



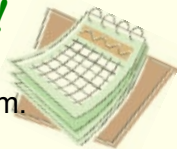
Shepherd Elementary School

# THE MUSTANG

Home of the Shepherd Mustangs

January 18, 2011

## Mark Your Calendars!



**Jan 19**—PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Jan 21**—End of 2nd advisory, 12:15 school dismissal

**Jan 24**—Pastries w/the Principal, 8:45 a.m.

**Jan 28**—On-line Pre-K registration opens (through Feb 28)

Visit <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/calendar/> for a month-by-month list of events and activities

## From the PTA President...

Dear Shepherd Parents,

The news came out Friday morning that D.C. Public Schools was scrapping the "Saturday Scholars" program to help boost DC-CAS test scores. A DCPS memo, according to the Washington Post, cited "limited effectiveness," as well as low attendance and budget pressures.

Our experience at Shepherd has proven different.

When we took part in Saturday Scholars two years ago, we had fine attendance. More importantly, it met the program's criterion of honest-to-goodness effectiveness.

With the news that Saturday Scholars has been discontinued, I have to tip my cap to Shepherd's parents and staff for devising the Afterschool Academy, which starts this week. We were smart to not wait for DCPS to do some heavy lifting for us; see what it would have gotten us?

We expect high attendance; our students are already in school. We expect effectiveness, based on the results we achieved two years ago. Participation and achievement are two areas central to fulfilling Shepherd's mission. As for the DCPS bugaboo of budget pressures, we feel them. We all feel them. The school squeezed out nearly

(see PTA President, page 13)

## A Word from Mrs. Miles!



Greetings Shepherd Family,

### DCBAS

The 3rd DCBAS assessment took place on January 11-13, 2011. Thank you for working to get your students to school on time, even on the day it snowed. The students were focused and reported to me that they did a good job. Preliminary results show progress in many areas but we can also clearly see the areas where we need to focus and devise a plan of action. Teachers will be sharing the final results with you in upcoming weeks.

### Snow Days

As most of you know, we rarely (I am hesitant to say never) miss school or delay school because of snow. If the TV says, "DCPS-No Report" that means DCPS is on a normal schedule. If there is a closing or delay, the TV will report, "DCPS Closed or 2 hour delay." The DCPS website will report nothing or occasionally it will report, "DCPS Open On-Time. In the event of inclement weather, I will send a call out between 7:30 a.m and 8:00 a.m. informing you of the status for the day. I urge you to listen to the message, versus calling the school because the school called you. On average, we receive anywhere between 75-100 calls between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. asking if school is in session. You can also go to the DCPS website and sign up to receive e-alerts about delays and school closings.

### Clothing

As stated in a previous message, it is our goal to go outside for recess every single day. Last week, the students had a fabulous time walking and playing in

(see MILES, page 7)



# Looking Ahead

**Wednesday, Feb. 9:**

**World Music Concert**

**Wednesday, Feb. 16:**

**Curriculum Night**

**Thursday, Feb. 17:**

**Family Dinner Night at Ledo Pizza**

**Friday, March 11:**

**Jazz Night**

**Mondays-Thursdays, April 4-7 and 11-14:**

**DC-CAS testing**

**Friday, April 22-Friday, April 29:**

**Spring Break**

**Friday, May 6:**

**Auction, Washington Ethical Society**

**Friday, May 13:**

**BWL and Strings Concert**

**Thursday, May 19:**

**Family Dinner Night at Comet Ping Pong**

**Friday, June 3:**

**International Day**

**Monday-Friday, June 6-10:**

**Spirit Week**

**Tuesday, June 14:**

**Fifth grade graduation**

**Wednesday, June 15:**

**Awards Day**

**Friday, June 17:**

**Last day of school; 12:15 p.m. dismissal**



Thanks to all the parents – and neighbors from the Shepherd Park neighborhood

-- who turned out for last Wednesday's Family Dinner Night at El Aguila restaurant in Silver Spring. At one point during the evening, we had nearly half the tables occupied. One cool gesture was that the guitarist took requests – including one from a couple of Shepherd students to sing "Guantanamera."

Thanks also to El Aguila for opening its doors to Shepherd. We did not have an estimate as of press time what the total generated for the PTA might be, but we certainly increased its weeknight business!

And start whetting your appetite for our next Family Dinner Night – Thursday, Feb. 17, at LEDO PIZZA!

We have winners for the recycling poster contest! Congratulations go

to two students: **Josiah Marable** from Mr. Leonard's 5th grade class, and **Leela Mehta-Harwitz** from Mrs. Crockett's 1st grade. They'll be getting gift cards for their wonderful efforts to help the Green and Gold of Shepherd "Go Green!"

**Shepherd's  
"Recycling"  
Poster Contest  
Winners**

PTA meeting

**Wednesday, January 19****6:30 p.m. SHARP!  
School Cafeteria**

- **MORE** of the latest school news
- **MORE** delicious Ledo Pizza (and bottled water, too)
- **MORE** free books (but a limited supply this time!)
- **MORE** uniform sales at \$1 an item
- **MORE** G-rated movies in the auditorium for your kids!



**PLUS** — reports from the principal, the PTA president and treasurer, and updates on Jazz Night, the Auction, the Brick fundraiser, the Green Team, the garden initiative — and even **MORE**.

## Meet Our New Assistant Treasurer

PTA treasurer Lisa Connor was accepted into the prestigious (a word not to be tossed around lightly) Harvard Trade Union Program. It is a six-week crash course in how to improve unions and mobilize their members more effectively. Lisa has worked for the National Education Association for a number of years, and she was lucky enough to win the NEA's slot in the Harvard program.

The down side is that the program takes six weeks, and it's up in the Boston-Cambridge area, pulling her away from her life in Washington, including her treasurer duties.

Not to fear, though. Her husband, Amby, has stepped into the breach to keep things running smoothly. And, since Lisa will be home virtually every weekend, certain aspects of the job can be collaborated upon. Let's give our thanks to both of the Connors for devising this solution.



Thanks to stalwart Shepherd parent Star Downing for agreeing to run the used uniform clothing sales in 2011. Star took over for a parent who had transferred her child to another school. You can thank Star – and your lucky stars – at the next PTA meeting, as she will be offering new (to us) used uniform pieces at \$1 an item. Bulk orders welcome!

## Angry Child? Fix the Behavior, Not the Feelings

by James Lehman, MSW

from [www.empoweringparents.com](http://www.empoweringparents.com)



Many parents make the mistake of assuming that since their child's behavior is connected to their feelings, fixing the feelings will fix the behavior. Unfortunately, nothing could be further from the truth. It's critical for parents to understand that processing your child's feelings while they are happening is not constructive. Children become overwhelmed with emotions, and by the time they're feeling angry or resentful, you're already way into a negative situation. The time to teach kids about fire safety is not when the curtains are burning. In the same way, appropriate behavior is best learned before the crisis. And make no bones about it, if your child is screaming, yelling or punching things, you are already in crisis mode. I like to remind parents that the Chinese symbol for crisis is a combination of the characters for "danger" and "opportunity." So when your child acts out, although it's a dangerous situation, also remember that it presents a good opportunity for learning to take place.

Many parents try to deal with their child's emotions first because they believe that's where the bad behavior is coming from. If your child gets angry and smashes his sister's dollhouse, asking him, "Why did you get angry?" or "Why did you do that?" is ineffective. It focuses on the emotion or the act itself, not the child's thinking behind the behavior, which is what you really need to address. Your goal is to help your

child solve the problem from which his feelings emanate, the thinking that sparks the emotion. The key is to focus on the underlying thinking and the faulty problem-solving that triggers the whole crisis.

It's important to acknowledge that most kids solve problems by being compliant. For instance, when you tell one child, "You can't ride your bike, it's too close to dinner," that child might shrug and say, "OK," and come into the house. But some kids solve problems by being defiant. If you tell another child exactly the same thing, he might answer you with, "I don't care. Ben rides his bike! Why do I have to do this?" He

starts raising his voice, getting more and more frustrated and angry. The underlying thought for the kid who acts out is probably something like, "This isn't fair, you don't have the right to stop me, other parents let their kids do it," or some other thought which triggers a negative emotional response. Focusing this kid on his feelings of anger and frustration will not change his behavior.

Instead, you have to focus him instead on the original thought or perception that made him think your direction wasn't fair, and the inappropriate behavior he used to solve the problem of "fairness." In life, the problem for everyone—including your child—is that things are not always going to feel fair. There's injustice in life, and injustice leads to frustration. Or there are times when you want to do something, but it's just not the right time. And that can lead to frustration and anger for your child if he doesn't process it the right way.

(see ANGRY, page 5)

*"...help your  
child solve the  
problem from  
which his  
feelings  
emanate..."*



**ANGRY** from p.4 \_\_\_\_\_

How do you start effecting this change in your child's perceptions? The next time your child acts out, instead of asking him why he did it, try saying, "Let's look at what you do when you get angry." That way, you're teaching him that he's angry and getting him to look at what he's doing with the anger. The primary goal of behavioral change is to get people to do something different when they're upset, angry or afraid. The next step is to ask,



"The next time this happens, what can you do differently?" Don't try to tell him, "You shouldn't feel this way," or "Those feelings aren't valid." Just say, "The next time you feel this way, what can you do differently?" It's a very different process than the one that begins with "Why do you feel that way?" or "Why did you do that?" When you ask those questions, you're going to get all the excuses and justifications, which are so detrimental to actual problem-solving.

Make the shift. Focus on your child's thinking, not his emotions. This is the most powerful step you can make toward changing his behavior.

Submitted by Amber Golden,  
Health and Wellness Committee  
[amberagolden@gmail.com](mailto:amberagolden@gmail.com)



***INTRODUCING...  
THE SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY  
MUSTANG BOYS' BASKETBALL  
TEAM!***

**Steven Adams  
Theo Biddle  
Jaylen Carter  
Jamal Deane  
Karim Diaite  
Devon Dunn  
Jaden Inniss  
Immanuel Jones  
Alexander Leonard  
Ricardo Lindo  
Aidan Link  
Josiah Marable  
Eric Martinez  
Jerrod Nolan  
Caleb Okechukwu  
Philemon Powell  
Kenneth Redman  
Jason Tyner**



## **Color Me Mine Nets PTA \$486**

Deep thanks to all of the parent organizers – and student artists – who went to Color Me Mine for a Shepherd fundraiser last month. The PTA got half of the night's proceeds from our fundraiser, and the Color Me Mine night netted \$486 – as well as lots of prettily painted candles and puppies and boxes! This was our third annual Color Me Mine fundraiser, and you can bet we'll do again next school year, too!

## 'What Do You Mean There's No School?'



Don't get caught off-guard on days when there's no school or just a half-day. Just because grown-ups are expected to work every weekday doesn't mean that our children follow the exact same schedule. Mark these dates on your new 2011 wall calendar (or slip them into your smart phone) so that you're up on what's going down:

- ▶ **Friday, Jan. 21:** End of second advisory -- out at 12:15 p.m.
- ▶ **Friday, Feb. 18:** Professional development -- no school
- ▶ **Monday, Feb. 21:** Presidents Day -- no school
- ▶ **Monday, Feb. 28:** Parent-teacher conferences -- no classes (but school's open)
- ▶ **Friday, March 18:** Professional development -- no school
- ▶ **Friday, March 25:** End of third advisory -- out at 12:15 p.m.
- ▶ **Friday, April 15:** D.C. Emancipation Day -- no school
- ▶ **Monday, April 18-Monday, April 25:** Spring break -- no school
- ▶ **Monday, May 16:** Parent-teacher conferences -- no classes (but school's open)
- ▶ **Monday, May 30:** Memorial Day -- no school
- ▶ **Friday, June 17:** Last day of school -- out at 12:15 p.m.



Shepherd Elementary seeks volunteers in two specific areas:

- ◆ Mornings – Early Readers program, Mondays-Fridays, 8:15-8:45 a.m.
- ◆ Afternoons: Carpool duty, 2:30-3:15 p.m.

If you have an interest in one or both, get in touch with Mrs. Miles, the principal, at [Jamie.miles@dc.gov](mailto:Jamie.miles@dc.gov). She will fill you in on the specifics of the volunteer jobs.

## 'My School' Display

Hello Shepherd Students!



We are planning to make a display and would like to compile and put your writing on it. The title is "My School."

We are asking you to write a short paragraph or a poem about your experiences in our school. The three best writings (related to the topic, right size, creative) will receive a prize.

Please:

- ◆ Write legibly or type
- ◆ Use standard 8 –1/2" x 11" paper
- ◆ Be creative

You can use sentence starters like:

- ◆ "My teacher makes me feel \_\_\_\_\_ because..."
- ◆ "The atmosphere of our school....."
- ◆ "I like my art/music/ PE class..."
- ◆ "Our library..."
- ◆ "In the lunch room, whenever..."
- ◆ "I like how I learn \_\_\_\_\_ in our school and I think it is because..."
- ◆ "I like the attitude of my teacher because..."
- ◆ "Learning French/English has made me..."
- ◆ "Our ESL teacher has..."

These are some ideas. Please try to be as creative as possible.

Good luck!

PS: The deadline is January 28, 2011. Please submit your work to Ms. Bush or Ms. Moorefield.

MILES from p.1 \_\_\_\_\_

the snow. PLEASE send your student to school with gloves and hats. Please send a hat even if your child's coat has a hood. Often times during play the hood on the coat will not remain on and this leaves heads and ears exposed. Also, please be sure to label all clothing items so that we can get the dropped hat or glove back to its owner before the end of the day.

### **Sickness**

Please take your student's complaints seriously and do not send your student to school with a fever, sore throat, etc. This will help reduce some of the germs floating through the building.

### **Pastries with the Principal**

This month's Pastries with the Principal will take place on January 24, 2010 at 8:45 a.m. in the school's library. All are invited to attend and participate in this informal dialogue.

### **Takoma Educational Center**

As many of you may have heard, our neighboring school, Takoma Educational Center, experienced a major fire. Teachers for grades K-5 lost everything. Though the District has done well providing them with some resources, their needs are far greater. Therefore, I am seeking your assistance. During the week of January 16, 2011, we will be collecting notebook paper, composition books, crayons, pencils, children's books, glue sticks, pocket folders, hand sanitizer, American Express gift cards, etc. Please bring or send your items to Shepherd by 12 noon on Friday and we will deliver the items to Takoma at Myers Friday. Thank you for your support.

### **Shepherd Book Club**

Please join me for our first Shepherd Book Club meeting. The book of the month is The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander: From Preschool to High

School--How Parents and Teachers Can Help Break the Cycle of Violence by Barbara Coloroso. As a school community, we want to make sure we are doing our part to make sure all students feel safe. The book can be purchased at your local bookstore or online.

When: January 19, 2010

Time: 5:30 pm (before the PTA Meeting)

Where: School Library

Participants were asked to RSVP no later than January 10. At this point, I have received only one RSVP. If you plan to attend, please email me TODAY (Tuesday, January 18).

### **Shepherd's Afterschool Scholars Program**

Afterschool Scholars will begin on Tuesday, January 18, 2011. Please note the new start date!! Invitees will receive additional information this week.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

Curriculum Night 2011 will be held on February 16, 2011. This will be a family event filled with fun and games. More information will be coming soon.

Have a great week!

Regards,

*Jamie Miles*

Principal, Shepherd Elementary

### **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.



## Congrats to the New Councilmember!

Shepherd parent Sekou Biddle was the winner in a Jan. 6 vote by the D.C. Democratic State Committee to temporarily fill a vacancy on the D.C. Council caused by the election of Kwame Brown as council chair. Brown had served as an at-large councilmember, but with his ascent (made possible by Vincent Gray's mayoral run), the vacancy was created.



Sekou has served in recent years as Ward 4's representative on the D.C. State Board of Education. At Back to School Night in September, he gave a quick rundown of the board's activities.

A special election will be conducted District-wide on Tuesday, April 26, to permanently fill the vacancy, and Sekou has already said he intends to run for the post. Keep in mind that Shepherd Elementary is home to Precinct 62, with the voting taking place in the auditorium from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## 'TV Turn-Off' Is a Real Turn-On

Go to the rack outside the main office and snatch up your own copy for the TV Turn-Off signup sheet. There's no better way for you to teach your children what New Year's resolutions can be all about. And the cause is extremely worthy: Cut back – or eliminate entirely – your child's TV watching on "school nights" (Sunday through Thursday). Fill out the form and return it to the school office. Shepherd wants to be able to recognize those students who took the courageous step of reducing their TV watching when Big Media wants us all to watch more and more! Parents who monitor their kids' TV habits and enforce the TV Turn-Off agreement also deserve everyone's special thanks. (You can also print a copy of the form by going to the school's website at <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/docs/tvturnoff2010.pdf>.)



## Book Club Starts!

Shepherd parents and staff are invited to join a new Shepherd Book Club.

The first meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 19, at 5:30 p.m. in the school library. It will be an hour-long meeting, as it falls just before the PTA meeting that evening. A light dinner will be served, so you must get in touch to RSVP with Mrs. Miles, the principal, at [Jamie.miles@dc.gov](mailto:Jamie.miles@dc.gov).



The first book for discussion: Barbara Coloroso's *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander: From Preschool to High School - How Parents and Teachers Can Help Break the Cycle*, updated edition. You can order it new from Amazon.com for \$10.19, or used from \$5.63. Better yet, support our local bookstores by buying it in person!

The point of the January book discussion: how, as a school community, we can make sure we are doing our part to make sure all students feel safe.

## Brick by Brick: Laying 'Em Down

We're continuing to make progress on our Brick By Brick fundraiser. This month, at its membership meeting, the Shepherd Park Citizens Association voted to buy FOUR bricks without even knowing how much they cost. And the mother of a Shepherd Park alumnus turned in money to buy a pair of bricks.

Now it's our turn. Use the form printed in the last issue of the Mustang to place your order, or go online to <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/support-us/brick-by-brick/> -- there, you'll have your choice of printing an order form and filling it out and paying by check (made out to Shepherd Elementary PTA), all of which can be deposited into the PTA box in the school office, or doing it ALL online, including the inscriptions you want on your bricks and being able to pay by credit card.



Look to the next issue of the Mustang for some sample messages you could write on your bricks!





Dear Shepherd Parents and Caregivers:

Happy Winter Days! And the art beat goes on.

Beautiful mural panels painted by 4th and 5th graders grace the walls of the Kalmia wing. PreK is just finished their Snowy-day collage project. First graders painted expressive responses to the Nutcracker Ballet's lovely music. Second graders are making storyboards of

the fable, 'Tortoise and the Hare.' Kindergartners have painted pictures of art room tools and media in their study of 'Objects Around Us.' Third graders are creating interesting sketches in the style of contemporary artist Kojo Griffin, who paints human figures with toy heads. In the coming weeks we will be working on arts and crafts from around the world to coincide with the World Music Concert on February 25th! Stay tuned for more exciting news about that.

GRADES 3, 4, AND 5--Art Homework continues every week, and your child's report card grade reflects his or her active participation in art homework. A number of students still have NOT submitted all of their art homework assignments. Please ask to see your child's art sketchbook and see if they have completed assignments #8 through #15. If there is any special problem securing a sketchbook for your child please contact me at [joele.michaud@dc.gov](mailto:joele.michaud@dc.gov) or stop by my room and I will be happy to assist with that. Now we are ending the 2nd Advisory and old assignments will be removed from the art room website. New assignments for the 3rd advisory will be listed in the Homework Section of the art website <http://teacherweb.com/DC/Shepherd/Art/> and art vocabulary will be listed in the FAQ section of it. NEW: Now there is a scoring guide (rubric) for homework on the website. Look on the homepage at the lower right hand corner. Here is where you will see how homework is actually scored.

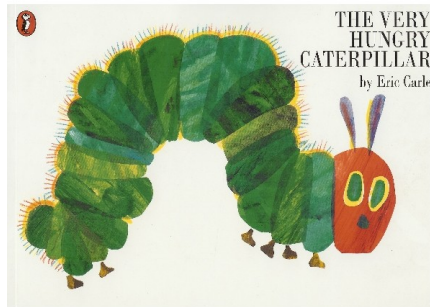
Don't hesitate to ask any questions you have about art by emailing me at [joele.michaud@dc.gov](mailto:joele.michaud@dc.gov). I welcome all inquiries. Many parents have contacted me. See the FAQ section to learn when I am free if you need to see me in person. Please call or e-mail me to make an appointment so I can allot you the time you need to express your concern. Remember, we need more hand wipes for all the painting and messy art processes that are about to start. Thanks to all for your support!

Remember! You gotta have Art!

*Ms. Michaud*

## ?? Questions, Questions ??

One of the things we are focused on, as a school full of inquirers, is asking questions to drive our learning. In the library, every read-aloud session is punctuated with a number of questions, and even a few answers. All questions, however, are not created equal. When it comes to books, some questions are fairly easy, as the answers are right there in the text, with the words usually found in the same sentence: What did the Very Hungry Caterpillar eat on Tuesday?



When was George Washington born? Other questions are a bit harder, requiring you to look in more than one place and put the information together: What are some of the things robots are used for?

What are some of the words Charlotte wrote in her web? The most challenging types of questions require you to read and think about what is in the book, and respond to it with your own opinions and/or experiences: How do you think your life would be different if you lived in a medieval castle (when reading a nonfiction book about castles and medieval life)? What do you think might have happened at the stroke of midnight if Cinderella hadn't run away from the prince and he'd seen her in her rags?

By now, you may well have a question of your own: what on earth is she going on about? What is all this talk about questions? Well, as Mrs. Miles mentioned in a previous issue of The

(see **READING**, page 11)

### RESCHEDULED

### LSAT to Meet Jan. 27

The Local School Advisory Team has rescheduled its Jan. 11 meeting to Thursday, Jan. 27.

It will start at 3:45 p.m. in the school library. LSAT meetings are open to the public, but when confidential matters are discussed, the public has to leave. Confidential matters are already on the agenda for the Jan. 27 meeting, so any non-confidential agenda item will be handled first so that the public does not have to cool its heels for long stretches.

### Snider's Receipts Program Extended to Jan. 28

Since our last announcement in The Mustang, the deadline to turn in receipts from Snider's Super Foods in Silver Spring has been extended to Friday, Jan. 28. Please put any and all receipts in an envelope, write "Snider's" on the front of the envelope, and place them in the PTA box. Shepherd gets 1 percent of the total of every receipt turned in!

## Shepherd School Pledge

**Today is a new day!**

**I will respect the rights of others.**

**I will treat all property with respect.**

**I will take responsibility for my learning.**

**I will take responsibility for my actions.**

**I will act in a safe and healthy way.**

**Today I will be the best me I can be!**

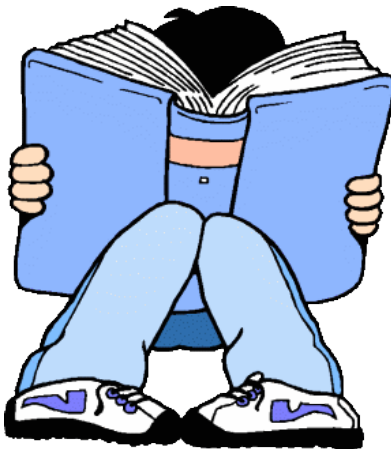
**READING, from p. 10** \_\_\_\_\_

Mustang, we are planning a (still unnamed - any suggestions?) reading program this year, one with a twist. The twist is that, instead of answering the types of questions that will merely verify if a student has read any given book, the student will be asked to share the book with a parent. Whether you read the book or not is up to you, but we request that you at least discuss it with your child, so you can both move on to the next stage, which is to ask and answer three questions based on the reading.

Not just any type of questions, either, but challenging questions where you really need to think about the text, as in the examples given above about the medieval castle and Cinderella. Your child may make up the questions and you answer them, or you may ask the questions and have your child answer them, or you may split the asking and answering between you. We will be sending home a form on which you or your child can record the questions you come up with and the answers you give, and your child will then return the form to me in the library.

Every month we will have a reader recognition ceremony, similar to Terrific Kids, BUGS or IB student of the month, where certificates will be presented to the students at each grade level who have read the most books and completed the ask and answer forms. We will also present certificates to those student/parent combos at each grade level who, in our opinion (our in this case being me, Mrs. Miles, and our reading specialists) have come up with the best, most thought-provoking questions. At the end of the year we will have some sort of grand prize ceremony and celebration for all participants, students and parents, details TBD.

You may select whatever type of reading materials appeal to your child--fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels



--all we ask is that the books be at your child's reading level. If you would like help selecting a book, or could use a little more clarification about the types of questions we're looking for, please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to help you. I realize this is a bit more complicated than the traditional type of reading program, but as an IB school we are always trying to push our boundaries a bit, and we're looking forward to seeing where we can go with this with your cooperation. Thanks, and stay tuned for further details, program start date, and the necessary forms, which we will also try to have available for download from the website so you can print them off at home.

—*Ms. Scinto*  
Shepherd Librarian



### Do You Remember Trick or Treat for UNICEF?

Even after a month and a half of Trick or Treat for UNICEF boxes coming in, a couple of more boxes were dropped off at the office just before winter break. The money was counted and a third (and last!) check was sent to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. Our new and final total is (drum roll, please), \$325.62. Thanks to one and all who contributed!





## It's Meetin' Time Again!

Get in on the ground floor of school governance, from DCPS headquarters to PTA committees. It's your opportunity to give input and share in decision-making. Be the first one on your block to get the lowdown on what's happening. Here's an overview of meetings scheduled for the rest of the school year:

- Wed, Jan. 19: PTA, 6:30 p.m., cafeteria (NOTE START TIME!)
- Mon, Jan. 24: Pastries With the Principal, 8:45 a.m., library
- Thurs, Jan. 27: Local School Advisory Team (LSAT), 3:45 p.m., library
- Tues, Feb. 8: LSAT, 3:45 p.m., library
- Mon, Feb. 28: Parent-teacher conferences, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 8: LSAT, 3:45 p.m., library
- Wed, March 16: PTA, 6:45 p.m., cafeteria
- Wed, April 20: PTA, 6:45 p.m., cafeteria
- Tues, May 10: LSAT, 3:45 p.m., library
- Mon May 16: Parent-teacher conferences, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Wed, May 18: LSAT elections, 7:30-9 a.m. and 3-7:30 p.m.

- Wed, May 18: PTA, 6:45 p.m., cafeteria (including LSAT election results and PTA nominations/elections)

A brief rundown of the above meetings:

- ♦ Every Shepherd parent is a PTA member and can vote on items that come up during the PTA meeting.
- ♦ Shepherd parents and staff are welcome to sit in on LSAT meetings, although they may have to excuse themselves when confidential issues are discussed.
- ♦ If it's not "Pastries With the Principal," it's "Snacks With the Principal" and maybe even "Lunch With the Principal." They're held usually once a month and at different times of the day to attract parents with different schedules.
- ♦ Parent-teacher conferences are vital for parents to keep track of their child's learning. Homeroom teachers and "specials" (language, music, art, phys ed and others) teachers are available for conferences.

Look to The Mustang and the PTA listserv for news on these and other meetings as they arise.

Shepherd Elementary **STRONGLY** recommends that parents make sure their children are dressed appropriately for wintry weather. Recess is outdoors even at 32 degrees Fahrenheit (that's the temperature where water freezes and ice melts). That may include hats and gloves. Don't let your child complain of being cold when there's no reason for it. And remember to look at the Lost and Found in the auditorium vestibule for lost gloves, mittens, hats, scarves and even coats.



## We're a No-Toy School

NO TOYS of any sort are allowed at Shepherd Elementary. This is especially the case as children are all too eager to show friends and classmates what they may have found wrapped up under their Christmas tree. Look in their book bags, their backpacks, and even their pockets, but no toys are allowed. And the school cannot and will not be responsible for lost, broken or stolen toys.





## Shepherd IB PYP Corner

classes will be reflecting on their unit of study. Parents, a Learner Profile Reflection Sheet is coming home with your child for you to provide your thoughts and reflection about your child as an open minded student. Please complete it and send it back to school, as soon as possible.

For the month of December, all classes learned about Holidays around the World. Some of these holidays included Ramadan, Kwanza, and Hanukah. The Language Department focused on Christmas in other countries around the world and Mrs. Crockett's First grade class made their traditional Ginger Bread house.

Our IB Assembly for open-minded students took place on Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Our second graders performed a medley of songs that represented different cultures around the world. Being Open-minded means "you have an interest in new ideas. You accept that the way you think of something (or your belief) may be different from others, and that you may need to change how you feel about something after you have found out more about it". Congratulations go out to those students who were recognized as open-minded students:

Nicholas Anagnostopoulos	Mario Imbroscio
Nelson Alston	Morgan Jealous
Janessa Perry	Cierra Barnette
Stephen Levine	Makayla Kennedy
Nina Sinkford	Aileen Santacruz
Yonatan Tussa	Jasmyn Brothers
Escada Zackery	Masai Jenkins
Cyntia Pattison	Nino Imbroscio
Clarque Kelley	Carlita Garrett
Aanisah Hasan	Michael White
Cecelia Sneed	Leah Percy
Jerrold Nolan	Hannah Schuster
Caleb Okechukwu	Fama Sissoko
Leslie Rodriguez	Darwin Hayes
Preston Evans	

This Month I challenge all of you to think outside the box!!!!!!

- Have you **tried a new sport**?
- Have you gone **travelling** to discover and find out about new cultures?
- Are you happy to **try new foods** that you have not seen before?

Happy New Year Shepherd Community! Welcome back to the New Year of 2011. This week marks the last week for the study of our second IB Unit. Next week, all

- Have you investigated the different sections of your library and tried books that **you have not seen before**?

This month, the Learner Profile trait is **Risk Taker**. A risk taker is someone who approaches unfamiliar situations with courage; someone who has the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies; and someone who is brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

On Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, the 5th Grade students performed a program involving "Songs of the Civil Rights Movement" in the auditorium. This program is part of the 5th grade I.B. unit "Know Your Rights" and also a follow-up to the 5th grade trip to the Kennedy Center. At the Kennedy Center they saw and learned about excerpts of operas which were a teaching tool to prepare them for the writing of their own script. The script for the program was written by the 5th graders with the assistance of a teaching artist provided by the National Opera. Our 4th grade students were the audience for this 5th grade performance.

Have a Super Week!

— *Sandra Hart*, IB Coordinator

### PTA President (continued from page 1)

\$5,000 from its budget to fund Afternoon Academy, and the PTA is paying the balance, which is well over \$6,000.

But, to be truthful, we need more parents to commit to the 180 Fund. Go to <http://www.shepherd-elementary.org/support-us/180-fund/> and you can choose to pay with a check or online with your credit card. Further, we have dozens of parents who have pledged to the 180 Fund but have not as of yet made payments. We'll be calling those parents before the month is out, reminding them of their commitment and how crucial it is for the success of the PTA in particular, and the school in general.

I've said in half jest ever since my daughter came to Shepherd in pre-K, but it's still true: There's no such thing as a "free public education." Let's all pitch in, shall we?

Best wishes,

*Mark Pattison*

PTA president

829-9289, [pattison\\_mark@hotmail.com](mailto:pattison_mark@hotmail.com)



## New Poll

The third PTA poll is currently posted on the PTA's Yahoo Groups web page. The poll question asks: What are good examples of family involvement at Shepherd?

You have an even dozen examples from which to choose, and you can choose as many of them as you like. The goal of the poll is to see which forms of family involvement work best, and the goal of the PTA is to encourage greater family involvement in the life of the school. The choices are:

- Families read together every day
- Family fundraisers: Dinner Night, other activities
- Family Math and Reading Night/Family Curriculum Night
- Labor Day weekend cookout
- Listserv and website
- 180 Fund
- PTA
- Parents check homework and make sure it is turned in
- School directory
- Student recognition ceremonies
- Other (specify)

The poll will close at mid-afternoon Wednesday, and we hope to be able to report the results at the PTA meeting that evening. To take the poll, go to [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Shepherd\\_Elementary\\_PTA/surveys?id=2344283](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Shepherd_Elementary_PTA/surveys?id=2344283)

## Box Tops for Education

- ♦ Go to [www.bboxtops4education.com](http://www.bboxtops4education.com) to see list of eligible products and marketplace vendors.
- ♦ Put Box Tops into Collection Box in Main Office.
- ♦ Shop through the Box Tops Marketplace when doing on-line shopping.



## The New Phone Book's Here!



The 2010-11 Shepherd Elementary School Directory is (finally!) out of the hands of the printer and now available in the school office. If you have not yet gotten your copy yet through your child's backpack, please ask at the office for a copy of your own.

You may also get the directory as an e-mail attachment by sending a request to [sescommcmte@gmail.com](mailto:sescommcmte@gmail.com).

**Deadline for Jan 31 Mustang:**  
**Fri, Jan. 28, at 5 p.m.**

Send all contributions to:  
**[sesmustang@gmail.com](mailto:sesmustang@gmail.com)**



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