

# Harvest Festival Celebrating Blackbird Paradise



**The PTA Garden Project is excited to sponsor the first Harvest Festival, which will be held Friday, November 6 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Elementary School. The entire community is invited to join us in celebration of the Blackbird Paradise garden. This free, fun-filled evening will have something for everyone: food, friends, favors, and family dancing!**

- Participants will be encouraged to sample numerous vegetarian dishes created by local restaurants, caterers, and residents. Middle and high school students, who will be our servers for the evening, will offer elementary students an opportunity to vote for their favorites. The dishes receiving the most votes may appear on the school menu! Recipes for all of the dishes will be available on our district website, so you can serve them at home, too.
- The Honest Weight Food Coop will be offering a make-your-own trail mix (nut-free). And, Voorheesville School District's very own school chef, Tim Mulligan, will join other area chefs in delighting us with special creations for the evening.
- Don't miss dessert! Local Girl Scout troops have enthusiastically agreed to provide homemade apple crisp for the festival.
- More "take-home" treats! Students will be invited to create crafts based on both the harvest and our recycling efforts. The finished products will be lovely reminders of the season, the bounty of our collective efforts, and how the earth needs good stewards to look after it.
- You can "give back," as well. The New Scotland Community Food Pantry is in desperate need of toiletry items for their shelves. Grab a new, unopened bar of soap, tube of toothpaste, can of deodorant, box of tissues, or something similar on your way to the Harvest Festival. Donations will be collected in designated boxes at the door.
- To culminate the evening, families will gather in the gym for live entertainment by Homespun Community Dancing with Peter, Paul & George, who will instruct us in "barn" dancing. Prior to the dance, physical activity stations will be available to promote the "Get Moving!" message.

**We look forward to seeing you at the Harvest Festival, but also hope you will consider joining in the fun required to make it happen. There are many ways to help:**

- Collect drink bottle tops for the community mosaic project and clean, empty medicine/film vials for craft projects. (Collection boxes are at all three school locations.)

- Volunteer the night of the festival. Students from middle school and from high school, as well as adults, are needed. ([Click here for volunteer form.](#))
- Contribute a dish – one of your own, or one from a local chef, restaurant, or caterer. ([Click here for “Calling all Cooks” invitation.](#))
- Help the Girl Scouts achieve their goal of apple crisp for all! ([Click here to view the recipe we are using.](#))
- Join students in planting Spirit Bulbs during the school hours of the week preceding the Harvest Festival. The 600 purple and gold flowers were made possible by generous gifts from former librarian Annette Zemser (VTA) and teaching assistant Pamela Seh (UEV). Flower beds will be prepared by Elemental Landscapes, Inc. and our bulbs will thrive in Olsen’s Garden Blend soil. We look forward to a magnificent bloom in the spring! ([Click here for class schedule.](#))
- Let us know how you can help by contacting <mailto:vvillegarden@gmail.com>!