

SOUTHWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“SOARING TO SUCCESS”



Jeff Overkleeft, Principal
455-7230

December 13, 2024
www.kentwoodps.org/southwood/

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

It is hard to believe that we are almost half way through the school year as we leave for break during the holiday season. I continue to be proud of our students and staff for the work they have done and will continue to do into the New Year.

I wanted to send a special thank you to all of those who donated to our Student Council Food Drive. Your donations helped multiple families here at Southwood. Also, thank you to our student council for all of their hard work.

I hope you all enjoy the holidays and look forward to seeing you back to school on Monday, January 6.

Thank you for your support.

Jeff Overkleeft, Principal



Students go outside for at least two recesses a day. Please remember to dress your student appropriately. Winter coats, snow pants, hats, boots and gloves. Thank you.

LOOKING AHEAD



December

Wednesday, Dec. 18	PTC Meeting @ 4:15 PM
Thursday, Dec. 19	Holiday Parties @ 2:50 PM
Friday, Dec. 20	½ Day 12:15 PM Dismissal
Monday, Dec 23	Holiday Break Begins

January

Monday, Jan. 6	Classes Resume
Wednesday, Jan. 15	PTC Meeting @ 4:15 PM
Monday, Jan. 20	No School, MLK Day
Wednesday, Jan 29	Southwood Music Program @ 6:00 PM

February

Wednesday, Feb. 12	Count Day
Wednesday, Feb. 12	PTC Meeting @ 4:15 PM
Monday, Feb. 17	Mid-Winter Break No School
Tuesday, Feb. 18	Mid-Winter Break No School

March

Wednesday, March 5	½ Day 12:15 PM Dismissal
Wednesday, March 19	PTC Meeting @ 4:15 PM

Reminder

Friday, 12/20/2024 is a ½ Day. Dismissal @ 12:15 PM.

**No School from 12/23/2024 to 1/3/2024.
Have a safe holiday break.**



PTC Meeting Reminder

Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 18
@ 4:15PM

Winter is Here School Cancellations

SchoolMessenger is a notification system which will be used to communicate important information to KPS families. This system is capable of communicating via phone, email and text messages. SchoolMessenger will be used to broadcast school closings, delays and emergency situations. SchoolMessenger will also be used to communicate non-emergency information such as attendance information and important event reminders.

SchoolMessenger operates off the data contained in our Synergy Student Information System. It is important that parents keep their contact information up to date. Any changes to address, phone numbers and email need to be made through the office at the child's school.

Text Message Opt-in Procedure

To opt-in to receive important information via text message, you must first opt-in to this service. To do so, text "YES" or "Y" to 67587. Please note: KPS is not responsible for any text message charges you may incur.



Thank you to all who
donated to our Angel Tree!

WINTER KIDS CLASSES

Starts in January

So many classes to choose from!

Wrestling, Softball, Speed and Agility,
Learn to Ice Skate, Hockey, Swim, Dive,
Water Polo, Tennis, Basketball, Soccer

Register at: kentwoodps.revtrak.net
Under KIDS Classes

Holiday Assistance 2024

ALL of the following can be accessed by calling:

United Way Phone Number 211

United way can help families get linked to a variety of Community resources

You may only choose 1 of the following programs for Gift support

Toys For Tots: (Birth to 13 years)

Registration is from **Now until November 30, 2024**

Signing up this year is online. Distribution of gifts will be at a particular drop off sight on Saturday December 21, 2024. You will receive a confirmation email regarding the site.

Follow this link to register: [Toys for Tots](#)

Application

To check your application status, log back in or text 616 259-5119 with your name or email kent.county.mi@toysfortots.org

Salvation Army Angel Tree (birth to 16)

Registration is open until **December 2, 2024**.

The Salvation Army collects necessary information for participation in the program and details on each Angel. Some examples: photo ID, proof of residence-utility bill, lease agreement, etc.

Apply at: <https://saangeltree.org/>

Enter a valid email address and fill out the application. [Salvation Army Angel Tree Application](#)

Santa Claus Girls

(for children up to 12 years of age)

Registration is now open. You will be sent an additional form via your email after you first register. You will be required to provide your DHS case number this year. **Gifts will be delivered on Saturday, December 14, 2024 between 9-4pm.** Each child will receive a toy, a book, hats and mittens, and pajamas or blankets. Register here:

<https://www.santaclausgirls.org/family-register/>

Food Pantries (choose the one that is closest to your neighborhood)

Feeding America West Michigan

Go to: <https://www.feedwm.org/mobile-pantry-schedule/>

Enter County. Site will provide mobile pantries locations and times

Streams of Hope

260 60th St SE

The Pantry is **OPEN:** Tuesdays 6-8PM,

Thursdays 11-1PM, 6-8PM

Contact them at 616 272-3634 for additional information.

[Food Sign up](#)

<https://streamsgsr.org/>

Catherine's Health Center (located in the Streams of Hope Kentwood Campus)

260 60th st SE

Providing access to high quality, affordable, and compassionate health care to all. Services include: dental, medical and behavioral health services.

Contact them at 616 483-0750

<https://catherineshc.org/>

The Green Apple Pantry

The Pantry is OPEN: Monday and Tuesday 9-1PM, Wednesday and Thursday 9-3pm

Contact: 616-455-9411

info@thegreenapplepantry.org

Website: <https://thegreenapplepantry.org/>

Additional Resources:

Electricity or Heat

<https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/>

Or call your individual provider to see what assistance they can offer.

Mental Health Crisis

Kent County Network 180 Crisis Line- (616) 336-3909

National Crisis Hotline- 988

Domestic Violence

The holidays are often the hardest and most isolating times for those experiencing violence- you are not alone.

YWCA West Central Michigan- 616-454-9922
Safe Haven Ministries- 616-452-6664 (Text Available)