

1 Kenwood Courier

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Our Newsletter for Families

Kenwood Elementary School
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FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL...

Dear Kenwood Families! Welcome to the 2015-16 School Year!

The Kenwood Ice Cream Social — this event served as the perfect venue to meet students, parents, and extended families members of this dynamic school community. The Kenwood playground felt like an old fashioned family reunion. Through this informal exchange, you can immediately identify Kenwood students by their confidence, poise, ingenuity, intellectual curiosity, boundless energy, artistic sophistication, and charm.

A special thank you to event chair, Heather Wulfsburg, the PTA Executive Board, and the many other parents who helped organize this very special get-together.

Kindergarten/New Family coffee — Thanks for the PTA for organizing this event for parents on the first day of Kindergarten and thank you to The Lowry for providing the delicious scones and coffee. It was nice to connect with this new group of parents

For our new families, you will discover that Kenwood Community School offers the ideal setting to inspire, challenge, and enrich your child's educational experience. The teachers and staff invest their time and expertise in creating learning communities aimed to tap into the intellectual curiosity and creative spirit of your child. Our dedicated parents, families, and community partners, lend their resources, time, and talents to ensure that all Kenwood students receive world-class educational opportunities from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Although this is my second year as principal of Kenwood Kenwood, I remain curious to hear your answers about this school community by asking you to respond to these four questions:

1. What makes this school great?
2. What can I do as your principal to best support this school?
3. What steps can we take together to make this an even better school?
4. What is your definition of academic rigor and what are your specific expectations for creating an academically rigorous school climate?

I soon discovered what makes Kenwood School an extraordinary place to learn and grow. Please share your own ideas with me. I look forward to hearing your feedback.

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KENWOOD SCHOOL WEEKLY E-BLASTS

The best way to keep informed about what is happening school-wide.

If you did not receive an e-blast on the first day of school from Family Liaison Chris Madden, please e-mail

christine.madden@mpls.k12.mn.us

to get on this valuable e-mail list.

E-blasts are sent out every Monday with occasional extra reminders for important information & events.



It's Super Cool to
walk for your School!

9-11 am in Kenwood park (rain or shine)
Food & Drinks for all walkers (treats, fruit, coffee & water)
Free Flu shots available
Walk times: Kindergarten 9:30 1st 9:45
2nd: 10:00 3rd: 10:10 4th: 10:20 5th 10:30

Need a ride? Call Chris Madden 612-668-2778 by Thursday, Sept 10th.

Please join us for the
1st PTA Meeting of the Year:

CURRICULUM NIGHT!

Thursday, September 10th
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

Gather in the Multipurpose Room for a Principal's Update on the start of school. The Specialist Teachers (Art, Media, Music & Physical Education) will also give an overview of the year to come.

6:30 to 6:50 p.m.

Visit your child's classroom to hear about curriculum, homework policies & academic goals.

7:00 to 7:20 p.m.

Classroom presentations repeated for parents who have more than one Kenwood student.

To allow sufficient space for parents in the classrooms, we DO NOT want children to attend the curriculum presentations.

There will be free childcare available for ages 3 & up in the Kenwood Rec Center next to the school. We have room for 50 children so please reserve your space now.

Contact Chris Madden if you need childcare — christine.madden@mpls.k12.mn.us or 668-2778.

Please note: • Childcare staff cannot change diapers.
• Due to concerns about food allergies, snacks will not be provided for children, so be sure to feed them before the meeting.

For transportation, call Chris Madden at 668-2778.

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Curriculum Night is scheduled for Thursday evening, September 10th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. After an update from your principal, parents will hear specifics from their child's teacher regarding classroom procedures, homework policies, curriculum pacing, and academic goals. Two sessions will be scheduled to accommodate families with more than one student. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Fall parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for October 13th & 14th. Hopefully many of your questions will be answered that night to allow for a more focused conference time.

• **Classes begin promptly at 7:30 a.m. Please note that 7:15 a.m. is the earliest time that students may arrive at school.**

Teachers will be in their classrooms at that time, ready to receive students. It is not safe for students to be in the building unsupervised before 7:15 a.m.

• **Students who are "walkers" must go home and check-in** with their parents or day care providers before they may come back and play on the playground.

• **Students who are picked up at the end of the day will wait in the gym with staff members until they are picked up by a designated adult.** Please enter through door 8 (Franklin Ave. side near the Rec Center) when picking up your child. Remember, no parking is allowed on the school side of Penn Ave. at the end of the school day. We have seven buses that must line up there to transport children home.

• **Please respect our neighbors when dropping off or picking up students.** Do not block the driveways of homes or park in the lots of neighboring businesses.

• **All visitors should enter at door #1 by the flagpole.** As you enter the outer door, ring the bell at the inner set of doors. The office staff will buzz you in with a minimum of delay/disruption. Please come directly to the office to sign-in and get a Visitor's badge.

• **Bicycle policy: Students may ride their bicycles to school.** Bike racks are located in front of the Kenwood Rec Center and on the Franklin Avenue side of the building. Parents and children must understand that there are serious safety ramifications to the decision to use bike transportation. Kenwood School does not assume responsibility for the security of the bicycle or the safety of the biker. **Please note that students MUST wear helmets, which can be stored in their lockers during the school day.** Become familiar with the Bicycle Regulations on page 21 of the Handbook/Calendar that will be coming soon.

Thank you for your support.

Kenwood Directory is online!

If you are a returning family please log in to the directory – via the link you were sent last week – and update any contact information and your child's classroom teacher. Your child's teacher assignment will need to be updated each year. If you are new to Kenwood please use the following link to enter your data. <http://bit.ly/1uAdBdB>

The Kenwood Crawl is coming!

Our 19th annual Kenwood Crawl will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday, September 12 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Kenwood Park (across the street from the school). All students, staff, family members, friends and neighbors are invited to participate by walking once around the park — a distance of almost one mile. **The Crawl is all about fun, fitness, building a sense of community and welcoming everyone back to school.** It's also an important PTA fundraiser, since students collect donations for their walk around the park. The money raised helps support the arts residencies that enrich the curriculum in our classrooms. Last year the Crawl earned \$12,000! Our goal is to bring in the same amount - or more - this year!

At the Welcome-Back Assembly Friday, August 28, Kenwood Kids will hear all about the Crawl. More information about the Crawl and a Donation Envelope will be sent home this week – we hope you start collecting donations soon! Turn in Donation Envelopes to your teachers by Friday, September 11, or hand them in when you check-in on Saturday morning.

For everyone who comes to the Crawl, there'll be free breakfast treats, courtesy of **Isles Bun & Coffee, Lund's, Kowalski's and Caribou Coffee.** We'll also have a Scavenger Hunt and Creation Station sponsored by **BeARtrageous.** There will be a hands-on demonstration by our friends at **Kenwood Gymnastics,** live music and other fun activities (pogo sticks!).

There will be a **free flushot clinic for the whole family** (3 years & older), thanks to the Kohl's Cares and Children's Flu Prevention Project (childrensMN.org/flu). The service is free, but bring your health insurance card if you have one.

Of course there are great rewards for taking part in the Crawl:

- ★ the class with the highest participation rate will receive the prestigious Kenwood Walking Stick and a special Recess-In-The-Park Party
- ★ the class that raises the most funds will also win a Recess-In-The-Park Party
- ★ the 3 students who raise the most funds and the student with the highest number of individual donations will each receive Gift Cards donated by Birchbark Books

The Million Acorn Challenge is back!

Help in the replanting of oak trees by collecting acorns before and during the Crawl. Kenwood won the top prize in 2013 — we'll have a huge container for the acorns at the Crawl. Let's see if we can win again! www.greatrivergreening.org

So show your school spirit and join us for a fun morning at the Kenwood Crawl. We also need volunteers to make this event a success — look for a PTA Volunteer email this week and sign up to help. If you have questions please email Crawl Co-Chairs Anne Belzer (ambelzer@comcast.net) and Suzanne Paki (sppaki@aol.com). If you need transportation, call Chris Madden at 668-2778 by Thursday, September 10th.

Parents as Partners

Returning to Kenwood this year, **Parents as Partners** is an academic enrichment program that pairs volunteers with small math groups in the classroom. Program kicks off in October. **Sign up today!**

- No expertise needed
- Open to parents, friends and relatives
- Early morning & mid-morning shifts available. Head to work by 8:15 a.m. or come in to help mid-morning.
- **Reasonable time commitment:** 30 minutes 2 or more times a month!
- Choose your class or grade level.
- Math in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th grade rooms or more info or to sign up contact Mindy Glover — papkenwood@gmail.com

Minneapolis Public Schools now require that all parent volunteers going on School Fieldtrips submit a Criminal Background Check form by mail to the district along with a \$5 fee.

They are good for 2 years from the date they were approved.

Note: It takes 5-10 days for processing. Forms are available in the school office.

Volunteering at Kenwood

For school events, we use a software program called Jooners to make it easier to contact & sign up volunteers. We are sending out a request for volunteers for the upcoming Kenwood Crawl this week. If you would like to help with the crawl or other events this year and are not on our Jooners Volunteer E-mail List please contact Lori Smith, our PTA volunteer coordinator at volunteer4kenwood@gmail.com to be included in our master list.

Thank you for your participation!

CALENDAR

Thursday, September 10th
PTA Meeting and Curriculum Night
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Multi-purpose Room

Saturday, September 12th
Kenwood Crawl 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Kenwood Park (rain or shine)

Wednesday, October 7
International Bike/Walk to School day

Tuesday, October 13
Parent-Teacher Conferences
2:30 – 7:00 p.m.



Wednesday, October 14
NO SCHOOL – Parent-Teacher Conferences
7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 15 & Friday, October 16
NO SCHOOL – MEA: Statewide Teacher Professional Days

Friday, October 23
PICTURE DAY

Thursday, October 29 & Friday, October 30
NO SCHOOL