

February 2, 2025

Hello Kinawa Families,

It's hard to believe that it's February. Please talk to your child about the upcoming Kinawa Science Night on February 13th. We will have over 30 exhibitors and are looking forward to an amazing night. We would love to have as many students as possible participate in this exciting evening. Please see the announcement below for additional details regarding Science Night.

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

UPCOMING DATES

February 12: Student Count Day

February 13: Kinawa/Chippewa Science Night

February 14: No School- Presidents Day Weekend

February 17: No School- Presidents Day Weekend

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](#)

Below you will find information regarding Science Projects

[Projects](#)

[Flyer](#)

[Video](#)

OKEMOS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS WINTER GALA

Please consider joining us at the Okemos Athletic Boosters Winter Gala on February 7th

[Winter Gala](#)

OKEMOS LACROSSE CLUB

The Okemos Lacrosse Club is having Winter Clinics for all girl players. Join us on Sunday evenings from 5 - 7 pm in the main gym at Chippewa to get in some extra lacrosse practice or try it out for the first time! No equipment or experience is needed and there is no cost to try it. The suggested donation for returning players is

\$5 per clinic or \$25 for all clinics in January, February, and March. Check out [this flyer](#) for more details. Come be part of the fasting moving sport in Okemos!

APPLE AWARDS FOR VALENTINES DAY

APPLE Award - Valentine's Day

February and Valentine's Day, a perfect time to say 'thank you' to those who have impacted our lives in a meaningful way. A perfect time to say 'thank you' to the teacher, paraprofessional, administrator, administrator assistant, custodian, librarian, food service worker, bus driver, specialist, etc. who has impacted your child and/or family in a meaningful way.

The Okemos Education Foundation is offering APPLE Awards to honor all staff. For a \$20 donation to the OEF, families can purchase a 5x7 color, personalized certificate for their honoree. An APPLE award recognizes those who show an **A** amazing **P**erformance in **P**romoting **L**earning and **E**ducation (APPLE). This can be any of the Okemos Public School staff who has touched the life of your student and/or your family. Proceeds 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 must be received by Friday, February 7, in order to be delivered by the 13th.

KINAWA COMMUNITY GARDEN INFORMATION

Come join us in the Kinawa Community Garden this year!

Several years ago, Montessori teachers and families constructed a hoop house and raised garden beds behind the tennis courts at Kinawa Middle School. A dedicated group of parent volunteers revitalized the facility in 2016 for use as a community garden for Okemos Public Schools. The Kinawa Community Garden (KCG) now has 35 community garden plots in raised beds (including 10 hoop house beds which afford year-round gardening), a well-fenced perimeter, weather-responsive irrigation, herbs, berries, perennials, a composting system, and art installations!

Applications for 2025 are now open! After plots are assigned to our returning members, **applications completed by 5pm on Feb 22** are selected at random. Although we usually have a waitlist at this point, we continue to accept applications; remaining plots (if any) are then assigned as first-come, first-served. Hoop house plots can be used starting early March! The application has additional information.

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/qx9XGKwc9kf6Xfqt7>

Questions? kinawagarden@gmail.com

Cultivating community,

Laura Freidhoff, Erica Boyan, Stacy Tapscott & Amira Vojic

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

Time is running out to purchase a yearbook for the 2024/2025 school year! If you want a yearbook and have not yet purchased it, please use the link below.

Link to buy a 2024/2025 Yearbook

- [Buy a Yearbook](#)

KINAWA MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP

"Mrs. Bellamy is excited to announce that she will be offering another session of her musical theater workshop this winter!

On Wednesday starting in February and running consistently through March up until spring break. We will be focusing on the basics of musical theater - singing, dancing, acting, staging, etc. and it is open to all Kinawa students regardless of their enrollment in a music class during school. The content will be different from the last session so students are encouraged to sign up again if they enjoyed the first session, and any new students are more than welcome as nothing is sequential from the one in the fall.

The session will be on Wednesdays after school from 3:45-4:30 pm and will be held in the Kinawa Auditorium.

****Missed sessions by students or due to school cancellations will NOT be refunded or rescheduled, and enrolled students are expected to be in the auditorium during the workshop.****

This workshop is open to all current Kinawa students, regardless of their enrollment in music during the school day!

Here is the link for enrollment- <https://www.okemosonline.com/CourseActivities.aspx?id=19> the cutoff for enrolling is the day that it begins Feb 5th simply click on the enrichment classes and then select Musical Theater Workshop to register."

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.

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.

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.

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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.

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

Steve Stierley