



# BLACKBIRD & SHAY NEWS & INFORMATION

January 13, 2012

*Blackbird: Building the Foundation*

*Shay: Academic Excellence in a Family Atmosphere*

## Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank everyone for my warm welcome to Blackbird and Shay during the first two weeks as your interim principal. My name is Tom VanDeventer and I feel comfortable being called "Mr. Van". I appreciate this opportunity to be a part of the Harbor Springs family for the rest of this school year.

Previous interim principal Dale Lewis is a good friend of mine. We worked side by side as elementary principals in Petoskey for the last 20 years. He worked with me to provide a smooth transition. We were both aware of the outstanding reputation of the Harbor Springs School District.

I have many first impressions since school started last week. The staff members at Blackbird and Shay are very dedicated. They are proud of their schools and work hard on behalf of the students. The teaching staff creates a positive classroom atmosphere for students. The teachers are very knowledgeable regarding curriculum and deliver instruction in creative ways.

Our district has outstanding facilities. The new technology initiative will help staff and students move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our staff is excited about the technology updates.

This is the fourth time in my career that I have been assigned to two buildings at the same time. Mrs. St. John, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Zoerner and I will work together and share messages and information on a daily basis. I want to be accessible to parents and students. One of my goals is to be visible and involved in the daily flow of the school day. If you call the school office or email me at [tvandeventer@harborps.org](mailto:tvandeventer@harborps.org) I will try to respond as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Tom VanDeventer  
Interim Principal

## BLACKBIRD/SHAY PHONE NUMBERS

Blackbird Office 526-4600  
Attendance Line 526-4660  
BB Day care 526-4607

Shay Office 526-4500  
Attendance Line 526-4550  
Fun Fitness 526-4504

Bus Garage 526-5601



**Call the attendance lines if your child will be absent or tardy.**

## Please Be Safe

We have noticed a lot of children (and adults!) playing on our snow piles after school. We are trying to discourage this as it is a very busy area and it becomes very icy at times. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.



## Upcoming Events

January 16

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 19 & 20

4th grade overnight at  
Camp Wolverine

January 27

Movie Night at the PAC (3:30)  
Dinner includes hot dog, pop,  
popcorn and treat for \$5.00.  
Featuring Kung Foo Panda II and  
Dolphin Tale.

## HARBOR SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



### Camp Wolverine

Each year the 4th grade students at Shay Elementary have an opportunity to spend two days at the Wolverine Outdoor Education Center.

Some of the activities include snowshoeing, snow ecology, pioneer tools, Native American life, animal tracking, Michigan logging history cross country skiing, challenge course and more. The student activities relate to the 4th grade science curriculum and our study of Michigan History.



Emma, Rigel, Makayla & Harrison are all hoping for snow for the Camp Wolverine trip!

### BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

A big "Thank You" to Jennifer Keiser for sending in our box tops. Blackbird received a check for \$375.40. Please keep sending them in!

### IN SCHOOL CHILD CARE

**Blackbird Child Care Center** is available for Children ages 3-7. Hours Monday –Friday 7:30am-6:00pm. Call 231-526-4607 for more information.

**Fun Fitness 4 Kidz** is available for children ages 6-13, is open after school, half days and full days for teacher In-service days. No contract-use us when you need us. We are NEVER full!  
Call 231-526-4504 for more information .



Chase & Jackie work from their **CARES** activities bag. On Tuesday, Jan. 24th from 5:30-6:30pm Preschool Parents are invited to an informative video on the **C**hildren **A**cquiring **R**ich **E**xperiences and **S**kills activities that have been being used in the classroom.

**Please remember to send warm coats, hats, mittens or gloves to school with your child. Once the snow arrives, snow pants and boots are needed for outside recess play.**

