

March 24 The KURTZ CONNECTOR

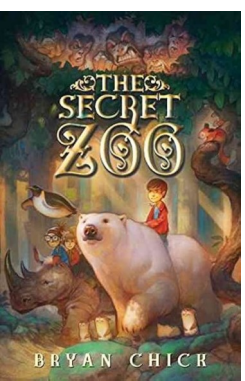
OK2SAY Assemblies for grades 4 and 5	3/7
Early release day- Students dismissed @ 2:37	3/12
PTA meeting @ 9:30 in the cafeteria	3/13
Kindergarten Orientation 6-7	3/14
Penny Wars	3/18 through 3/22
Bryan Chick- Author Visit	3/21
Talent Show Preview from 4:15 - 6:15	3/21
Spring break - No school	3/25 through 4/1
Hungry Howie's Night	4/2
Mobile Dentist	4/4
Half Day - Students dismissed @ 12:40	4/5
PTA meeting @ 9:30 in the cafeteria	4/10
Talent Showcase @ MHS Theater	4/10
Breakfast with a Buddy (8-9)	4/16
Cereal Box Challenge	4/22
3rd grade Disney trip to Lakeland	4/24

Building Hours:
9:10 1st Bell (students may enter) / 9:15 2nd Bell (school starts) / 4:08 Dismissal

March is Reading Month!

We are having a **Kurtz Family All-School Read**. This fun project started on Friday, February 23 and will end on March 22. Every family in our school received a copy of the book The Secret Zoo by Bryan Chick. Every book includes participation directions of our reading schedule and a fun bookmark. Each night there are assigned chapters to read together as a family. Every Friday there will be trivia questions to be answered and the students will have a chance to win prizes if answered correctly.

We are excited to have the author of The Secret Zoo book series, Bryan Chick, come to our school on March 21. He will be here for 2 sessions and to sign all the books. So please bring your books on that day.







We will have other activities throughout the month and a reading celebration before spring break. An activity calendar is included with this newsletter, with all the exciting activities going on throughout the month. We hope each family will join us in this fun **Kurtz Family All-School Read**.

From the Principal's Desk...

A special thank you to Ms. Evans, Mrs. Papciak and the PTA for keeping us connected through March is Reading Month. Last year we did our first all-school read at Kurtz and it was very well received by many of our families. We all know that there are many benefits that come from taking the opportunity to read as a family. That benefits further increase when your family reads as a part of a community. We look forward to making many connections to The Secret Zoo, throughout the month. We hope to give students time at home, to share some of the connections they are making with their siblings and taller readers. I sincerely hope everyone is able to make time for reading together and then asking questions about the content that was covered during the read.



Follow US ONLINE!

 **Kurtz Elementary School**
 **@kurtzelementary**
 **kurtzelementary**
 **Kurtz Elementary**

Students in the Spotlight

Congratulations to Harrison Bobola and Sterling David for being recognized as our Students in the Spotlight this month.

Harrison is a third grade student in Mrs. Kazer's class. He is a leader in school. Harrison is a role model in class and on the playground. He knows what is expected of him and works hard to meet and exceed expectations. Harrison cares about others and works hard to make sure he supports his peers whenever they need it.

Sterling is a second grader in Mrs. Latimer's class and is also viewed as a leader and role model among her second grade peers. Sterling is a kind and creative student who loves to learn and share. She is friendly to everyone she meets and her smile is contagious! One of her favorite subjects is writing.

Recently, she brought a book to school and was eager to share

it. The book was called Fire Cat and she had written it! Her parents published the book and she was so excited to share it with everyone. She read her writing with so much enthusiasm that when she was finished, you couldn't help but to ask when she was writing the next Fire Cat story! We are so lucky to have her in our class and here at Kurtz. Someday, we may be sharing her books during March is reading month!

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.



Picking up or Dropping off between Hill & Noble?

Milford Police have been alerted to address concerns related to Kurtz community members picking up or dropping off students from the neighborhood side of our campus. We understand that parents may be using that area to avoid waiting in our formal car loop in front of the school. Our neighbors indicate that cars regularly block driveways and/or narrowly avoid acci-

dents trying to navigate the narrow connecting road just behind our playground.

Students who are allowed to exit the building through the playground, reside in the neighborhoods surrounding our building. Although we do not monitor or enforce traffic in that area at the school level, car riders are expected to drop off and pick up stu-

dents from the front of our building in the pick-up drop-off lane.

Please consider using our formal pick-up and drop-off loop instead of the adjacent neighborhoods. If you do, please be safe, follow posted signage and do not block driveways.

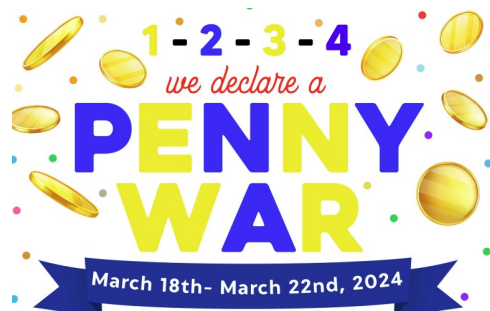
Penny Wars

Kurtz Elementary is bringing back the Penny Wars for another round of good-spirited fundraising and competition. All money will be used to fund new indoor and outdoor recess equipment.

This year's event will take place during the week of March 18-22. Participation is open to all grades and the winning grade

will get *bragging rights, a trophy, and a pizza party.*

Collection jars, for each grade, will be placed in the media center window display. Each grade will come up with a team name by **March 14**. The coins will be counted each day so everyone can see how the teams are progressing. Thank you for your participation in this fundraiser.



Kurtz Elementary School strives to create a safe zone for all students, staff members and visitors. During the school day, we do not allow dogs on our school campus. As the weather starts to warm up, we understand the interest our families may have in bringing the dog along to drop off or pick up Kurtz students from school each day. We recognize and appreciate how well trained and/or well behaved your dog may seem, but we also respect the fact that all parents expect their child(ren) to be safe at school each day. Even well-trained/behaved furry friends can have unexpected responses while out in public. **This means parents, guardians, and visitors should not bring their four legged family members to the school at drop-off or pick-up time under any circumstances.**



It should be noted that you may hear about visits from Rosie, the district's resident therapy dog. Rosie has had extensive training and is a certified therapy dog and is recognized by the State of Michigan as a certified therapy dog. Rosie also carries liability insurance as a part of the partnership agreement we have with her owner.

Join us in The Secret Zoo!

We are so excited to be doing our Kurtz Family All School Read again for March is Reading Month. We ask that you read with your child daily, but not ahead of the schedule. We are reading The Secret Zoo by Bryan Chick. Mrs. Papciak will be handing out trivia questions on Fridays based on the prior week's reading. If your child answers the questions correctly, they will have a chance to win a prize. Winners will be announced on Friday mornings, before lunch.

On Thursday, March 21, Bryan Chick will be visiting our school!

He will be signing all the books after the two assemblies. So make sure your child brings their book to school on 3/21.


The book is about four friends who live near a zoo and one disappears. They go to the zoo to find her and discover the zoo has many secret areas they didn't know about. This is a six-book series. We are excited for another year of bringing families together through reading.

READING SCHEDULE:

2/26-Prelude and Chapters 1-3

2/27-Chapters 4-6 2/28
 2/29-Chapters 7-9
 3/1-Chapters 10-12
 3/4-Chapters 13-15
 3/5-Chapters 16-18
 3/6-Chapters 19-21
 3/7-Chapters 22-24
 3/8-Chapters 25-27
 3/11-Chapters 28-30
 3/12-Chapters 31-33
 3/13-Chapters 34-36
 3/14-Chapters 37-39
 3/15-Chapters 40-42
 3/18-Chapters 43-45
 3/19-Chapters 46-48
 3/20-Chapters 49-51
 3/21-Chapters 52-54 and Afterward

March is Reading Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 	26 Book Fair Lunch with a Loved One Grades 2-3 12:15-1:00 Kurtz Family All School Read Prelude and Chapters 1- 3	27 No School Draw and color a Picture of An Animal. Bring your Picture to School Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 4-6	28 Book Fair Lunch with a Loved One Grades 4-5 1:00-1:45 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 7-9	29 Book Fair Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 10-12	1 Book Fair Read a Shirt Day Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 13-15	2 Read Across America Day! Spend Time Reading with Your Family
3 World Wildlife Day Read a book about an animal	4 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 16-18	5 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 19-21	6 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 22-24	7 National Cereal Day! Read a cereal box. Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 25-27	8 Read a Hat Day Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 28-30	9 Play a Word Game Boggle, Scrabble, Crossword Puzzle, ABC Memory
10 Make a Meal Read a recipe and make a meal with your family	11 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 31-33	12 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 34-36	13 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 37-39	14 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 40-42	15 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 43-45	16 World Panda Day Read a book about pandas
17 St. Patrick's Day Read about Ireland or leprechauns	18 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 46-48	19 World Poetry Day Read or write a poem Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 49-51	20 Kurtz Family All School Read Chapters 52-54 and Afterward	21 Guest Author Bryan Chick Visits	22 Pajama Day D-Drop E-Everything A-And R-Read	23 Visit Your Local Library

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 conven-

Welcoming + Empowering + Achieving = GREATNESS!

PTA Corner - February Fun!

Lunch with a Loved One



Stem Night



Movie Night



We had a busy month of February, with warmer temperatures and lots of fun PTA events. STEM night was a big success. The kids got to taste bugs, touch animal pelts and build the tallest cup tower.

Other events included Movie Night, which was well-attended. Along with the popcorn, there were lots of laughs. Pins and Pancakes was a friendly competition between the lanes. Parents, please take lots of photos while attending these events and send them to the PTA at kurtz-zelementarypta@gmail.com. Thank you.

March 5- Hungry Howie's Night

March 9- Shamrock Shuffle

March 13- PTA Meeting 9:30

March 21- Talent Showcase Auditions 4:15 in the Kurtz cafeteria

March 18-22 Penny Wars

March 25-April 1- Spring Break



Join us for a fun family event

Shamrock Shuffle

DJ, Dancing, Crafts, Balloon Drop, Food, & Fun

Saturday March 9th
Kurtz Cafeteria
6-8pm

\$15 per student/adult
or \$25 per family

Pay via Venmo to @KurtzPTA-Treasurer



LifeVac Added at Kurtz

LifeVac can save the life of someone with an airway obstruction and is another tool when basic life saving protocol has been followed without success or is unable to be used. LifeVac Kits can be found in many areas of our school.

We have added 5 LifeVac Choking Rescue Kits around the building. Earlier this year we contacted LifeVac to order a free rescue kit for the building. Since then, a generous group of parents purchased 4 more kits for our school. They are located in the following areas.

- Cafeteria - By the stage door, on the wall
- AED - Next to the AED, outside of the gymnasium doors
- Staff Lounge - Inside the staff lounge, on the wall
- Media Center - Near Mrs. Papciak's desk, on the wall
- Health Room - On the wall, above the medical gloves



Welcoming+Empowering+Achieving=GREATNESS!

Ballot Proposal Coming

Our district is gearing up for a ballot proposal that will be a **zero tax rate increase to voters** residing in the Huron Valley community. The focus of this initiative is as follows:

- **Safety and security upgrades**
- **Modernizing buildings and meeting student programming needs**
- **Addressing Infrastructure (bathrooms, roofs, boilers, chillers, pavement)**

At the building level, our goal is to provide the details related to this proposal. Your school team

is focused on relaying information, not in sharing opinions or directing people on how to vote on May 7. There is a group of community members that is in place, in order to provide our families with information related this proposal. The details related to this initiative were presented at our PTA meeting last month by our superintendent. Opportunities for further discussion will be presented in our upcoming PTA meetings as well.

In the meantime, if you have questions, please check out the

comprehensive resources on our district's web page (www.hvs.org) or by reaching out to our Kurtz team members via email:

Leah Ohmer

(leahohmer@hotmail.com)

Jodie Binroth

(jodie.binroth@harvarddruggroup.com)

Melinda Mihail



May 7, 2024 Ballot Proposal

\$361.3 Million Bond Program to Address Safety, Infrastructure and Student Program Upgrades

Millage Will Remain at 7.0 Mills

VISIT HVS.ORG FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ON BOND 2024

ZERO

tax rate increase

Bond 2024
Areas of Focus

Safety & Security

- Replacement of exterior doors
- Replacement of windows utilizing the newest technologies in glass replacement
- Replacement of fire alarm systems
- Technology security upgrades
 - Replace and expand video cameras
 - Expand door access control for additions/renovations
 - Replace staff radios
- Replacement of aging buses
- Improve PA systems
- Emergency alert system

Infrastructure

- Remodel student, staff, and community restrooms
- Replace drinking water pipes, hot water heaters, and water softener systems
- Site upgrades where needed (parking lots, septic, drainage, playgrounds)
- Interior door and window upgrades
- Upgrades/replacement to mechanical systems (HVAC, etc.)
- Upgrade electrical infrastructure to support technology
- Roof replacements
- Remodel kitchens and upgrade kitchen equipment
- Classroom upgrades where needed (casework, walls, flooring, lockers)
- Upgrades to high school competition pool locker rooms
- Specialty classroom upgrades where needed (science, special education, arts, gym)

Technology Upgrades Districtwide

Student Programs

New Middle School on Milford Campus

Images depict possible new and renovated middle school spaces

Transformation of White Lake Middle School

Images depict possible new and renovated middle school spaces

High School Upgrades

Arts

- Upgrades to our Centers for Performing Arts, including, seating, orchestra pit covers, lighting and sound controls, etc.
- Musical instruments and equipment

Academics

- Career Technical Education / Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) / Robotics / Core and Elective Subject Areas

Athletics

- New pressbox at Lakeland High School
- Synthetic turf for varsity baseball and varsity softball fields
- Athletic equipment

Goals for Creating Middle/High School Campuses

- Sharing of MS/HS staff and resources including all offerings, particularly in the Career Tech Education, world language, and fine arts programs
- Reducing the number of bus routes, providing estimated \$1.3 - \$1.7 million cost savings annually
- Sharing of innovative spaces such as a future Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) lab, performing arts, athletic spaces, etc.
- Providing equitable opportunities for all students / parity on both campuses
- Increasing mentoring opportunities between students

VOTE ON OR BEFORE MAY 7, 2024

Huron Valley Schools Elementary Specials Calendar 2023-2024 School Year (w/ NO SCHOOL Feb. 27th)

Early Release Schedule

September 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						2
3		A	B	C	D	9
10	A	B	C	D	A	16
17	B	C	D	A	B	23
24	C	D	A	B	C	30

February 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				A	B	3
4	C	D	A	B	C	10
11	D	A	B	C	D	17
18			A	B	C	24
25	D		A	B		

October 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	D	A	B	C	D	7
8	A	B	C	D	A	14
15	B	C	D	A	B	21
22	C	D	A	B	C	28
29	D	A				

March 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					C	2
3	D	A	B	C	D	9
10	A	B	C	D	A	16
17	B	C	D	A	B	23
24						30
31						

November 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			B	C	D	4
5	A		B	C	D	11
12	A	B	C	D	A	18
19	B	C				25
26	D	A	B	C		

April 2024							
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	
			C	D	A	B	6
7	C	D	A	B	C	13	
14	D	A	B	C	D	20	
21	A	B	C	D	A	27	
28	B	C					

December 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					D	2
3	A	B	C	D	A	9
10	B	C	D	A	B	16
17	C	D	A	B	C	23
24						30
31						

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			D	A	B	4
5	C		D	A	B	11
12	C	D	A	B	C	18
19	D	A	B	C	D	25
26		A	B	C	D	

January 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						6
7	D	A	B	C	D	13
14		A	B	C	D	20
21	A	B	C	D	A	27
28	B	C	D			

June 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	A	B	C	D	A	8
9	B	C	D			15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

*11/3: Half Day "Green" morning specials
 *1/19: Half Day "Green" afternoon specials

*4/5: Half Day "Yellow" morning specials
 *6/12: Half Day "Green" afternoon specials



Kurtz Elementary Penny War!

March 18-22, 2024

Put your spare change towards our amazing Kurtz students.

All proceeds from our penny war fundraiser will go to support purchasing new indoor and outdoor recess materials.

Pennies are "positive." Here's how it works:


- Containers are located in the library for each grade
- *Each penny counts as one positive point for YOUR grade*
- *Each silver coin counts as negative points for OTHER grades.* In other words, dropping a quarter in another grade's bucket takes 25 points from their total
- At the end of the day on March 22nd, all change/points will be tallied and the classroom with the most points will win the **trophy, bragging rights, and a pizza party!**

Start saving your change—it can make a big difference!




Penny War Rules


Points:



Adding (+)


1 penny = 1 point





Subtracting (-)

1 nickel = 5 points
1 dime = 10 points
1 quarter = 25 points





Any questions? KurtzElementaryPTA@gmail.com is here to help!

1 - 2 - 3 - 4

we declare a

PENNY WAR

March 18th- March 22nd, 2024

**We are raising funds for new indoor and outdoor recess supplies!
Will 3rd grade win the trophy again this year??**

HOW IT WORKS

Fill up your grade's jar with pennies to add points. You can sabotage other grades by adding nickles, dimes, or quarters to their jar.

Remember to be kind, play fair, and have fun!



For more information, contact kurtzelementarypta@gmail.com