



Shepherd Elementary School

THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

Friday, April 17, 2009



Mark Your Calendars!

- TODAY – Star Achievers Talent Show, 3:30 pm**
- 4/18 – SES Garden Project, 8:30 am-1:30 pm**
- 4/20-5/1 – DC-CAS testing**
- 5/1 – May Day Dance, 3:30-6:00 pm, sponsored by Pre-K**
- 5/7 – Progress/Deficiency Reports sent home**
- 5/15 – BWL concert, 6:30 pm, SES Auditorium**
- 5/15 – Parent-Teacher Conferences, NO SCHOOL**
- 5/20 – Countdown to Summer Box Tops Contest deadline**
- 5/25 – Memorial Day Holiday, NO SCHOOL**
- 5/29 – Annual Auction, 7:00 pm, Howard Univ. Blackburn Center**

Parental Involvement: DCPS Should Boost It, Not Zero It Out

As President of the Shepherd Elementary School PTA, I was invited to join some other PTA presidents in testifying last week at the City Council's hearing on the budget proposed by the Mayor for operation of D.C.'s public schools in Fiscal Year 2010.

My testimony aimed to achieve two goals. The first goal was to endorse what I read as the general purposes of the DC Voice March 2009 report titled "What's In/What's Out – A Line Item Look at the DC 2010 Budget Changes Affecting Public Education." I understand the report's purposes to be:

1. Identifying crucial what's in/what's out questions related to a number the proposed budget line items;
2. Urging the Council's thorough consideration of those questions, and
3. Engaging vigorously with the Office of the Mayor to ensure that these questions are fully addressed as consideration of this budget proposal proceeds.

The second goal of my testimony was to urge the Council and the Mayor to reconsider its proposed elimination of just under \$3.7 million that had been originally allocated to the Communications and Parental Engagement line items. These funds were to be used to enable DCPS to actively engage parents in strengthening the quality of education offered by the city's schools. They were also to be used to support

(See Parental Involvement, continued on page 2)

A Word from Mrs. Miles!

Hello Shepherd Family,

I hope this message finds you well. I returned from maternity leave on the 13th and I am happy to be back.

Testing:

The big day has finally arrived! DC-CAS will be administered to students in grade 3-6 beginning next week. The testing window is April 20 through May 1. Testing will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. each day. Please work to make sure your student arrives to school on time, well rested, fed, and with a positive attitude. Please continue to remind your student to take their time and focus. They have worked hard and I know they will do well.

Summer School:

Summer school will run from June 29th through August 5th.

Summer School is for rising K through 5th grade students.

Students who are residents of the District may attend summer school at Shepherd. This includes non-DCPS students who attend private and charter schools.

Registration has already begun and the deadline for registration is May 1st. Applications may be obtained from the school or by visiting: <http://www.k12.dc.us/schools/summer-school-2009>.

The summer school program will have two parts: a morning academic program and language program followed by an after-school enrichment program. You may enroll your child in either, the morning session, the afternoon session, or both sessions.

There will be two classes per grade level, plus two language classes (one French and one Spanish).

Summer School hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be served from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The DC One after-school program will be from 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The ratio of students to teachers will be up to 25 to 1.

(See Principal, continued on page 2)

(Principal, *continued from page 1*)

Teachers from all over the District can apply to teach summer school. Staff is selected by administrators and central office staff.

The summer school principal has not been selected but I will aid in deciding who will be over the summer school program.

Some of the summer school logistical information is still being finalized. I will share more upon completion.

Next week I will address questions you have about staffing and the 2009-2010 budget.

Enjoy Your Weekend!

Regards,
Jamie Miles
Principal, Shepherd Elementary

(Parental Involvement, *continued from page 1*)

general public awareness activities that counter the bad news about D.C. schools that is so readily available -- through the media and through word of mouth. These activities would "market" the public schools to the city's families -- as is very actively done by the public charter school and independent schools to which many families turn, as they look for the best, or at least the most appealing, educational experience for their children.

My testimony noted two points. First, parental support of, and partnership with, the school system and with each individual school is known to be an important determinant of overall school effectiveness.

Second, the city suffers from the continuing loss of families who sincerely want to keep their children in public schools, and who are prepared to contribute to the effectiveness of those schools. Many come to conclude, however, that the city attaches too little importance to retaining them as D.C. Public School families. These proposed cut of the \$3.7 million to be used by DCPS for Communications and Parental Engagement only reinforces that conclusion.

The Council expressed appreciation for my recommendation that these funds not be cut from the new budget, but responded that the funds would be better used to strengthen instruction in the classroom. The problem with that response is its suggestion that stronger parental involvement with (and support of) their schools would not strengthen instruction in the classroom. Further, it ignores the reality that the negative image of D.C.'s public schools all over the Washington metropolitan area is one of the big reasons why many families opt to send their children to public charter schools or independent schools.

I doubt that the Council will urge the Mayor to restore these funds, but I hope that it will at least get the Mayor and the Chancellor to recognize the critical importance of parent involvement with -- and support to -- the school system, and especially of individual schools. I hope further that the Council will urge the Chancellor to use her overall budget resources to engage parents more effectively in promoting the well-being of our schools.

~ Earl Yates, PTA President



Most young girls adore American Girl dolls, and your girl can too. Valued at \$95, your American girl can create a unique story of friendship with this **Just Like You® doll**, featuring dark skin, textured black hair, and brown eyes. She's 18 inches tall with a soft cloth body, and her movable head and limbs are made of smooth vinyl. Plus, she comes with a book and the Star Hoodie Outfit.

And those are just two more 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 202-422-1249 or Marnie Keller at 202-244-3855.

Area Library Events

Emancipation Celebration: Saturday, April 18, 1 p.m., Southwest Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW. Dianne Saunders-Mayo talks about "A Moment in History: 1865 Emancipation Celebration.: For info call 724-2752.

"Lincoln Today": Thursday, April 23, 6:30 p.m., Cleveland Park Library, 3310 Connecticut Ave. NW. Author Andrew Ferguson, who wrote "Land of Lincoln" speaks on the 16th President's legacy. For details call 282-3080.

Spotlight on Excellence – Past, Present, and Future

Auction Sponsorships:

It's just under two months until our May 29 auction. Join the growing list of auction sponsors. There are definite tax-deduction advantages to becoming a sponsor – either as an individual or a business. And there are a variety of sponsorship levels to fit most checking accounts:

- **MUSTANG SPONSOR** level (\$500)
- **SILVER SPONSOR** level (\$750)
- **GOLD SPONSOR** level (\$1,000)
- **PLATINUM SPONSOR** level (\$2,500)



Arrange for your auction sponsorship with either or our Auction Committee co-chairs:

Chantale Swanson at swanprncess75@aol.com, or
Marnie Keller at marniekeller@gmail.com.

Shepherd Box Tops for Education Program Seeks New Coordinator

Would you like to help Shepherd earn some easy and much needed money?

Volunteer to be the new Box Tops for Education Coordinator for Shepherd Elementary School. Our current coordinator, Laura Noble, will be stepping down from that role next school year.

The money earned through the Box Tops for Education program is deposited to the Shepherd Elementary School Student Activity Fund account. So far this year, we have raised over \$650 with Box Tops.

For more information about the Box Tops program or to volunteer to be the new Box Tops Coordinator, contact Laura Noble at taylorfarm@kddmgroup.com.

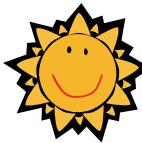


In and Around Town



The Bowie Baysox, the Eastern League farm club of the Baltimore Orioles, will hold its Spring Fling starting at noon Saturday, April 18, at Prince George's Stadium, 4101 NE Crain Highway (Maryland Route 301). Admission is \$9 for adults and \$6 for kids ages 3-12. For more details call 301-805-6000.

Countdown to Summer Box Tops Collection Contest



Turn your Box Tops into the Collection Box in the Main Office no later than **WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009**. Make sure your full name is included with your submission to receive a prize.

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!**



World's Finest Chocolate Sale!

We are on the home stretch of completing the chocolate sales. And with the assistance of a few additional parents, we will sell out of the 300 chocolate boxes that we have committed to selling. We will also add \$7,500 to the coffers of the school.

If you have not picked up a box of chocolate yet, please bring \$50 to school, when delivering or picking up your little person, along with your fundraising smile. The school will reap rich dividends from your commitment.

If you have any questions, please contact the Shepherd Chocolate Czar Yao Tyus at 202-345-0282 or yao.tyus@stepms.com.

Let's fill the PTA coffers and empty the school of that World's Finest Chocolate.



ISO Full-Size Refrigerator

The Pre-K and K teachers are seeking the donation of a full-size refrigerator for use by the Pre-K and K classes. The fridge, housed in Ms. Holt's classroom, is used for daily snacks and for class party items. The current fridge is on its "last legs" and needs to be replaced. If you have a fridge in good working order that you would like to donate, please contact Ms. Holt.

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.

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

Literacy Corner

Primary Grades

Dinner Menu

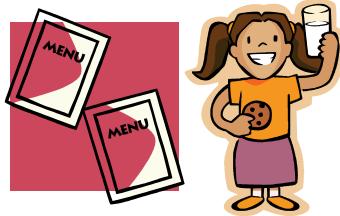
Goal: To help your child recognize letters and letter sounds

What You Will Need:

- Writing paper
- Colorful markers

Let's Go!

1. Ask your child to write a menu for the family dinner.
2. Say each dinner item slowly, stretching the sounds in the word so that each sound can be heard clearly.
Example: "milk" would be "mmmiillllkkk"
3. Ask your child to say the word with you: "mmmiillllkkk"
Say: "What sound do you hear first?"
Response: "mmm"
Say: "Do you know a letter that stands for that sound?"
Response: "m" (If your child doesn't know, tell her/him that "m" stands for that sound.)
Say: "Good, write that letter."
Repeat the word "mmmiillllkkk"
Say: "What sound do you hear next?"
Repeat for each letter until the whole word is written.
Say: "Good, now you have the whole word! Let's read it together!" "mmmiillllkkk"
4. If your child has the patience to continue, write more items. If not stop, take a break and come back to it another time.
5. Place the dinner menu on the table so that all family members can praise your child!



Intermediate Grades

Multiple Choice Test Taking Tips

1. Read the question before you look at the answer.
2. Eliminate answers you know aren't right.
3. Read all the choices before choosing your answer.
4. If there is no guessing penalty, always take an educated guess and select an answer. (ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS)
5. Don't keep on changing your answer, usually your first choice is the right one, unless you miss-read the question.
6. Usually the correct answer is the choice with the most information.



PTA, LSRT Elections

Next Month

We are now accepting nominations for both Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT) and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) elections to be conducted in May. Here in a nutshell, is what is available:



Local School Restructuring Team

- Four (4) parent representatives
- Monthly meetings
- An election will be held in May, even if only four or fewer are nominated
- Nominations are due IMMEDIATELY

PTA Elections

The PTA will hold the election for new officers at the May PTA meeting. Nominations are open for the following PTA officer positions, with a basic overview of each position's duties (for a full description, please consult the PTA by-laws):

- President: Presides at all meetings, coordinates the work of the officers and committees, and other duties as necessary
- 1st Vice President: Assists the president and performs other duties as assigned
- 2nd Vice President: Assists the president and performs other duties as assigned
- Recording Secretary: Records the minutes of all meetings
- Corresponding Secretary: Maintains all records
- Treasurer: Maintains all financial records, develops budget, pays bills and prepares financial reports
- Assistant Treasurer: Assists the Treasurer

If you are interested in running for an office or nominating someone for a position, please send information to one of the Nominating Committee members:

- Judith McCullough – 202-829-9289 or judith.mccullough@seiu.org
- Lawanda Tyus – lttyus@yahoo.com
- Charisse Brossard – charisse_brossard@adp.com

All PTA and LSRT candidates should, at the time of your nomination, write a summary of your skills and experience for publication in *The Mustang* and the PTA listserve as well as for distribution at the PTA meeting.

Next Issue of The Mustang

The next issue of *The Mustang* will be distributed to students on **Friday, April 24**. If you want to contribute to the next issue, please get your material in by 10 a.m. next **Tuesday, April 21**. *The Mustang* editorial team thanks you!

Send your contributions for the next issue of *The Mustang* to:

SESmustang@gmail.com.

The IB-PYP Corner

Update, News, and Notes:

- Shepherd's French and Spanish teachers and art teacher are beginning to collaborate with primary grade teachers on writing their PYP "planner" for the unit that will be implemented in May and June. Special subject teachers are making sure that their lessons during that time period support the "central idea" or big idea of the PYP unit that the teacher is working on in the classroom.
- Shepherd belongs to the group of IB authorized and candidate schools in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Three principals of IB Mid-Atlantic schools were recently named "Principals of Excellence" by The Washington Post. These three recipients of The Washington Post 2008-2009 Distinguished Educational Leadership Awards are Deirdre Lavery of Glasgow Middle School in Fairfax County Public Schools, Donald Lilley of Annapolis High School in Anne Arundel County Public Schools and Gregory Robertson of Washington-Lee High School in the Arlington Public Schools.

PYP Lesson of the Week:

The PYP Transdisciplinary Skills (continued)

This week, we continue to look at the PYP transdisciplinary skills. As we explained in the April 3 *Mustang*, there are five categories of these skills. In that issue, we listed the specific social skills and thinking skills that teachers will guide students to develop.

This week, we list the communication skills and self-management skills, along with details about each skill.

Communication skills

- Listening** - Listening to directions; listening to others; listening to information.
- Speaking** - Speaking clearly; giving oral reports to small and large groups; expressing ideas clearly and logically; stating opinions.
- Reading** - Reading a variety of sources for information and pleasure; comprehending what has been read; making inferences and drawing conclusions.
- Writing** - Recording information and observations; taking notes and paraphrasing; writing summaries; writing reports; keeping a journal or record.

- Viewing** - Interpreting and analyzing visuals and multi-media; understanding the ways in which images and language interact to convey ideas, values and beliefs; making informed choices about personal viewing experiences.
- Presenting** - Constructing visuals and multimedia for a range of purposes and audiences; communicating information and ideas through a variety of visual media; using appropriate technology for effective presentation and representation.
- Non-verbal communication** - Recognizing the meaning of visual and kinesthetic communication; recognizing and creating signs; interpreting and utilizing symbols.

Self-management skills

- Gross motor skills** - Exhibiting skills in which groups of large muscles are used and the factor of strength is primary.
- Fine motor skills** - Exhibiting skills in which precision in delicate muscle systems is required.
- Spatial awareness** - Displaying a sensitivity to the position of objects in relation to oneself or each other.
- Organization** - Planning and carrying out activities effectively.
- Time management** - Using time effectively and appropriately.
- Safety** - Engaging in personal behavior that avoids placing oneself or others in danger or at risk.
- Healthy lifestyle** - Making informed choices to achieve a balance in nutrition, rest, relaxation and exercise; practicing appropriate hygiene - Selecting an appropriate course of action or behavior based on fact or opinion.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

Is it possible to reinforce any of these skills at home? If so, how? How often?

~ Patricia L. Tucker &
Jamie Miles



Sponsor an Issue of The Mustang

See your name in print! Donate 4 reams of copy paper – that's what it takes each week to get the news out – and you'll receive kudos right here in the pages of *The Mustang*! Or, if you prefer, donate in the name of your child's teacher or one of the other amazing Shepherd Elementary School staff members and they'll receive special mention in that week's newsletter. To sponsor an issue of *The Mustang*, contact Mark Pattison at pattison_mark@hotmail.com.

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@yahoogroups.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 setup.

Summer Camp Roundup

Here is a brief recap of some camps and summer programs here in D.C. and in nearby suburbs this summer.

- **AbraKadoDooLe**, 202-636-4020, jholland-chatman@abradoodle.com. Programs in Washington and Montgomery county for children ages 2-12.
- **All2Dance**, 6825 Willow St. NW, 202-829-0647, www.all2dance.com or dance@all2dance.com. Beginner and intermediate classes for a full week of basics in ballet, tap and jazz. There are also dance arts and crafts, stories and movies for ages 4-18.
- **All Fired Up Summer Pottery Camp**, 3413 Connecticut Ave. NW, 202-363-9590, www.allfiredupdc.com or allfiredupquestions@yahoo.com. Starts June 22 and runs through Aug. 28. Weeklong pottery camps for children ages 6-12. Kids work with clay, create objects and learn different painting techniques.
- **Beauvoir**, the National Cathedral Elementary School, 3500 Woodley Rd. NW, 202-537-6485, www.beauvoirschool.or or hsquire@cathedral.org. Camps open June 22 and run through Aug. 7 for children ages 3-10. On-site swimming pool is included.
- **Casa at Sheridan School**, 4400 36th St. NW, 202-507-7724, www.casaaatsheridan.org or casa@sheridanschool.org. Designed for children ages 3-16 who are interested in art, sports and performing arts.
- **Color Me Mine Art Adventures**, 823 Ellsworth Dr., Silver Spring, 301-565-5105, www.silverspring.colomemine.com or info@colorsilverspring.com. Multimedia art camp offering ceramic painting, clay hand building, mosaics and more for children ages 6-13. Week-long and half-day sessions are available.
- **CommuniKids Spanish Immersion Summer Fun Camp**, 3920 Alton Pl. NW, 202-363-0133, www.communikids.com or info@communikids.com. Half-day programs from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. provide a Spanish-language immersion setting for children 3-5 years old. Camp dates are July 6-Aug. 14.
- **Creative Adventures**, Silver Spring, 301-388-0847. A summer art camp conducted by local artists for children ages 6-12. Children will create multiple visual art projects, exploring a variety of materials and techniques.
- **Jabberu Adventure**, Bethesda, 888-951-11119, www.jabberu.com or info@jabberu.com. Activities-based immersion camps in French, Spanish, and Chinese - for children ages 3½ to 7. Half-day and weeklong camps are available.
- **Kids See D.C.**, 240-370-0290, www.kidssseedc.com. A full week of day trips and small groups as children ages 8-12 tour the Nation's Capital. Convenient pickup at Metro stations and a different itinerary each week. Camp runs from July 27 though Aug. 21.
- **Kids Therapy Works Over the Rainbow Camp**, 160 Randolph Rd., Silver Spring, 301-384-5081, ktw4kids.com or ktw4kids@verizon.net. A sensor/motor-based summer day camp for ages 3½ -12. Art, drama, music, sports, bicycling and swimming in a non-competitive atmosphere for campers with sensory integration problems.
- **Piano Adventure**, 1835 University Blvd., #320, Hyattsville, www.pianoadventure.net or pianoad99@aol.com. Fundamental musical training for children ages 4-12.
- **Strathmore Fine Art Caps and Workshops**, The Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, 401-581-5148. www.strathmore.org. Plain Air Art Workshop for ages 11-14 July 9-11; Strathmore Art camp for ages 5-7 Aug. 3-7; Strathmore Art Camp for ages 8-10 Aug. 10-14.
- **Sugarfoots Performing Arts Summer Camp**, Takoma DC, 202-723-8890, www.sugarfoots.clm or customerservice@sugarfoots.com. Children ages 5-13 will be instructed in acting, dance, art and music June 22-Aug. 13, with the campers putting on a performance at camp's end.
- **D.C. Jewish Community Center**, 1529 16th St. NW, 202-777-3270, www.washingtondcjcc.org/camp or alisons@washingtongdcjcc.org. Swimming, art, music, sports, cooking, theater trips, ice skating, community service and more for kids ages 4-17.
- **Washington International School Passport to Summer**, 1680 36th St. NW, 202-243-1791, www.wis.edu or summercamps@wis.edu. Languages, multimedia, technology arts, for children ages 3-16. August camps and extended day camps are available.

News from the Art Room!

The DCPS Citywide Student Art Exhibition, "Yes We Can—Creatively Communicate," began Saturday, April 4th, on the arrivals level of Reagan National Airport. It will run until May 31st. I am proud to say that Shepherd has 18 student artists on exhibit here. They are:

Aanisah Hasan, Andrea Resplandy, Adia Keene, Gretchen Hoff, and Thomas Gonnet from Ms. Kinsler's 1st grade; Jamal Deane from Ms. Johnson's 2nd grade; Carlos Barba and Kadija Cash-Taylor from Ms. Thurber's 2nd grade; Theo Biddle from Ms. Chambliss's 3rd grade; Ricardo Lindo, Kalaysia Hughes, and Sandra Stevenson from Ms. Thomas's 3rd grade; Deja Redd from Ms. Valentine-Nelson's 4th grade; Christian Hudson, Lucas Lindo, Kelly Palmer, and Joseph Weaver from Mr. Leonard's 5th grade; and Marc Loud from Ms. Ulba's 5th grade.

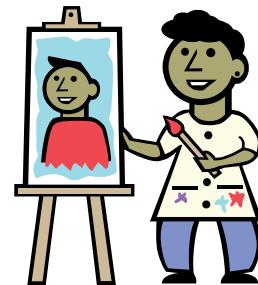
Go out and see this fabulous show and tell your friends! (All art show works, except that of Sandra Stevenson, are in the baggage area of Reagan National across from carousel 7. Sandra's work is near carousel 3.)

Remember to thank local art framer and Shepherd alum, Michael Hairston, whose matting makes the beautiful work of these students stand out among the best in show. He does this every year for us for pennies and deserves kudos for his continued interest and generosity to Shepherd. He's at 8395G Colesville Road in Silver Spring.

The Spring Auction items will include four (or more) abstract artwork arrays completed by the 5th and 6th grade students at Shepherd. Mr. Hairston who's seen a lot of art, thought they were the work of an adult artist. So get your eyes ready to feast on them and your pocketbook ready to bid. Look for these pieces to be on display at school in the next few weeks.

Flowers and family portraits are everywhere in the art room. Keep an eye out...

~ Ms. Michaud, Art Teacher



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.