



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

October 6, 2014



OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER . . .

<http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/ses-calendar/>

Wednesday October 8	National Walk to School Day (pg. 5)
Friday October 10	No School for Students <i>Professional Development Day</i>
Monday October 13	School Closed <i>Columbus Day</i>
Wednesday October 15	PTA Meeting at 6:30 pm
Thursday October 23	AM Parent Academy
Saturday October 25	
October 25 - October 31	Scholastic Book Fair
October 27 - October 31	<i>Shepherd's</i> SPIRIT WEEK (pg. 5)
Monday October 27	Family Dinner Night <i>Pete's Pizza</i> (pg. 6)
Friday October 31	End of Term: Students dismissed @ 12:15 pm

Welcome from the PTA!

The 2014 – 2015 Shepherd PTA extends a warm welcome to our new parents . . . and a warm welcome back to our returning parents! The PTA continues to be a strong, supportive, volunteer committee of parents, grandparents, guardians and all the wonderful folks who care for and about Shepherd students. There is always room for more helping hands and we encourage you to get involved!

(see PTA Welcome , page 2)

A Word from Principal Miles!

Happy Fall Shepherd Mustangs,

I hope you all are enjoying the beautiful crisp air in the mornings. Please remember to send your children to school with a jacket or sweater, as it may continue to be cool outside when the students attend recess.



Spirit Fridays

Students and staff are excited to begin Spirit Fridays. On Fridays all students and staff are asked to show their Shepherd pride by wearing Shepherd t-shirt/sweatshirt, or gold and green clothing. If you missed the opportunity to order spirit wear during our first spirit wear sale, no worries. We will have a second sale this month. Additional information will be sent home soon.

Lost and Found

Our lost and found area is quickly growing with a variety of items that may belong to your student. If your child is missing items, please check the lost and found bin currently located in the main office. At the end of the month, all unclaimed items will be donated. To help lost items find their way back to their owners, please label everything with your child's first and last name.

National Bullying Prevention Month

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. This is a time when communities can unite nationwide to raise awareness of bullying prevention through events, activities, outreach, and education. Throughout the month of October students will participate in a variety of activities to raise awareness and to promote prevention.

Parent Academy October 23, 2014

Each month parents/guardians are invited to attend our Parent Academies. These academies are designed to help strengthen the home to school connection by hosting a series of classes, workshops and events aimed at helping families learn to engage with us and positively contribute to their child's academic and social success.

(see Miles, page 2)

PTA Welcome _____ cont'd from page 1

The PTA is inclusive and while we encourage contributions, by no means do we *require* monetary donations to be a member. Our priority is parental involvement and all we ask is for your commitment and support to our children and the work of our great teachers.

It's going to be an exciting year and we have a lot of new initiatives underway – a virtual student directory, the electronic distribution of the Mustang, expanded online payment options – and lots of other areas where you can make a significant contribution. Be sure to check out the “Volunteers Needed!” posting on page 5 and talk with any PTA officers on areas where you would like to offer assistance.

We would also like to raise our sights this year both in terms of our fundraising and in our level of support to the great teachers we have here at Shepherd. To this end, throughout the year we will highlight the **180 Fund** as one of our primary means of raising money to benefit the school and the teachers. We look forward to celebrating the milestones of this effort each month in The Mustang as well as on a special display in the school.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or the other PTA officers with any questions, suggestions or to volunteer in any way that you can! And yes, we now have a mailbox in the office with the other staff and a new secure inbox is on order and should be installed shortly. Apologies for the inconvenience!

Have a great school year and we hope to see you at our next PTA meeting on October 15th!

David
(a.k.a., Henry's Dad)
Shepherd PTA President
dctrindle@mac.com

Miles _____ cont'd from page 1

Principal's Book of the Month

The Principal's Book of the month club returns this month. The purpose of the Principal's Book of the month was created to encourage and foster a love of reading for pleasure in our students. Students are asked to read a book and complete a reading response form. All students who complete and submit a reading response form are invited to attend the Principal's Book of the Month Chat. During the Chat students will enjoy a treat provided by the Principal and discuss the book of the month. The discussions center 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, available in the office, are due the Wednesday before. ***This month's book: How Full is Your Bucket by Tom Rath***

Scholastic Book Fair October 25-31, 2014

The Scholastic Book Fair will begin the Saturday of Fall Fest. Book displays will be set up in the classroom directly across from the Preschool classroom. You are welcome to purchase items for your child the day of Fall Fest. However during the week of October 27th students will visit the book fair during their scheduled library time to preview the books and create a wish list. Once you have received your child's wish list you can either come into school to purchase the items or send the money for the items to school along with your child. Please make all checks payable to Shepherd Elementary School.

Professional Development for Teachers October

10, 2014. There will be no school for students. The topic for the day: Jr. Great, Common Core and Math Work Stations.

Spirit Week October 27-31 2014

The first Spirit Week of the year is finally here. Please encourage your child or children to show their school spirit throughout the week. **See page 5 for a full schedule of activities.**

Literacy Night October 30, 2014 at 6 PM

Our second and third grade teams will be hosting our first literacy night of the school year. Literacy nights are a fun way to help parents and their children engage in reading and writing activities together under the direction of the teacher. More information will be provided at a later date.

Have a great week!

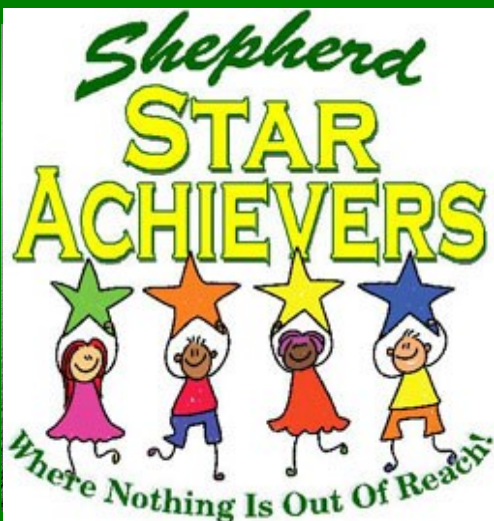
Jamie Miles

Principal



PTA MEETING

**Next PTA Meeting:
Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m.**



2014/15

UPDATES *and* REMINDERS

Hello Star Achievers Families:

Thanks for being patient while we organize ourselves, especially to welcome 3 year olds and more than triple the size of our Pre-K class from last year! If you have any questions, please see the Star Achievers section of the school website found at shepherd-elementary.org. If you need further information please email sesstarachievers@gmail.com. Also, if you did not receive the Info and Schedule sent to all Star Achiever's families last week, please send an email to Star Achievers immediately.

CONTACTING STAR ACHIEVERS:

1. Any non-urgent matter please email Program Director Claire Riley sesstarachievers@gmail.com
2. Any urgent matter please DO NOT call the school office. Please text (202) 465-0514 or call (202) 465-0514 and leave a message if there is no answer. The school office phone can be used for emergency but please be aware after business hours there is no one in the office to answer the phone.

STAFF:

★ We are happy to have **Ms. Yolanda Bush** back. She is responsible for the **PS 3 class** and has served as a teacher's aide at Shepherd. Her son attended Shepherd and is now an 8th grader at Deal Middle School. She is a warm and helpful staff member – as well as the Spanish teacher.

★ **Ms. Shenita Lee** has been in aftercare teaching the **Pre K class** for 8 years and enjoys arts and crafts with the children.

★ **Ms. Angelica Akers**, who has a daughter at Shepherd, is new to Star Achievers but has aftercare experience in DC. She will be a **co-teacher of the Pre K class** and is currently the Shepherd teacher's aide to Ms. Pethtel in Kindergarten.

- ★ **Ms. Nicole Pethtel**, a Kindergarten teacher at Shepherd provides a specials class once a week for the **PS 3 and Pre K 4 classes** and twice a week to **Kindergarteners** – she leads art, music, reading and outdoor activities.
- ★ The **Kindergarten class** has two teachers: **Ms. Abouattier** (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday), who has experience in aftercare programs as well as with teaching French; and **Ms. Lester** (Tuesday and Thursday) a teacher's aide at Shepherd, teaches with a flair for the performing arts.
- ★ The **first grade** teacher is **Ms. Arrington**, who also teaches first grade at Shepherd during the day – except Wednesdays when she is the **Cheerleading Coach**. She brings great ideas and fun to aftercare. **Ms. Conte** – our **African dance teacher** – will take care of **first grade** on Wednesdays.
- ★ **Mr. Hall** is returning as the **second grade** teacher, as is **Mr. Thornton** for **third grade**, **Mr. Anderson** for **fourth grade** and **Ms. Hayes-Noel** for **fifth grade**.

If you have any questions or concerns about specific matters that happen during class, please feel free to talk to your child's teacher first, and then let Ms. Riley the Program Director know if there is any further information or action required.

REMEMBER . . . PLEASE SIGN OUT every time you or another authorized person comes to pick up your child. Late pick up fees of \$1 a minute will apply this year.

Payment: PARENTS WILL BE CHARGED FOR LATE PAYMENT THIS YEAR

All payment is due on the first of the month and late after the 5th of the month. Late fees will apply October 6th, and on the 6th of each month thereafter you pay late. You will not receive a statement each month, please pay by credit card online, or by check or money order at school. We do not accept cash. No one will be allowed to carry over a balance month to month. In an urgent situation, you may receive written permission to pay late tuition without a late fee, however, your next tuition will still be due on time.

SCHOOL EVENTS:

When Shepherd has an event, like a PTA meeting, you must sign your child out of care and then sign your child into whatever child care is offered. If there is a field trip or sporting/extracurricular event where your child is supervised by a Shepherd teacher, that teacher may sign your child into care in the evening when they return and you will be expected to pick up your child as usual from aftercare by 6:30pm. After 6:30pm we are closed and do not accept students returning from sports games or other activities. Please be aware of the name of the teacher or coach and how to contact them so you know where and when your child can be picked up.

SCHOOL DANCES:

Star Achievers does not sell tickets, collect money or supervise school dances. We do NOT take any PS 3 or Pre K 4 students to school dances. If you would like your 3 or 4 year old to attend, please sign them out and take them to the dance. As an alternative to the dance, all Star Achievers' students will have pizza and a movie on dance days.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Children are NOT allowed to have any phones, kindles or readers, computers or electronic devices of any kind in their possession during before or aftercare. If there is an urgent need for your student to call you, please have your student ask a staff member to use the school office phone or the Star Achievers phone. If you need to reach your student please call (202) 465-0514 or the school office.

This year we are forming soccer teams in PE, and we will have a science club up and running as soon as possible. The current schedule ends November 30. In December we have special events and then begin a new schedule of special classes in January.

Enjoy the Fall Weather!

Claire Riley
Program Director
sesstarachievers@gmail.com

*The Highlights . . .*

- ⇒ **October 6:** Tuition late fees will be applied
- ⇒ **Before/Aftercare Contact (Non-Urgent):**
Program Director Claire Riley
sesstarachievers@gmail.com
- ⇒ **Before/Aftercare Contact (Urgent):** Text or Call (202) 465-0514
- ⇒ **Late Fees of \$1 per minute** will be charged for pick-up after 6:30 pm
- ⇒ **Review "School Events" and "School Dances"** for special activity/evening meeting protocols
- ⇒ Did you receive the **September 27th "Info and Schedule" email** from Star Achievers? If not, email sesstarachievers@gmail.com
- ⇒ Know the rules about **Electronic Devices** during before and aftercare
- ⇒ **Remember to SIGN OUT daily**
- ⇒ Read **The Mustang** and your emails to stay informed about the Star Achievers program!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

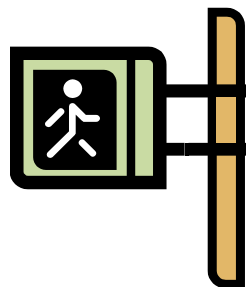
Want to volunteer but not sure where to start? Here are some of the activities that most urgently need you!



- ▶ **180 FUND COORDINATOR** - Help organize one of the PTA's most important fundraising efforts! We have lots of ideas on how to encourage participation and the PTA officers will be there with you every step of the way! Contact David Trimble (dctrimble@mac.com) to learn more.
- ▶ **FALL FEST** - This is a big event and volunteers are needed to do a variety of tasks from set-up, clean-up, grilling, and staffing! Contact Sherilyn Pruitt (spruitt@hrs.gov).
- ▶ **SPRING AUCTION** - Work with a committee to plan the biggest fundraiser of the year! Contact Susan Laudadio (serlaudadio@hotmail.com).
- ▶ **WEBSITE UPDATES** - Serve as a conduit to our webmaster to keep contact from the school and PTA current. Contact Laura Levine (L3severn7@aol.com).

There are lots of other possibilities too! A spring fun run? A Winter Festival? A targeted fundraising for specific needs like keyboards for the music class?

All activities directly support our school. It's never too late to volunteer . . . get involved and share your ideas!

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

Lace up your walking shoes! **International Walk to School Day is Wednesday, October 8th.**

Join students, parents, and faculty as we celebrate the simple act of walking, highlight the health benefits of regular physical activity, emphasize safety, and show our school spirit. Special Guest Muriel Bowser and officers from District 4 will also join us on our walk.

There are three ways to participate:

1. Simply walk to school
2. Meet us at Marvin Kaplan Park at the corner of Alaska Ave. and Holly St., NW (Departure: 8:10 am sharp).
3. Meet us at the triangle park at the corner of Luzon Avenue and Van Buren (Departure: 8:00 am sharp).

Don't Forget to show your school spirit and wear **green** and **gold**!

For additional information, please see the flyer sent home with your child last week or visit the office.

Rain Date: October 9, 2014

SPiRiT WEEK

at Shepherd

<p>Monday October 27 <i>Pajama Day</i></p>  <p><i>Choose your favorite pajamas and wear them to school</i></p>	<p>Tuesday October 28 <i>Sports Team</i></p>  <p><i>Show your team spirit and wear your favorite jersey or team paraphernalia</i></p>	<p>Wednesday October 29 <i>Wacky Tacky</i></p>  <p><i>Wear your clothes inside out, backwards or the strangest outfit in your closet</i></p>	<p>Thursday October 30 <i>Twin Day</i></p>  <p><i>Choose a friend or two and dress alike</i></p>	<p>Friday October 31 <i>Character Day</i></p>  <p><i>Dress up as your favorite character</i></p>
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THE MUSTANG



Special Delivery . . .

THE MUSTANG MAKEOVER!

Welcome to the **one and only paper** Mustang this year. Soon you will meet the new electronic Mustang - more accessible and better for the environment!

There will be three ways to keep up with Shepherd news:

1. Direct delivery to your e-mail (e-Newsletter)
2. View on the Shepherd website (pdf download)
3. Request a paper copy in the main office

Look to the Mustang for information from Principal Miles and the PTA, recent highlights and upcoming events, and more! Stay tuned for more information on submitting information to the Mustang.

Please contact Cara Biddle (carabiddle@me.com) if you would like to help with layout and design of The Mustang.

Also needed – volunteers to translate The Mustang from English to Spanish!

Stay tuned for ways to contribute to the new electronic format of The Mustang!

THE MUSTANG'S
E-NEWSLETTER LAUNCH:

Monday, October 20, 2014

Family Dinner Night



Pete's motto says it best "EAT WELL DO GOOD"

Participate in Family Diner Night and
25% of your pre-tax bill goes to the PTA!

WHEN: Monday, October 27th

WHERE: 962 Wayne Avenue
(at Georgia Avenue)

Silver Spring, MD ▪ (301) 588-7383

How: Say "I'm with Shepherd"

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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