

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Facts

- Martin Luther King Jr. started college at age 15. He was gifted and skipped both 9th grade and 12th grade.
- He was born with the name Michael King Jr. His father, changed his own name when King Jr. was 5 years old. Then subsequently changed his son's name.
- Martin won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.
- His famous speech, "I Have a Dream" was delivered in 1963 at a rally named March on Washington.
- MLK Jr. was assassinated tragically on a motel balcony in Tennessee in 1968.



Fun Facts about Winter

- Winter is the coldest season of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
- During the winter solstice, the Arctic Circle encounters a full day of darkness, lasting for 24 hours.
- Guinness World Records notes that the lowest temperature ever recorded occurred on July 21, 1983, at Vostok Station in Antarctica, measuring -128.6°F .
- The term for the fear of snow is Chionophobia.
- A snowflake consistently has six sides.

Happy
New Year
2024



Superintendent's Corner

For some of us, it has been years in the waiting. Every Fall our hopes would be high. We would watch carefully the Spring drafts, pay attention to the preparations for the preseason, get excited about victories in the preseason (2008 - when they went 0-16, they won all four preseason games!), and then have our hopes dashed as loss-after-loss accrued during the regular season. Well... HOPE NO MORE!!!! To ALL you faithful Lions fans, THANK YOU for standing alongside them for SO LONG and now reaping the joy of making the playoffs!! Let's hope they can really do some things this playoff season... GO LIONS!!

BOND INVESTIGATION- As has been reported previously, Shepherd Public Schools is in the process of investigating the potential for an August 2024 vote. This vote would be for a "no tax rate increase" bond proposal. There are bond investigation experts from the likes of Kingscott Architecture and Wolgast Construction who have already helped define plans for this investigation. In fact, these experts have hosted "internal" and "external" stakeholder meetings. At these meetings (held December 12th), stakeholders were given the opportunity to better understand the potential scope of the projects and give input on the types of projects they believe could help the district the most moving forward.

The second round of stakeholder input was gathered on Tuesday, January 9th. Again, our experts shared more scope of the investigation and sought to refine even further ideas and projects that could rise to the top of the "we-like-this-best" list.

The next group of meetings to allow even more Shepherd BlueJay fans to understand the potential scope of the bond proposal are set for Tuesday, January 23rd; 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, January 25th; 6:30 p.m. These meetings are set to be held in the SMS/SHS Media Center and the public is welcome to attend.

In the near future, there will be more information available to us all to look over, understand and share with any stakeholders we can think of.

Thank you for your attention to this "Jay News" message. Take care and in all we do, let's remain BlueJay Strong!

Shepherd Elementary

WOW!!!

Hat day: Our Shepherd Elementary Student council raised money in December through a hat day, raising enough funds to purchase 10 pairs of snow pants for students that need them.



Prior to break, we had a special holiday visitor!

Winter has arrived!

The playground has started to look like a snow globe and our kids are playing and building all sorts of creations on the playground. Please remember that our kids go outside as often as the weather and temperature permits. Snowpants, boots, gloves, hats are important to have at school everyday. If you need help obtaining any winter clothing, please let the office know!

REMEMBER!

Coffee with the Principal:

Jan 19th @ 8:30 AM

PTO Movie Night: January

26th @ 6:30 PM



Winn Elementary



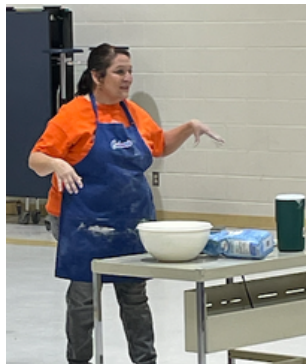
Alice in Wonderland



The Flex Tech Highschool drama group invited our whole school to watch their play, "Alice in Wonderland." The kids were so excited because they have been watching the students build the sets for the past month. They were very curious about what the "big kids" were doing each day! This was our first official activity during the day that we did together so it was a special moment for both schools! We learned all about going to the theater and practiced our expectations for attending a play. The Flex Tech students were wonderful. After the play, we even had a chance to talk and ask questions about being in a play. We would like to send a special thank you to Flex Tech for inviting us and creating such a great experience for our students at Winn.



December Fry Bread with Ms. Anita and Ms. Marta



Ms. Marta, our Native American advocate, came to present a wonderful learning experience about Fry Bread for our students at Winn. The students were able to hear all about the history of Fry Bread and watch it being made by Ms. Anita. After that, all of the students went back to their classrooms to watch Mrs. Richards read the book, "Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story," by Kevin Noble Maillard and sampled some homemade Fry Bread! We want to send out a special thank you to Ms. Marta, Ms. Anita, and their crew who made Fry Bread for our whole building!

We had our first "Make and Take" day including a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus on our last day of school before our Winter break! Our tradition includes every student in the school making two special crafts. One craft is for the whole school K-5. We also make a special craft in each class that is specially designed for each grade level. We wanted to say a special thank you to Genny Farrell and the Winn Parent Club for creating this amazing event for our students. We also wanted to offer a big thank you to all of the parent volunteers who came to help that day. One of the things that we are so proud of at Winn is our strong parent partnerships. We appreciate all of your help and support!

Our "Make and Take" Tradition Continues



Important Dates

January 25th - Parent-Teacher Conferences

IMPORTANT SENIOR DATES

Congratulations Class of 2024



Senior Awards Assembly

May 9th

- Seniors will wear their gowns for the Awards Ceremony.
- All parents are invited to the Awards Assembly.
- The ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. in the high school gymnasium.

Seniors Last Day/Walkout

May 13th, 14th

- Senior exams will be on May 13th and 14th
- Seniors last day is May 14th
- Senior walkout May 14th at 2:45 pm
- Last day to pay fees and turn in credit recovery May 15th

Senior Walk Through

May 15th

- Students must wear caps and gowns and be at the school by 8:15 am.
- The walk begins at 8:45 am—, in the bus loop.



Graduation Practice MANDATORY

May 15th

- Practice starts after senior walk.
- All graduating seniors MUST be in attendance at this rehearsal.
- Students must have their books returned and all fees paid.
- We will hold a senior brunch in the auxiliary gym immediately after the graduation practice.

Graduation

May 19th

- Seniors should report to the school no later than 2:15 pm.
- Name cards will be distributed so that they can be read during the graduation ceremony by the Class President
- Graduation starts at 3 pm
- Doors open for family at 2:30 pm



M MID
MICHIGAN COLLEGE

SHEPHERD BLUEJAY DUAL ENROLLMENT

MEETING
JANUARY 31 @
6:30 AUDITORIUM



Who Should Attend

- All students interested in dual enrollment

Dual Enrollment

Mid Michigan College
Check out their Academic Programs @ midmich.edu

Contact Information

Brian Ross
bross@shepherdschools.net

More Information

- onwardshepherd.weebly.com

Benefits

- Organizational Skills
- Complete the Michigan Transfer Agreement
- Develop time management skills
- Many classes are held at Shepherd High School

Class of **2028!**

8TH GRADE TRANSITION MEETING

SHEPHERD HIGH SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY

January

SCHEDULING

AT 7:30 PM

31

SUPPORTS/OPPORTUNITIES

IN THE AUDITORIUM

EXTRACURRICULAR

Odyssey Middle/High



Odyssey's therapy dog, Blaze, is doing amazing in her training in Lake George. We look forward to her joining us at school in May.



Basketball practices have started. We are looking forward to our first game with Chip Hills Mosaic in February!



We are still enrolling students in grades 9-12.

We have in-class and online classes available.

Give us a call and see how we can help your student succeed.

989-773-9473

Project Aware Counselors

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the new year! We hope you had a great break and are ready to get back into school! We've listed a couple of resources below to help you start this year on the right step!

SMART Goals

Now is the time for goal setting! Maybe you or your child have set some sort of New Year's Resolution! Using the idea of a SMART goal can help you be more successful. Make sure your goal is specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely. Setting smaller sub-goals (like monthly, weekly, or even daily goals) can help you achieve your larger goal!

TRAILS to Wellness

Mrs. Gall is starting a new TRAILS group at the middle school level. This group teaches students the skills to manage anxiety and depression. If you are interested in having your middle schooler attend, please contact Mrs. Gall.

There are also TRAILS groups happening at the high school and at Odyssey MS/HS. Feel free to reach out to the Project AWARE Counselors at each school to learn more!

Making Connections!

Holiday Forest was a great success. Thank you to the nearly 300 people who came out to enjoy the lighted trail, the Shepherd Band, the Christmas Carolers, and our fun crafts, photo booth, and caricature activities inside!

In the month of December our Project AWARE counselors saw over 150 students across the school district! We're so grateful to be able to have a positive impact in these students' lives!

Starting in January, Mrs. Gall is co-hosting a Friendship and Coping Skills Group at the middle school. This group will help students develop skills to be better friends and cope with feelings of frustration. If you're interested in having your student attend, please contact Mrs. Gall.

Connect with us!

If you ever have any questions or feel that your student could benefit from additional support at school, please reach out to us!

Cathy Huffer, Shepherd Elementary - chuffer@shepherdschools.net

Emily Hinsman, Winn Elementary - ehinsman@shepherdschools.net

LeeAnn Gall, Shepherd Middle School - leeann.gall@shepherdschools.net

Dave Gutierrez, Odyssey MS/HS - dgutierrez@shepherdschools.net

Morgan Harnish, Shepherd High School - morgan.harnish@shepherdschools.net