

# Jay News

March 2023



PUBLISHED BY HOLLY MOEGGENBERG SPS CENTRAL OFFICE

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

**March 23rd**

Parent Teacher Conferences

1/2 day for students

TK - 5th grade 12 - 3 pm &  
4 - 7pm

6th - 12th grade Invite only  
12 - 3 pm

**March 24th**

1/2 day for students/staff

**March 27th - 31st**

Spring Break



## What's inside this newsletter?

A note from the Superintendent,  
information from each school,  
important dates, future events...etc.



## St. Patrick's Day WORD SEARCH

E	Q	B	V	S	W	W	X	K	L
P	D	R	N	Y	O	K	C	O	E
N	G	I	T	B	H	U	U	H	P
R	O	I	N	I	L	G	Z	F	R
C	M	I	C	L	O	V	E	R	E
Q	A	A	I	T	H	A	F	F	C
R	R	U	R	R	Q	I	B	L	H
E	S	O	K	C	I	L	M	R	A
F	V	B	D	X	H	S	T	I	U
G	P	G	R	E	E	N	H	V	N

Search for these St. Patrick's Day words!



CLOVER  
IRISH  
MARCH  
COINS

LEPRECHAUN  
RAINBOW  
GREEN  
LUCK



© Mrs. Merry (www.mrs.merry.com)

TIME FOR A  
BREAK.

## From the whiteboard of Superintendent Starr... March 2023

Until my stepdad began facing the pronounced difficulties of dementia, he and my mom had this beautiful rustic cabin in the Upper Peninsula. When my children were smaller (see photo), on one of our visits I took the two oldest (Molly and Jesse) out on the lake to fish. Jesse being the youngest was fine until we started to get a distance from the dock; and then he became frightened and cried.

In fact, he cried and cried and cried... My daughter Molly, on the other hand, was ready for the fishing excursion and was at times frustrated by the distraction of her brother's misery. Her perspective was very different from her brother's.

At the time, being a younger parent from a "Toughen up!" upbringing myself, I just kept telling him he'd be fine and, "You need to get over it." The experience was very difficult for him. He wasn't ready for the newness of the event and in retrospect I was not as sensitive to his needs and emotions as I should have been. It's one of those times as a parent I look back on now and wish I'd done differently.

Later in life we had the chance to relive the experience (see photo #2). And, as you can see from the more recent photo, they were both grown up. This reboot experience gave me the chance to tell my son I was sorry for how I'd been insensitive to him the first time. As I recall, he had very little recollection which helps me see that the incident didn't leave any scars.

We as Shepherd Public Schools face a situation that for some could be like Jesse's experience in that row boat; upsetting, new and feels like it could be devastating; relocating students from elementary schools to the Morey Educational Center. While some folks feel like Jesse and are very uneasy about this new element for our school district, others are like Molly (and how her dad was) and may want to say to others, "You need to get over it." My hope is in all this we as a district and me as the district's leader do our best to understand, listen and empathize with everyone no matter how you are viewing this relocation initiative at the moment. We will succeed if we stay together on this.

Thanks for being a part of the BlueJay community; you are appreciated!!



# ODYSSEY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

## Words from the Woods



### SPORTS

Basketball has started!

Our first game was in  
Owosso on Friday,  
March 3, 2023.



We will be entering Chess  
competitions soon!

### ENERGIZE YOUR FUTURE

9TH ANNUAL SKILLED TRADES NIGHT AT  
J. RANCK ELECTRIC

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Registration 5:30 p.m.

Program 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Find out how JRE employees energized  
their careers, see their work, and hear how  
the decision to enter skilled trades has led  
to successful and rewarding careers.

All students (grades 7-12) and parents are  
invited to join us for interactive tours, an  
equipment simulation, career information,  
free pizza, and more!

Register online at  
[www.jranck.com/skilled-trades](http://www.jranck.com/skilled-trades)



**J. RANCK**  
ELECTRIC, INC.

989.775.7393  
[www.jranck.com](http://www.jranck.com)  
1993 Gover Parkwa  
Mt. Pleasant



### POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

Parents have the ability to  
track their student's academic  
progress and attendance using  
the Parent Portal.

Give us a call (989-773-9473)  
if you need your Access  
ID/password.

### IMPORTANT DATES

3/7 End of 2nd Trimester  
3/27 Spring Break Week  
4/7 No School  
4/12 PSAT & SAT  
4/13 MS MSTEP & WorkKeys  
4/14 MSTEP  
4/28 No School  
5/13 Prom  
5/19 Last Day for Seniors  
5/25 Graduation at 6pm  
6/2 Last Day of School



# Shepherd High School

## SENIOR INFORMATION

- March 10- Mock Interviews at Mid Michigan College bus leaves at 8 am
  - Seniors need 5 hours of Community Service
  - Talent Portfolio Day April 12th and 13th
- \*Seniors will not report to school.

## UPCOMING DATES

March 16 - Report Cards will be mailed home

March 16- ThinkFast Assembly

April 3 - Lion Heart Assembly

March 23 - 1/2 day



Snowball & Snowball 2.0





# Shepherd Middle School



Our Shepherd Middle School students and staff are supporting one of their own as she was recently diagnosed with Leukemia. They have planned many activities to help Kendall Lalone and her family! BlueJay STRONG!!



Our 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams have both finished their season. The 8th grade boys went 12-0 and won the Gold Division Championship for the Jack Pine Conference. The 7th grade boys also had a great season with a 5-7 record. The future for BlueJay basketball is bright.



Mrs. Pramuka led an amazing group of 8th graders in the United Way Pitch-er grant competition. Their project was called Ready, Shed, Go and their goal was to provide more outdoor recess activities and a shed to house it all. They presented the idea to a panel and received a grant for \$4,000 to complete the project. We are so proud of them and all the hard work they put into this project!!



We have had a lot of fun here at Shepherd Middle School the last couple of weeks. Mrs. Allingham helped to get some sleds for the kids to enjoy during recess. As you can see they were a BIG hit.





# Shepherd Elementary

## SCIENCE FAIR

This year, we had 68 science fair projects for our science fair. Please check out the Shepherd Elementary Facebook page to see all of the pictures of our scientist's projects! Thank you to Ms. Seidl and Ms. Dodick for putting this event together for our students! Great work BlueJays! Here are the scientists that participated.



## PTO

Our PTO put on the "Boys Bash" in February. A great time was had by all. This month, on March 10th, we will have the "Girls Gala."

- The next Coffee with the Principal will be April 7th at 8:30 AM.
- Kindergarten Registration Night is March 16 at 6PM in the HS auditorium.
- Second Step: This month, our schoolwide theme is friendship skills. In our morning announcements, we'll be reminding students to invite others to play, play in fair ways, take responsibility for mistakes by making amends, and how to handle name-calling assertively. These skills help students make and keep friends.




# Winn Elementary

## MARCH IS READING MONTH

This month's theme is "Read to Win!" We have some fun events to celebrate with our families.

- We have our annual Booknic on March 17th from 11:30-12:30pm. We invite our families to come in to eat and read with their child! Grab your picnic blanket and get ready to get lost in a great book!
- On March 20th we are hosting our first "Game Night" from 6:00-7:00pm. Families are invited to play games together here at the school. We are also giving away games graciously donated by our Winn Parent Club!
- Read to Win Tic-Tac-Toe Board for home has a ton of fun things to do as a family each night. If your child completes all the activities they are invited to our special game event on the last day of school before Spring Break!

## READING MONTH CALENDAR

 <b>READ TO WIN!</b> Reading Month 2023 Winn Elementary				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <b>6 Black Out Day!</b> Wear black today! Turn off all your screens at home tonight and READ!	 <b>7 Listen and Win!</b> Grab your favorite stuffed animal and tune in to "Tucked in Tuesday" tonight!	<b>1. Twin Day</b> Dress up like a twin today with a friend.	<b>2. Read Across America Day!</b> Grab your favorite Dr. Seuss book and read with a friend today.	<b>3. Michigan Facts</b> What do you know about Michigan? Let's research to find out some cool facts!
<b>13 Mrs. R Reads</b> Mrs. Richards travels to your room today to read and feed!	<b>14 Pi Day</b> Read a book that has math in it today. What did you discover?	<b>8 Book Character Day</b> Dress as your favorite book character.	<b>9 Joke Day</b> Read a joke or riddle book today. Tell your favorite one to your family.	<b>10 Create A Bookmark</b> Create a bookmark about your favorite book today.
<b>20 Game Night!</b> Come to Winn Elementary from 6:00-7:00 pm to play games as a family and win prizes!	<b>21 Read Around!</b> Whole school read time today! Bring your blanket and pick your spot to read!	<b>15 Favorite Game Day</b> Dress as your favorite (board, video) game character.	<b>16 Favorite Book Day</b> Bring your favorite book to school today or pick one from class that you love!	<b>17 Book-Nic</b> Come to Winn today at lunch to read and eat with your kids! 11:30-12:30 pm
		<b>22 Dress Your Color</b> Dress in your favorite color from Uno or Sorry. Which color will win??	<b>23 Minute to Win It!</b> 1/2 day of school today. How many minutes can you read today? Parent Teacher Conferences 12-3, 4-7 pm	<b>24 GAME DAY</b> It's a special 1/2 day of school today. Complete your Bingo Card and come to our Game Day party!

## AT HOME READING LOG

 <b>Read to Win</b> Reading Month 2023 Winn Elementary				
Read a fairy tale or fantasy book	Make up a new game with your family	Research a fun fact about a place online	Read from a book of poetry for 15 minutes	Write a top five list of your favorite books
Read a book about something in Michigan	Read one of your favorite Dr. Seuss Books	Black Out Day! Turn off your devices and READ	Read a Caldecott or Newberry Award book	Make a circle map about someone in your family
Read a story to someone younger or older than you	Read a recipe with your family and help make it	<b>FREE SPACE</b>	Read a story with a stuffed animal in bed	Write a story with your family
Read the rules to a game and play it	Read a nonfiction book about an animal	Read on the bus or in the car on your way to/from school	Read a realistic fiction book	Write a letter to someone
Read a joke or riddle book and tell one to your class	Listen to someone read their favorite story to you	Read a spooky story with a flashlight	Read a book about a science topic	Write what you want to be when you grow up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an adult date &amp; sign the box when you complete the task and color in the square.</li> <li>• You may only check off one box per book read.</li> <li>• Return your bingo card the first time you have a BINGO to receive a prize (across/down/diagonal)</li> <li>• Return your bingo card FULL and receive your special ticket to Game Day at Winn!</li> </ul>				
(Parent Signature)		(Student Signature)		

### Mrs. Wilson Shares Her Bulgarian Tradition

We are so lucky to have Mrs. Wilson in our building this semester. She is currently working on her doctorate with CMU. Mrs. Wilson is interning with Mrs. Richards in order to get her administrative degree in addition to her doctorate! She is originally from Bulgaria. She wanted to share her tradition with all of our Winn students.

### The Bulgarian tradition of Baba Marta

On the 1st week of March Bulgarian friends and family tie a red and white twined thread bracelet on each other's wrists called martenitsa. The symbolism of the colors are: red - is for the red and rosy cheeks which symbolize health; and white - is for the wish of having peace of mind and heart. It's meant to bring good luck throughout the new year! According to tradition, on the 1st of March we welcome Grandmother March, who is a grumpy old lady and wants winter to be over with. She has arrived to remind us that Spring is just around the corner! It's ok to shed our grumpy shell and bring on the positivity, new beginnings and new life Spring brings with it! We wear the martenitsa until we see the first signs of Spring (red robin, red winged black bird, or any spring flower such as a crocus or snowdrop). After we see that first sign of Spring, we would tie our bracelets on a fruit bearing tree. While we tie it, we make a wish. In the Spring you'd want to go back to that tree, and if the tree bears lots of fruit that year, your wish will be fruitful as well. However, if it doesn't, there is always next year :)

Thank you for joining us in celebrating this Bulgarian tradition and Happy Baba Marta (Grandmother March)!





# NEW ELEMENTARY UPDATE



We are so excited to share information with you about our new elementary school building. Each Friday, all of our Elementary students receive an update about the progress of the Morey building. Here is the latest update:

BlueJay Families and Community,

In a continuing effort to provide information about the “new” Winn Elementary located at the Morey Education Center, here is your Friday update. Each week we will be answering questions that are coming from our families.

Who will be the staff in the building?

The teachers at the new building will be; current Winn teachers, Shepherd Elementary teachers, and new teachers to the district. We will have 2 sections of Kindergarten through 5th grade.

What special services are going to be offered at the new building?

We will have the same services offered at both of our current buildings. We will have a full time special education teacher. In addition we will offer speech, social work, occupational therapy, and physical therapy to students that qualify for those services through their I.E.P.

My student receives extra help in reading and math. Will my student get help?

Our vision at Winn Elementary is “Everything a Kid Needs.” That long standing tradition will continue at the new building. We will provide services to students that need extra help.

Will students stay with current Winn or Shepherd Elementary cohorts K-5?

Our goal at the new building is to balance classes. We intend to create classrooms that are balanced between Winn and SE students.

We welcome your questions and feedback on this endeavor and we encourage you to visit the Morey Center tab on the Shepherd Public Schools Website. If you have a question about the process, please submit it **here** (electronically) or submit it in writing to Central Office.

Yours in Education,  
Laurie Richards and David Farley



# Employee Fun!!!



Mike and Dave, Shepherd Middle School Custodians  
out and about showing their fun side.



Thank you for all you do! SMS Staff  
Not pictured: Skip, Caleb, Kurt



KNOCK KNOCK  
WHO'S THERE  
ERIN  
ERIN WHO  
ERIN AS FAST AS I  
COULD, BUT I  
COULDN'T CATCH THE  
LEPRECHAUN.



WHAT DO YOU CALL  
A LEPRECHAUN WITH  
A SORE THROAT?

A STREPECHAUN