

Kenwood Courier

2013 Penn Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55405

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A Note from Our Principal, Heidi Johnson-

Dear Kenwood Families,

Autumn is a time for tucking into the deeper aspects of our learning. The rituals and routines of school have been set, clearing the way for new ways of thinking, exploring, and imagining. October also sets the stage for rich conversations between families and teachers about our students' areas of strength and growth, and about goal-setting. We're so lucky to be partnering with you in this important work.

Our teachers are looking forward to meeting with you on October 16 and 17 during conferences. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss how we, as a team, can provide the best, supportive environment for your child to learn and grow. Questions you may want to ask: Is my child performing at grade level? What are my child's strengths? Areas of growth? What can my child do to improve academically? What can I do to help my child improve academically? Is my child building healthy friendships at school? Relatedly, the FAST screener was administered during the month of September to gather baseline information about what our students know in reading and math. This data helps teachers make instructional decisions that will best support their students' growth goals and informs their conversations with you. We won't be sending the FAST reports home this year, but your child's data is available to you upon request.

The month of October is also a time for celebrating kindness, honoring Indigenous People's Day, delving into the scientific process (Science Fair for Grades 3-5!), and reading while raising money to support the wonderful things we do at Kenwood Community School. I can't think of anything cozier than curling up and sharing a good book with a loved one! Enjoy this beautiful month.

Autumn

Alexander Posey, 1873 – 1908

In the dreamy silence
Of the afternoon, a
Cloth of gold is woven
Over wood and prairie;
And the jaybird, newly
Fallen from the heaven,
Scatters cordial greetings,
And the air is filled with
Scarlet leaves, that, dropping,
Rise again, as ever,
With a useless sigh for
Rest—and it is Autumn.

Site Council

Kenwood's Site Council addresses policies that govern the school and the administrative budget. This group is comprised of parents and school staff and meets monthly throughout the school year. While other schools have site councils, the true collaboration that exists at Kenwood among teachers, administration and parents is unique and something we all should appreciate. Meetings are generally the fourth Thursday of the month from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Media Center, but check the online Kenwood Calendar for updated dates. Parents are welcome to attend these meetings. Thank you to Site Council members for their dedication to our school.

Heidi Johnson	Co-Chair/Principal
Rob LeFevre	Co-Chair/Grade K-2 parent
Mohamed Ahmed	Grade 3-5 parent
Kirsten Eitrem	Grade 3-5 parent
Brittany Lewis	Grade K-2 parent
Al Rodriguez (¡Se habla Español!)	Grade K-2 parent and PTA Liaison
Megan Vaught	Grade 3-5 parent
Steven Cornelius	Specialist Teacher
Susan Ferrell	Teacher
Darwin Lee	Teacher
Amanda Talan	School Social Worker
Lori Smith	Community Coordinator

Join us for 2 Dining for Dollars Events!

Tuesday, October 23rd at Galactic Pizza – Kenwood PTA will receive 25% of sales. Valid on delivery, carry-out, and dine-in sales from 11:00am-midnight. Keep your eyes open for the flyer coming home next week.

Tuesday, November 27th at Chipotle (2600 Hennepin Avenue) – Valid from 5:00-9:00pm, with 33% of sales donated back to Kenwood!

Thank you to these establishments for their support of Kenwood School!

Dining for Dollars

What is Dining for Dollars? It's a chance to support Kenwood School, socialize with other families, and enjoy some tasty food from area restaurants all at the same time. Restaurants generously donate a portion of their sales or proceeds on specific Kenwood dates back to us. All money raised goes to the Kenwood PTA, which provides funding for our arts residencies. It's a great chance to take a night off of cooking and support Kenwood School at the same time. Dates will be communicated throughout the year, usually one event a month.

Parents as Partners Needs You!

Parents as Partners, our parent-led math program, needs volunteers in grades 1,2,3,and 5 to commit to helping once a week, or every other week for 30 min. All materials and training are provided for you. You come at the assigned time, work with your small groups, and then head out for the rest of your day. It's a great way to help out at school and get to know your child's classmates. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ben Nelson at papkenwood@gmail.com. If you're looking to do even more for the program, we also need grade leaders. Grade leads coordinate the parents, and produce the packets (all materials are provided for grade leads as well) each week; about 30 extra minutes and some emails. If you are interested or want some more information, feel free to contact Ben anytime and he'll let you know how easy it is!

Conference Meals

We have a long standing tradition of treating our dedicated teachers and staff to good eats at conference time. Our teachers strive to meet with every single family so to keep them energized, we'll provide tasty snacks and meals. Food may be homemade or store bought. If you are interested in donating food, please visit the sign up sheet that is linked in the weekly eblast, or contact Community Coordinator Lori Smith at kenwoodcommunitycoordinator@gmail.com

Kenwood Read-A-Thon

Fall Into a Good Book with the 3rd annual Kenwood Read-A-Thon! All students are asked to set a goal and read (or be read to) from October 22nd – November 3rd. Any student that returns their reading calendar on November 5th will receive a participation prize. 100% of the money collected will go to Kenwood PTA, which supports our arts programs. This year we are collecting books for a Free Little Library for all students to have access to throughout the Read-A-Thon. Donations for the Free Little Library will be taken throughout the month of October and can be dropped off in the atrium. Thank you to parents Beth Mason and Rachelle Morken for organizing this fun event.

POW

Math Problems of the Week (POW) are back! Problems are posted every Monday morning on the Math Wall near Ms. Sullivan's room (117). Students are asked to challenge themselves, and may submit answers for one or both problems. The goal is to get kids excited about math! Turn in answers to the folder on the Math Wall before the end of Friday. Students who turn in correct POW answers will be recognized on the Math Wall and their name will be read over the morning announcements each week! Awards and prizes will be distributed at the end of the school year to students who participate regularly in the POW program. For more information see the notice coming home in the blue folders.

National Bully Prevention Month

October 1st – 5th: Kindness in Chalk
October 8th – 12th: Kindness in our Classroom
October 15th – 17th: Kindness in the Hallways
October 22nd – 26th: Kindness on the Playground
October 28th – 31st: Kindness in the Lunchroom

October 26th: Misfit Sock Day! Celebrate our differences by wearing mismatched socks.

Walk/Bike to School Day

This Wednesday, October 10th, is Walk/Bike to School Day. MPS will join families and students across the nation in celebration of community, wellness, safe streets and cleaner air. More than 30 MPS schools have registered for this event. Join us by walking from home, participating on the weekly Woodchuck Walk, or by riding your bike or scooter to school. A recent study found that walking or biking to school improves concentration during the school day much more than eating breakfast or lunch did! Other research links walking with creativity.

Remember to go over safety rules with children before walking or biking to school. Bikes can be locked at the bike racks along Franklin Avenue, both by the school and the rec center. Please remember to wear a helmet and lock your bike!

Take the helmet fit test. Put your helmet flat on your head. If it moves when you shake your head, you need to tighten your helmet or get a smaller one.

- Eyes: The helmet should sit low on your forehead – two finger widths above your eyebrows.
- Ears: With the helmet buckled, the straps should meet just below the ears.
- Mouth: When buckled, you should be able to fit no more than two fingers between the buckle and chin.

Family Activity Night

Come on down to Kenwood on Thursday, November 15th for a free dinner, the Scholastic Book Fair, and our all school Barn Dance. The Barn Dance is the culmination of our school wide residency with ROOTS (traditional song and dance), featuring the fifth grade sword dance. It's a great time to kick up your heels and have your children teach you the dances. Kenwood kids love to see their parents dance, so please make a point to dance with your children! Remember to stroll the halls outside the art and music room to check out the art students have created.

Parking

We know that parking is limited at school, but please be respectful of our neighbors when parking at Kenwood. Please watch for no parking signs and do not block driveways or cars in the parking lot. We appreciate your help with this matter.

Calendar

Wednesday, October 10th
International Bike/Walk to School Day

Thursday, October 11th
EVEREVE Shopping event, 7:00-9:00pm

Friday, October 12th
Picture Day

Tuesday, October 16th
Conferences, 3:00-7:00pm

Wednesday, October 17th
NO SCHOOL – Conferences, 8:00am-3:00pm

Thursday, October 18th – Friday, October 19th
NO SCHOOL – MEA

Tuesday, October 23rd - Dining for Dollars
Galactic Pizza, 11:00am - midnight

Monday, October 29th
Science Fair Open House

