



Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG



Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

May 5, 2014



## Mark Your Calendars!

- ▶ **Monday, May 5:** Field Day planning meeting, 8 a.m.
- ▶ **Wednesday, May 7:** Bike to School Day
- ▶ **Thursday, May 8:** School Improvement Team, 4 p.m.
- ▶ **Wednesday, May 14:** Local School Advisory Team, 4 p.m.
- ▶ **Thursday, May 15:**
  - ◆ Family Dinner Night, 4-9 p.m., Fire Station 1, 8131 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring.
  - ◆ Mathletes Club, 6 p.m., cafeteria
- ▶ **Wednesday, May 21:** PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m., auditorium
- ▶ **Monday, May 26:** Memorial Day, no school

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

## LSAT Meeting May 14

Shepherd's Local School Advisory Team will meet on Wednesday, May 14, at 4 p.m.. If you are a current LSAT member, or considering running for an LSAT parent representative slot for the year ahead, this meeting is for you! All parents -- candidates or not -- are welcome to attend. Should confidential matters arise, non-LSAT members will be asked to exit the room until the discussion concludes. You can get a great debriefing on LSAT-related activities at the school website by going to <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/parents/school-advisory-board/>

## A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Greetings, everyone!

I hope you are well. Time is passing quickly. We may only have seven more weeks remaining in this school year; however, we have a lot more learning to do and activities planned. Two things we are doing school wide between now and the end of the year.



1. We are intensifying the supports provided to our students who are not yet on grade level. We have issued class challenges as well as school-level challenges. *If 90 percent of our students are reading at or above grade level by the end of year, they get to make Principal Miles into an ice cream sundae.*

2. We are incorporating Fun Fridays. Fun Fridays are designed for our students and teachers to break away from their normal schedules to engage in hands-on science activities along with other fun and engaging learning activities. The goal is to have fun while learning until the end.

### Principal in Charge

As you know Ms. Hunter is a Mary Jane Patterson fellow who has been with us since January. As a fellow, Ms. Hunter engages in a variety of learning opportunities throughout the year as she trains to become a DCPS principal. A required component of this fellowship is for Ms. Hunter to assume full leadership of a school building for a period of time. Therefore, Ms. Hunter will begin her fulltime responsibilities here at Shepherd starting on May 19 through June 13. As a parent you do not need to do anything differently. However, I wanted to make you aware that you may hear from her instead of me. I will be around to support;

(see Miles, page 6)



Hello everybody, this is Henry. There is a Bike-to-School day coming up on Wednesday. Lots of kids are going to be riding their bikes - so parents, be careful when you're driving! That's all I've got this time; I guess it's a slow news week. Have a great week!

--Henry Trimble, fourth-grader

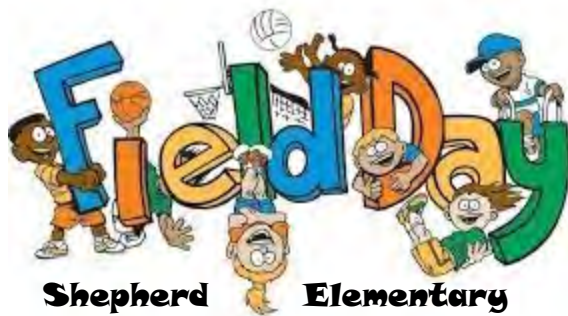
(Look for Shepherd's Student Scoop contribution each Wednesday in the "Spotlight on Schools" pages of the Northwest Current!)

### School Improvement Team to Meet May 8

Just like the banging, hammering and sawing has been dormant around Shepherd the past couple of months, so has Shepherd's School Improvement Team. That will change -- at least for the School Improvement Team part of the equation -- on Thursday, May 8. The team will meet at 4 p.m.; ask Ms. Brooks in the office for the precise location of the meeting. If there's something else about the School Improvement Team or the renovations around school, get in touch with Shepherd SIT chair Mark Pattison at 202-829-9289 or [Pattison mark@hotmail.com](mailto:Pattison_mark@hotmail.com).



### Field Day Planning Meeting Monday



If you're one of those savvy Shepherd families who reads the Mustang online or via email in advance of the school week, here's an important meeting for you to note. Mr. Burgess and the PTA are working together to make this year's Field Day (Friday, May 30) the best ever. To that end, there will be a planning meeting this Monday, May 5, starting at 8 a.m. in the school. Parents will be needed to help staff activities that each grade can participate in – not to mention doling out water and snacks as young bodies burn up and churn up energy.

### 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!



## Family Dinner Night

It's At Fire Station 1!

After a wet but wonderful Family Dinner Night last week at Franklins, we're returning to the Georgia Avenue corridor for the rest of the school year for our Family Dinner Nights. Our next fundraising event will be Thursday, May 15, 4-9 p.m., at Fire Station 1 at 8131 Georgia in Silver Spring.

This restaurant NEEDS the flyer you see in this Mustang (or a photocopy) in order for the PTA to get credited for what you eat and drink. There's upstairs seating, downstairs seating with four big-screen flat-screen TVs, and even generous outdoor seating right next to the classic fire truck on display. Fire Station 1 will also credit the PTA for take-out orders; to look at the menu online, go to [www.firestation-1.com](http://www.firestation-1.com), and to place an order, call 301-585-1370.

We'll have our last Family Dinner Night of the year on the last week of the school year – on Monday, June 16 – from 4 to 10 p.m. at a Shepherd institution, Ledo Pizza on Georgia Avenue in the District. But we are going to try to cajole a new restaurant into offering a Family Dinner Night promotion before then to drum up business for their establishment. Stay tuned!



**Bike to School  
Day is  
Wednesday,  
May 7**

Wednesday

is shaping up to be

a beautiful day for bicycling! Why not get out there and enjoy it? Shepherd students are encouraged to ride with their parents. Students who roll into school on Bike to School Day will receive a flyer with bicycle safety tips and a press-on tattoo courtesy of the D.C. Department of Transportation.

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL SURVEY FOR PARENTS

Shepherd Elementary School is working with the D.C. Department of Transportation to develop a Safe Routes to School travel plan. As part of the plan, we ask parents to please fill out an online survey regarding school travel (link to survey is here: <http://bit.ly/1ob6wPp>). Your responses will help us better understand school travel patterns and parent concerns.

Safe Routes to School is a federally funded, D.C.-administered program to encourage and enable children to safely walk and bicycle to school. For more information about Shepherd's Safe Routes to School efforts, please contact Jim Elliott at [jamesbelliott@gmail.com](mailto:jamesbelliott@gmail.com).



**Deadline for  
the Next  
Issue**

Friday, May 16, 5 p.m.

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



Hello Star Achievers Families!

### Updates:

Once again, there is a staffing switch with chess: Coach Tapi has left for another job and D.C. Chess Challenge has re-hired Mr. Burgess to finish out chess classes in May.

The lower grades are gardening in May and June, so please pardon a bit more mess on some clothes -- we do enjoy our work.

### REMINDERS:

Please remind students to be respectful and responsible with their classmates and Star Achievers staff; as we end the year we keep up the same behavior and safety standards. If your child needs to improve in this area, we will send a note home.

And there are no electronic devices allowed in before- or aftercare -- anything with a screen (tablet, phone, etc.) or walkie-talkies, handheld games, etc. If a student will put the item away and not bring it back to the program, that is enough; however, if they continue to bring it to school it will be held and given back to a parent. If it shows up again there will be a meeting with a parent and a suspension from the program.

### MAY & JUNE CALENDAR of Special Events:

**May 1:** Beginners and Advanced Violin Classes held their Spring Concert for the breakfast crowd during before care and Mr. Giles and his students were awesome. Watch emails and notices in the Mustang for Fall 2014 Classes.

**Friday, May 9:** Pizza and a Movie!

**Wednesday, May 14, 4-5 p.m.:** TOUCH THE SEA -- separate programs for upper and lower grades to learn about conservation and meet sea creatures!

**Friday, May 16, 3:30-5:30 p.m.:** Pre-K and K Buddy Day with fifth graders -- Reading and Art Projects

**Wednesday, May 28, 4-5 p.m.:** Dance Recital -- ALL grades will showcase their talents with Ms. Johnson, our dance teacher. Parents welcome!



**Star Achievers**\_\_\_\_\_ *cont'd from page 4*

**Thursday, May 29, 3:30-5 p.m.:** Martial Arts Showcase and Awards Ceremony -- Join Mr. Thornton and all grades to watch martial arts moves and see who is the "Most Improved," "Most Focused," and "Best Overall" in each grade.

**Friday, May 30** -- All specials classes (dance, PE, languages, martial arts, chess) end for the year.

**Monday, June 2:** Ice cream truck visits Shepherd. From 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., ALL are welcome to purchase items (\$2 each, no nuts of any kind on the treats). From 3:30 to 4:30, aftercare classes will get a free treat of their choice.

More special events and end-of-the-year parties are being scheduled. Please see your email or watch for announcements in the Mustang!

**Frequently Asked Questions:****When do we register for next year?**

Before- and aftercare registration will be online and available through the mail on August 1. Some grades may fill up, so please do register early; we will keep a waiting list if necessary. Or, we will create split classes to accommodate all who need aftercare.

**Why do we pay for the days when we are on vacation or school is out?**

Before- and aftercare operates on a nine-month payment schedule -- nine equal payments to make it easier. Because families do not pay for the first week of school in August (there is only one payment for August-September) and do pay for December and April vacations, there is NO TUITION IN JUNE if you have paid all nine months (if you are behind in payments, or have not been enrolled full-time for all nine months you will receive a statement with the amount you owe). And remember, the childcare service is less than \$4 per hour and we are improving our program and activities each year!

Enjoy the spring weather -

--Ms. Claire Riley, program director

## Nomination Window Closing for PTA, LSAT

Taking leadership and taking responsibility for school matters is everybody's business. It's parents who vote for PTA and Local School Advisory Team candidates to lead the entire parent body. It's parents who nominate other parents to these positions of responsibility — even when they step up to nominate themselves. And it's parents who collaborate with school staff to make Shepherd the best school it can be.

### The PTA officer positions are:

- ◆ President
- ◆ First Vice President
- ◆ Second Vice President
- ◆ Recording Secretary
- ◆ Corresponding Secretary
- ◆ Treasurer
- ◆ Assistant Treasurer

There are also four parent representative positions on the LSAT.

All offices are one-year terms, and parents may serve in the same office for two years in a row.

The PTA's Nominations Committee has established a deadline of Thursday, May 15, for accepting nominations. At that point, all nominees must have submitted a candidate statement that can be posted on the PTA listserv, published in the May 19 issue of the Mustang, and made into a special Candidates' Guide for parents to review.

LSAT elections will be conducted Wednesday, May 21, at Shepherd regardless of the number of nominees, to allow for write-in voting. Balloting will be conducted 7:30-9 a.m. and 3-6:30 p.m. — outdoors by the 14th Street sidewalk if it's good weather, inside school near the security desk if it's bad weather.

If there are contested races for PTA officer positions, those elections would be conducted during the PTA meeting at 6:30 p.m. also on May 21.

If you know someone who would make a fine PTA officer or LSAT parent representative, or are interested in serving in some capacity yourself, or simply want to know more, get in touch with any member of the Nominating Committee:

Kurshanna Johnson, [shannalj@gmail.com](mailto:shannalj@gmail.com)

Mark Pattison, [pattison\\_mark@hotmail.com](mailto:pattison_mark@hotmail.com)

Helen Saulny, [handksaulny@comcast.net](mailto:handksaulny@comcast.net)

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

however, the goal is for Ms. Hunter to get a realistic feel for what she will experience next year as a school administrator.

### Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week is a week set aside to recognize educators and the work that they do. In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week I am asking families to take time to show their teacher(s) how much they are appreciated. Feel free to honor your teacher in whatever way you desire. Please don't forget the teacher assistants in your child's classroom and our Specialist teachers (Mr. Irby, Ms. Gadie, Ms. Miranda-Mulligan, Ms. Tiffany and Mr. Burgess).

#### Teacher Appreciation Week Suggestions:

**Monday:** Flowers for Your Teacher Day -- bring in a flower or a bouquet of flowers for your teacher.

**Tuesday:** Do It Yourself (DIY) Teacher Gift -- get creative and make a teacher appreciation gift. There are a lot of ideas on the Internet.

**Wednesday:** Healthy Snacks/Sweet Treat Day -- bring in a healthy snack and or sweet treat for your teacher.

**Thursday:** Make a Card Day -- Make a card or write a letter to your teacher thanking them for all that they do.

**Friday:** Give a \$5 Day -- Give your teacher a \$5 gift card (Starbucks, Chick-Fil-a, Subway, etc.)

### Mark Your Calendars

**Pop-In and Preview:** In May we will have a Pop-In and Preview Day for all rising Preschool, Pre-K and kindergarten students. The purpose of this day to orient parents and let them know what they can expect for the 2014-2015 school year. All new students are invited to attend with their parents. All events will begin at 9:30 and will last for one hour. The dates are:

**Tuesday, May 27** – Pre-K/4

**Wednesday, May 28** – Kindergarten

**Thursday, May 29** – Preschool

(see Miles, page 9)

# THE MUSTANG

## FAMILY DINNER NIGHT



## FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

## Fire Station 1 Restaurant

8131 Georgia Avenue  
Downtown Silver Spring

**Thursday, May 15**

**4 p.m.—9 p.m.**

**→ BRING THIS FLYER WITH YOU ←**

Attach It to the Check,  
And Give It to Your Server  
The PTA gets 15% of your bill!

*Maybe they'll have  
the fire truck out!*

## FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

SOUPS & SALADS

PIZZA

SANDWICHES

POP POP'S  
BURGERS

VEGETARIAN

SEAFOOD

JR. FIREFIGHTERS

DESSERTS

*Good for Dine-In and Carryout (PH: 301-585-1370) [www.firestation-1.com](http://www.firestation-1.com)*

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**Happy Cinco de Mayo!**

Parents, D.C. Public Schools wants to know what you think about your child's school. Please find in your child's backpack a survey to

provide your feedback to DCPS. Your feedback could influence what happens at school in the upcoming school year. The survey should take about 10-15 minutes to complete and it is anonymous. You may also complete the survey online! Go to <http://dcps.dc.gov/survey> and use the 8-character access code that is located on the lower left corner of your survey.

Staff and students in third through fifth grade will do the survey in their classroom this week. Shepherd Elementary needs 100% participation so please do your part.

**Fifth Grade Exhibition**

Our Fifth Grade Exhibition will take place next month, and our fifth graders have been working industriously on the theme "How We Express Ourselves." The central ideas that they have developed thus far are: "People's beliefs, passions and life experiences influence self-expression with varying consequences," and the other is "Cultural beliefs and values influence people to express their emotions and feelings through actions."

Parents, please mark your calendars for the Fifth Grade Exhibition which will take place on Thursday, June 5. Stay tuned for more information.

**Program of Inquiry**

This week is reflection week. Students and teachers will reflect on the teaching and learning of Unit 5. We will begin our last Unit of Inquiry on May 12 and continue through June 13th. The theme for each grade level is as follows:

- ▶ Pre Kindergarten: Sharing the Planet – Staying Alive
- ▶ Kindergarten: How We Express Ourselves – Visually Speaking
- ▶ First Grade: How We Organize Ourselves – Marketplace
- ▶ Second Grade: How We Organize Ourselves – Full of Energy
- ▶ Third Grade: How We Express Ourselves – Creativity – Pass It On!
- ▶ Fourth Grade: Who We Are – The Story of Us
- ▶ Fifth Grade: Who We Are – What a Character?

**The Learner Profile**

The month of May is the time to demonstrate how well we can communicate. A Communicator understands and expresses ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language. A Communicator uses different modes of communication and collaborates with others on a daily basis.

Listening, speaking, reading, writing and non-verbal cues are all ways of communication. How to become a better communicator?

- ▶ Practice attentive listening
- ▶ Speak clearly at all times
- ▶ Read a variety of materials
- ▶ Write about things you observe on a daily basis
- ▶ Be conscious of facial gestures and visual cues
- ▶ Have a great week!

--Ms. Sandra Hart, IB Coordinator



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

**Family Fun Day:** Parents are invited to join us for a day of exercise and fun as their students engage in a variety of physical activities. The event will take place from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. and volunteers are needed. The date for this event is Friday, May 30.

**Fifth Grade Exhibition:** The Fifth Grade Exhibition is a culmination of the International Baccalaureate's Primary Years Programme. It is a rite of passage from PYP to MYP (Middle Years Programme), a celebration of learning, a demonstration of what it means to be a PYP student, applying what they have learned and how they have become throughout the journey in the PYP. This event is open to all parents; however, fourth-grade parents are encouraged to attend so that they learn more about what is expected of their student in the fifth grade as they prepare to transition to middle school. The date for this event is Thursday, June 5.

**A Showcase of Learning:** The students have worked hard, the teachers have worked hard and now it is time for our students to demonstrate to their parents what they know. This event is designed to allow students to showcase their learning to their parents. On this day, parents will be taken on a tour and participate in activities led by their own student. This event is designed to learn more about what was expected of their student this year, what their student has learned and in what areas their student may need additional supports. Parents will be invited to sign up for this event between the hours of 4 and 7 PM. The dates are:

**Wednesday, June 4** – Pre-K

**Tuesday, June 17** – Kindergarten through fourth grade

### **Fun Friday Donations Are Needed**

Here is a list of some of the items needed to help make our Fun Fridays a success. If you are able to make a donation, please send in your donations no later than Wednesday, May 7. You may also speak directly with your child's classroom teacher about their needs.

Funnels	Eyedroppers	Wool Cloth	Flannel Cloth	Cotton	2 dozen eggs
8oz Water Bottles	Food Coloring	Washable Ink Pads	Pinwheels	String	Egg Cartons
Cooking Oil	Coffee Filters	Powder	Tag Board	Small Trash Bags	Tape
Soil	Seeds	Strong String	Kites	Tissue Paper	2 bags of balloons
Plastic Cups	Pipe Cleaners	Flags	Cardstock	Hand Sanitizer	Clorox Wipes

Have a fabulous week!

*Jamie Miles*

Jamie B. Miles

Principal



**Save Time,  
Money and  
Hassle:**

Order Next Year's  
Supplies Now!

Once again, the Shepherd PTA is offering the services of Staples SchoolKidz, Inc. and the "Teacher Tailored" back-to-school supply kit program for the 2014-15 school year. SchoolKidz, Inc. offers brand name items, such as Crayola, Fiskars and Elmer's.

Each item has been chosen by our own Shepherd teachers and is exactly what is on your child's supply list for the coming school year.

Kits are delivered directly to Shepherd and will be placed in your child's classroom prior to the first day of school next year -- how easy is that?! In addition to the Shepherd-required supplies, students receive personalized sticker labels and you'll receive a supply of envelopes handy for sending in field trip payments and other such stuff. Unlike previous years, we are not offering backpacks, lunch bags, etc., through the Shepherd effort, though you can order those items direct through the Schoolkidz website.

Online ordering is available NOW through June 20. Here's how:

1. Go to [www.shopftkits.com](http://www.shopftkits.com) and enter Account number: 61006
2. Choose the appropriate grade level kit based on the upcoming school year.
3. Enter your child's first and last name.
4. Add to cart; confirm your order and checkout.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** You do not need to sign in or create an account when checking out. You may check out without an account by entering your email address only.

If you have any questions, please contact Shepherd parent Katherine Trimble at [kctrimble@mac.com](mailto:kctrimble@mac.com).

### **Shepherd School Pledge**

Today is a new day!  
I will respect the rights of others.  
I will treat all property with respect.  
I will take responsibility for my learning.  
I will take responsibility for my actions.  
I will act in a safe and healthy way.  
Today I will be the best me I can be!

### **Deadline for Next Mustang Issue**

**Fri, May 16, 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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