

Kenwood Courier

17

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Our Newsletter for Families

Kenwood Elementary School
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FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL...

Dear Kenwood families,

The last two weeks of April brought a tremendous response from the Kenwood Community School. I want to thank you for advocating for the needs of our school. The parent community emailed district leaders in an effort to raise questions and concerns about the **2016-17 school budget** and class size. I want to reassure this community that all decisions related to the budget were made with full collaboration between the school administration and the site council.

We made the choice to fund the following student-centered items:

- Continue to offer Art to all students for the entire school year;
- Increase the school social worker's position to a full-time status. This decision promotes a safe and healthy school climate while responding to increasing needs of families in transition (divorce, moving, financial constraints, health concerns, etc.);
- Restore the hours of the Health Services Assistant to provide bell-to-bell coverage for all students;
- Staff the school office with adequate hours in order to meet the demands of the school (i.e. especially with changes and requests related to Transportation);
- Hiring an additional Associate Educator to provide extra classroom support for teachers, especially in Grade 5;
- Continue to offer the excellent program and services of Minnesota Math Corps.

At this point in the fiscal cycle, the school budget is now closed for the coming school year. Class size and enrollment for the two fifth grade classes will be monitored from the first day of school and any adjustments to staffing will be made by central office in the fall. I want to reassure the Kenwood community that we will continue to provide an excellent education to your children. Your support and confidence in this process will sustain us in the next few months.

Sincerely,



Dr. Aura Wharton-Beck
Kenwood School Principal

Staff Retiring From Kenwood School; In their own words...

School Secretary

Elizabeth Ashcroft (Bette)

"After serving in leadership as a volunteer for many years in the nonprofit world, I joined the Kenwood Community in 2008, when I began working as an Office Assistant. In 2014, I became the School Secretary and have enjoyed the opportunity to learn new skills, meeting new challenges, and getting to know a terrific group of teachers, students, and families. Working closely with the Administrative team has brought me great joy, and I will miss my colleagues in the office very much as I head into the next chapter, which includes more time with family and friends, travel, and all the books I've been meaning to read."

Special Education Teacher

Roberta Simes

"I'm very honored and proud to have taught Minneapolis School children for 34 years. It's been a great ride and I wouldn't change anything about that part of my life. I taught in another district for 4 years before Minneapolis. My life has changed: my son and daughter are grown up with families of their own now. I have two beautiful grandchildren that I am planning on seeing and playing with often. First I'm going to take a couple months to do as little as possible. After that, I'll make a list of places where I want to volunteer. Maybe I'll have a second career. Who knows what life has in store for me now. LIFE IS GOOD!!"

School Psychologist

Dr. Maureen Cleary

Following a long and varying career with Minneapolis Public Schools, Dr. Maureen Cleary will be retiring from the District at the end of this year. Dr. Cleary was hired in 1993, and over the years, has provided psychological services to multiple District schools, and served for twelve years on special assignment for a program providing professional development services to teachers. Most recently, Dr. Cleary served as the building psychologist for Kenwood School. After leaving the District, Dr. Cleary will continue with her psychology practice, providing mental health services to adolescents and adults in a clinical setting in St. Paul. First up, an evening performance at the Dakota with colleagues; then up travel, gardening, rowing and letting time roll on!



Staff Farewells

First Grade Teacher

Diana Frank — *Ms. Frank has accepted a kindergarten position at Webster Elementary School.*

Instructional Specialist

Abbi Lodin — *Ms. Lodin has accepted a position as a Literacy & Math Specialist at Bryn Mawr Elementary School.*

We wish Ms. Frank & Ms. Lodin all the best their new positions for the upcoming year!

Staffing Assignments 2016-17 School Year

Kindergarten

Patricia Sharp, Catherine Sullivan Bailey Rasmussen

First Grade

Terrance Brezny, Christina Thompson Julie Young-Walser

Second Grade

Stacey Maupin, Kathleen Schuette Susan Ferrell

Third Grade

Deborah Gregory, Stephanie Green Jacquelyn Williams

Fourth Grade

Jens Holmboe, Jane Adamson, Martha Richardson-Suedbeck

Fifth Grade

Renata Goepfrich, Darwin Lee

Special Education Resource Teachers

Jill Kelly, Susan Doss

C.L.A.S.S. Program Teacher

Kelly Nakishima

Art

Margaret Swenson

Music

Cynthia Quehl

Band

Michael Robinson

P. E.

Steve Cornelius

Media/Technology

Joan Kallas

New to Kenwood...

Instructional Specialist

Jim Glaser

School Secretary

Katy Marsnick

C.L.A.S.S. Program Teacher

Kelly Nakishima

Classification

The classification process at Kenwood School takes into account many factors (e.g. balancing gender, academic abilities, race, ethnicity, etc.). Thank you for submitting your child's learner profile to assist in this process. **Grade level teams, the school social worker, and ancillary staff spend a considerable amount of time and energy ensuring that your child is placed with the appropriate teacher.** Classroom placement is based on input from staff, administration and parents. Academic performance, behavior, special needs/programs, peer relationships, gender, ethnicity, and teacher style are diligently weighed to achieve the optimum placement for your child. A balanced classroom supports the best academic environment for your student.

Requesting a change to your child's teacher disrupts the process and causes an imbalance in the grade level placements. Please do not request a change in assignments. Thank you in advance for your support.

Attendance/Absences

The average attendance in school this year was 94.93%. Your help in ensuring that appointments etc. are arranged outside of school hours when possible, and bringing children into school before and after appointments are much appreciated. If a child is not coming to school, please phone the office or send a note with a sibling. It is school policy to contact parents if we have an unexplained absence.

Math Problem of the Week

Congratulations to the Kenwood students who eagerly and methodically solved the weekly Math Problem of the Week!

Kenwood School Carnival

Thank you to all of the Kenwood staff, parents, alumni who helped make the Kenwood Carnival a reality this year — especially Julie Dornisch, Angie Erdrich, John Neumann, Nancy Hope, Lori Smith, Susan Krook & Chris Madden.



A special note of appreciation to the Kenwood alumni parent Michelle Smith for lending her expertise to the crew.

Thank You...

We are very fortunate to have a number of people who work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that our school is able

to do its best for your children. All of these people give their time, energy, talent, and enthusiasm to ensure that our students maximize their potential. Your efforts are duly noted and appreciated. A note of thanks to the host volunteers who continue to invest in our school:

- Kenwood PTA
- Kenwood Site Council
- Kenwood Auction Committee
- Parents as Partners Volunteers
- Lunchroom Volunteers for kindergarten and first grade classes
- Student Council Advisors
- Rain Garden, Cedar Lake Nature Group and Oriole Bird Watching Initiative
- Local businesses — The Lowry Restaurant, Galactic Pizza, Nico's Tacos, Talbots, Chipotle, Ben & Jerry's, MyBurger, Birchbark Book Store, etc.
- Artists in Residences

Take a bow! You deserve a standing ovation for your commitment to Kenwood Elementary School!

A quote from Dr. Bruce Kramer, former dean of the St. Thomas College of Education, Leadership and Counseling- Posted June 16, 2012, Dis Ease Diary <https://diseasediary.wordpress.com>

"Today, as you discuss your successes and failures of the past year, challenge yourself that every child in your sphere will be deeply known, loved, fostered, and cared for by someone in your school. Challenge your systems to face failure in a way that will build strength and capacity so that the next failure and the next will be nothing but a pathway to success. Yes, intervene, improve, tutor, school, teach syllables and numbers and sounds and knowledge and the civil responsibility that defines the difference between the educated and the ignorant. But in that time, do not lose sight of the fact that we are, each one of us, failing; and we have been given a great gift in this insight—the choice to energize our collective failures into the emergence of a beautiful human child educated to be persistent, resilient, squeezing that failure, until it yields, and in the yielding, learning success."

Adopt a Kenwood plant for the summer.

There are many of plants in the media center and around school that need care for the summer months. We are looking for some kind souls to help care for these plants and return them in the fall. In early May, there will be tags in the plants that would like a home for the summer with instructions on how to care for them. If you are interested — just take the plant and leave the tag where you found the plant. In the fall, you can bring it to school and put it back for the school year. If you have any questions about the plants or this process, contact 5th Grade teacher/ Kenwood Plant Coordinator Darwin Lee at darwin.lee@mpls.k12.mn.us

Staff Retirement Bouquets on Thursday, June 2nd.

After many years of dedication to the students of Kenwood school, Bette Ashcroft, our school secretary, Maureen Cleary, our school psychologist, and Roberta Simes, our C.L.A.S.S. special education teacher are retiring. On **Thursday, June 2nd**, we will build **3 huge "bouquets from the heart"** to say farewell to our beloved staff and friends. You may bring in (or send to the school office with your child) 1 long-stemmed flower (or more!) for each of the retirees. Cards will be most welcome too! Please share your best wishes with these wonderful women when you see them around school and let them know how much they will be missed!



(The last Courier and flyer said Tuesday, June 2nd instead of Thursday. Sorry for the confusion.)

CALENDAR

Thursday, June 2

Kindergarten Track & Field (rescheduled from May 27) 8:30 a.m.

4th grade Bike Ride to Lake Harriet

Bring flowers to atrium to celebrate the retirement of staff members Bette Ashcroft, Roberta Simes and Maureen Cleary

5th Grade Afterschool Rollerskating Party

Friday, June 3

All School Awards Assembly 8:00 a.m.

Monday, June 6

Fifth Grade Celebration

Tuesday, June 7

Last Day of School

Saturday, June 11

Kenwood Elementary Benefit Rummage Sale
Kenwood Rec Center
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PLAN AHEAD:

Monday, August 22

Placement Letters are mailed

Thursday, August 25

Kenwood School Open House
& Ice Cream Social 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Monday, August 29

First Day of School for Grades 1-5

Wednesday, August 31

First Day of School for Kindergarten
New Parent Coffee 7:30 a.m.

Monday, September 5

Labor Day — NO SCHOOL

Saturday, September 17

Kenwood Crawl

