

5 Kenwood Courier

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Our Newsletter for Families

Kenwood Elementary School
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the direction of Cathy Sullivan, launched the new year by hosting a breakfast meeting with new Superintendent Ed. Graff!

- We are nurturing students' social-emotional growth so they can be successful in school, the workforce and life.

FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL...

Dear Kenwood Families.

The 2016 Presidential Election is right around the corner. This is your opportunity to model and demonstrate your civic duty for your children. Regardless of your political views, it is imperative that you vote. It is also important for you to pay attention to the Referendum on this year's ballot. Here is the Reader's Digest version of the Referendum:

Fast Facts about the 2016 Referendum:

- The Board of Education is asking voters to renew the district's expiring operating referendum.
- Nearly all school districts receive funding from local property taxes to fund school operations; this is a critical part of the education funding system in Minnesota.
- The referendum is a part of our core operating budget; total referendum revenue provides roughly 13% of 2016-17 budget.
- On the ballot—voters will be asked to approve \$1,604.31 per pupil plus annual inflation adjustment, which would be good for nine years; funding would be used to manage class sizes and provide supportive services and activities for students.
- If passed, **taxes are not projected to increase due to this referendum** as this would extend a current authorization.
- If it fails, MPS will have to make difficult decisions about how to operate the district without a substantial portion of the budget. This may significantly impact class sizes and the current services and opportunities we provide students and families across the district.

We are moving beyond

test scores in considering what it means for our students – and our schools – to be successful.

- Performance on math and reading tests does not offer a complete picture of our students' achievements and growth.
- We are exploring measures of student engagement, school climate, workforce readiness and other indicators that reflect our community's priorities for our children and schools.

We are working to provide a complete and well-rounded education to each child.

What are we doing?

- Each child deserves access to the arts, physical education and other subjects and the opportunities to showcase their creativity and share their strengths. At Kenwood School, artists-in-residents present lessons that stretch imaginations of our students. For example, Aaron Erdrich, Native American flutist and RN recently Aaron Erdrich, shared his musical talents with the third grade students.
- Later this fall, our annual Barn Dance, under the direction of Dr. Bob Walser, promises to put a smile on your face and a skip in your step as you witness all of our students performing the dances they learned, and our fifth grade students perform the time-honored Sword Dance.
- We offer students the opportunity to connect with the community in a variety of meaningful ways that include service projects, internships and externships, mentoring programs and more. At Kenwood School, the Student Council under

Our students are rising to meet the bar set by college- and career-ready standards.

- These standards are challenging our students to think critically and find solutions to complex problems. At Kenwood School, teachers use Time Magazine for Kids, Story Works, and National Geographic Magazine (Student edition) to increase their comprehension of non-fiction text.
- Our teachers are choosing materials and designing lessons that prepare students for success in a rapidly changing world. This fall, Kenwood 4th and 5th grade students will participate in the 2016 GEMS and GISE League Robotics program!
- In this exciting robotics class students learn mechanical design, construction, programming, and teamwork skills. In pairs, using LEGO building elements, motors, and sensors, students build different robot prototypes and program them with a computer to move, react, and make sounds. Students will utilize their prototypes and programming to solve design challenges using the LEGO Mindstorms NXT Robotic System or the Lego EV3 Robotic System. Students will participate in the 2016 Robotics FIRST Lego League Challenge: Animal Allies. The culminating event for this class is the STEM-GEMS-GISE/Minneapolis Exploring Engineering Robotics Exhibition and FLL Regional Robotics Tournament on January 14, 2017.

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Family Activity Night

FREE Pasta Dinner ★ BARN DANCE
Scholastic Book Fair

Thursday, November 17th 4:00-7:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

★ 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

FREE Dinner: Multi-purpose Room
Please be our guest for a delicious pasta dinner, catered by *The Lowry*

★ 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Scholastic Book Fair: Media Center

5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Kenwood Spirit Wear Sales: 1st Floor

★ 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

All-School BARN DANCE: Gymnasium

This is a culminating event of the PTA-funded all-school Roots Dance Residency.

Sword Dance, presented by the fifth graders, follows Barn Dance at **6:45 p.m.**

If you need transportation, please contact Chris Madden at 612-668-2778.

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We are seeing real, positive changes in our classrooms since the move to new standards.

What are we seeing?

- In the past, students had the mentality that there was one right way to do a math problem. Now, children solve a problem in different ways, and they're able to explain to one another how they came to their answers. They can see how different strategies can lead to the same correct answer. At Kenwood School, encourage your child/children to solve the weekly Math Problem of the Week! We are encouraging all students to participate in the Math Problem of the Week, posted on the bulletin board in front of the main office each week. These students have correctly solved the problems and shown all their mathematical thinking: George B., MC H., Lennon W., Reagan S., Georgia, Pearl V., Josie. L, Luca V., James, Chloe B., Jimmy H., Campbell M.
Each quarter, the weekly problem solvers will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Principal and the Math Specialist. At the end of the year; these math scholars will be recognized at our all-school awards ceremony. I urge all Kenwood students to stretch their mathematical thinking by solving the weekly challenge problems.
- We are empowering students to "learn through the struggle." Before, our classrooms weren't set up to allow students to struggle – and after a certain time, our kids just stopped trying. Now, they know that it's okay to struggle – they are working through it, and they are learning at a deeper level. At Kenwood School, we want your child/children to learn the meaning of the word GRIT.
- In our classrooms, we now see rich discussion and deep thinking about the content that students read and the concepts they learn. Even at the primary level, students can articulate their thinking with supporting evidence. They are making connections we never asked them to make before.

Walk to School Day and Wood Chuck Walk Tuesdays! On Wednesday, Oct 5th, Kenwood students joined the ranks of thousands of Minnesota students, parents and community members who walked and biked to school in celebration of Walk to School Day. This special day provides students and families the opportunity to reconnect with the simple joys of walking to school while reaping the benefits of increased physical activity, reduced traffic congestion, and arriving at school ready to learn.



In keeping with this heart-healthy regimen, Kenwood students who usually ride the bus to school are taking part in our new weekly Woodchuck Walk. On Tuesday mornings, all school buses will drop students at Morgan and Douglas Avenues, where they will be met by Kenwood staff. The students will walk along a designated route to Kenwood's front door, accompanied by staff, parents, volunteers and your principal! We are hoping this walk will increase student health, raise academic achievement, build community and foster environmental awareness. Thank you to Associate Educator Mary King, Kindergarten teacher Cathy Sullivan & District Coordinator Jennifer Bordon for organizing the Woodchuck Walk for Kenwood students. This walk will continue every TUESDAY through the fall, weather permitting. It will resume in the spring. The parent volunteer sign up is on the Kenwood School website.

Conference Meals: On behalf of staff, I want to express our heartfelt appreciation for the delicious meals provided by parents during those busy days. Special thanks to Lori Smith and her volunteers for organizing all the food and making the lunchroom warm and welcoming. Splendid!



Thank you for an exciting fall semester!

Sincerely,

Dr. Aura Wharton-Beck, Principal

Auditions for this year's School Play

Auditions for this year's 4th & 5th Grade School Play, *Beauty & the Beast*, will be held after school on Tuesday & Thursday, November 8th & 10th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. All interested 4th & 5th Grade students are invited to audition. Please send a note to school for your child's teacher — letting them know about your child's after school plans on audition days. Families must arrange for transportation home.

Kenwood Read a thon!

We are now entering the last week of the Kenwood Read a Thon! Students should still be reading an average of at least 20 minutes a day and filling out their calendars. Pledges should be collected this weekend and **everything can be returned on Monday, November 7th**. There are prizes for everyone who participates, as well as the top prizes for most minutes read, most money raised, and the class with the best participation. All students who return their forms will be entered into a drawing for gift certificates to the Scholastic Book Fair, coming November 14th. *(This fundraiser takes the place of the Innisbrook product sales, which previously earned \$10,000 for Kenwood).*

School Policies:

ATTENDANCE OFFICE: When your child will be absent from school for any reason, please call the school attendance line at 612-668-2780. **Even if you have sent a note to the teacher — you still need to call the attendance line, preferably by 8:00 a.m. or you will be receiving a call from school to confirm your child's status.**

Drop Off & Pick Up Times

7:15 am is the earliest time to drop off your child. 2:10 p.m. is the latest you can pick up your child from Parent Pick Up after school. After 2:10 p.m., students go to the office. Parent/guardians who fail to respect the 2:10 pick-up time will be required to meet with the principal to resolve the matter.

Transportation Changes:

PLEASE remember to send a note to the teacher at the beginning of the day if your child's after school transportation plans are out of the ordinary. We understand that exceptions will occur, but it is very disruptive to classrooms when we have to interrupt them with messages and bus passes during the day. It is difficult for staff to manage and communicate last minute changes and can be confusing for students too. We do not have extra staff available to leave the office and find your child in the building at the last minute. THANK YOU!

Yearbook Photos Needed.

We are always in need of parent photographers. We will need many photos of student events for the yearbook. If you are taking pictures of your child, try to take pictures of other kids too — especially groups of kids. We try to include a candid photo of every child at Kenwood School in the yearbook. Please contact Lisa Hedges, at kenwoodyearbook1@gmail.com if you have pictures to contribute or if you are available to take pictures at an event.



CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, November 15
Kenwood Night at The Lowry restaurant 4:00 -7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 17
Family Activity Night
Give To The Max Day

Wednesday, November 25, Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27
NO SCHOOL — Thanksgiving Holiday

Friday, December 2
Be Rad in Plaid Day — Stand Up To Bullying Student Council Sponsored Day

Wednesday, December 14
Holiday Food Box contributions are due at school by 8:00 a.m.

Choir Concert 7:40 a.m. Multi-purpose Room

Thursday & Friday, December 15-16
Room 221 Used Book Sale

Monday, December 19- Monday, January 2
NO SCHOOL — Winter Break

Tuesday, January 3
School Resumes

Friday, January 13
MLK Assembly 8:00 a.m.