



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

September 23, 2013



- **Fri., Sept. 27:** Fall Picture Day—in uniform!
- **Mon., Sept. 30—Sat., Oct. 5:** Book Fair
- **Tues., Oct. 1:** Family Dinner Night, The Daily Dish Restaurant 8301-A Grubb Rd.,

Silver Spring 5-9p.m.

- **Wed, Oct. 2:** School Improvement Team meeting, 5 p.m.
- **Sat., Oct. 5:** Fall Fest, noon—5 p.m.
- **Tues., Oct. 8:** LSAT meeting, 4 p.m.
- **Wed., Oct. 9:** Walk to School Day

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

From the PTA President

Thanks for a wonderful turnout at Back-to-School Night! It was great that so many families could see the new and improved school facility, meet the teachers and staff, and get to know each other a bit better. Thank you to the Star Achievers staff for caring for a record number of kiddies, and also, appreciation goes to Ledo Pizza for providing refreshments. I am looking forward to just as enthusiastic a crowd at our next PTA meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 6:30 p.m.



But before that, the PTA has a couple of exciting activities planned for the school community. The first one is the Fall Fest. If you haven't already volunteered to lead an activity or staff a booth, please contact me at PTAPresident@shepherd-elementary.org and I'll be glad to put you to work for an

(see PTA , page 7)

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Everyone!

Back To School Night

First let me begin by thanking everyone for attending Back to School Night 2013. Though we have not done a final parent count, 150 students checked in for childcare. This signals to me a great turnout. I hope you found the evening informative. If you were unable to attend please contact your child's teacher for a packet.



New Shepherd Family Members

Please join me in welcoming Shepherd's newest family members: Ms. Bianca Arrington (4th grade teacher) and Ms. Karsyn Miles (my daughter). Karsyn was born at 5:26 p.m. Friday. She weighed in at 6 lbs. I thank each one of you for your well wishes.

Principal in Charge

During my leave Ms. Katie Jones, a retired DCPS teacher, administrator and former Shepherd grandmother will be serving as principal. She will be on board at the end of the week. However, it is expected that members of my leadership team and staff continue to operate at an exceptional level and rely on Ms. Jones in the event of an emergency. While I am away Ms. Hart and Ms. Liggins will be the individuals to whom you will be referred if you have questions and concerns that cannot be addressed by your child's teacher. I plan to return the end of October.

(see Miles , page 7)

SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

Back to School Night Highlights

It was Team Shepherd all the way Sept. 18 as parents met not only their own teacher but all teachers from their child's grade in joint meetings, and learned the curriculum approach used by the faculty, and the parent support that's expected in the short- and long-term.

During the PTA meeting run by PTA First Vice President Kyra Marshall that split the grade-level meetings, it was 30 of the quickest minutes you saw, especially after all of the Shepherd staff was introduced and the PTA 2013-14 budget was approved. The new budget should be posted by the time you read this at <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/parent-teacher-association-pta/> and clicking on "PTA Budget" in the right column. PTA Treasurer Judith McCullough issued the call for parents to give to the PTA's 180 Fund, which

By the way, thanks to the healthy appetites of children and parents – and yet another standing-room-only turnout for Back to School Night – 20 extra-large pizzas from Ledo Pizza disappeared in less than an hour and a half. That's 600 squares of pizza, folks. Give yourselves a hand! We'll likely have more pizza at our next PTA meeting, slated for Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.



DAY Picks Up Speed!

Shepherd Walk to School Day is coming up on Wednesday, Oct. 9, and we need parent volunteers. The celebration will highlight:

- Pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Needed pedestrian and bicycle improvements around the school (e.g., bump outs at Jonquil and 14th Street).
- Shepherd's arrival and dismissal process.
- The benefits of regular physical activity.
- The simple joy of walking.

Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser says she'll attend pending confirmation from her scheduler, who has been on vacation. We have also invited Jennifer Heferan, DDOT's Safe Routes to School coordinator, and put the word out to local media outlets.

Parent volunteers are needed for the following:

- Supervise students as they walk from Marvin Caplan Park (Alaska Avenue and Holly Street) to Shepherd. (10 parents needed)
- Welcome students and parents at Shepherd (4 parents needed) by distributing goodies (LED blinky lights and stickers) to students, distributing literature, and setting up and overseeing refreshments. (4 parents needed)

Please let me know if you can help with any of these tasks, or have any thoughts or suggestions for Shepherd Walk to School Day.

--Jim Elliott, parent



Looking for Box Tops?

Here are some very familiar brand names to be on the lookout for at the supermarket if you want to buy products with the Box Tops for Education seal on them. Make sure you clip out the Box Tops seal before discarding the product. Save up those Box Tops on a collection sheet or a Ziploc bag (we say Ziploc because Ziploc is a Box Tops partner), make sure your child's name, grade and teacher are included, and Shepherd is well on its way to collecting money the easy way!

Look for these brands:

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 adults, children and toddlers

Ziploc food storage bags

Kleenex facial tissue

Scott bathroom tissue

Hefty disposable tableware and trash bags

Traffic Safety Tip



Parents: If you are driving your child to school, please have them leave your car on the CURB side. This is true wherever you park, or drop off, your child. Letting them out in the middle of the street is not only unsafe, but it usually leads to crossing in the middle of the block, which

can be even more unsafe.

Do the safe thing. Insist that children exit on the curb side, even if your minivan is filled with kids. And be a stickler about safety in your car, and outside your car!

LSAT Meeting Highlights

Some things of note from the September Local School Advisory Team meeting:

PTA and LSAT leaders from elementary schools that feed into Deal Middle School had a joint meeting arranged by the Deal counterparts. Part of the meeting was a meet-and-greet; the other part was a briefing by the Deal principal on its academic program, which prompted conversation during the LSAT meeting on the improvement Shepherd students are showing each year once they enroll at Deal.

Principal Miles outlined improvements she wants to see in Shepherd academic achievement to make it a "reward" school as defined by D.C. Public Schools, which would mean greater budget autonomy.

(see LSAT , page 8)

The 180 Fund Needs Us!

You've probably heard the phrase, "a free public education." And even if you're new to Shepherd, you've learned that there's really no such thing.

We give of our time and our talents to make the school better. But Shepherd also needs our treasure.



The principal and PTA officers collaborate closely on items and initiatives that the school needs. And guess what: Those things usually cost money. That's where the 180 Fund comes in. It supplements the school's budget, which is already spoken for well in advance of the school year.

Your tax-deductible contribution helps the PTA help the school. The deductibility of your donation helps you. After the treasurer's appeal at last week's Back to School night, several parents wrote checks on the spot. But it's never too late to contribute.

You can pay by check or online. To do it online, go to www.shepherd elementary.org, look on the left column and click on the green button that reads "NOW! You Can Give to Shepherd Online."

To pay by check, make the check payable to Shepherd Elementary PTA and deposit it in the PTA mailbox in the office. There's a donation form in this issue of the Mustang. There are also 180 Fund forms in the rack outside the school office. Thank you!



The annual Shepherd Scholastic Book Fair starts next Monday and runs all week -- including Saturday, Oct. 5, the date of Fall Fest. Students will have ample opportunity to shop and create want-lists. Book fair workers - to help out, email the business manager, Ms. Hebron, at delores.hebron@dc.gov -- will calculate the cost, including tax, of the books on your students wish list. You can send a check with your child to complete the purchase. But just in case, bring plenty of cash at Fall Fest for books sure to be on many children's reading lists.

School Improvement Team Meets Next Week

The School Improvement Team that's been responsible for the current and ongoing renovations at Shepherd will have its first meeting of the school year next week, on Wednesday, Oct. 2, at 5 p.m. Team members representing Shepherd staff and parents, city personnel and contractors will assess the renovations done to date and chart a course for the completion of renovations between the start of the new fiscal year (it starts Oct. 1) and the end of next summer.

(see School, page 8)



Counting Down to Fall Fest

Now that it's officially autumn, let's all get ready for Shepherd's annual Fall Fest, the great fun fund-raiser that brings together the school community and the neighborhood.

Here's just a sample of what to expect this year:

All-Day Ride/Activity Passes

Moon Bounces for All Ages (no kid has ever sniffed at a moon bounce in our zip code)

Spin Art

Doughnut Decorating

Popcorn

Pizza

Cotton Candy

Face Painting

... and more to be announced once we've got 'em!

Room parents are busy querying parents in their respective classrooms to lend a hand for the various activities. The PTA will need volunteers, too, to dispense tickets, ride passes, sell food, set up, take down -- you're familiar with the drill! To offer your services, get in touch with Tabatha McNeill at tabatha.c.mcneill@gmail.com.

This year's Fall Fest is Saturday, Oct. 5, noon to 5 p.m. A world of fun awaits all that day. Don't you dare miss it! Share the attached flier with family and friends.



Star Achievers News

The Star Achievers Above-and-Beyond-the-Call-of-Duty award goes to the aftercare staffers who patiently and enthusiastically helped serve pizza and watch over the 100-plus students who gathered in the cafeteria last Wednesday while their parents attended Back To School Night.

A great big **THANK YOU** to Mr. Anderson, Ms. Hayes-Noel, Ms. Royster and Mr. Hall for their dedicated service.

This week in aftercare we are adding languages, sports and other fun and educational activities. Please see the Star Achievers Newsletter edited by Kim Gereau for details. If you do not receive the newsletter, please email sesstarachievers@gmail.com and we will place you on the email list.

As a reminder, we do not provide drop-in service before school, and we are not open for aftercare on half-days or for parent-teacher conferences or staff development days.

Have a Star-Filled Week!

--Ms. Claire Riley, program director

202-465-0514 or sesstarachievers@gmail.com



Meet the Shepherd Safety Patrol!

Please follow the directions of "wait" and "you may cross" from these trained and dedicated students, who get to school early to make sure our children get to school safely.

2013 - 2014 Safety Patrols

Courtney White (Captain)

Caleb Schuster (Captain)

Malik Belmar

Kemani Cash-Taylor

Yesenia Castro

Miles Davis

Weldon Genies, Jr.

Khirah George

Isabella Hall

Allison Holmes

Darius King

Keshav Mehta-Harwitz

Cyntia Pattison

Kurt Peacock

Moise Pringle

Suwilanj Smith

Cyndi Taylor

Aja Topps-Harjo

Henry Trimble

Benjamin White



Friday Sept 20:

Mrs. Miles delivered a healthy baby girl. Karsyn made her world debut at 5:26 p.m. weighing 6 pounds.

PTA _____ *cont'd from page 1*

hour or so. The Fall Fest is our biggest fund (and fun) raiser of the first semester, and it will be a great success when everyone gets involved. Thank you to Yasmin Lewis-White and all of the classroom parents for signing up for Fall Fest activities. Also, a big shout-out to Tabatha McNeill and Rhonda Ashley for coordinating other key components of the Fall Fest. We still need classroom parents for both fourth grade classes. Please step up or nominate one of your friends so that no one gets left out. Contact our classroom parent coordinator Yasmin at tyaslewis@aol.com to let her know you are willing to serve.

Shortly following the Fall Fest is International Walk-to-School Day which will be celebrated the morning of Wednesday, October 9. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Jim Elliott at jamesbelliott@gmail.com.

Thank you all for your engagement and involvement, and I look forward to seeing you around the school.

Sherilyn Pruitt, PTA President

PTAPresident@shepherd-elementary.org



Smile!

Picture Day is this Friday, Sept. 27. As with every other school day, students are expected to be in uniform. Look for order blanks in your child's backpack. And, if the dog eats the order blanks, you will probably be able to find some order forms on Picture Day itself inside the school office.

Miles _____ *cont'd from page 1*

Attendance Matters

If your child is absent from school you must send a note to school with your student upon their return. The only excusable absences are: religious, sickness and death of an immediate family member. An accumulation of absences will result in a request for a conference, referral to Student Support Team (SST), a home visit, referral to Child and Family Services, and Family Court. How do you prevent these action steps from being taken against you? Answer: Know that attendance matters and make sure your student is in school unless it is an excused absence. You should also respond to our notices and ask questions if you have them!

Behavior Policy

If you attended Back to School Night you received a copy of our revised School-Wide Behavior Plan. There is a plan for Pre-K through 1st grade and one for 2nd through 3rd grade. While we believe it is important to help students learn right from wrong at this age level, we also believe many of the behaviors are developmental -- hence the reason for two different plans. A copy of the plan will be placed on our school's website no later than the end of the week.

90/80/90/90 (Our Goals!)

Last Wednesday, you took a big step toward helping us meet our goals - you attended Back to School Night. Please continue to look for more opportunities of specific ways you can help us reach our goals.

This week our teachers will be finalizing their beginning of the year assessments and designing instruction designed to meet students' individual needs. One expectation is for students and parents to know their child's reading level and strategies to help your child continue to improve.

Have a great week!

Jamie Miles

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

LSAT _____ *cont'd from page 3*

Truancy and chronic absence is down at Shepherd, but DCPS has set the bar higher in these areas.

Whereas in the past there used to be a lot of student "churn" in third grade, it's now seen in fourth grade, as parents play the odds on what they think will be a surer feeder path to Deal. DCPS's promised boundary redrawing is now not expected until December. Any changes won't take place until the 2015-16 school year.

Traffic and pedestrian safety was another topic of conversation, with some parents noting that the traffic flow during morning dropoff has improved since the start of the school year.

The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 4 p.m. All are welcome to attend the meeting -- but, if confidential matters arise, they will have to leave the meeting room.

Half-Days at Shepherd

Parents: Make sure you know the half-days on the school calendar. Don't get caught by surprise one afternoon when school is dismissed early and you're stuck downtown. All half-days end at 12:15 p.m. They are:

Friday, Nov. 1

Friday, Jan. 24

Friday, March 28

Thursday, June 19 (last day of school)

School _____ *cont'd from page 4*

If you have comments – positive or negative – about the renovation work done thus far, make your thoughts known to Mark Pattison, the School Improvement Team chair, at:

[Pattison mark@hotmail.com](mailto:Pattison_mark@hotmail.com) or call him at 202-829-9289. Your opinions can help guide the next phases of renovation at our school.

Next Family Dinner Night Oct. 1

The good news: We got a check from Olazzo, our first Family Dinner Night partner, for \$380!

The better news: We can keep up this streak with our next Family Dinner Night. **It's Tuesday, Oct. 1**, at The Daily Dish, 8301-A Grubb Road in the Rock Creek Shopping Center. Hours are 5-9 p.m. The PTA will get 15% of your pre-tax tab, food and drinks included.

The Daily Dish has outdoor seating that's just perfect if the weather's right. It features American cuisine locally sourced, including one of the best mac 'n' cheese plates your kids may ever eat in a restaurant. There are also personal-size pizzas and tasty desserts.

To get to the Daily Dish, head west on East-West Highway, make a left at the light at Grubb Road, and turn left into the shopping center parking lot. (There's additional parking in the back.) Or you can take this shortcut: From Shepherd Elementary, take Kalmia over the culvert and scoot up West Beach Drive, taking the last possible left before the "NO OUTLET" sign. A half-block later, you're in Maryland on Grubb Road.

Remember to say "I'm With Shepherd!" to your server to the PTA can qualify for the rebate. Let's pack the place!



Attend and Support Shepherd Elementary School's Fall Festival



7800 14th Street NW
Washington DC 20012

October 5, 2013
Noon to 5PM

Students and Staff bring your parents, friends and family out to enjoy:

Food

Arts & Crafts

Games

Moon Bounces and an Inflatable Obstacle Course

Prices for food and activities vary.

This event is sponsored by Shepherd's PTA. Volunteers are needed. Shepherd parents please contact your respective classroom parent. Community groups (ie. Boy/Girl Scouts) may volunteer by emailing PTAPresident@shepherd-elementary.org.



FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

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The Daily Dish
 8301-A Grubb Rd, Silver Spring
 (just south of East-West Highway,
 in the Rock Creek Shopping Center)

Tuesday, October 1, 2013
 5pm—9pm

→ **SAY, "I'M WITH SHEPHERD"** ←
 The PTA gets 15% of your bill!



*Serving "comfort food with a twist"
 that's locally sourced and made from
 farm fresh ingredients*



Good for Dine-In and Carryout (PH: 301-588-6300) • thedailydishrestaurant.com

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Family Dinner Nights

A great way to have a good meal and fellowship with other Shepherd families is with Family Dinner Night. Every month or so, we go to a nearby restaurant, and the management rebates 15 to 20 percent of our money to the PTA. From these partnerships, the PTA collects about \$2,500 every year with little effort on parents' part but to show up with their kids and order dinner (and maybe appetizers and dessert!).

Here's a schedule of Family Dinner Nights to take Shepherd to the end of 2013:

- ▶ Tuesday, Oct. 1: The Daily Dish, 8301-A Grubb Rd., Silver Spring, 5-9 p.m.
- ▶ Tuesday, Oct. 29: Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant, 8613 16th St., Silver Spring, 5-9 p.m.
- ▶ Tuesday, Nov. 19: Crisfield Seafood Restaurant, 8012 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, 5-9 p.m.
- ▶ Friday, Dec. 6: Nando's Peri-Peri, 924 Ellsworth Ave., Silver Spring, 5-9 p.m.
PLUS Color Me Mine, 823 Ellsworth Ave., Silver Spring, 6-10 p.m.
- ▶ Monday, Dec. 16, Ledo Pizza, 7435 Georgia Ave., 4-10 p.m.

Most restaurants will give us credit for both dine-in and take-out orders, but pay close attention to the Mustang and the PTA listserv for exact details. In any event, when you go to the restaurant, tell 'em, "I'm with Shepherd!"

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. 27, at 5 p.m.

Send all contributions to:
sesmustang@gmail.com

Shepherd Elementary School Mission:

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

Shepherd Elementary School

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 7800 14th Street, North West
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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)