



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Happy



Thanksgiving

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

November 25, 2013



► **Thursday-Friday, Nov. 28-29:** Thanksgiving holiday, no school

► **Monday, Dec. 2:** Buddy Day at Deal Middle School (fifth grade only)

► **Monday, Dec. 2:** Loose Change Drive (through Dec. 18)

► **Thursday, Dec. 5:** Healthy Thursdays with Mr. Burgess, 6:30 p.m.

► **Friday, Dec. 6:** Family Dinner Night,
 ► Nando's Peri-Peri, 924 Ellsworth Dr., Silver Spring, 5-11 p.m.
 ► Color Me Mine "Fun-Raiser," 823 Ellsworth Dr., Silver Spring, 6-10 p.m.

► **Tuesday, Dec. 10:**
 ► Local School Advisory Team meeting, 4 p.m.
 ► School Improvement Team meeting, 6 p.m.

► **Monday, Dec. 16:** Family Dinner Night, Ledo Pizza, 7435 Georgia Ave. NW, 4-10 p.m.

► **Wednesday, Dec. 18:** Holidays Around the World concert, 6 p.m.

(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!

Attendance Matters

At the end of the 2012-13 school year, we ended the year with an ADA (average daily attendance) rate of 97%. Though a 97% ADA for the year is good, I believe that we can increase the rate for this year. Therefore, because attendance matters, we have placed an even higher emphasis on attendance this year than in past years. If your student is chronically absent or tardy from school, please expect a letter, phone call and/or a request for a meeting. When we reach out to you we are calling to remind you of our attendance expectations and we are checking to see how we may assist you in increasing your student's attendance rate or on time arrival.



It is extremely important that your child attends school daily unless they are sick. The following symptoms mean that your child cannot attend school: vomiting, diarrhea, persistent cough, and a fever of 100.0 or above. Please continue to schedule doctor and dental visits for after school when possible. In addition, please avoid scheduling vacations during the school year. A school calendar is available on the school's and DCPS websites. These are the best tools to assist you when planning for upcoming vacations. When students are absent from school, it is impossible to replace the instruction that they miss. Our ADA goal this year is 99% or higher. In order to accomplish this goal, it will be important that your student is at school daily and arrives to school on time.

Battle of the Books (2nd through 5th Grade Competition)

Football, in my opinion, is by far one of the best sports on earth, and the Carolina Panthers is definitely my favorite team. However, in December I am hoping to find a new favorite sport and celebrate a new favorite team when we launch Shepherd's first Battle of the Books competition. In December, students will be invited to form small teams of four to six and enter the reading

(see Mile's , page 6)

From the PTA President

Hi Everyone,

As we enter this season of giving, I would like to remind you all that contributions to Shepherd Elementary School PTA are tax-deductible and go directly to support our school.

For example, the PTA plans to provide \$400 stipends to each teacher to provide for supplies that are not covered by D.C. Public Schools. Also, the PTA has already purchased ST Math and Study Island for the school, since neither of these programs are supported by DCPS.

For those of you who were not able to attend last Wednesday's PTA meeting, you really missed a treat. The Shepherd Elementary School Cheerleaders kicked off the meeting with one of their cheers. DCPS does not provide funds to cover the cost of their uniforms and each cheerleader family has already paid almost \$100 for practice uniforms. The cheerleaders are holding bake sales and selling candy-grams to raise money for their "game-day/competition" uniforms and we want our girls to look good when they go out and represent Shepherd. That's just one more reason why we need you to donate to the PTA, either through the 180 Fund, or through any tax-deductible contribution. You can donate on-line by clicking here: <https://www.shepherd-elementary.org/180fund/> or you can drop a check in the PTA mailbox in the main office.

If you missed the PTA meeting, feel free to contact your classroom parent to get an electronic copy of all the handouts that were distributed at the meeting, or pick them up from the information area outside of the main office.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing you all at Shepherd!

Sherlyn Pruitt

PTA President

PTAPresident@shepherd-elementary.org



Hello Shepherd students!
Zoe McCullough here and I am pretty happy.

The Jammy Jam Costume Dance was awesome and I had a great time. I danced with my friends, ate and saw many kids in cool costumes. We did the Wobble, the Cupid Shuffle, the Harlem

Shake, and the Electric Slide (which I made my father do).

Congrats to the girls and boys who made the basketball team (including myself) and thank you to Mr. Page, Mr. Walcott and Ms. Hamer for preparing us for the season ahead with our conditioning. I hope we can have a great season this year.

This November is going by so fast now that Thanksgiving is right around the corner! I hope you guys have a good Thanksgiving weekend and get lots of rest while enjoying yourselves. Also I'm turning 10 this month, and I want to wish other kids that have a birthday in November a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

—Zoe McCullough, fifth-grader

Hello Shepherd Mustangs. This is London Downing here to tell you about the GeoPlunge Tournament. It took place on Nov. 14 at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. The team with members; Godloves Tata, Keshav Mehta-Harwitz and I came in first place on the Junior Advanced level. The team with members; Leela Mehta-Harwitz, Jean Pierre Roberts, and Johnathan Jennings came in sixth place on the Intermediate level. The team with members; Imani Thomas, Weldon Genies, and Madison Swanson didn't place but received the Christopher Columbus Explorer award. All of our teams did amazing and there was very tough competition from around the city.

I have to thank Ms. Thomas and Ms. Ulba. They have given their time and patience for us to participate in this tournament. Thank you, Ms. Ulba and Ms. Thomas.

—London Downing, fifth-grader

Hi, this is Henry again. It's been very busy around our house because my sister, Colyar, broke her toe slipping on toothpaste. But on to more important matters.

The school renovations are going very well. The new library is still being built in the basement. I'm very excited about the Winter Concert. We will be doing it with our new music teacher, Ms. Bryant. Rehearsals have started and there will be singing, dancing, and lots more. I am very excited that Mr. Giles (our former music teacher) is coming back to teach violin. If you are interested, please contact Star Achievers (the aftercare program). My art project, which is to draw a natural phenomenon, is almost due. I am drawing a tsunami. Finally, it's a short school week. I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

—Henry Trimble, fourth-grader

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



Star Achievers News

Star Achievers
Presents ...

Activity Showcase!

Parents Welcome!

School View our Calendar

On Your Smartphone!

Please come see all we have learned this first semester in our "Specials Classes."

Monday, Nov. 25

4-5 p.m., pre-K and kindergarten: "A Thanksgiving Pageant" where we make believe we are food in the dinner feast!

4-4:45 p.m.: Dance Recital -- Ms. Johnson will lead the 1st, 2nd 3rd and 5th grade classes in their new dance moves!

Tuesday, Nov. 26

4-4:30 p.m.: Ms. Gereau's yoga classes from kindergarten and third grade will show us what they have learned.

5-5:30 p.m. Ms. Hill's Sign Language classes from grades 2-3 and the split 4th-5th grade class (Mr. Anderson's class) will sign poetry along with Mr. Burgess and his poetry classes from grades 2, 4 and 5.

Wednesday, Nov. 27

Pizza and movie day in the cafeteria. Please see the Star Achievers newsletter for more details.

--Ms. Claire Riley, Star Achievers coordinator

To subscribe to Shepherd's Google Calendar and receive automatic reminders of upcoming events, please follow the instructions below:

Existing Google Users: If you use a Gmail calendar, you can add this calendar to your calendar view by using the email address, Shepherd elementarypta@gmail.com.

iCal Users: Copy and paste this link into any calendar product that supports the iCal format: <https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/shepherd elementarypta%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics> (If you use MS Outlook, open MS Outlook application and click on the above link. If a window appears, select Open. This will allow the Shepherd calendar to open in MS Outlook)

Less common, but usable methods for accessing the Shepherd Calendar:

HTML Users: Please use the following address to access Shepherd's calendar in any web browser:

https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=shepherd elementarypta%40gmail.com&ctz=America/New_York

XML Users: Please use the following address to access your calendar from other applications. You can copy and paste this into any feed reader:

<https://www.google.com/calendar/feeds/shepherd elementarypta%40gmail.com/public/basic>





Family Dinner Night plus Color Me Mine: Both on One Fantastic Friday Night!

With a combo like this, every 1's a winner!

This may be the only Family Dinner Night you'll get to see on a weekend, so get yourself over to Nandi's Peri-Peri on Friday, Dec. 16. We start at 5 p.m., so you have plenty of time to savor their specialty: the pairing of South African chicken with Portuguese herbs and spices. If chicken isn't your thing, there's also beef and vegetarian items on the menu. And there's free frozen yogurt for every kids meal ordered. Nandi's will give us 20 percent of the pre-tax tab. But you have to proclaim "I'm With Shepherd!" to the person who seats your family. That way the PTA gets the credit that it's due.

- ▶ Nando's is located at 924 Ellsworth Dr. in downtown Silver Spring. Family Dinner Night runs until 11 p.m., so if you prefer a late snack while helping the PTA, you can do that, too.
- ▶ And here's the second scoop to our same-night double-dip: You can combine the Nandi's dinner that evening with the "Fun-Raiser" from 6 to 10 p.m. at Color Me Mine just a block away at 823 Ellsworth Dr.
- ▶ Here's how it works:
 - ▶ Make a reservation for a table to paint the pottery of your choice amongst Color Me Mine's vast selection. Call 301-565-3105 to make a reservation. The "studio fee" reservation costs \$20. A table can seat four people, so have your child bring a school friend or two and make it an artful play date!
 - ▶ Once you've made your choices for things to paint, choose from Color Me Mine's vast array of colors, shades and tones to make your pottery piece distinctively yours. Color Me Mine bags each pottery order individually. It takes about a week for them to "fire and finish" artworks before they can be picked up.

The best part is that the PTA gets 25 percent of ALL sales between 6 and 10 p.m.! So if you've got some Christmas (or late Thanksgiving) gift-giving in mind, nothing says love like something made from young hands!



Lost and Found

This is the last week you can claim lost items from Shepherd's Lost and Found boxes before they are given to the

Value Village. Jackets, coats, sweaters, lunch boxes, backpacks, umbrellas — even socks and shoes — are in the Lost and Found. Take inventory of the things your child is supposed to have. If you can't find something, root around in the Lost and Found for a minute or two. You just never know!

Mustang En Español Coming Soon!

We know this notice is in English, but we are making efforts to produce a shorter version of the Mustang, entitled Mustang En Español, for Shepherd's Spanish-speaking families. It will contain the principal's column, the PTA president's column, and the calendar of events in Spanish. We have two parents and one teacher volunteering to translate the English articles into Spanish. When the newsletter is ready with each issue, copies will appear on the rack outside the office.



Last Wednesday's PTA meeting was full of activity and information, and everyone still managed to get out of school by 8 p.m., much to the upset of the students in the cafeteria who wanted to see the end of "Monsters University."

The meeting kicked off with Shepherd's cheerleading squad, performing under the direction of Ms. Arrington, one of the fourth-grade teachers. Sherlyn noted the cheerleaders have no uniforms, but donations to the PTA and the 180 Fund can buy uniforms for the girls.

More time was spent on boundary redrawing than any other topic. Claudia Lujan, Chief of Staff to DCPS Chief Operating Officer Anthony De Guzman, talked about the ongoing series of focus groups and to-be-established working groups to assist the 21-

member panel in formulating decisions on how and where boundaries will be redrawn. Population shifts will have to be taken into account, even as the District grows, but parents' desire for quality schools trumps walkability.

Michael Wallace, a parent and grandparent to former Shepherd students and the founder of Jazz Night, gave a short history of the event as Jazz Night gets ready to celebrate its 25th anniversary at Shepherd. The date, jazz fans, is Friday, Feb. 28.

Ms. Thomas and Ms. Ulba gave a presentation on the Common Core standards, noting that there will be sessions held on Feb. 19 called "Getting to the Core" and "Shepherd's Successful Readers" for parents to get a better grasp on Common Core — and, by extension, their children's homework and their report card markings. At the meeting, they explained there is a guided reading program which entails reading with small groups concentrating on specific traits shared in that small group so that proficiency is achieved, allowing them to get to the next level.

Principal Miles said the next round of Paced Interim Assessment testing would start Wednesday, Dec. 4, for students in grades 2-5. She also noted that the Loose Change collection will start after Thanksgiving. One thing she wants from parents is for them to dress their children for the chilly weather ahead so they can go out at recess, even in near-freezing temperatures. The principal also addressed the intermittent soap crisis in the school, saying that there are stocks of soap, toweling and hand sanitizer in the school. One of the first things she does each day is make the restroom rounds to ensure all is in working order. If it's not, she tells the custodial staff. If a student realizes a restroom is out of soap or paper towels, they should notify their teacher, who in turn will notify the office.

Mark Pattison, a member of the Local School Advisory Team, spoke briefly about the LSAT's work in mapping out a communications strategy for the school and in listing events and initiatives sponsored by the school, PTA, LSAT and parents on an ad hoc basis. He further stated that when promoting any event or initiative, it should be tied in with a stated part of the school's mission, the PTA's goals, or the LSAT's priorities.

Ms. Riley of Star Achievers promoted the violin classes offered through Star Achievers from Mr. Giles, who retired in June as Shepherd's music teacher. It is first come-first served, but 10 students are needed to get both the beginner and intermediate classes started. Star Achievers is now able to offer after-school enrichment classes to all students, not just those in Star Achievers, and they are open to ideas on subjects that can be taught.

PTA president, Sherlyn Pruitt, said discussion is continuing among PTA officers as to whether membership in the local and national PTA is the best course of action for Shepherd, or whether it should become a PTO or some other kind of organization. Any recommendation to change would need to be reflected in revised bylaws, which have been subject to a review over the past month. Any action to change the bylaws would require advance notice and a vote by parents. Sherlyn also sought more volunteers to help with traffic cones and safety in the morning and if enough parents offer to help, in the afternoon as well. The PTA is also going to offer a teacher wish list to each Shepherd teacher in the amount of \$400. However, for that to not blow a hole in the PTA's budget, more contributions to its 180 Fund are needed.

PTA treasurer Judith McCullough noted that the PTA spent more money than it took in over the past month and the bulk of last month's receipts were Fall Fest revenues that hadn't yet been counted, underscoring the need for more contributions to the 180 Fund to sustain school activities

Music NOTES!

By Ms. Julia Bryant,
Music Teacher

Hello, Shepherd Families!

It is an exciting time in the music department as kindergarten is ready to perform a Thanksgiving program on Tuesday, Nov. 26, and grades 1-5 continue to work on the Dec. 18 Winter/Holiday Program.

On Nov. 26, our little Pilgrims will be sounding their voices in thanks as well as playing instruments and showing their musical knowledge through movement. Song choreography reinforces musical concepts such as melodic direction, legato and staccato. We have enjoyed exploring vocal expression and will perform a vocal rhythmic chant about a very smart turkey named Bert before singing about our country "Albuquerque Turkey." Our program will culminate into a feast for parents following the performance.

The Dec. 18 Winter/Holiday Program, "Holidays Around the World," will feature a wide variety of vocal selections along with dancing and instruments. There will be more than 100 special parts to fill. All students in grades 1-5 can perform in the program. I will be selecting students for special parts based on who have turned in their parent permission slips before Thanksgiving break. All students in grades 1-5 need to focus on practicing and memorizing the songs for the Winter/Holiday program. Students who have been selected for special parts will be notified after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Prior to the concert, I would like to feature some students who take private lessons. If your son or daughter plays an instrument and would like to perform a piece as pre-program music, we have time for six students to do so. Students will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. They can use their music, but it needs to be performance ready.

After the new year, pre-K will be working on a program for spring, and second grade will be doing a musical production of "How Does Your Garden Grow?!" More information on these programs and others will be forthcoming. The students and I look forward to performing for you.

--Mrs. Julia Bryant, music teacher

Miles _____ *cont'd from page 1*

competition. Each team will be assigned five to seven books to read. During the months of December, January and early February the teams will meet, discuss and quiz one another on the books. Finally, in late February, we will have our Book Battle Competition. On this day teams will come together to demonstrate their knowledge of the books read in a competition format. Though all teams will be recognized, only one team will be crowned the reading champs! However, in order for this event to be a success we need coaches!

Do you have a love for reading? If so we would love for you to serve as a team coach. As a coach, you would work with a team (could be a team that your child is on) to train them for this event. Training includes meeting with them to read and discuss the books. We will provide you with guides and a teacher consultant to assist you in preparing your team for the competition. If interested, please contact Principal Miles at jamie.miles@dc.gov no later than Friday, Dec. 6. Thank you for helping us move toward meeting our reading of 90%!

Weather

The temperatures have been up and down, so please make sure your child is dressed for the weather.

Lost and Found

We have two large industrial-size trash bags full of coats, hats, gloves, sweaters and lunch boxes. They will be leaving the building Tuesday and going to a local shelter. This is your last chance to check for any lost items before the bags are donated. Please help us by labeling EVERYTHING! We really try to help items find their owner before making donations. Remember the lost and found items will be donated to local agencies every other week

Finally, during this season of thanks, I will leave you with this.....

What I Am Thankful For?

by Peter DeJesse

Things that work out for the best
People that make my life soar
Events that make me smile
These are the things I am thankful for
Colors of the leaves on the trees
Clouds and a clear blue sky
Birds that sing in the morning
And a love that makes you sigh

Family and friends above all

(see Miles , page 7

LSAT Meeting Highlights

Members of Shepherd's Local School Advisory Team have been busy tackling priorities it set at the beginning of the year that fall under the areas of parent engagement, community engagement, academic achievement and "culture and climate." At the November LSAT meeting, team members reviewed a draft of a letter to be sent by the principal to all Shepherd parents, asking them to volunteer at least 10 hours of their time over the rest of the school year.

The LSAT also scrutinized a communications strategy for events taking place at Shepherd for the rest of the year, taking note of the target audience and the means of communication available for promoting events.

The team also had submitted to it a surprisingly lengthy (though still incomplete) list of initiatives and events sponsored by the school, the PTA, the LSAT, or by parents themselves. It shows that Shepherd is hardly lacking in good ideas. The lists were to be shared with school and parent leaders so they can conduct their own analyses of the benefits of continuing with the respective events vs. the effort put into them.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. Parents are welcome to attend, although they may be asked to step outside should confidential matters arise.

Miles _____ *cont'd from page 6*

Have always been there it seems
Through the good and bad times
They've helped me follow my dreams
You may ask, what am I thankful for?
The only answer I can give
I am thankful every day
For the wonderful life I live.

Additional things to be thankful for.....

- ü The wonderful students who bring so much joy to my life every day.
- ü The supportive parents who go above and beyond to make Shepherd a great place.
- ü The volunteers who keep giving even though a word of thanks may be forgotten.
- ü The Shepherd staff who come prepared to serve every day.

Warmest regards,
Jamie B. Miles

Principal

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!

—Kesha Pendergrast, Committee Chair



Shepherd IB PYP Corner

November is Native American Heritage Month. In 1990, President George Bush approved the month of November as the "National American Indian Heritage Month" or Native American Heritage Month.

Shepherd celebrates Native American Month with Native American games, and a presentation by our kindergarten students. The origins of many Native American games were with the tribal gods. Games were played ceremonially to bring rain, to ensure good harvests, to cure illness, to expel evil spirits, or to give pleasure to the gods by demonstrating physical fitness. Native American games also played a role in the education of children by helping them to develop skills necessary to be successful adults.

Boys and girls played separately, although they often might play the same games with variations in the rules. Certain ceremonial games were forbidden to women, particularly those games which might disrupt the protective powers of hunting and warfare spirits. Girls played "house," sometimes with miniature tepees or igloos. They had dolls made from various materials like wood, grasses, corn husks, animal skin, or bone. Playing with dolls helped girls to learn the skills for childcare. Games played by men and boys trained them for warfare and/or hunting. These games tested their skill for, dexterity, agility, strength, and stamina.

Students in pre-K to second grade will participate in Native American Games on Monday, Nov. 25. They will play games like: **BEAN GAME** created and played by the Cherokee tribes in North Carolina & Oklahoma; **CRAB RACE** and **FROG RACE** from the Northwest Coast; **RING AND PIN**, created and played by many tribes across North America; and **RUNNING GAME**, created and played by the Klamath tribe from the Northwest Coast. Students in kindergarten will participate in a presentation on Tuesday, Nov. 26.

The Living Museum

On Nov. 22, students in Ms. Johnson's Second grade class debuted their live-action inventors project. They have been studying about inventions and inventors in their unit "Now and Then" and decided to create a "living museum" in the classroom using the facts and props they found as they researched about their inventor. Students dressed up like their inventor to play the part as they presented their findings. Thank you to all those parents who came out to support them. They did a fantastic job.

The Spirit of Giving

The Thanksgiving season is a time for giving, for sharing and for spending time with our families. In the spirit of giving, our school has collected about 105 coats during our coat drive. If you would like to still donate, a coat for someone in need, coats will be collected until Tuesday, Nov. 26, for pickup on the same day. We have also been collecting items of non-perishable food (canned soup, canned veggies, pasta noodles, boxed rice, canned tuna, peanut butter, etc). Please help us by donating a few non-perishable items to add to our collection.

Have a great week and an enjoyable Thanksgiving!

--Ms. Sandra Hart, IB Coordinator

Loose Change Starts Next Week

Loose Change, Shepherd's annual campaign to help needy school families while helping the PTA address issues the school budget can't do by itself, starts next week.

Starting Monday, Dec. 2, each classroom teacher will have a container for the loose change that students bring in. It will be split 50-50 between the PTA and Mrs. Miles, who knows which families at Shepherd need a little extra help at the holidays. The class bringing in the most money gets a no-uniform day, so start emptying those purses and pockets!



One evening...Two great ways to raise funds for Shepherd!

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT



Nando's Peri-Peri
924 Ellsworth Drive
(in Downtown Silver Spring)

Friday, December 6
5—11 p.m.



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

*Home of Portuguese flame-grilled
Peri-Peri Chicken*

<http://www.nandosperiperi.com/>

"FUN-RAISER"

"FUN-RAISER"

"FUN-RAISER"

Color Me Mine



The Art Of Having Fun™

"Fun-Raiser"

Color Me Mine

823 Ellsworth Drive
(in Downtown Silver Spring)

Friday, December 6
6—10 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of fun creating
your pottery masterpiece while
raising funds for Shepherd!

- Call 301-565-3105 to reserve a table (seats 4 people)
- Studio Fee costs \$20 per table
- Choose from a vast array of pottery pieces to paint, design and "make your own"
- Pick up your masterpieces in about a week

The PTA gets
25 percent of
ALL sales between
6 and 10 p.m.!

"FUN-RAISER"

"FUN-RAISER"

"FUN-RAISER"



VIOLIN IS BACK AT SHEPHERD

Classes Open to
All, First Come, First
Served

Mr. Giles will teach violin to 10 students in each class. The fee of \$35 for the seven classes must be paid in full in advance. Violin rental is available for free (with \$50 refundable deposit for loss or damage), and students can take the violin home to practice. Class size is limited to 10 students. First come, first served.

- ▶ **Beginner Class** - Students will learn good posture, bowing rhythms, and left-hand fingering. Students will begin playing by ear, then learning to read notes. Beginners will start with "Twinkles." Beginner Classes will be held Tuesdays from 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the music room, on the following schedule: December 3, 10, 17; January 7, 14, 21, 28.
- ▶ **Advanced Class** – Students will use their knowledge of note-reading, bowing and fingering to play a number of tunes. Students will learn to play "Pachelbel's Canon," "Ode to Joy," and many other familiar repertoire. Advanced Classes will be held Thursdays from 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the music room on the following schedule: December 5, 12, 19; January 9, 16, 23, 30.

To sign up, send an email to sesstarachievers@gmail.com and state your child's name and which class you would like to sign up for. You will receive a confirmation of your interest and details regarding registration and payment. The first 10 students who have paid for the class will be given a violin at the first class. A waiting list will be kept and families will be notified if space is available. If there are fewer than 10 students, the class will be canceled and money refunded.

If you have any questions please call Ms. Claire Riley at (202) 465-0514.



Box Tops News

Congratulations Shepherd Family! You've outdone yourselves once again. We had a record number of Box Tops collected for the month of October. The grand total will be released in the next Mustang Newsletter. There were so many more classes that participated, it's going to be a close race to determine which class collected the most Box Tops.

Remember, you have two options to send in your Box Tops. You may drop them off in the Front Office, or you may take them directly to your classroom and place in the Box Top container.

While you are preparing for Thanksgiving and shopping for the big day, pay close attention to any Box Tops on your purchases. For those traveling out of town or gathering with family and friends, don't forget to ask them to donate their Box Tops to our school. Every Box Top counts towards meeting our goal, and we're counting on your assistance.

Thank you for participating.

--Kurshanna Johnson, Box Tops coordinator



Fitness Friday Changes Name: Moves to Thursdays in December

We've heard you! Maybe Friday wasn't such a good day after all. So, Mr. Burgess' Fitness Fridays are being renamed "Healthy Thursdays," with an earlier starting time of 6:30 p.m., so you don't have to go back and forth to Shepherd if you don't want to. The first Healthy Thursday will be Thursday, Dec. 5. December's fitness experience will be boot camp style. You may see some other fitness techniques in future months!



Making Change with Loose Change!

What: PTA Loose Change Fund-Raiser

When: December 2-December 18, 2013. Proceeds benefit a needy family for Christmas as well as support needed changes at our school.

What you do: Starting on Monday, December 2, please bring quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies to school and fill up the Loose Change bag in your classroom. We will even take dollars, too!

Prize: No-uniform day for the class that collects the most change!



SCHOOLS ARE SO THANKFUL FOR BOX TOPS!

CLIP A CORNUCOPIA OF BOX TOPS FOR YOUR SCHOOL



Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school; just fill in the collection sheet and send it to school. Please do not staple Box Tops or attach Bonus Box Tops Certificates to any collection sheets. To see more ways to earn cash for your school, go to BTFE.com.

©General Mills

Enhance Student Learning

During Your Commute!

The Local School Advisory Team took note that the majority of Shepherd families live out-of-boundary, which means that they most likely drive to school. The LSAT used the PTA listserv to ask parents what they do on the drive to and from school to reinforce learning. Here are some of the responses we've gotten:

"My kids and I listen to audio books while we commute and for long road trips. I frequently stop the CD to define certain words or ask the kids what they would do if they were in the same situation as the characters in the book. Listening to audio books is a great way to pass the time and listen to a story as a family. It helps build vocabulary and keeps the kids' attention and cuts down on conflict in the back seat. I highly recommend Harry Potter, Eragon, and the Genius Squad series. We've just started the Temeraire Series about a British captain and his dragon that fight in the Napoleonic Wars in the early 1800s."

"For the Pre-K circuit books like 'Chicka Chicka Boom Boom' which promote rhythm, repetition and song really do a lot to keep kids engaged. Of course, stories on CD work as well; short ones that allow them to turn pages are a big hit!"

"We walk to school now, but when we used to have to drive downtown to daycare, we would play a game with the lettered streets and come up with words that started with each letter as we drove from V Street all the way down to H Street. And every day, it had to be a new word with the letter. You couldn't repeat the same word twice in the same week."

What tips, tricks and techniques have worked for YOU? Please share. Send them to sesmustang@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY 19, 2014

8:30 a.m. or 3:30 p.m

GETTING TO THE CORE

and

SHEPHERD'S SUCCESSFUL READERS



Renovations Update

At the Nov. 18 meeting of the School Improvement Team, the construction manager for the ground floor project — sorry, it's not a "basement" anymore — expressed his intent to have the library ready for Tuesday, Jan. 7, the first day of school after winter break. He even has a plan in mind to move the library's contents without having to pack up the entire library in boxes.

Dell is also coming to Shepherd during winter break to hook up the computers. All computers in the rest of the school are now fully functional, although that wasn't always true this year. The renovation handlers admit it's been a mess getting computer functionality restored, especially as more students will need computers to take standardized tests.

Some of the bathroom issues that the principal has mentioned in past issues of the Mustang have to do with doorstops. But one thing that students, especially girls, need to stop doing starting yesterday is sitting on the sinks. The sinks aren't made for sitting, but for washing!

There were two bits of bad news during the meeting. First, the art room cannot be built as a second floor above those classrooms adjacent to the auditorium, because the foundation cannot support the added weight. Second, the grand design for the walkway, welcome center and atrium will need to be tweaked some more and is not likely to be ready for the start of the 2014-15 school year. If this is the case, renovation crews will focus on the interior of the school, where most of the education takes place, and then focus on the exteriors after school has started up again.

One bit of good news for all concerned is that the renovation project is still on budget! If you want to know more about the renovations, get in touch with School Improvement Team chair Mark Pattison at 202-829-9289 or [Pattison mark@hotmail.com](mailto:Pattison_mark@hotmail.com).

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, December 6, 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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