track meets with my friends.

Oh, and Mustangs, it's almost SUMMER, that means the end of the school year, yay! Summer is near but it is not here, so we must stay focused for a little longer.

--London Downing, fourth-grader



Here are a few items of unfinished business in music education:

1. We need to remember Paul Robeson. He's still not mentioned in the DCPS music textbooks, so we have to use other resources to learn about Robeson. He was an important musician, civil rights activist, and peace activist.



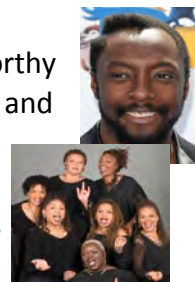
2. Speaking of musicians from the past century, we need to remember D.C.'s own Duke Ellington, along with Leadbelly, Odetta, Chuck Berry, the Freedom Singers, Marian Anderson, Ray Charles, Marvin Gaye, Bob Marley, Michael Jackson, Pete Seeger, and others. Our history and our music are intertwined.



3. If there's one form of music that we all should know, it's the "blues." Most of our modern music is based on the blues. The great blues performer Willie Dixon said, "The blues is the roots, everything else is the fruits."



4. Many songs have promoted worthy causes, such as civil rights, peace, and environmentalism. Have we achieved those goals? I think we have to keep singing. Fortunately, there are contemporary songwriters (such as Will.I.Am and D.C.'s "Sweet Honey in the Rock") who are writing very thoughtful songs.



LSAT Update

The Local School Advisory Team at Shepherd will, like the PTA, undergo its own leadership transition from one year to the next. But a look back at the 2012-13 school year at Shepherd during the May 14 LSAT meeting reminds one of that old Frank Sinatra song: "It was a very good year."

LSAT members or the LSAT itself were either behind or a contributing factor to the establishment of the Safety Patrol, the continuation of the TV/Video Game Turnoff Club, the Get Caught Reading campaign, finding volunteer librarians, community engagement with the Shepherd Park Citizens Association, last month's combined beautification day and bike rodeo in honor of Earth Day, urging budget justice for Shepherd in the upcoming school year, and supporting a variety of academic endeavors such as the school-wide Science Fair, the GeoPlunge teams, STEM Night with Mad Science, and the Spelling Bee.

And we're not done yet! The free-for-all Cultural Arts Night program on Friday, May 24, is an LSAT-conceived event. We're still working on ways to indicate student progress at Shepherd with colorful graphics. There is the continuous quest to bring greater safety to students (and civility among parents) in the whole drop-off and pickup process on school days. And next year maybe it will be necessary to convene a "Posse of PTAs" or a "League of LSATs" so that parent groups throughout the District can work in concert to bring a greater degree of fairness in how DCPS HQ governs our schools.

The next (and last) LSAT meeting of the school year will take place Tuesday, June 18, at 4 p.m. in the school library. Current and incoming LSAT members from all facets of school life will be there. You can be, too. All parents are welcome; it's only if confidential matters arise that you'd be asked to step out of the room.

Family Dinner Night Returns to Ledo!

Let's celebrate our school and our neighborhood -- especially our successes in academics and school support. Shepherd has the best DC CAS scores of any elementary school in the DCPS system with a majority-African American population. And our Gala annually raises tens of thousands of dollars to support the educational program at Shepherd that helps make those test scores possible.



So on Tuesday, after you've picked up your children from Shepherd, make your way to Ledo Pizza on Georgia Avenue for some of their terrific pizza, pasta, salads, sandwiches and more. Ledo has been a community supporter of Shepherd Elementary for a long time. Now we can return the favor, and do right by our school as a bonus.



Because if you say "I'm with Shepherd!", Ledo will give the PTA 20 percent of your pre-tax tab. And if you find Ledo too crowded with Shepherd families, then you can always take home your order. The PTA rebate applies to both dine-in and carry-out orders. The Ledo phone number is 202-726-5336.

Remember the date: **Tuesday, May 21.** Hours are 4-10 p.m. Go once, and go again. School and neighborhood families are incredibly brand-loyal to Ledo Pizza, and the owners live in the neighborhood, too. Who could ask for more?



**Next Issue
June 3**

Deadline for Next Issue!

**Friday, May 31, at
5 p.m.**

Send items to
sesmustang@gmail.com

T-Shirt Design Contest for Students in Grades 3-5

The Shepherd Park Citizens association is sponsoring a T-shirt design contest for students in grades 3-5. The design must follow the theme "A Garden of Diversity." You can have designs for both the front and the back of the T-shirt.

THE RULES:

- ▶ Entries must be original work
- ▶ The theme must appear on the design
- ▶ The size of the design must be 9 inches by 12 inches
- ▶ Entrants may use crayon, acrylic, watercolor, poster paint, mixed media, pen and ink, or original computer graphics
- ▶ The design may be on 2-D paper or media, on a CD or DVD, or a PDF or JPEG file



The due date is **Thursday, May 30.**

There are separate competitions for students in grades 6-8, grades 9-12, and adults.

Mail entries to **SPCA, PO Box 55255, Washington, DC 20050-5255.**

The grand prize is \$100. There will be certificates for the first-, second- and third-place winners in each age group. Entries will be judged on originality, creativity, design and visual expression of the theme, and the judges' decision will be final. Winners will be announced after June 7, and the winning design will be reproduced on T-shirts and be available at the SPCA Picnic on Sunday, June 23.

[For more information](#), call Paula Sanderlin Dorosti at 202-291-4123 or sandorosti@gmail.com.

Students have started raising money for 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!



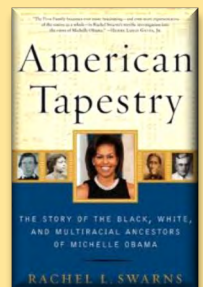
Ex-Shepherd Parent Talks June 1 At Library on Michelle Obama Book

Rachel Swarns, a former Shepherd parent, will be the featured speaker at an after-hours open house Saturday, June 1, at the Shepherd Park Library, 7420 Georgia Ave. NW.



Swarns, a writer in the Washington bureau of the New York Times, will talk about her widely acclaimed book, "American Tapestry: The Story of the Black, White and Multiracial Ancestors of Michelle Obama," which chronicles the first lady's family saga.

The after-hours open house runs from 6 to 8 p.m. There will be wine, cheese, snacks and other beverages. The library's used book room will also be open.



The event is free. But attendees are encouraged to join the Friends of the Library so it can sponsor more events like this. For details call the library at 202-541-6100.

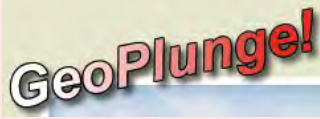
PARKING SCOFFLAWS BEWARE!

You have been identified and you will be ticketed. After the same parents have repeatedly ignored D.C. traffic and parking regulations, we have contacted Parking Enforcement to monitor activity at Shepherd during the morning dropoff and the afternoon pickup. If you get a ticket, don't say we didn't warn you. It's better to set a good example for other motorists and our own children. But if you choose to persist, it turns out the District is getting more revenue from tickets than expected, and some of that surplus is being diverted to fund summer school in the city!



Shepherd Students Compete at GeoPlunge Spring Tournament

Third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students will compete once again on their knowledge of U.S. geography at the Spring GeoPlunge tournament on Tuesday, May 21.



Members of the three teams include London Downing, Lyndon Downing, Margaret Goletiani, Yoyo Kebede, Keshav Mehta-Harwitz, Leela Mehta-Harwitz, Nicole Spriggs, Godloves Tata, Colyar Trimble and Savannah Waymer. The teams have been coming to school early to practice with each other so they could build their teamwork skills and strategize. Good luck! We're proud of you!

SchoolKidz Ordering Deadline May 31

The deadline to order your child's 2013-14 school supplies is fast approaching!

Paper order forms (sent home in early April) and payments are due Friday, May 31, to the PTA mailbox in the front office.



Online orders will be accepted through Friday, June 14. 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 your 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?! This is not a fundraiser, just a perk! All savings from the bulk order have been passed along to Shepherd families. If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Trimble, Shepherd's Schoolkidz coordinator, at kctrimble@mac.com.



Shepherd IB PYP Corner

Please join us!

5TH GRADE EXHIBITION 2013

Presents

How We Express Ourselves

Thursday, May 30

1:30- 3:30 PM

Shepherd ES Auditorium

Freedom of Expression, Youth Violence, Human Rights, and Technology

Drama Performance followed by Q&A's

Interview 5th Grade Researchers:

- ◆ Ask questions
- ◆ Evaluate projects using a "rubric" (forms supplied)
- ◆ Comment on projects you review
- ◆ Reflect on your experience

--*Ms. Sandra Hart*, IB Coordinator

THE MUSTANG

SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY

Local School Advisory Team Presents

Cultural Arts Night



Enjoy an evening of local talent including poets, musicians & spoken word artists.

Join us on Friday May 24th, 2013, 6:30 - 8 pm

Shepherd Elementary Auditorium, 7800 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20012

Featured artists include: Loretta Neuman, Baba RasD, Carolivia Herroon, Brian Gray and MORE!

Contact: Kesha Pendergrast - skeeme08@aol.com

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT



Ledo Pizza

7435 Georgia Ave, NW
(next to McDonald's
between Geranium and Hemlock Streets)

**Tuesday, May 21
4-10 p.m.**

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

Check out their new menu items!
www.ledopizza.com/menu.cfm



Good for Dine-In and Carryout (PH: 202-726-5336) www.ledopizza.com/menu.cfm

Star Achievers Announcement: So They Think They Can Dance!

Ms. Johnson the Aftercare Dance Teacher will hold a recital of all aftercare students 4-5 p.m. next Wednesday, May 22, in the auditorium. Parents are invited to watch students perform their dance routines!



Please have your student wear black and white (they may change clothes after snack).

If you are unable to make the performance, there will be photos and video you may purchase from a photographer who will accompany Ms. Johnson.

Please email sesstarachievers@gmail.com with questions and look for a detailed flyer next week.

--Ms. Claire Riley, program director

Cultural Arts Night: It's Friday, and Free!

Looking for a great event to kick off the Memorial Day weekend to share with family and friends? Worried about the dreadful Friday afternoon/evening traffic heading out of town? Don't fret! We have something great for the whole family right here at Shepherd.

Please join Shepherd's Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) on Friday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m. in Shepherd's Auditorium as we take you on a wonderful cultural experience during our first annual Cultural Arts Night. Refer to the graphic elsewhere in the Mustang for additional details. We look forward to you embarking on this journey with us.

--Kesha Pendergrast, LSAT parent representative



Dear Shepherd Family,

Last week was Gala Week and it is with regret that a happy family event kept me from sharing the fun with you.

Nevertheless, artistry continues at Shepherd. First-graders have been creating colorful still-life collages with mixed media. Second grade has seen students using combinations of shapes to indicate architectural features on Dream Homes. Third-graders this week have seen the work of Jasper Johns in order to create authentic art with the colors and features of the flag. Fourth grade will be experimenting with mono-printing. Ask one of them to tell you what that means. Fifth grade continues to work on costumes and sets for their Exhibition presentations. Pre-K will be making lizard sculptures and kindergartners just finished drawing storytelling pictures of events from their lives.

And so the art fun goes on...

Remember, you gotta have ART!

--Ms. Joelle Michaud, Art Teacher

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

Shepherd Students Compete at Citywide Science Fair

Shepherd students competed at the Citywide Science Fair Saturday, May 18 at Takoma Educational Campus. Fifth-grader Colyar Trimble placed 2nd for her project entitled "Fingerprint Genetics," fourth-grader Anatiyah Worthy-Stewart placed 3rd for her project entitled "Fruity Electricity - Using Fruit as a Battery," and third-grader Henry Trimble placed 1st for his project, "The Science of the Pinewood Derby." Way to go scientists! We're proud of you!



PRINCIPAL from p. 1_____

will be receiving new playground equipment once the playground is relocated. In the interim, the contractors are working to remove our school's boiler and replace it with a central heating and cooling unit -- and they are digging out the ground floor to make room for our new computer lab, media center and language classrooms. Though there is a lot happening around the building, we work closely with the contractors to keep our students safe. This includes limiting their access to the building as well as fencing off areas to keep our curious learners from exploring. During this process, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

On Leave

During the week of May 20-24, I have the pleasure of traveling by car from D.C. to Florida to Georgia and then back to D.C. I have a niece graduating in Florida and a nephew graduating in Georgia. While I am away enjoying this family adventure, please reach out to Ms. Hart (IB Coordinator) or Ms. Liggins (Counselor) if you have questions or matters that need to be addressed. In addition, please do not hesitate to contact me via email.

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Winner

I am pleased to announce that Shepherd was selected to receive a Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant in the amount of \$5,000. The grant money will be used to develop a Reading, Growing, Feeding Garden or similar school improvement project after school renovations are completed. A huge thank you is extended to Ms. Kimberly Harrison, mother of a fifth and fourth grader at Shepherd for taking the lead on this project and securing the funds. If you would like to learn more about Toolbox for Education, please visit their website: www.toolboxforeducation.com.

Have a great week!

Jamie B. Miles
Principal

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!

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED

ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL
MEMORIAL DAY—MAY 27

Shepherd Elementary School

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