

March 23

The KURTZ CONNECTOR

Hungry Howie's Night 4:00 - 8:00	3/7
PTA meeting in the cafeteria at 9:30	3/8
Teacher PD - No school for students.	3/14
Kindergarten Orientation @ 6:00 in the cafeteria	3/16
The Shamrock Shuffle	3/18
Spring Break	3/27 through 3/31
Good Friday - No school for students.	4/7
Early Release - Students released at 2:37.	4/12
PTA meeting in the cafeteria at 7:00	4/12
Teacher Takeover at the Milford McDonalds!	4/18
3rd grade Disney Assembly @ Lakeland HS	4/26
Family Access is open to view report cards.	4/27
Breakfast with a Buddy @ 8:00 in the cafeteria	4/28

Building Hours:

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

Snow and Ice Days

You may be aware of Michigan's pupil accounting rules which allow six school closures per year known as "forgiven days". They are most often used for snow days or power outages on individual campuses. As of March 1, Kurtz has used 5 of our 6 allotted days. If we exceed the total of 6 forgiven days, the district has the ability to request a waiver of a portion of the days missed. It is also possible that the state could decide to provide a blanket forgiveness for common issues like the ice storm we all just endured. In the event that we do reach a seventh closure, Mr. Chisik will be working with our Huron Valley Central Office team to avoid the possibility of extending the school year further into June than currently scheduled. Stay tuned for more information.



From the Principal's Desk...

Literacy is a huge priority for all of our staff and students at Kurtz. March is Reading Month is a great opportunity for us to celebrate literacy. We are very excited about reading a book together as a school family this month. Our PTA has funded the purchase of Aven Green Baking Machine by Dusti Bowling for every family in our school. It is our hope that families join us in reading it.

This book was selected because in great part it celebrates diversity and inclusion which are both a huge part of the landscape at Kurtz. We are excited to have a visit from Dusti Bowling this month. We hope that our families will take some time out to include reading this new book together as a family. Check out the article and calendar in this Connector for more information. Specific chapters will be assigned each day of the Kurtz Family All School Read. We are going to have some daily challenges related to the reading that will give our kids chances to earn some cool prizes.

Follow US ONLINE!



Kurtz Elementary School



@kurtzelementary



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Kurtz Elementary

March is Reading Month!

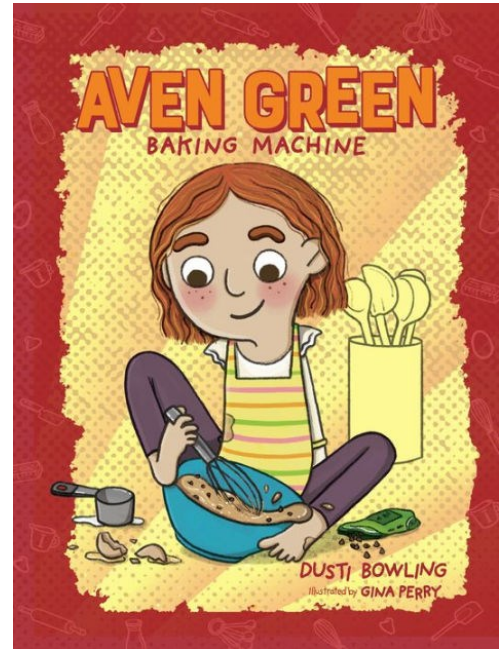
March is Reading Month is upon us. We will have lots of activities for student and family participation. First off will be the book fair which starts Monday, February 27 and runs through Friday, March 3. **Lunch with a Loved One** was a huge success.

We are having a **Kurtz Family All School Read** starting on Tuesday, March 8th and ending on March 16th. Every family in the school will receive the book *Aven Green Baking Machine* by Dusti Bowling. Every night there will be assigned chapters to read. The next day students will


answer trivia questions for a chance to win a prize. More information will be inside the book along with a book mark.

We are so excited to have Dusti Green, author of the *Aven Green book series*, visit us on March 16. We will have other activities going on throughout the month and the end of the month **Reading Celebration** will be on March 22. It will be a fantastic month.

Please see attached calendar for all the exciting activities!



March is Reading Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Kurtz Family All School Read! 	27 Book Fair Grades K-1 Lunch with a Loved One Read to a book to or with someone at home	28 No School	1 Book Fair Grades 4-5 Lunch with a Loved One Read a Shirt Day! Wear a shirt to school with words on it	2 Book Fair Grades 2-3 Lunch with a Loved One Read Across America Day!	3 Book Fair World Wildlife Day! Read a book about an animal	4 Play a word game like Wordle, Boggle or Scrabble.
5 Read to someone at home	6 Last Day for Book Fair	7 National Cereal Day! Read a cereal box.	8 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 1 and 2	9 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 3 and 4	10 Read a Hat Day! Wear a hat with words on it to school	11 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 1-4
12 Plant A Flower Day! Read about plants	13 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 5 and 6	14 No School Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 7 and 8	15 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 9 and 10	16 Guest Author Visits Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 11 and 12	17 St. Patrick's Day Read about Ireland or leprechauns	18 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 5-12
19 Let's Laugh Day! Read some jokes or riddles	20 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 13, 14, 15	21 World Poetry Day! Read or write a poem	22 Reading Celebration!	23 Trade a Teacher Read Aloud	24 Pajama Day D-Drop E-Everything A-And R-Read	25 Visit Your Local Library

Students in the Spotlight

Congratulations to Antonio Ambrois and Kennedy Cottongim for being recognized as our Students in the Spotlight this month.

Antonio displays student leadership in the classroom and on the playground. He is a caring friend who helps others. Antonio has been working hard to develop positive student attributes. His teacher, Mrs Rupp thinks it's a pleasure to have Antonio in class this year.

Kennedy is a third grader who always works hard. She is a leader and role model in her classroom and is always kind and caring to all of her class-

mates.

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.



Remember Your CRC!

All visitors requesting access to classrooms and to students have 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. We ask for everyone's cooperation as we establish this as a 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 turna-

round 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 district policy, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Chisik directly.





PARTICIPATION OPEN TO ALL GRADES



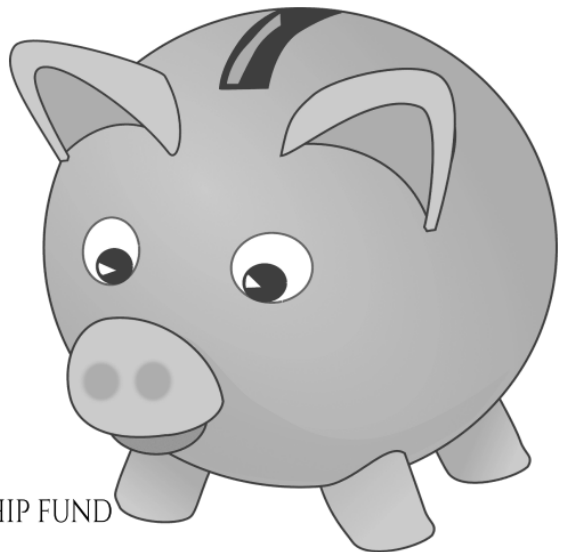
The Rules:

Each grade has a jug to drop pennies into between 3/20-3/24. Each penny is worth a point, whichever grade has the most points wins.

But.... Grades can sabotage each other and try to deduct points by dropping any silver coin into the bucket

THE GRADE LEVEL THAT HAS THE MOST POINTS WILL WIN BRAGGING RIGHTS, A TROPHY AND A PIZZA PARTY!

- QUARTER - SUBTRACT 25 POINTS**
- DIME - SUBTRACT 10 POINTS**
- NICKEL SUBTRACT 5 POINTS**



ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT KURTZ EMAIL ANGELS HARDSHIP FUND

English Language Learners are a Focus at Kurtz

During the month of February, our English Language students have been busy taking our state-mandated WIDA ACCESS Test. (WIDA stands for Word-Class Instructional Design and Assessment). This test is administered to kindergarten through grade 12 students who have been identified as English learners. It is given annually to monitor stu-

dents' progress in acquiring English language proficiency in academic contexts, while measuring a student's ability to speak, write, read and listen to the English language.

EL teachers and General Education teachers will look at the results of the WIDA ACCESS Test, along with other WIDA re-

sources, to make decisions about students' proficiency with English in academic contexts and to facilitate their language development throughout the year.

Our amazing EL students continue to work hard every day at simultaneously learning the English language and classroom content while at Kurtz!

Dismissal Time is 4:07

Parents, please note the elementary dismissal time in Huron Valley is 4:07pm. At Kurtz, we have been starting to release students before that 4:07 time in response to some of the pandemic-related obstacles that we have experienced over the last few years. As this is no longer the case, we will be starting the dismissal process at 4:07, in order to be consistent with district and state expectations.

You may know that our calendar and bell schedule are based on actual "seat" time students are in school. This time is set to meet our 180 student days and 1098 hours needed for us to receive our state aid. Having students line up in hallways, leave for buses, or dismiss prior to 4:07 pm would mean that we would be out of compliance.

The first bus will be called at 4:07. Our dismissal crew will also start calling names for car riders at 4:07, as well.

I would like to remind parents that instruction takes place between 9:15am and 4:07pm each day. We ask that parents refrain from early pick-ups as they create unnecessary distractions in the learning environment. We understand that things happen that must be a priority for you and your family, but we greatly appreciate it when parents do not schedule

events that would require early pick-ups. If you do have to pick up early, please do not call expecting your child(ren) to be called down to the office. Students are called down when parents arrive. Thank you for your attention to these important dismissal time details.



SIGN UP TODAY

Kurtz Elementary YOGA CLUB



Wednesdays 415-515pm meeting in the Music Room

April 26th-May 24th

through

Huron Valley Recreation & Community Education

Winter/Spring programs

Join **Ms. Kathy Elgin** for **5 weeks** of stretching, balancing, and moving to music while becoming **STRONGER, CALMER, & KINDER.**

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY, everyone is welcome



Just \$88 for 5 YOGA sessions!



Covid Updates

With the number of Positive COVID-19 cases increasing locally and across the state, we want to send out a few reminders.

AT HOME tests **are not** allowed for symptomatic students or staff. A **PCR test** is required when presenting with **ANY ONE of the major symptoms or 2 of the minor symptoms.**

MAJOR: (1 symptom requires a PCR to return to school)

- ◆ New Cough

- ◆ Shortness of Breath
- ◆ Difficulty Breathing
- ◆ Loss of Taste or Smell

MINOR: (2 or more requires a PCR to return to school)

- ◆ Fever of 100.4 or higher
- ◆ Congestion or runny nose
- ◆ Chills
- ◆ Muscle aches
- ◆ Headache
- ◆ Sore Throat
- ◆ Fatigue
- ◆ Diarrhea (2x within 24 hours)
- ◆ Nausea or vomiting (2x

within 24 hours)
 *A Doctor's note may be accepted in lieu of a PCR test as long as it is signed by an MD or DO and states a clear alternative diagnosis for symptoms.



The Healthy Heart Challenge was a BLAST!

The American Heart Association reached out to thank our school community for raising \$12,982.25 with our school's recent Kid's Heart Challenge /American Heart Challenge program.

Families and schools are critical links in providing the foundation for cardiovascular wellness in our country. Your support and participation in the Kid's Heart Challenge/ American Heart Challenge makes a tremendous impact in helping millions of Americans through increased awareness of cardiovascular disease, lifesaving scientific research and critically needed education efforts.



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 all the way 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. Al-

so, 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!

PTA Corner

After an extended midwinter break, the Cougar community has fun and warmer days ahead. March brings daylight saving time and the return of crowd-pleasing events for the whole family!

Shamrock Shuffle with Someone Special

on 3/18/23 from 6-8 pm is in the Kurtz cafeteria. There will be food, crafts, games, dancing, balloon drop, photo area, and much more! The cost is \$15 per couple or \$25 per family (cash at the door or Venmo any-time). Casual attire is suggested; lucky green is recommended. Check social media and email for more details.



Have you heard of a **Penny War**? Here's the scoop... We want to help raise money for the Email Angels, an anonymous group dedicated solely to Kurtz families in need, throughout the year. The week of March 20 - 24 students can bring

pennies and other coins to school to fill a jar for each grade. We'll add up how many pennies are in each jar, and then subtract the value of any silver coins in the same jar. Hint: throw some silver coins into your rival classes jar ;-)
The class with the highest total points, after the silver coins have been subtracted, wins a pizza party, trophy, and bragging rights!

With only three and a half months of school left, we're looking ahead to April... **SAVE THE DATE- 4/18/23 is Kurtz McDonald's Takeover Night!** Come for dinner so Kurtz teachers and staff can serve you with a smile! Stay tuned on social media for more details.

Also watch for more info regarding another Breakfast with Buddies and Cereal Box Dominoe Challenge.

March Events

3/7/23 Hungry Howie's Pizza Night 4-8 pm
3/8/23 9:40 am PTA General Membership Meeting
3/18/23 6-8 pm Shamrock Shuffle
3/20 - 3/24/23 Penny Wars

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



Milford Cinema Hosts School Event!

What is happening? The Milford Cinema is offering a school event where the Kurtz staff is going to “work the cinema” during this school only event! Members of the Kurtz team will be on hand selling popcorn and concessions and hanging out with families before the movie starts.

What do you need to know?

Tickets for the event will be \$5 per guests. Due to the limited

seating, parents must buy their tickets online. Tickets will be sold on a first come, first serve basis until the event is sold out. Go to <https://www.milfordcinema.org/kurtz> to purchase tickets.

This is not a drop off event. We ask that only **one adult per family accompanies their child(ren) in order to maximize the number of students who can attend.** The Milford Cinema will donate the ticket sales back to the Kurtz PTA.

3/10 K-2 Lyle, Lyle Crocodile

3/20 3-5 Puss in Boots 2: The Last Wish

Showtimes are both at 6:00

School Take over of the Milford Cinema!

What is happening? The Milford Cinema is offering a School event where the Kurtz staff is going to “work the cinema” during this school only event! Members of the Kurtz team will be on hand selling popcorn and concessions and hanging out with families before the movie starts.



Kindergarten - 2nd grade night:
Friday, 3/10 at 6pm

What do you need to know?
Tickets for the event will be \$5 per guests. Due to the limited seating, parents must buy their tickets online. Tickets will be sold on a first come first serve basis until the event is sold out. Go to <https://www.milfordcinema.org/kurtz> to purchase tickets. This is not a drop off event. We ask that only **one adult per family accompanies their child(ren) in order to maximize the number of students who can attend.** The Milford Cinema will donate the ticket sales back to the Kurtz PTA.

Have any questions? Please contact Steve Chisik at your earliest convenience at steve.chisik@hvs.org

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3rd - 5th grade night:
Monday, 3/20 at 6pm

What do you need to know?
Tickets for the event will be \$5 per guests. Due to the limited seating, parents must buy their tickets online. Tickets will be sold on a first come first serve basis until the event is sold out. Go to <https://www.milfordcinema.org/kurtz> to purchase tickets. This is not a drop off event. We ask that only **one adult per family accompanies their child(ren) in order to maximize the number of students who can attend.** The Milford Cinema will donate the ticket sales back to the Kurtz PTA.

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Welcoming + Empowering + Achieving = GREATNESS!



**DON'T MISS OUT! NOW
IS THE TIME TO BUY
YOUR CHILD'S**

5th Grade Shout Out

Cost: \$5

250 Characters or Less

Messages can be sent to

kurtzelementaryPTA@gmail.com

with Venmo payment or typed and

sent to the office with a

cash payment

Due: No later than 3/24

