



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, November 14, 2008

Upcoming Shepherd Events



Mark Your Calendars!

11/14: Color Me Mine Fundraiser – 6-10 pm

11/15: Mulch Madness – 9:00 am

11/19: PTA Meeting – 6:45 pm, Auditorium

11/24: Readers Digest Order Distribution

11/27-28: Thanksgiving Break – School Closed

12/1: 5th and 6th Grade Parent Forum, 6-7:30 pm

12/2: 3rd and 4th Grade Parent Forum, 6-7:30 pm

12/3: 1st and 2nd Grade Parent Forum, 6-7:30 pm

12/8: Kindergarten Parent Forum, 6-7:30 pm

12/10: Pre-K Parent Forum, 6-7:30 pm

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Dear Parents,

Family Math Night

A special thank you is extended to everyone who attended/supported Family Math night. It was great to see the smiles on students' faces as they engaged in meaningful measurement learning activities. Ms. Hammond and her team planned an engaging, entertaining and educational experience for our students that will be talked about for weeks. Thank you PTA for sponsoring this event.

Parent Meetings:

Parent meetings will be held during the first two weeks in December from 6:00-7:30 pm. The purpose of these meetings is to give you (parents) more information about the curriculum at Shepherd and to hear your thoughts about student assignments, quality of homework, enrichment opportunities for parents and students, etc. This structured forum will give you an opportunity to let your voice be heard.

- December 1: 5th and 6th Grade
- December 2: 3rd and 4th Grade
- December 3: 1st and 2nd Grade
- December 8: Kindergarten
- December 10: Pre-Kindergarten

(See Principal, continued on page 2)

**Join us Wednesday 11/19 for the
November
PTA Meeting**

**Shepherd Auditorium
6:45 pm**

Although attendance at the PTA meetings is not required, we encourage all parents to attend. Child-care and refreshments are available during PTA meetings. (Refreshments for the children attending the PTA-provided childcare have a nominal cost; refreshments for adults attending the PTA meetings are complementary.)

PTA Update

As we move further into the 2008-2009 school year, the PTA continues to develop and carry out activities aimed at supporting the school's operations and strengthening the education and growth experience that our children are offered at Shepherd. Other articles in this issue of the newsletter report on completed or ongoing activities. I am very pleased to report here on two PTA Board that will play very important school support-roles for the rest of the school year.

The Technology Committee, chaired by Shepherd parent Tony Clark, will advise and assist the principal, teachers, and school staff in acquiring, managing and operating computer technology. Its activities will be aimed at increasing and updating the school's computer resources, and at assisting school to offer top quality computer technology education opportunities – both in the classroom and out-of-class activities.

(See PTA, continued on page 2)

(Principal, continued from page 1)

Language:

Would you like for your child to receive additional instruction in Spanish or French? Mr. J. Valero will be offering after school language classes to students at Shepherd. The hours and days for this enrichment program will depend on the level of interest. We also have funds available for language enrichment on Saturdays. Unlike the afterschool enrichment, Saturday enrichment is expensive. Therefore we will have to look at the level of interest before committing to offering a Saturday program. If you are interested in one or both of these programs, please send an email to shepherdSurvey@yahoo.com. In the email please include your name, student's name, student's teacher and program of interest (afterschool or Saturday).

Staffing Update:

Ms. Angela Hickerson, our new Special Education teacher has been fingerprinted and is in the process of submitting her final paperwork to Human Resource. Her tentative start date is Monday, November 17, 2008.

This week we interviewed potential PE teachers. I submitted the name of one candidate to HR. I hope he will begin his tenure at Shepherd before Thanksgiving.

As always, thank you for your continuous support!

Regards,
Jamie Miles, Principal

LSRT Special Election

One of the parents on LSRT has resigned her position to accept a full time job. If you are interested in serving Shepherd on the Local School Restructuring Team please put together a bio or letter of intention and email it to:

Rhonda Davis Smith, LSRT Chair at championco@aol.com, and Shepherd Principal Jamie Miles at jamie.miles@dc.gov. by close of business on Monday November 17.

This special LSRT election will take place at next week's PTA meeting.



'Mulch Madness' TOMORROW!

Our next big gardening day set for tomorrow morning, Nov. 15 at 9:00 am. Please bring your strong arms and good spirits as we rake leaves, spread mulch, and plant flower bulbs together. Here's what we need to do:



- Spread out the remaining mulch and topsoil.
- Rake and blow leaves.
- Plant flower bulbs – including those you might have purchased from Shepherd's recent flower bulb sale.

Be sure to bring rakes, shovels, gloves, spades and flower bulbs you may have purchased from Shepherd's recent flower bulb sale. Wheelbarrows, hoes and other digging tools are also needed.

Questions? Contact Frank Borris, PTA Building and Grounds Committee chair, at frank.borris@dot.gov, or call Mark Pattison at 202-829-9289.

(PTA, continued from page 1)

The Resource Development Committee, chaired by Shepherd parent Marnie Keller, will oversee and coordinate all ongoing fundraising activities for this school year, and will develop and initiate activities with longer-term financial resource development goals for the school. Planning for one of its biggest activities for this year is already in progress. Marnie Keller and Shepherd parent Chantal Swanson are co-chairing the Auction Committee, which is working to ensure that the Annual Auction next Spring will continue the tradition of exceeding the fundraising totals of the previous year's auction!

Finally, to underscore a point that I make as often as I can, the work and achievements of the PTA results entirely from the efforts of those parents, teachers and community friends of the school who **volunteer** their time and talent, who pay the PTA membership fee of \$50, and who make \$500 Family Enrichment Fee contributions (which can be made as one-time payments or by installment). Our children need every family to contribute time, talent, and money! Thank you for your contributions to date. If you have not yet gotten started yet, now is the time!

Thank you very much.

Earl Yates
PTA President



Would You Like to See *The Mustang* in Color? Or Read it Electronically?

Each week, the Shepherd Mustang is uploaded to the files area of the PTA listserv. Join the listserv and click to read:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Shepherd_Elementary_PTA/files/%22The%20Mustang%22/

Shepherd IB-PYP Corner The IB Learner Profile, Continued

Update:

Work continues on the FAQ document for parents, to be distributed at the November 19 PTA meeting and included in the November 21 issue of *The Mustang*. Mrs. Miles, Ms. Tucker and two teachers are scheduled to visit two local authorized IB PYP schools - the Washington International School on November 21, 2008 and College Gardens ES (date to be determined soon). Teachers will begin collaborative planning around the IB this month, guided by Ms. Tucker. Deal Middle School is doing a wonderful job of reaching out to Shepherd parents and others whose children are expected to enter Deal next fall. Ms. Tucker has initiated a special collaboration between Deal and Shepherd teachers through Jim Albright, the IB coordinator at Deal. Mr. Albright came to Shepherd on Monday, November 10 and met with Mrs. Miles, Ms. Tucker and Shepherd's 5th and 6th grade teachers to plan the next steps in this collaboration.

PYP Lesson of the Week:

This week we begin to look more closely at each of the attributes in the IB Learner Profile, two at a time.

The IBO official documents tell us that IB learners strive to be:

Inquirers: *They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.*

Knowledgeable: *They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.*

Reflection Questions:

- How can we stimulate students' curiosity more?
- How do we know whether our children are developing a love of learning? What are the signs?
- Is it possible to create more experiences and opportunities in the classroom that allow students to be genuine inquirers?
- Do we infuse often enough consideration of the global significance of the ideas and issues we present to students?

Parents are encouraged to discuss these questions with their children as appropriate and with other parents. At a community meeting coming soon we will have small group discussions about the IB Learner Profile, what it means to various members of our community and what it looks like in the classroom and in life.

~ Patricia L. Tucker & Jamie Miles



Will You Be in This Year's School Directory?

Forms went out to all families in backpacks last week. Did you return yours? We hope to have all families represented and to have copies of the directory in your hands before the holidays. Thus, we are scrambling to collect contact information from as many Shepherd families as possible so we can meet our print deadline.



Forms were due back to the school last week. If you still need to submit a form for your family, please contact Kimberly Brandon at 722-0569 or brandonsdc@hotmail.com. Extra copies are in the main office; and completed forms can be placed in the PTA box in the main office.

This year's directory will include a section for classifieds and for display advertising (open to Shepherd families only). If you have business, service, product, or skill of interest to other families, please consider promoting it in the school directory where it can be referenced repeatedly throughout the year. Questions and ad requests can be forwarded to Kimberly Brandon.



Our Newsletter Is YOUR Newsletter

The Mustang is bigger, brighter, and better than before. All we need now are your contributions! Do you have a comment, a suggestion, an article to write, something to share? Go right ahead... Send it in an e-mail to SESmustang@gmail.com.

Newsletter Volunteers Needed



With a new, bigger school newsletter, we need help in copying, collating, stapling, counting, and distributing the newsletter — more than ever before. And a *Friday* newsletter loses its luster if it's not seen until *Monday*.

Assembling the newsletter now starts at 4:00 pm Thursdays. Stop at the main office to help with copying, collating, stapling, etc. Two people are needed each week. It takes about an hour to get the work done. If you can take a regular shift every week — or even once a month — your efforts will help with school communications — and you'll get a jump on the new school news to boot!

Contact Mark Pattison at 202-829-9289 to learn more, or e-mail him at pattison_mark@hotmail.com.



Math Night Fun!

Be there or be square!!! That was the mood Monday night at Shepherd Elementary!!! For those of you all that did not attend family math night, you missed a great opportunity to watch children engaging in math with their parents, teachers and friends.

One of the most popular events of the night was *Telling Time Bingo*, where Mr. Byers called out a digital time that the bingo players then located in analog time on the bingo card. Mrs. Crockett asked kids to estimate how many animals it took to get a certain weight. There was “*Who Is Smarter Than A 5th Grader*” with parents competing against their kids for the correct answers. “*Telling time with the roll of the dice*” was also a favorite. There were so many opportunities to see the practicality of math – each one aided by the gentle guidance of Shepherd’s teachers.

More than 60 kids and their parents moved around the auditorium going from table to table measuring, estimating, thinking, drawing, and guessing the night away. There are a lot of people in our Shepherd community we need to thank for their support.

Thank you to our principal, Mrs. Miles for your support and being one of the last to leave the building.

Thanks to the PTA, President Earl Yates, and his entire executive board for approving and sponsoring Family Math Night.

Thanks to Jameelah Abdulmateen who tirelessly agreed to sell popcorn, water and chips to Shepherd’s hungry mathematicians and their parents. And thanks to her helper and parent, Ms. esplandy. We appreciate you both for being willing to do what it takes to help Shepherd raise money.

Thanks to the teachers at Shepherd. It was wonderful to have you all after school, on your own time, helping the kids master and enhance their math skills. To Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Leonard, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Crockett, Ms. Ulba, Mrs. Kinsler, Mrs. Gilmore, Mrs. Chambliss, Mrs. Thomas, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Noele, Mr. Byers, and Ms. LaPenna: we couldn’t have done it without you. We are so happy you took time out of your schedules to support us.

Thanks to Ms. Michaud for coming to Shepherd on your off day and helping to create the teacher posters. They looked great, and a couple of kids were trying to measure them to guess teacher heights.

Thank you especially to all the parents that attended family math night with your kids, we notice and appreciate your active engagement in your children’s lives.

To Shepherd’s Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT) – a group that consists of Shepherd teachers, parents and administrators working together in harmony for the collective good of our children – thank you for your quiet but effective leadership.

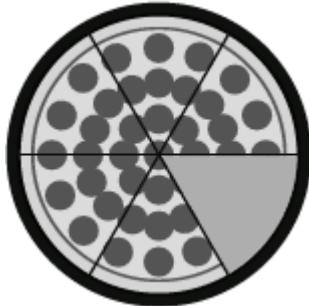
Dr. Brenda Hammond, a Montgomery County School System teacher, is a math specialist and is the brains behind this successful and well attended event. Thank you to Dr. Hammond and your volunteers.

Let’s start planning for the next one. Until then... Thank you!

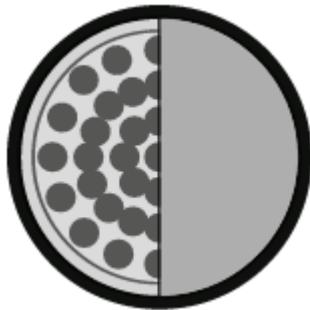
~ Rhonda Davis Smith, LSRT Chair

~ Math Night Photos by Kimberly Brandon

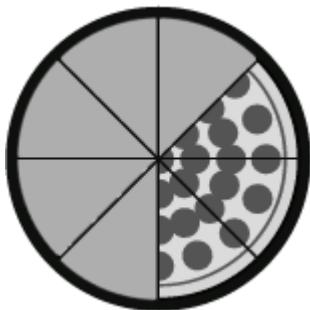
Math Activities of the Week

Primary Math Problem:


How much pizza is left? _____



How much pizza is left? _____



How much pizza is left? _____

Intermediate Math Problem:

Kaleb made the input-output table shown below:

Input	Output
1	4
2	9
3	14
4	19

Which of the following could be the rule for Kaleb's input-output table?

- A. Add 3 to the input to get the output.
- B. Add 5 to the input to get the output.
- C. Multiply the input by 3, and then add 1 to the result to get the output.
- D. Multiply the input by 5, and then subtract 1 from the result to get the output.

Answer: _____

More Math Night fun!



**Have YOU joined the
Shepherd PTA yet??**

Language Activities of the Week

Grades Pre-K - 2: Rhyme (Phonological awareness)

Activity 1:

Help your child practice distinguishing and making up pairs of rhyming words. Say a pair of words to your child, such as the following: sun/fun, red/sled, and car/star.

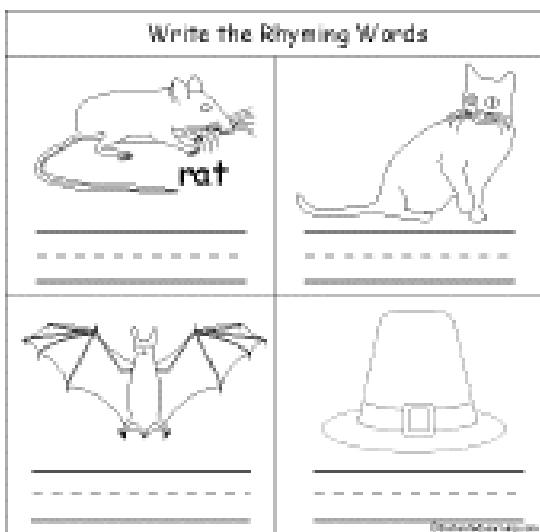
After saying each pair, ask your child if the words rhyme or not. You can also make up your own word pairs. Use words that your child uses frequently and that are familiar to her/him.

Activity 2:

Point to objects and say their names, for example, sink. Then ask your child to say as many words as he can that rhyme with the name. Other good easily rhymed words are ball, bread, rug, and clock. *Let him/her use some silly or non-sense, words as well: ball—tall, call, small, dall, jall, nall.*

Activity 3:

Write the Rhyming Words



Activity 4:

Assess whether these words rhyme with each other.

Word Pairs	Do these words rhyme?	
fin – win	yes	no
rug – mug	yes	no
hat – dress	yes	no
pan – man	yes	no
bird – book	yes	no
lock – rock	yes	no
bet – get	yes	no
cup – dog	yes	no

Grades 3 - 6:



Spotlight the Story Elements when reading!

Have your child answer these questions:

1. Setting- Where does the story take place?
2. Characters- Who is in the story?
3. Events- What important things happen?
4. Theme- What is the author's message?
5. Problem- What is the problem?
6. Solutions- How is the problem solved?



Lost and Found



Is your child missing a hat, coat, sweater, lunch box or bookbag? If so, we may have it here at school. We have a significant number of items in our lost and found collection. Please stop by the Parent Center to identify any items that may belong to your child. All unclaimed items will be donated to Goodwill the second week in December.

Freebie Fundraisers

There are a number of “freebie” fundraisers going on at Shepherd Elementary School. These are fundraisers that do not cost YOU any additional money than you would have spent anyway! Information on our current Freebie Fundraisers can be found in the Files section of the PTA listserv and in the brochure holder outside the Main Office.

If you have any questions about any of Shepherd’s “Freebie Fundraising” opportunities for Shepherd Elementary School, or to volunteer to assist with any of the “freebie fundraisers,” please contact our “Freebie Fundraising” program coordinator, Laura Noble at TaylorFarm@kddmgroup.com.

Box Tops “It's a New Year” Collection Contest

Information will be sent home soon regarding the next Box Tops Collection contest. Be on the look out for the contest information. And meanwhile, keep clipping those box tops!



Juice Pouch Recycling Update

We're looking for volunteers to manage the Juice Pouch Recycling program. This is a perfect project for a family, a class (think “community service”) or an aftercare group. It doesn't take much effort: just make sure the pouches are empty, straws and wrappers are discarded, and the pouches are flattened. Then simply count them out in bundles of 100s (or 10s, whichever is easier) and mail off (pre-paid) to TerraCycle.



For each juice pouch we send in, TerraCycle gives Shepherd 2¢. Individually, not much... but they certainly add up! To date, Shepherd has earned over \$30 for sending in our trash!

Contact Laura Noble at taylorfarm@kddmgroup.com if you'd like to make this commitment to Shepherd fund-raising.

Shepherd's Paint Your Own Pottery ‘Fun’raiser’ is TONIGHT!

When: TONIGHT, Friday, November 14th

Time: Anytime between 6:00-10:00pm

Where: *Color Me Mine* in Downtown Silver Spring

Between 6:00-10:00 pm tonight, *Color Me Mine* pottery studio will donate 50% of the evening's proceeds to Shepherd Elementary School! The studio is open to the public but you can reserve a table by calling 301-565-5105. This is a great family activity and kids of all ages love coming to *Color Me Mine*. Just pick a piece and take as much time as you like to paint it. The studio fires it and your masterpiece is ready for pick up in about a week. Cost is \$15 per table studio fee (good for up to 4 people) plus the price of your pottery pieces.

Support Shepherd and get a head start on your holiday gifts at the same time!

Color Me Mine is located at 823 Ellsworth Drive in Downtown Silver Spring. Reservations are encouraged. (Call 301-565-5105 to reserve your table.)



Trivia Corner — Just for Fun!

Each week students will be asked a trivia question. Students should place their name and the answer to the trivia question in the trivia box located outside the cafeteria door. On Tuesdays, one lucky winner will be selected to receive a special treat.

Answer this week's trivia question by Tuesday.

Trivia Question:

What American Indian tribe was invited to spend Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims?



Answer to last week's trivia:



What color was the first White House? It was Gray — the color of sandstone!

Shepherd Music Update

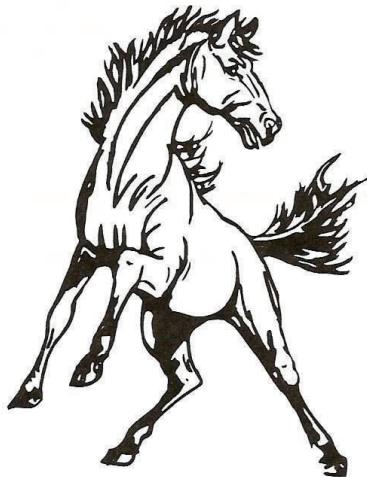
On Monday, November 10, 2008, Joy Nicholas and Kristopher Saulny – both 6th grader students at Shepherd Elementary School – presented 130 student letters about Paul Robeson to Ben Hall, Director of Music for DC Public Schools. The letters urged that Paul Robeson be included in the DCPS music textbooks. Robeson is not mentioned anywhere in the current music texts.



Mr. Hall said, "This sounds like a great project. I'd be happy to accept those letters and eventually submit them to publishers once we begin a new textbook adoption cycle."

Shepherd Elementary School students studied Paul Robeson in music class. They learned about his music, his civil rights activism, and his place in American history. Students wrote letters urging that Robeson be included in the music textbooks. Considering Mr. Hall's statement, it sounds like we might be successful!

~ Ken Giles, Music Teacher, Shepherd Elementary School



Public Hearing on DCPS

Five-Year Action Plan

On Thursday, Nov. 20 at 9:00 am, the DC Council's Committee of the Whole will hold a public roundtable on Chancellor Rhee's Five-Year Action Plan for DC Public Schools. Location is Room 500 of the John A. Wilson Building (1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.).

The purpose of this roundtable is to permit stakeholders to attain a greater understanding of the reforms within the District of Columbia Public Schools. You can review the plan at http://www.k12.dc.us/chancellor/schedule_forums.htm. The Five-Year Action Plan for the District of Columbia Public Schools includes the Chancellor's vision and strategies for improving the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), and is preceded by the Master Education Plan and the DCPS Strategic Planning Update.

The public is invited to testify at this hearing--contact Aretha Latta, Administrative Assistant to the Committee of the Whole, by telephone at 202-724-8196 or by e-mail at alatta@dccouncil.us, and furnish names, addresses, telephone numbers, and organizational affiliation, if any, by the close of business this coming Tuesday, November 17, 2008. The full announcement can be read on the PTA Listserv.

Have You Joined the Listserv?

If you have not joined the Shepherd PTA Listserv, here is the e-mail address you can use to subscribe:

Shepherd_Elementary_PTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Be sure to include who you are (your name, your student's name and his/her teacher's name).

YAHOO! GROUPS

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Send your submissions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to: SESmustang@gmail.com. Deadline is Tuesday at 10:00 am for inclusion in the newsletter issued that Friday.