

December 16, 2024

Hello Kinawa Families,

Thank you for your continued support throughout the school year. What you do for our students and staff is greatly appreciated. As we are in a week of school prior to a 2 week break we ask that you please help us remind your child to clean out their lockers, take home any unnecessary items and make sure all food stored in their lockers is thrown away.

Finally, this will be the last Kinawa Weekly Update for the 2024 Calendar Year. I will resume sending them out on Sunday, January 5, 2025. I hope each of you have a wonderful, relaxing, and safe winter break.

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

UPCOMING DATES

December 23 - Jan 3: Winter Break

January 6: School resumes

January 17: ½ day of School K-12

January 20: No School -Martin Luther King Jr. Day

KINAWA SPIRIT WEEK

Time to show that Kinawa Winter Spirit! [Here](#) are the Spirit Week Days for next week from the Student Council! Students are welcome to participate or not in any of the Spirit Week days this week.

CELL PHONE AND SMART WATCHES POLICY REMINDER

We ask that you please take a moment to review and remind your child of the Cell Phone and Smartwatch policy.

“Cell phones and other communication devices are to be turned off and placed in the locker upon entering the building. They are not to be used during the school day unless a teacher has given permission for use in their classroom. They may be used after school for purposes of contacting parents for pick up. If a staff member hears the phone or a student is seen using the phone, the staff member will confiscate the device and turn it into the office.”

Unfortunately, smartwatches and cell phones are becoming a major distraction for our students. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the office. Furthermore, if your child needs to contact you throughout the school day, we require them to use the office phone as well. Students caught playing on their

smart watches or cell phones will have them confiscated and will require a parent to pick them up at the end of the day.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

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, administrator, 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.

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 Schools! We are excited to offer Science Night on February 13, 2025 and are hoping to get as much participation as possible. 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](#)

[6th 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 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