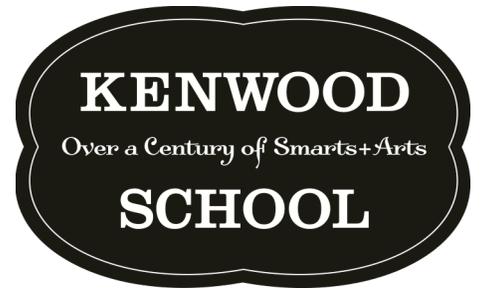


# Kenwood Courier

2013 Penn Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55405

kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us 612-688-2760



Dear Kenwood Community,

May is a time of wonderful celebrations, in school and in the environment around us. The orioles are back, the lilacs are about to burst, and the ice is mostly out on our beloved lakes. I think I can safely put my skis, skates, and blue winter coat in the basement closet, which feels like a significant milestone.

You've honored our teachers and staff in lovely and generous ways this month. Thank you for showing your appreciation for the Kenwood Team's hard work and dedication to helping all students to reach their fullest potential in school. Additionally, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the parent volunteers who've helped to make Kenwood such a special place in the lives of the children we serve: Kenwood PTA, Site Council, the Auction Committee, Parents as Partners, the School Picnic committee, Lunchroom Volunteers, Rain Garden, School Garden, The School Forest Initiative, Morning Greeters, Math POW, Classroom Parents, Student Council Parent Volunteers, Field Trip Chaperones, and the many volunteers who've volunteered at events and supported arts integration in our school community. We are extremely lucky to have your partnership in this gratifying work.

There's a lot to look forward to in these last weeks of school: the Plant Sale pick-up, Track and Field Day, the Choir Concert, the Wax Museum, the Awards Assembly, the Kindergarten and 5th Grade recognition ceremonies, the Rummage Sale, and many more events and trips to exciting places. I look forward to honoring our children's learning with you in the weeks ahead!

I'd like to take this time to express my appreciation for the staff members who will be moving on to new opportunities next year: Sarah Bauer, Akhalaphet Vixayvong, Alyssa Paulson, and Jennifer Gottenborg. Thank you for your commitment to Kenwood – we will miss you! We also honor the remarkable Terry Brezny, who is retiring after decades of heartfelt service to our school. Please see his note to the community. Cheers, Mr. Brezny!

It has been my joy and privilege to serve as Kenwood's Interim Principal this year. As many of you know, the interviews for permanent Principal will be conducted this week. The results of the process will be shared with the Kenwood community once the interview committee has made its recommendation to the Associate Superintendent, and the Superintendent has met with the successful candidate and approved the offer.

May the coming weeks bring you joy and time for reflection with the children and families in this beautiful community.

Warmly,  
Heidi

A poem in honor of those whose primary practice is caring for children: mothers, fathers, teachers, step-parents, grandparents, and dear friends:

**Yours**

Daniel Hoffman, 1923 – 2013

I am yours as the summer air at evening is  
Possessed by the scent of linden blossoms,

As the snowcap gleams with light  
Lent it by the brimming moon.

Without you I'd be an unleaved tree  
Blasted in a bleakness with no Spring.

Your love is the weather of my being.  
What is an island without the sea?

**From Grade 1 Teacher Mr. Brezny:**

Dear Families,

As many of you now already know, this will be my last year as a teacher at Kenwood School. After 33 years of teaching, 32 of which have been at Kenwood School, I have decided to put away my books and begin the next chapter in my life. This school has been my second home as I have taught here over half of my life. I have watched children grow up and go on to high school, college and begin families of their own. I have witnessed many changes take place over the years at this school, but one thing that has always remained a constant is the camaraderie and family togetherness that make Kenwood so special. I want to thank everyone for making my years as a part of this community a wonderful and memorable experience. Some of you may have seen my student driver vehicle in the parking lot each day. I teach the driver education classes at the local high schools as well as take the students out for behind the wheel training. That's right, over the years I have taught the little ones at Kenwood to learn to read and then returned to find them once again at high school ready to learn to drive. Now that I'm retiring I will spend more time with driver education. And for many of your children I will see them once again when they reach high school and are ready to begin driving with me. So as you see, it's not so much a goodbye as it is a see you in a few years. I may also return as a substitute teacher at Kenwood on occasion. Once again, I wish everyone a heartfelt thank you for your friendship and best wishes.

-Terry

### A Message from Site Council member Al Rodriguez

¡Se habla Español! Dejeme saber si quiere que le traduzca al Español algunade las noticias en este periodico.  
Please contact Lori Smith and she will forward all requests to Al.  
Correo: lori.smith@mpls.k12.mn.us  
Telefono: 612-668-2778

### Spirit Day - Support the Home Team!

Wear blue and green to show support for the MN Lynx on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Student Council for organizing the spirit day!

### Reading Corps Tutors

Do you know someone who would love to help our students improve their reading skills?

Kenwood Elementary is now searching for Minnesota Reading Corps tutors for the 2018-2019 school year!

Tutors come from many backgrounds and include recent high school and college grads, career changers, stay-at-home parents/grandparents, and retirees. They receive extensive training, and coaching support. In return for their service, tutors earn a living allowance, education award, federal student loan forbearance, and other benefits.

This tutor is a specially trained AmeriCorps member who will work with students needing a boost to catch up to grade level in reading. Students served by this evidence-based program experience strong growth – in their test scores, other schoolwork, and confidence. Last year, Reading Corps served more than 20,000 Minnesota students in schools throughout the state - including Kenwood Elementary!

If you or someone you know might enjoy making a difference in the lives of Kenwood Elementary students, the application can be found [here](#), or visit [www.mn-readingmathcorps.icims.com](http://www.mn-readingmathcorps.icims.com). Positions are available throughout the 2018-19 school year.

Questions? Contact Hannah Balder at [hannah.balder@servetogrow.org](mailto:hannah.balder@servetogrow.org) or 612-206-3047.

### Kenwood Spring Picnic

The weather wasn't ideal, but the spirit was out of this world. Whether you were enjoying a frozen yogurt, having your face painted, tumbling with Kenwood Gymnastics, or just conversing with friends, the spirit of the Kenwood community was easy to see. Thank you to parents Anne Long, Leslee Johns, and Al Rodriguez for their work behind the scenes to create such a fun event.

### Walk/Bike to School Day: Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

The Walk/Bike to School Day has been rescheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students that ride the bus can still participate by taking part of the Woodchuck Walk. Students that drive to school may walk a lap or two around the school playground. All students that participate will be able to sign the mural and receive a sticker. Please remember to follow safety rules when walking and biking to school. Bikes can be locked at bike racks by the school and in front of the rec center along Franklin Avenue – don't forget your helmet and bike lock!

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade District Math Competition

Congratulations to all the fifth graders who participated in the district math competition. Jimmy H. and Riley W. earned runner up for the fact round and Yoel K. earned first place for the fact round. Way to go!

### Thank You Kenwood Families!

Kenwood teachers and staff would like to offer their heartfelt gratitude for the treats, flowers, gifts, and notes of support that you sent in last week for Teacher Appreciation Week. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.

### Plant Sale and Jamba Juice: Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

If you preordered plants, pick up will be from 12:00 – 6:00pm on the playground this Friday. The plant sale is used to offset the cost of the fifth grade 3 night/4 day trip to Eagle Bluff.

Forget to preorder? We have you covered! Extra plants were ordered and can be purchased on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> or after school the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers are set for unloading and sorting orders on the 18<sup>th</sup>, but we still need help selling plants after school. Grab a friend and sign up for a shift – no expert knowledge needed. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084fa4a829a5fd0-kenwood2>

Jamba Juice will be at Kenwood from 2:00 – 4:00pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> selling smoothies and donating 20% back to Kenwood PTA. Thank you to Jamba Juice for their support.

### Kenwood Garden Update:

We have two garden work days coming up to prep the soil, weed, mulch and get the trellising set up. We will also be planting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Please stop by anytime on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00am to help out!

### Volunteer Thank You: Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

At Kenwood School, we definitely appreciate all of our volunteers. In recognition of all our amazing parent volunteers this year, **the PTA would like to invite all volunteers to The Lowry on Tuesday, May 22nd to say THANK YOU! Drop in anytime between 5:00 - 8:00 pm.** Appetizers will be provided, and there will be a cash bar. Thanks for all you have done to help make Kenwood unique.

## Calendar

Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>  
Kindergarten Registration

Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
Plant Sale Pick Up, 12:00-6:00pm  
Jamba Juice, 2:00 – 4:00pm

Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Grades 1, 2 & 3 Track and Field Day  
Volunteer Thank You, 5:00 – 8:00pm

Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Grades 4 & 5 Track and Field Day

Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>  
Track and Field rain date

Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>  
NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day

Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>  
Choir Concert, 6:00pm

Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>  
Awards Ceremony, 7:45am  
Kindergarten Track and Field Day

