

13 Kenwood Courier

MARCH 21, 2016
ISSUE NUMBER 13

Our Newsletter for Families

Kenwood Elementary School
2013 Penn Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55405
kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us 612-668-2760

FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL...

Thank you to everyone involved with the Kenwood Totally 80's Silent & Live Auction. It was a wonderful event. I applaud the auction team and volunteers for all of their hard work. The money raised from this night will support and strengthen our commitment to maintaining the mission of Smarts + Arts at Kenwood. The Kenwood School community is amazing!

Spring is almost here and so is MCA testing. All state assessments will be taken online. Students have already started the reading sections; with math following later next month. 5th graders will also take the science assessment before the MCA window closes in May. The schedule for testing is posted on the Kenwood School Website.

Thank you for sending your student well rested and prepared to do their best.

Minneapolis Kids Afterschool Program Comes to Kenwood in the fall 2016.

One of the fundamental needs facing our school community is the shortage of available school age care slots. I recently had the opportunity to discuss this need with our district's Minneapolis Kids program administration and am happy to announce the addition of Minneapolis Kids to the Kenwood School Community beginning school year 2016-17. Fall registration begins online starting April 18 and although we're still discussing details, the program may be able to serve up to 70 children per day. I know this program well and had my own children in the program for years. They provide high quality school-age care in a safe, enriching, and fun environment.

This after school program runs from the end of the school day, 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., at a fee of \$17.20 per day. To learn more about the Minneapolis Kids Program, you can view their website at <http://mplskids.mpls.k12.mn.us>. As we get closer to April 18th, I will try to get additional information out to interested parents.

School Attendance – Daylight savings time quietly sauntered into our homes on Sunday, March 13, 2016. We continue to see a new trend of students arriving to school after 7:30 a.m. Our official start

time begins at 7:30 a.m. Students are expected to be in their classrooms and ready to be a part of the Responsive Classroom Morning Meeting routine. Hennepin County requires us to report our attendance data. Daily school attendance is the focus of the State of Minnesota Compulsory Attendance laws and legislation by Hennepin County. Unexcused absences, (i.e. those absences not acknowledged by a note or telephone call) are subject to district truancy/attendance procedures.

Our Kenwood School handbook

clearly outlines the school and district attendance policy. Please review the following statement on attendance:

Regular attendance is important to school success. It is expected that a student will attend daily and will be on time. Please

call the school office before 8:00 a.m. when your child is absent (612) 668-2780. When a student returns to school after an absence or tardiness, please send a note stating the child's name, classroom number or teacher's name, and the reason for absence or tardiness, with a parent or guardian signature. This information must be received within the week of the intended school absence.

If you are taking a family vacation,

a vacation form needs to be filled out 10 days prior to the event. Daily school attendance is the focus of the State of Minnesota Compulsory Attendance laws and legislation by Hennepin County. Unexcused absences, are subject to school truancy/attendance procedures.



Minnesota Reading Corp and Minnesota Math Corp Support needed for 2016-2017 —

Would you love to help children grow their reading or math skills, succeed in school and get extra support? If your answer is yes, you can be trained to serve as a tutor with Minnesota Reading Corps or Minnesota Math Corp at Kenwood Community School. Whether you want to explore an educational career, reenter the workforce, or give back to your community, you can succeed as a tutor. Last year, Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps provided direct services to over 35,000 children in more than 700 schools across the state.

As a tutor, you'll see a student's progress – in their test scores, in their other school work and in their eyes as they light up with the satisfaction of knowing they can do it. We're helping more kids catch up and soar on their own. And you can be part of it

In addition paid training, tutors receive on-site support from specially trained school mentors. Tutors are paid a living allowance, and are eligible for an education award of up to \$5,645 and federal student loan forbearance. Tutors 55 or older may gift the award to a child or grandchild.

Visit www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org or www.MinnesotaMathCorps.org. Strong preference is given to tutors who can begin in August.

Thank you for your continued support. I am so proud to be a part of this school.

Kind regards,



THE SPECTACULAR...



KENWOOD CARNIVAL!

—SAVE THE DATE—

**The Kenwood Carnival
is Saturday, May 14th
from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

RAIN OR SHINE!

Kenwood Media Center News

In **Media class**, Kenwood students have been doing a lot of research and writing.

For research the **3-5 graders** have been using **PebbleGo Next** and the links provided on the Student Learning Resources page. That includes **Destiny, Encyclopedia Britannica, and CultureGrams** as well as additional databases available through **ELM**. They have been using **Word, Cube Creator** and **Google Docs** to write up and share their information. **Google Drive** is an excellent way for your child to work on school projects at home. It is affiliated with Mpls.Public Schools so it must be accessed through the district website or the link I provided on the Kenwood Media Page. <http://kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us/Media.html>

Students in K-2 have been using **PebbleGo**. **PebbleGo** is a database with information about Animals, Earth and Space, Biographies, and Social Studies. We have a direct link to the database at school but you can also access it outside of school. The username is kenwoodcomm and the password is school. Please take a look at it with your child.

The database **PebbleGo Next** is also available for **grades 3-6**, from the Student Learning Resources page on a trial basis for the rest of this school year. It has been designed for grades 3-6. The username is mps and the password is mps

Students in grades 2-3 have been blogging. I have set up blogs using **Kidblog**. It is a secure site that can only be accessed by students and the teacher. Here's a bit of information from the site.

"**Kidblog** provides teachers with the tools to help students safely navigate the digital – and increasingly social – online landscape. Kidblog allows students to exercise digital citizenship within a secure, private classroom blogging space. **Kidblog's** security features put safety first":

- **Teachers have administrative control over all student blogs and student accounts.**

- **Your students' blogs are private by default – viewable only by classmates and the teacher. Teachers can elect to make posts public, while still moderating all content.**
- **Kidblog is fully COPPA compliant and does not require any personal information from students."**

Students can blog from home by going to the Kenwood Media webpage (<http://kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us/Media.html>) and clicking on the blogging links. They login by selecting their name and using their school password.

Coding: In December students participated in "The Hour of Code" to get a taste of what programming or coding is like. 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will be going on to additional lessons, accessed with the username and password they set up. Third graders login with their name and a secret character for their password. Please contact me for any help with logging in. Once again there are links on the Kenwood Media Page.

MackinVia, is the site for our school's eBooks. They are available from home by downloading the MackinVia app. You can find out more information at this site. <http://www.mackin.com/ESERVICES/MACKIN-VIA.aspx>

Please check out the **Student Learning Resources** included below. They are resources provided by the district. **The login information is listed.**

Students in all grades are continuing to check out books. If they return or renew their books on their Media they are able to check out an additional book in grades 1-5. Please remind your students to return their book(s) on their Media day.

Thank you for your help and support.

Joan Kallas
Kenwood Media Specialist



Student Learning Resources Online

Go to this link to reach all of these helpful tools for kids
<http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/learningresources>

- At home login for **CultureGrams** and **Teaching Books**:
username: mpls password: inspires
- **Tumblebooks/TumbleReadables** login: username: mpls
password: login
- For **ELM Resources and Research Project Calculator**, use your public library card.
- For **Discovery Education**, get the code from your media specialist to create your own login.
- **PebbleGo** login: username: kenwoodcomm password: school
- **PebbleGo Next** login: username: mps
password: mps
- **myONReader** login: username: student's school username
password: 1234



DATABASES AVAILABLE ONLINE

- DESTINY** — Search all Minneapolis Public School libraries from school and home.
- CULTURE GRAMS** — Country and state information including cultural perspectives
- AFRICAN AMERICAN REGISTRY** — The largest African American History website in the world!
- BRITANICA SCHOOL** — Comprehensive up-to-date online encyclopedia with versions for elementary, middle and high school students.
- ELM: Resources for Kids: Grades K-5** — KidsInfobits: information in all subjects.
- ELM4You:** Databases, video clips, magazines, newspapers @ your fingertips, includes links for teens from 6-12
- AskMN** — Get real-time answers from a librarian 24/7.
- RESEARCH PROJECT CALCULATOR** — Developing cool tools for Minnesota secondary school students and teachers.

BOOKS & EBOOKS

- TEACHINGBOOKS.NET** — An easy-to-use website that adds a multimedia dimension to the reading experiences of children's and young adult books.
- TUMBLE READABLES** — This collection for upper elementary and middle school readers has 125 Read-Along titles of picture books, early readers, chapter books, middle school readers, YA/teen Novels, children's classics, classics and Shakespeare.
- TUMBLEBOOKS** — Online books for elementary and ELL students to listen and read-along; in English, Spanish & French.

OTHER RESOURCES

- MYMPS:** Online content for your classroom courses
- DISCOVERY EDUCATION** — Videos, images, quizzes, and teacher materials. Passcode available from your media specialist.
- THINKFINITY** — provides digital resources for K-12 educators, students and families.
- NATIONAL REPOSITORY OF ONLINE COURSES** — Minneapolis Public Schools NROC Curriculum index.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 24

Third Quarter ends

Friday, March 25- Friday, April 1

NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK

Monday, April 4

School resumes

Tuesday, April 11

Pits & Alleys starts in the gym

Tuesday, April 19

Kenwood Galactic Pizza Day

Friday, May 13

Kenwood Plant Sale Pick-up

Saturday, May 14

Kenwood Carnival

Have A Great
Spring Break!
Enjoy Time With
Your Family.

