

The KURTZ CONNECTOR

November 21

Building Hours:

9:10 1st Bell (students may enter) / 9:15 2nd Bell (school starts) / 4:07 Dismissal

Veterans Matter

This year we are supporting our local heroes from a distance. As we continue to navigate the world of COVID mitigation strategies, we are prioritizing the health and well-being of our friends and family members. We want to thank our community heroes, Joe and Bristol Hibbert, owners of the Palate of Milford, for understanding and supporting our need to keep veterans safe this year. We will look forward to celebrating the veterans in our traditional way with breakfast from the Palate, in the coming 2022-23 school year.

This year, the Kurtz Elementary community members are encouraged to donate items, which in turn will be donated to veterans. We have some special events planned that will involve interviewing key community members. We also plan to continue the practice of having only a veteran raise our Veterans Day flag on November 11th. Thank you all for supporting local veterans this month! See page 3 in this newsletter for more information.

From the Principal's Desk...

As we continue to navigate challenges in public education this year, I want to take a moment to thank every member of the Kurtz community for playing such positive roles in the 2021-22 school year. I cannot say enough about the work our teachers, custodians, office team, food service, paras and student support team members are playing in setting us up for success as we deliver instruction, maintain a safe and desirable culture and collaborate in effective and meaningful ways. I truly believe that our team members put your children first in everything they do, each and every day. We are very fortunate to have these committed people working behind the scenes.

Parents, your support of our Color Run last month just blew us away. Our exceptional PTA Leadership team executed the Color Run with dedication and minimal impact on learning time. With so many positive supports in place, we were able to work through other obstacles that tend to press hard on the learning environments.

Your positive and constructive comments have fueled our fire at every level at Kurtz. We appreciate your understanding related to our implementation of COVID-related mitigation strategies like masking, transportation challenges and/or limiting building access for visitors. Your support and understanding matters to every one of us. Parents, we ask that you please continue to support us by maintaining patience, asking questions and erring on the side of empathy and understanding. You can also help us to connect with individuals who can help us fill some of those key positions we are struggling to fill such as lunch/recess supervisors, para professionals, school aged care supervisors and potential guest teachers. Filling these positions helps us to remain focused on executing our main priorities with fidelity. Please contact me or the main office directly if you have ideas, questions or would like to hear more about becoming a member of the Kurtz team.



Kurtz Student Cyclers

The Kurtz Elementary students who are members of Huron Valley United Racing, paused in between races for a quick picture on the podium. Sunday, October 17th was the last race of the 2021 MiSCA race series at Cannonburg Ski Area. Congratulations to the team for a great mountain biking season.

From left: Jane Brzuchanski, Frank Palumbo, Sabine Bishop, Joanie Crane, Sawyer Kollien, Hudson Kollien and Torsten Bishop



Employment Opportunities are Available!

We are in desperate need to fill many jobs at Kurtz and in Huron Valley. Please check the Human Resources tab on the district's webpage to view all of the jobs that are available.

At Kurtz, we are looking for individuals to create and manage our **School Aged Care** program, both before and after school. We are looking for **lunch and recess supervisors** to help make sure our students are

safe and supported during lunch and recess time. The district is always looking for **guest teachers and bus drivers**, as well.

If you are interested in hearing more about these opportunities, please contact the main office at (248)684-8025. We are here to answer your questions!



Veterans Day 2021 - Kurtz Elementary

This year at Kurtz we will be doing two service projects to honor those who have served our country. The details for each project are listed below. We hope that you will be able to help in any way to support these important organizations with us. Thank you in advance and we look forward to being able to have our regular Veterans Day program next year!

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare Systems

We are supporting the VA Hospital by donating comfort items they have requested. There will be a donation box located by the library.

Requested Donation Items - The requested items include wooden back scratchers, men's full size deodorant and body wash, denture cleaning tabs and adhesive, assorted snack pack items individually wrapped, readers in size 2.25 or greater, gift cards in \$10 increments to Meijer, Kroger and Walmart.

Michigan War Dog Memorial - South Lyon, Michigan - Here is a link to show the amazing way they honor our 4 legged warriors. <https://fb.watch/8U-jLmggiT/>

For several years the director and veteran, Phil Weitlauf and his dogs have joined us for our Veterans Day program. He has shared his message of the importance of what these warriors have done to protect so many of our 2 legged veterans.

We would like to collect as many donations as possible, to help them continue their important work. Any amount is welcomed and appreciated. Students should give their donations to their classroom teacher.





Holiday Hope for Kids Bowl-a-Thon

A bowl-a-thon to raise funds for special needs children from across Oakland County

Holiday Hope for Kids, "A Lakeland Tradition", is a holiday program run out of Lakeland High School to help provide a unique holiday experience for special needs children from all across HVS and Oakland County. This experience, complete with a gift from "Santa" to all the children and teachers who participate, is mainly funded through the monies raised from this bowl-a-thon.

Date: Saturday Nov 13th, 2021

Time: 12-3pm

Location: Century Bowl in Waterford (next to the MJR Waterford Cinema, across from Lakeland Ice Arena)

Cost: \$6 to bowl and a separate \$20 minimum donation

Details: Pledge sheets, for additional donations, are available at Lakeland High School or for more information please contact Mr. Scott Rolando, Lakeland Student Activities Director at scott.rolando@hvs.org.

Follow US ONLINE!



Kurtz Elementary School



Kurtzelementary



@kurtzelementary



Kurtz Elementary

ADHD Resource for Parents

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) was founded in 1987 in response to the frustration and sense of isolation experienced by parents and their children with ADHD. Our Kurtz team wanted to share the resource with parents as they offer a great deal of research-based tools, resources and information about supporting students that experience ADHD related challenges in the academic setting. Our team is suggesting parents check out the homework help they offer for kids with ADHD but will help all parents/students.

<https://chadd.org/for-parents/homework-help-for-adhd/>



DROP-OFF and PICK-UP

We are very proud of the pick-up and drop-off processes we have in place at Kurtz. We work hard to make this daily routine safe and effective. There are Kurtz staff members assigned to ensure our systems work effectively, while still making sure to use the time to connect with students and provide support when and if support is needed.

We assure you that our system works and is most effective when visitors follow our plan. We are always focused on getting you in and out of the parking lot as quickly as possible. Visitors can help us make pick-up and drop-off times flow best by not parking on the curb during pick-up and drop-off time. Vehicles should be pulling up and quickly getting child(ren) in and out of



the car. We ask you not to get out and help children in or out of the vehicle. Utilize Kurtz staff or park if your child requires extra support.

Visitors should never pass in the left lane of the loop because it is not safe for our students and could (and has) result in damage to vehicles, adding unnecessary stress on individuals. We feel strongly that passing really only has the potential to save a few seconds on your commute and strongly expect you not to do it.

If you are planning to park, please park in a designated parking space. Kurtz staff members park in the back of the lot in order to make it as easy as possible for parents to find a parking space in our small park-

ing lot.

Parents, please note a few more safety guidelines. Students should never be walking through the parking lot without an adult. Please also observe and obey the posted speed limit sign on Kurtz Drive. We have also been contacted by our neighbors at the Document Store to ask parents not to use their parking lot as a pick-up space.

We ask that parents do not expect to escort their child(ren) to their classrooms for various health and safety reasons. Teachers meet their students outside each morning to start the day in a positive and personal manner. Your participation in this process is both expected and appreciated. Please feel free to share ideas and suggestions in writing with me, Mr. Chisik, at your earliest convenience.

PTA Corner

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

On behalf of the Kurtz PTA, a huge THANK YOU to all Kurtz families and friends who contributed to the Color Run fundraiser with your time and donations. Our generous community sponsors really stepped up. The funds will support new and exciting things to come next year like field trips, assemblies and classroom equipment. All 100% of the donations benefit Kurtz Elementary!

This year we EXCEEDED the \$20,000 goal which means fun rewards for students raising the most money!

First Prize - Field Trip to the Milford Cinema including treats

1st Grade

Second Prize - Classroom Slime Party

2nd Grade

Third Prize - Classroom Electronics or Movie Day

Kindergarten

Top Earning Student - Principal for 1/2 Day and Lunch with 2 friends and Mr. Chisik

Annalisa Fikany \$1,105 and Mya Dinverno \$1,075

Winning Classroom with highest donations - Mrs. Zimmerman's 1st Graders

Silly String Mr. Chisik

Special Thanks for our Sponsors:

JP Mortgage

Boni-Hutchingson Company

Awaken Aesthetics

Kennedy Family

Justin Credible Remodeling

Perimutter Freiwald Inc.

Oathout Construction

Riverside Commons Community

**Donations Accepted Until November 22nd, 2021*



The Teacher Appreciation Committee still needs items for staff dinners on conference nights, Nov 4 & 9. Please sign up here. tinyurl.com/3ufv4xxa
Thanks!

We have a discrete and confidential parent group in place at Kurtz referred to as **Email Angels**. Please let the Email Angels know if you are ever interested in adopting a child or family for the Thanksgiving or the December holiday season. We are always interested in playing a role in making this season as perfect as we can for every member of the Kurtz community. **Email Today to Join!** Email kurtz.email.angel@gmail.com to be added to the Email Angels group. Volunteers are always needed and forever appreciated... THANK YOU!

Follow US ONLINE!



Kurtz Elementary School



Kurtzelementary



@kurtzelementary



Kurtz Elementary

The Kurtz PTA welcomes EVERYONE! The next General Membership PTA meeting will be held in person and on Zoom on November 10th, 2021 @7pm. Get involved, share ideas, and participate!

2021/22 Kurtz PTA Board:

Michelle Lauzon- PTA President

Jenny MacDonell- Vice-President

Jodie Courtney- Treasurer

Kristin Rolfe-Communications Secretary

Amy Gritzinger- Recording Secretary



Welcoming + Empowering + Achieving = GREATNESS!