

# 7 Kenwood Courier

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## Our Newsletter for Families

Kenwood Elementary School  
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## FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL...

### I continue to advocate for setting limits on watching television and

engaging with social media during the week. Teachers spend a great amount of time teaching reading and math strategies.



Here is the formula for success: Teachers turn strategies into skills; skills turn into habits. Developing the habit of reading, writing short personal narratives, solving mathematical problems, collaborating with peers on engineering trials will serve as a basis for a solid academic foundation.

### In honor of Native American Heritage month,

we had a visiting speaker coming to Kenwood last month. His name was Aaron Erdrich, cousin to Kenwood student Shivani Patel. He was assisted by his young cousin, Tristen Crawford. Aaron is a Dakota/Ojibwe Native tribal member from Sisseton, South Dakota. Aaron is a positive role model, a nurse and an apprentice flute maker/player who demonstrated flute music on flutes he has learned to make. He even made a flute from the sunflower stalks in the Kenwood School garden. Both Aaron and Tristen taught students a Native American probability and bluffing game called The Moccasin Game. Kenwood students enjoyed this visit very much and we have asked him to come back next year.

### Young Nation Storytellers and Our Third Grade Artist Residency

Under the direction of Mr. Cochise Anderson, our Kenwood third grade students performed three Native American legends at the Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church. Acclaimed Twin Cities actor, playwright, musician, spoken-word artist and member of the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, Mr. Anderson introduced our students to the art of storytelling. The third graders seamlessly performed six Native American legends for their parents and extended family members. Meegwiitch, Brother Makwa-Thank You Brother (Ojibwe), The Meaning of the Stomp Dance (Choctaw) Iktomi and the Wild Ducks (Dakota) and The Rabbit Dance (Eastern Woodlands) provided students with an appreciation and respect for the

environment. This fine arts residency was made possible by the generosity of the Kenwood PTA.

### Where the Wild Things Are and a Celebration of Autumn

Maurice Sendak's classic children's book, *Where the Wild Things Are*, came alive in Ms. Cathy Sullivan's room! With minimal prompting from their teacher, our kindergarten students recited the iconic lines from this 1964 Caldecott Medal award book with determination & tenacity. To add to my surprise and enjoyment, the students remained in character as the audience applauded their efforts. Intuitively and on cue they marched around the room displaying their wild behavior for the people who love them the most...their own parents and grandparents!

### This fall Kenwood 1st grade students are enjoying a six week long African Drumming residency with Ghana Mbaye,

affectionately known as Brother Ghana. They are learning call and response drum patterns and songs, as well as dances. The students are making connections in academic areas such as patterning and counting, and they even have time for a bit of World Studies as they question Brother Ghana about his childhood and education in Senegal. Ghana Mbaye is a teacher at the WISE school in North Minneapolis, and travels around the state leading drumming residencies. The 1st grade students will be sharing their knowledge in a performance with Brother Ghana on December 18th. Kindergartners will start a residency with him next month.



### The annual Barn Dance Residency

culminated on the night of Thursday, November 12. This signature event capped the students' two weeks of work with Dr. Robert (Bob) Walser. As a renowned ethnomusicologist, Bob brings a unique and world class experience to the residency. Dr. Walser shared his knowledge of folk music to weave a common understanding of the universality of this music. It is through dance, movement, and rhythm that our students quickly begin



to connect the dots that folk music can serve as a platform for reconciliation, tolerance, and social justice.

Over 700 students, Kenwood alumna, friends, and families

joined us for an evening of festive music and dancing. Bob and his musical accompanists played "Sasha," "Zudio" (a singing game from the Afro-American playground tradition), "Akisodo," "Angelina Baker," "Seven Step" and "Kinderpolka" from Whoopee John. The evening ended on a high note (*before the unexpected false fire alarm was pulled*) when our fifth grade students proudly marched into the gym dressed with red sashes and "swords" for the Sword Dance. It was a Kodak moment to witness this annual Kenwood rite of passage. Our arts residencies are made possible through the generosity of our Kenwood PTA. A special note of appreciation to *The Lowry* Restaurant for providing and donating a delicious pasta dinner for this fun family evening!

**Give to the MAX** – thank you to our Kenwood parents and families who generously raised almost \$11,000 dollars which will be used by all teachers to support instruction. Your support continues to make an indelible mark on our community of learners. Thank you to the team of Julie Coykendall, Anna Schmalzbauer, Coryn Peterson, Cindy Docteur-White, Christy Kujawa, Jen Wise, Susan Stascavage, Jenn Bishop & Lori Smith for coordinating this day of giving.



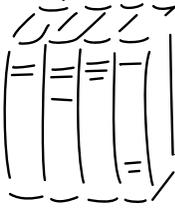
**The Scholastic Book fair** successfully made \$2700.00 dollars & \$130 in Scholastic Dollars. Thank you to Cindy Docteur-White, Susan Weir and Heather Wulfsberg for transforming our Media Center into a mini-bookstore for our students. Our media specialist, Joan Kallas will use this money to buy books and supplies for the Kenwood media center.

Thank you for supporting Kenwood.

The Kenwood Elementary School website calendar is updated with most of the important dates for the whole school year. Visit [kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us](http://kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us)

## Book Sale

Mrs. Gregory & her third grade students are gearing up for their annual **Kenwood Used Book sale**. If you can donate any children's books, please start sending them in with your child. Baskets for books will be set up outside of Mrs. Gregory's Classroom – Room 221 and in the atrium. **The sale will be Thursday and Friday December 17 & 18 in the third grade hallway.** All proceeds of the sale will go update the book selections for the Kenwood School Book Room. The Book Room is a small room on the second floor which houses multiple copies of books for book club use in classrooms.



## School Play

The 4th & 5th grade school musical this year is *Pinocchio*. The cast list was finalized and put up before Thanksgiving Break. 62 students are participating in the play. Kudos to the directors Cindi & Kathleen for finding parts for everyone! You can get updates about the play online at <https://sites.google.com/a/mps.k12.mn.us/kenwood-pinocchio-play/>. The link is also on the Kenwood website on the left hand side under SCHOOL PLAY.

## Holiday Boxes

A flyer went home last week about participating in this great Kenwood tradition of helping another family in our school community. We will need assistance in assembling the boxes on the morning of Wednesday, December 16th in the art room hallway. If you can help, contact Chris Madden at christine.madden@mps.k12.mn.us. **If your family would like to receive a food box this year, please don't be shy about calling Michele Goddard at 612-668-2784 to request one.** She can also share information about other holiday resources that may be helpful for your family.



## Anthony Middle School Tours are starting now.

Anthony Middle School is Kenwood Elementary School's pathway middle school. If you would like to schedule a tour or need more information about the school, visit their website <http://anthony.mpls.k12.mn.us/>. Tours start in December. There will also be an Information Night at Anthony on January 14, 2015.

## The Kenwood Auction will be February 27th.

The annual Kenwood School Silent & Live Auction will be happening on Saturday, February 27th so mark your calendar and line up your babysitter. **This special evening is the PTA's biggest fundraiser of the year — last year we raised over \$50,000 for the school.** The money raised from this event helps to support all of our arts residencies — part of what makes Kenwood School so special. This fun event needs many volunteers so if you would like to get involved, contact auction co-chairs, Cindy Docteur White (cindy\_brett@hotmail.com) & Melanie LaMere (lameremel@yahoo.com).

## Winter Choir Concert

There will be a short 25 minute choir concert on Wednesday, December 16th at 7:45 a.m. in the multi-purpose room. It would be helpful if your son or daughter has breakfast before school and arrives to check in at his or her classroom no later than 7:30 a.m.

## Site Council Update

The Kenwood Site council meets monthly, generally on the third Thursday at 4pm. Recent items we have been working on include passing district mandated site council by-laws, updates on Kenwood's academic progress and creating a budget task force. Over the next two months, our site council will focus on working with Principal Wharton-Beck regarding Kenwood's budget and forming recommendations to cover projected district shortfalls.

## Science Fair at Kenwood

The Kenwood Science Fair is happening again for 3rd, 4th & 5th Graders. All Science Fair projects are due Thursday, December 10th. The Science Fair will be Thursday, December 10th from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. at school. **DO NOT BRING PROJECTS TO SCHOOL UNTIL THE FAIR EVENING.** Set up is at 5:50 p.m. If you have questions, contact 5th Grade teacher, Darwin Lee or 3rd Grade teacher, Deb Gregory.

**Donations of waterproof gloves & mittens are desperately needed! (Larger sizes are preferable.)**  
**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.

**Please remember to send your kids dressed for the cold weather. Students go outside for recess every day.\***



**Remember to label your child's winter gear and check the Lost & Found often for lost items!**

\*Students go outside every day unless the temperature is below or the wind chill is below zero.

## CALENDAR

### Thursday, December 10

Kenwood Science Fair  
6:00 – 6:45 p.m. (Participating students should be there to set up at 5:45 p.m.)

### Wednesday, December 16

Winter Choir in the Multi-purpose Room  
7:45 a.m.

Holiday Box Items due in Art Room hallway by 8:00 a.m. — Assembly of boxes starts

### Thursday, December 17

Third Grade Used Book Sale (Books 25¢)  
2nd Floor Hallway

### Friday, December 18

Third Grade Used Book Sale (Books 25¢)  
2nd Floor Hallway

### Monday, December 21 through

**Friday, January 1**  
NO SCHOOL — Winter Break

### Monday, January 4

School Resumes

### Friday, January 8

Kenwood Fifth Grade Spelling Bee  
8:00 a.m.

### Thursday, January 14

MLK Assembly 8:00 a.m. in the gym

### Friday, January 15

NO SCHOOL — Record Keeping Day

### Monday, January 18

NO SCHOOL — MLK Holiday

### Monday, January 25 —

**Thursday, January 28**  
5th Grade Eagle Bluff Trip