

October 27, 2024

Hello Kinawa Families,

Our students had a good week at Kinawa while navigating through some of the rumors being spread around. Students have an exciting week ahead with a Chippewa Halloween Band concert on Wednesday, the excitement of Halloween on Thursday, and no school on Friday as all staff members are in professional development on Friday.

Tuesday night we will be hosting a Safety and Security Forum at Kinawa for anyone who is interested in attending. The forum will begin at 7pm in the Kinawa auditorium. Please plan to park in the large parking lot on the east side of the building.

Below you will find information pertaining to upcoming events at Kinawa.

UPCOMING DATES

October 27: Trunk or Treat Event

October 29: Safety and Security Forum in Kinawa Auditorium from 7pm - 8:30pm

November 1: No School Professional Development Day for all Okemos Staff

November 20: OEF Annual Awards Banquet at Kellogg Center

November 21: 6th Grade Band Concert

November 27-29: No School Thanksgiving Break

HALLOWEEN AT KINAWA

Halloween at Kinawa

Kinawa students have the option of wearing Halloween costumes to school on: Thursday, October 31, *If your student wears a costume, they must be able to participate fully in their classes for the day, including any specials like PE, art or music.*

Students will need to arrive at school in costumes so we can minimize the impact on instructional time. If your child forgets their costume or part of their costume, please do not bring it in and ask that it be delivered to your child. We have 750 students at Kinawa and are unable to make deliveries for forgotten costume pieces.

Please understand students **are not allowed to wear/bring any masks or face paint** while at school. Students will be asked to remove masks and wash off any face paint.

Please be reminded that **no fake (or real) weapons are allowed at school**. Students must abide by the district dress policy. Clothing must be free of inappropriate innuendo. Teachers may ask students to remove parts of costumes that become a distraction in the classroom.

Remember, Halloween dress up is optional and many 5th and 6th graders may decide not to wear costumes at school.

[A Parent's Guide to Cultural Appropriation \(USA Today\)](#)

[A Parent's Guide to Avoiding Offensive Halloween Costumes](#)

[Three Tips to Avoid Offensive Halloween Costumes](#)

[#IAmNotACostume](#)

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

[Halloween Trunk or Treat Flyer](#) for Okemos Public Schools

Additionally the Safe Haven Assisted Living Facility on Jolly Road will be hosting a Trunk or Treat on Sunday October 27 from 1pm - 3pm. Residents will be passing out candy and have a Hot Cocoa and Hot Cider Bar with donuts for all.

WOOFPACK CALENDARS ARE BACK!

We have been working hard posing and we are sooo beautiful! The humans are almost finished with our 2025 wall calendar and the order form is ready! The cost is \$20 and the proceeds will benefit the entire Woof Pack. Calendars will be available for pick up at the OPS school of your choice. Please order ASAP. The price goes up on Nov 1st.

[WoofPack Calendars](#)

MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP

"Mrs. Bellamy is excited to offer a Musical Theater Workshop this fall. Throughout the workshop students will focus on some elements of singing, dancing, staging, and acting in musical theater.

This workshop meets for 5 weeks from the middle of November through the middle of December. The goal of this workshop is to engage students in the joy and storytelling of musical theater with an emphasis on singing. All current Kinawa students are welcome to join regardless of what music class they are currently enrolled in.

The sessions will be on Tuesdays from 3:45-4:45 in the Kinawa Auditorium on the following dates: Nov. 19, 26, Dec. 3, 10 and 17.

****Weeks missed by students or school cancellation, will NOT be refunded or rescheduled. All enrolled students will be expected to be in the auditorium during the workshop.****

Here is the link for enrollment- the cutoff for enrolling is the day that it begins (November 19th) simply click on the enrichment classes and then select Music Camp. <https://www.okemosonline.com/CourseActivities.aspx?id=19>

[Musical Theater Workshop](#)

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

If your child is going to be absent from school we ask that you let the school know. The easiest way to do this is to fill out this [Reporting an Absence form](#). School staff check it daily and are able to update your child's attendance through it.

ACCESS TO PRAYER SPACES

For many of our students, prayer and meditation are a part of everyday life. Reflection rooms provide a quiet, private space for OPS students to pray, meditate or sit in silent reflection. The reflection room at Kinawa is located in the main office conference room. To use this room, students should speak with Mr. Stierley or Mrs. Roland.

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

Link to buy a 2024/2025 Yearbook

- [Buy a Yearbook](#)

Community Photos Upload -

Do you have pictures from Keep Kinawa Moving? From the 5th or 6th grade field trip? Athletic events? Please consider uploading them and they may be put in this year's yearbook.

- [Community Photos](#)

Photo Guidelines for Community Photos

- All content is reviewed by yearbook staff. Anything inappropriate will be deleted.
- Don't use photos with filters, logos or hand gestures.
- Don't use screenshots - they are low resolution and not print quality.
- Don't use watermarked photos - get them from the source.

HANDICAP PARKING SPACES

Unfortunately we have noticed multiple individuals pulling into our handicap parking spaces during pick up and drop off times. Very often individuals using these designated parking spaces do not have proper permits to use these parking spaces. The result is that individuals who need to use these spaces, who have proper permits, are not able to do so.

Starting this week individuals parking in these spaces without a proper permit may be ticketed by the Meridian Township Police Department.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CURRICULUM ANNOUNCEMENT

Reproductive Health Curriculum

Each year all Kinawa students are taught a unit on Reproductive Health within the trimester of their scheduled Physical Education class. In preparation for the delivery of this curriculum, please review the following reproductive health information which includes an opt-out form for those interested in that option for your child.

[5th Grade Reproductive Health Information](#)

[6th Grade Reproductive Health Information](#)

KINAWA PARENT GROUP INFORMATION

[Kinawa Parent Group Flyer](#)

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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Kinawa participates in the Weekend Survival Kits program which provides GROCERIES OVER THE WEEKEND, so families can focus more on other necessities.

Weekend Survival Kits provides supplemental kits of food to children at school every other Friday so they can have nutritious food during the weekend.

If you are a family that struggles with food insecurity, you are eligible to receive food kits at NO COST. Please contact counselor **Emily Edger**, emily.edger@okemosk12.net or (517) 706-4707 to register. If you have multiple children, you are eligible to receive multiple kits. All names will remain confidential.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Kinawa is currently looking for any individual who would be interested in being a lunchroom supervisor at Kinawa. These positions would be a great opportunity to interact with our students and staff. The position would be as many days as you would like a week between the hours of 11am - 1:30pm each day. Please contact steven.stierley@okemosk12.net if you are interested in learning more about this position.

Please email me at steven.stierley@okemosk12.net or call me at 517-706-4700 with questions or concerns.

Steve Stierley