

Kenwood Courier

4

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Our Newsletter for Families

Kenwood Elementary School
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we can, Kenwood will continue to be a great community for all families.

FROM YOUR PTA CO-PRESIDENTS.

The leaves are starting to change and parent teacher conferences are starting tomorrow. Remember that there is no school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week. Enjoy the time off with your family — and take advantage of the great fall weather.

Bike/Walk to School Day — It was a great weather day for this fun event — even the Principal rode her bike to school!



There were many bikes locked up – bikers/scooters & walkers signed the mural hanging up outside. Bus riders signed the mural too after participating in a quick activity on the playground when they got off the bus. Thank you Chris Madden for organizing this day and parent volunteers for helping to pass out stickers and coordinate the mural signing.

New this year! Fall Read-A-Thon: Look for information coming home soon about this fundraiser taking place at the end of the month. There will be prizes for the class with the most participation, students with the most minutes read, students who raise the most money, and more. Note, the Read-A-Thon will take the place of the Innisbrook fundraiser.

Family Activity Night — Don't miss this popular community building event on **November 17th**. There will be a FREE pasta dinner in the Multi-Purpose Room, a Barn Dance and the Scholastic Book Fair. More details will be coming home soon.

Money, money, money — You might ask, "Why does PTA do so much fundraising, and what is the money used for?" Kenwood is special for many reasons – but we stand out because of how we incorporate arts into a traditional education model. We need your help to do this because our school budget is very tight. The money we raise goes toward classroom supplies, field trip buses, grade

level artist residencies (i.e. African drumming, Taiko drumming) and school-wide residencies (i.e. Midwest Food Connection, Barn Dance). This year the PTA paid the salary for the band director and the family liaison, one field trip bus per class, school folders and planners, expenses for school tours, safety patrol and many community-building events like the Ice Cream Social, Family Activity Night, as well as other ad hoc requests. This year the PTA fundraising goal is \$99,000..

Again this year, Kenwood School will be participating in Give to the Max Day (November 17th), a national day of online fundraising. All money raised is given directly to Kenwood School to support our academic enrichment. Last year, parents and community members donated \$11,000 to Kenwood School. These monies have been designated to support differentiated mathematics by investing in a library of math manipulatives, activities and materials that will offer teachers additional resources to help support mathematic growth for every student. Additionally, Give to the Max funds were able to fund online memberships for our media center to offer Kenwood students new opportunities for technology based learning in literacy, drawing and math. Thank you for considering Kenwood School and academic enrichment in your annual giving.

The PTA is always concerned that we make too many "asks" for money. However, we have done several fundraising surveys throughout the years and the results tell us we should continue on our same path – multiple options throughout the year. However, you can always make a direct donation to the PTA as opposed to participating in the fundraiser. We also know that all families cannot participate in all fundraisers – that is OK. If we all do what

All donations to the PTA that do not involve a product or service received are tax deductible. If you feel that the variety of fundraisers do not meet your needs you can make an annual contribution to the PTA. Checks can be made out to Kenwood PTA (with annual contribution on the memo line) and put in the PTA box in the office. Annual contributions are fully tax deductible.

To all those parents who are helping with conference meals for teachers this week — we really appreciate it and so do the teachers.

Thank you for being such an involved group of parents! Last year we had over 350 parents volunteer at Kenwood School. Let's keep up the good work!

Melanie LaMere & Julie Coykendall

WANTED: Your time & talents.

The annual Kenwood Auction is on **Saturday, February 25th**, but planning starts now! This is the largest fundraiser of the year (and happens to be an awesome reason to party late into the night) and we need your help to make it a success. Specifically, we need to fill the following positions.

- LIVE AUCTION CHAIR/CO-CHAIR**
- SILENT AUCTION COMMITTEE**
- DATA ENTRY/CHECK OUT**
- CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP**

Please contact Cindy White
cdocteurwhite@gmail.com or
Melanie LaMere lameremel@yahoo.com
if you are interested.

Get involved in the auction. It's an awesome cause and a great way to meet other parents.

Kenwood Green Team & School Gardens

The Kenwood School Green team is a group of volunteer parents, sponsored by the PTA, that coordinates environmental friendly initiatives such as:



- 1). The Kenwood School Flower and Veggie Garden, helping kids grow since 2010
- 3). Leading hikes in East Cedar Lake Park
- 4). The Kenwood Rummage & Reuse Sale which in June 2016 earned over \$1200 for the Garden Fund & the Principal's Fund
- 5). The Stone Poem Rain Garden
- 6). Cedar Lake Park DNR Classroom

Thank you to the 20 families who maintained the vegetable and fairy garden over the summer.

The Stone Poem Rain Garden

In January 2015, Kenwood Elementary School received a Cynthia Krieg grant from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to develop a watershed curriculum and excavate/plant a raingarden at Kenwood Corner. Raingardens are purposeful landscaping featuring deeply rooted pesticide-free native plants which promote pollinators and depressed basins that capture storm water which protects the lakes. The garden includes a sculpted stepping stone path by Zoran Mojsilov which features an engraved poem by Louise Erdrich. Many community partners came together for the creation of this special garden

The raingarden has been designed with 8 basins and 22 infiltration columns that are 4 feet deep. 5th grade students are now learning about watershed in the garden.

Join the Kenwood Green Team. Contact Kenwood Parent Angie Erdrich at angie_sandeep@yahoo.com if you would be a part of this exciting group.

October 26 — Kenwood Night Out at MyBurger

Treat yourself and your family to a quick, tasty meal out on Wednesday, October 26 at **MyBurger**, between 4–7 p.m. Mention you are there for “**Kenwood Night Out**” (KNO) and **MyBurger** will donate 25% of all “KNO” sales to Kenwood Elementary School including the purchase of gift cards. It’s that easy! Tell your friends, family & neighbors.

MyBurger is located in Calhoun Commons; 3100 Excelsior Blvd. (next to Yogurt Lab)



myBURGER

Easy Money for Kenwood

Here are some easy ways to send extra \$\$\$ to Kenwood School. **Please note that we are NOT endorsing or pushing particular businesses or products.** But if you already shop at these stores or have these items on your grocery list, we simply ask that you take advantage of the bonuses offered to schools. The money raised pays for supplies used in the office and PTA school events — and the money really adds up.



General Mills BoxTop\$ for Education:

We are continuing the BoxTop\$ for Education program this year so clip those BoxTops and send them to school. They are worth 10¢ a piece. BoxTops are found on brands such as Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Kleenex, Hefty, Ziploc and more. Go to www.boxtops4education.com to find a complete list of participating products. Last year we earned almost \$600 for the general PTA fund. Put your **clipped BoxTops** in the school office. Our first deadline of the year is October 28th.

Holy Land Products:

Look for 25 cent donation coupons on packages of hummus & baba ghanouj from this northeast Minneapolis deli.

Kowalski’s Market on Hennepin:

Kenwood School has a receipt deposit bin at Kowalski’s Market on Hennepin Avenue. This is part of their Groceries for Good Causes program. It is meant to help nonprofit organizations like schools. Customers place their receipts in labeled boxes at the front of the store. **A donation is made quarterly based on the total number of receipts (not the amount of money spent) collected in each charity’s bin** So next time you shop at Kowalski’s — please remember to put your receipt in the Kenwood box. Thank you!

Minneapolis Public Schools now require that all parent volunteers going on School Fieldtrips submit a Criminal Background Check form by mail to the district along with a \$5 fee.

This background check is good for two years from the date it was approved.

Note: It takes 5-10 days for processing. Forms are available in the school office or at kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us.

The NEW Kenwood Woodchuck Walk!

We are excited to announce that starting next week children who ride the yellow school buses 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. Other Minneapolis Schools have started this program to much success!



Starting tomorrow — **Tuesday, October 18**, 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 TUESDAY through the fall, weather permitting. We need parent volunteers to make this happen. Please sign up through the link on our Kenwood website.

PARENTS as PARTNERS UPCOMING TRAINING You can still volunteer!

Parents as Partners is a math enrichment volunteer program at Kenwood. As a volunteer you will work with a small group of students every week for 30min in your child’s grade level to reinforce math concepts that the students are learning in the classroom. Students love the program and look forward to it immensely. Volunteers enjoy the program because it is a chance to be in the classroom and an opportunity to meet other Kenwood parents. Each grade level depends on around 20 volunteers each year. That is 100 people who commit to working with Kenwood Students for the school year!

If you have already signed up to Volunteer the training dates are fast approaching:

TRAINING for Parents as Partners:

Grades 1, 2 & 3 - Wednesday, October 26, 7:30am – 8am MEDIA ROOM
Grades 4 & 5 - Friday, October 28, 7:30am – 8am Room 118

We can always use more volunteers. Email Mindy Glover at papkenwood@gmail.com to let her know if you can be a full time or part time volunteer or are interested in being a substitute.

1st Grade FRIDAYS 9am - 9:30am (will run JAN - MAY)
2nd Grade WEDNESDAYS 7:45am - 8:15am
3rd Grade THURSDAYS 7:45am - 8:15am
4th Grade FRIDAYS 7:45am - 8:15am
5th Grade FRIDAYS 7:45am - 8:15am

Welcome Desk Help Needed

M/W/F help still needed from 7:40 – 8:00 a.m. The job is fun — just greeting students & families and writing out passes to get to class (it really helps cut down congestion in the school office). If you are able to help one morning a week or every other week please contact Chris Madden at christine.madden@mpls.k12.mn.us.



**Fall
STATE OF THE
SCHOOL
Address.
Thursday, October 27th
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
in the Multi-purpose Room.**



CALENDAR

- Tuesday, October 18**
Parent-Teacher Conferences
2:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 19**
NO SCHOOL – Parent-Teacher Conferences
7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 20 & Friday, October 21**
NO SCHOOL – MEA: Statewide Teacher Professional Days
- Thursday, October 27**
Site Council Meeting
4:00 – 5:30 p.m. — Media Center
State Of The School Meeting
5:00 – 6:00 p.m. — Multi-purpose Room
- Wednesday, October 26**
Spotlights
8:00 a.m. – Multipurpose Room
1:00 p.m. – Multipurpose Room
Note: Each is a separate show.
- Thursday, November 3 & Friday, November 4**
NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday, November 8**
Election Day — KidsVote
- Monday, November 14 – Friday, November 18**
Native American Involvement Week
- Monday, November 14 – Thursday, November 17**
Scholastic Book Fair
- Thursday, November 17**
Family Activity Night
Give To The Max Day
PICTURE RETAKE DAY
- Wednesday, November 25, Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27**
NO SCHOOL — Thanksgiving Holiday