



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

October 28, 2013



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

▶ **Mon., Oct. 28:** Sports Day

▶ **Tues., Oct. 29:**

- ▶ Crazy Socks and Hat Day
- ▶ Awards Day, 9 a.m. (preK-2) and 9:50 a.m. (3-5)
- ▶ Family Dinner Night, 5-9 p.m., Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant, 8613 16th St. Silver Spring, MD

▶ **Wed., Oct. 30:**

- ▶ Pajama Day/Twin Day/Mustang Day
- ▶ Going Batty Over Books Day

▶ **Thur., Oct. 31:**

- ▶ Book Character Dress-Up Day (Halloween costume OK, too)
- ▶ Halloween Parade, Shepherd Field, 6 p.m.

▶ **Fri., Nov. 1:**

- ▶ Backwards Day
- ▶ Canned Food Drive begins
- ▶ Records Day, 12:15 p.m. dismissal

▶ **Wed., Nov. 6:**

- ▶ School Improvement Team meeting, 5 p.m.
- ▶ Curriculum Night, 6:30 p.m.

▶ **Fri., Nov. 8:** Fitness Friday, 7 p.m.

▶ **Mon., Nov. 11:** Veterans Day, no school

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

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd Families,



It is hard to believe but the first quarter of the school year is coming to an end and teachers are preparing to complete report cards. We are excited for the release of the revised report card that is designed to be more parent friendly. The new report cards will include the standards written in an easier to understand language, students' reading levels, DCCAS scores, and special messages and resources regarding attendance and below grade level performance. Please keep your eyes open for a comprehensive memo about the new report card.

Academic Goal

This year we are continuing our focus on reading. By the end of the year, 80% of Shepherd students will score advanced or proficient on DCCAS and 90% of our students will be reading at or above grade level. We are focused, we have a plan and you are an essential part of the plan!! On Wednesday, November 6, 2013 we will have reading workshops for parents. There will be two concurrent sessions held twice on the same day in order to give all parents an opportunity to participate. The first sessions will be held at 8:30 a.m. and the second sessions will be held at 3:30 p.m. Attendance is mandatory and the sessions are designed to give you tips and strategies on how you can assist in helping us meet our reading goals. Note - Select parents received a special invitation for a session that is specifically tailored for their students' needs. However, it is expected that all parents attend either the 8:30 or 3:30 session.

(see Miles , page 6)

From the PTA President

Hi Everyone,

Did you know that volunteering can lengthen your life? According to a review of 40 academic papers on the subject, conducted by the University of Exeter, researchers found that volunteers, on average, are a fifth less likely to die within the next four to seven years than those who do not volunteer. Additionally, people who volunteer report having lower levels of depression and higher levels of well-being than average, while some research suggests it promotes a longer and healthier life.

I want all of you to live long, happy, healthy and fulfilling lives and I'm going to help you with that by offering you plenty of opportunities to volunteer here at Shepherd Elementary School. The PTA is looking for several people to help coordinate the Shepherd Jazz Night which will be held on February 28; several people to work on our Spring Gala – the biggest fundraiser of the year; an individual to serve as our School Uniform Chairperson; and volunteers for many other exciting activities and initiatives.

If you have an hour or more to contribute to our school while at the same time, improving and lengthening your life, please contact me at sheriz6849@aol.com or go to the website and sign up there: <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/volunteer-form/>.

All the best,

Sherilyn Pruitt, PTA President



Hey, Mustangs! My name is Imani Thomas. I just wanted to say congrats to the cheerleading team! Basketball conditioning and tryouts are coming soon. So is Halloween. It is going to be so much fun!

Last weekend, as you know, we had a four-day weekend. I had so much fun! This week is Spirit Week, so get ready. BWL Band tryouts were last week, and practice starts this week. Congrats all of you guys who made it.

I went to the mall this weekend. I also went out to dinner. I stayed up watching movies. I also was stuck to my television screen. Remember Fall Fest and the giant moon bounce? It was totally awesome. See ya later.

—Imani Thomas, fifth-grader

Hi, this is Henry again. At Shepherd we've started many activities and tryouts. For example, there have been tryouts for BWL, the school band. Mr. Irby, our art teacher, announced that our first art project will be starting soon. We recently took a lot of tests for math, science, and reading to see what we've learned so far this year. It took a long time! In my class, we might have a "publishing party", if everyone finishes their writing assignments on time. Finally, Tuesday, October 29, is the first Awards Day of the year. Hope to see you there!

—Henry Trimble, 4th Grade

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

School Improvement Team Meets- Nov. 6

The School Improvement Team will meet Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 5 p.m., at the school to monitor the ongoing renovations and to chart a preferred future for next summer's round of renovations. If you want to attend, just notify Shepherd SIT chair Mark Pattison at either Pattison_mark@hotmail.com or 202-829-9289.



Hello Star Achievers Families

Star Achievers News

Halloween is almost here and we are looking forward to:

1. If there is a school-wide dance in the auditorium, AND YOUR CHILD IS ENROLLED IN STAR ACHIEVERS AND HAS A SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP AND TICKET, we will escort your child to the party and pick them up and bring them to the cafeteria afterward. Please buy a ticket in advance.

If there is a party, as soon as we get the name of the Halloween Party Sponsor and the details, we will send home a permission slip via email and in your child's backpack. YOU MUST RETURN THE STAR ACHIEVERS PERMISSION SLIP TO A STAR ACHIEVERS teacher or place it in the "Aftercare" mailbox in the school office. If you return it to anyone else and we do not receive it in time, your child will not be able to attend the Dance/Party.

2. For all of those who are not going to the Dance/Party, we will be having pizza and a movie in the cafeteria.

On Thursday October 31 we will have arts and crafts activities and a small sweet treat.

Looking Forward to November

Our PE classes will be playing hockey outside in November. Basketball season has begun and we will not be using the gym until February, so **please dress your child with coats, hats, and gloves/mittens so we can play outside. Aftercare follows the same weather rules as during the school day. If it is warm enough (40 degrees or more) for recess during the day, we will go outside in aftercare.**

During the last week of November:

We will schedule presentations for Dance, Sign Language, Martial Arts and Poetry. Parents are welcome to see what we have been learning and doing as we show off our talents. We will also take photos for our newsletter in case you are unable to attend.

Watch your email for dates and times of the presentations.

CHESS CLUB coming soon:

Chess Challenge in DC, an awesome non-profit afterschool organization, is sponsoring a 3rd grade chess class in aftercare. It is up and running with Mr. Burgess as the Coach and the 3rd graders learning all the moves. Mr. Burgess and the Chess students will be participating in the 5th Annual Chesstival on Saturday, November 23 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Richard England Boys & Girls Club, 4103 Benning Rd. NE. Washington, DC. Mr. Burgess will distribute fliers and permission slips to the chess club members next week. We are looking forward to starting a chess club with all aftercare students, however, **IF THERE ARE ANY STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN AFTERCARE BUT ARE INTERESTED IN A CHESS CLUB**, please email sesstarachievers@gmail.com and we will explore forming a chess club for all here at Shepherd during the colder months.

Thanksgiving Tree coming in November:

We will write what we are thankful for on colorful leaves and add them to a large tree on the cafeteria bulletin board. Please take a moment to admire our work and add a thankful leaf of your own.



We've Got Spirit, Yes We Do!

We've Got Spirit, How About You?

Join the Shepherd family by participating in our first Spirit Week of the year! Dress up and have a great time showing off your style during the week of Oct. 28 - Nov. 1.

Monday: Sports Day (Students may wear the favorite team jersey/shirt or other sports paraphernalia)

Tuesday: Crazy Hat/Sock Day -- wear your favorite crazy hat and/or socks.

Wednesday: Pajama Day - wear your pajamas to school.

Thursday: Book Character Dress-Up Day (Halloween costume OK, too)



Bet You Didn't Know!

With a school Shepherd's size, there are LOTS of students ... and parents ... and teachers/staff with amazing talents, out-of-the-ordinary hobbies, fascinating jobs, celebrity perks or terrific skills you just don't see every day during morning drop off and afternoon pickup. We're starting a feature in the Mustang called "Bet You Didn't Know" which will put a spotlight on some of our community's most interesting sidelights.

And, yes, it's OK to brag. After all, we're asking you to! If you've got mad skillz you've been keeping under a bushel, now's the time to let Shepherd know. Send your contribution to

sesmustang@gmail.com, and let's share our talents with the community!

Did You Know? Shepherd is Composting!

Shepherd began participating in a composting program this school year. If you would like to learn more information come out and listen to Beth Gingold from the D.C. Department of General Services as she explains the how and why to composting.

The assembly takes place on Thursday, Oct. 31 at 8:50 a.m. for students in grades 2-5 and again at 9:15 a.m. for students in pre-K through first grade.



The Yearbook is Coming!

We were looking for students that are creative thinkers, risk-takers, enthusiastic, and able to work independently on tasks. We have found the perfect individuals.

Introducing the 2013 – 2014 Yearbook Club:

- ▶ Jocelyn Bostic
- ▶ Aja Topps-Harjo
- ▶ Isabella Hall
- ▶ Miles Davis

Get ready because yearbooks will be available for online purchase in late May or early June!

--Mrs. Holt, Mrs. S. Hart, Ms. A. Hart, and Ms. Tiffany, faculty advisers



Awards Day- Tuesday Oct. 29th

The first Awards Day of the school year will be held this Tuesday, Oct. 29, in the school auditorium. There will be two sessions. The first starts at 9 a.m. for students from pre-K through second grade, and the other starts at 9:50 a.m. for students in third through fifth grade. Celebrate your student's achievements, and those of all our young Shepherd scholars!



**Family Dinner
Night—Tuesday,
October 29th**

Features Chinese Cuisine

Tuesday's the date for Shepherd's next Family Dinner Night, so mark it on your calendar! It'll be at Spring Garden Chinese Restaurant, 8613 16th Street in Silver Spring (inside the Spring Center) from 5 to 9 p.m. The PTA gets 20 percent back from your order, and you and your family can have your fill of tasty Chinese food – or sushi, if you prefer.

Under the terms of this Family Dinner Night, you **MUST** dine in; no take-outs or deliveries will be credited to Shepherd. And when your server comes to take your order, tell him or her, "I'm from Shepherd!" so they know our collective buying power (and that the PTA gets the rebate it's got coming to it).

Join other Shepherd families, and invite some too. A good time with good food is guaranteed for all. Let's pack the place!

**FITNESS
FRIDAYS**

♦GET UP AND GET MOVING♦

Because of the half-day this coming Friday, Mr. Burgess' monthly Fitness Friday in the gym will take place the following Friday, on Nov. 8, at 7 p.m. It'll be a fun hour of fitness for students, parents, and neighbors. There's nothing like a good workout to make you feel good about yourself – especially after it's over!

Music NOTES!

By Ms. Julia Bryant,
Music Teacher



Students have been working hard toward the December program performance scheduled for Wednesday, December, 18th at 7:00 pm. The concert features grades 1-5 and it will take place in the school gymnasium.

Parents/Guardians - Parent Permission forms will be sent home early next week for your signature. **It is crucial that you fill out the form and return it back to Mrs. Bryant as soon as possible.** Mrs. Bryant will be selecting "special parts" for the program based on the students who are participating and have turned in their permission slips.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at the Winter Holiday program.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Bryant
Music Educator-Shepherd Elementary
School

SCHOOL
HALF

DAY

Friday, Nov. 1

Remember: With Records Day this Friday, Nov. 1, school lets out for the day at 12:15 p.m. – and there is NO aftercare available. Please make arrangements to pick up your child from school promptly.

Miles _____ *cont'd from page 1*

Spirit Week

Spirit Week is this week and we hope you will allow and encourage your student to participate. Please note that on the 31st students may wear a school friendly (book/TV character, actor/athlete/ famous person or any other non-frightening costume to school. This means, no complete head coverings, witches, ghost, vampires, blood, etc. In addition, costume props (i.e. swords, ropes) that could be a distraction or seen as a weapon are not allowed. Please remember that school is in session and teachers' very difficult job on this day is to keep students focused and on task. Finally, Friday is Backwards Day. This is a change from what was originally published.

Have a great week!

Jamie Miles

Principal

Canned Food Drive Starts- Friday, Nov. 1st

The school's annual Canned Food Drive begins this Friday, Nov. 1, and runs through Friday, Nov. 22. This way, all of the canned and nonperishable goods can be taken to Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring in time for Thanksgiving. Don't give your child any more than she or he can handle on a given day, but it's OK to make donations on more than just one day. Please be generous!



Halloween at the School and in Shepherd Park



On such a fun night as Halloween, you can count on the neighbors in Shepherd Park to do it up right.

The tenth annual Halloween parade will take place on Thursday, Oct. 31 — Halloween itself — at Shepherd Field (aka the “lower field”). Children in costume, many with their parents in tow, will walk one lap around the blue oval and get a head start on their trick-or-treating.

Speaking of trick-or-treating, the Shepherd Park Citizens Association also distributes at the parade an address list of neighborhood houses that will be handing out treats, spiffily split between house on the east and west sides of 16th Street. As an added bonus, the addresses of the houses participating in the neighborhood’s annual house and pumpkin decorating contest will be singled out if you get a chance to check them out during your Halloween travels.

Children in Star Achievers aftercare must be checked out if they are going to participate in the parade.

At Shepherd, the school takes part in the annual “Trick or Treat for UNICEF” campaign. The boxes (some folding required) will be distributed soon to each classroom, if they haven’t been already. Return the filled boxes to the office, and you’ll see a running tally in the Mustang of just how much was collected to help feed children around the world. If you misplace your box, there will be some extras available at the parade.

Traffic Safety Tip



This time out, there are TWO tips too important to ignore. Both involve taking our courteous behind-the-wheel habits up a notch or two for a couple of very important dates.

The first is Halloween — Thursday, Oct. 31. Sunset is officially at 6:12 p.m. that day, but it gets darker sooner. Not only will there be the big Halloween Parade at 6 p.m. at Shepherd Field, but children will be in every neighborhood (including yours) after dark. Please obey speed limits and street signs. Please give the right of way to trick-or-treaters and their parents.

The other important date is Sunday, Nov. 3. That marks the return of Standard Time. The sun will come up “earlier” than before, but it will be dark by 5 p.m. and stay dark that way until near the end of February. Please exercise caution when driving, especially if picking up your children from aftercare, to prevent accidents.

Job Posting (Volunteers)

Shepherd’s LSAT Team has identified the Cultural Arts Night as one of the upcoming Activities for this school year. Last year, the Cultural Arts Night was held in May where students, parents and artist in the community were invited into Shepherd to showcase their talents. Performances included Storytellers, Pianists, Spoken word artist and more!

We are currently seeking committee members that are interested in working with other great Shepherd families in making this wonderful event come to life. Below are specific positions available:

- ▶ **Event Host/MC**—Someone to MC the evening.
- ▶ **Event Ushers**—Someone to hand out flyers the day of the event and seat guest.
- ▶ **Talent Coordinators**—Someone to help identify performers within the community. (you don’t have to do this alone)
- ▶ **Graphic Designers**—Someone to create and design the flyer for community distribution.

Also, if you know of any cultural artist or programs that will be a great fit for Shepherd’s 2nd Annual Cultural Art’s Night, please let us know by sending an email to skeeme08@aol.com with the subject “Cultural Arts Night.”

Thank you and we look forward to having you join our exciting team!

—Keshia Pendergrast, Committee Chair

From the LSAT Chair

The LSAT had an out of cycle meeting on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 4pm to finalize the review of the LSAT Priority Activity Survey results.

This year's key priorities of the LSAT are:

1. Academic Enrichment
2. Community Engagement
3. Culture and Climate
4. Parental Engagement

Purpose of Priorities:

Academic Enrichment: The focus of expanding the academic skills and programs already developed at Shepherd. Academic activities for this priority include, but not limited too:

- ▶ Ensuring the continuation of certain scholastic programs such as the Spelling Bee, Geo Plunge, Science Fair and adding additional academic enrichment programs such as Igniting Creativity energy Conservation Contest and Mathlete's.
- ▶ Ensuring constant communication of student and parent academic expectations for Shepherd.

Community Engagement: The focus of ensuring continuous engagement from the wider Shepherd community. Community Engagement includes:

- ▶ Ensuring proper and timely communication is provided to the surrounding community regarding the great accomplishments and events of Shepherd Elementary.
- ▶ Staying abreast of the DCPS boundary redrawing plans and changes.

Culture and Climate: The focus of ensuring Shepherd Elementary diverse culture is sustained and the climate of the school is open and welcoming to all students, parents, teachers and community representatives. Culture and Climate activities include, but not limited too:

- ▶ Ensuring continuous coordination of activities with Shepherd's PTA.
- ▶ Creating venues for parents, teachers and community to socialize informally to build natural supports and bonds such as Cultural Arts Night and social gatherings for Shepherd families in various family neighborhoods.

Parental Involvement: The focus on ensuring parents continue to remain engaged and involved in the success of Shepherd Elementary as a whole. Parental Involvement activities include, but not limited to:

- ▶ Soliciting parents to actively take part in specific volunteer roles for school events.
- ▶ Scheduling Shepherd family activities over the summer.

The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2013 at 4pm. All are welcome. During sensitive subjects, you may be asked to leave the room until the discussion is complete. Meeting minutes will be available on Shepherd's website. Hope to see you at the next LSAT meeting where we'll focus on rolling out the various activities for this school year that have not already started.

—Kesha Pendergrast, LSAT Chairperson

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, November. 8, 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: Alphonse McCullough, Sharlitta Nipper, Mark Pattison
Layout/Design: Kesha Pendergrast, Carmen Rush
Student Contributors, Lauren Curtis, London Downing, Zoe McCullough, Imani Thomas, Henry Trimble

Production/Distribution: Helen Saulny
 Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang*
 to:

SESmustang@gmail.com