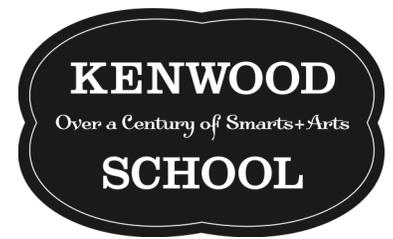


Kenwood Courier

2013 Penn Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55405

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Dear Kenwood Families,

As we step into April, ostensibly a spring month (though one would never guess it by the blizzard-like conditions over the weekend), we celebrate poetry and Earth Day, and honor Autism Awareness. I also look forward to sharing my leadership responsibilities with our auction-winning student Principals for the Day: Mena Severt and Anna Conner! We will resume warmer-weather activities, like the Woodchuck Walk, and optimistically seek out signs of spring. If school were a garden, this is the time when the lilacs would be bursting, and the peonies would soon be making their grand entrance into the world. Our student-flowers have absorbed rich learning throughout the year, and they are blossoming.

Although it's hard to believe that we're planning for the new school year, I'm pleased to announce grade level assignments for Kenwood teachers for 2018-19:

Kindergarten: Cathy Sullivan, Patti Sharp, Bailey Bettis
First Grade: Christi Thompson, Jens Holmboe, Stacey Maupin
Second Grade: Susan Ferrell, Kathy Schuette
Third Grade: Jacquelyn Williams, Stephanie Green, Deb Gregory
Fourth Grade: Jane Adamson, Martha Suedbeck
Fifth Grade: Julie Young Walsler, Darwin Lee

We have a talented team of educators on staff. I'm excited to be collaborating with them all to create a joyful and rigorous school culture for every child.

This leads me to an explanation of how class placement will proceed for the 2018-19 school year. It's our goal to have all students in instructional settings that will allow them to learn to their fullest potential in a safe, secure, and supportive environment. Class communities are diverse in their design, which means that each class has a wide variety of talents, interests, and abilities. A well-balanced classroom is in everyone's best interest. We consider gender balance, academic mix, personality and learning styles, peer relationships, special needs, and class size. To make placement decisions, we utilize: input from current teachers, the principal, and other staff members; information provided by families; and students' academic, social, and emotional strengths and areas of growth.

We will provide families with the optional opportunity to fill out a Parent Information Form. This form will give you a chance to share valuable information with us about your child. We will not honor specific teacher requests, and I respectfully ask that you not ask for a particular teacher, either on the form or in conversations with current teachers. The form will be sent home in backpacks the week of April 16, and should be submitted to classroom teachers no later than April 30. Once class rosters have been finalized, the forms will be given to your child's new teacher. I can assure you that the Kenwood team takes class placement seriously. This is an important process that must be fair, consistent, and student-focused.

Many of you have asked about learning opportunities for students who have been identified as advanced learners. As mentioned, we value creating diverse groups of learners in each classroom. We also recognize that there are some instructional practices that support the specific needs of advanced learners. In 2018-19, we will continue to cluster advanced learners, and will create clusters in every classroom, numbers permitting. Our part-time Advanced Differentiation Specialist will work collaboratively with classroom teachers to co-plan, model teach, co-assess, and develop resources to support the needs of advanced learners, with the additional benefit of our becoming more intentional about supporting the academic needs of *all* students. Our staff can participate in voluntary professional development related to advanced differentiation in June. Kenwood staff will also expand their learning about differentiated core instruction (meeting the academic needs of all students through data-driven instructional strategies) in August, November, and January of the upcoming school year. I'm excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for teaching and learning, for the benefit of all students, at Kenwood.

We're grateful that you're a part of this vibrant and complex learning community within the Minneapolis Public Schools. Wendell Berry, a farmer, poet, and environmentalist, captures the importance of being grounded in beauty and stillness, even in times of uncertainty. His message seems suitable as we navigate challenging opportunities at school, at home, and in the larger community.

Thank you for sharing your dear children with us at Kenwood!
Warm wishes,
Heidi

The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you to all the volunteers who help at Kenwood - whether it is volunteering in the classroom, lunchroom, on field trips, on a committee, serving dinner at the Barn Dance, cutting papers at home, or any of the many other areas you volunteer, we greatly appreciate your time and effort in helping all Kenwood kids.



Pits & Alleys

It's Pits & Alleys week in the Kenwood Gym. Pits & Alleys is something Mr. C. (Steve Cornelius), Kenwood's Physical Education teacher, has been doing since 1992. It's a complicated obstacle course set up in the gym with mats, cones, ropes, etc. Over the years it has evolved into something much grander than when it first started. In the early days, the course was taken down and set up daily. Now it takes roughly 5 hours and all Friday afternoon to have it set up for Monday. All students, K-5, have the opportunity to participate during their P.E. time. Basically, it is a game of tag inside an obstacle course. There are things to climb or jump over, crawl through, or avoid which could get you out for that game.

There is a lot of critical thinking going on during the game. Players have to determine which pathway (alley) to take, as well as what order to run in order to avoid becoming trapped in a one-way street or being tagged and put into the "PIT" by a tagger. Mr. C feels it is the most popular activity students do in gym class. It has become so popular, that it's offered as a sign up evening event at Kenwood's annual auction for students in grades 2- 5 as well as alumni students. The evening event has sold out every year raising thousands of dollars for our school. Many parents have been told by their children to not to come home from the Auction if they didn't sign them up for Pits & Alleys. Ask your child about gym class this week. I am sure you will get a smile. Thanks Mr. C.!

April 19th Pits and Alleys Evening Spots Available: There are still a few spots open at each grade level. You can purchase directly through the online auction website bit.ly/kenwoodauction2018 by Wednesday, April 18th or email Christine Conner at cjhallconner@yahoo.com or Kristi Granacher at kristi.granacher@gmail.com to secure your spot. You can pay by credit card or write check to Kenwood PTA.

There are also a few spots left in the **April 29th clogging event**. Please contact Christine or Kristi for this event as well.

Kenwood School Yearbooks – Deadline Extended

Help your child remember this past school year at Kenwood by ordering a 2017-18 Kenwood Yearbook. Yearbooks are \$15 a piece and scholarships are available. Order forms went home last week in backpacks, but there are more forms available in the school office. Please return order forms to your child's teacher or to the office by **Wednesday, April 18th**. Yearbooks will be distributed the last week of school. Contact Lisa Hedges at kenwoodyearbook1@gmail.com with any questions. A big thank you to all the parents that submitted pictures and the team who has been taking photographs throughout the year and is working on the layout of the yearbook – Helen Bassett, Natalia Dorf, Kirsten Eitrem, Lisa Hedges, Christy Kujawa, Leslie Nall, and Ann Tozer.

Let's Get to School on Time!

We have noticed that many students are arriving to school after Kenwood's start time (7:30 a.m.) or just a few minutes before 7:30, giving them limited time to get to their classrooms. When students come to school late, they miss important learning time, which has an impact on themselves, their classmates, and their teachers' plans for instruction. Students are expected to be in their classrooms at 7:30; students who arrive in their classrooms after 7:30 are considered tardy. There are excused reasons for coming to school late. Excused tardies include medical appointments (with a provider's note), family emergencies, and MPS transportation problems. If your child is late because of an excused reason, you can inform office staff by coming into the building with your child or by calling the attendance line (612-668-2766). Minneapolis Public Schools does not consider oversleeping, missing the bus, personal hygiene issues, car problems, or living outside of our busing area as an excused tardy. We will be in communication with you to create a plan of support if your child has multiple unexcused tardies. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Woodchuck Walk

Spring is almost here, and so is the Woodchuck Walk. Children who ride the bus to school will once a week experience the joys and reap the benefits of walking to school in an effort to increase student health, raise academic achievement, build community, and foster environmental awareness.

Starting Wednesday, April 25th, all school buses will drop students near Morgan & Douglas where they will be met by Kenwood staff. Children will walk along the designated route to school, accompanied by staff, school patrol, parents, & volunteers. **The Woodchuck Walk** will continue every WEDNESDAY throughout the remainder of the year. We need parent volunteers to make this happen. Please visit the sign up sheet www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E084FA4A829A5FD0-kenwood3 to add your name to the list of walkers. It's a great way to start your day!

Parents and children who do not take the school bus are encouraged to walk with us each week. Join us on Douglas around 7:10am or join us anywhere along the route. If you do drive, please watch for children and avoid blocking the school buses. There is ample parking on the south side of Douglas Ave. If you have questions, or do NOT want your student to participate, please contact Susan Doss at susan.doss@mpls.k12.mn.us or 612-668-2760.

Principal Update

Last week, Associate Superintendent Ronald Wagner sent 2 letters describing the process for the principal search for the 2018-2019 school year. The first step in this process is hearing from the community regarding the ideal attributes we are seeking in the next principal. Please feel free to contribute your thoughts by filling out a short survey using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9WVJVPN>

PAALs: Parents Advocating for Advanced Learners

"[MPS has a vision] that all students recognize and develop their talents as a result of enrichment and appropriately challenging learning opportunities." PAALs is a group of parents from various schools working together to collaborate with the district to ensure this vision is realized for all students, in all schools. To learn what PAALs is doing to advocate for your advanced learner and/or how you can advocate, contact Kenwood parent, Tyra Zuchowski at tyzuchowski@gmail.com.

Calendar

Tuesday, April 17th 4:00-9:00pm
Dining for Dollars – Edina Grill (5028 France Ave S)

Wednesday, April 25th
Woodchuck Walk Resumes

Thursday, April 26th 7:00-9:00pm
EVEREVE Shopping Event (3914 W 50th Street)

Monday, May 7th – Friday, May 11th
Teacher Appreciation Week

Wednesday, May 9th
Walk/Bike to School Day

