



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Happy  
New Year  
2014

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

January 7, 20114



## Mark Your Calendars!

- ▶ **Thursday, Jan. 9th:** Healthy Thursdays, gymnasium, 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Tuesday, Jan. 14th:** Family Dinner Night (and Day), Pete's New Haven Style Apizza, 962 Wayne Ave., Silver Spring, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
- ▶ **Wednesday, Jan. 15th:** Local School Advisory Team meeting, 4 p.m.
- ▶ **Wednesday, Jan. 15th:** PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Thursday, Jan. 16th:** Mathletes Club, cafeteria 6 p.m.
- ▶ **Monday, Jan. 20th:** Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, no classes
- ▶ **Tuesday, January 28th:** Wednesday, January 29th: Science Fair, NOAA headquarters, 1305 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring

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



## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### Happy New Year!

I hope each of you had a joyful two weeks celebrating, relaxing and enjoying your time with family and friends. Today marks the first day of the second part of our year and I am excited because I know our best is yet to come!



### Principal Intern

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Angel Hunter to the Shepherd family. Ms. Hunter is a DCPS Mary Jane Patterson Fellow and she is in training to become a DCPS principal. Ms. Hunter will be an important part of our staff. Her job is to shadow me, learn and grow as a leader as well as add value to our school community. Please expect Ms. Hunter to be active and visible at Shepherd as she takes on various leadership roles in the building.

### Principal's Book of the Month...

I love reading, and it is my desire to encourage and foster this same love in each of our students. To help, I will be introducing the Principal's Book of the Month Club. Each month I will select a book. Students are asked to read the book and complete a reading response form or complete a reading response activity. All students who complete and submit a reading response form/activity are invited to attend the Principal's Book of the Month Chat. During the Chat students get to enjoy a special meal or snack and discuss the book of the month. The discussions will revolve around the IB Learner Profile Traits the characters exhibit, connections students make with the text, themes and problems of the text, and narrative elements of the text (author, characters, setting, & plot).

The Principal's Book of the Month Chat occurs the last Friday of each month and the forms/activity description sheet (which can be picked up in the main office the second week of the month) are due the Wednesday before. All students in all grade levels are encouraged to participate. I wish for parents to take the time to read the story to their student or listen as their

(see Miles, page 6)

## From the PTA President

### Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a restful and relaxing holiday break and are excited and energized about the arrival of 2014. Many people use this time of year to make New Year's resolutions, and some of the most popular resolutions include: helping others, getting fit, learning something new, and spending more time with family and friends, and enjoying life more. Volunteering can help achieve all of the above goals. By its very definition, volunteering describes being engaged in service. It can help you stay physically healthy. Volunteering is also an easy way to learn new skills, meet new people and make new friends.

Please consider volunteering to support your school as a goal for 2014. Volunteering comes in many forms and can be as simple as putting out the orange cones in the morning, or as complex as organizing a major fundraiser for the year. Everyone has specific talents and skills to contribute, and even if you're not sure how you can chip in, feel free to contact the PTA and we'll be glad to help you help us. Most immediately, we need help planning the 25th Anniversary of the Shepherd Jazz Night (scheduled for Friday, Feb. 28) and the Annual Gala (scheduled for Saturday, March 15 - please note the date is earlier than in previous years).

For all of you who already volunteer at Shepherd, thank you for your service to our students, school and community. For those of you who will be new to volunteering at Shepherd, welcome, thank you, and I look forward to seeing a healthier, happier, more engaged you throughout the school year.

All the best,



Sherilyn Pruitt  
PTA President

[PTAPresident@shepherd-elementary.org](mailto:PTAPresident@shepherd-elementary.org)  
[202-445-6849](tel:202-445-6849)



Hi, this is Henry again.

I am very excited about Christmas and winter break. I am hoping to see a movie or two.

I was happy to perform in our holiday concert with our new music teacher, Ms.

Bryant. Lots of people participated and the auditorium was full. My favorite song to perform was "This Land is Your Land."

I am also happy that we will soon have the science fair. My topic last year was on the science of the Pinewood Derby -- I got first place at Shepherd and first place in my category citywide. This year, I am working on a project about hearing.  
--Henry Trimble, fourth-grader

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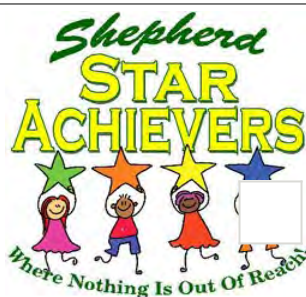
Hey Mustangs! How was your winter break? I bet it was lots of fun. I had lots of fun during winter break. I went to my cousin's house to make and bake cookies. My Nana came over for Christmas. I got lots of presents and so did my brothers. We had a game night, and we had lots of family dinners.

During the break I made loom bracelets with my brother and cousins. I made 18 bracelets in all different colors and patterns. I can't wait to show my classmates the bracelets I made! New Year's Eve was fun! I went to a party and got to wear my pajamas, eat food and play games.

Happy New Year!

--Lauren Curtis, fourth-grader

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



## Star Achievers News

Welcome back to  
Before and Aftercare -  
Star Achievers!

And Happy New  
Year!!!

We are back and getting organized with new rooms to use in the fantastic renovated "ground floor" as well as new classes beginning soon.

Watch for a newsletter in your email with details of new schedule for each grade.

**UPDATES:** Tuition payment is due by Friday, Jan. 10 this month (rather than the 5th), so please pay promptly. We will be using QuickBooks automatic invoicing for those who do not pay on time; this means late fees will be charged to you beginning Jan 12.

Picking up children: Please note that with the potential change in assigned rooms, your student may be coming UP the stairs to the first floor and might take a bit longer to gather his/her belongings and make it to the front desk. Please be patient while we iron out logistics and enjoy the use of the new space.

Weather-related closings: For both before- and aftercare, we are open if the school is open for students during our assigned times of operation -- 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 3:15-6:30 p.m. each school day (we are not open for afternoon care on half-days). This means that if there is a delayed opening as announced by DCPS we will not be open at all that morning. And, if school closes early -- is dismissed prior to 3:15 p.m. or afterschool activities are canceled and the building will be closed -- we are not open. If school is open during our hours of operation, we are here in the building to serve your children, so please do not worry!

If you are going to be late, or have any other questions, PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE. Instead, please call 202-465-0514 and leave a message if no one is available to answer. We do not answer the school office phone after hours so please call the Star Achievers number instead.

Program Highlights: We will be renewing

(see Star Achievers, page 5)

## Winter Concert a Big Success

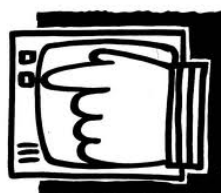
Who ever thought that you could fit that many students and that many adults into the Shepherd Elementary auditorium at the same time? Last month's "Holidays Around the World" concert did just that -- and with lots of quality too.

Ms. Bryant, our new music teacher, deserves kudos for introducing our children to all sorts of rhythm instruments, such as congas, bongos, xylophones and metallophones in the music program. They were on display at the Dec. 18th concert, as were several other instruments.

Virtually every student in grades 1-5 took part in the concert, either playing, singing, dancing or some combination of the three. It was a terrific show and it took place all in just one hour! In fact, if you looked hard enough, you would have seen Mr. Giles, our retired music teacher in the vestibule applauding our young performers at the show's conclusion.

The PTA sold a lot of stocking stuffers such as, Shepherd-logoed reusable shopping bags, drawstring backpacks and reusable water bottles before and after the concert. They also tallied up a healthy number of parents willing to work on the upcoming Jazz Night on Feb. 28th and the Gala on March 15th.

Onward and upward!



Turn off TV.  
Turn on life

## TV-Video Game Turnoff Club Nets New Members

We've gained some new members in the TV-Video Game Turnoff Club, which is the LSAT's initiative to curb screen time for students and redirect that time into more worthwhile pursuits. And the students are responding! Here's the latest group of Club members, and what they'll do with their newfound free time:

### Gold Members (no screen time at all on school night)

- ▶ "Study, study, and study."—Gabrielle Brown, fourth grade
- ▶ "Play with my big brother." —Carter Alston, pre-K

### Silver Members (30 minutes max for TVs and video games)

- ▶ "Play with my kitchen. Read a book." -- Yeterinity Williams, pre-K
- ▶ "Reading and math."—Damari Smith, first grade
- ▶ "Read, study, cook."—Kyle Bowman, third grade

### Bronze Members (60-minute limit on screen time)

- ▶ "Reading books, writing stories, doing puzzles, drawing and going to the library." — Chyna Milan Holloway, second grade
- ▶ "Doing homework, reading, and arts and crafts."—Aja Topps-Harjo, fifth grade





## Shepherd IB PYP Corner

Happy New Year Shepherd community! Welcome to January 2014. This week will be a busy one as we get back to our schedules and our routines. The Learner Profile trait is **Risk Taker**. A risk taker is someone who approaches uncertainty with determination; someone who works independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies; and someone who is resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

This month I challenge you to:

- Go out of your way to **introduce yourself to someone new**;
- **Try a new route on your way to work or school**;
- Try to **discover and find out** about new cultures;
- **Try new foods** that you have not seen before;
- **Try a new activity**;
- **Investigate the different** sections of your library and select a **different genre of books** that you have not read before;

### International Day 2013

International Day was a great success. It began with classroom visits learning about Christmas in different parts of the world and ended with our Winter Concert. The Winter Concert was well attended and had over 200 students participating. The concert consisted of singing, rapping, dancing, Congo/Bongo Drums, Tambourines, Xylophones, Maracas, Recorders, and Dreidels. The entertainment had a truly international flavor and was enjoyed by all who attended.

The Theme for International Day was Christmas Around the World. Thanks to all of our parent volunteers who were able to assist. We couldn't have done it without you. Here is a small sample of what we learned (information taken from [www.santas.net](http://www.santas.net)):

- ▶ **Christmas in the U.S.A.** – This first Santa Claus was known as St. Nicholas, which came from the Dutch culture. The Dutch had bought him with them in the 17th century, when they came to America. The word Santa Claus was the Dutch word for St Nicholas, *Sintaklaas*. Back then, Santa Claus smoked a pipe, and flew around in a wagon without reindeer. He did not have his red suit or live at the North Pole; he did, however, bring presents to children every year. In 1863, he was given the name Santa Claus and bore the red suit, pipe, and his reindeer and a sleigh. Now, Christmas celebrations vary greatly between regions of the United States, because of the variety of ethnic groups that have settled here.
- ▶ **Christmas in Canada** – Christmas celebrations are quite similar in variety to the United States. In Canada, the traditional Christmas dinner is roast turkey with cranberry sauce, other sauces and vegetables. In most provinces turkey is accompanied by fresh or smoked salmon. For dessert it is rich, fruity Christmas pudding with brandy sauce. Or perhaps mince pies and pastry cases filled with a mixture of chopped dried fruit. In Quebec, a Christmas banquet is called a **reveillon**. One favorite food in Quebec is **Boulettes**, or small meatballs. People display **crèches** or **nativity scenes** in their homes as Christmas decorations. In Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, **Masked Mummers** are a Christmas tradition, during the twelve days of Christmas small groups of **belsnicklers**, or **masked mummers**, appear in neighborhoods, ringing bells, making noise, seeking candy or other treats. The hosts may try to guess who the mummers are and if they guess right the mummer removes his or her disguise and stops making rude noises and actions. Children may be quizzed by the mummers on their behavior if they say they have been good they are rewarded with candy.
- ▶ **Christmas in France** – On Christmas Eve, children leave their shoes by the fireplace to be filled with gifts from **Pere Noel**. In the morning, they also find that sweets, fruit, nuts and small toys have been hung on the tree. The Christmas tree has never been particularly popular in France, and though the use of the Yule log has faded, the French make a traditional Yule log-shaped cake called the **buche de Noel**, which means "**Christmas Log**." The cake, among other food in great abundance, is served at the grand feast of the season, which is called **le reveillon**. Le reveillon is a very late supper held after Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.
- ▶ **Christmas in Spain** – In Spain it is a very festive time at Christmas. On Christmas Eve, as the stars come out, tiny oil lamps are lit in every house, and after Midnight Mass and Christmas dinner, streets fill with dancers and onlookers. There is a special Christmas dance called the **Jota** and the words and music have been handed down for hundreds of years. They dance to the sound of guitars and castanets. Shoes are filled with straw or barley for the tired camels that must carry their riders through the busy night. By morning the camel food is gone and in place of the straw or barley are presents. Shoes also may be placed on balconies on the night of January 6 in the hope that the Wise Men will fill them with gifts.



Science  
Fair!

## SHEPHERD'S SCIENCE FAIR IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

Mark your calendars! Shepherd's Science Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 29th. As your young scientist prepares his or her project and display, please be mindful of a few important due dates.

- ▶ **Wednesday, Jan. 15:** ALL permission slips must be signed and returned to your classroom teacher (if a permission slip is not turned in your child will not be able to participate).
- ▶ **Tuesday, Jan. 21:** ALL project boards must be turned in to your classroom teacher in grades 3– 5.
- ▶ **Friday, Jan. 24:** ANY project boards must be turned in to your classroom teacher in grades K– 2.
- ▶ **Tuesday, Jan. 28:** Viewing of projects at NOAA headquarters at 1305 East-West Hwy. in Silver Spring, 5-7 p.m.
- ▶ **Wednesday, Jan. 29:** Science Fair at NOAA headquarters

If anyone is available to assist in transporting the boards over to NOAA on Tuesday, January 28th in the morning, please contact Ms. Ulba either in person or via email at [nancy.ulba@dc.gov](mailto:nancy.ulba@dc.gov). The awards ceremony has not been scheduled as of this date. We will send more information about that at a later date. If you have any questions feel free to contact one of the Science Fair Committee members.

Thanks for your support!

--The Science Fair Committee: Ms. Nancy Ulba, Ms. Anne Charles, Ms. Ashley Hart, Mr. Vincent Irby

### Star Achievers \_\_\_\_\_ cont'd from page 3

some classes this year. PE will be indoor soccer and personal fitness; second grade continues with Comic Book Club and third grade with Chess. Dance and Martial Arts will be a continuation of lessons learned last semester. We will be adding specials to replace Sign Language and Poetry, as well as science which will include gardening, butterflies and the winter growing of mushrooms. French and Spanish will be offered to those grades who did not have those classes this past fall. This schedule will be offered until March 28; there will be another schedule for April, May and June.

RESOLVE TO HAVE A GREAT 2014! See the New Year's Resolutions of Star Achievers on the bulletin board in the cafeteria.

--Ms. Claire Riley, Program Director

### IB Corner \_\_\_\_\_ cont'd from page 4

- ▶ **Christmas in Ethiopia** – In Ethiopia Christmas day is January 7, so on Christmas Eve (January 6) the city is crowded with pilgrims from all parts of the country. People receive candles as they enter church services. After lighting the candles everyone walks around the church three times, and then stands throughout the Mass, which may last up to three hours. Food served at Christmas usually includes **injera**, a sourdough pancake like bread. **Injera** serves as both plate and fork. **Doro wat**, a spicy chicken stew, might be the main meal. A piece of the **injera** is used to scoop up the wat. Baskets decorated beautifully are used to serve the wat. Gift giving is a very small part of Christmas celebration. Children usually receive very simple presents such as clothing.

Have a Super Week!

--Ms. Sandra Hart, IB coordinator

## It's a New Year!

Since we now all have new wall calendars or new smartphones coming back from the winter break, please take note of these important dates in the life of Shepherd Elementary. Your presence at any and all of these events is welcomed, since parent power helps make the school progress.

### Education-Related Activities

Tuesday, January 28th-Wednesday, January 29th: Science Fair, NOAA headquarters, 1305 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring (including 6-8 p.m. exhibit Jan. 29)  
 Thursday, Feb. 13th: Parent Night  
 Wednesday, Feb. 19th: "Getting to the Core" and "Shepherd's Successful Readers" programs, 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.  
 Monday, Feb. 24th: Parent-teacher conferences  
 Monday, March 31st-Friday, April 11th: DC-CAS testing  
 Thursday, May 22nd: Parent Night  
 Monday, June 2nd: Parent-Teacher conferences

### Special and Super-Special Events

Friday, Feb. 28th: Jazz Night silver anniversary celebration, 6 p.m.  
 Saturday, March 15th: Annual PTA Gala, Wilson High School atrium, 6 p.m.  
 Saturday, March 22nd: Book Fair, Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Monday, April 14th-Monday, April 21st: Spring break  
 Wednesday, May 7th: Bike to School Day  
 Friday, May 30th: Field Day  
 Tuesday, June 17th: Fifth grade graduation  
 Thursday, June 19th: Last day of school

### Family Dinner Nights

Tuesday, Jan. 14th: Pete's New Haven Style Apizza, 962 Wayne Ave., Silver Spring, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.  
 Saturday, March 22nd: Comet Ping Pong, 5037 Connecticut Ave. NW, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Tuesday, April 30th: Franklins, 5027 Baltimore Blvd. (Route 1), Hyattsville, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.  
 Monday, June 16th: Ledo Pizza, 7435 Georgia Ave. NW, 4-10 p.m.  
 More to be announced!

### LSAT Meetings

Wednesday, Jan. 15th, 4 p.m.  
 Wednesday, Feb. 19th, 4 p.m.  
 Wednesday, March 19th, 4 p.m.  
 Wednesday, May 21st, 4 p.m.

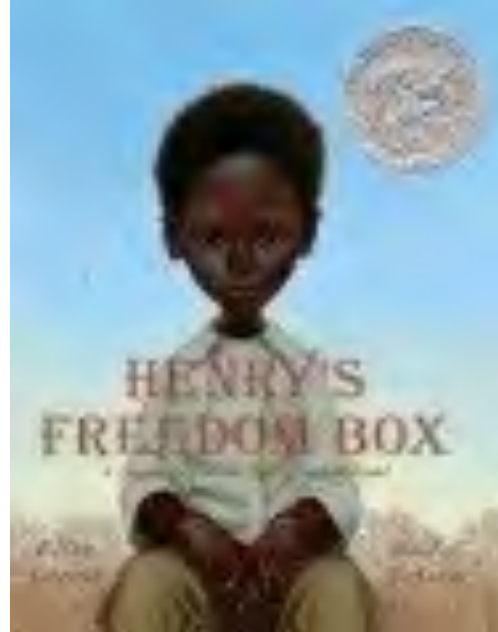
### PTA Meetings

Wednesday, Jan. 15th, 6:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday, Feb. 19th, 6:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday, March 19th, 6:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday, May 21st, 6:30 p.m.

## Miles \_\_\_\_\_ cont'd from page 1

student reads, and engage in a discussion about the book. Though they are picture books each book is carefully selected and have topics and themes that both adults and children can discuss and enjoy.

### This Month's Book – Henry's Freedom Box



### **Book Description**

*Henry Brown doesn't know how old he is. Nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. All the time he dreams about freedom, but that dream seems farther away than ever when he is torn from his family and put to work in a warehouse. Henry grows up and marries, but he is again devastated when his family is sold at the slave market. Then one day, as he lifts a crate at the warehouse, he knows exactly what he must do: He will mail himself to the North. After an arduous journey in the crate, Henry finally has a birthday -- his first day of freedom.*

### **Attention 4th and 5th Grade Parents**

Representatives from Deal Middle School will hold a parent information session at Shepherd. During this session you will meet Principal Albright and learn more about the school. The session will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014 and it will be held in the library. Please join us to learn more about our feeder middle school and to get your questions answered.

### **New Year Resolutions**

The New Year is a time to reflect on the changes we want to make, need to make, or a time to recommit ourselves to just doing the right thing. Well, as you set your New Year resolutions, I ask that you take a moment to add the items here to your list.

- ▶ I will make a plan for my student to arrive at school

(see Miles, page 7)

**LSAT Update**

Even though school was shut down Dec. 10th in anticipation of the snowstorm that never happened, Shepherd's Local School Advisory team met via conference call. They continued to plunge into an ambitious agenda, considering more than two dozen items dealing with parent and community engagement, academic achievement and the school's culture and climate.

The idea was raised on a "pair-a-parent" mentoring system in which new-to-Shepherd parents would be paired with "veteran" parents to get a heads-up on how the school functions.

The LSAT is also trying to prepare a list of locations in zip codes 20012 and 20011 — where a significant percentage of Shepherd parents live — to get together at rec centers or restaurants to bond more closely.

Shepherd will also be working up greater parental support for the Science Fair this month, including transporting student projects a mile away to the NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring.

One parent on the LSAT is collecting information on the Igniting Creative Energy competition for students — another venue that, like GeoPlunge and the spelling bee, puts students' minds to work for fun and achievement.

Another LSAT member with deep knowledge of databases will assist the PTA in finding the right database to allow it to harness member information most effectively.

The LSAT also collaborated with the principal on a letter to be sent to parents in the new year seeking their commitment of 10 volunteers hours at Shepherd between now and the end of the school year.

The team also committed to a second year of Cultural Arts Night, featuring family-friendly artists and performers from the neighborhood and the surrounding area.

Likewise, the LSAT committed to a second year of the Bike Rodeo, and efforts are already under way to find the best date possible for it, as Bike to School Day will be observed nationwide on May 7th.

The next LSAT meeting is set for Wednesday, Jan. 15th, at 4 p.m. Parents are invited to attend, although if confidential matters arise, they may have to step out of the meeting. The LSAT's purpose, function, goals, and minutes of past meetings can be found at <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/school-advisory-board/>

**Happy New Year!**

**Miles** \_\_\_\_\_ *cont'd from page 6*

between 8:20 and 8:35 a.m. each day. I know instruction begins at 8:45 am and if the gym doors are closed, my student is late.

- ▶ I will adhere to all traffic rules and refrain from impeding pickup/drop-off time or causing a disruption during pickup and drop-off.
- ▶ I will remain calm, attentive and respectful during pickup and drop-off.
- ▶ I will enter and exit through the main entrance only.
- ▶ I will sign in at the security desk and check in at the main office before proceeding to the classroom.
- ▶ I will make sure that my student is prepared for school each day.
- ▶ I will limit classroom visits during the day unless I am volunteering or it is a scheduled visit. Forgotten items (money, lunch, homework, etc.) will be left in the main office.
- ▶ I will label my students' belongings because if they are lost, I would like for them to be found and returned to me.
- ▶ If I have a problem, I will address it with my child's teacher first.
- ▶ I will read with my student each night, practice their math facts and assist in the completion of all additional assignments.
- ▶ I will volunteer to help my child's school.
- ▶ I will not send my student to school sick.
- ▶ I will send them in appropriate clothing. If it is cold outside - my student will at least have a hat and coat each day for outside recess. On their PE day — my student will have on safe shoes that will allow them to safely engage in physical activity.
- ▶ I will make sure that my student is in school uniform each day. I know when I allow my student to dress out of uniform it sends a message that it is okay to not follow the rules.
- ▶ I will not pick my student up early from school unless it is an emergency.
- ▶ I will read the Mustang and my grade-level newsletter so that I will be an informed parent.
- ▶ I will make sure I know my student's reading level and generally how they are performing academically and will do my part to make sure that my student is making progress. In addition, I will hold my school accountable and together we will make sure Shepherd students receive the best education possible.

Warmest regards,

*Jamie Miles*

Principal





### Next Family Dinner Night at Pete's Apizza!

We've got Family Dinner Night all day for one day next week. Our restaurant partner is Pete's New Haven Style Apizza at 962 Wayne Ave. in Silver Spring. It's across the street from the Wayne Avenue garage (parking is free if you manage to stay past 8 p.m.).

But here's the deal -- and it's a great one. The hours are all day: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Pete's is going to give us 25 percent of the receipts if we say we're from Shepherd.

And the deal is good for dine-in, take-out AND delivery! Pete's also has a generous delivery area. It includes all of Shepherd Park and most of Takoma Park, east of Georgia Avenue from the D.C.-Maryland line, down Blair Road to Piney Branch Road. The delivery area then includes a big chunk of Brightwood, from Georgia and Piney Branch, south on Georgia to Missouri, then west to 16th Street.

Say you leave from school to park in the garage and eat at Pete's Apizza. Once inside Pete's, you'll see menus on the counter with pizzas, pastas, appetizers, salads and dessert (especially gelato). You make your order and pay at the counter. Then you choose a table. Every table has a number on it, and servers will bring your food to your table. And there are dozens of tables to choose from. And from the time you leave Shepherd until the time you leave Pete's, you're done in 45 minutes!

Because this Family Dinner Night also takes place during the day, you can choose to have lunch there (and maybe even come back at night for something else). Pete's also sells pizza by the slice if you don't think you can eat a whole pizza by yourself and don't care to take it home.

To call ahead for take-out or delivery, Pete's number is 301-588-7383. And, because of the delicate parking situation, you can get curbside service for your to-go order if you pay over the phone with a credit card! To get a sneak peek at the menu, go to <http://petesapizza.com/>.

Come hungry, leave happy. Let's pack the place!

#### It's Gala Time in March!

We've 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, we could use the help of volunteers to make the event a success. In particular, 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](mailto:kateandmama@yahoo.com)) or  
Susan Laudadio  
([serlaudadio@hotmail.com](mailto:serlaudadio@hotmail.com)) to  
volunteer.

#### HEALTHY THURSDAYS RETURN

RESOLVED: GET HEALTHY IN 2014. MR. BURGESS IS SHOWING OUR CHILDREN HOW, AND HE CAN SHOW US HOW, TOO.

THE NEXT IN HIS SERIES OF HEALTHY THURSDAYS TAKES PLACE **THIS THURSDAY, JAN. 9, AT 6:30 P.M.** IN THE SCHOOL GYM. HEALTHY THURSDAY IS OPEN TO PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. AND, IF YOU HAVE ANOTHER RESOLUTION TO SAVE MONEY IN THE NEW YEAR, HEALTHY THURSDAY IS FREE! NO RSVP IS NECESSARY, JUST SHOW UP. WHAT COULD BE BETTER?



#### PTA Meeting Next Week

Make it a point to grow more active in school issues. Come to next week's PTA meeting. It will be held **Wednesday, Jan. 15th** -- the birthday of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. -- and there can be no better way to celebrate his birthday than by taking the first step toward going that extra mile.

Meeting time is at 6:30 p.m. School starts on time, and so do PTA meetings!

Childcare will be provided, and there will be food and drink for both adults and children in attendance. See you there!





FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

# Shepherd's FAMILY DINNER NIGHT



962 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring

*This time it lasts all day!*

Tuesday, January 14

11 a.m.—10 p.m.

SAY YOU'RE FROM SHEPHERD

→ The PTA gets 25% of your pre-tax tab! ←

*(Delivery area includes Shepherd Park,  
Brightwood, much of Takoma D.C. and Mary-  
land from Woodmoor to Rock Creek Park)  
website: <http://petesapizza.com/menu.html>*



Good for Dine-In , Take-out, Delivery and Curbside Pickup (PH: 301-588-7383)



### Recycle That Old Cell Phone!

Did you get a new cell phone over the holidays? Or maybe you dropped your old one and the screen cracked. If so, donate that old cell phone to Shepherd for recycling. Recycling your cell phone is far more friendly to the environment than just pitching it in the trash -- AND Shepherd can get cash money for it (well, OK, a check, but still...).

Just bring your cell phone to the office. We'll keep them safe. When we get 10 phones, we can mail them to a place in California, and they'll pay us at least \$2 per phone - and more, depending on the sophistication of the technology they can harvest.

The same is true for toner cartridges. If yours is running on empty, replace it and bring the old one to Ms. Brooks in the office. She knows a place that pays Shepherd good money for those to be returned.



### Sign up for our Listserv **Resolved: Join the PTA Listserv**

When DCPS announced the two-hour opening delay on Dec. 9th, and the full-day closure of school for Dec. 10th, the PTA listserv spread the information out to members within minutes -- and in plenty of time to avoid heading to school only to find nobody there.

Stay connected to the Shepherd parent community. Join the PTA listserv! More than 200 parents and teachers are on the listserv already, offering timely information and helpful hints on helping your child thrive.

To join, send a message to [shepherd\\_elementary\\_pta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:shepherd_elementary_pta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Make sure you include your name plus your child's name, grade and teacher.

If you send a request to join but don't get activated within a day or so, send a note to [sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com).

To put something via the listserv, send the message to [shepherd\\_elementary\\_pta@yahoogroups.com](mailto:shepherd_elementary_pta@yahoogroups.com)

### Traffic Safety Tip

**Resolved:** To be a safe driver around Shepherd Elementary!

Since the traffic cones sprouted up mornings at the intersection of Jonquil and 14th, only three times has someone knocked over a cone with their car -- an average of once a month. That's one example of gentle driving near school.

More and more parents understand that the "No Parking or Standing Anytime" sign means you can't leave your car to take your child into school -- but they can, however, get them out of the car and send them off without penalty. One poor motorist at the southwest part of the intersection didn't understand that last month, and got a ticket.

Please resist double-parking on 14th. The drivers in the curb lane are just as anxious to get going as you are, and God forbid they should try to leave just as your child is trying to walk between cars to get to the sidewalk.

Remember to leave extra time for getting your children dressed for the winter weather, and for you to drive safely to Shepherd in the first place.



## Mustang Message

**On behalf of the Shepherd Mustang Newsletter Team, we'd like to wish each of you a Happy New Year!**

**Thank you for reading the Mustang and ensuring your child reads the Mustang to stay aware of what's happening in and around the school. Please keep your eyes posted as there's a lot more to come in 2014!**

**Warm Wishes,**

**The Mustang Team**



### **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, January 17, at 5 p.m.  
 Send all contributions to:  
[sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jamie.miles@dc.gov)  
 Robyn Brooks, Admin. Assistant – [robyna.brooks@dc.gov](mailto:robyna.brooks@dc.gov)  
 Sherlyn 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 Sally  
 Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to:  
[SESmustang@gmail.com](mailto:SESmustang@gmail.com)





Shepherd Elementary School PTA  
7800 14<sup>th</sup> Street, North West  
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(es): \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ 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](#))