



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

September 3, 2013



► **Tues., Sept. 3:** First full day of school for all pre-K students

► **Fri., Sept. 6:** “Back-to-School Cookout”, Shepherd Elementary, 3:30 p.m.

► **Tues., Sept. 10:** Local School Advisory Team meeting, 4 p.m.

► **Wed., Sept. 18:** “Back to School Night”, Shepherd Elementary, 6 p.m.

► **Fri., Sept. 27:** “Fall Picture Day” (in uniform)

► **Mon., Sept. 30—Sat., Oct. 5:** “Book Fair”

► **Sat., Oct. 5:** “Fall Fest”, Shepherd Elementary, noon—5 p.m.

(Go to <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/ses-calendar/> for a month-by-month listing of dates and events)

From the PTA President

What a fantastic week we have had! Phase 1 of the Shepherd Elementary School renovation is complete and our teachers, students, and staff were welcomed back to a greatly improved facility! Thank you to all of the parents and community members who helped out during Beautification Day to get the classrooms ready for the first day. Also, a big shout out to LSAT Chairperson, Kesha Pendergrast, and a new Pre-K parent, Dawn Moody, for coordinating our three Play Dates. It was great meeting new and returning families.



The Shepherd PTA has an exciting year planned and our first Family Dinner Night at Olazzo on Georgia Avenue was “fantastico!” Thank you to all of the families who helped raise money for Shepherd while feasting on delicious Italian fare. The second Family Dinner Night was held over

(see PTA Pres, page 2)

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings, Everyone!



On Monday, Aug. 26, we officially opened our doors for the 2013-2014 school year to over 300 eager learners. Within hours our hallways and classrooms were once again echoing with the sounds of learning and excitement. The beginning of the year is always my favorite time of year and I am very excited about what is to come. We are well on our way to a wonderful school year!

Safety First

Drop-Off: If you do not walk your student into the gymnasium at arrival, you must drop off on 14th Street at the curb next to the school. Please do not drop off in any other area or street. There are Safety Patrol and staff members available to make sure students enter the building safely. Please pull to the curb, let your student out on the curb side and keep moving. Students should have their materials in hand and goodbyes should be brief. This will help keep the line moving and the area from becoming congested. Cars left unattended will be ticketed!

Transportation Changes: If your child is leaving the school in a way different than normal, we MUST have a note with a signature from the custodial parent or guardian.

End-of-day pick-up: No student will be dismissed from the office between 3 and 3:30 p.m. Please note the following dismissal locations and where students can be found. Aftercare – cafeteria; Carpool – 14th Street entrance; Students whose parents come for them – gymnasium. At 3:30, students who have not been picked up can be found in the hallway where the main office is located.

Carpool: All carpool slots for students in Kindergarten

(see Miles , page 7)

The Crosswalk is for Pedestrians

Three days into the school year, we have already received a report of a parent parking in the crosswalk to let their child out of the car.

The crosswalk is not for parking. It is for walking. Students—and this includes the Safety Patrol — need to see the entire street before they can safely cross.



Last spring, the police were called after one parent who had parked in the crosswalk threatened violence against another parent who told him he was in the wrong.

Let's nip this in the bud.

Look for your fellow Shepherd parents leafletting drivers in the morning to remind them of traffic safety at school.

COOKOUT FRIDAY



The PTA is sponsoring its annual cookout this coming Friday, Sept. 6, after school, starting at 3:30 p.m.

This year, the PTA is arranging for the hamburgers, hot dogs (including veggie options), fruits, grilled vegetables and paper goods.

For the rest of us, we need to bring coolers, ice, beverages, snacks and desserts. So don't put those coolers in winter storage after this long holiday weekend.

You can bring non-perishable snacks and desserts in advance to the school. The same goes with the coolers -- unless you want to put some bags of ice in your coolers and bring the whole shebang with you Friday after school.

Set your calendar for the hot fun in the summer-time!

PTA Pres. _____ *cont'd from page 1*

Labor Day Weekend at Potomac Pizza. For all our events, please check out the shepherd Calendar on our website at: <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/ses-calendar/>. You can even download this calendar to your Smartphone, laptop, desktop, etc. so you'll always know what's happening at Shepherd.

Our next big event is our Welcome Back Cookout, sponsored by the Shepherd PTA, this Friday, Sept. 6, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

We look forward to meeting and greeting you all, face-to-face, and working with you to create an academically stimulating and fun-filled year.



All the best,
Sherilyn Pruitt

Shepherd Elementary PTA President
PTAPresident@shepherd-elementary.org

SAVE THE DATE

Shepherd's

FALL FEST

2013

Sat., Oct. 5th Noon—5 p.m.

Games, Inflatables, Food, Prizes!

Fun for the Whole Family!

For more info, contact:

Bianca Bostic, Chair

Bianca.bostic@noall.gov



Welcome Back Shepherd Mustangs!!!

How was everyone's summer? My summer was fun and exciting. I did so many fun things that I can't list them all but here is a sample: swimming pools, Six Flags, sleepovers, Girl Scout camp, the beach, an overnight lacrosse camp and a Mindless Behavior concert. I hope you guys had close to as much fun as I did. Summer was fun but went by too fast. Now its time to switch gears and say goodbye to Summer and hello to Fall.

It's time to start a new school year in an almost-new building. The construction team has been working all summer long to get our school ready for us. Let's do our part by being ready with our new uniforms, backpacks and school supplies. Don't forget our new learning attitudes.

Time to see old friends and make new ones. Have a great year!

--London Downing, fifth-grader

(Look for Shepherd's Student Scoop contribution each Wednesday in the "Spotlight on Schools" pages of the Northwest Current!)



Box Tops is Back!

Please join Box Tops for Education and help us raise money for Shepherd Elementary. As the new coordinator for Box Tops, I look forward to working with you to make this a successful fundraising-collection year.

If you are new to Shepherd or to Box Tops, you can learn more about the program at <http://www.boxtops4education.com/all-about-boxtops>. I

(see Box Tops, page 4)

Technology Recycling at Shepherd

Shepherd Elementary is entering its fifth year of cell phone recycling. And we've been recycling computer-printer toner cartridges for even longer.

With every 10 cell phones that we receive in the office for recycling, another eco-friendly Shepherd parent (just like you) can ship them to a California company that can "harvest" the technology in each phone for reuse in other phones, thus tamping down the demand for the "earth metals" needed in every cell phone. Even the most basic of cell phones will net Shepherd two bucks, and with cell phones being switch by their users every 22 months, it makes perfect sense to recycle them through the school. Just deposit those unwanted cell phones in the PTA box in the school office.



The same goes for toner cartridges. We bundle up a batch and send them for refilling and/or recycling, depending on the cartridge sent. Just hand them over to Ms. Brooks in the school office. On behalf of the school and of the planet, than you for your help!

Photo Day Rescheduled



Shepherd's first Photo Day of the school year has been moved to

Friday, Sept. 27. All

students are expected to be in uniform for Photo Day, just as they would for any other day of the school year.

The 180 Fund

How can the PTA help Shepherd Elementary this year? It depends — on how much we as families are willing to give. Not only our time and our talent, but our treasure.

The 180 Fund is the PTA's way of supporting and sustaining educational excellence at Shepherd. If there's something the school needs that's not covered in the school budget, and not included in D.C. Public Schools' list, it's pretty much up to the PTA. At one point, we had a computer lab, but no computers — until the PTA stepped in. The PTA hectored DCPS to install a new gym floor, but it was the PTA that paid for the cost of a tarp to protect it. The auditorium sound system? Another PTA gift.

All of this and more was made possible by fully tax-deductible 180 Fund contributions.

As parents, we are the first line of defense for our children. Let's show our solidarity with our contributions. If you cannot just write out a check for \$180 today, you can pay in installments. If you prefer, you can avoid the 180 Fund form that's part of this Mustang and contribute online via the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org. And, if you're able, you contribute \$500 (or any amount) and consider it a down payment on our children's future.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Box Tops _____ *cont'd from page 3*

will send monthly collection sheets in the Mustang to help you organize your family's Box Tops.

Did you know you can shop online to earn Box Tops points for Shepherd as well? Check out the website for more information and to sign up. Box Tops collection is an easy way to earn money for our school while buying necessities for your family. Plus, the class that collects the most Box Tops can earn rewards throughout the school year. Our goal for 2013-14 is to earn \$825 from Box Tops. Each Box Top you earn is worth 10¢. Will you help us reach our goal starting today?

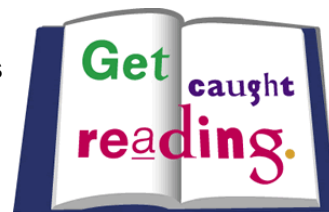
Thanks in advance for your support and participation!

--Kurshanna Johnson, Box Tops Coordinator

Get Caught Reading is Back!

Last year's wildly successful reading initiative, Get Caught Reading, has returned.

If your child reads (or has been read to) a certain amount of time in one sitting, you can pile up "steps" good for both the student and his/her class. There are separate Get Caught Reading forms for preK-1st grade, and for grades 2-5, on the rack outside the office. Mark it up EVERY time your child reads and answers the questions or points posed after each reading session.



With every 30 steps your child completes, s/he will get a coupon good for a free book in the used book room of the Shepherd Park Library, 7420 Georgia (and meet new children's librarian Elaine Pelton while you're there). And, should your child reach 100 steps, that's good for another free book. The love of reading is contagious; let's make it go viral!

If you can't find a form in the rack outside the office, you can print them from the homepage of the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org.

Meet Our Classroom Parents!

We urge all parents to get in touch with their classroom parent ASAP. Make sure they have your own email address so that classroom parents may have a complete list for ready reference when they need to get in touch with all parents.

Thank you!



Never Can Say Goodbye

--No, No, No-No, No...



Dear Shepherd Family,

Hello to all from your former art teacher. I hope you have settled back into the school routine and are looking forward to a new and re-newing year at Shepherd. I wanted

to write to you at the end of the school year but at the time I needed to do so the Mustang had shut down for the summer.

I wanted to thank everyone for the greatest sendoff to retirement anyone could possibly wish for. Particular thanks go to my colleagues who in the last weeks made me feel so valued in their lives. Besides the breakfast, many thanks go to those of you who had kind personal words for me. That meant the world to me. Particular thanks to German Velez and everyone who helped him organize Shepherd students at the BWL concert! What an honor to be so honored! I will never forget that night.

Many, many thanks go out to Shepherd parents and the PTA, who generously showed me their appreciation and gratitude with flowers, gift cards and other gifts. A big shout-out to Mark Pattison, a parent whose expertise at communication, smoothly brought so many disparate parts together for the good of the school. You are so lucky to have him.

And Shepherd students! You are the best and you make Shepherd the wonderful school that it is. I will miss each and every one of you terribly. However, don't look for me to totally fade away because I want to continue my connection with you on a volunteer basis.

So no goodbye but until next time, remember...

You gotta have art!

Hugs,

-Ms. Joele Michaud

Teacher	Parent
Ms. Holt	Yvonne Lewis, yralewis@yahoo.com
Ms. Gibbs	Dawn Moody, dlrmoody@gmail.com, Kesha Pendergrast, skeeme08@aol.com
Ms. Pethltel	Kate Woods, Kateandmamma@yahoo.com
Ms. Hart	Safiya Warfield-Taylor, safiyawarfield@yahoo.com
Ms. Hill-Dyal	
Ms. Guldin	Abena Lewis Mhoon, abena97@aol.com
Ms. Johnson	Nicole Reece, nmreece@verizon.net
Ms. Ulba	Monica Goletiani, goletiani@verizon.net, Christine Kithcart, fischerchristine@msn.com
Ms. George	Jennifer Pauk, jpauk@hotmail.com
Ms. Hamer	Mark Pattison, mpattison@catholicnews.com
Ms. McIntyre	Leonie Stephenson, leoniestephenson86@yahoo.com
Ms. Whren	Janenell Alexander, jennell.alexander@gmail.com
Ms. Valentine-Nelson	
Ms. Charles	
Ms. Thomas	Nadine Kearnes, ndkearnes@hotmail
Mr. Leonard	Star Downing, stardowning@yahoo.com

Thank you for Beautifying Shepherd!



Here's the list of people who helped beautify Shepherd on Aug. 24, just before school started. We

know this is an incomplete list, as there were children who did their part when they weren't playing on the lower field, and there were adults who simply pitched in without ever stopping in the office to sign in. But you know who you are. Now, everybody will know who our signed-in helpers were. THANK YOU!

Christopher Alexander
Savannah Alexander
Chance Allen
Garrett Alston
Nashwa Beach
Rhonda Ashley Bridges
Khari Brown
Evelyn Cahall
Carina Hall
Stephen Hall
Carlos Jones
Constance Jones
Max S. Jones
Evelyn Lewandowski
Michael Lewandowski
Earl Murray
Kesha Pendergrast
Sherilyn Pruitt
Benidia Rice
Alieze Stallworth
Leonard Taylor
David Trimble
Katherine Trimble
Yasemin Washington
Keith White
Noah White
Kate Woods



Bookmark the School Website



Visit our school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org, frequently.

Bookmark it!

It has great features and lots of information all accessible with a click or two. For instance:

- ▶ Slide shows of the ongoing school renovations
- ▶ A calendar of events throughout the year
- ▶ Student-teacher assignments
- ▶ A pictorial review of staff and teachers, with more photos coming soon
- ▶ A countdown calendar on the homepage of key events
- ▶ Details on the International Baccalaureate program
- ▶ The ability to make online contributions to the PTA's 180 Fund
- ▶ The lowdown on Shepherd's art and music programs
- ▶ School supplies needs, grade by grade
- ▶ The Shepherd School Pledge, recited daily
- ▶ Introductory messages from the principal and the PTA president
- ▶ Links to school menus compiled by D.C. Public Schools
- ▶ Star Achievers aftercare news, including how to sign up
- ▶ "Essential Agreements" for students to follow at school

Miles _____ *cont'd from page 1*

through fifth grade have been filled. The remaining 20 slots are for our Pre-K students only. If you are a parent of a Pre-Ker and you would like for your child to participate in carpool, please sign up in the main office no later than Friday.

Arrival: Please do not walk your student to their classroom. We have staff members monitoring the hallways so rest assured that your little one(s) will make it to class safely. In an effort to teach our students independence as well as to make sure that everyone is safe within the building... we are strongly urging that all students who are walked into the school be kissed goodbye at the gymnasium door.

Visiting the Building: To enter the building one must report to the main office and sign in at the security desk. No parent/guardian/visitor will be permitted into the building without signing in and receiving a visitor's badge. When exiting the building, please exit through the main entrance only.

Shepherd FAQs

Q: My child has allergies, special dietary restrictions or needs medication (prescription or non prescription medication) administered at school what steps do I take?

A: You must personally see the nurse and complete the paperwork that is kept in her office. This must be done even if you have notified the child's teacher and/or the main office.

Q: What is carpool and how do I participate?

A: Carpool provides parents with the convenience of pulling in front of the school at dismissal and waiting beside the curb until their child exits the building. This keeps parents from having to find a parking space in the afternoon, get out of their car and walk into the gymnasium to pick up their students. All remaining spots are for our pre-K students.

Q: Do parents have to walk their child into the building each morning? Will my child be safe?

A: Parents may pull to the curb in front of the school and let their student out of the car. There will be Safety Patrol and adults visible each morning between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. to make sure your student gets into the building safely.

Q: What time may I begin dropping off my students?

A: The building opens for students who are not participating in before-care, our breakfast program or another morning activity at 8:30 a.m. Please refrain from bringing/dropping your student off before this time. Safety is a priority and there is no guarantee supervision will be available before 8:30.

Q: What time does the day officially began?

A: The instructional day begins at 8:45 a.m. Any student arriving after this time is considered tardy. Students who arrive late must be escorted into the building and be signed in by an adult.

Q: How do I know that my student is late?

A: If the gym doors are closed, your student is late and must enter through the main entrance and be escorted by a parent.

Q: How do students enter the building in the morning?

A: Students who arrive early for breakfast or aftercare should be escorted by a parent downstairs to the cafeteria. All other students should enter the building through the gymnasium beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Q: Who do I see about before- and aftercare?

A: Ms. Riley is the aftercare coordinator. She will be in the building most of the day during the first week. After the first week her hours in the building are 7:30-9 a.m. and 2-6:30 p.m. She may also be reached by phone by calling the main office at 202-576-6140.

Q: How does the lunch program work?

A: Parents (whose students does not qualify for free and/or reduced-price lunch) are encouraged to create a lunch account and put money on their student's account. The account will be debited each time your child makes a food purchase. Additional information and link to the online pay service can be found at: <http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/Beyond+the+Classroom/Food+Services/Menus+and+Nutritional+Information>. You may also pay by cash by using the kiosk located in the cafeteria.

September 18, 2013, is Back to School Night! 6 p.m.!!

On this night you will learn more about general school policies and procedures as well as academic expectations for your student.

Have a great week!

Regards,

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

Shepherd Elementary School Mission:

At Shepherd, we are committed to the advancement of students' academic, emotional, social and physical well being. We, as a community, will provide students with a safe, supportive, creative, and flexible environment in which children think and learn globally and act compassionately.

Bookmark _____ *cont'd from page 6*

- ▶ Links to our feeder-pattern schools, Deal Middle and Wilson High
- ▶ TV/Video Game Turnoff Club signup form
- ▶ The latest issue of the Mustang – and archived issues going back to 2007
- ▶ Facts to know about the Shepherd PTA
- ▶ Details on how to join the PTA listserv
- ▶ The latest version of the school handbook
- ▶ Instant-classic video of Shepherd students in action
- ▶ Everything you need to know about the Local School Advisory Team
- ▶ Shepherd's discipline policy
- ▶ Get Caught Reading response logs for all grades
- ▶ A volunteer signup form for all sorts of activities and events at school
- ▶ Links to two Shepherd Elementary alumni Facebook groups
- ▶ D.C. Public Schools parent and community news
- ▶ How to go "shopping for Shepherd"
- ▶ Places to send your children when you have to work on no-school days
- ▶ More than 60 summer camps in D.C. and Maryland (it's never too early!)
- ▶ Tutoring and babysitting help
- ▶ Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops in the area

That should get you started! If you find a gap, an inconsistency, a "dead" or out-of-date page, or want to convey a wish for certain information to appear on the website, send a message to sesmustang@gmail.com. Thank you!

Join The Mustang Team!

Do you have mad skills in writing and editing? How about in layout and design? How about photocopying and walking?

The Mustang Team can use you! If you're interested, email Mark Pattison at:

pattison_mark@hotmail.com or Kesha Pendergrast at skeeme08@aol.com to join this merry team!

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!

Deadline for Next Mustang Issue

Fri, Sep. 6, at 5 p.m.

Send all contributions to:

sesmustang@gmail.com

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Shepherd Elementary School

7800 14th Street, NW,

Washington, DC 20012

Office Telephone: 202-576-6140

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Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to:

SESmustang@gmail.com



Shepherd Elementary School PTA
 7800 14th Street, North West
 Washington, DC 20012-1464
www.shepherd-elementary.org

The PTA's 180 Fund

For the 2013-14 school year, EVERY Shepherd parent is in the PTA. If you are at a PTA meeting, you automatically have a vote and a voice. There are no monetary barriers to participating in the life of the school in general, [The Mustang](#), the [Shepherd Elementary website](#), and the [PTA listserv](#) will let you know how you can make Shepherd Elementary – and our children's educational experience – better than ever.

Your Child – And Every Shepherd Student – Benefits From Your 180 Fund Contribution

But, without PTA dues, how do we pay for the things we say we want? The 180 Fund is now in its fifth year of financing school needs not covered by the school budget or D.C. Public Schools. With past contributions, we've completely outfitted the computer lab ... paid for the auditorium sound system and the tarp to cover the new gym floor ... subsidized an "afterschool academy" and paid for Discovery Communications testing analyses ... even purchased office supplies. Why a 180 Fund? Because there are 180 instructional days in the school year – a dollar a day. Can YOU afford a dollar a day per child to improve Shepherd? We think you can. Can you do more? If so, terrific! Do you need to pay on an installment plan? We've got one. Please complete this form and check the boxes:

Home address _____

Zip Code _____ Home phone number: _____

Parent 1: First and Last Name _____

Work number: _____ Cell phone number: _____

Parent 2: First and Last Name _____

Work number: _____ Cell phone number: _____

Your name(s): _____ ☐ I am a Shepherd teacher/staff member.

Email address(s): _____ ☐ Yes, sign me up for the Shepherd PTA Yahoo Group!

Phone Number(s): _____

Child(ren): _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

_____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

_____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

☐ I wish to participate in the 180 Fund. Enclosed is my lump sum contribution of \$180.

☐ I wish to participate in the 180 Fund and will make two semi-annual payments of \$90 each by Sept 16 and \$90 by January 16, 2014

☐ I wish to participate in the 180 Fund and will make four quarterly payments of \$45 each by Sept. 16, Nov. 16, Jan. 16 and March 16.

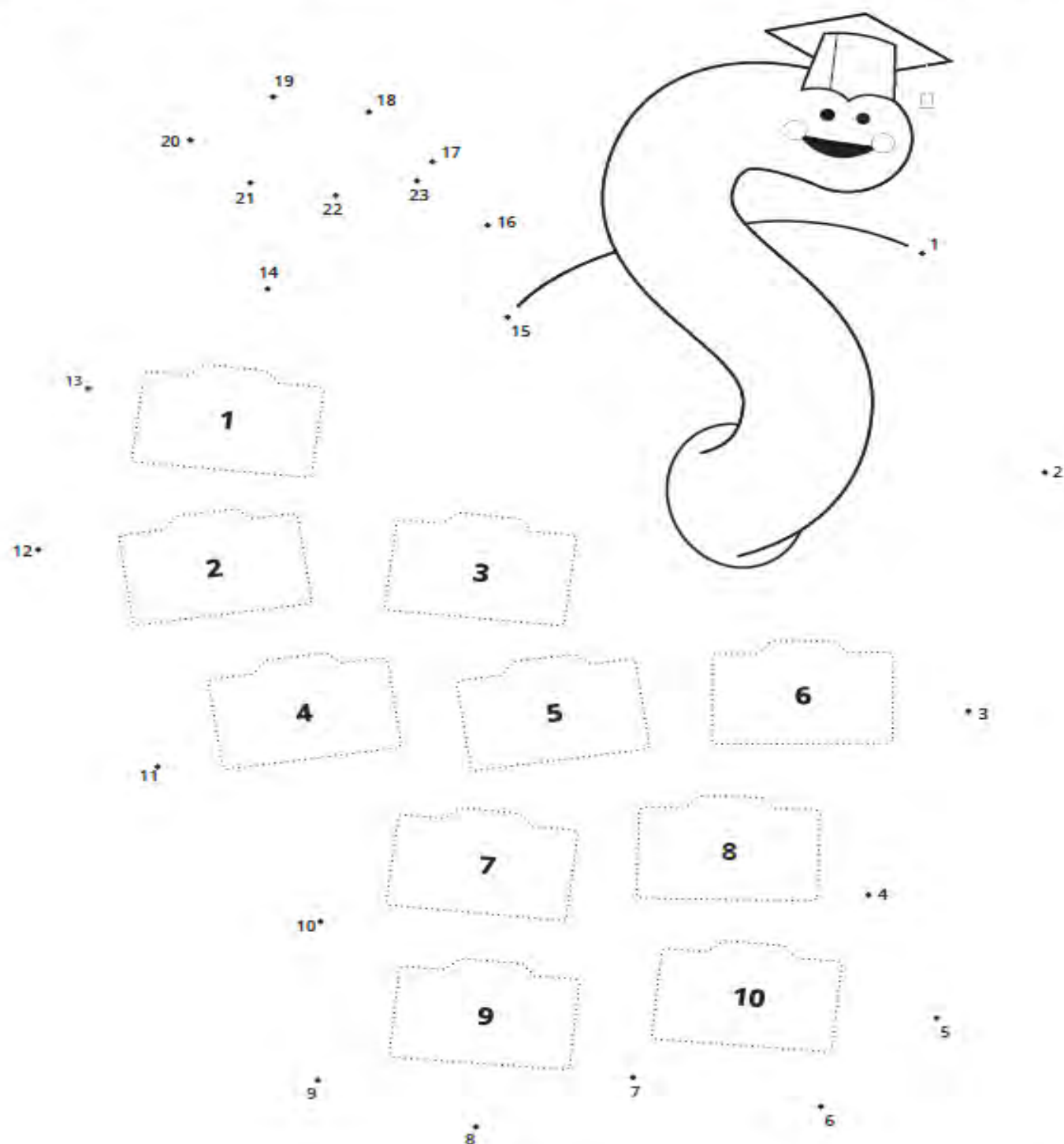
☐ I wish to participate in the 180 Fund and will be able to pay semi annually \$90 by Sept 16 and \$90 by January 16, 2014.

☐ I wish to participate in 180 Fund and I would like to be exempt from Fundraising. Enclosed is my contribution of \$500.

(Please return form and check made payable to SES PTA to the PTA mailbox in the Shepherd Elementary School Office. You can also pay via credit card online at www.shepherd-elementary.org)



**A GIFT FOR YOUR TEACHER—AND YOUR SCHOOL!
CONNECT THE DOTS, COLOR AND ADD 10 BOX TOPS**



Thank you for helping! Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school. To see more ways to earn cash for your school, go to btf.com!

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