



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG



Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

March 31, 2014



## Mark Your Calendars!

- ▶ **Monday, March 31:**
  - ▶ Toiletries Drive ends
  - ▶ DC-CAS testing begins (through April 10)
- ▶ **Tuesday, April 1:** Primary

Election Day

- ▶ **Thursday, April 3:** Healthy Thursdays workout, 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Wednesday, April 9:** PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m., auditorium
- ▶ **Friday, April 11:** Awards Day, auditorium; 9 a.m. for pre-K through second grade, 10 a.m. for grades 3-5
- ▶ **Monday, April 14-Monday, April 21:** Spring break
- ▶ **Tuesday, April 22:** School resumes
- ▶ **Wednesday, April 23:** Yearbook order deadline
- ▶ **Saturday, April 26:** Bike Rodeo, 2-5 p.m.
- ▶ **Tuesday, April 29:** Family Dinner Night (and Day), Franklins, 5027 Baltimore Ave. (Route 1), Hyattsville

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

## From the PTA President

Hi Everyone,

As we all ponder our civic duty and think about who we want to elect as the next mayor of D.C., we should also begin thinking about who we want to serve in leadership roles for the Shepherd Elementary School parent/staff organizations next year. The school community will elect a Nominating Committee at our April PTA meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, and elections will be held in May. We are looking for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee, and we

(see PTA, page 6)

## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greeting, Shepherd families!

**Spring is in the Air** (At Least I Hope So)



The weather is getting warmer and the best way to enjoy the weather is to get outside. Occasionally throughout the year, usually in the spring and at the start of the school year students participate in walking field trips. These trips are always within close proximity of the school (i.e. lower field, Montgomery College, Ledo Pizza, etc.). To help facilitate these trips we ask that parents complete a general permission slip at the start of the year to cover such trips. The 2013-2015 Walking Field trip form was sent home several times at the start of the year; however, if you missed it, a copy of the slip is included in this week's edition of the Mustang. Please complete and return the form to school with your student no later than this Wednesday, April 3, so that your student can get out and enjoy this soon to come beautiful spring weather.

## DC-CAS

Starting this week, students in third, fourth and fifth grade will take the District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment (DC-CAS). This assessment is given annually to students to see how well they have mastered grade-level content. The results from these assessments are used to measure and compare Shepherd to other schools.

The reading and math assessments for third through fifth grade will take place Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Students in fourth grade will take the writing assessment on Monday, April 7. Our fifth-grade students will take the Health and Science assessment Monday-Tuesday, April 7-8. Testing will begin each morning at 9:30 a.m. and will end when students are done.

Please make sure that your student gets a good night's rest, arrives to school on time well-fed (or earlier

(see Miles, page 6)



Hello, everybody, this is Henry again! We had the Shepherd auction, but results aren't out yet, so stay tuned for that.

We had some students from Howard University who came to sing at our school. They sang different types of songs, and some were even in other languages. All the students seemed to really like it.

I can't wait for warmer weather so we can have outdoor recess more regularly. I am very excited about spring break. I will go to see my cousins in Chicago. In particular, I have two new cousins named Jack and Delilah -- they're twins! I hope you have fun on your spring break, too. Bye!

--Henry Trimble, fourth-grader

Hey, Mustangs! My birthday just passed on March 26. Hope you guys had fun at Literacy Night. We have track and field kicking off starting with a great leadoff -- lots of hard work and effort. Are we all having fun in our specials? You guys we are having lots of fun in track and field and focusing on our work. Hope y'all are having fun!

--Imani Thomas, fifth-grader

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

### PTA Meeting Notice

The PTA will meet Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Included on the agenda is choosing a Nominating Committee to find candidates for PTA officer positions and Local School Advisory Team parent representatives for 2014-15.

School starts on time. So do PTA meetings!



It's Time to Order Your.....  
**YEARBOOK!**



### It's Yearbook Time!

Shepherd Elementary School's yearbook is coming!  
Preorder AND customize your yearbook.

Price: \$15

Order By: Wednesday, April 23

Go to: [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate)

Enter our school's passcode: 1013930010262632

You can customize two pages in your yearbook with your own photos by using your computer, Flickr and Facebook.

Please note: Yearbooks will only be available to be purchased online. If you need assistance, see Ms. Tiffany in the library.



### Toiletries Drive Continues

If you still have toiletries to contribute in the school's ongoing toiletries drive, you can still make your

contributions through Monday, March 31. All contributions will go to a women's shelter in Washington. You can send them with your son or daughter in a bag, or you can drop them off yourself in Ms. McIntyre's room, Room 120, alongside the auditorium. Thank you!

### ELECTION DAY IS COMING!

Tuesday, April 1, is Primary Election Day in the District of Columbia. Shepherd Elementary's auditorium is the home of Precinct 62. Voting takes place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please put up with the noise and distractions of electioneering for this one day. A Shepherd alumnus, John F. Settles, is a Democratic candidate for an at-large D.C. Council seat.

Wherever you live, please remember to vote! In D.C., winning the primary is often tantamount to winning the general election. Primaries for mayor, D.C. Council candidates and various parties' State Committee slates are on the ballot. It's not only our duty to vote, but also our privilege and hard-won right to vote. Let our children see us exercising our democratic rights!



### Deadline for the Next Issue

Friday, April 18, 5 p.m.

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

### Awards Day Next Friday

Friday, Apr. 11 is the date of the quarterly Awards Day ceremonies for Shepherd students. Kids from pre-K to second grade go first, at 9 a.m., then students in grades 3-5 share the stage at 9:50 a.m.







Hello, Star Achiever Families!

We had a great Career Day this week, where we asked many thoughtful questions about what it takes to be a journalist, community service provider, lawyer, construction contractor, artist/musician and transportation designer. Many thanks to those who shared what they do with us: Mr. Velez, Ms. King, Mr. Cordone, Mr. Elliot and Mr. Anderson. We will have parents visit us in the future so if you would like to volunteer in aftercare let me know by emailing [sesstarachievers@gmail.com](mailto:sesstarachievers@gmail.com).

The 1st Annual Star Achievers TALENT SHOW will take place Wednesday, April 2, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. We will start with the 5th graders and on down the grade levels until we have done all the singing, dancing, joke-telling and piano playing we can. Ms. Johnson our dance teacher and Mr. Velez our DJ will then host a short dance party.

Pre-K and kindergarten will have their own talent show in the library on April 2.

One staff change to note: Ms. Kim Gereau, our kindergarten and yoga teacher has left for a new job and we were all very sad to see her go. Ms. Coulibaly, the current French teacher, will take over the kindergarten class for the rest of the year, while continuing French classes. We will be hiring a replacement Yoga teacher as soon as possible.

And, an IMPORTANT RULE to be enforced daily: There are no cell phones, tablets or Kindles to be used by adults or students in Star Achievers Before- or Aftercare. If you need to reach your student during aftercare hours PLEASE CALL 202 465-0514. If it is an emergency you may try the school office. If your student needs to reach you in an emergency or they have an urgent matter all they need to do is ask a staff member and they will be able to use the Star Achievers phone or the school office phone.

If a cell phone, tablet or Kindle is out in view we will have to take it for safekeeping and will return it only to a parent or guardian. This is the same policy that is enforced during school hours and is necessary to keep all children safe.

Thanks for your cooperation!

--Ms. Claire Riley, program director



### Next Family Dinner Night Is all the Livelong Day!

We're making a grand return to Hyattsville on Tuesday, April 29, to Franklins on Route 1 (Baltimore Blvd.) for an all-day version of Family Dinner Night.

Franklins is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. And 20 percent of your pre-tax tab will be rebated to the PTA.

And not just the restaurant, but the general store next to it! All sorts of great items — cards, candies, toys, gag gifts, even beer and wine — will qualify the PTA for a 20 percent rebate. But you have to say "I'm from Shepherd!" You don't have yell it out loud so that everyone hears you, although you can if you'd like.

We tend to get about \$200 in rebates from Franklins from our Family Dinner Night excursions there. Make plans to go there after school. Or take the work gang to lunch there. Many possibilities abound!



### Bike Rodeo Returns!!

Just like last year, Shepherd will host a Bike Rodeo for the school and the neighborhood. The time is 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, April 26. Doing it in the afternoon means warmer weather for young bicyclists, and provides an opportunity for more students to come once they're done with Saturday morning activities and chores.

Even though our school nickname is the Mustangs, no horses are at a Bike Rodeo! Basically, it's an obstacle course set up on the Shepherd playground that kids will go through on their bikes to develop key bicycling skills. The Washington Area Bicyclists Association will also teach kids how to do a quick safety check of their bicycle and fit their helmet properly.

Kids should wear appropriate clothing and bring their own bicycle and helmet, if they have them. WABA will have some bicycles and helmets available for kids who don't.

# Shepherd Elementary School's Yearbook

## Preorder and Customize Your Yearbook



**Shepherd Elementary School**  
*An International Baccalaureate School*

Price: \$15.00

Order By: April 23, 2014

Go to: [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate)

Enter our school's passcode: 1013930010262632

You can customize two pages in your yearbook with your own photos by using your computer, Flickr and Facebook.

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

are also looking for candidates who are willing to serve during the 2014-15 school year on the Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) and the PTA. We all have talents, skills and abilities that can support our community and we are looking for people who are willing to contribute those services to support our school. If you are willing to serve on the Nominating Committee or have any questions, please contact me at [sheriz6849@aol.com](mailto:sheriz6849@aol.com) or 202-445-6849.

All the best,

Sherilyn Pruitt

PTA President

## LSAT Update

On Friday, March 14, 2014, the Local School Advisory Team met to review and discuss the FY 2014—2015 Shepherd school budget. During the meeting, several scenarios were presented by Ms. Miles regarding how Shepherd can maximize the needs of the school with the projected funding for the coming school year.

After a great discussion and feedback from parents, teachers and administrators, the team all agreed with a final proposal for the best use of funding.

The results of the budget meeting allowed Shepherd to ensure we have full time Specials. This includes, but not limited to, full time Art, Music and PE for Pre-K—5 grade students. Thank you to all the parents, teachers and administrators involved in the budget process this year!

The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 4pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend the LSAT meetings. If a sensitive subject is raised, we will ask non-LSAT members to exit the room until the discussion is complete.

If you have any questions regarding the LSAT, please feel free to contact Kesha Pendergrast at [skeeme08@aol.com](mailto:skeeme08@aol.com).

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

enough to eat breakfast) and they are mentally prepared to do their best. Please refrain from picking your student up early on these days. If a student is late, absent or needs extended time, they will be testing in the afternoon. Though testing only involves students in grades 3-5, it is a schoolwide effort. Therefore, students' schedules from pre-K through second grade will likely be impacted. Thank you in advance for your support as our students prepare to **SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW AND ROCK THE TEST!**

### Kuumba

On Thursday, March 20, our students experienced a special treat as Harvard Kuumba singers stopped by Shepherd on their annual spring tour. Founded in 1970, Kuumba is the oldest existing black organization at Harvard University. They entertain audiences through music, poetry, spoken word and other creative expressions. Kimiko Matsuda-Lawrence, a Shepherd alumni and a Kuumba singer was instrumental in bringing the Kuumba singers to us. They did an amazing job!

### Lost and Found

Final call! All lost and found items will be donated during Spring Break. Please come and check the lost and found area, located across from the main office, for any missing items.

### Family Literacy Night

If you did not participate in Family Literacy Night, you missed out. Last Wednesday students were sworn in as detectives and went on a reading hunt to find out who took Principal Miles. Students and their parents had a great time using their reading skills and strategies to solve the mystery.

Happy Spring Break!

*Jamie Miles*

Jamie B. Miles

Principal



# THE MUSTANG

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

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5121 Baltimore Ave., Hyattsville, MD  
 [Baltimore Ave. (Route 1) at Gallatin St.  
 in the Heart of Historic Hyattsville]

**Tuesday, Apr. 29**  
**11 a.m.—10 p.m.**

→ **You MUST Bring This Flyer!** ←  
 The PTA gets 20% of your pre-tax tab!

*Good for BOTH — the Restaurant  
 and the General Store Next Door!*

Check out the menu at  
<http://www.franklinsbrewery.com/our-specials/>



**Good for Dine-In and Carry Out (PH: 301.927.2740)**

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The last couple of weeks have been really busy with the celebration of Francophone Month (visitors from the Tunisian Embassy), the Kuumba Singers from Harvard University

featuring a Shepherd graduate, Kimiko Matsuda-Lawrence, Literacy Mystery Night, and Student Teachers from Appalachian State University. We ended the week with a pep rally which pumped and motivated the students as they get ready for the DC CAS. Testing begins this week for students in third through fifth grade and those students are reminded to go to bed early, eat a good breakfast and get to school on time.

### IB Program of Inquiry

Unit 4 has ended and classes finished up their unit of study doing presentation and reflecting on their learning. The kindergarten students focused on the theme "Where We Are in Place and Time" and to wrap up their unit, Ms. Pethtel's class concentrated on the life of a pioneer. They dressed as pioneers, baked pastries and created artwork from pioneer days.

The new unit will begin this week, and as always parents are welcome to lead, and/or participate in an activity to support our students learning. Please look out for your classroom newsletter which will inform about the upcoming unit.

This Month's Learner Profile is Principled: therefore: we act with integrity and honesty, a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and for the consequences.

### Women's History Trivia

1. **Who is known for her work to ban land mines?** Princess Diana
2. **Which pioneer nurse is known as the founder of modern nursing?** Florence Nightingale
3. **Who dedicated her life to the study of chimpanzees?** Jane Goodall
4. **Who was the slave that became a conductor on the Underground Railroad?** Harriet Tubman
5. **Who was the first modern woman to graduate from medical school?** Elizabeth Blackwell
6. **Who was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean and fly solo over the Pacific Ocean?** Amelia Earhart

Congratulations to Ms. Hamer's class for completing the trivia with all correct answers.

### Awards Day

Awards Day will take place on Friday, April 11, 2014. Please join us. We will begin at 9 a.m. in the auditorium with pre K through second grade, followed by third through fifth grade at 10 a.m.

Have a warm week!

--Ms. Sandra Hart, IB coordinator

### Traffic Safety Tip

Remember that next year Shepherd will have its first-ever class of pre-K for 3-year-olds. That means that even younger students will be crossing the streets. This means we ALL have to be watching out for their safety and welfare.

The first step to doing that is by practicing safety first with our current students. Even though our youngest students are still 4 years old with seven months' experience of going to school, take nothing for granted. Please be kind, courteous and patient as you drop off your own children and as you let other children cross the streets. Thank you very much!







DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Shepherd Elementary School  
An International Baccalaureate World School

Dear Parents,

Each year teachers and students take walks in the neighborhood as part of their instructional program. These walks include trips to nearby sites such as: Shepherd Park Library, the lower field, Ledos, Lowell, Montgomery College and other nearby sites. To facilitate these trip, we ask you to sign a blank permission form for the school year.

☐ My child may participate in neighborhood walks during the school year.

☐ My child may not participate in neighborhood walks during the school year.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Monday, Apr 14—Monday, Apr 21**

What are you doing during spring break? Here's what a few of our Shepherd students plan to do over Spring Break:

- Spend time in Bethany Beach, DE and practice my sight words — **Carter Alston, Pre-K4**
- Travel to Boston, visit air and space museum and visit the natural history museum—**Danarielle Charles, Pre-K4**
- Spend time in Bethany Beach, DE and fly my kite —**Nelson Alston, 2nd Grade**
- Go on a Bed and Breakfast road trip down the southern part of the good ole' USA—**Sarah Rice, 2nd Grade**
- Go on vacation with my grandma to New Jersey—**Fahari Dominique, 4th grade**

Not sure what to do, talk to other parents in your child's class for ideas and/or check out Shepherd School's website for a complete list of camps to explore at: [www.shepherd-elementary.org](http://www.shepherd-elementary.org). While you're there, don't forget that summer camps are also accepting registrations for the summer. Don't let your favorite summer camp fill-up without you registering! Enjoy your Spring Break!

### **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, April 18, 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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