

January 23

The KURTZ CONNECTOR

Mobile Dentist	1/10
PTA meeting in the cafeteria at 9:30	1/11
4th grade DIA field trip	1/13
MLK Day - no school	1/16
STEM Night in the cafeteria (6:30 - 8:00)	1/19
Term 2 closes - (Family Access closed)	1/25
Half day - students released at 12:50	1/27
Breakfast with a Buddy at 8:15 in the cafeteria	1/27
Healthy Heart Challenge - MHS 12:30 - 3:00	2/4
Early release - students released at 2:44	2/7
PTA meeting in the conference room at 7:00	2/8
Report cards posted on Family Access	2/9
Winter Break - no school	2/17 through 2/21
JK Information Night	2/23

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

Securing Safety and Security

As our thinking related to safety and security at the elementary school level continues to evolve, I want to share with you Huron Valley Schools' commitment to keeping our students safe at school each and every day. In Huron Valley, all visitors to our building have to be given access to the building through our new safe entry at the front of the building. Our office staff greets each visitor and makes sure access to the building is only given under very specific circumstances. Visitors coming to school to pick up their child(ren) are always asked for identification and students are only released to adults who are on their emergency card(s).

It is important to know that all visitors requesting access to the building (beyond the main office) must have a Criminal Records Check, known as a CRC, on file with us at Kurtz. In the past, it has been our practice to allow visitors into the building to attend events, classroom parties and to visit classrooms as authorized and scheduled by classroom teachers. In the past, we did not require a CRC unless a known visitor was going to be working with or supporting students outside of the teacher or staff member's ability to provide direct supervision.

Effective immediately, we are requiring all visitors requesting access to classrooms and to students to have a CRC on file with us in the office. This practice increases our ability to ensure the safety of every person in our school. We recognize that this practice may come as a surprise to some of our stakeholders. I ask for everyone's cooperation as we establish this as a new and soon-to-be, common practice.

CRC forms can be obtained at the main office or by downloading a copy of the form on the Kurtz Connection SMORE sent this month. There could be up to a two week turnaround time on the completion of a CRC, once it has been completed and submitted to our central office team. A CRC is good for the entire school year that it was issued. All CRC's are kept in the main office and teachers are provided with a list of parents and/or guardians that have a valid CRC on file. If you have questions or concerns about this distinct level process, please reach out to Mr. Chisik as you see fit.



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Kurtz Elementary School



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Kurtz Elementary

Smartwatches at School

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and we hope your break was everything you needed it to be and more! As 2023 gets underway, we are noticing that many of our students are coming back to school with smartwatches. A smartwatch is a watch that also acts as a Personal Communication Device (PCD).

Like cell phones, smartwatches are allowed in school. However, in order to ensure that these devices are not a distraction and do not encroach on safety and security, we do have Board Policy 5136 governing usage. Here at Kurtz, and in conjunction with Board Policy, the following applies:

- Smartwatches may be worn throughout the day but should only be used for accessing the time and date.
- Much like cell phones, texting between watches (or

other PCDs) from student to student, during school hours, is not permitted.

- During school hours, any phone calls (outgoing or incoming) should be made through the office only. This is to ensure safety and clear lines of communication for our staff and parents.

- At no time during the school day should smartwatches be



used to take pictures, record audio or record videos of others.

- Much like cell phones, unless permitted by the teacher, students should refrain from

accessing the internet during the school day.

Again, a more detailed explanation on PCD usage can be found in Board Policy 5136 on the www.hvs.org website. If your child has a smartwatch, please talk to him/her about appropriate usage at school. To simplify the conversation, have them think of a smartwatch as a cell phone on the wrist. All of the same expectations that come with having a cell phone at school, hold true for smartwatches.

We continue to be focused on students interacting socially with each other during the school day. We will continue to work diligently to promote positive and appropriate social and emotional growth for all students during the school day. Please join this focus and help us to minimize distractions, especially during the school day.

Principals at Work!

You may recall that the top earners in our Color Run each year receive the honor of becoming principal for 1/2 day. In December, our top 2 earners expanded to 3, in order to recognize an amazing set of twins at Kurtz. The girls all had a blast as they planned their time, supported their teachers,

took their whole classes out for an additional recess and had a special lunch with friends.

Thank you to these families and to all of our families for supporting your PTA and as the funding allocated supports all students at Kurtz!





Kids Heart Challenge is HERE!

Kurtz Families, Kids Heart Challenge™ has officially kicked off!

Signing up is as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Start by downloading the Kids Heart Challenge app or visiting our school's link below
2. Help your child to select a personal challenge: *Be Kind* or *Move More*.
3. Become a Heart Hero by sending emails/e-cards on the website or texts via the app to invite friends and family to support.

The KHC [Online Envelope](#) will show you all the thank you gifts your kiddos can earn.

Together, as a school community, we are helping kids like Finn! Learn about Finn [HERE](#)



<http://www2.heart.org/goto/KurtzElementarySchool>

or download the Kids Heart Challenge App!



Raise \$150 by Friday January 13th and earn the bonus Heart Hero, Frankie!

Thank you so much for supporting our school and the American Heart Association!
Interested in learning more about advocating for the AHA? [Join You're the Cure](#)

See this file on the January Kurtz Connection SMORE for live links at:

<https://www.smore.com/5d9z0>

Students in the Spotlight

Congratulations to Cash Hall and Layla Batozynski for being recognized as our Students in the Spotlight this month.

Cash, a fifth grade student in Mrs. Fontaine's class, is a leader in school. Cash is a determined student who follows rules and expectations and works hard in the classroom. He goes out of his way to make sure everyone is included in activities both in the classroom and on the playground.

Layla is in Mrs. Hornyak's third grade class and is also viewed as a leader and role model among her third grade peers. Layla goes above and beyond

and always produces quality work. She is a great friend to all of her classmates.

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.





Rise & shine...

Have Breakfast with a Buddy

See you at the Kurtz Cafeteria, bright and early
at 8:15 am on Friday, January 27, 2023

RSVP on the Sign-up Genius
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044CADA82CA0F85-breakfast2>

Pick Up and Drop Off

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.

Welcoming + Empowering + Achieving = GREATNESS!

Thank You for Your Support!

As your school family, one of our priorities this time of year is supporting our families that need us the most. Leading up to holiday break, many of our community partners stepped up and helped us to make a huge impact in the lives of some of our own neighbors. We would like to thank our own Kurtz PTA, the Milford Fire Department, Marla Hayden from Heinsight Eyecare, Christen Bracken and The Huron Valley Rotary Club, as well as Ann Koss and Pastor Doug McMunn with the Milford United Methodist Church. The generosity continues. . . Thank you to Milford Miracles, Lighthouse, HVS Bank, Dan Caldwell with Milford Police Department and Greg Brainer with the Village Elves. We would also like to thank Bob and Melinda Klepack, Lisa Whelan, Adam Gordon, Susie Gallison, Melinda Mihail, Sherry Bulinda, Kevin Burger, James Courtney and Nicole, Oak Valley Middle School, St. Mary's and Mike with St. Vincent de Paul. This community continues to impress year after year! Thank you to Melissa Segura and the employees with Pet Supplies Plus, Cathy Longcore, Jill McDonald, Laura Dodd, Kelley Kirchner at Community Sharing and all of our anonymous donors.

We would especially like to thank our dedicated Email Angels for always coming through when we need them most. We couldn't have done

it without Beth Ginsbach, founder of the Email Angels and Jenny Macdonnell, for her third year as the volunteer liaison of our Email Angels group. Most importantly, thank you to Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Mattingly, our social workers and Julie Sienko (PBIS para educator) for the work behind the scenes.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Mattingly go to exhaustive lengths to manage the needs and potential resources each year in order to ensure confidentiality and to balance the needs of our families. Their work is not just about making sure kids have gifts for the holidays, but includes organizing holiday meals, finding ways to pay bills that keep the lights on and heat running, repair vehicles to keep parents employed and even avoid the eviction of families. Our social workers are an amazing resource to the entire Kurtz community, but they would be unable to make the difference they do without all of the support they get from our community partners. Your Kurtz staff is very aware of just how fortunate we are to have such supportive community partners. We were able to

adopt families for the holidays and/or support about 42 families this year! What an incredible feat!

If you are interested in helping to provide support to families in need throughout the year, we are always open to accepting donations for our Kurtz Hardship Fund in the form of cash or gift cards. If you are experiencing a hardship and need help connecting with community resources, we also encourage you to reach out to Mrs. Smith via email at leah.smith@hvs.org.

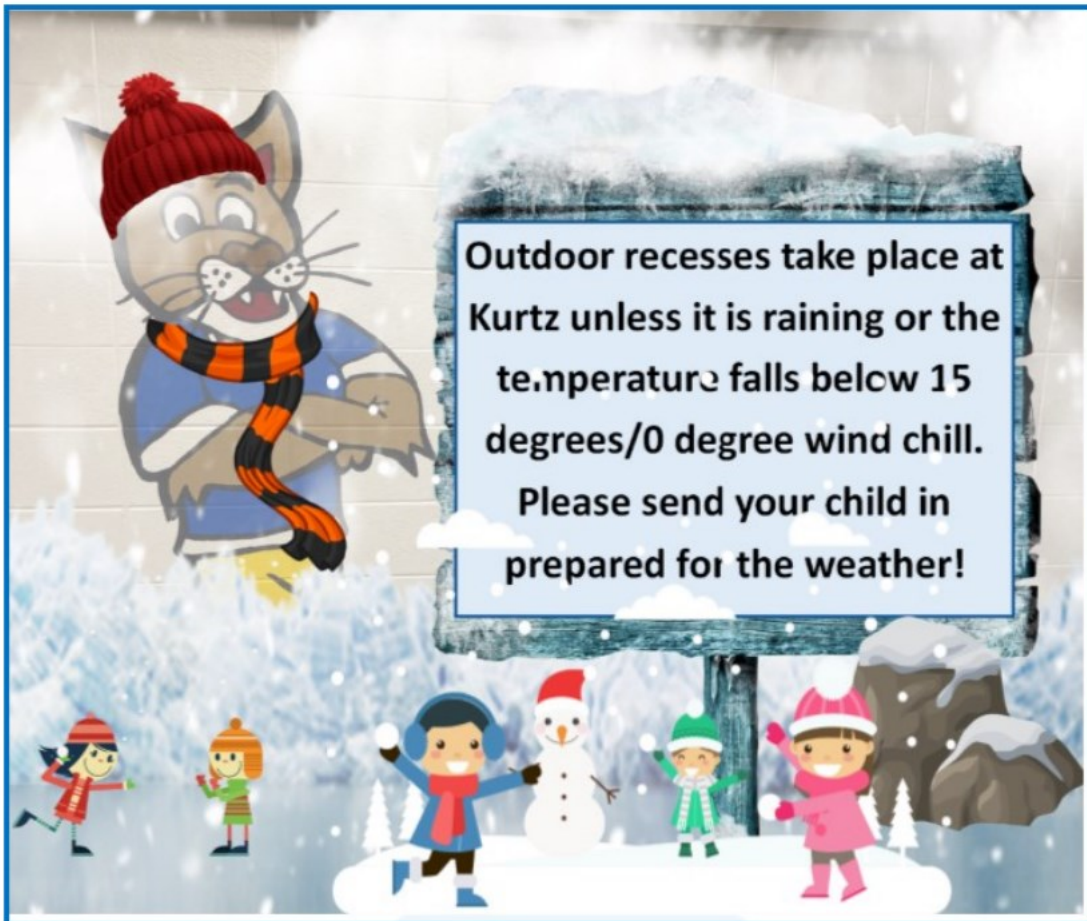
If you would like to join our Email Angels group, please contact Mrs. Macdonnell at kurtz.email.angel@gmail.com. There is no obligation when you participate in Email Angels. We send out a group email when there is a need and members respond if interested/able. Often we're looking for things like gently used clothes, snacks or specific items like beds, etc. Your generosity is felt by many and we are proud to be a part of such a wonderful and empathetic community!





MEMSPA's Regional Honoree for Oakland County

Our own principal, Mr. Chisik was recognized last month as the Regional Honoree for Region 7 (Oakland County) for the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principal's Association. Mr. Chisik has been a long time member and participant in the organization. Mr. Chisik has made many contributions to the organization including being a part of MEMSPA's strategic planning process, pandemic response planning/support and has worked diligently in his various roles on the region's leadership team here in Oakland County. Mr, Chisik and his regional leadership team presented last month at MEMSPA's Annual Conference where he was also recognized as the Regional Honoree.



PTA Corner

Hello Kurtz Families! We hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and that you are ready to start the new year with renewed energy!

We are excited to announce the PTA will be hosting several events and activities in the coming months, and we hope that you will join us in making these events a success. Some of the events include Family STEM Night, Breakfast with Buddies, Defy Night and the Shamrock Shuffle. We encourage you to mark your calendars and plan to attend these events; they are sure to be a lot of fun!

Family STEM Night 1/19/2023
SignUp Genius Link
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094AAEAB2BA0FB6-kurtz>

We also want to take this opportunity to remind you that the success of our events and activities relies heavily on the support and participation of our Cougar community. If you are interested in volunteering

your time or resources to support these events, we would love to hear from you. Whether you can help with planning, set up, or day-of support, every little bit helps and is greatly appreciated.

We hope that you will join us in making this new year a memorable and successful one for Kurtz Elementary!

Upcoming Events:

[Jan 3- Hungry Howie's Pizza Night 4-8 PM](#)

Jan 11- General Membership PTA meeting 9:30 AM

Jan 19- Family STEM Night 6:30-8 PM

Jan 27- Breakfast with Buddies at 8:15 AM

All are welcome to join the next Kurtz PTA General Membership meeting in the cafeteria **January 11, 2023, at 9:30 AM.**

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 is 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

