

December 9, 2024

Hello Kinawa Families,

Our students had a great week at Kinawa. As we have reached the time of year where temperatures outside are cold please be reminded that we will allow students to go outside for recess as long as the “feel like” temperature is above zero degrees. We allow students to make the choice to stay inside the cafeteria, to go to the gymnasium during lunch recess, or to go outside. Please discuss family expectations regarding wearing jackets when outside in the cold. Kinawa staff will not make a child wear a jacket outside if they choose not to.

On Wednesday, December 11th, students will be taking the reading portion of the NWEA assessment.

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

### UPCOMING DATES

**December 11:** Winter NWEA Testing Reading

**December 12:** 5th Grade Band Concert at Okemos High School

**December 23 - Jan 3** - Winter Break

### OEF APPLE AWARDS

Looking for a way to say 'thank you' to a staff member this holiday season? Once again the Okemos Education Foundation is offering the APPLE (Amazing Performance in Promoting Learning and Education) Award, a simple way to recognize a teacher, paraprofessional, admin asst, principal, custodian, food service worker, bus driver, etc. For a \$20 donation this person will receive a 5x7 color certificate with their name, your (child's) name, and the reason for the award. Proceeds from these help the Okemos Education Foundation give financial support to all seven of our schools. To order an APPLE award visit [www.oefsite.org/apple](http://www.oefsite.org/apple).

Orders received by Tuesday, December 17 will be delivered prior to the holiday break. Orders received after that date will be delivered at the new year when staff return.

Thank you in advance for your support of Okemos Public Schools staff and the Okemos Education Foundation!

### SCIENCE NIGHT IS FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Hi friends from Kinawa and Chippewa Schools! We are working to create a science night that our middle school kids deserve- this is a combined Kinawa/ Chippewa event- We would love to have you on our Science Committee team:

[Volunteer Form](#)

[Science Night Flyer](#)

### 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.

## 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](#)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:steven.stierley@okemosk12.net) if you are interested in learning more about this position.

Please email me at [steven.stierley@okemosk12.net](mailto:steven.stierley@okemosk12.net) or call me at 517-706-4700 with questions or concerns.

Steve Stierley