



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

December 9, 2013



- ▶ **Mon., Dec. 9 - Wed., Dec.**
- Loose change collection
- ▶ **Tues., Dec. 10:**

- Local School Advisory Team meeting, 4 p.m.
- School Improvement Team meeting, 6 p.m.

▶ **Mon., Dec. 16:**

- Family Dinner Night, Ledo Pizza, 7435 Georgia Ave. NW, 4-10 p.m.

▶ **Wed., Dec. 18:**

- International Day
- “Holidays Around the World” concert, 7 p.m.

▶ **Mon., Dec. 23—Mon., Jan. 6:**

- Winter break

▶ **Tues., Jan. 7:**

- Back to school!

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

From the PTA President

Happy Holidays, everyone!

It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year. We have had a great time engaging the entire school community to support the social and intellectual development of our students, while getting to know each other better. In addition to our monthly PTA meetings, we have held Family Dinner Nights, Teddy Bear Picnics, a Welcome Back Cookout, a fantastic Fall Fest, Walk to School Day, and we are currently collecting loose change to benefit needy families. With your generous support, we have been able to pay for ST Math and Study Island for Shepherd students, and we will be able to provide \$400 stipends to each of the

(see PTA President , page 2)

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd Families,



Time flies! It is difficult to believe that we are in December and will be on Winter Break in a couple of weeks. It has been an exciting first half of the school year with a lot of growth and learning and I know 2014 will bring about even greater things!

Lost and Found

Please check our lost and found area located across from the security desk for any items your student may be missing. All unclaimed items will be donated during the holiday break. Please remember to label, label, label. Labeling will increase the chances that items will be returned to their owners.

PIA Testing

Students in grades 2-5 will be assessed in reading and math this Tuesday and Wednesday. Paced interim assessments are administered at the end of each instructional unit to see how well students have mastered the content taught. This year in preparation for the “PARCC” assessment, students in select grades take the reading portion of their assessment online. This is quiet different for most students, and it does present some challenges as our students have to learn to note-take as well as reference text by referring to previous screens.

Preschool at Shepherd

I am excited to announce that Shepherd will be offering preschool next year. If you or someone you know has a student who will be 3 years old on or before September 30, 2014, please complete an application during the online lottery application process which will be available on the DCPS website beginning Monday, Dec. 16.

Dress for the Weather

As noted in previous updates, we generally try to get outside every day as long as we are at or above the freezing point. Please make sure your student comes to school dressed appropriately.

Lunchroom

Recently there have been an increased number of students requesting that we heat a part of their lunch. Please know that students do not have access to a microwave and we do not heat lunches for students. Please plan accordingly.

Nut Allergies

As our school population grows and changes, so does our response to students and their needs. Shepherd has a growing population of students with nut allergies. Therefore, I am requesting that you refrain from sending peanut-based products to school with your

(see Miles, page 2)

PTA President _____ cont'd from page 1

teachers so they can purchase school supplies that are not provided by DCPS.

When we return from winter break, our first big event is the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Shepherd Elementary School's Jazz Fest, which will be held on Friday, Feb. 28. Quickly following that activity is the biggest fundraiser of the year — our annual Gala, which is scheduled for March 15. We need volunteers for both activities so please contact me at sheriz6849@aol.com or 202-445-6849 as soon as possible. 2014 will be here before you know it and we need your help to make these activities a huge success. Any contribution of your time, creativity, or energy is welcomed and appreciated. Thank you for your interest, engagement and support of our school, staff and community.

All the best,
Sherilyn Pruitt
PTA President

LSAT- Meeting Tuesday

The Local School Advisory Team will meet Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. inside the school. The LSAT has been busy with a thorough review of priorities put into practice at Shepherd, and how they are expressed to the Shepherd elementary community and neighborhood. Parents are invited to the meeting. If confidential matters arise, though, you may need to excuse yourself from the meeting. For a look at LSAT priorities, activities and more, go to <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/school-advisory-board/>.

School Improvement Team

To Meet Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.

Shepherd's School Improvement Team is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10 at school. It's getting to be crunch time as far as our new ground floor is concerned, what with the contractors promising that the library and computer lab should be ready for use when school resumes from winter break. If you want the skinny on what's happening with renovations, stop on by! For more details, get in touch with Shepherd SIT chair Mark Pattison at 202-829-9289 or Pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

Miles _____ cont'd from page 1

Homemade Items

Please refrain from sending homemade items to school for students. While we appreciate the gesture, please know that these items may contain unknown allergens. Items should be store-bought and have the label attached. If purchasing items from a store or restaurant and labels are not included, please make sure that the ingredients are known and shared with the teacher.

Attendance Matters

Thank you for working to make sure your student(s) arrive (s) to school each day -- and on time. By now if your student has five or more unexcused absences you have been sent a meeting request. The purpose of the meeting is to remind you of the policies and procedures, update/correct any attendance errors -- and, when necessary, develop a plan to help increase your student's attendance. To avoid an attendance team referral, please be sure to write a note each time your student is absent. The only excused absences are: death of an immediate family member, sickness of student, or religious holidays.

A Parent Moment

As a mother raising children in a household where both parents work demanding jobs, I know as well as anyone how challenging it can sometimes be to engage with my children in meaningful and impactful ways. However, I also know that engaging with them does not mean I have to always stop and do something differently. It just means that I may need to slow down, identify the teachable moments and engage my students in conversations and involve them more in my daily activities. Therefore, I allow my student to cook, shop or watch an appropriate show with me. These activities can help increase reading and math skills and increase students' general knowledge about things that are "just good to know." While cooking/shopping/watching TV, students may: read directions, measure, add, subtract, multiply and divide, sequence, create lists, look for patterns, identify letters, read labels, review decimals and percentages, identify problems, settings and solutions, analyze the characters of a show, make predictions, summarize... the list is endless.

Being a good parent and developing intelligent, well-rounded students does not necessarily mean that we have to always stop what we are doing. However, it does mean that we may have to slow down and engage our students more. Therefore, as we end this year and begin another, I challenge you as I challenge myself to: slow down, identify the teachable moments, engage in conversations with our students and involve them more in our daily activities.

Remember that WE are our students' first teacher and their "forever" teacher.

Happy Holidays, and I look forward to even greater things as we enter the second half of the school year.

Warmest regards,

Jamie Miles

Principal

Ledo Pizza Is Home Of Next Family Dinner Night



Family Dinner Night

Thanks to everyone who turned out last Friday at Nando's Peri-Peri, or Color Me Mine, or both! We'll be sure to get our tallies from each place to report them in the Mustang when it returns from winter break.

But now, get your taste buds set on our great pizza-making friend, Ledo Pizza at 7435 Georgia Ave. NW. Ledo has been a great partner to Shepherd Elementary and the PTA for many years, and here is another chance for them to show off their generosity. Family Dinner Night is next Monday, Dec. 16, at Ledo. It starts at 4 p.m. and runs until they close for the night at 10 p.m. You can choose to dine in, or to carry out. Make sure you tell your server (or the person on the phone taking your order), "I'm with Shepherd!" so the PTA gets the full rebate coming to it – 20 percent of your food and drink order. To phone in your order, call 202-726-5336.

Ledo makes the kind of pizza that Shepherd students are absolutely crazy about. Grown-ups tend to like it, too. But Ledo also serves a tasty variety of sandwiches, pastas, salads, and even desserts. You can get a small pizza with nine squares, or the large variety, with 30 squares; it just depends on how fast you want to watch that pizza disappear.

Kids love Ledo's pizza with a lowercase "p." Now let's show everyone how much we love Ledo Pizza with an uppercase "P." Come hungry!

Box Tops News

Congratulations to our second graders in Ms. Ulba's class for collecting 120 box tops! This was the largest number among the grade levels. As a school, we've collected over 600 box tops for October & November. Thank you to the following classes for contributing to our grand total of over 600 box tops:



Ms. Gibbs (Pre-Kindergarten)
Ms. Hart (Kindergarten)
Ms. Guldin (First Grade)
Ms. Johnson (Second Grade)
Ms. Ulba (Second Grade)
Ms. George (Third Grade)
Ms. McIntyre (Third Grade)
Ms. Whren (Third Grade)
Ms. Charles (Fourth Grade)
Ms. Hamer (Fifth Grade)
Mr. Leonard (Fifth Grade)

Please continue to collect box tops over the winter break. If you decide to drop them off in the front office consider recording your child's name and teacher on the collection sheet so that their class gets credit for donating box tops. 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

Hi Mustangs!

We just got our report cards. I got all 3's and 4's in my classes! I hope all of you had a good report card, too.

At the last PTA meeting, the cheerleading squad did a cheer in front of all the people. It was so cool! I got to do a stunt since I'm a flyer. Cheerleading is starting to be really, really fun!

Before the Thanksgiving break, my class had a Thanksgiving Feast, and it was very, very fun. I only ate a little bit, though. We had two chickens, macaroni salad, potato salad, tortilla chips, and apple cider.

Keep your grades up!

--Lauren Curtis, fourth-grader





Shepherd IB PYP Corner

Hello Shepherd Community, I hope everyone had a very happy Thanksgiving. This week, students will be doing the Paced Interim Assessments for reading and math, and starting IB Unit 3.

Pre Kindergarten –Who We Are /Discovering Me

Kindergarten – Who We Are/Traditions around the World

First Grade - How We Express Ourselves/Culture Here and There

Second Grade -How the World Works/A Story for the Season

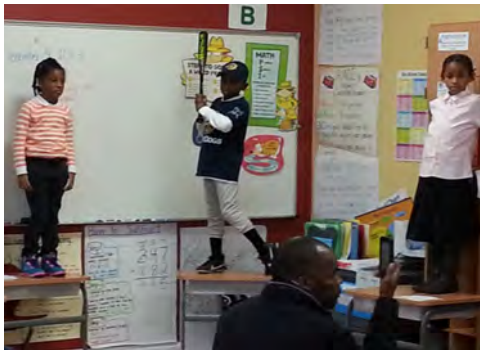
Third Grade – Who We Are/ Notable People

Fourth Grade – Where we are in Place and Time/Explorations

Fifth Grade – Exhibition Begins (More information to follow)

Last Week's Highlights

Students in Ms. Ulba's Second Grade class took on the life of a famous inventor and brought their class-room to life as they presented their culminating activity to wrap up their Unit on Who We Are - The Living Museum. Please view pictures below.



Learner Profile

This month, the Learner Profile trait is Open-Minded. An open-minded person is someone who understands and appreciates their own cultures and personal histories. They are open to perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

Celebrations

The Month of December brings our Holiday Concert and International Day. The Holiday Concert and International Day will be on Wednesday, Dec. 18. The International Day celebration will take place throughout the day beginning at 9:30 a.m., and classes will participate in educational and interactive holiday displays from around the world throughout the building. Please join us for food, fun and festivities.

Each Class will highlight a different country and the holiday they celebrate at this time of the year. The breakdown is as follows:

IB Corner _____ *cont'd from page 4*

1. Ms. Gibbs and Ms. Holt: Christmas U.S.A.
2. Ms. Pethtel: Christmas in Canada
3. Ms. Hart: New Year's Eve Around the World
4. Ms. Guldin: Christmas in France
5. Ms. Hill: Hanukkah (Israel)
6. Ms. Johnson: Chinese New Year (China)
7. Ms. George: Christmas in Mexico
8. Ms. Ulba: Christmas in Spain
9. Ms. McIntyre: 3 Kings Day/Epiphany
10. Ms. Whren: Mardi Gras
11. Ms. Arrington: Ramadan
12. Ms. Charles: Christmas in Ethiopia
13. Ms. Hamer: Diwali (India)
14. Ms. Thomas: Christmas in Guatemala
15. Mr. Leonard: Kwanzaa

Parent volunteers are desperately needed, if you are able to assist, please contact your child's teacher. The Holiday Concert will begin at 7 p.m.; please join us for holiday cheer.

Loose Change Collection In Full Effect!

Shepherd's annual Loose Change Collection is at its midway point. We ask students to bring in loose change -- probably yours, from your pockets or purses. Half of it goes to help the PTA meet some unmet needs at Shepherd, and the other half is given to the principal so she can distribute it to a family or families at Shepherd that need a little extra help at this time of the year. Not only is Loose Change a collection, but it's a contest. The class bringing in the most money (and, yes, paper money counts, too) will get a uniform-free day. So start divesting yourself of your coins!



Music Notes



Shepherd Elementary School's Winter/Holiday Program for grades 1-5 is just around the corner. Students need to be practicing their song lyrics and special parts for the program at home as well as in music class.

Mrs. Bryant is proud of the guaranteed turnout for the program, as just under 200 students turned in permission slips to be involved in the program. Over 200 special parts have been written to accommodate as many students as possible with extra small-part roles. With that said, on Monday, Dec. 9, every student involved in the program will be bringing home a letter stating their "special extra part." EVERYONE plays a special role in this production as they ALL will be performing 10-11 songs which have choreographed movements. I am thrilled to be a part of their program building process as students have assisted in creating their overall program. The Program Letter will have details as to time, program attire and parts. We will be having a dress rehearsal scheduled for the week of the program immediately after school from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. The date is yet to be decided. Further information will be coming regarding the final dress rehearsal.

If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Bryant through email Julia.bryant@dc.gov. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at the concert!

--Ms. Julia Bryant, music teacher

Traffic Safety Tips

The point of the traffic safety tips published in the Mustang is to reduce congestion by drivers and improve sight lines for students walking to the school. Here are other things to consider to ensure a safer environment around the school, and to spread out the waves of traffic.



Enroll in before-care. Parents set the tone each and every school day. If you decide to send your son or daughter to before-care, then that's that. Students often find a welcome surprise in how many friends are in before-care. And before-care starts at 7:30 a.m. that means you can get an earlier start to your day. To enroll in before-care or for more information call (202) 465-0514 or send an email to sesstarachievers@gmail.com.

Have breakfast at school. Breakfast is available FREE, to ALL students, starting at 8 a.m. or shortly thereafter. No forms to fill out, no income requirements to worry about. Once your child is in school for breakfast, you can continue with your day!

Be a helicopter parent. If you feel you need to walk your child into school, just come early enough to claim a legal parking spot on Kalmia, 14th, Jonquil, or even Locust or Juniper and start walking. There are a few late-comers, true, but an admirable number of parents avoid the rush and come early with their children. Join a growing group of them.

DON'T be a helicopter parent. If you know that your child is old enough or big enough or mature enough to get out of your car on his or her own, then it's OK to pull up in the car-pool lane and drop them off. But once they're out and on their way, you should be on your way, too. When cars start double-parking on 14th Street to let their kids out, something's gone wrong; often the problem is vehicles that just sit and idle.

Pick a route and stick to it. This will prevent U-turns at the intersection of 14th and Jonquil. It will also prevent those ungainly three-point and even five-point turns in the middle of the intersection. Nobody can cross because pedestrians don't know where the car will be headed next, and it ties up traffic in every direction.

Walk to school more. Walk to School Day last month brought out nearly 70 students and parents. The more students who can walk to Shepherd, the better off we are traffic-wise. Even in crisper, colder weather, it's good exercise for student and parent alike. You may have to set the alarm a bit earlier, but it's a small price to pay to get that blood circulating.

Sign up for Star Achievers violin lessons. They start at 7:30 a.m., too. Every car dropping off a child earlier in the morning means one less that clogs the street and the intersection. And on top of that, your child gets to develop a skill with a musical instrument! There's not much we can do about commuters who use 14th Street as a shortcut to evade the stop-and-go traffic on 16th Street during the morning rush. But what we can control, we must control.

Traffic safety is not a goal -- it's an expectation

180 Fund: Now Tax-Deductible!



The Shepherd PTA hasn't collected dues in five years. Instead, it depends on contributions by parents to its 180 Fund to help pay for things not covered under the school budget -- like Study Island and ST Math program, like teacher wish lists,

and a whole lot more.

And you can help yourself while helping the school. The PTA is a 501(c)(3) organization, so that means your contributions to the 180 Fund and the PTA are tax-deductible. And anything extra you can add to that list of tax-deductible charitable contributions by the end of the year will surely help you when tax time rolls around.

It's called the 180 Fund because there are 180 instructional days on the school calendar. We think that you, as parents, would be willing to give a dollar a day to further enhance the education of your child. If you can do more, then please do more! If you can't commit to \$180, you can pay in installments, or contribute whatever you can. Any amount you give is still tax-deductible, and the PTA will send you a letter detailing your contributions over the course of 2013. Do it now! Write that check and deposit it in the PTA's mailbox in the school office. And thank you very much!

More Learning-Friendly

Tips for Your Commute

In our last issue of the Mustang, we asked for more parent feedback on tips and techniques they use to reinforce learning on their commute to school and elsewhere. We're always interested in sharing what works for you. If you have something to contribute, send it to sesmustang@gmail.com. Here's what's come in since our last issue:

"For last year's spelling bee, I had my daughter quiz ME the spelling words. I think I knew them all, but I pronounced them so she could hear the correct pronunciation. Since the cold snap began, we've been listening to learn-Spanish CDs in the car. We both repeat the words and phrases during our trips. I need at least as much practice as she does!"

"I was so intrigued by the tips in the Mustang I went out and bought a Brain Quest -- Presidents Edition to take with us when we go on vacation for winter break. It'll be a great way to use time at the airport and on the plane."

"This isn't exactly on the commute, but we used the Loose Change collection a few years back to drill addition with our daughter. She could take as much change with her each day as she could correctly add up to a dollar."

We repeat: If you have games, activities or tips on how you keep your child thinking and learning on the drive to school, or during winter break, we want to hear it! Send your ideas to sesmustang@gmail.com.



FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER



Ledo Pizza

7435 Georgia Ave, NW

(next to McDonald's between Geranium and Hemlock)



**Monday, December 16
4-10 p.m.**

**SAY "I'M WITH
SHEPHERD"**

The PTA gets 20% of your pre-tax tab!

Check out the new menu items

www.ledopizza.com/menu



Good for Dine-In and Carryout (PH: 202-726-5336) www.ledopizza.com/menu

Spring Gala: Save the Date!



And **We Need Your Help** the PTA has set the date for this year's Spring Gala. Mark your calendars for **March 15, 2014**, call the babysitter, and get ready

for a fun evening.

Before the big day arrives, though, we could use the help of volunteers to make the event a success. In particular, in the month of December, we are looking for volunteers to help solicit donations for the silent auction.

If you can make a few phone calls, stop by a few local businesses, or talk to friends and family, please let us know!

Contact Kate Woods

(kateandmama@yahoo.com) or

Susan Laudadio (serlaudadio@hotmail.com) to volunteer.

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, Jan. 3 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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SESmustang@gmail.com



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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)