



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

October 7, 2013



- ▶ **Tues., Oct. 8:** LSAT meeting, 4 p.m.
- ▶ **Wed., Oct. 9:** Walk to School Day
- ▶ **Tues., Oct. 10:** In-school Hispanic Heritage Celebration
- ▶ **Mon., Oct. 14:** Columbus

Day, no school

- ▶ **Wed., Oct. 16:** PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Fri., Oct. 18:** Professional development day, no school
- ▶ **Mon., Oct. 21:** Parent-teacher conferences, no school

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

From the PTA President

Hi Shepherd Families,

Fall Fest was Fabulous!!! It was truly a community event that included the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, volunteers from the Kiwanis Club, attendees from the Shepherd Park community, area children who are home-schooled – and, of course, Shepherd Elementary School staff and students and their families. There were so many fun things to do and eat! There were an array of moon bounces, a basketball game, a mini ropes course, a cupcake walk, pin the tail on the donkey, face painting, henna tattoos, cookie, doughnut, pumpkin and mask decorating (you could eat the doughnuts and cookies), spin art, popcorn, cotton candy and even an ice cream truck. There were also hot dogs, burgers, chips, and beverages. People were literally dancing

(see PTA , page 6)

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings, Shepherd Families,

Your Help is Needed – Restroom Expectations



This summer our school went through the first round of modernization which included modernized restrooms. When funds were limited and the question was asked, “What do we see as a priority?”, our bathrooms were Number One on the list. We desired for our students to be able to use clean, sanitized restrooms on a daily basis -- and our wish was granted. However, your help is needed! Our students are not taking care of our restrooms. They have knocked dispensers off of walls, broken door stops and continually misused supplies such as toilet tissue, paper towels and soap. I have asked teachers to increase restroom supervision; however, parents, we are asking you to please remind your students about appropriate restroom behavior.

Our restrooms at Shepherd Elementary are clean, safe environments where people interact with courtesy and respect.

Responsible Restroom behavior

- ▶ Only one student is to be in a stall at a time.
- ▶ Students will use quiet voices (“inside voices”).
- ▶ Students will refrain from playing in the restroom.
- ▶ Students will leave stalls unlocked after use.
- ▶ Students will try and keep all areas and

(see Miles , page 6)



We have a lot of cool clubs at Shepherd. There are cooking, yearbook, and comic book clubs. This year I'm going to try out for the Mustang Cheerleaders, the BWL Band and track. To get ready for the

cheerleading tryouts, many of the fourth-grade girls have been practicing during recess. Some of the cheers we practice are "Victory" and "Pump It Up." The tryouts will start soon, so cheerleaders: Get ready to show your moves!

I went to the Shepherd Book Fair, and I saw some really cool books. I got three books: "Gabby Douglas," "Shake It Up Step By Step" and "Jessie's New Nanny." I also saw a 2013-14 "greatest prank" book at the fair.

On Picture Day, the photographer had us say "cookie," and he took our picture with a big flash of light. I thought it was funny the way the photographer said "cookie"; it made me smile.

If you are in the fourth-grade French class, remember your project is due this Thursday, Oct. 10.

Make it a great school week, everybody!

--Lauren Curtis, fourth-grader

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

JOB POSTING

The Mustang team has immediate openings for an Editor, Layout/Design Professional and Production Manager. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. This dynamic team is looking for other parents/teachers to join in on the fun. We offer great benefits: free training; the opportunity to be among the first to know what's happening in and around the school; full-time tele-working and a chance to continue to make an impact on your school. If you're looking to show off or expand your skills, please contact Mark Pattison at pattison_mark@hotmail.com or Kesha Pendergrast at skeeme08@aol.com.

Traffic Safety Tip



D.C. wants you to know that it is prohibited to park in loading docks areas -- and Shepherd Elementary is no exception! Loading dock space at Shepherd is limited, and it is reserved for the use of authorized

commercial vehicles. Please do not park or pull into this area when dropping your kids in the morning. Be reminded that many of our before-care kids are using the side entrance and unauthorized vehicles obstruct their access.

D.C. law prohibits vehicles to park on private property without consent. Violators will be fined \$250 -- plus towing fees, if towed. See DCMR § 18-2601 & DC Official Code, § 50-2421.03-05.

SAFETY FIRST

Safety is our highest priority. If you are walking, please walk safely. Pedestrian safety tips will be distributed through student backpacks this week. If you are driving, please drive carefully, park legally, and observe the school's arrival and dismissal procedure. If you are dropping your student off at Marvin Caplan Park or at the school, please pull to the curbside and let your child out of the car safely. Please do not stop at intersections or in the middle of the street.

Questions?: Please contact Jim Elliott at jamesbelliott@gmail.com

Meet the New Fourth Grade Teacher!



Hi! My name is Bianca Arrington and I am so excited to be a part of the fourth grade team. I have high expectations and several BIG goals for my students this year, but first I wanted to share a few things about me!

I was born in Washington and raised in Germantown, which is about 45 minutes outside of the city. When I graduated from high school, I moved to College Park to attend the University of Maryland. (Go TERPS!) I was only about 30 minutes away from my home town, but it definitely felt a world away. I couldn't wait to graduate and start teaching! I packed up almost ALL of my belongings and went to become an educator in a rural community near Jackson, Mississippi.



During my first year of teaching, I taught first grade and tutored eighth graders after school in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. I then moved back to Washington to continue teaching closer to home. In addition to first grade, I have experience teaching second, fourth, fifth, and eighth graders in the District of Columbia. This will be my third year of teaching. I love teaching fourth graders because I know exactly where the students are coming from and where they need to go by the end of the year! Having experience in both lower elementary and middle school grades will allow me to challenge and assist your child in reaching their fullest potential.

I am currently in pursuit of my master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction for Elementary Education, at George Mason University in Arlington. I have some amazing ideas on how fourth graders will read across the curriculum in all subjects to increase fluency in literacy and maintain a deeper understanding of their learning!

Family Dinner Night Results



Last Tuesday, we had Shepherd students, pLast Tuesday, we had Shepherd students, parents -- and even teachers! -- enjoying dinner at the Daily Dish, featuring its outdoor ambiance. And, in one of the quickest turnarounds we've ever seen, Zora and Jerry and their staff whipped up a check the very next day for \$100! Thanks to all who came to dine.

Put the next Family Dinner Night on your calendars now. It marks our triumphant return to the Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant at 8613 16th Street in Silver Spring, as part of the Spring Center. It's a dine-in-ONLY deal for Shepherd, but Lilly and James and the staff are willing to rebate 20 percent to the PTA, so let's pack the place!

FROM THE LSAT CHAIR

The LSAT meets the second Tuesday of every month. During the last LSAT meeting the team received a report on the Deal feeder schools meeting; were engaged in an in-depth discussion regarding the End of Year Testing and Goal Setting and received an update on traffic safety.

The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at 4pm. A large part of our meeting will be to discuss the results of the LSAT survey.

All parents, teachers and community representatives are welcome and are encouraged to sit in on this and every LSAT meeting, even if you're not an LSAT member. During sensitive meeting topics, you may be asked to leave the room until the discussion is completed.

If you have any questions regarding the LSAT or are interested in reviewing the meeting notes from July, please feel free to contact Kesha Pendergrast at skeeme08@aol.com or visit Shepherd Elementary website at www.shepherd-elementary.org, respectively.

Warm Regards,

Kesha Pendergrast

Parent Representative, LSAT Chair



Just a brief update from the art class. As you know, we are winding down the first International Baccalaureate unit, and each grade level has produced a project as a reflection of their individual units.

Kindergarten learned color mixing and each student created a self-expression while mixing primary colors. First grade examined the purpose and role of visual symbols in communication. Each student created a new symbol with a new meaning. Second graders created collages that demonstrate their understanding of seed dispersal. Grade three produced tourism posters that demonstrate their recognition of architectural similarities from different cultures. Fourth grade produced drawings of a sphere that replicates the sun's impact on the earth. Finally, fifth graders should be finalizing their inventions based on their study of historical inventions.

See you in unit two!

--Mr. Vinson Irby, art teacher

Shepherd Walk to School Day this Wednesday!

Lace up your walking shoes! International Walk to School Day is this Wednesday, October 9. Join students, parents, and faculty as we celebrate the simple act of walking, highlight the health benefits of regular physical activity, and emphasize safety.

How to Participate?: It's simple--just walk to school. Walk from home, along your customary route. Or, meet us at Marvin Caplan Park on the corner of Alaska Avenue and Holly Street, NW, to join the "walking school bus." The walking school bus will feature parent volunteers and Shepherd staff members, who will supervise students on their walk to school. We invite and encourage parents to walk with us.

Students and parents interested in joining the "walking school bus" should gather at Marvin Caplan Park at 8 a.m. The "walking school bus" departs at 8:10. Don't be late!

Special Guests: Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Browser will greet students and parents as they arrive on Walk to School Day! We have also invited officials from DDOT and from the Metropolitan Police Department's 4th District office. Please say "hi" to our special guests!

Refreshments for All, Goodies for Kids: We'll also have refreshments for students and parents and information about pedestrian safety, the school's arrival and dismissal procedures, the health benefits of regular physical activity. Student walkers will receive special goodies, courtesy of the Shepherd PTA and DDOT.



How Does Our Garden Grow?



GROWING GARDENS

Did you know that fall is the perfect time to start a garden? It's true! While most people think of the summer as gardening season, the fall months offer perfect growing conditions for a large variety of vegetables.

These veggies like the cooler temperatures and don't mind the shorter days. In fact, most greens taste sweeter with an overnight frost.

Here's a list of some fall veggies to look for at the farmer's market or grocery:

- ▶ Greens: Collard, Mustard, Turnip
- ▶ Kale, Swiss Chard, Spinach
- ▶ Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage
- ▶ Cauliflower, Beets, Carrots
- ▶ Lettuce, Arugula

Best of all, most of these are powerhouse, cancer-fighting cruciferous vegetables. And all are loaded with vitamins and antioxidants.

Eat more veggies – your body and mind will thank you!

Second Graders Get Their Hands Dirty

To finish out their International Baccalaureate unit of Plants Are Everywhere, Ms. Ulba's second-grade class spent some time tending to Shepherd's raised garden beds.

We learned a lot in a short amount of time:

- ▶ What to grow during the fall months
- ▶ Growing happy plants
- ▶ Benefits of lady bugs, worms, praying mantises, and bumble bees

And best of all, we went outside to the garden. We found ladybugs and worms for our garden and took home clippings of oregano and rosemary. Everyone got a chance to get their hands dirty planting seedlings and seeds. We are growing kale, Swiss chard, collard greens, spinach and a variety of lettuces. In a few weeks, we'll have another outdoor classroom and check on our plants to see if they are ready for harvesting. Stay tuned!



PTA _____ *cont'd from page 1*

in the street!

It was great fun (and a wonderful fundraiser) and the credit all goes to the parents and other volunteers who made it happen. Special thanks to Yasmin Lewis-White -- the classroom parent coordinator -- and all of the parents who volunteered to staff and fund the activities. Thanks to the men who grilled the food all afternoon long, and thank you to the folks who served the food to the hungry attendees. Kudos to Tabatha McNeill, Bianca Bostic, Rhonda Ashley and Kim Harrison, who led the coordination of the Fall Fest. Finally, great appreciation goes to the PTA Executive Board who initiated the Fall Fest again this year.

I look forward to seeing all of you bright and early on Wednesday morning, October 9, at Marvin Caplan Park for the next PTA event in recognition of International Walk to School Day. Marvin Caplan Park is located on the corner of Alaska Avenue and 13th Street NW, and students and their parents can meet there at 8 a.m. to join the "walking school bus" for the trip to Shepherd. A brisk morning walk will be a great way to start the day and focus on health, safety, and the environment.

Thank you for all you do for our students and our school.

Sherilyn Pruitt, PTA President

PTAPresident@shepherd-elementary.org

Miles _____ *cont'd from page 1*

fixtures as clean as possible and will not use excessive toilet paper or paper toweling.

- ▶ Students will wash and dry hands appropriately after using the restroom.
- ▶ Use water appropriately.
- ▶ Use one squirt of soap.
- ▶ Students will refrain from playing or climbing, and will respect the privacy of others at all times.
- ▶ Students will report problems to the closest adult. (When in doubt, don't flush.)

Working Toward Our School Goal (Reading Strategy – Visualizing)

One of our school goals for the 2013-14 school year is to increase the number of students reading and comprehending at grade level. However, in order for this to happen, parents are asked to be their child's learning partner at home and reinforce learning at home.

Since the first day of school we have been focusing/reviewing reading strategies. In the classroom students from pre-K through fifth grade have been learning about a reading strategy and have had an opportunity to apply the strategy. At home, parents are asked to model the strategy when reading with or to your student and encourage our independent readers to utilize the strategy while reading.

Visualizing

"If I can't picture it, I can't understand it." -- *Albert Einstein*

"It is impossible even to think without a mental picture." -- *Aristotle*

"Man's mind cannot understand thoughts without images of them." -- *Thomas Aquinas*

Why is visualizing so important?

- ▶ Visualizing involves picturing in your mind what is happening in the text.

(see Miles , page 7)

Miles _____ *cont'd from page 6*

- ▶ When you visualize narrative text, you use sensory images like sounds, physical sensations, smells, touch, and emotions described in the story to help you picture the story.
- ▶ The brain “sees” in order to store and process information.
- ▶ Visualization is directly related to language comprehension, language expression, and critical thinking.
- ▶ Imagery is a primary sensory connection in the brain.
- ▶ Visualizing improves comprehension of narrative and expository text.
- ▶ Being able to create images, story worlds, and mental models while reading is an essential element of reading comprehension, engagement, and reflection. In fact, without visualization, students cannot comprehend, and reading cannot be said to be reading.

As you read you create pictures in your mind of events and actions, characters and their features, clothing, settings and situations, and more.

A Capital Commitment (Better Schools for All Students by 2017)

Shepherd has expanded its offerings of clubs, organizations and sports for our students. Below is a list of some of the activities that students will have an opportunity to participate. Though most of the clubs/organizations and sports are for students in grades three through five, we are working to find ways to engage even our youngest learners. Please look for flyers and information about these clubs/organizations/sports teams throughout the year.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Student Council | Track and Field |
| Safety Patrol | Girls on the Run |
| Chess Club | Basketball |
| GeoPlunge | Kickball |
| Cooking Club | Cross Country |
| Dance Club | Double Dutch Club |
| Drum Line | French and Spanish Club |
| Band (BWL) | Board Game Club |
| Health and Fitness Club | Arts and Crafts Club |
| Yearbook Club | Ski Club |
| Journalism Club | Comic Book |
| Drama/Storytelling Club | Book Club |
| Cheerleading | |

Have a great week!

Jamie Miles

Principal

Cooking Club Starts This Week



Cooking Club is a social club that combines following directions and working with others to achieve a healthy meal for

the entire group. Participants will prepare the meal, help serve each other, and clean up together. These weekly cooking sessions are themed around a specific country. One month it's Mexican food, while the next it might be Italian. The cost is \$45 per person to cover food supplies. Please make checks payable to Shepherd Elementary and put "Cooking Club" in the memo section.

Meeting dates are all Mondays:

Oct. 7 and 28, Nov. 4 and 18, December 2, 9 and 16, and Jan. 13 and 27. Cooking Club meets 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Ms. Holt's classroom.

Go to the school website, www.shepherd-elementary.org. There's you'll find a link to the Cooking Club membership application. Parents will need to include child's name, date of birth and home phone number; mother's name, work and cell numbers, and email address; father's name, work and cell numbers, and email address; the name and phone of an emergency contact; plus such important details as who will pick up your child after club meetings have ended (with name and contact number, if not Star Achievers), any medical concerns or food allergies, and your child's experiences thus far with cooking.

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, October. 11, 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

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

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

The Mustang Newsletter Editor: Mark Pattison

Layout/Design: Keshia Pendergrast

Student Contributors, Lauren Curtis

Production/Distribution: VACANCY

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

SESmustang@gmail.com