



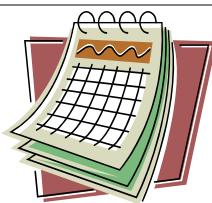
Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, March 13, 2009

***Mark Your
Calendars!***



3/14 – No Saturday Language Academy today

3/17 – St. Patrick's Day 

3/18 – PTA Meeting, 6:45 pm, SES Auditorium

3/20 – Jazz Night

3/23-3/27 – Spring Break – No School

3/28 – No Saturday Academy today

***Join us Wednesday March 18
for the***

PTA

Meeting

Shepherd Auditorium – 6:45 pm

The Shepherd Elementary PTA will meet at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, in the school auditorium. Included on the agenda is discussion on a revised 2008-09 budget that reflects the PTA's lower revenues and its ability to meet its obligations.

We are asking for parent volunteers to watch children in the cafeteria while the meeting is taking place.

School starts on time! So do PTA meetings!

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Happy Friday!

The message this week is brief for I am officially a mommy now. Little Miss **Kylie Harper Miles** entered this world on Monday, March 9, 2009 at 10:39 pm. She weighed 6lb 9oz. She is happy, healthy, and absolutely perfect!

Mr. Seward is in the building and has been since January. He has been briefed and is ready to proceed. Please address your concerns to him. I will be in touch with him weekly.

Due to the arrival of Kylie, the budget meeting scheduled for this past Wednesday was cancelled. I will reschedule upon my return. Please note that the link shared with you to view the 2009-2010 budget is the **proposed** budget. I have petitioned and reallocated funds to meet our staffing needs. My request and allocations were approved! I will let you know when the final budget has been loaded. In the meantime, please note the following: all specialist positions are now full time positions, Ms. Noel's position will be funded by DCPS and her position is part time, we are projected to have two Pre-k classes with two full time aides. We did not lose any teachers so if our numbers remain consistent we will have three kindergarten and three first grade classes and two of every other grade. This however depends on our enrollment after in boundary registration. Language teacher positions will remain the same. In general, I think all will be happy with our final approved budget and I look forward to sharing more upon my return.

Thank you again for all you do!

Jamie Miles

STOP THE PRESSES!

With Mrs. Miles having started her maternity leave, this makes Mr. Seaward our interim principal for at least the next several weeks. So when he asks for your help, please give your assistance gladly.

Let's make Mr. Seaward's time at Shepherd a positive experience he'll never forget -- the same thing we want for our own children.

Fundraising Initiatives Offer More Opportunities for Parent Support to the School

Recognizing the huge role that parental support plays in ensuring high-quality instruction and extra-curricular activities for Shepherd students, several upcoming initiatives will provide new alternatives for parents to provide their support.

Our largest fundraiser of the year will again be the Annual Auction, the dates and plans for which are reported in other articles in this newsletter. Plan to buy your tickets, support the projects of the always-popular classroom projects, solicit advertisements and sponsorships from businesses from which you buy products and services, then come join the fun and the important work that will be done at the Annual Auction in late May.

More immediately, the following activities are about to be launched or are being planned to give parents and friends of the school several new channels for contributing to the school's support:

- **Sale of "The World's Finest Chocolate"** - This sweet fundraiser will begin in the next two weeks. Keep your eye out for the details.
- **DC ARMOR Season Tickets Sales** – See details in this newsletter for buying season tickets for DC Armor, Washington's team in the American Indoor Football Association. A share of the proceeds from season tickets purchased will be contributed to the Shepherd PTA.
- **Phone-raiser** – This new initiative is being explored. It is designed to generate income in return for old cell-phones and printer/ink cartridges contributed by the Shepherd community. Details to follow.
- **Avon Products Sales** – This cosmetics/beauty products sale is in the planning stage, and details will be provided soon.

The above noted activities are being planned and are to be spearheaded by the PTA, and we welcome your support.

There is also on-going **parent-to-parent outreach/fundraising** being undertaken by parents who are targeting selected school activities that they recognize as critically important to the overall education of our children. These initiatives run parallel to the PTA initiatives, and provide added support to the school.

~ Earl Yates, PTA President

Terrific Kids in April

Weather issues postponed last week's "Terrific Kid" ceremonies. As a result, we'll have two months' worth of Terrific Kids from pre-K through third grade to recognize and honor next month. So circle Tuesday, April 7, on your calendar. The Terrific Kids program starts at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium. The program is a project of the Takoma-Shepherd Kiwanis Club, which also sponsored the Pancake Breakfast at Shepherd Elementary two weeks ago.

Do You Have the Write Stuff?

We're looking for a new columnist to write about Shepherd Elementary for the *Northwest Current* until the end of the school year. Any fifth- or sixth-grader is welcome to apply. Make sure you have permission from the people in your house they call "grown-ups." If you can write up to 150 words every week about school-related activities, then you may be the right student for the job. The *Northwest Current* is delivered free to homes throughout Shepherd Elementary's attendance area. To learn more, contact Mark Pattison, the PTA's Communications Committee chairman, at 829-9289 or via

The Candy Man Can!

If you have taken part in the World's Finest Chocolate sale at Shepherd in past years, note one important change in procedure. This year, parents will pay their money up front for a box of candy. And this year, only checks will be accepted. Make them out to "Shepherd Elementary PTA" and write "Chocolate Sale" in the memo line. Half of your check stays with the PTA to fund much-needed services at Shepherd, like Ms. Noel's work as math tutor, Madame Agoussi's work as a kindergarten French aide, and our parent cafeteria helpers, whose work allows our teachers that extra time during the school day to prepare for their classes. We have 290 families at Shepherd, so why not buy 290 boxes? Think Easter, think "tasty," and help the school!



Spotlight on Excellence – Past, Present, and Future

Auction Alert Backpacks Contain Untold Treasure

Have you gone through your child's backpack this week?

Every student this week received auction material that parents can use to add to our supply of auction prizes and gifts for the May 29 auction. Thanks to Ms. Brooks in the office for doing all of the photocopying -- yet another step into ensuring a top-notch auction experience.

Anywhere you spend money -- ANYWHERE -- should be an auction donation target. If you shop there, it's a safe bet that other parents would shop there, too; in fact, some may shop there already! Bring the auction donation form with you. Ask the merchant or the manager if they could donate some merchandise or a gift certificate for the auction. It's possible they'd even want to splurge and buy ad space in the auction booklet, or sponsor tickets (or even a full table!).

And think about yourself. Is there some skill or service or goods that you yourself can donate to the auction? Babysitting? Computer help? Handyman services? A gift card from a store? The sky's the limit, and our imagination can take us a long way toward filling Howard University, the auction site, with terrific auction items.

Remember: The auction's theme is "Salute to Excellence: Past, Present, and Future." We can all contribute to that! Tickets go on sale real, real soon!

Chantale Swanson (Co-Chair) – swanprncess75@aol.com
Marnie Keller (Co-Chair) – marniekeller@gmail.com



Box Tops Update

Our next Box Tops Collection Contest – our final one for this school year – will be announced in April. Until then, continue to collect and save your Box Tops coupons.

For more information about the Box Tops for Education program at Shepherd, contact Laura Noble, Box Tops Program Coordinator at: TaylorFarm@kddmgroup.com.

Remember to keep clipping Box Tops for Shepherd!



Shepherd Family Directory is Here

This year's Shepherd Family Directory is large and includes photos of most of the teaching staff, class lists of students by grade, advertising from a few Shepherd families, and an alphabetical index of families.

Due to budget constraints, however, the PTA is unable to provide hard copies of the directory. Thus, it will be distributed to all families electronically via the Room Parents as well as posted to the PTA Listserv. Due to its large file size, the directory will be forwarded to families in three sections. Please check for emails this week from your child's class Room Parent.

If you need to print out the directory and are unable to do so on your own, please let your Room Parent know. There may be other parents in your class who can print out an extra copy. The PTA may also provide hard copies for a nominal fee.

Join the PTA Listserv Today

To subscribe, send an email (include your name, your child's name and his/her teacher/class) to:
Shepherd_Elementary_PTA-subscribe@yahooroups.com

Once signed up, you will be able to receive listserv updates directly to your email inbox. If you prefer to not receive emails for each listserv posting, simple select "no email" under the message delivery option in your listserv user set up.

Past Issues of The Mustang are Online

Would you like to read *The Mustang* electronically? Need to refer back to a past issue? Each week, *The 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/

The Mustang is also now available on the Shepherd Elementary School website at www.shepherd-elementary.org.

Auction Action

Just as we promised last week, we've got a couple of more featured items for you to save up for when bidding times comes at the May 29 PTA Auction:

- Legal Consultation: Donated by Dwayne Toliver, the new ANC member whose territory includes Shepherd Elementary, here's an opportunity to win a one-hour initial consultation on a D.C. real estate, corporate, or non-profit matter. Good help is hard to find, and we all need friends in high places! Value: \$100.
- What's in Your Stars?: Donated by well-respected astrologer Margarita Crocker, you'll receive a two-hour reading on how the planetary alignment in your chart impacts your past, present and future -- in all aspects of your life. You'll be amazed at how on-target the reading will be! Value: \$150.

And that's just two of the mighty fine items we'll be auctioning May 29. If you have some item or service that you can donate for the auction, we're happy to accept it. If you know a merchant or business that would be willing to donate items for the auction, we're even happier! To learn more on how to make auction contributions, reach either of our Auction Committee co-chairs, Chantale Swanson at 422-1249 or Marnie Keller at 244-3855.

Spruce-Up Day Postponed

A reminder: The school spruce-up day originally set for tomorrow (Saturday, March 14) has been postponed, and will be held on a date yet to be determined. Get some practice in with your own houses for spring cleaning, and come armed with that experience -- plus loads of cleaning supplies -- to tackle Shepherd come spring!

No Language Academy Tomorrow

Due to mandatory language teacher training on Saturday, March 14, there will be no Language Academy tomorrow. Classes will resume NEXT Saturday (March 21).

Trivia Corner — Just for Fun!

Last week's trivia answer:



The Baltimore-Washington Parkway was named after a U.S. Congresswoman who represented the 5th congressional district of Maryland from January 3, 1975 to January 3, 1981.

Her name was Gladys Noon Spellman.

Chocolate Sale Made Easier-- And More Af- fordable to All!

Despite the current uncertain economy, we are able to offer LOWER prices on World's Finest Chocolate. Last year, a box of World's Finest Chocolate sold for \$62.50. This year, it's only \$50.00 -- a drop of 20 percent! And individual chocolate bars that sold last year for \$1.25 are now only a buck! At the very least, you won't go around walking at a strange angle because one of your pockets is loaded down with quarters.



World's Finest Chocolate comes in four varieties: milk chocolate, caramel, crispy rice, and almond. Payment for World's Finest Chocolate, however, comes in only one variety: a check made out to "Shepherd Elementary PTA." The chocolate will be here very soon, if it hasn't already arrived. To learn more, contact either one of Shepherd's Chocolate Czars: Tabitha McNeill at tmcneill@verizon.net, or Yao Tyus at either 345-0282 or yao.tyus@stepms.com.

March is Woman's History Month

The Culture Shop (341 Cedar St. NW) will celebrate Women's History Month by inviting women (and men) to informal social events honoring community movers and shakers. So keep your evening calendar open for Saturday March 14, 21, and 28. More information to come.

Young people are encouraged to attend and bring their mother-figures to our Women's History Month celebrations.

Events at The Culture Shop are free and open to the public; however, there is limited seating. Visit cultureshop.com for more information.

The Mustang Is YOUR Newsletter

Do you have a comment, a suggestion, or something to share with the Shepherd family in *The Mustang*? Would you like to write an article to be included in an issue of *The Mustang*?

Send it in an e-mail to

SESmustang@gmail.com.

The next issue of *The Mustang* will come out on **Friday March 20**.

Submit information to be included in the next issue by **Tuesday, March 17**.



The IB-PYP Corner

Update: PYP Training for Shepherd Teachers

Trainers from the IB Regional Office provided two full days of training this week for fifteen Shepherd teachers and about forty-five additional teachers from Anne Beers Elementary School, H. D. Cooke Elementary and Thomson Elementary. The Level 1 training was held at Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School. Level 1 training includes information about the authorization process, the philosophy and structure of the International Baccalaureate Organization, the Learner Profile, other “markers” of the program and the “programme of inquiry.” As a result of this training, Shepherd’s participants should have a clearer understanding of the IB and how to organize their classrooms and their curriculum for implementing the Primary Years Program. With this review of the information already provided through Ms. Tucker and with the new information and understanding gained from the IB trainers, Shepherd’s teachers will be able to complete the writing of their units of inquiry more effectively. Those teachers who were able to participate in the training will share their learning with the teachers who were unable to participate.

PYP Lesson of the Week: The Learner Profile Attributes in Three Languages

English	French	Spanish
The IB Learner Profile caring communicators inquirers knowledgeable open-minded principled reflective risk-takers thinkers balanced	Profil de l'apprenant du BI altruists (des) communicateurs (des) investigateurs informés et instruits ouverts d'esprit integers réfléchis audacieux (des) penseurs équilibrés	Perfil de la comunidad de aprendizaje del IB solidarios buenos comunicadores indagadores informados e instruidos de mentalidad abierta integros reflexivos audaces pensadores equilibrados

Questions for reflection, discussion and action:

Shepherd teachers are beginning to introduce the 10 Learner Profile attributes. In what ways can parents help students to understand these attributes? For young children, one way is to discuss one of the attributes with the child and then have him/her find a corresponding photo or illustration in a magazine, cut it out, paste it on a larger sheet and label the visual with the name of the attribute. Instead of using magazines, your child could look for clip art on your home computer (in the software or on the Internet) to illustrate the Learner Profile attributes. Another idea is to have your child name the characters in their favorite television program and assign one or more of the attributes to each character. Take this further by asking them to explain their thinking. How about assigning to each family member the Learner Profile attributes that stand out the most? What other home activities can you think of to help your child become familiar with these attributes or characteristics? Remember that older students can do more challenging activities. For example, you could ask the older student if he or she thinks that one attribute is more important than the others. If so, why does he or she think so? There is no right or wrong answer to this question. It's the thinking process that is important.

~ Patricia L. Tucker & Jamie Miles



Go Fly a Kite on March 28!



This year's 43rd annual Smithsonian Kite Festival is going GREEN. The Festival will explore how being 'green' and utilizing natural resources can be a fun, creative, and fulfilling experience. What better way to celebrate our environment than by

coloring the sky with kites fashioned from renewable resources and powered by the wind?

This year, honor planet Earth by creating both environmentally and thematically 'green' kites that positively reflect the beautiful resources we have available. In lieu of constructing with 'green' materials, you could create a traditional kite with a 'green' theme...The sky is literally the limit-so be creative and push the limits, have fun, and go 'green'! Whatever you end up creating, please make sure that all kites fly according to AKA specifications.

The festival features three competitions. For those who build their own kites, you are invited to enter the Handmade Kite competition. Please go to www.kitefestival.org and click on "Festival Awards" to learn about our format for the handmade kite competition.

Teams may also enter into two additional heart-stopping events- the sixth annual Smithsonian Hot Tricks competition, and the always popular Rokkaku Kite battle will be both held at the end of the day. Watch kite flyers strut their stuff on the field dazzling the crowd with trick kite moves and thrilling competition. Registration Opens at 10 a.m.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Depending on wind and weather, this schedule is flexible.

- **10 a.m.** - Opening Ceremony/Registration begins
- **10:15 a.m.** - Kitemaker/Master Kitemaker Competition Begins
- **12 noon** - KitemakerMaster Kitemaker Competition Breaks / Children's Competition Begins
- **12:30 p.m.** - Registration Ends
- **1 p.m.** - Children's Competition Ends / Children's Award Ceremony / Kitemaker/Master Kitemaker Competition Resumes
- **2 p.m.** - Competition is completed/Hot Tricks Showdown
- **3 p.m.** - Rokkaku Challenge Kitemaker/Master Kitemaker Awards Ceremony Begins

For more information, go to www.kitefestival.org.



JOIN TODAY!

Many Faces - One Vision

Kreeger Museum to Host Concert

The Kreeger Museum will host an educational concert for music students, teachers and those who would just like to be a part of the audience. This concert is part of the spring 2009 performance tour of the Music Institute of Chicago's (MIC) prestigious Academy program.

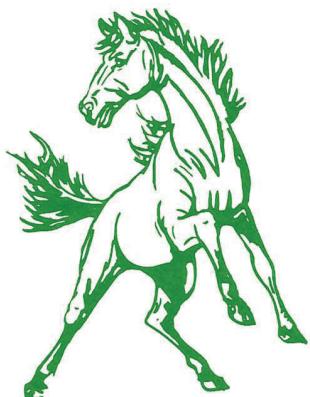
Thursday, March 26, 2009, 4 – 5 pm

This is a FREE performance, but reservations are required. Please call 202-338-3552 to reserve your seat.

Where: The Kreeger Museum
2401 Foxhall Road, NW, Washington, DC 20007

Questions: Antonia Valdes-Dapena, 202-337-3050 x10 or visitorservices@kreegermuseum.org. Visit kreegermuseum.org for more information and directions.

***Be the Change
We Seek!***





DC ARMOR

Shepherd Elementary 2009 Season Ticket Voucher

Benefit Shepherd Elementary by becoming a season ticket holder. Order now at www.darmor.com On business address line 2, enter code 090101SPTA

2009 SCHEDULE

03/13 @ Reading Express
03/21 BYE
03/28 @ Erie River Rats
04/04 Reading Express
04/11 Fayetteville Guard
04/18 @ Columbus Lions
04/25 Harrisburg Stampede
05/02 @ Carolina Speed
05/09 @ Harrisburg Stampede
05/16 BYE
05/23 Reading Express
05/30 @ Baltimore Mariners
06/06 Baltimore Mariners
06/13 Carolina Speed
06/20 Erie River Rats
06/27 @ Baltimore Mariners

**Season Tickets Price:
\$155**

A portion of each ticket sold through this program will be donated to Shepherd Elementary



Jazz Night At Shepherd Celebrates Its 20th Year

Next Friday, March 20, from 7 to 9:30 pm in the Auditorium, we'll be holding the annual Jazz Night! This year's theme is "Mardi Gras in March." This event is now in its 20th year and is a wonderful school and neighborhood event with jazz music, food and fellowship.



Mr. Michael Wallace, a former Shepherd Elementary parent and neighbor, has put together a program with three performers who will dazzle us with the sounds of bebop jazz. As always, there will be activities for the kids.

What are we asking from SES parents?

- Volunteers for set-up and clean-up
- People to bring food
- People to lead the activities for the kids
- Sponsors

Jazz Night usually costs about \$1,500 and we are hoping that families and businesses will support this wonderful event. Every little bit can help us to reduce our costs and perhaps break even -- or bring in some much-needed income for the school. Sponsors will be acknowledged during the event. Watch out for posters and flyers this week along with more information on how you can help.

~ Barry Hudson, bhudson@neamb.com.

Friends of the Library Meet Monday

The Friends of the Shepherd Park Library will meet this coming Monday, March 16, 7-8 p.m., in the second-floor activities room of the library, 7420 Georgia Avenue between Geranium Street and Shepherd Road. Many Shepherd Elementary families joined the Friends last year during the group's membership drive, which doubled the rolls, and they're especially welcome to attend. Frequent library users, even if they're not yet members, are welcome, too. Agenda items include putting the finishing touches in place for a library open house to be held Saturday, April 4, 1-4 p.m. Also, leadership directions will also be discussed.

Joining the Friends is easy. In fact, you can do it at the meeting if you like. A one-year membership costs only \$5 for students and senior citizens, \$10 for individuals, and \$15 for families. (Of course; sustaining members are also gladly accepted: \$25, nonprofit organizations; \$75, sponsor/business; and \$200, patron. If you want to know more about the Friends of the Library, call Friends interim secretary Mark Pattison at 829-9289.

Auction News: Riddle Me This!

What do new D.C. At-Large Councilmember Michael Brown, "Fox 5 Morning News" weathercaster Tony Perkins, and Washington Wizards star Caron Butler have in common?

- a. They're engaging public figures;
- b. They're all based in the Washington area;
- c. Are invited guests to the Shepherd PTA Auction on May 29; or
- d. All of the above.

If you guessed "d," you're right! These intriguing and influential figures in the public eye are all invited guests to the Shepherd PTA Auction event on Friday, May 29, 2009 at 7 p.m. Held on the campus of Howard University, this event will give you access not only to local celebrities on this order, but also to enticing silent and live-auction items as well as more than 300 entertaining, fun-filled parents and friends in the Shepherd Park community.

Tickets go on sale soon, so show your support for Shepherd Elementary and plan to attend its biggest fundraiser of the year! For more information, contact Chantale Swanson at 422-1249 or Marnie Keller at 244-3855.

Your 'Songs of Freedom' CD Order Helps Us All

As you may remember, Mr. Ken Giles, the music teacher, gave 500 copies of the upcoming "Songs of Freedom and Justice" CD to the Shepherd PTA. We're giving one to each student, which leaves us with roughly 150 to sell. At \$10 per CD, that's \$1,500 that can be used by the PTA to help meet its commitments through the end of the school year. By placing your CD order now, you'll help the PTA and you'll help spread the wonderful news about our wonderful children who participated so well during the show.

While the CD will ultimately be available commercially, it's not likely you're going to find it at Best Buy or Target, and if you do find it, it's just as unlikely you'll get it for a better price. So use the order form in the Mustang or take an order form from the rack outside the main office and make your purchase now!



Shepherd Elementary School

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