

**October is National Principal
Appreciation Month and also on
October 2nd was National Custodian
Appreciation Day!!!!**



**Many many thanks to ALL of our
Principals, Assistant Principals,
and Custodians!!!**

Dates to Remember:

November 1 1/2 Day for Students
Full Day Teachers

November 1 - 15 3rd and Final School of
Choice Window opens

****Holiday Outreach information
is on the last page of this
newsletter.**



Superintendent's Corner

Let's face it. It's a challenging time to work in education. Principals feel that heat from all angles as they work to support teachers, students, and families in the educational process. Their guidance means more now than ever.

NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH- October is National Principals Month, which gives the school community the perfect opportunity to recognize that position's significant influence. Principals set the tone for the building, keeping things running smoothly from the cafeteria to classrooms and the playground. It's the kind of job that starts early in the morning and goes well into the evening, regardless of scheduled school days and hours. Duties are too numerous to note, and responsibilities go far beyond the care and education of students. It's an all-encompassing career choice with one goal- executing an academic vision for the school. Taking a little time to show appreciation makes a big difference. (Resource: Reflexmath.com)

HALLOWEEN AT SCHOOL- Spooky season's arriving, and the time of wearing funny costumes is here! Every October 31st comes with a variety of traditions, from trick-or-treating for candy at people's houses to making delicious Halloween party favors to serve at a Halloween party. If you are new to Shepherd Public Schools it is advised you check with your child's school to determine how this event is handled. From the superintendent's perspective, it is important that in all we do we are honoring all safety protocols regularly in place daily throughout the district. First and foremost is keeping all our BlueJays safe at all times, especially during celebrations.

NATIONAL BOOK MONTH- Each October, National Book Month allows us to celebrate and expand our love of reading. As the warm temperatures start to leave us for the winter, it's the perfect time to put on some cozy slippers, have a cup of tea and curl up on the couch with a good book. It's easy to get caught up in the busyness of everyday life and forget to enjoy the little things. Many of us put our relaxing hobbies like reading on the backburner, but this month, pick up a few new books and make time to read them. It's a great hobby to get into! (Resource: Nationaldaycalendar.com)

RELATIONSHIPS- Every day in every way our goal is to continuously improve the relationships that exist in-and-around the educating we all do of Shepherd Public Schools children. Although none of us is by any means perfect, we must constantly strive toward improved healthy, loving, caring and lasting relationships. It is our ongoing responsibility to exhibit and model how to live out the maxim, "They don't care how much you know - UNTIL they know how much you care." When we can consistently illustrate healthy and lasting relationships in and amongst ourselves, that behavior can be more easily taught and more visibly caught by our students!

That is it for this October Jay News message. The superintendent's office is always open!!

New Teacher Spotlight



Danielle Donegan
Shepherd Elementary
4th Grade Teacher

Danielle grew up in Livonia, Michigan and graduated from Livonia Public Schools. She attended CMU for her teaching degree. She was working at the West Midland Family Center - Preschool before joining the BlueJay Family. What motivates her to teach SPS students is getting to see the kids have their “aha” moments when learning something new! She is most proud of getting to teach in Ireland for 2 weeks through CMU. Her friends would describe her as thoughtful, intelligent, creative and kind hearted. Her favorite concert so far is Halsey: ICHLIWP. Her hobbies consist of painting and hiking and her hidden talent is her knack for rock tumbling. Her favorite season is summer because she loves warm weather and having pool days! If she could take someone famous out to lunch, she would choose Taylor Swift because she is a creative literary genius!!! Welcome DANIELLE!!!



Henry VanLoon
Shepherd High School
ELA Teacher

Henry grew up in New Baltimore, Michigan and attended Anchor Bay High School. He earned his teaching degree at CMU. Before coming to Shepherd, he taught at Ford II High School and Stevenson High School in Sterling Heights and Roberto Clemente Community Academy in Chicago. What motivates him to work with SPS students everyday is that Shepherd Schools is such an important part of the community, and I'm motivated to get to know my students and their families. He is super proud of accomplishing one of his lifelong dreams: He heard his band on the radio! His friends would describe him as a creative guy who's funny (and a little cheesy). His favorite concert so far was seeing Andrew Bird in Ann Arbor last spring, and said the show was incredible. His hidden talents/hobbies are playing guitar, singing in a band, and joining a sim racing league last year. He loves the fall because it reminds him of the start of the school year, beginning of sweater weather and Halloween. If he could go to heaven and take someone to lunch, it would be Shakespeare, because he has been teaching it for ten years and has a lot of questions to ask. Welcome HENRY!

New Teacher Spotlight



Ashley Merritt
Winn Elementary
Kindergarten

Ashley is here from Mt. Pleasant where she attended the Christian Academy and Mt. Pleasant Public Schools. She earned her teaching degree from CMU and worked at St. Louis Public Schools before joining the BlueJay Family. What motivates her to work with SPS students is the amazing community Shepherd has and the excitement that each student brings. She is proud of the fact that she had the courage to quit her previous teaching position in order to stay home to raise her babies full time. Her friends would describe her as supportive and loyal. Her favorite concert attended so far was Scotty McCreery at The Intersection in Grand Rapids. Her hidden talents are taking care of a mini homestead, gardening, and raising chickens. Summer is her favorite season because of the warmth and outdoor activities. Fall is a close second with the excitement of a new school year and color changing trees. If she could go to heaven and take someone to lunch, it would be her Grandma Judy because she didn't get to spend much time with her before she passed away. Welcome ASHLEY!



Savanna Peraino
Winn and Shepherd El.
Music Teacher

Savanna has joined us from Fraser, Michigan where she attended Fraser Public Schools. She attended Siena Heights University for her teaching degree. She worked at Midland Public Schools before coming to Shepherd Public Schools. What motivates her to teach SPS students is being able to connect through music and help all of her students fall in love with music! She is proud of her ability to graduate from a 4 year university essentially as a double major and the gift of being able to play/sing. Her friends would describe her as caring, passionate and patient. The best concert she ever attended was the Trans Siberian Orchestra. In her free time you can find her riding her dirt bike with family and friends. In her favorite season, winter, you can find her on the slopes because she loves to ski. If she could go to heaven and take someone to lunch, she would take her great grandfather because of their strong bond and him being her biggest supporter, she would want to share her big win with him! Welcome SAVANNA!

Shepherd Elementary

Our 4th graders had the chance to visit Bryant Farms for Rural Education Day. Thank you for hosting us!

Thanks to a Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% grant written by Mrs. Sponseller, students have the opportunity to pick out a book on their birthday. Here, Mrs. Sponseller is pictured with Ryder Erickson, the first student from her class to have a 23/24 birthday.



This month, our school wide theme is skills for learning:

Listening: our eyes are watching the speaker, our ears are listening, our voices are quiet, and we're still.

Focusing attention: we use our ears, our eyes, and our brain!

Self-talk: talking to ourselves in a quiet voice or in our heads. Self-talk can help us stay on task and focus attention.

Being assertive: asking for what you need or want in a calm, firm, respectful way. Face the person you are talking to, and keep your head up and shoulders back.



Our next Coffee with the Principal will take place on October 20 at 8:30AM.

Winn Elementary

Homecoming Fun

Winn had a week full of fun and excitement during the week of homecoming. We had SHS athletes join us to read some great books. We also had an amazing pep assembly! We were so happy to welcome the football players, cheerleaders, pom squad, and band to our new school. Thanks to the Winn Parent Club for our cool new Winn shirts. Every student and staff member in the school received a shirt for Blue & Gold day. We closed out the week with marching in the homecoming parade. We love being Shepherd BlueJays!



Winn Fall Festival

Winn Elementary is hosting its annual "Fall Festival," on October 7, 2023 from 1:00-5:00pm. This is our one and only fundraiser for the year. We welcome the community to join us at this special event.



Shepherd Board of Education

Begins the New School Year at Winn

Winn Elementary hosted the first Board meeting of the school year at Winn Elementary. We welcomed back all of the workers who helped get our new school ready. We gave the Winn crew and the Shepherd Board a tour of the building. We also welcomed Lon Morey and Erik Spindler to the tour to thank them for our new building. In honor of this moment, we shared a special video for everyone that documented the journey of our new little school!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDRNYJ8oYuw>



Thank you to Katie Showalter and Rachel Yuncker for reading to 5th grade, as student athletes, to celebrate Homecoming Week! Katie is a former "WINNER" too!

Shepherd High

College & Career Fair - We Need YOU!

We will be hosting our annual College & Career Fair on December 8th. We have added mock interviews, panel discussions, and resume feedback to our career fair. How can you participate? Provide a mock interview for students, be on a panel to answer questions regarding the world of work, or set up a table and talk to students one-on-one about careers with your business or career path. If you are interested in participating, please complete the form or direct others to our website to sign up for the College & Career Fair.

*Thank you for a
great 2023
Homecoming!!*



We welcomed our LINKS German Exchange students on September 27.

We have been busy showing them life as a BlueJay ever since! They have visited classes, taken a tour of Shepherd, experienced all the Homecoming traditions, taken trips both in and out of the state, and built lasting friendships with their host families.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 10 - Prime Time

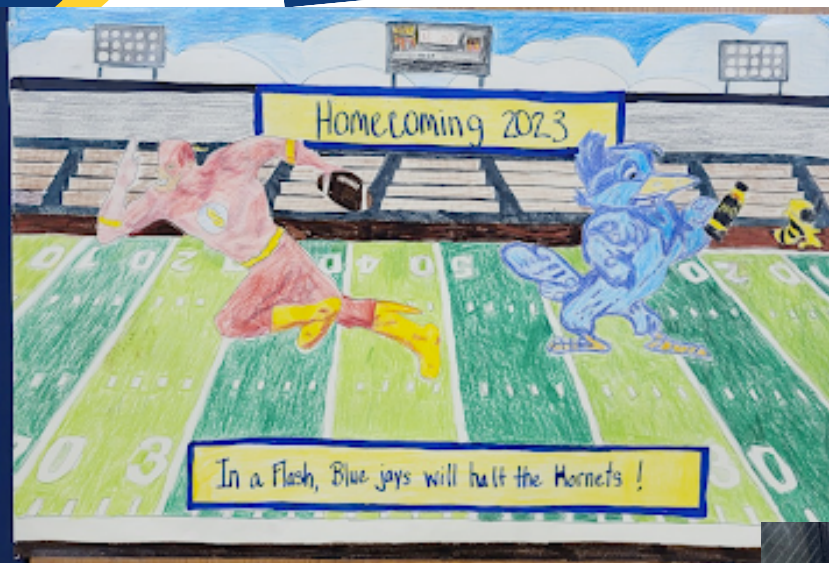
October 24 - Community Clean Up

November 1 - 1/2 day for students

November 15 - No School Students

November 21 & 22 - 1st Tri Final Exams

Shepherd Middle



Door Decorating Winner-
Ms. Pramuka's Soar

Teachers/Student
Swap Day



Important Upcoming Dates:

October

- 9 Orange Shirt/Indigenous Children Day
- 12 Coffee & Conversation w/ J. Wolf Silver Spoon
7:15-8:15am
- 31 Halloween

November

- 1 Half Day Students - Dismissal @ 11am
- 9 LifeTouch Picture Retake Day
- 10 Veteran's Day Assembly HS Gym 9:00-10:00am
- 10 MS Musical Auditorium
- 11 MS Musical Auditorium
- 15 Deer Day - No School for Students
- 21 End of 1st Trimester
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Break
- 27 Start of 2nd Trimester

Our Middle School students had a great time celebrating homecoming all last week. Dress up days, door decorating, and pep assemblies made for a very exciting week. We had great participation and it appeared that great fun was had by all.

ATTENTION

On Monday October 9th Shepherd Middle School will be wearing orange to recognize over 150,000 Indigenous children who endured the residential schooling system. Orange to honor the children who survived and to remember those children who didn't.

Odyssey Middle/High



Middle school students have been decorating the inside of the school for fall, Halloween, and el Día de los Muertos.



A group of students traveled back to a 16th Century European village during the 2023 Michigan Renaissance Festival in Holly.

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children Act defines homeless children to be those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

Some examples include children and youths:

- sharing housing due to a loss of housing or economic hardship;
- living in hotels, motels, or campgrounds;
- living in a place not designated as a regular sleeping accommodation;
- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, or substandard housing.

Please reach out to your child's school for assistance if you believe you may qualify for McKinney-Vento services.



Holiday Outreach Of Isabella County

“Coordinating the Community for Holiday Giving”



We will be providing winter coats, boots, hats & mittens, linens, bin of household staples, holiday items, a book for every child and a stocking for children and adults!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION for 2023

When? Monday, **October 30** to Friday, **November 3**
Monday, **November 6** to Friday, **November 10**
Call any time between **8:00am to 4:00pm.**

CALL: 989-773-4204

Holiday distribution will be on Friday, December 15 & Saturday, December 16 at a new Location. Distribution will be at Morey Courts, 5175 Remus Rd., Mt. Pleasant MI. This is the large sports complex off Isabella Rd. Plenty of parking and easy access through the front door.

YOU MUST REGISTER EVERY YEAR!

Appointment cards will be mailed in early December