

Kenwood Courier

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Dear Kenwood School Community,

There's so much beauty in the world.

This morning I read about a unified Korean team marching together, carrying the unification flag at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Regardless of the political and economic divide between countries, the symbolism of their united spirit was breathtaking. And as I drive to work in the mornings, I notice the lights on the lake guiding early morning ice skaters, Olympic hopefuls or otherwise. I'm struck by the beauty of making time to glide into the sunrise in spite of the chill.

At Kenwood, we are a bustling and creative community that thrives no matter what the conditions may be outside! We've enjoyed art that honors Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy, listened to the choir sing about everyone's *True Colors*, discovered writer Obert Skye's inspired writing process, and learned about how to pair kindness and advocacy with Cam Winton. We are surrounded by and are creating beauty, every day.

As we move through February and into March, we have so many wonderful events to look forward to. Kindergarten will perform drumming and dance with Brother Ghana today. *Seussical the Musical* will debut on February 14. Fifth Grade will embark on their Eagle Bluff adventure, followed by a day on the slopes later in the month. And in honor of the lunar New Year on February 16, the PTA has generously funded a performance by the Ha Family Lion Dancers on March 9. And don't forget the Auction! I look forward to spending a fun Space Odyssey evening with you all on March 3.

We're also about to enter the budget season. I anticipate that we'll receive our allocation in the last week of February, and will submit Kenwood's finalized budget in the middle of March. I've had many wonderful conversations with parents, staff, the Instructional Leadership Team, and our Site Council about our school's priorities: *smarts and arts, joy and academic rigor, safety and differentiated learning, and opportunities for all children to reach their fullest potential.* We will keep you posted as we move through this process.

Our teachers are looking forward to meeting with many of you on February 16 for conferences that have been scheduled on an as-needed basis. Your partnership with our staff is essential to our students' many successes, and we are grateful to be teaming with you.

Thank you for all that you do to help make our school community sparkle.

Warm wishes,

Heidi Johnson

Interim Principal

5th Grade Eagle Bluff Field Trip

On Tuesday, February 20th, Kenwood 5th graders will depart on their annual Eagle Bluff field trip. Students and chaperones pack their sleeping bags, journals, and necessary winter gear for four days of intense environmental seminars. Under the supervision of our 5th grade teachers, our School Social Worker and parent chaperones, Kenwood students will spend 4 days and 3 nights at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center located in Lanesboro, Minnesota. During these four days students will broaden their appreciation and knowledge of the environment, learn critical teambuilding and problem-solving skills, increase their environmental and academic literacy, and strengthen their understanding of the importance of respecting our natural environment. To learn more about Eagle Bluff, please visit <http://www.eagle-bluff.org/>

The annual Eagle Bluff field trip has been organized by 5th grade teacher Darwin Lee. Mr. Lee has led students through this dynamic hands-on experience for over 15 years.

Kenwood Plant Sale

Once again, we will hold our spring plant sale to help lower the price of the 5th grade Eagle Bluff field trip for every student, as well as to provide scholarships so that ALL 5th graders will be able to attend. We will be using Broman's Greenhouse again, a Minnesota based grower that is *noenicitinoid free!* If you are going to buy plants anyway, why not support Kenwood School at the same time! Plant sale forms will be coming home soon.

It's finally here - the moment we have all been waiting for! Join us for this year's musical on Wednesday, February 14th and Thursday, February 15th at 6:30pm in the multipurpose room. The cast and crew have been hard at work and it promises to be a great show.

Cast and crew should arrive at 5:30pm.



Attention Earthlings!

Don't miss out on your chance to attend the best party in the galaxy on Saturday, March 3. Mark your calendars for the Kenwood Odyssey Auction, the PTAs largest fundraiser of the year. We need your help and attendance to make it a success. **WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! Come as you are, costumes or no costumes - anything goes.**

A few important dates:

THIS WEEK! - Watch for the invitation in your child's blue folder

THIS WEEK! - Donations (including Get Togethers) deadline. **We really need your donations to make this event a success.** Please return donation forms to the office or contact Cindy White cdocteurwhite@gmail.com or Melanie LaMere lameremel@yahoo.com.

Feb 21 - Registration deadline, **NEW - PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE THIS YEAR!** Details in the printed invite coming home this week.

Go to: bit.ly/KenwoodAuction2018

Feb 26 - Wine Wall donations deadline. **Drop off donations in the office.**

We are still in need of:

- Corporate Sponsors. If you own a business or know of a business that would like to support Kenwood Elementary, please let us know.
- Live Auction items. Experiences, getaways, sports tickets are all popular items. Please think about connections you might have!
- Volunteers for set-up and night of event. Watch for a SignUp Genius to be circulated via email in mid-February.

Winter/Spring Chess Club

Chess club will be starting up again on Tuesday, February 27th and continue through May 22nd. For more information, or to register for the next session, please visit <http://www.twincitieschessclub.com/> Please contact Irina Rybakova at the above link or call 952-457-4800.

Dining for Dollars Update

Thank you to everyone who has supported Dining for Dollars this year. We have had some great meals and treats and have raised \$1,391.35 so far, with money still coming in from a few restaurants. We would like to thank the following establishments for their generous support of Kenwood. Next time you stop by, please remember to thank them on behalf of Kenwood School.

Thank You:

- MN Nice Cream
- Nico's Tacos
- Galactic Pizza
- Chipotle
- The Lowry
- MyBurger

Mark your calendars for our next event: Monday, March 12th at Noodles and Company.

3040 Excelsior Blvd
612-915-6440

Calendar

Wednesday & Thursday, February 14th & 15th
Seussical Play Performance 6:30pm

Friday, February 16th
NO SCHOOL – Conferences

Monday, February 19th
NO SCHOOL – President's Day

Tuesday, February 20th- Friday, February 23rd
5th Grade at Eagle Bluff

Friday, February 23rd
Grades 1-4 at CONNECT Concert

Saturday, February 24th 8:30am-4:00pm
District Chess Tournament – Seward Montessori

Wednesday, February 28th
Grade 5 ski trip

Friday, March 2nd
Read Across America Day

Saturday, March 3rd
2018 Space Odyssey Action – Adults Only

Friday, March 9th
HA Lion Group