

# BlueJay News

November  
2023

I LIKE KNOWING  
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

November 1 - 15

November 15

November 18

November 21

November 22 - 24

November 27

School of Choice Opens

PD day - NO STUDENTS

Arts and Craft Show SHS

9 am - 3 pm

End of 1st Trimester

Full day for students & staff

Thanksgiving Break

Beginning of 2nd Trimester

DON'T!  
FORGET!

November 5th at 2 A.M. is the end of Daylight-Saving Time. Set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night at bedtime!

**Q: Where did they take the Mayflower when it was sick?**

A: The nearest doc.

**Q: What do you use to make Thanksgiving bread?**

A: May flour.

**Q: What kind of music did the Pilgrims like to listen to?**

A: Plymouth Rock.



**Why do I post jokes on here? I think it is a great way to break the ice with your child if needed, maybe they are having a bad day and the joke(s) on here can bring out a silly little giggle, a smile, or a roll of their eyes.**

## November Weather

### Folklore

- If there's ice in November that will bear a duck, there'll be nothing after but sludge and muck.
- November take flail; let ships no more sail.
- If trees show buds in November, the winter will last until May.
- There is no better month in the year to cut wood than November.
- Ice in November brings mud in December.
- A heavy November snow will last until April.

# Superintendent's Corner

As a school district, we continue with a focus on “relationships.” No matter what we attempt to do as educators, we try to keep in mind that students will not care how much we know - until they know how much we care. It is with the deepest gratitude and appreciation the superintendent reports to you that our ENTIRE staff is doing an AMAZING job of maintaining and building upon healthy relationships with our students each and every day!

DEER DAY COMING UP- Having grown up in a local community that also utilized a “deer day” in the school calendar, I can recall the excitement of this day - along with the notion of safety it provides with students not being out at bus stops on such a day of hunting activity. Please remember that Wednesday, November 15th is “Deer Day” for SPS and means no school for our students. It does represent a day of “Professional Development” for our staff. We look forward to this time of learning and growth for teachers and any other support groups who participate.

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION- As the seasons change, so too does our need to prepare for school days when road conditions may be a bit dicey and uncertain for safe travel. Here is the link to the letter [Inclement Weather Information, Oct. 16, 2023](#) that was posted to our website recently. The purpose of it is to inform folks that we do indeed have a plan for how and when inclement weather days are determined. THANK YOU to Steve Sura specifically for all he does to ensure we evaluate on a daily basis if roadways are safe enough for travel to school.

THANKSGIVING- Later this month, we celebrate what to some (like me) is the “favorite” holiday of the year. There will always be challenges to face. Yet, we also - especially being a part of the greatest nation in the world - have SO MUCH to be thankful for. May you and your families enjoy this Thanksgiving and appreciate the love and laughter that comes with it. And, good luck to the team in Honolulu Blue if you choose to tune into the Lions game!!

TRIMESTER ENDS SOON- The end of our first trimester is right around the corner. Please note that Tuesday, November 21st marks the end of our first. In that same light, note that November 21st is our last day of school going into our Thanksgiving break.

That is it for this edition from the desk of the superintendent for the Jay News. Be reminded that my door and my mind are always open for input from you on how we might continuously improve our work with Shepherd BlueJays.

Over the river, and through the wood,  
To have a first-rate play.  
Hear the bells ring  
"Ting-a-ling-ding",  
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day! Lydia Maria Child



T H A N K F U L

# New Teacher Spotlight

## WELCOME TO THE BLUEJAY FAMILY!!!



*Joslyn grew up right here in Shepherd, so she has been part of the BlueJay Family for a long time. She earned her teaching degree from Adrian and SVSU. She worked at Vestaburg Middle School before venturing her way back home. What motivates her to work with SPS students is she admires the students creativity! She is proud of graduating Suma Cum Laude from Adrian College. Her friends would describe her as outgoing. Her favorite concert so far was Blessed Union of Souls. One of her hidden talents is that she loves to sing! Her favorite season is summer, and she really enjoys her trips to Lake Michigan. If she could go to heaven and take someone to lunch, it would be her Grandma VanHouzen as she is named after her so they have a special bond; also her Grandma Stacy because she was so fun to play games with! Welcome JOSYLN!*



## TEACHING IS A WORK OF HEART

Teaching core classes  
And electives too  
Setting students up for success  
Is what our teachers do.

You are now a BlueJay  
Pursuing your career  
We can't thank you enough  
For choosing to be here!!!

Thanks to all of our teachers!!!  
(and to all of our SPS staff!!!)



# Shepherd Elementary

During Fire Prevention week, our Kindergarten students had the chance to visit the Shepherd the Tri Township Fire Department to learn about fire safety. Thank you for having us!



Second Step: This month, our schoolwide theme is empathy. In our morning announcements we are reminding students to have empathy, identify their own and others' feelings, notice and respect same and different feelings, and show compassion. Compassion involves saying kind words or doing something helpful to show you care how another person feels. When students can identify, understand, and respond in a caring way to how someone else is feeling, it helps create a positive and accepting school climate.

Please let us know if you have any questions about how you can help your child learn to identify feelings and show empathy and compassion at home.



***Coffee with the Principal:  
8:30AM on December 8th***

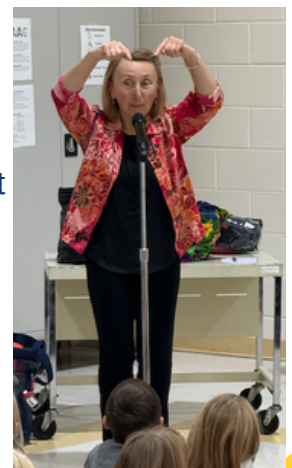
# Winn Elementary

**Halloween Hooray!** A fun day was had by all as we celebrated our very first Halloween in the new building. It started with a grand parade around the entire parking lot. We filled up all of our lot and FlexTech's lots with our families! It was so fun to have such a big crew of families show up to celebrate with us. Plus the benefit of the parade going around the parking lot meant that we could watch the parade twice! Immediately following the parade, everyone came in to help with our parties. Our K-2 crew had lots of games, fun, and yummy treats! Our 3-5 crew brought the "chill factor" into their day. They had delicious food and got to slow down for a bit and watch a great movie. It was so fun to see the other kids offering each other treats they had made or brought to share. As a staff, we were overwhelmed with your kindness and show of support. We couldn't have asked for a better day. We are coming together as one new family creating new traditions.



## Whole School PBIS Celebration

As part of our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program at Winn, we celebrate as a whole school after we complete a unit from our Second Step program. During the month of September, we studied about becoming a welcoming place for all students. We studied our behavior expectations for each area of the school and what we needed to do to be a good learner and a good human. We also studied the Zones of Regulation and learned about how to recognize how we were feeling and what we could do to help ourselves. Lastly, we spent time talking about mindfulness and how to use our breath when we are having strong emotions. In honor of the kids' hard work, we brought in storyteller, Eileen DeLorenzo, to share her stories with the kids. She is one of our favorites!



# 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.

November Prime Time Dates: November 7 and 28

November 15 - No School Students

November 20 & 21 - 1st Tri Final Exams

November 22 - 26 Thanksgiving Break



## Community Clean Up



I don't know who to thank. I woke up and while getting ready for work I look out the window and a bunch of Shepherd students were raking my front yard. I hurry to get ready and go out to see what is going on. My yard is filled with kids raking my entire yard. I am so overwhelmed. That was my project for my one day off and doing yard work with a fractured foot was gonna be rough. I asked who to thank and the young lady said the whole school. God bless Shepherd Schools, students, and staff! You made my entire week!

PS please share this so the students know they matter a lot!



# Shepherd Middle

We held our first BlueJay Renaissance of the school year on Oct. 20th. This is a Celebration for students who have met all the requirements. See our students in action:



Halloween was met with plenty of fun and excitement. Many of our students got involved and it made for a wonderful day. Here are the winners of our costume contest.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Shepherd Public Schools will be holding our annual Veteran's Day Assembly on November 10th in our High School Gym @ 9:00.

Tickets for the middle school musical, "Don't Say No to the USO," go on sale today to the general public. The performances are Friday, November 10th at 7:00pm and Saturday, November 11th at 7:00pm. Buy your tickets early for your choice of seating at [spstheatre.ludus.com](http://spstheatre.ludus.com). Thank you for your support!

# Odyssey Middle/High



Thank you to our students and our community for all of the amazing support given during Tree Trunk or Treat.

Present this flyer on November 14th between 3 - 10pm and Odyssey will receive 10% of your food purchase.



(989) 775-7427

2177 S Mission St | Mt Pleasant, MI

## FUNDRAISING

### DINE-IN OR TO-GO

»» *Support* ««

**Odyssey Middle/High School**

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

3:00pm – 10:00pm

# 10%

## DONATION NIGHT

Support your school by presenting this flyer to the Mt Pleasant location and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your total food purchases to Odyssey!



## The 3rd Annual Odyssey Holiday Forest

A holiday event hosted by Odyssey  
MS/HS

Designed and constructed by the  
students of Odyssey

Thursday, December 14, 2023

5 pm to 7:30 pm

Lighted Forest Trail, Cookies & Cocoa,  
Carolers, Photo Booth, and more!

Decorations and lighted trail will  
remain available for trail walks Friday  
evening.

Location: Odyssey MS/HS 3441 S.  
Wise Rd., Mt. Pleasant

This event is funded in part by the  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration.



# Project Aware Counselors

## 2023 Tree Trunk or Treat



### THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS SPOOKTASTIC EVENING!

The Albaugh Family  
Billy Higby  
Celebration Cinema  
Community Mental Health of Central Michigan  
Culver's  
Ennis Center  
The Garcia Family  
Huggie Bear  
Isabella Community Credit Union  
Konwinski Construction  
Lapham's Greenhouse  
Listening Ear  
Members First Credit Union  
MMR  
Morbark's  
Odyssey MS/HS students and staff  
Oil City Citgo  
Papa's Pumpkin Patch  
Ric's Grocery Store  
Rosebush Fruit  
SagChip Student Advocates  
Shepherd Central Office  
Target  
Ten16  
Walmart  
Winn Parent Club

### Making Connections

Across the 5 buildings in the district our counselors have seen 212 kids! We're so glad to be able to make a positive impact on all of the students in our school community! If you have any questions or concerns regarding your student or counseling, feel free to reach out!

### Skills Groups

The middle school friendship and coping skills group are already well underway and we're loving what we're seeing in the students involved!

Mrs. Gall, Mr. Gutierrez, and Ms. Harnish are also hosting TRAILS groups at their respective buildings with small groups of students. We're excited to see how the students grow from this group!

If you're interested in learning more about upcoming groups, please feel free to reach out to the Project AWARE Counselor at your student's school!