



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

June 17, 2013

## A Word from Mrs. Miles!



Dear Shepherd Families,

As the year draws to a close I want to thank each of you for supporting your student.

You've spent hours on homework and listening and reading to your student. You have volunteered at school events, attended field trips and endured us bugging you about arriving to school on time turning in forms, donating to a cause, etc., etc., etc.

A special thanks to our PTA for all of their hours of planning and servicing at events. Your financial and physical support throughout the year has been invaluable.

Finally, I would also like to personally thank all of Shepherd's wonderful teachers, who have worked tirelessly to provide a productive and positive learning environment for our students. Shepherd teachers are some of the best and we are fortunate to have their services at Shepherd!

### Report Cards

Report cards will be distributed/made available on the last day of school. Any report cards not picked up on June 21 will be mailed June 24th. If you know your student will not be in school on Thursday or Friday, please inform your child's teacher.

### Lost and Found/Item Left at School

WE WILL NOT BE KEEPING ANY ITEMS OVER THE SUMMER. All items (i.e. backpacks, work portfolios, projects, clothing...) remaining at school after dismissal on the 21st will be removed from the building, donated to charity or thrown into the trash. Therefore, please visit the school before Friday to search the lost and found and to collect your student's

### ► **Monday, June 17:** *Field Day*

Cluster 4 awards ceremony, 6:30 p.m., Garrison Elementary, 1200 S St. NW

### ► **Tuesday, June 18:** *Awards Day ceremonies*, 9 a.m. (pre-K through first grade) and 10 a.m. (grades 2-4)

*Family Dinner Night*, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Lime Fresh Mexican Grill, 3100 14th St. NW

*LSAT meeting*, 4 p.m., library

*Aftercare martial arts exhibition and awards ceremony*, 4:30-5:30 p.m., auditorium

### ► **Wednesday, June 19:** *Fifth grade graduation*, 9:30 a.m.

*School Improvement Team meeting*, 5 p.m., library

### ► **Thursday, June 20:** *Moving Up Day*, 9-11 a.m.

### ► **Friday, June 21:** *Student Fun Day*

*Last day of school*, out at 12:15 p.m. (no aftercare provided)

(Keep up with [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org) over the summer as new activities are added!)



belongings.

### Registration

Please register before the last day of school. This will help make summer planning, the placement of teachers and the hiring of new staff members a lot smoother.

### Teacher Requests

As you know, I do not welcome parents' requests for a particular teacher. However, I do welcome specific information about your student's likes/dislikes and

(see PRINCIPAL, p. 16)



For the last Mustang of the 2013 school year, and my last Student Scoop before I head to Deal Middle School, I thought I could reflect on all my years at Shepherd.

In kindergarten, I had Ms. Miller. We had a class pet guinea pig named Romeo, who I would take care of sometimes during school breaks. I also started playing violin with Mr. Giles that year -- and have played with him every year since in school concerts!

In first grade I got Ms. Crockett. I remember doing a Thanksgiving show. We sang songs and recited facts about pilgrims to our parents.

In second grade I had Mr. King, who up until this year organized the science fair. At that time I was too young to participate, but we were allowed to go to NOAA with him to see the projects.

In third grade I had Ms. Thomas. I met many new friends in that grade.

In fourth grade I had Ms. Christenberry. She was a very supportive teacher and got me interested in one of my favorite book series, "The Sisters Grimm." She took me and another student, my friend Margaret, to a book signing for the author, Michael Buckley.

In fifth grade (right now) I have Ms. Thomas -- again! This year I feel that I was more interested in extracurricular activities than previous years. I was in GeoPlunge, track, cross-country, Student Council, Book Club, Safety Patrol, spelling bee, and the science fair. Overall, I have had many opportunities at Shepherd and have learned a lot.

I would like to thank all my classroom teachers, Principal Miles, the "specials" teachers, and

others who have made Shepherd such a good place. Best wishes also to Ms. Michaud, our art teacher, and Mr. Giles, our music teacher, who are retiring at the end of this year. I'm excited about sixth grade at Deal, but will miss everyone here and won't ever forget my time as a Mustang!

--Colyar Trimble, fifth grader



THEN: Colyar makes a new friend her first day of kindergarten.



NOW: Colyar took second place in her category at the Citywide Science Fair last month. Here she is with Shepherd's other winners: her brother Henry (third grade, first place) and Anatiyah Worthy-Stewart (fourth grade, third place).

## Muchísimas Gracias!

Muchísimas gracias! What better way to express our thanks to the very many people who made Feria de Sevilla—our 2013 Gala and Auction—such a success. The net proceeds from this year's event already exceed \$22,000, which will send us into next school year with almost \$38,000 in the bank.



This year's gala, held for the first time in the beautiful atrium at Wilson High School, was truly a community effort. Thank you to the folks at Wilson and, especially, Shepherd parent and Wilson High School Coach Desmond Dunham who helped to make the arrangements.

Thank you to the generous donors, who provided the fun and unique auction items and the volunteers who helped to solicit the donations. Thank you to the Shepherd students and teachers who provided the priceless and ultra-popular classroom donations—with special thanks to Ms. Ulba and her second-grade class for agreeing, on the spot, to paint three more park benches to meet the rousing demand.

Thank you to Shepherd parent Victor Glover for serving as the evening's emcee, to Shepherd parent Yolonda Walden for designing the auction books, and to Shepherd's own Mr. Velez for providing the music. Thank you to WUSA anchorman and Shepherd grandparent Bruce Johnson for helping to welcome our guests. And thank you to two of our very special vendors—Andy the Auctioneer and caterer Folami Jenkins, also a Shepherd parent—for helping to bring the evening to life.

Thank you to Shepherd teachers, Ms. Pethtel for her help with the beautiful flowers and volunteering on-site, and Señora Giblin for her help with decorations and our Spanish theme.

Thank you to the scores of parents and friends who helped along the way, as well as our spouses, partners, significant others and, even our kids, who supported the effort. Thank you to the amazing Shepherd faculty and staff—and to Principal Miles for her leadership and encouragement.

Thank you to the advertisers and table sponsors for their significant contributions and, most of all, thank you to everyone who attended, bid on auction items, and responded to the SEED appeal with open wallets. Not only was your generosity at the core of our

## Pictures From an Exhibition

Here is just a small sampling of photos from the Fifth Grade Exhibition on May 30, which gave Shepherd's graduating fifth-graders a chance to apply the International Baccalaureate principles with drama, skits, and other presentations. Consider us impressed!



success, but your spirit made the evening one to remember.

Each year, Shepherd's Gala and Auction raises the funds that enable the PTA to make purchases for the school not covered by the annual budget. This school year, for example, the PTA funded teacher wish lists, bought a lighting system for the auditorium stage, and hosted a luncheon during Teacher Appreciation Week. With the funds that you helped us raise through this year's auction, we will clearly be able to support the school in a significant way next year.

Muchísimas gracias, merci beaucoup... in any language, "thank you" is not nearly enough.

### The 2013 Gala and Auction Committee

Angela Anderson      Lisa Connor      Christine Kithcart  
Judith McCullough      Toby Susse



## Shepherd IB PYP Corner

### Embassy Adoption Program

Our fifth-grade French students involved in the Embassy Adoption Program celebrated their final meeting at the French Embassy on June 4. Students had the opportunity to meet and greet the French Embassy staff and the ambassador's wife, Sophie L'Hélias-Delattre, at a reception held in honor of the program. Please see below for more details.



The Shepherd Elementary School students, led by their teacher, Chantal Gadie, presented a short theater performance. The students then attended a class on making crêpes and had the chance to get their faces painted.



Sophie L'Hélias-Delattre, wife of François Delattre, the Ambassador of France cuts a cake with students of the Shepherd Elementary School. (taken from the French Embassy website)

See more photos of this event on the Embassy's Flickr page.

### Awards Day- June 18th

Due to our attempt to keep the award recipients as a surprise for our students, we are unable to release the names of students whom will be recognized on the 18th. However, we will include their names in a summer mailing, e-mailing, or in a summer edition publication of the Mustang.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

*Sandra Hart*

IB Coordinator

### Supporting Shepherd Into the Future

With the gala and auction still fresh in our minds, it's important to remember why fundraising is so critical to the Shepherd PTA. Like all DCPS schools—and probably most schools across the country—Shepherd gets an annual budget allocation that must stretch to meet the school's needs, with rarely much left for any extras. Funds raised by the PTA, however, can help the dedicated SES teachers give our kids a rich and inspiring educational experience.

We know family budgets are tight; but if we all give a little, we can help our school reach its potential. A few things to keep in mind for fall:

- ▶ The Gala Committee and PTA Board made the decision not to combine the gala and auction with the annual raffle to give more families the opportunity to participate and support the effort. Therefore, we're holding an iPad and a Nintendo DSI to be raffled early next school year. If every family bought just one raffle ticket, we would start the new school year off with a bang.
- ▶ While this year's auction was one of the most successful ever, we still have a few items left over that we hope can be sold, including 7 beautiful and unique bags hand-painted by students in Ms. Gibbs' class. Please contact Judith McCullough at [Judith.mccullough@seiu.org](mailto:Judith.mccullough@seiu.org) to purchase the painted bags at any time for \$25 each and look for future announcements about the availability of the other remaining auction items.
- ▶ If you had a great time at this year's Gala—or heard about the great time that you missed—think about volunteering for the 2014 Gala Committee. There's

(see SUPPORT p. 16)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP SHEPHERD OVER THE SUMMER

Save your Snider's receipts: Every time you shop at Snider's Super Foods on Seminary Road just west of Georgia in Silver Spring, keep the receipt. At the end of the year we give all our collected Snider's receipts to Snider's, and Snider's gives the school 1 percent back from our purchases.



Save your used cell phones and toner cartridges: Make our planet a little more healed and help the school out at the same time. Shepherd collects used toner cartridges and sends them in a bundle to a recycling firm that pays us for the privilege! In the same way, even the most basic of cell phones that Shepherd returns to a California recycler nets the school at least \$2. So avoid throwing those things in the trash over summer vacation. When Shepherd is back for business at the start of the new school year, bring them to the office and we can get a head start at making more money for our school without breaking much of a sweat.



Keep cutting out those Box Tops for Education: Each and every Box Top you save means 10 cents for the school. Every sheet of 10 Box Tops you turn in means \$1 for Shepherd. Last year we collected well over \$500 in Box Tops. Use the collection sheet in this issue of the Mustang and start saving. If you're not keen on affixing glue to Box Tops, then simply store them in a zipper-lock lunch or snack bag and turn them in that way. When school resumes, make sure you include your child's name and NEW grade on either the lunch-bag or collection-sheet versions.



## Thanks to Our Adult Helpers In the Early Readers Program

Thanks for recognizing this year's Early Readers volunteers. Their commitment to this program has been extraordinary. Their last day for the year was May 24. But look for them to resume come fall.

Here's the roster:



Ed Archer	Susan Learmonth
Linda Archer	Valerie Mann
Joyce Batipps	Martha Mitchell
Shelley Brazier	Dan Nathan
Anita Finkelstein	Monroe Newman
Jackie Holt	Margie Odle
Carol Jasmine	Tamara Prince
Iris Jeffries-Morton	Dorothy Ramsey
Ruth Jordan	Ruth Shapiro
Altomease Kennedy	Art Sheekey
Dorothy Kennison	Claire White
Julia Lara	

Cynthia Prather (Co-coordinator)  
Kathleen Sheekey (Co-coordinator)

Look for the following brand names at the store. Chances are there's a Box Tops coupon on the package: Betty Crocker baking products, General Mills cereals (including Cheerios!), Cascadian Farm cereals, Green Giant fresh produce and frozen vegetables, Yoplait and Gogurt refrigerated and frozen yogurt, Pillsbury refrigerated and frozen pastries, Totino's pizza rolls, Hamburger Helper, Old El Paso Mexican food, Progresso soups and broths, Suddenly Salad mixes, Land-O-Lakes cheeses, Chex Mix, Fiber One cereals and snacks, Mott's applesauce and snacks, Nature Valley granola bars, Hanes socks and underwear for men, women, boys, girls and toddlers, Ziploc food storage bags, Kleenex facial tissue, Scott bathroom tissue, Hefty disposable tableware and trash bags.

## THE SIT-UATION ROOM

First of all, thanks to the parents, students and staff as well as neighbors who attended last Tuesday's community meeting on school renovations. For those who couldn't be there, look to the school website for links to the floor plans as well as a virtual slide show of what changes you can expect to see in our school after this summer and after next summer. If these visuals aren't already in place by the time you read this, look to the PTA listserv for a notice that they're posted.

So, what will look different when you return to Shepherd after summer vacation? The short answer: Not that much, really. That's because the workers are focusing on infrastructure.

We can't do wholesale changes right now that would require enlarging the size of classrooms, because then we'd be forced to reduce the number of classrooms – an absurd notion, considering that Shepherd is already at capacity.

So the work crews are focusing on five things.

The first aspect, already underway, is making the basement of the original building, put up in 1931, into usable space. This work, though, will probably take until winter break. But once it's done, the basement will contain the library, the computer lab, two language classrooms, a teachers' lounge, and two newly dug-out rooms for mechanical apparatus.

That brings us to the next two points. Shepherd is getting a new HVAC -- that's builder-speak for heating, ventilation and air conditioning -- system so that every room in the building is the same temperature, and the temperature stays consistent year-round, plus an electrical/tech upgrade that will allow the school to have triple its current power and Internet capacities.

Point four is a "deep cleaning" of all restrooms and lavatories currently in the building and, where possible, the installation of new, more eco-friendly plumbing and fixtures.

The fifth point will be the renovation of about half of the existing classrooms in the 1931 building.

Given that there's only so much money that can be spent over a 10-week summer period for renovation work, and with the priorities of the principal and Shepherd's School Improvement Team, this is what will happen.

Renovations to most of the rest of the building will take place over summer 2014. This includes classroom enlargement in the 1956 and 1970 buildings and the repositioning of administrative offices. Shepherd is in line to get \$6.678 million in fiscal year 2014 to finish the job started last month; the D.C. Council will vote this Tuesday,

June 18, on the FY 2014 budget.

The primary focus of the current renovations zero in on where students spend most of the school day -- in learning situations. Future renovations, probably five years into the future, will provide for a cafeteria expansion that will allow on-site meal preparation and (finally!) parking for some teachers and staff. We might even see a snazzy treatment of an atrium and courtyard when the main school entrance is reoriented to Kalmia Road and 14th Street.

The School Improvement Team will meet again this Wednesday, June 19, at 5 p.m. in the library to see where we go from here. If you have any question, get in touch with me at 202-829-9289 or [Pattison\\_mark@hotmail.com](mailto:Pattison_mark@hotmail.com).

--Mark Pattison, Shepherd School Improvement Team chair

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## Turn-Off Club a Big Turn-On

We had a great response this year to the Local School Advisory Team's TV-Video Game Turnoff Club this year. No meetings were held – because it wasn't necessary! Not only did students save time by not having meetings to go to, but they also saved time they would have wasted by watching TV and playing video games all day and night when not in school. Some students pledged to limit themselves to one hour in front of a video screen each day on "school nights," some pledged 30 minutes, and some pledged no TV or video games at all! We're proud of all Club members, and the things they were able to achieve by leading an active life away from the TV and video game console.:

*Shaina Adams, third grade*  
*Nivel Afrika, first grade*  
*Raphael Afrika, third grade*  
*Carlisse Agee, third grade*  
*Aidan Alston, first grade*  
*Nelson Alston, first grade*  
*Changa Anderson II, third grade*  
*Lillian Beach, second grade*  
*Samuel Bush, third grade*  
*Jamary Calhoun, fourth grade*  
*Aaron Curtis, kindergarten*  
*Lauren Curtis, kindergarten*  
*Citani Dakka, pre-K*  
*Latteba Dakka, second grade*  
*London Downing, fourth grade*  
*Niles Dunham, second grade*  
*Chyna Holloway, first grade*  
*Annelise Jefferson, second grade*  
*Masai Jenkins, third grade*  
*Ana Kanta, first grade*  
*Grace Kao, second grade*  
*Makayla Kennedy, second grade*  
*Emma Laudadio, first grade*  
*Malchiah Marable, first grade*  
*Zoe McCullough, fourth grade*  
*Kayla Muir, third grade*  
*Phillip Omohundro, second grade*  
*Cyntia Pattison, fourth grade*  
*Zora Pauk, second grade*  
*Moise Elijah Pringle, third grade*  
*Sarah Rice, first grade*  
*Jean-Pierre Roberts, third grade*  
*Mia Saunders, second grade*  
*Catherine Serrano, fourth grade*  
*Frank Sheffield, fifth grade*



Dear Shepherd Family,

Well, it's time for the farewell song from me. Retirement is almost here. I certainly have been joyfully overwhelmed with the last week of celebration from students, staff and parents alike. As I have said over and over, thank you, thank you, thank you all for the richest time (not to mention the best send-off) I've had in my long working life. I want to let you know some secrets about the person you have so kindly praised.



In my second year I flunked out of college my first time around and only earned my B.A. at age 48! Sixteen years ago I came to Shepherd with the encouragement of a courageous principal, without standard licensing to teach art. Years later I applied to a Master's in Art Ed program and was rejected before I eventually earned a degree from them at the ripe old age of 60! Now I am the chapter president of a professional organization of art teachers. All this from a person who, in high school, only wanted to teach art!

The lessons I have learned are this: failure is vastly underrated. If at first you don't succeed you are probably normal. Failure is frustrating but it can be fruitful because we learn the most permanent life lessons that way. I was a failure. You at Shepherd both young and old made me the fulfilled person I am today. For that I love you all.

Big, big hugs and remember, you GOTTA have art!

--Ms. Joele Michaud, Art Teacher

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

*Nana Sissoko, third grade*  
*Aaron Smith, first grade*  
*Micah Stovall, second grade*  
*Godloves Tata, fourth grade*  
*Zoie Walden, second grade*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING FIFTH GRADERS!**

Whether they've been here one year or seven, Shepherd's graduating fifth-graders have earned this moment. They've learned their lessons, dived right in to the International Baccalaureate curriculum, and grown as individuals.

If you have the time, come to their graduation ceremony. It will be held this Wednesday, June 19, at 9:30 a.m. Give your own congratulations to the fifth-graders you know.

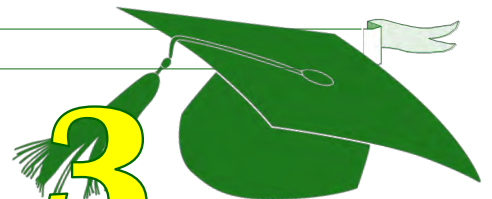
**MS. THOMAS'S CLASS**

LAWRENCE CARVANA  
OMARI CLARKE  
CHASE COOK  
LYNDON DOWNING  
CARLITA GARRETT  
JASMINE HOPKINS  
DETROY HUDGENS  
LUKE JENNINGS  
OBED JOHANNES  
GREGORY JONES  
YEWONHAREG KEBEDE  
ALEXANDER KENNISON  
DESTINY MCPHERSON  
NICOLE SPRIGGS-MOYE  
COLYAR TRIMBLE  
MACKENZIE WHYTE

**MR. LEONARD'S CLASS**

QUENTIN ANDERSON-WATSON  
EMPEROR CAMPBELL  
MARGARET GOLETIANI  
TIFFANY GREENE  
ANTHONY HARRISON  
AANISAH HASAN  
NEIMAN HOLTON  
KAITLYN HUNTER  
JORDAN JOHNSON  
ALVARO LOPEZ  
CHANDLER MABRY  
JULIAN MITCHELL  
GAVIN RASMUSSEN  
NAOMI SCHUSTER  
FRANK SHEFFIELD  
BRYCE SMITH  
TOLANI SMITH  
TYLER THOMAS  
SAVANNAH WAYMER  
RASHEDA WHITE

*Class of* **2013**



## Congratulations to Our New PTA Officers and LSAT Reps!

Elections were held last Thursday to select new PTA officers for 2013-14 as well as for four new parent representatives to the Local School Advisory Team for the year ahead. Congratulations and best wishes for the year ahead to:



- ▶ PTA president: Sherilyn Pruitt
- ▶ PTA first vice president: Kyra Marshall
- ▶ PTA second vice president: Eric Smith
- ▶ PTA recording secretary: Leonie Stephenson
- ▶ PTA corresponding secretary: Laura Levine
- ▶ PTA treasurer: Judith McCullough\*
- ▶ PTA assistant treasurer: Kim Barnette

\* Judith indicated she could only serve as treasurer on an interim basis due to her upcoming work schedule, with the expectation that a successor can be identified and trained early in the new school year.

Best wishes also to the new LSAT parent representatives: Mark Pattison and Kesha Pendergrast, who were reelected to a second one-year term, and Kamilah O. Martin-Proctor and Keith White, each to serve their first year.

When your PTA and LSAT leaders ask for help over the summer and in the year to come, please respond generously!

## LAST CHANCE FOR LOST AND FOUND

ALL PARENTS please check the lost and found located in the entrance to the teacher's lounge (next to Ms. Hart's Office) for any missing items.



All items left after school is dismissed for the year -- 12:15pm Friday, June 21 -- will be donated to charity.

Thanks for your cooperation.

## Get Caught READING!

### They Got Caught— And They Love It!

Dozens of students at Shepherd qualified to win free books at the Shepherd Park Library in the Get Caught Reading initiative this year. The initiative was designed to boost our school's reading proficiency rate to 90 percent proficient or advanced. The current round of DIBELS and TRC testing, which continues into June, will tell us if we've achieved our goal. Students had to fill out reading response logs detailing what books they were reading, how much time they spent reading the book, and answering a question about what they had read.

First let's celebrate the students who got past 100 steps!

Samuel Bush  
Ashford Connor  
Corrine Glover  
Joia Glover  
Emma Laudadio

Zoe McCullough  
Sarah Rice  
Madison Swanson  
Olivia Waymer

Now, let's give hearty praise to those students who qualified for a free book at 30 steps:

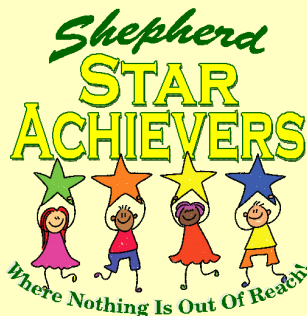
Shana Adams  
Carlisse Agee  
Amare Anderson  
Adrian Cook  
Fahari Dominique  
Catherine Foss  
Genesis Glover  
Maya Glover  
Claudia Goletiani  
Chanelle Haynes  
Chyna Holloway  
Kyle Jackson-Chang

Masai Jenkins  
Payton Jones  
Julien Kearns  
Gregory Kennison  
Jaden Kithcart  
Jay Matthews  
Kayla Muir  
Cynthia Pattison  
Jean-Pierre Roberts  
Yonaton Shewangzew  
Godloves Tata  
Marie-Therese Tata

And keep reading over the summer. You never know what words you'll learn or what worlds you'll get to explore!

## Star Achievers Aftercare News

One of the last things on our calendar this year is the June 18 (Tuesday) Martial Arts Exhibition -- 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the auditorium. PARENTS WELCOME. Please join Mr. Thornton and all after-care students as they perform their martial arts moves! An awards ceremony will include recognition of the "Most Improved Students" and those with the "Best Moves."



### Thanks!

The Shepherd Elementary School Star Achievers Before and Aftercare Program Staff and Parent Volunteer Board of Directors wish to thank all members of the Shepherd community for your support this inaugural year!

We hope to bring you a new and improved Program next year with more special classes which last longer and are specifically designed for the needs and preferences of the different age groups of students. Details will be mailed and emailed in July.

### Next School Year

All Shepherd families will receive a registration packet in the mail. Registration for school year 2013-14 will begin Aug. 1, and can be completed online, through the mail or in person. The time and place for in-person registration will be determined in August, depending on the status of the school renovation.

Next year, there will be a few notable changes in the program:

- ▶ Tuition will increase by \$5 per month to cover increased program costs. Per family registration fee will remain \$45 per family.
- ▶ Cash will not be accepted. We will accept money orders, checks and online payment as of August 1.

## DON'T BLOCK THE CROSSWALK!

We've got just one week left in the school year, but there's always time to practice good driving etiquette and to be a model to your children -- OUR children.

Don't block the crosswalks, either at 14th and Jonquil or 14th and Kalmia. Other students and their parents need to be able to see clearly whether traffic is coming in either direction before they can cross safely.

If you feel you need to park in the crosswalk because you're running late, it won't kill you to leave earlier. But what if it did kill somebody because you couldn't be bothered to park legally? The stigma and the trauma on both you and everyone at Shepherd would be unbearable.



So do the right thing.

- ▶ There will be more multi-grade classes; i.e., if there are more third-grade students than can be safely cared for with current staffing ratios older third-grade students may be included in the 4th-grade class.
- ▶ Scholarship program criteria have changed -- details will be mailed to those currently receiving or those interested in scholarships.
- ▶ Pre-K, kindergarten and first grade will be separated from the older students and have more group activities.
- ▶ Each registered family will receive a handbook which includes expectations for student behavior.

Thanks again to all who have made this year a success and have a great summer!

--Ms. Claire Riley, Program Director

[sesstarachievers@gmail.com](mailto:sesstarachievers@gmail.com), 202-465-0514



The PTA needs parents willing to take the initiative and be leaders and examples for all Shepherd parents and guardians. We have a variety of volunteer assignments ready and waiting to be filled. You won't be alone; you'll get expert help from Shepherd parents familiar with these roles. Here are just some of them:

- ▶ Jazz Night coordinator
- ▶ Classroom parent liaison
- ▶ Fall Fest coordinator
- ▶ Volunteer coordinator
- ▶ Fundraising and development
- ▶ Gala and Auction efforts
- ▶ Labor Day Weekend Kickoff Cookout
- ▶ School directory
- ▶ Star Achievers Board of Directors
- ▶ Teddy Bears Picnic for new students
- ▶ Loose Change Collection
- ▶ Box Tops for Education coordinator
- ▶ Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

If you can help in any of these positions, or would like to volunteer in an area that's more in line with your interests and talents, please get in touch with incoming PTA president Sherilyn Pruitt at [spruitt@hrsa.gov](mailto:spruitt@hrsa.gov).

## Join Your Friends at Family Dinner Night!

Ready for some good eating? Then join your fellow Shepherd families this Tuesday, June 18, for our last Family Dinner Night of the school year.

Our outing will be at Lime Fresh Mexican Grill, 3100 14th St. NW in Columbia Heights.

It's on the ground floor of the Target complex on 14th between Irving and Harvard. If you've passed Harvard, you've gone too far!

Under Lime's Community Give Back program, the PTA will get rebated 20 percent of your tab, and that in-



cludes beverages. But... you've got to bring the flyer that's part of this week's Mustang and show it to your server for the PTA to qualify for the rebate. On the other hand, we've got dozens more flyers in the rack outside the main office -- and you can go to lunch OR to dinner (maybe even lunch AND dinner if the mood strikes you), depending on how many flyers you have. Hours of this Family Dinner "Night" are 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Parents of fifth-graders: Think of going to Lime as a way to treat your child's graduation from Shepherd the next day. Other parents: Go to Lime to celebrate another successful school year for your child. You can even make reservations by calling 202-238-9670.

It's fiesta time. Let's pack the place!

## PTA Budget Summary

On behalf of the PTA executive board, I extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the parents, teachers, and friends of Shepherd Elementary School who supported our PTA activities with monetary donations and/or volunteer time. During this school year our expenses totaled \$44,589.70 versus our generated revenue of \$54,596.95. This leaves us with a fund balance of \$10,007.25. ***So we will start out the 2013 -14 school year with \$10,000 more than where we started this year!*** The PTA budget presented at the beginning of the school year included several expenses that we were able to streamline.

### Here are the highlights of items that the PTA sponsored:

- ▶ Teacher "Wish List" items (over \$10,000 in books and supplies to support our students)
- ▶ Principal, teachers and staff "back to school" gift cards (\$4,000)
- ▶ Kindle Fires (over \$4,000)
- ▶ Study Island Software Program (\$1,848)
- ▶ Music Program (over \$1,000 on piano maintenance and a stage lighting system)
- ▶ Jazz Night (\$1,100)
- ▶ Teacher Appreciation Luncheons (over \$900)
- ▶ Field Day food and drinks
- ▶ Beautification Days (garden supplies and maintenance)
- ▶ Monthly website maintenance and hosting fees ([www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org))
- ▶ Child care and dinner provided at monthly PTA meetings
- ▶ Back to School Rally and Spirit items
- ▶ "Teddy Bear" Picnic to welcome our Pre-K students and parents

### Here are the highlights of the revenue generated:

- ▶ Spring Gala/Auction (over \$30,000)
- ▶ Fall Fest (over \$9,000)
- ▶ 180 Fund (\$1 a day for each 180 days of

### Pardon Our Dust

With the upcoming renovations to Shepherd, everybody is moving out to allow workers complete access within the building. This includes Principal Miles and all of the year-round staff. If you need to transact business in person, you can visit Shepherd's temporary residence in Rooms 110 and 111 of Takoma Education Campus, 7010 Piney Branch Rd. NW. Shepherd is keeping its phone number of 202-576-6140 during the move, as well as its fax number of 202-576-7578. You'll be able reach staff at their regular email addresses.

## LSAT MEETS TUESDAY

It's been a successful and worthwhile year for the Local School Advisory Team at Shepherd. While last month's LSAT meeting spent some looking at the year past, the upcoming meeting will consider the year ahead in the context of 2012-13. It will be a joint meeting of current and incoming LSAT members, and a chair and secretary will be chosen from among the group to serve in 2013-14.

The meeting is Tuesday, June 18, at 4 p.m. in the library. Parents are welcome to attend LSAT meetings, but may be asked to leave when confidential issues are discussed. For the lowdown on everything LSAT, consult the school website at <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/school-advisory-board/>.

- school) (over \$8,500)
- ▶ Family Dinner Nights (over \$2,400 and we still have one more on June 18!)
- ▶ Valentine's Day Flower and Bake Sale (over \$1,600)
- ▶ Other donations and proceeds from parent businesses (over \$800)
- ▶ Proceeds from "Box Tops" and GRC Wireless donations (over \$700)

The PTA is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization; all donations are 100% tax deductible. Our tax ID number (EIN) is: 47-0879109.

--**Kim W. Barnette**, 2012 —13 PTA Treasurer



### Earn cash for your school, all summer long!

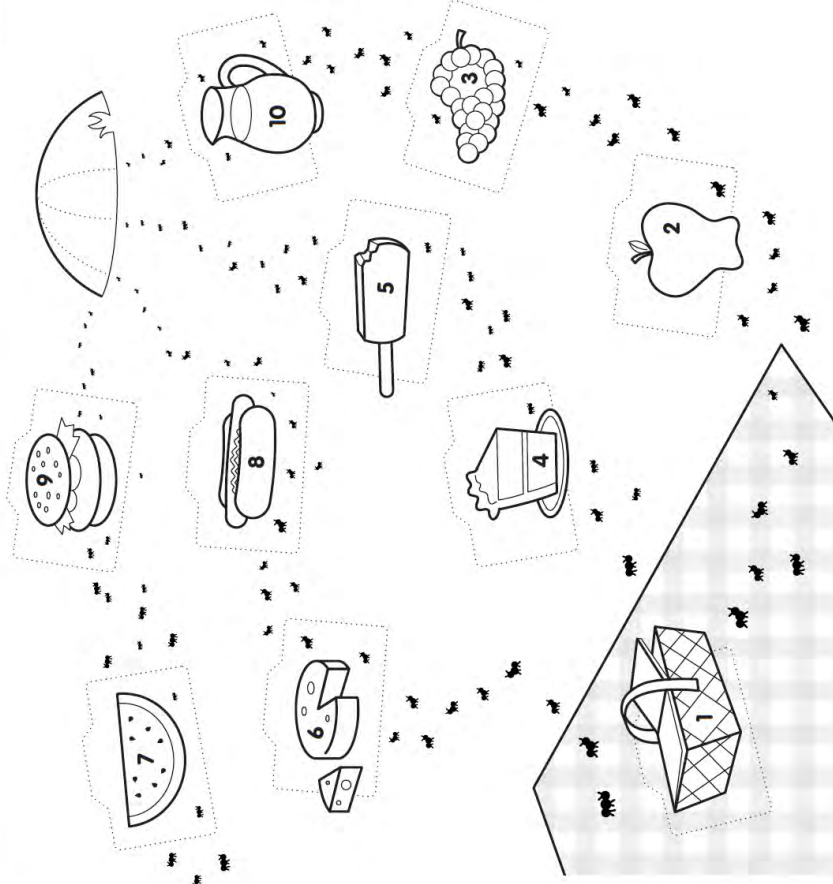
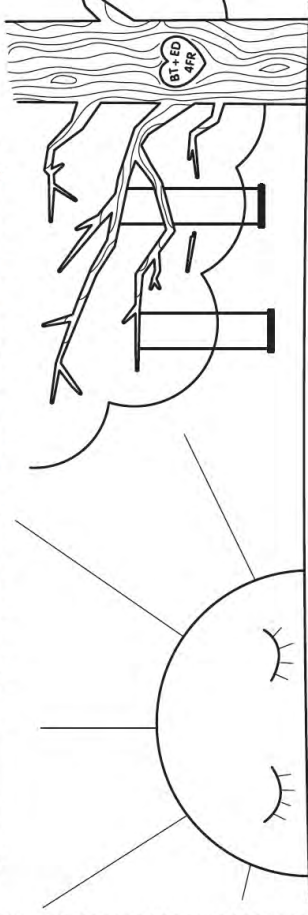
As you prepare for summer picnics, reunions and celebrations, think Box Tops, and the many products that will help you earn cash for your school. You'll find a complete listing of participating products at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com).

Each month, help your child color, decorate and attach 10 Box Tops to that month's collection sheet.

In the fall, bring them back to class to earn much-needed cash for your school!



**Cover this picnic lunch with Box Tops  
before the ants can eat it up!**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter)

## A Fond Farewell From Ms. Goldman

As many of you already know, I will be leaving Shepherd for the next school year to earn my master's degree at Johns Hopkins University. While I have learned a great deal about myself as a teacher over the last three years at Shepherd, I know it is time to continue my education and further my knowledge about teaching. During the upcoming year, I will be earning a degree in Emergent Literacy and K-8 Math Lead Teacher. I look forward to reading about the most recent research and observing a range of classrooms with expert teachers.



I feel so lucky to have been a part of the Shepherd community. I would like to thank everyone who has been there to help me smile when I was overwhelmed with work, brainstorm how to teach a challenging topic, laugh during a lunch break, support me while trying new curriculums, encourage me to take on challenges, and welcome me into the Shepherd family. While I do not know how I will manage without seeing twenty-plus smiling and loving faces every day, I know continuing my education will be beneficial to my future. I will still be living in D.C. and plan to visit often. I hope you will stay in touch, as I know I will not be able to forget all the people that have made a huge impact in my life. Thank you for making my career at Shepherd such an enjoyable three years. It's not goodbye, just see you later.

--Ms. Rachel Goldman, first-grade teacher

## PTA MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday's PTA meeting was short but sweet, but not without its highlights (including Angelico Pizza!).

The Gala Committee's report indicated great satisfaction with the outcome of last month's event. The silent auction brought in roughly the same revenue as in past years, but the live auction and the SEED (Shepherd Elementary Educational Development) contributions were significantly up. Expenses were also kept down. Turnout was a bit lower than in past years, but those who came were ready to spend. People also liked the Wilson High School atrium setting. There were very few auction items that received no bids, and the committee is still working to sell some of the lovely tote bags decorated by students in Ms. Gibbs' pre-K class.



Unlike the past few years, the auction did not feature a raffle, but a raffle will be conducted at the start of the school year.

LSAT and PTA election results were announced (see separate article in the Mustang).

Principal Miles expressed her appreciation for the PTA's efforts. Such things as the newsletter and paying for the teacher wish lists make her job a lot easier. She said if teacher-grade assignments aren't in the current Mustang, they'll be sent in a letter to parents in early July. (In late July or early August, teacher-student assignments will be listed.) Registration numbers are already at 200, she added; it's typically at 50 by this time of the year. The high numbers make it more possible for teachers to stay assigned to Shepherd.

Treasurer Kim Barnette's report met with approval, because there's nearly \$38,000 in the treasury! Even though 180 Fund contributions were at half of budgeted levels, and the teacher wish lists could have put a strain on the budget, the PTA really reined in other spending, especially with postage and paper supplies. Auction proceeds from the Gala also helped boost the bank account.

Teachers have been busy packing up their classrooms in anticipation of the ongoing renovations. Much will be stored in the cafeteria and auditorium. Teachers could use every bit of help they can get. The workers would like to start in earnest at noon on the last day of school, but Principal Miles is trying to hold them off until 8 p.m.



## COMMUNITY GIVEBACK PROGRAM

**Enjoy a meal with your friends and family and let us give back to your organization!**

Lime is proud to be part of your hometown and believes in giving back. As a fellow member of the Washington, DC community we invite you to participate in **Lime's Community GiveBack Program.**

### **FUND RAISE THE FUN WAY.**

Grab your family and friends and join us for lunch or dinner at the Washington, DC location on June 18, 2013.

Please present this flyer to your server, and Lime will give back **20%** of your purchase directly to your organization.

(We apologize but we cannot accommodate coupon usage or other discounts in conjunction with our GiveBack Program.)

***Yes, it's that easy! To make a reservation, please call us at 202-238-9670, and we'll save you a table.***

**100% of the GiveBack amount  
is donated directly to your foundation.**

Organization's Name: SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

Date of Visit: JUNE 18, 2013

**For directions to the restaurant or a peek at the menu,  
[LimeFreshMexicanGrill.com](http://LimeFreshMexicanGrill.com)**



3100 14TH ST NW UNIT #104

**PRINCIPAL** from p. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

personality traits that may be beneficial when creating class lists. At Shepherd we pride ourselves on knowing our students and their needs and as close as possible we try to place them in a setting in which we think they will best thrive. Remember, we see your student every day and we have the privilege of watching them interact in their classrooms, in the hallways, on the playground, etc. The child you may know and love is not necessarily the same child we know and love. Therefore, please trust us and know that we have all students' best interests at heart.

**Class Lists**

Class lists will be published late July.

**Farewell/Happy Retirement/You Will Be Missed**

Please join me in wishing the following teachers farewell: Mr. Giles (retirement), Ms. Michaud (retirement), and Ms. Goldman (returning to become a fulltime graduate student). All of these individuals have been a wonderful asset to Shepherd and will be greatly missed.

**2013-2014 Staff Roster**

The staff roster for the 2013-14 school year has not been released. I am still hiring and shifting teachers around. This information will be publicized as soon as it is available.

**Summer Mailing**

You will receive at least two summer mailings during the months of July and August. Please be sure to go through your mail when you return from your family vacation(s). Please read the information carefully so that you will be prepared for the 2013-14 school year.

**Help Prevent Summer Regression**

- Enroll your student in an academic summer program
- Hire a tutor to work with your student at least twice a week
- Read 10 minutes each day for each grade you have completed (example: 3rd grade=30 min.)
- Keep a journal of places you visit
- Go on mini-field trips (zoo, museum, etc.)

- Play online math fact-building games
- Have a family game night
- Go to the local library weekly
- Start a book club with friends

**Summer Work Packets**

Each grade level will have a summer work packet available on the school's website beginning July 1. Students who complete the work packet and the summer reading list will be recognized at the beginning of the school year.

To all of our learners, spend time playing outdoors, reading, practicing math daily, and enjoying family time throughout the summer.

See you in August!

*Jamie B. Miles*  
Principal

**SUPPORT** from p. 4 \_\_\_\_\_

no date set yet, but the PTA is considering both an earlier event and an earlier start to the planning process. To serve on the committee, there's not experience necessary; just a willingness to pitch in, try hard, and have fun doing it.

Please contact any member of this year's Gala Committee if you have questions or if you're ready to pledge your support.

***Shepherd Elementary School***

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