



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

March 3, 2014



## Mark Your Calendars!

- ▶ **Tuesday, March 11:** Local School Advisory Team meeting, 4 p.m.
- ▶ **Saturday, March 15:** "The Magic of Morocco" Gala and Auction, 6 p.m., Wilson High School atrium, 3950 Chesapeake St. NW
- ▶ **Wednesday, March 19:**
  - PTA meeting, 6:30am., auditorium
  - Curriculum Night at 6 p.m.
- ▶ **Saturday, March 22:**
  - Book Fair, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW
  - **Family Dinner Day, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.,** Comet Ping Pong, 5037 Connecticut Ave. NW

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

## From the PTA President

Hi Everyone,

The 25th Anniversary of the Shepherd Jazz Night, sponsored by the Shepherd PTA, was awesome! Some say it was the best ever with over 125 participants listening to live jazz, dancing in the aisles, and enjoying food and drinks contributed by Shepherd families, friends, and staff. The Calvin Coolidge Senior High School Jazz Ensemble and the Jackie Hairston Trio provided the music, and Mr. Robert Northern (aka Brother Ah) and Shepherd Jazz Night Founder Dr. Michael Wallace provided a bit of jazz history and words of wisdom to

(see PTA Pres, page 6)

## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings Shepherd families!

### Early Arrivers

If your student is not in before-care, they may not arrive to school for breakfast until after 8 a.m., students who arrive before 8 a.m. will be turned away and their parents will be notified. We have a significant number of students arriving before 8 a.m. and they are not in before-care. This is unacceptable and dangerous! Please enroll your student in our before-care program if you need to drop your student off before eight o'clock.



### Dismissal

Please be reminded that our school day ends at 3:15 p.m. and that we do not dismiss students from the main office between 3 and 3:30 p.m. If you need to pick your student up prior to 3:15 p.m., please arrive before 3 p.m. Parents may not report directly to the classrooms at dismissal time to wait and/or pick up their student. Dismissal takes place between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. If you walk in to pick up your student, please report to the gymnasium between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. If your student is in carpool, please remain in your car at the 14th Street entrance and your student will be released from there. If your student attends our aftercare program, you should sign in and proceed downstairs to the cafeteria. Dismissal time can be very busy. Prior to dismissal, students and teachers are cleaning, packing, writing down their homework and making sure they have everything they need. When parents come directly to the classroom it often delays dismissal and results in students leaving things behind. Thank you for your assistance.

### Visitors

Parents are always welcome to visit the school. However, we ask that you visit with a purpose. If you are volunteering - great! If you would like to observe what is happening in your classroom - wonderful! However, these

(see Miles, page 6)



## Shepherd IB PYP Corner

### February

We spent the month participating in Black History Month Trivia, preparing a Talking Wax Museum and working with the National Black Caucus. This year, we closed out the month with the National Black Caucus as they celebrated their 25th National African American Read-In. We had several individuals: Mr. Underwood, Barbara Mickens also known as “G Ma”, Dr. Zabra Harrell, Anita Lee, and Marie Blake who came and read stories and entertained our students. The students and staff really enjoyed it. We ended the month with our Jazz Night concert, which was very well attended – more than 125 students and parents!



### *Famous African Americans: Talking Wax Museum featuring Mrs. Holt's Class*

The Pre- K students had to choose a famous African American person to research and present during the month. Students had to dress as their personality as they did their presentation. They chose personalities like Alicia Keys, Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, Ray Charles, and Thurgood Marshall to name a few.



Thurgood Marshall



Ray Charles



Rosa Parks

### 2014 Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Julien Kearns and Imani Thomas for enthusiastically represented our school in the city wide Spelling Bee last week. The Spelling Bee participants for this year were:

First Grade: Adrian Cook, Autumn Cowsert, Nia Dunham, Meley Ghermay, Joyce Kao, and Raimon Nelson Jr.





Hello, everybody! This is Henry. The Shepherd Auction is coming up again on Saturday, March 15. Every class will be making a project to donate to the auction to raise money for the school. The project my class is doing is to make a picture of the Washington, D.C. flag with our fingerprints. We each got to choose our favorite color to use. Along the bottom, we each put another fingerprint and then signed our name.

Shepherd parents: Don't forget to buy your tickets for the auction so you can bid on this project and other great ones! Bye everybody, don't forget to bid!

--Henry Trimble, fourth-grader



### Daylight Savings Times Starts Next Week

Parents: Remember that Daylight Savings Time takes effect on Sunday, March 9. Don't get caught flat-footed on Sunday or when school starts on Monday. Trick your kids if you have to into getting a full night's sleep in the days leading up to the change, when we "spring ahead" but lose an hour with the time switch. Have them alert and active when school starts March 10. And parents: Children may enjoy that extra hour of daylight at the end of the day, so be extra careful when driving around school zones and playgrounds.



### Tutors Available

Growing Together, a nonprofit tutoring organization, has tutors available for a limited number of students in grades one through eight who are having difficulty in reading, English, writing, and/or math. During the school year and summer it tutors students who need more individual attention than is possible in class. Chosen as an exemplary tutoring program by the White House in 1996, Growing Together continues to show excellent results in helping students improve in basic subjects.

Students receive professional placement and supervision with trained volunteers providing tutoring on the right individual level to improve basic skills. The program welcomes suggestions from teachers and work with students on all areas they suggest. Growing Together provide all books and supplies.

Parents can choose from the following schedule: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., or Saturdays from either 10:30 a.m.-noon or noon-1:30 p.m.

To enroll your child in tutoring or get more information, call 202-374-5152 or e-mail [theresaknudson@gmail.com](mailto:theresaknudson@gmail.com)

Tutoring takes place at the Juanita E. Thornton-Shepherd Park Library, 7420 Georgia Ave. NW. There is a small parking lot in front of the library.

## BIKE RODEO

### Bike Rodeo Returns!

Mark this date on your calendar:

**Saturday, April 26.**



It's the date of the second Bicycle Rodeo at Shepherd, mounted with the assistance of the Local School Advisory Team and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. More details forthcoming!

## LSAT



Shepherd's Local School Advisory Team will meet Wednesday, March 12, at 4 p.m.

All parents are invited to sit in on the LSAT meeting. If confidential issues should arise, we'll gently usher you out of the door, and bring you back in once that discussion has run its course.

For a look at the LSAT's purpose, priorities, and past meeting minutes, go to: <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/school-advisory-board/>.

**Second Grade:** Hashim Coward, Tyler Davis, Chyna Holloway (Primary Winner), Tobias Lindo – (Primary 1st runner-up), Malchiah Marable, and Tsitsi Shabazz.

**Third Grade:** Eva Doomes, Niles Dunham, Jamillya Henry, Sean Holmes, Grace Kao (Primary 2nd runner-up), Bianca Popa, Casey Ross, Radha Tanner, and Truth Woods.

**Fourth Grade:** Marcus Blunt, Kyle Jackson Chang, Leela Mehta Harwitz (2nd runner-up), Shaina Adams, Weldon Genies, and Keshav Mehta Harwitz.

**Fifth Grade:** Ernestine Luwangu, Ethan Reece, Godloves Tata, Domonique Cherry, London Downing, Taye Moss-Suggs, Julien Kearns (Winner), Adam Thomas, Imani Thomas (1st runner up).

### **March**

The month of March brings back the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Math-A-Thon. The Math-A-Thon teaches students the importance of helping others, helps to improve students' math skills while raising funds for sick children who are battling cancer and other deadly diseases and provides the opportunity to earn super prizes. Parents please look out for the packet and the permission form coming home this week.

The Learner Profile for the month is **Balanced**. To be **Balanced** we must understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, (spiritual) and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We must recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

### ***Suggested Activities...***

Get engaged in conversations, ask questions such as, "Why do you think that is an important thing to know about?" or, "Can you think of anything happening in the world today that might be similar to another aspect of History?" As the weather improves, get involved in something physical—walking, running, cycling, soccer, basketball, etc...

Have a super duper week!

--Sandra Hart

Ms. Sandra Hart,  
IB Coordinator

### **Traffic Safety Tip**

After all of the snow that fell on Washington just before Valentine's Day, the first couple of days back from school were more chaotic for both drivers and pedestrians. Snow cluttered the carpool lane along 14th Street. Some parents who found a relatively clean parking space hogged it like there was no tomorrow. This caused other parents to block crosswalks to let their kids out of the car.

The noise increased, too. Horns honking, people shouting through rolled-down car windows: "Hey, you can't do that! No blocking the cross-walk!" By the end of the week, the snow was pretty much gone, and tempers cooled as the weather warmed.

Two lessons to be learned? First is be nice. We're all in this together. The second lesson is like the first: Be nice with your car as well as your voice. Get your passengers discharged quickly, and give other parents a chance to use the parking space you're in.





### Councilmember Catania Speaks at PTA Meeting

D.C. Councilmember David Catania, chair of the council's Education Committee, spoke at the Feb. 19 PTA meeting with a bit of good news for the assembled parents and staff.

When the subject got to the ongoing school boundary redrawing process, Catania voiced his expectations that Shepherd, a majority of whose student population is African American, will continue to be in the feeder pattern for Deal Middle School.

Catania was applauded when he told parents that if Deal is taken away from the Shepherd feeder pattern, "go to the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Justice. There is no way this school is going to be taken out of that feeder pattern, and I will be the first to testify on your behalf."

He prefaced his remarks about the upcoming boundary redrawing this way: "If redrawing is all about who gets on the life raft and who does not, nobody's going to feel good."

Catania urged a "vertical integration" method for D.C.'s public schools, in which high schools talk with the middle schools that feed into it, and that those middle schools talk with the elementary schools that feed into it, so that students are figuratively – if not literally – on the same page when they move from one school to the next. He noted that one middle school that hasn't put this concept into practice has eight elementary schools feeding into it, and each elementary school tailors its educational program differently, so that when those students are thrown together in the middle school, it is far more difficult to bring them along at the same pace.

He noted that the Common Core Curriculum is supposed to address this problem, but D.C. Public Schools is "only in the second or third year" of implementing Common Core. Meanwhile, algebra is being taught to eighth graders, while current sixth graders may have math skills closer to those in second grade. "To move from second grade to algebra in two years is tough," Catania acknowledged, which accounts for deviation from Common Core in some schools.

One way to address the issue is to end what Catania called "social promotion," which essentially foists underperforming students into academic situations they are ill-equipped to handle.

Before the February snowstorm that closed all DCPS facilities, members of the Education Committee had visited 122 DCPS schools. Catania said they found dedicated professionals throughout the system both in the classroom and in the office.

Catania, a potential mayoral candidate, ticked off some accomplishments of the Education Committee since it was reorganized last year with him made chairman: a test-integrity bill to crack down on cheating; an aggressive attendance and anti-truancy law which he said is "showing some signs of success"; the end of social promotion; and a "fair funding" bill that reached the mayor's desk that would add more to the per-pupil formula under certain conditions – one of them being an impoverished background. Catania noted that DCPS test score increases are due to "demographics," while the scores of students from poor families have registered barely any gains.

Catania said the city intends to fund a "student advocate" position so parents will know the full range of their rights should they have a dispute with DCPS requiring the services of the ombudsman. The ombudsman is not required to tell parents their rights, and so the fight with DCPS is often not a fair one, he added. The student advocate is meant to get disputes resolved without all sides lawyering up.

The at-large councilmember said his proposal for the "Promise" scholarship is meant to supplement the federal TAG (Tuition Assistance Grant) money that's supposed to help pay for D.C. students' tuition at in-state rates to public universities. The TAG money hasn't risen since Congress enacted the law 15 years ago – parents would still have to cough up \$18,000 a year just to send their child to the University of Maryland -- and is always subject to the budget ax.

"When kids know there is real money for college, it improves their performance," Catania said. After Washington state enacted a similar bill, Seattle's graduation rates spiked from 59 percent to 72 percent.



PTA Pres \_\_\_\_\_ *cont'd from page 1*

educate the crowd.

Thank you to everyone who attended, especially those who stepped in to help set up, clean up and serve food. Special thanks go to Dr. Wallace, Jazz Night coordinators Eve Lotter and Folami Jenkins, and Claire Riley and the Star Achievers staff for decorations and providing arts and craft activities for the kids all night long.

Two weeks from now I look forward to seeing all of you again at the upscale, adults-only, Shepherd Gala which will celebrate "The Magic of Morocco." Get your tickets now by going to [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org). If you have an item to donate or are willing to volunteer, please contact Susan ([surlaudadi@hotmail.com](mailto:surlaudadi@hotmail.com)) or Kate ([kateandmama@yahoo.com](mailto:kateandmama@yahoo.com)) to get involved. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need everyone to get involved to make this a huge success.

All the best,  
Sherilyn Pruitt

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

times should be arranged with the teacher or a member of the office staff. Some parents have been wandering and lingering. This does cause some distraction and it is always a safety issue and concern. We generally know our families; however, every family member may not be familiar to every staff member. Therefore, seeing you lingering and/or wandering causes alarm. All visitors must sign in at the security desk and check in at the main office before proceeding to classrooms. If you are dropping off a lunch, backpack, forgotten homework, etc., please leave it with a staff member in the main office. If you have a message for the teacher, please leave it with a staff member in the main office or email the classroom teacher. Unexpected visitors with questions impede instructional time.

### Mark Your Calendars!!

There will be a reading session for all parents on Thursday, March 6. This is the second part of the reading series that was held at the start of the school year. There will be two sessions and the time is selected so that parents may attend during morning drop off or during afternoon pick up. The AM session is scheduled for 8:30 and the PM session is scheduled for 3:30. "Successful Readers" is by invitation only and "Cutting to the Core" is open to everyone. The sessions will take place in Ms. Moorefield's office (the old Spanish room) and Ms. Ulba's classroom.


Our school wide family curriculum night is coming soon. The night will consist of fun activities families can engage in together while applying and possibly learning some new skills and strategies. More details about the event will be coming soon. However, please mark your calendar now for March 19. The event will begin at 6 p.m.!

### Re-Enrollment

Re-enrollment packets are coming soon! Please be on the lookout for a big white (unless the color changes) envelope coming to your mailbox from D.C. Public Schools. The information in the packet is what you will need to complete in order for your student to attend Shepherd or any other school in the DCPS during the 2014-15 school year. More information will be coming; however, in the interim, please do not throw the envelopes away.


### Cell Phones – Reminder!

Lately there has been an increased number of cell phones taken from students during school hours. Please be reminded that students' cell phones must be turned off during the school day. If a student is caught using their cell phone during the day it will be confiscated and returned.



**Gala Childcare at Shepherd**

Childcare, provided by SES Star Achievers, will be available at Shepherd Elementary during the Gala. Watch the listserv and your child's backpack for further details.



### MUSTANG Newsletter:

#### Deadline for Next Issue

**Friday, March. 14, at 5 p.m.**

**Please send all items to [sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com).**

## The Gala Is Coming "The Magic of Morocco"

Has your child ever wondered what it would be like to be Principal for a Day? Well, wonder no more. Ms. Miles' job--for one day, anyway--is up for auction; but to bid on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, you need to attend the Shepherd Gala and Auction on Saturday, March 15, at the Wilson High School Atrium.

If being in charge isn't your kid's cup of tea, how about purchasing a week of no homework? That's up for auction, too, along with "no uniform" days and special activities with some of Shepherd's most beloved teachers. Looking for a deal on summer camps, such as the new Kids Elite sports camp run by Shepherd parent Desmond Dunham? Many kids' experiences are among the auction's most popular items.

For the grownups or even the whole family, we'll have box seats for a Washington Capitals game, a behind-the-scenes visit to a live taping of "Meet the Press," a spa experience at the Still Point, classic front-page plates from the Washington Post, autographed collectibles--and more donations still coming in!

Of course, the highlight of every year's auction are the wonderful, unique classroom projects, donated by each homeroom class at Shepherd. Don't miss out on Ms. Charles' thumbprint flag of the District of Columbia; Ms. Guldin's custom school-logo clock; Ms. Pethel's footprint quilt and, of course, Ms. Holt's ever-popular painted rug. Check the auction page on the Shepherd website as we announce more items between now and March 15.

Don't miss this event and the chance to win these great items and opportunities!

### The Magic of Morocco Awaits...

Shepherd's Annual Gala and Auction

Saturday, March 15, 2014

6:00 – 10:00 p.m. Wilson

High School Atrium

Tickets: \$50 (Includes dinner, beverages, music and more)

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

only to a parent or guardian. If your student is caught with a cell phone a second time, the phone will be confiscated and kept for two school days. Failure to adhere to the policy will result in more severe consequences (i.e., Saturday detention). If you need to speak with your child during the day call the school, if your student needs to speak to you, we will allow them to use the phone.

### Attendance Matters – Reminder

Our conversations with parents and students about on time arrival and daily attendance at school continues. It is imperative that our students are in school every day (unless they are sick) and they arrive on time. To date we have 110 students with 10 or more tardies and only 54 students with no tardies.

### Did you know.....?

- ▶ The most crucial learning hours of a school day are the morning hours, because they are when students are most attentive. Students who are tardy miss the beginning of their morning classes, and they also cause a distraction when they arrive late to class.
- ▶ Students who are frequently tardy have lower GPAs, lower scores on standardized assessments, and lower graduation rates. Chronic tardiness in elementary and middle school is also linked to failure in high school.
- ▶ In the National Center for Education Statistics' 2007 Indicators of School Crime and Safety, teachers surveyed reported that students who are frequently tardy have higher rates of suspension and other disciplinary measures. Tardiness causes students to feel disconnected with school, leading to behavior problems and dropouts.
- ▶ Students who are frequently tardy to school are also more apt to be fired from a job for showing up late.
- ▶ When students are tardy, they negatively impact their teachers and other students. Teachers are often required to allow tardy students to make up work, which often requires them to restructure their lessons or re-teach missed material. Tardiness also takes other students' attention away from a teacher's lesson, leading to more behavior problems and missed instruction. (Research conducted by the U.S. Department of Education.)

Have a great week,

**Jamie Miles**

Principal



## Family Dinner Day

In conjunction with our Politics and Prose book fair, we love going up the block to Comet Ping Pong for brunch, lunch or dinner. Eat before shopping, or eat after shopping; the choice is yours. On the menu are all sorts of inventive toppings for pizzas, plus a number of choice salads and lots of craft beers from the city, the region and the Midwest. While you wait for your food, or after you've eaten, you can go to the back of the restaurant and play a little ping pong. Better yet, the PTA gets 20 percent back from you spend when you're with your family at Comet Ping Pong. And that goes for both the dine-in and carry-out options.

Just like the book fair, the Family Dinner Day is Saturday, March 22. Hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. To phone in an order, call 202-364-0404.



## Book Fair March 22 at Politics and Prose

Shop at Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave., NW, Saturday, March 22, and help raise revenue for the Shepherd PTA, which supports a number of important programs at our school.

Politics and Prose will donate 20% of all book sale revenue that day from shoppers who want their purchase to benefit Shepherd. Teacher and library "wish lists" will also be available at the Shepherd table in the store, and you can buy books from the wish list to donate to school. (Of course, you can also buy books and other merchandise at Politics and Prose for your own reading enjoyment and that of your family.)

On that day ONLY, you may also phone in orders to Politics and Prose at 202-364-1919. Please mention Shepherd so that your phone purchases will also generate a 20 percent donation to the school.

Please urge your friends and neighbors to do their book shopping on March 22 and help support Shepherd! REMEMBER TO ASK THE CASHIER AT CHECKOUT FOR A SHEPHERD COUPON.

Last year's book fair netted the PTA nearly \$500 – not bad for a rookie outing. Can we do better in our second year? With your help, yes we can!

FAMILY DINNER DAY

FAMILY DINNER DAY

FAMILY DINNER DAY



## COMET PING PONG

5037 Connecticut Ave NW  
(Just a few steps from Politics & Prose)

**Saturday, March 22, 2014**

**11:30 a.m.—5 p.m.**



→ **SAY "I'M WITH SHEPHERD!"** ←

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

Stop by for lunch or an early dinner after the Shepherd Book Fair at Politics & Prose!



**PH: (202) 364-0404 • [www.cometpingpong.com](http://www.cometpingpong.com)**





## Star Achievers News

We have a staff change in the aftercare program: Due to the prolonged absence of Mr. Burgess the chess teacher the Chess Challenge in DC organization has hired a new teacher who will teach the third graders chess on Thursdays-Fridays from 3:45-5:15 p.m., the second graders 5:15-6 p.m. on Thursdays, and the fourth and fifth graders from 5:15-6 p.m. on Fridays. We hope Mr. Burgess returns to school soon.

The new chess teacher is Mr. Tapiwa Gwaze or "Coach Tapi." He is a highly rated player who began playing chess in elementary school. He is an experienced chess teacher and enjoys sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm with our Star Achievers.

March will be a busy month. We are planning a Career Day, a talent show and dance, and some fun and educational entertainment will be confirmed soon. Watch your email for a March calendar of events.

Cell phones and electronic devices are not permitted in aftercare. Just like during the school day, if your child needs to reach you they may use the school office phone or the Star Achievers phone. If you would like to speak to your child, please call 202 465-0514. If you get no answer and it is an emergency please call the school office. We will take and hold on to cell phones or electronic devices and return them to you when you pick up your child.

If you are picking up your child who is not with our program but is instead with basketball, cheerleading, cooking class, drama, Girls Scouts, etc., we are sorry but we cannot contact that teacher or coach by walkie-talkie or have details about their extracurricular activities. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Royster, the security desk staff, will call us and ask us to send your student, but all we can tell you is that they are with another program. Please see your child's teacher who is in charge of the extracurricular activity for information.

Thanks very much for your support!

--Ms. Claire Riley

Star Achievers coordinator

**The Big Gala Is Upon Us!!!  
The Magic of Morocco!**

Have you ever wondered why we used so much energy to stay warm and through of a better way of doing so? Have you ever said to yourself, if I were in charge I would \_\_\_\_\_ to save the environment? Well, here is your chance to tell the world what you think we should do to reduce energy use, recycle better or be better stewards of the earth.

Enter the Igniting Creative Energy Competition and tell the world in your own way of how to do better with what we have. Please review the following brochure to see how to enter the competition.

# 2014 IGNITING CREATIVE ENERGY

## Student Challenge

**Igniting Creative Energy (ICE) is a student challenge to motivate learning, ignite the imagination, and fuel the creative potential in youth.**

- Encourages students in kindergarten through 12th grade to come up with creative ways to make a difference in the environment through energy efficiency.
- Students submit entries, in the form of science projects, essays, stories, artwork, photographs, music, video or web site projects, which demonstrate an understanding of what an individual, family or group can do to conserve energy and help the environment.
- National winners enjoy valuable educational experiences, plus a chance to meet national leaders and energy policymakers in Washington, D.C.
- The winner from each school district will receive a \$500 Apple gift card.
- Runner-up from each school district will receive a \$250 Apple gift card.
- One teacher will receive a \$500 Apple gift card.
- Challenge is funded through an educational grant by Johnson Controls with additional support from the National Energy Foundation.



For complete contest details, visit [www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org](http://www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org)



The Challenge is a partnership program developed by Johnson Controls, Inc. and the National Energy Foundation. Johnson Controls funds the Challenge through an educational grant with additional support from the National Energy Foundation.

# IGNITING CREATIVE ENERGY

A growing energy crisis and a national discussion about the future of our natural resources are bringing the impact of our energy choices on the environment closer to home. What can we, as individuals, do to make a difference?

That is the question the Igniting Creative Energy Challenge encourages teachers in North America to ask their students. Open to students K-12 in qualifying school districts, the Challenge is an educational competition designed to motivate students to learn more about energy efficiency and the environment.

The Challenge sponsors would like to acknowledge exemplary teaching and reward students for expressing their understanding of the issues. Three students will win a hosted trip to Washington, D.C. for a fun and educational experience.

## The Challenge to students is simple:

- Step 1 – Learn how individuals' own wise energy choices and environmental stewardship can reduce energy and water consumption and improve the communities in which they live.
- Step 2 – Ignite your creative energy to explore new and creative ways to make a difference in the way you use energy and water.
- Step 3 – Use your creative talents to communicate your energy ideas and actions to others.

Student entries must reflect the theme "energy and water efficiency" and demonstrate an understanding of what an individual, family or group can do to make a difference in their home, school or community. Students are encouraged to express their ideas in any creative form such as documented science projects, essays, stories, artwork, photographs, music, video, website projects, etc.

A total of three Grand Prizes will be awarded to students.

- Three students whose work best exemplifies the Judging Criteria regarding energy efficiency will receive a hosted trip to Washington, D.C. for two (the student and one parent or legal guardian) on June 12, 2014.
- Winners will also participate in the National Energy Efficiency Forum in Washington, D.C., June 12, 2014, where they will share their Challenge entries and ideas with government and energy leaders.
- The winner for each school district will receive a \$500 Apple gift card.
- Runner-up for each school district will receive a \$250 Apple gift card.
- The teacher with the highest average score of 15 or more projects will receive a \$500 Apple gift card.
- A list of winners will be posted on [www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org](http://www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org)
- Award certificates will be available for every participating student and teacher.

To ignite your creative energy about one of the most important issues of our time, visit our website [www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org](http://www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org)

## RULES OF ELIGIBILITY:

- No purchase necessary. This is a competition of skill.
- All entries must be postmarked on or before April 4, 2014.
- The challenge is open to students in grades K-12 in the United States and Canada in qualifying school districts. This competition is void in Quebec.
- All entries must be submitted by an individual.
- Group projects may be submitted, however each individual in the group must submit his/her own official entry form and written explanation and will be judged independently. All prizes will be awarded to individuals.
- Entries must relate to the theme "Energy and Water Efficiency".
- Entries must be the student's original work.
- Entries must be complete and legible.
- Students may enter one or more projects in any creative form within the following limits:
  - Documentation and written entries (500 words or 3 page limit). This limit does not include required written explanation.
  - Audio or Music (3 minute limit).
  - Media or electronic (10 minute limit). Videos in digital-mp4, avi, wmv or DVD format only.
- All entries must include a written explanation (not to exceed one page) describing how the entry relates to the theme (see judging criteria).
- Entries must be accompanied by the official "Igniting Creative Energy" entry form located on the back of this brochure or downloaded from [www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org](http://www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org).
- Entry forms must include signatures of student and parent or legal guardian.
- Employees of Johnson Controls, Inc., the National Energy Foundation and their immediate families, household members and dependents may participate, but are not eligible for prizes.



# STUDENT CHALLENGE

## ENTRY SUBMISSION:

- Mail entries to: **National Energy Foundation**  
**Attn: Shannon**  
**4516 South 700 East Suite 100**  
**Salt Lake City, UT 84107**
- All entries, including entry form and explanation, must be postmarked on or before April 4, 2014.

## JUDGING CRITERIA:

Entries will be divided into grade clusters and evaluated by a panel of judges.

Grade clusters are K-5, 6-8, 9-12.

Judging criteria will be based on a point system. A total of 60 points will be awarded, as follows:

1. Entry represents original and creative work..... 20 points
  2. Entry demonstrates theme, by illustrating wise energy choices, environmental stewardship and, where appropriate, factual accuracy ..... 20 points
  3. Completion of written explanation (limit one page)..... 20 points
- Explanation should include:
- What motivated you to enter this challenge?
  - What actions and ideas do you hope to convey?
  - What is the impact of your project in your own life or in the lives of others?

Submission must include original project, official entry form and written explanation.

The travel prize winner in each grade cluster will be the entry that receives the highest number of points. In case of any ties, judges will re-evaluate and choose final winners based upon the judging criteria. If, for any reason, a prize winner is unable to participate in the award trip, an alternate winner may be designated. Any alternate winners will be chosen on the same basis.

All decisions of the judges are final.

## NOTIFICATION:

- Travel prize winners will be notified May 2014. Student winners and their parents/guardians and the winning teacher and companion must complete and return the affidavit of eligibility and mutually acceptable release of liability within five business days of notification or alternate winners will be selected.
- Prize winners will be announced **June 2014** and posted at [www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org](http://www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org)

## ADDITIONAL RULES:

**Travel prizes: Restrictions apply.** Each trip award provides two round trip airfares from airport near winner's home, as selected by Sponsor in its sole discretion. Trip also includes a minimum of one night's lodging in Washington, D.C., on June 12, 2014, as selected by Sponsors in their sole discretion, plus tour tickets, also selected by the Sponsors, a per diem meal amount and elements of the ground transportation. All additional costs, including any tax liability, are the sole responsibility of the winner and parent/legal guardian. Travelers are solely responsible for obtaining all necessary travel documents, including passport, if necessary. Tickets are not exchangeable or redeemable for cash; are subject to terms and conditions of use as stated thereon; and are not to be combined with any other offer. Travel and lodging must be taken on dates specified by Sponsor.

Past grand prize winners are encouraged to enter the competition and are eligible to receive recognition and publication for their entry; however, if the entry of a past grand prize winner is selected as a winner in a consecutive year, such entrant shall receive a \$1,000 savings bond in lieu of the grand prize trip. In such an event, the grade cluster second place winner shall receive the grand prize trip.

No substitutions, no transfers, no cash-value awards.

All entries and all rights thereto become the property of the Sponsors and will not be returned. The Sponsors expressly acquire and claim the original, North American rights to reproduce and publish entries as selected by the judges, in ways they deem appropriate (i.e. recognition, publications, promotions and websites), the consideration for which will be the publicity provided to the entrant through same. Entry forms must be complete and must be signed by the student and parent or legal guardian.

Entry constitutes acceptance of all rules and consent to the use of winner's name, biographical data and likeness for advertising, promotion or marketing purposes, as permitted by law, without additional compensation.

Odds of winning depend on the number and quality of entries received.

Sponsors are not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, incomplete or illegible entries or notifications. Johnson Controls and the National Energy Foundation shall not be liable for any injury, loss, damage, costs, or expense arising directly or indirectly in connection with this challenge or prize. Except as noted, all expenses associated with the prize, including taxes, fees, licenses, title costs, registrations and insurance, are the sole responsibility of the prize recipients and their parents or legal guardians. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel, suspend or modify this competition should causes beyond its control prevent the successful administration, winner selection or prize award.

VOID WHERE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED BY LAW.

# IGNITING CREATIVE ENERGY

## STUDENT CHALLENGE OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM 2014

Mail Entry to:  
National Energy Foundation  
Attn: Shannon  
4516 South 700 East Suite 100  
Salt Lake City, UT 84107

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE April 4, 2014

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Gender(circle one) M | F

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

District/Division \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Name \_\_\_\_\_ Superintendent Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

I affirm that this entry is my own original work and grant Johnson Controls Inc., and the National Energy Foundation permission to use my work, including my name, in ways they deem appropriate (i.e. recognition, publications, promotions and web sites). I understand all entries become the property of Johnson Controls Inc. and the National Energy Foundation and will not be returned. I also understand that Johnson Controls Inc. and the National Energy Foundation will take the necessary precautions to secure and protect all entries, but make no guarantee against damage or loss of any entrant's work. I have read the judging criteria and understand that the decision of the judges is final. I also understand that submission of my entry constitutes my acceptance of the above conditions.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Submission must include original project, official entry form and written explanation (limit one page) demonstrating how the entry relates to the theme: "Energy and Water Efficiency"

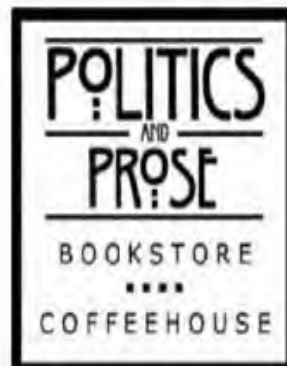
**YOU WOULD NOT, COULD NOT WANT TO MISS,  
A BOOK FAIR LIKE THIS!**



**Saturday, March 22**

**Politics & Prose Bookstore  
Connecticut Avenue NW**

- ⇒ **Everyone:** Shepherd will receive 20% of all our sales storewide during the fair! (Excludes gift certificates, special orders, membership and coffee house items)
- ⇒ **Teachers:** Create "wish cards" for books you'd like the Shepherd community to buy and donate to you or your classroom!
- ⇒ **Parents and Students:** Purchase books for yourself or donate "wish card" books to your classroom teacher and the school library!



After the book fair take a few steps to Comet Ping Pong for Family Dinner DAY (11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.). Say, "I'm with Shepherd," and the PTA gets 20% of your pre-tax tab!



## PTA Meeting Highlights

Apart from D.C. Councilmember David Catania's appearance at the PTA meeting (see separate story), there was lots of news coming from the Feb. 19 gathering.

Mrs. Miles, the principal, noted that the "letter of intent" has been distributed. Parents should signal their intentions ASAP; getting Shepherd's numbers up assures the school of being able to retain staff and attract new staff with the largest possible employment pool available. She said summer school will be open to all DCPS students – not just the ones whose parents may have received summer school letters. Summer school hours are 8 a.m.-1 p.m., with free breakfast and lunch available. At this time, DCPS has not committed to any afternoon activities with summer school students.

Kate Woods, one of the co-chairs of the Gala Committee, said this year's Gala will feature Moroccan and Mediterranean foods like tahini and baklava, and will have live belly dancing. Great prizes like tickets to a Washington Capitals game — donated by Catania — and a tasting courtesy of Charlie Palmer Steakhouse are just two of the prizes submitted for Gala-goers' consideration.

Kathleen Stines of D.C.'s Child and Family Services Agency and a graduate of Shepherd, highlighted the need for both foster parents and adoptive parents. What had been a 3,000-child wait for placement has been whittled down to 1,189. Households (including single adults at least age 21 capable of supporting a family) choosing either option get support themselves from District agencies. Still, Stines said, many D.C. kids go to Maryland homes, fraying what community ties they had – and the District is still 200 beds short in foster care. Foster care can last from just a day to six months and even longer – and 85 percent of foster parents end up adopting. For details, go to [www.dfsa.dc.gov](http://www.dfsa.dc.gov) or call 202-671-5683.

Local School Advisory Team chair Kesha Pendergrast said she was part of a session specifically for LSAT members Feb. 11 hosted by DCPS chancellor Kaya Henderson that didn't exactly promise more money for schools, but asked LSAT members to envision the things they could do at their school if the budget were increased by 5 percent. Or even 10 percent!

Parent Eve Lotter talked up the Growing Together tutoring program held at the Shepherd Park Library (see related article).

Outgoing treasurer Judith McCullough was thanked for her service to the PTA, and assistant treasurer Curtis Lewis stepped into the treasurer's position.

Michael Wallace, the originator of Jazz Night, made a presentation to mark the event's silver anniversary, encouraging all in attendance to come to the Feb. 28 evening of music.

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, February 14, 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**

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 Washington, DC 20012  
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