

KWMS Panther Paws

December 8th, 2023

Message from the Principal

It is hard to believe it is December 8th already, and it is still not feeling like winter yet. Looking at the calendar, there are less than 2 weeks until winter break and the end of the semester. Before we know it, we will be ushering in 2024. Please watch the calendar closely. There are so many sports activities, clubs, concerts, and holiday celebrations; these next few weeks are going to fly by. Please help our students to stay focused and finish the semester strong. Thank you for all your support this year. We truly are having wonderful year with your students.



One of those end of the semester events is our Winter Dance on December 14th. We are in need of donations and volunteers. Kenyon Woods PTO is asking for concession items to be donated for our All School Winter Dance. All items should be dropped off at our school office by Wednesday, December 13th. We are also looking for volunteers to help set up, run concessions, and clean up after the dance. Thanks for helping!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4FAAAF2BAAFE3-46005908-2023#/>

Have a Peaceful and Kind weekend!

Thank You
Lisa Olsem ~ Principals

**¡Somos Kenyon Woods y soñamos en grande!
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**

VOLUNTEER & CONCESSION DONATIONS NEEDED FOR WINTER DANCE



KENYON WOODS PTO

DO YOU HAVE A FLAIR FOR DRAMA?

Announcing Open Auditions for this year's school play. Auditions will be held Tuesday, December 19. Students can choose to audition at 8 am or 3:40 pm in B137. If a student has a conflict, they should speak with Mrs. Turcan for an alternate option. Please click [here](#) for all the details and permission slip.



DO YOU LOVE TO READ!



Students, you can still join Book Club! We meet in the Kenyon Woods Library from 3:30 to 5pm. You can get picked up by a guardian or take the activity bus. No need to sign up, just drop in. We will be running this club all school year so jump in anytime. You choose your own books to read and discuss during book club. The library has so many to choose from. There are also snacks, games, and raffles. Please see the Library Lady or Mrs. McCann if you have any questions.

SPRIT WEEK



12/18 Candy Cane Day
Wear red and white



12/19 Disney Day
Wear anything Disney



12/20 Winter Wonderland
Wear all white



12/21 'Twas the day before Winter Break
Wear your PJs



ATTENTION GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYERS!

Girls basketball informational meeting will be December 19th and 20th at 8:30 in the gym before school.

MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER!

Great job to all the students who performed on Monday night! It was a wonderful evening full of great music by our 7th Grade Band, 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band!

DESIGN AND ENGINEERING 3D MODELING COOKIE CUTTERS



HELPED WANTED!

Help wanted! Come join our cafeteria team! A fun atmosphere with the students and staff! Part time positions available 10:15 - 2:00. Holidays and summers off! Paid sick days and some holidays! If interested, contact Jane Russo, 847-289-6685 ext 2227.

20% OFF MINTED

WE'RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE'RE PARTNERING WITH MINTED TO HELP US FUNDRAISE! PLEASE SUPPORT THE KENYON WOODS STUDENT COUNCIL BY ORDERING YOUR HOLIDAY CARDS & GIFTS FROM MINTED USING OUR PROMO CODE **FUNDRAISEKWMS**. YOU'LL GET 20% OFF YOUR ORDER AND 15% OF EVERY PURCHASE MADE USING OUR CODE WILL BE DONATED BACK TO US AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

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FROM THE CREATIVE MINDS OF OUR PANTHERS

Art 3 students just finished their last clay project, ending their 3-D Art unit. They were tasked with creating a unique container (capable of holding art supplies) that used the *coil* method of construction. Here is an example that the very talented **Mikaela Goeltenbodt** came up with after being inspired by honey bees.



Teaching Evolutionary Evidence Through DNA Extraction in the Lab

By Mrs. Febles - 8th-grade Science and 8th-grade Gifted Science

In science education, imparting a deep understanding of evolution is crucial for fostering critical thinking and scientific literacy among students. Evolutionary theory, which forms the bedrock of modern biology, explains the interconnectedness of all living organisms on Earth. To make this complex topic more tangible, engaging, and hands-on, educators are increasingly turning to innovative teaching methods, such as extracting DNA in a laboratory setting. This piece explores the importance of teaching evidence for evolution through practical experiences, specifically focusing on DNA extraction.

Evolution, as proposed by Charles Darwin and refined by subsequent scientific discoveries, is the unifying framework of biology. It explains the diversity of life, the adaptation of organisms to their environments, and the common ancestry shared by all living things. However, despite its foundational importance, evolution can be a challenging concept for students to grasp due to its abstract nature and the need for a deep understanding of geological time scales.

The support of evolution as a theory involves presenting various supporting evidence, including fossil records, comparative anatomy, embryology, and molecular biology. One powerful and captivating way to explore the molecular aspect of evolution is through the extraction of DNA.

Extraction of DNA is a hands-on activity that allows students to witness the genetic similarities shared among different species and reinforces the concept of a common ancestry. Students in my class got to experience this week the extraction of DNA from a banana and observe the strand under a microscope. The process consisted of breaking down cell walls, breaking open cell membranes, and precipitating the DNA using alcohol. Throughout this activity, students gained insights into the fundamental biological processes that are conserved across diverse life forms and how to follow a procedure to obtain a desired outcome. DNA extraction not only makes the abstract concept more accessible but also fosters a sense of curiosity and engagement among students.

Ultimately, laboratory experiences provide a unique opportunity for students to connect theoretical knowledge with practical application while enhancing their understanding of evolution and the interconnectedness of life on Earth.



KWMS SPIRITWEAR FOR SALE!

KENYON WOODS

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CLICK HERE FOR A COPY OF THIS MONTHS CAFETERIA MENU

IMPORTANT DATES

- 12/13/23 - Orchestra Concert at SEHS
- 12/14/23 - School Dance 6-8 pm
- 12/22/23 - NO SCHOOL - Start of Winter Break

Link to all 2023/24 KWMS Panther Newsletters



Kenyon Woods Middle School

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Lisa Olsem

Lisa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

