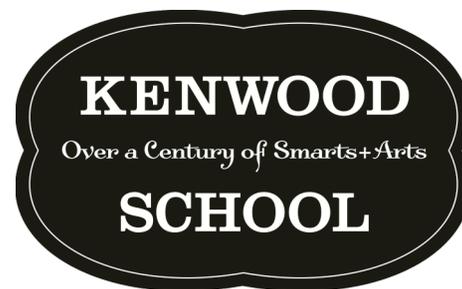


Kenwood Courier

2013 Penn Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55405

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



Many of you have heard the news and read the announcements regarding the budget issues facing Minneapolis Public Schools. Below is an excerpt from the district website:

“In his [letter to the community](#) this past February, MPS Superintendent Ed Graff outlined the financial challenges faced by our school district. He pledged then and continues to be committed to a structurally balanced budget by the 2019-2020 school year. That means that over this school year and the next school year, MPS needs to make some important decisions about our basic infrastructure so that the programs and services MPS offers don’t continue to cost more than we can afford.

MPS is looking for input from our entire community on how to best do that. We hope that the information on these webpages and in the survey you’ll find here will answer questions for you, but we also hope it will also stimulate ideas about how you’d like to see MPS move forward. Everything is on the table. We can’t keep doing the same thing and expect different results. We look forward to hearing from you – and to making MPS stronger than ever.”

The website also states:

“MPS is committed to a structurally balanced budget by the 2019-20 school year. That means we need to make some important decisions about our basic infrastructure so that the programs and services MPS offers don’t continue to cost more than we can afford. We are looking for input from our entire community on how to best do that. Everything is on the table. We can’t keep doing the same thing and expect different results.”

While budget planning takes place all year, the critical time is January – May. This allows the district to finalize allocations to schools so principals can get feedback from their community as to what they view as priorities. The district has set the following timelines regarding the budget:

- January – Set priorities and begin budget planning
- February – Provide allocations to schools; schools engage with their communities
- March – Complete all school and department budgets
- April-May – Board reviews budget and final revisions are made
- June – Board votes on the final budget

If you are interested in giving your opinion to the district about your priorities and how funds should be allocated, please visit the district website at <http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/home> and take the [MPS Values Survey](#).

Kenwood school was also selected to be part of a small focus group to give feedback to the district about large-scale district-wide priorities. Last week, an email was sent to Kenwood families asking for any interested participants to complete a short survey. The focus group will be comprised of Site Council members as well as representatives from the Kenwood community.

If you were unable to participate in the focus group, you can still send in your thoughts by completing a [Feedback Form](#) found on the district website.

Attendance Matters

School begins promptly at 7:30 am. We would like to reverse the trend of students arriving to school after the 7:30 am bell rings. School is a dress rehearsal for life. Developing a practice of being punctual to school sets the tone for the day. All Kenwood teachers start the school day with a Responsive Classroom and/or Second Step lesson. When your student arrives to class late, they have missed an essential piece of instruction. Thank you for helping us to reinforce good habits.

In addition, district policy requires that if a student misses any part of the school day due to a doctor/dental appointment, a note from the doctor’s office must be provided. This includes students that are picked up early from school to go to an afternoon appointment. Please ask your doctor’s office to print a note and send it upon return to school. Without a written note, the absence will be recorded as unexcused.

Family Vacation/Activity

If you are considering taking your child out of school for a family event or vacation lasting three days or more, you must fill out a vacation form from the school office at least ten school days prior to the first absence and have the form signed by the principal. Approved family activity for up to five days within one school year can be considered excused if:

- The parent/guardian requests permission at least ten school days in advance of the first absence
- The absences are approved in writing by the principal or administrator
- Missed schoolwork is completed
- Absences will not occur during state-wide testing periods
- The student has shown adequate progress and attendance prior to the event

Thank you for your cooperation.

KENWOOD SCHOOL WEEKLY E-BLASTS — The best way to keep informed about what is happening school-wide.

If you have not received email updates from Family Liaison Lori Smith, please e-mail lori.smith@mpls.k12.mn.us to get on this valuable email list. E-blasts are sent out every Monday with extra reminders for important information & events sent on an as needed basis.

Family Activity Night – Thursday, Nov.16th

Come on down to Kenwood on Thursday, November 16th from 5:00-7:00pm for a FREE dinner, the Scholastic Book Fair, and our all school Barn Dance. The Barn Dance is the culmination of our school wide residency with ROOTS, featuring the fifth grade sword dance. It's a great time to kick up your heels and have your children teach you the dances. Kenwood kids love to see their parents dance, so please make a point to dance with your children! We are also pleased to announce that you will be able to view the second annual student art exhibit "Native American Art: Teaching in Present Tense" that evening. Look for the art in the hallway of the lower level on your way down to dinner.

- Scholastic Book Fair 4:30 - 6:00pm
- FREE dinner 5:00 – 6:15pm
- All-School Barn Dance 6:00 – 7:00pm (with the 5th grade sword dance)
- Student Art Exhibit 5:00 – 7:00pm

Please make sure you are supervising your children during Family Activity Night. Children should be participating in events, not unsupervised roaming the building or on the playground.

If you need transportation, please contact Lori Smith at lori.smith@mpls.k12.mn.us or 612-668-2778.

2nd Annual Native American Art: Teaching in Present Tense

Please visit "Native American Art: Teaching in Present Tense" all student art exhibit on Thursday, November 16th during Family Involvement Night. Student art in this exhibit was created under the guidance of art specialist Ms. Zimmerman-Swenson during recent Native American artist residencies with visiting Ojibwe and Lakota artists Gordon Coons, Dyani Whitehawk, and James Autio. This is the second year for the residencies. Kenwood parent and parent alumnae, Angie Erdrich and Heid Erdrich were impressed with Ms. Zimmerman-Swenson's art lessons, which gave rise to an effort to team with Kenwood's art specialist to bring in contemporary Native American artists in 2016 and 2017. Kenwood and the artists did such a great job, Heid Erdrich brought the project to the attention of Minneapolis Art Institute's education staff who began consulting with Ms. Zimmerman-Swenson. According to Heid Erdrich, "MIA's plan is to support the residencies and further develop lessons so they align with state and district standards. They plan to work with the artists to share lessons via MIA's website. The project is in its early stages and MIA staff have been observing students and artists as they interact this fall."

In recognition of her remarkable teaching skill and thoughtful implementation of Native American Art curriculum for Kenwood students, Birchbark Books will sponsor an annual award in honor of Margaret Zimmerman-Swenson called Bridging the Gap of Cultural Understanding. The first award will go to Margaret Zimmerman-Swenson.



Give To The Max: Thursday, November 16th

Give to the Max is a day that focuses on giving to charities and non-profits across the state. You can go to givemn.org and search for the organization/organizations you'd like to support. Search for Kenwood Community School to be able to give directly to Kenwood. Money raised in the past has been used for ipads, digital cameras, math manipulatives, online learning programs such as Dreambox, a school-wide Science Museum residency, funds for students to attend writer's workshop seminars, and more. Every amount adds up, and together we can support all Kenwood kids.

Principal Process Update:

As you know, Dr. Wharton-Beck is retiring at the end of December. Today in students' blue folders you will receive a letter from Associate Superintendent Ron Wagner detailing the process for hiring a principal for the 2018-2019 school year, as well as information regarding the interim principal for the remainder of this year. At this time, the target date to announce the interim principal is November 17th. After the announcement, the Interim Principal will begin to shadow Dr. Wharton-Beck one or two days per week through December. The Interim Principal will begin the full role on January 8, 2018. This letter was also sent to the Kenwood community via email last week. Please feel free to contact Ron Wagner or any Site Council member with your thoughts or questions.

Calendar

Monday, November 13

Chipotle (2600 Hennepin Ave) – Dining for Dollars
4:00 – 8:00pm

Monday, November 13 – Thursday November 16
Scholastic Book Fair

Wednesday, November 15

True Food Taste Test (Kid Kimchi offered at lunch)

Thursday, November 16

Give To The Max Day
Family Activity Night
Native American Family Involvement Day

Friday, November 17

Picture Re-take Day

Wednesday, November 22 – Friday, November 24
NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving break

