

KWMS Panther Pride

November 22nd, 2024

Message from the Principal

With Thanksgiving Day just around the corner, I want to take a moment to remind all of us to open our hearts and give thanks for the many wonderful things we have in our lives. This time of year offers a special opportunity to reflect on the people we care about and the things that truly matter. There are precious few moments when we can pause to spend time with those we love, celebrating our families—both the ones we are born into and the ones we've built along the way. Thanksgiving is the perfect occasion to surround ourselves with love, to appreciate the warmth of those who mean the most to us, and to be grateful for the blessings in our lives.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude to all of you for your continued support of Kenyon Woods, our dedicated staff, and, most importantly, our students. I am incredibly thankful to be part of such a remarkable community, to work alongside an exceptional team of educators, and to contribute to shaping the future of all of our students. Your commitment to our school and to each other makes this place truly special.

Thank you, everyone, for everything you do. Wishing you all a joyful and restful Thanksgiving!

Thank you Everyone!

Lisa Olsem ~ Principal

(Please note: with the shortened week, there will not be a newsletter next week)

WE ARE KENYON WOODS AND WE DREAM BIG

**To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also DREAM; not only plan, but also
BELIEVE!**

~ Anatole France

This week [Vive18](#) came to our middle schools to show students that they can have fun, make friends and feel good without using drugs.

Their approach is to make the conversation fun and actionable. No shame, scare tactics or telling students what to do.

Here's are some facts from the presentation:

- Using a drug before the brain is fully developed (21-25 years old) increases the likelihood of addiction by 5X.
- Underage marijuana use is linked to students being 37% more likely to develop depression, 5X more likely to develop psychosis (schizophrenia, paranoia, etc), and 3.5X more likely to attempt suicide.
- Vaping/Nicotine actually increases anxiety and mental health issues. Even if it feels better when the dopamine hits your brain, the problem gets worse.
- On a national level, 50%+ of high schoolers choose NOT to use any drugs. 80% of middle schools don't use either. You're not alone for wanting to protect yourself, your friends and your future.

Some things ask your students about:

- What are the reasons why some people choose to use drugs and some people choose not to?
 - Having goals, coping skills, confidence, a supportive adult/role model, positive hobbies, safe friends, and values are all reasons why students choose to avoid substances. You can help discover or remind them of those reasons frequently.
- What would you say if someone offered you to smoke/drink underage?
 - If you don't know what you'll say, it's easier to freeze or just go along with what someone else wants. As parents you can be their "excuse" by saying "I get drug tested" or "my family would ground me for a whole year!"
- What's the difference between a shortcut and skill set?
 - A shortcut is the quick, easy way out... feels good now but may lead to trouble later. A skill set takes work now but leads to a better life and your goals.

The students were also invited to join a club where they can promote positive habits and mental health. It's an opportunity for them to gain real life leadership skills while making a difference in the community.

IMPORTANT UPDATE TO PICK UP PROCEDURES!

If you pick your student up from Kenyon Woods MS after school, you may have noticed the large number of cars in the parking lot and the efforts of our staff to keep traffic flowing smoothly. In collaboration with the South Elgin PD, Transportation, and the district safety coordinator, we have decided to implement a few changes to improve traffic flow after school.

One of the biggest changes is that the 5th and 6th grade pick-up will now take place in the bus lane. The only vehicles allowed in that area will be those for elementary music pick-ups. All Kenyon Woods pick-ups will still occur in the main parking lot.

Please note that all of the same expectations for student behavior and safety will continue to apply.

1. Students are to remain on the school sidewalks at all times. They are not to cross the parking lots to get to the cars.
2. Parents are being asked to not park in the lots and require students to cross in front of other cars to get to their rides. If you choose to park your car, you **MUST** get out of your car and pick your student up from the front of the school.
3. When you pull into the pick up lines, please pull all the way up so that we can get as many cars in the line as possible. Do not cut in front of the line. Please wait your turn.
4. Cars should **NOT** enter or exit through the bus lane on the south side of the building. All cars should enter and exit through the north entrance. Please pull all the way over so we can have two lanes of traffic.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to improve our procedures.

IT'S PIZZA TIME! OUR FUNDRAISER STARTS NOW



Little Caesars *Fundraising*

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LITTLE CAESARS FUNDRAISER STARTS NOW!

Kenyon Woods PTO Little Caesars Fundraiser starts now! Click the link below to purchase pizza, bread, cookies, and meal deal codes. Every purchase helps as we earn \$6.00* for every item sold!

HOW TO ORDER

1. Click the link below to place your order now:

<https://fundraising.littlecaesars.com/fundraisers/support/26ee8cd1-866e-42cb-b4da-393a83d08eb0>

2. Share our link with everyone you know who loves pizza via email or text, and post on your social media pages to reach even more people.

Pizza Kits, Bread Kits, Cookie Dough, and Bundles will be shipped directly to your buyers via FedEx. Meal Deal Codes are emailed to your buyer and are redeemable on the Little Caesars app or website for pick up from your local Little Caesars store. PERFECT FOR A THANKSGIVING OR WINTER BREAK MEAL AT HOME!

Share your link often! The more you sell, the more profit you earn.

Our fundraiser ends **12/21/2024**.

SCHOOL LINKS FOR ALL SECONDARY STUDENTS

Our secondary students have used SchoolLinks, a college and career readiness platform, for two years now. Through activities and assessments, SchoolLinks allows students to explore college options, learn about potential careers, locate scholarships, and more.

We know that families play a vital role in our students' college and career exploration process, so we have now made SchoolLinks available to parents and guardians.

To access your account, please visit app.schoollinks.com/login/member. To sign in, you must use the email address you have provided in Infinite Campus as your primary contact. [This document](#) has step-by-step directions, and explains two options for accessing your account:

- If your contact email is provided by Gmail, you can click "Sign in with Google."
- If your contact email is through another service, please click "Forgot Password," provide the email address you use for Infinite Campus, and you'll receive instructions on how to sign in.

Once you are logged in, you'll see your "Guardian Dashboard," which includes the names of your child or children who use SchoolLinks. If you see any discrepancies, please reach out to your child's school counselor.

You can click on your child's name to view a variety of information, including any colleges or careers in which they have expressed interest. Your SchoolLinks account will allow you to message your child's school counselor and conduct your own research on colleges, careers, financial aid, scholarships, and more. This will help you have more informed conversations with your child about their goals and plans for after high school.

We hope you will set aside time to create your parent/guardian SchoolLinks account, explore what it offers, and have discussions with your child, especially with course selection for the 2025-26 school year now underway. If you have questions or need support, please contact your child's school counselor.

WE WANT YOU!

Are you considering a part time job? Kenyon's cafeteria has 2 part time positions open! Hours are 10:15 - 2:00 pm. Both are 10 month positions, summer, winter break, spring break off! Offering

\$16.25 hourly, 10 paid holidays, 10 paid sick days, 2 personal days, IMRF pension and much more!
Apply online at www.u-46.org/careers Call Jane Russo for more details ext 2227.

FROM THE COACHES CLIPBOARD



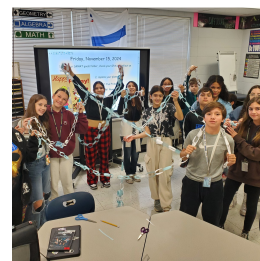
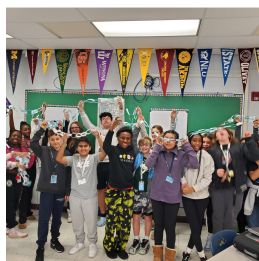
Player of the Week Taylor West - 8th Grade Dance Team



Player of the Week Sofia Spizzirri - 7th Grade Dance Team

PICTURES OF THE WEEK

The 7th grade AVID students are very thankful! As part of a team building activity we constructed Thankfulness Chains. Partners worked together to create paper chains. Each link had to list something for which the students were thankful. There was a competition to see which group could create the longest chain. Now the chains are hanging in our classroom and we walk around looking at all the awesome things we have to be thankful for! Happy Thanksgiving from 7th Grade AVID!!



Cooking Camp Pictures



FROM THE CREATIVE MINDS OF OUR PANTHERS!

Art 2 students have completed their unit on Pop Art Prints. They studied the artwork of Andy Warhol and learned about the printing process. They carved lino blocks into cartoon images of themselves and then used bold colors and contrast to create a Pop Art style print. Here are some examples from 8th grade students **Byron Martinez** and **Stefen Clark**:



NEW Combined Hockey Team For Barlett, Dundee
Crown, Lake Park & South Elgin High Schools.

You Are Invited!

**Middle School
Games &
Practice Skates**



Practice With Us:

- 12/22 from 6:10-7:20pm
- 12/23 from 5:30 - 6:30pm

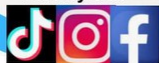
Attend A Game:

- 12/15 @ 7pm JV vs. Predators
- 1/4 @ 7:10pm Varsity vs. North Stars

After each game meet the coaches and
players in the lobby!



Follow Lightning High School
Hockey Club



Register For Practice by 12/15
LightningHockeyClub4@gmail.com

**Practice
& Games
Are At
West Meadows
Ice Rink**

KENYON WOODS HOLIDAY SPIRITWEAR SALE

The official Kenyon Woods spirit wear store has launched a holiday sale! Choose from hundreds of designs and garments, all with home delivery guaranteed by December 23rd!

Enjoy a limited-time savings of 25% sitewide with great gifts for the [entire family](#)! In addition, all orders over \$75 will receive free shipping. [Shop Now!](#)

KENYON WOODS
OFFICIAL ONLINE SHOP

 **HOLIDAY** *Sale*
25% OFF



GUARANTEED DELIVERY BY DEC. 23RD

SHOP AT: 1STPLACE.SALE/33326
SALE RUNS 11/4 - 12/10

 **1ST PLACE** Sportswear

[LINK TO THE LUNCH MENU](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

- 11/27 - 12/1 - Fall Break
- 12/2 - Boys Basketball vs Tefft - Home
- 12/3 - Band Concert @ SEHS - 6:30 pm
- 12/4 - Boys Basketball vs Canton - Away
- 12/10 - Boys Basketball Championship
- 12/11 - Orchestra Concert @ SEHS - 7:00 pm
- 12/20 - Last Day of School before winter break

[Link to all 2024/25 KWMS Panther Newsletters](#)



Kenyon Woods Middle School

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Lisa Olsem

Lisa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

