

Kenwood Courier

2013 Penn Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55405

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

From Your PTA Co-Presidents: We hope you were all able to attend conferences last week and then enjoy some time with your family over the long weekend. The days go by so quickly, it is hard to believe we are nearing November and school has been in session for 8 weeks.

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

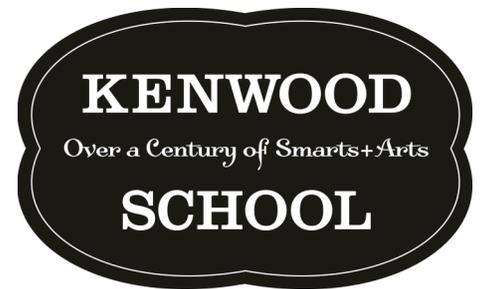
The PTA is always concerned that we make too many “asks” for money. We have done several surveys throughout the years and the results tell us that everyone has a different way of contributing. Different families like to support different events and causes, so we continue to offer them. You can always make a direct donation to the PTA as opposed to participating in a fundraiser. We know that all families cannot participate in all fundraisers or events, and that is OK. If we all do what we can, Kenwood school will continue to be a special place in our community.

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.

Thank you to everyone who provided a snack, beverage, or meal during conferences. The teachers raved about the delicious offerings and were very appreciative of your generosity. A special thank you to parent Jane Wolke for organizing the food and making the lunchroom a festive place for teachers to eat.

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 & Coryn Petersen



Site Council Update

Dear Kenwood Families,

As most of you know, Dr. Wharton-Beck will be leaving Kenwood at the end of December. Many of you have asked about the selection process for the new principal at Kenwood and the Site Council would like to share what information we have. First, an interim principal will be named by the district in early November. Although the Kenwood community will not be involved in that process, we will be involved in selecting the new principal in the spring. This is where we need your help. Over the next several months the Site Council will be asking each of you for your input. We want to know which qualities in a new principal are important to you, and also what you think makes Kenwood special. Although the details are still being worked out, it sounds like we will be able to put together a group of teachers and family members to interview potential candidates. We will keep you updated during the process as we learn more. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of the Site Council members. Thank you in advance and we look forward to getting your feedback!

Sincerely,
The Site Council

Dining for Dollar – Galactic Pizza

2917 Lyndale Ave S, 612-824-9100

On Tuesday, October 24th Galactic Pizza will donate 25% of your total bill to Kenwood PTA. Offer is valid on dine in, delivery or take out from 11:00am – midnight. Take a night off of cooking and support Kenwood at the same time!

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, 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. Send your clipped BoxTops in the school office. This year Student Council will be in charge of this program.

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.

Amazon Smile: If you are an Amazon shopper, you can help earn money for Kenwood School. Log into www.smile.amazon.com with your usual amazon user ID. Search for "PTA Minnesota Congress 004884 Kenwood Elementary PTA" as the charity you want to support. Every little bit helps!

Parents as Partners Needs You!

Parents as Partners is our parent led math enrichment program at Kenwood. As a volunteer you will work with a small group of students every week for 30 minutes in a grade level of your choice 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 and students. If you are looking to do even more for the program, we also need grade leads in grades 1, 3, and 5. Grade leads coordinate the parents and produce the packets each week; about 30 extra minutes and some emails. Please contact Ben Nelson at papkenwood@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering. It's easier than you think!

Kenwood Read a Thon starts Today

Fall Into a Good Book with the 2nd Annual Kenwood Read a Thon! All students are asked to set a goal and read (or be read to) from October 23 – November 3. Students receive prizes for participating in the event and achieving the minimum reading goal of 240 total minutes. They will also be entered into a raffle for extra prizes. Top Prizes (a Kindle Fire) will go to the two students who read the most minutes and the two students who raise the most money. Sponsors can pledge an amount per minute or a flat donation. 100% of the money collected will go to Kenwood PTA, which supports our arts programs. Last year, we read 106,769 combined minutes and raised over \$14,000. Thank you to parents Beth Mason and Rachele Morken for organizing this fun event.

Family Activity Night Thursday, November 16th

4:30 – 6:00pm Scholastic Book Fair
5:00 – 6:30pm FREE Dinner
5:00 – 6:00pm Spirit Wear Sales
6:00 – 7:00pm All-School Barn Dance

Calendar

Tuesday, October 24th 11:00am – midnight
Galactic Pizza – Dining for Dollars

Thursday, November 2nd & Friday, November 3rd
NO SCHOOL

Thursday, November 9th 4:00 – 5:30pm
Site Council Meeting

Monday, November 13th 4:00 - 8:00pm
Chipotle (on Hennepin) – Dining for Dollars

Thursday, November 16th
Family Activity Night (Barn Dance, Scholastic Book Fair)

Thursday, November 16th
Give to the Max Day – GiveMN.org

Friday, November 17th
Picture Retakes

Wednesday, November 22nd - Friday, November 24th
NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Holiday