

# The KURTZ CONNECTOR

December 22

**Building Hours:**

**9:10 1st Bell (students may enter) / 9:13 2nd Bell (school starts) / 4:07 Dismissal**

Hungry Howie's Night (4 - 8)	11-1
Early release - Students released at 2:44	12-6
Holiday Shop	12-7 through 12-9
Vision screening for grades 1, 3 & 5	12-9 through 12-12
PTA meeting @ 7:00 in the conference room	12-14
Winter break	12-22 through 1-3
PTA meeting @ 9:30 in the cafeteria	1-11
Fourth grade DIA field trip	1-13
MLK Day - No school	1-16
Hearing screening for grades K, 2 and 4	1-17 through 1/20
End of 2nd marking period	1-25

**New Team Members**

I am proud and happy to introduce a few new names to our already stellar roster. Kate Shaw is our new fourth grade teacher. Kate has moved to Michigan after teaching 13 years in Illinois. She is an HVS parent and comes with more than a few recommendations. She starts teaching our fourth grade team on December 5 and she is very excited to be here on the Kurtz team.



Jenny MacDonell has taken on a part time roll supporting Julie Sienko and our PBIS program. Jenny is a VALUED Kurtz parent, PTA member and just all around amazing person. Her addition to the team will mean covering more of the week. Her time is not bell to bell each day of the week yet, but we are getting closer! Jenny is being trained by Julie right now, but she will be helping to make sure we are even more available to run scheduled and nonscheduled PBIS sessions.



Much needed and appreciated lunch/recess supervisors are also coming on board. Pam Richards has already started and Denise Montour should be in the house before the break. The whole team is thrilled to have these new team members and the support of some of our great parent volunteers as these last few weeks have been difficult to cover. This team is very positive and child-centered and committed to making their time with our kids positive, safe and fun.



## Follow US ONLINE!



Kurtzelementary



@kurtzelementary



Kurtz Elementary School



HVS.ORG

## Cougar Robotics Team

Cougar Robotics competed at Plymouth Canton High School last month in the FIRST Lego League competition. Our team of engineers presented a beaver theme. The team learned about hydroelectricity, dams and beavers - nature's engineers!

The Cougar Robotics won the coveted Challenge Solution Award yesterday at the FIRST Robotics Lego League Expo. We can be proud of the boys professional presentation.

Coaches:  
Amy Gritzinger  
Kevin Crittenden

3rd Grade Team:  
Leo Crittenden  
Miles MacDonell  
Rowan Rachel  
Joe McGuire  
Macklin Craig  
Lucas Schmidlin



**FIRST**  
**LEGO**  
**LEAGUE**

The FIRST Lego League 2022 competition theme was “Super Powered.” The focus was on energy sources, storage and consumption. The Cougar Robotics Team has been working hard this season to understand the energy journey right here in Milford. This included a field trip to the Pettibone Hydroelectric Power Station, built by Henry Ford in 1939, as well as to surrounding rivers and dams.

The team learned that trees save energy through cooling in the hotter months, and provide a wind break during winter. This results in burning less fossil

fuel to generate electricity for cooling and heating. As an initiative to conserve energy, the team is planning on planting a tree on the school grounds this spring, on Earth Day. Lowe’s provides free saplings around this time as well.

Below is a link to Michigan.gov interactive tree planning map  
<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/forestry/mi-trees>







## Students in the Spotlight

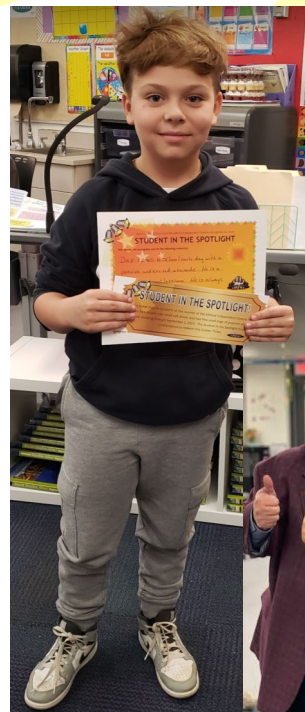
Congratulations to Dax Brown and Drew Shortal for being recognized as our Students in the Spotlight, this month. Dax, a fourth grade student in Mrs. Shaw's class, is a leader in school. He is an excellent student with a positive attitude. Dax is strong in math and is always willing to support his peers in growing their own skills. We are so fortunate to have Dax at Kurtz and look forward to seeing him continue to grow his capacity as a learner.

Drew is a fifth grader in Mrs.

Kelpack's class and is also viewed as a leader and role model among his fifth grade peers. All year, Drew has worked hard to learn new concepts and ideas and to make sure his peers are learning and growing too. His enthusiasm and friendliness is contagious!

Both students exemplify the type of leadership attributes our staff and students recognize as meaningful and effective.

We celebrate our Students in the Spotlight each month because they make a difference at school and in our great community.



## The Lü Interactive Playground is ONLINE!

The most recently added tool from our Bond work is the Lü Interactive Playground. The Lü adds technology and fun to your child's visit to their PE class. Mr. Brugger has been working hard to dig into the resource and integrate it into lessons. Students have been having a blast as the Lü increases the fun and excitement in the gym by projecting realistic, fun and engaging aspects to Mr. Brugger's already engaging interactions with them. Check out these recent images from the gym at Kurtz.



Welcoming+Empoweing+Achieving=GREATNESS!



## Former HVS Board of Education Member Visits

Former HVS Board of Education member Bonnie Brown visited classrooms and read to Kurtz students last month. Students loved interacting with her and hearing her read to them. We loved having her visit.



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## Parking Lot

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 ensuring 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 times.

- Mind the 15 MPH speed limit on Kurtz Drive.
- Vehicles should be pulling up and quickly getting child(ren) in and out of the car. Please do not get out and help children in or out of the vehicle.
- Utilize pick-up and drop-off 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) resulted 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 designate 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 parking lot. Also, students should never be walking through the parking lot without an adult. Parents, please observe the posted speed limit sign on Kurtz Drive.
- We ask parents to respect our neighbors and never block driveways when you are picking up or dropping off. 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.



Parents are not 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

Hello Kurtz Families!

With Thanksgiving behind us and winter holidays in full swing, let's wrap up some cheer at the 2022 Holiday Shop! This shop gives students the opportunity to look at a range of items and buy holiday gifts (for moms, dads, siblings, grandparents and even their pets), during the school day.

Dec 7th-8th - Items will be wrapped and sent home until the big day!

We will need volunteers to help with the set-up, personal shopping and clean-up. Volunteers will be working directly with students, assisting with shopping, handling money, wrapping gifts and spreading holiday cheer. Volunteers will work in two-hour increments. Please feel free to sign up for as many shifts as you'd like. More volunteers make for a smoother flow. Any and all help is much appreciated. Please sign up below or contact Michelle Lauzon or Jaclyn Machnak with questions. When you arrive at Kurtz, please check in at the office and then head down to the Kurtz stage. This event is sure to be a great success thanks to all our wonderful volunteers!

**The Kurtz PTA Board wishes each of you a safe, healthy and joyous holiday season and into the New Year.**

### Upcoming Events:

Dec 3- Hungry Howie's Night 4-8 pm

Dec 7-8 Holiday Shop

Dec 14- PTA General Membership meeting 7 pm

Dec 20- Cocoa and Crafts with Yule Tide Yoga

All are welcome to join the next Kurtz PTA General Membership meeting in the cafeteria on December 14, 2022, at 7:00 PM.

Please watch social media for the agenda and information you do not want to miss!

\*Please note, to accommodate schedules, the PTA will alternate between morning and evening meetings.

Kurtz Spirit Wear available year-round at 1st Place Spirit Wear <https://1stplacespiritwear.com/>

2022/23 Kurtz PTA Board:

Michelle Lauzon- PTA President

Jenny MacDonell- Vice-President

Jodie Courtney- Treasurer

Kristin Rolfe-Communications Secretary

Amy Gritzinger- Recording Secretary

Follow us on social media

Facebook: Kurtz Elementary PTA 2022-2023

Instagram: Kurtz Elementary PTA

Email: KurtzElementaryPTA@gmail

## The Mobile Dentist

Great news! Our school has partnered with Smile Programs...the mobile dentists who offer in-school dental care. Sign up your child today at [www.myschooldentist.com](http://www.myschooldentist.com).

Even better, dental care is usually at no cost to you. All insurance is accepted including Medicaid and CHIP. For those without insurance, a low cost self-pay option is available.

### Convenient and Comfortable

Our in-school dental program saves you time and provides a safe and comfortable place for your child to receive gentle dental care from licensed local professionals. Dental care includes a complete dental exam, x-rays, cleaning, fluoride and sealants when necessary, and in some cases, restorative care such as fillings.

Simply go to [www.myschooldentist.com](http://www.myschooldentist.com) or call with questions 1-888-833-8841.

