



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

October 15, 2013



- ▶ **Tues., Oct. 15:** In-school HispanicHeritage Celebration
- ▶ **Wed., Oct. 16:** PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Thur., Oct. 17:** Mathletes Club, cafeteria, 6-7 p.m.
- ▶ **Fri., Oct. 18:** Professional

development day, **no school**

- ▶ **Mon., Oct. 21:** Parent-teacher conferences, **no school**

- ▶ **Mon., Oct. 28—Fri., Nov. 1:** Spirit week

- ▶ **Tues., Oct. 29:** Family Dinner Night, Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant, 8613 16th St., Silver Spring, MD, 5—9 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

Hi Everyone,

The weather gods have smiled upon us again and we had great weather for International Walk-to-School Day last Tuesday. We had almost 60 walkers on our "walking school bus" and students and parents were greeted at the school by Ward 4 Councilwoman Muriel Bowser. Students and parents were also offered stickers, fruit and granola bars - a great way to start a healthy day. Thanks to Shepherd parent Jim Elliott for coordinating this activity.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming PTA meeting this Wednesday, October 16, at 6:30 p.m. We'll discuss upcoming school activities and fundraising revenues to date. If you have any pressing issues that you would like to discuss, please e-mail me prior to the meeting at sheriz6849@aol.com.

All the best,

Sherilyn Pruitt, PTA President

PTAPresident@shepherd-elementary.org

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd Families!

Academic/Enrichment Activities

In the last edition of the Mustang I shared with you a list of clubs/organization and sports teams that our students will have an opportunity to participate in this year. Several clubs/organizations and teams have gotten off to a great start and we are looking forward to moving forward with the others. However, in order for us to continually offer our students a variety of academic and enrichment activities, we need bodies. Shepherd's staff is excited, but they cannot do it alone. For many of the activities, parent help is needed. Therefore, throughout the year, please look for requests for help and consider giving your time to help enrich our students' elementary experience.



Currently, we seeking volunteers to assist with our school's annual Science Fair. Like last year it is our goal to include students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade; however, this endeavor takes many hands. The actual fair is held in January; however, preparation begins in November. Therefore, we are recruiting volunteers now to assist with the Science Fair. Some of the volunteer opportunities include: assisting students with projects once or twice a week for 45 minutes to an hour, transporting projects to the exhibit site at NOAA headquarters, and setting up projects. Additional needs may arise the closer we get to the actual kickoff date. To learn more please email helpshepherd elementary@gmail.com. Upon receipt you will be contacted by the faculty representative who will share more information with you. We thank you in advance for helping Shepherd continue with the tradition of its annual Science Fair that produces citywide winners.

Mark Your Calendars

Throughout the year, Shepherd typically offers several family nights/days or academic workshops

(see Miles , page 6)



Hi. My name is Zoe McCullough and so far I'm really enjoying this school year. I am in fifth grade and I am in Mr. Leonard's class. Can you believe that it's fall already?

Speaking of fall, the Fall Fest last weekend was so much fun. I don't know why they didn't have the goldfish and the bungee jump, because those are my two favorite things about the Fall Fest. The Moon Bounce Deluxe was fun, too, but there was a bee in there and I was totally freaked out.

Besides those three things, the Fall Fest was really cool. I got to see Margaret, Colyar and Naomi — who are all now in sixth grade — get my face painted, and win some prizes.

I also hope you had a great three-day weekend, and I know that I am looking forward to our four-day weekend. LOL!

--Zoe McCullough, fifth-grader

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

Four-Day Weekend for Students

There is no school for students this Friday, Oct. 18, due to a staff development day at Shepherd. Plus, there's no school next Monday, Oct. 21, because of parent-teacher conferences.

If you cannot take your child with you to work on Friday, the D.C. Dept. of Parks and Recreation has rec centers throughout the city open for "DPR Fun Day" for DCPS students. There are two in Ward 4: Riggs-LaSalle at 501 Riggs Rd. NE, and Lafayette, at 5900 33rd St. NW. To learn more about DPR Fun Day and to register — the deadline is this Thursday, Oct. 17 — go to: <http://dpr.dc.gov/release/dpr-offers-fun-days-during-dc-public-schools-professional-development-days-0>

And, as for the parent-teacher conferences, visit the school website to look up more than a dozen possibilities for places to take your kids for the day. Go to <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/resources/no-school-days-for-kids/> to see which works best for you and your child.



Wednesday, October 16
6:30 p.m.

On the Agenda:

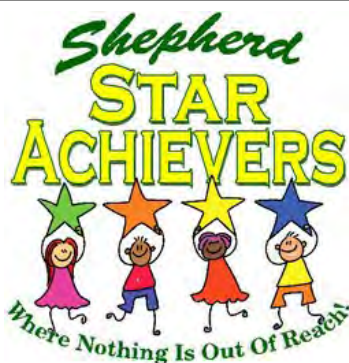
- ▶ School Activities
- ▶ Fundraising Efforts
- ▶ And more

School starts on time.....so do PTA meetings!

Do you think you missed out on last week's Hispanic Heritage Celebration?



Not to worry: It's been rescheduled to this Tuesday, Oct. 15. Viva Latina!



Star Achievers News

A Busy Fall Season: This month in Star Achievers we are busy with many activities. Some of us are learning and writing poetry, while others are learning sign language. In December we hope to come together in a performance where some students recite the poetry while others will sign for the audience.

In Pre-K we are having nature walks, learning about folk art and enjoying some hands-on science.

Kindergarten is enjoying yoga and bowling!

Our older students, 4th and 5th grade, are happy with their Rock Band class.

Other Great News: We are partnering with Chess Challenge in DC, a successful literacy/chess afterschool program partner of DCPS. Chess Challenge provides Star Achievers with a trained Shepherd chess teacher (Mr. Burgess) as well as the chess boards and tournament opportunities. Training a Shepherd teacher will help create a chess culture at Shepherd for years to come.

Third grade afterschool students were chosen to participate because the Program will be offered next year to that class as 4th graders and then as 5th graders, to demonstrate the power of chess to improve school performance.

We will also begin a chess club in aftercare so all Star Achievers may learn and enjoy chess. And, students outside of aftercare may begin a chess club supported by Star Achievers. Stay Tuned.

We look forward to more enrichment activities and partnerships as we build Star Achievers this year.

Enjoy the days off with your students in October.

--Ms. Claire Riley, program director

Family Dinner Night



Our next Family Dinner Night will be Tuesday, Oct. 29, at Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant, inside the Spring Center shopping center in Silver Spring. The address is 8613 16th Street.

Hours for Family Dinner Night are 5-9 p.m. Spring Garden has a full array of Chinese and American favorites -- and even sushi! The restaurant will give the PTA a 20 percent rebate on our purchases.

The one catch: You have to dine inside the restaurant for the PTA to qualify for the rebate. But that's no problem. Spring Garden has seating for more than 100 customers. Make sure you tell your server "I'm With Shepherd!" when you get seated so that the PTA gets everything that's coming to it!

WE ARE STARTING A MATHLETES CLUB AT SHEPHERD AND WILL HAVE OUR FIRST MEETING:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

6-7P.M.

SHEPHERD CAFETERIA

THE CLUB IS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-5 ONLY.



Parents are encouraged to attend. The Mathletes will meet once a month on a Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m. The purpose of the club is to encourage math skills and cooperative problem solving.

See you Thursday!

Send a message to shepherdmathlete@gmail.com if you have questions or suggestions.

--Aeva Doomes and Alesha Dominique

Garden Soup: Yum!

Ms. Johnson's second-grade class welcomed a chef on the final day of its "Plants Are Everywhere" IB unit. The chef discussed different Winter Squash grown during this time of the year. The children participated in a question-and-answer session and had the opportunity to identify four different types of Winter Squash the chef brought along. These included butternut squash, acorn squash, spaghetti squash and -- you guessed it -- pumpkin. The chef then performed a cooking demonstration of butternut squash soup. The students were risk-takers, and truly enjoyed their servings. Some students went back for third and fourth helpings. In the end, each student was sent home with an information booklet about Winter Squash and the soup recipe. Some of Shepherd's staff also enjoyed the soup. The chef was so pleased with Ms. Johnson's students and their level of interest and participation, he's vowed to return as early as Ms. Johnson will have him back. He's even willing to carve animal figures out of fresh fruits and vegetables the next time around.

This chef, invited by Kennedy Harrison's mom, actually participates in a D.C. government and federally funded outreach program to teach the Washington community about healthy eating. He is currently assigned to about 14 D.C. public schools and child development centers. The high-tech stovetop he uses is flameless and features a cool-touch technology to prevent any fire or burn incidents. Student food allergies are always considered in his decision of what ingredients are safe to use.

--Kim Harrison



During Walk to School Day

Thanks to all who participated in and supported last week's Walk to School Day event! Approximately 60 Shepherd students and parents met up at Marvin Caplan Park to walk to school together. They were joined by several special guests, including D.C. Councilmember Muriel Bowser, D.C. Department of Transportation Pedestrian Coordinator George Branyan, and Shepherd's own Mr. Burgess.

Other students and parents walked to school along their usual routes. Walkers were greeted at the school with refreshments and reflective slap bands courtesy of the Shepherd PTA. DDOT provided Walk to School Day stickers.

Walk to School Day showcases the health benefits of regular physical activity and the joy of walking with friends and meeting neighbors. The event also emphasized basic pedestrian safety tips, such as stopping at corners and looking carefully for moving vehicles, and Shepherd's arrival and dismissal process.

Keep walking!

--Jim Elliott



Join the PTA Listserv

The Mustang IS great (blush), but where can you go for news between issues?

Especially starting next month, when the newsletter will be published not every week, but every OTHER week?



The PTA listserv!

The listserv offers great reminders about upcoming events, as well as parent-to-parent exchanges. Make it part of your routine to check in with what's happening at your school.

To join, send a message to:

shepherd_elementary_pta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Be sure to include your name, and your child's name, grade and teacher to keep out spammers and other undesirables.

To post an item, send a message to:

shepherd_elementary_pta@yahoogroups.com.

It's as simple as that!



Have a Giant Time!

Giant Food's A+ School Rewards program is now in session! Use your Giant card anytime between now and March 20 to rack up the rewards for Shepherd.

Remember: Our school code is 00154.



Turn off TV.
Turn on life

The TV-Video Game Turnoff Club saves students plenty of time.

When they choose to NOT watch TV or play video

games on school nights, they make time for more worthwhile pursuits like reading, doing homework, playing with their sisters and brothers, helping out around the house, and getting exercise outside. They save even more time because there are no club meetings — not now, not ever!

To make sure YOUR child is duly registered as a member of the TV-Video Game Turnoff Club, filled out the Club membership form. There's a copy of it in the Mustang, and there are several copies in the rack outside the office. Once the form is completed, put it in the PTA mailbox in the office. We advise against giving it to your child's teacher, because the form could get lost amid a huge stack of papers.

There's never been a better time to join than now!

Box Tops News

Congratulations to Ms. Whren's class for donating the largest number of Box Tops for Education among the grade levels! As a school, we've collected nearly 400 Box Tops during our first month of school. Thank you to the classes that contributed:

- ▶ Ms. Gibbs
- ▶ Ms. Guldin
- ▶ Mrs. Johnson
- ▶ Ms. Whren
- ▶ Mr. Leonard



Continue collecting those Box Tops and bringing them to school. You have the choice of dropping your Box Tops off in the main office or placing them in your child's Box Tops basket directly in their classroom. We will count and collect Box Tops from each classroom at the end of each month -- so you still have time, but don't delay.

Don't forget to ask your friends and family to save their Box Tops so that your class can earn the largest number next month. Thanks Shepherd!

--Kurshanna Johnson, Box Tops coordinator



**Friday,
Oct. 18**
&
**Monday,
Oct. 21**

Miles _____ *cont'd from page 1*

designed to help parents better support students at home and/or to help students and parents see learning in a fun and engaging way. This year we have three nights scheduled. The first is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 6. The focus will be Literacy. Mark your calendars now and stay tuned for more information about this event.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

By now you should have received a conference request from your child's teacher. If not, stop now and send your teacher an email. Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for next Monday, Oct. 21. I am expecting 100% participation.

90/80/90/90

Do you know your students' reading level? Do you know what goals your students have set and their plans for reaching their goals? If not, ask your student. Every student in first through fifth grade should know their reading level, and every student at Shepherd is expected to have a goal that they are working toward. At your parent-teacher conference you will learn more about this goal, and at the curriculum meeting scheduled for Nov. 6 you will learn more about how to help your student reach their goal. Our school goals are ambitious; however, we know with the help of parents we can meet and exceed our goals.

Reading Strategy – Summarization

To summarize means that students are able to share the most important details about the text while leaving out all the irrelevant details. You can help your student at home by using the Somebody-Wanted-But-So-Then Strategy for Narrative Text and using the 3, 2, 1 Summarization Strategy for Informational Text.

Strategy for Narrative Summary: SWBST

Somebody (identify the character(s))
Wanted (describe the character's goal)
But (describe a conflict that hinders the character)
So (describe how the character reacts to the conflict)
Then (describe the resolution of the conflict)

3, 2, 1 Strategy for Summarizing Informational Text:

3 - Things I learned
2 - Interesting Things
1 - Questions I Still Have

Have a great week!

Jamie Miles

Principal

Renovations Update

Shepherd's School Improvement Team met Oct. 2 to assess progress made thus far and to chart the course for the future.

All of the renovations promised to be made over the summer were done on time. School Improvement Team members saw a slide show of what particular areas of the school had looked like, followed by an artist's rendering of what the renovated space would look like, then a photograph of the renovated room. Nice touches were the fence around the tot lot

There are still a few things left to do, such as install bulletin boards or cork strips on which to affix students' projects, and to install new, permanent doors in certain areas of the building.

The renovation of the ground floor, which will house the library, computer lab, language classrooms and teachers' lounge, has stilled by -- guess what? -- the federal government shutdown. However, once the money is flowing again, crews will return to Shepherd to work before and after school hours. It is less likely, though, that the new ground floor space will be completed by winter break, as hoped.

While there was much praise over the renovations -- a sure sign of success was the reported jealousy of one teacher who's not in a renovated classroom -- there were a few bugs in the system. Teachers weren't given all the boxes they were promised to have to pack their things in advance of the renovation. One teacher said boxes containing about \$2,000 in classroom materials never made their way back to Shepherd. And the nap mats for Shepherd's youngest students have proven to be difficult to store and put covers on, thus robbing the students of a chance to learn how to do things more independently.

The next meeting of the School Improvement Team will be Wednesday, Nov. 6, 5 -6 p.m., at school. Let me know if you have any bouquets or brickbats about the renovations that have been done, or work yet to do.

--Mark Pattison, Pattison_mark@hotmail.com

Traffic Safety Tip



Please: No distracted driving!

Is it really that necessary to be on your cell phone around school with your kids in the car? At least wait until you don't have so many witnesses.

People have done all sorts of dangerous multi-tasking in cars: shaving, applying makeup, and goodness knows what else. But last month, somebody was using one hand to steer the car -- and the other hand to balance a plate full of food.

You can make this behavior stop, by never indulging in it in the first place. Phone calls and food can wait. Really!



**Shepherd IB
PYP Corner**

October is the month to highlight the Learner Profile of Inquirer. As an inquirer, we nurture our curiosity, and our developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

Last week was very busy with PIA testing and Unit reflections to wrap up our first Unit of Inquiry. This week, we are beginning Unit 2 and the units are as follows for each grade level:

Theme: How We Organize Ourselves

- ▶ Pre K - Our School
- ▶ Kindergarten -- Where we Live
- ▶ Third Grade -- Yes We Can

Theme: Sharing the Planet

- ▶ First Grade -- Amazing Animals
- ▶ Fourth Grade -- Earth Around Us

Theme: Who We Are

- ▶ Second Grade -- Telecommunications Now and Then

Theme: Where We Are in Place and Time

- ▶ Fifth Grade - Going West

Awards Assembly

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, Oct. 29. We will hold our Awards Assembly to recognize students' achievements. Pre-K through Second Grade will take place at 9 a.m., and grades 3-5 will follow at 9:50 a.m. Please join us!

Have a Super Duper Week!

--Ms. Sandra Hart, IB Coordinator

Support Shepherd With the 180 Fund

The 2013-14 Shepherd Elementary PTA budget was approved at the Back to School night PTA meeting. It's an ambitious budget with a focus on resources dedicated to academic achievement. In order to meet our goals, we need you. Join with other parents by giving to the 180 Fund and contribute a dollar a day for each day your child goes to school. The PTA works with the principal, teachers, and parents to use those funds to make a difference in every classroom.

The PTA has used the 180 Fund resources to buy computers, software programs such as ST Math or Study Island, fund teacher wish lists, purchase a tarp to cover the auditorium floor, tune the piano before a concert, and support the International Baccalaureate program at Shepherd. We've even bought cleaning supplies and toilet paper so that the school could put all its resources into teaching staff.

Please join the 180 Fund. How much we can do depends on you. If you can't afford \$180 now, pay in two or even four installments over the school year. Or, give what you can. If you can contribute \$180 now, complete the form in the Mustang and drop your check in the PTA mailbox in the school office or go online, www.shepherd-elementary.org and make your contribution.



Our goal is for 100 Shepherd families to contribute to the 180 Fund. So far, 28 families have contributed to the 180 Fund, so we are at 28% of our goal. Your contribution supports Shepherd's teachers and all our kids.

--Judith McCullough, PTA treasurer

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

SESmustang@gmail.com

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

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Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant
8613 16th St., Silver Spring
(inside the Spring Center strip mall)

Tuesday, October 29
5—9 p.m.

**See You
There!**



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

*Tasty Chinese food
and sushi, too!*



Good for Dine-In Only!



GHOULS FOR SCHOOLS!

FILL YOUR PUMPKIN WITH BOX TOPS THIS HALLOWEEN



Thanks for helping! Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school; just fill in this collection sheet and send it to school. To see more ways to earn cash for your school, go to BTFE.com.

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Shepherd Elementary School PTA
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 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)