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Kenwood Courier

Our Newsletter for Families

Kenwood Elementary School
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FROM YOUR PTA CO-PRESIDENTS...

Happy Winter! With Winter Break behind us and Spring Break several months ahead of us, it is time to put our heads down and get to work. For students that means lots of learning, for the PTA that means putting on the auction! The annual Kenwood School Auction is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the PTA and is vital to our ability to provide the extras that make Kenwood a special place for students to learn. Please consider how you can help the auction by volunteering for the many and varied jobs that need to be done. Contact Cindy White (cindy_brett@hotmail.com) & Melanie LaMere (lameremel@yahoo.com) if you would like to be involved. You can also contribute by donating and/or attending the auction and making purchases from the fabulous merchandise offered. We can't do it without you. **The Kenwood School Auction is on Saturday, February 27th at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.** This is an adults-only event that you won't want to miss so book your babysitter now!

The PTA Wants You – If you've ever thought about volunteering at Kenwood, now is the time! We have many volunteer opportunities that need to be filled! Specifically we are urgently looking for a team of volunteers to help with the spring Carnival. It would be a shame to cancel this long standing Kenwood event, but without volunteers (like YOU) it just can't happen! Help us continue this great event by volunteering today. We are committed to finding ways for everyone to be

involved — whether it be an hour a week or 10 minutes a month. We know that the community of parents makes Kenwood strong and we want everyone to contribute in ways that they can.

Each year the PTA provides:

\$100 to each teacher for classroom supplies and other school needs that inevitably pop up; \$5,000 per grade level to fund residencies selected by the teachers (African & Taiko drumming for example); \$10,000 for residencies that are school-wide (Midwest Food Connection and Roots Traditional Dance are examples).

They also provide: support for the school play and Safety Patrol; supplies and postage for the Kindergarten Welcome Letter and school tours; Community Building events (the Ice Cream Social, Family Night and Family Involvement Day); 5th Grade Graduation Celebration. The impact of all those things is huge on the quality of the Kenwood experience. PTA spend approximately \$170 per student, per year. Please contact Anna at annaintoogyo@gmail.com or Julie at juliecoykendall@hotmail.com if you are interested in becoming a part of this worthwhile group.

Martin Luther King Program – This year the MLK program will be on January 14th at 8:00 a.m. in the School gym. Our kids do an excellent job on this program every year and We know some of you won't want to miss it —



Julie Coykendall & Anna Schmalzbauer

don't forget to bring Kleenex.

As you can see, Kenwood School is a busy place. Thanks for being a part of it!

If you have a child ready for kindergarten this fall (2016) — you must fill out a Request Card.

Request Cards will be available online on the MPS school district website on February 6 or in the school office the following week.

School Request Cards are due March 5th, 2016!

(Even if the child has older siblings at Kenwood, you must fill out a request card.)

totally eighties.

**it's this year's annual Kenwood School Auction
an evening for adults
to benefit all the children
of Kenwood School.**

**Saturday night
February 27th, 2016
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
6:30-9:30 p.m. silent & live auction
10 pm to midnight: dancing**

**totally eighties.
be there or be square.**

**does your Kenwood kid know
what this is?**



A REMINDER FROM THE OFFICE...

Your Kenwood school office is staffed by **one full time person** — Bette Ashcroft (Secretary) & one part time person, Sue Payne (Office Assistant). If you have questions, concerns or information updates for the office, please call 612-668-2760 to speak with one of us or leave a message. **You may also use email, but please be sure to include BOTH Sue and Bette when sending the message. THANK YOU.**

Bette (elizabeth.ashcroft@mpls.k12.mn.us) & Sue (suzanne.payne@mpls.k12.mn.us)

VACATION PLANS & POLICY

If you are taking your child out of school for a family vacation/activity for three days or more, you must fill out a vacation form from the school office and have it signed by the Principal. Approved family activity for up to five (5) days within one school year are considered "excusable absences", when

- The parent or guardian requests permission for the absence ten (10) regularly scheduled school days in advance of the first absence; and
- The absences are approved in writing by the principal or site administrator in advance of the first absence, and
- Missed schoolwork is assigned by the student's teacher or teachers, and the parent or guardian agrees that schoolwork will be completed; and
- The absences will not occur during state-wide testing dates; and
- Where the student has shown adequate progress and attendance prior to the request.

Great News About Our Principal

Principal Wharton-Beck is now Dr. Wharton-Beck. She received her doctoral degree on December 14th, 2015 with her dissertation, *African American Government Girls: Unspoken Narratives of Potential, Perseverance and Power*. Congratulations to Dr. Wharton-Beck!

School Play Update

For 4th & 5th Grade parents. Check the play website for Pinocchio for the schedule and other important information. The latest updates will be on this website <https://sites.google.com/a/mpls.k12.mn.us/kenwood-pinocchio-play/home>.

Check the schedule carefully — your child may not need to attend all of them. You can also get this link from the Kenwood Elementary School website. Click on SCHOOL PLAY on the left hand side.

Anthony Middle School Information Night

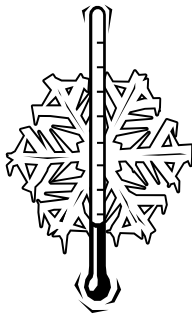
Attention Parents of 5th Graders — Anthony is Kenwood Elementary School's pathway school. Anthony Middle School will be having an Information Night this Thursday, January 14, 2016 from 6 to 7:00 p.m. Student-led tours continue this month for families interested in sending their children to Anthony. Visit the Anthony Middle School website for tour dates and times. You are encouraged to contact the school at 612-668-3240 to sign up for a tour.

Please send your kids properly dressed for the cold weather.

All Kenwood students

go outside for recess every day if the outside temperature is 0 degrees or above. It may be too cold in

the early morning but it might warm up enough by lunch time. Also, please label all of your child's winter gear.



5th Grade Spelling Bee

Congratulations to 5th grader Christopher N. who will be representing Kenwood School at the District Spelling Bee on January 28th. Christopher won the school contest in the tenth round on Friday, January 8th. The top three 5th grade spellers were Christopher N., John D. and Danny A. All of the participating 5th graders did a wonderful job. Thanks to 5th grade teacher, Darwin Lee for coordinating this event and to our judges: 4th grade parents Jenna Victoria, Sandy Dresen, Kristi Granacher and Brian Hols.



Neighborhood Skating Party — January 24

The Cedar-Isles-Dean, East Isles, Kenwood, & Lowry Hill Residents'



Associations are having their annual **Ice Skating Social!** Enjoy a blazing fire, hot cocoa, cookies and puppy dog tails. Mingle with friends and neighbors. **Sunday, January 24, 1:00 pm — 3:00 pm** at Lake of the Isles Ice Rink & Warming Hut. All residents are welcome to attend this fun event.

CALENDAR

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 — Martin Luther King Holiday

Tuesday, January 19

NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, January 20

Second Semester begins

Thursday, January 21

Advanced Band Concert — Morning performances only — 8:15 a.m. & 8:45 a.m.

Monday, January 25 – Thursday, January 28

5th Grade leaves for Eagle Bluff Trip

Thursday, January 28

District Spelling Bee — 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 6

MPS School Fair Showcase — 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Minneapolis Convention Center

Monday, February 8

Kenwood Family Involvement Day

Tuesday, February 9

Parent Information Night at Kenwood for Prospective Kindergarten Parents — 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday, February 12

NO SCHOOL — Parent/Teacher Conferences

Monday, February 15

NO SCHOOL — President's Day

Wednesday, February 17

SPOTLIGHT — 8:00 a.m. Multi-purpose Room
SPOTLIGHT — 1:00 p.m. Multi-purpose Room

Wednesday, February 24 & Thursday, February 25th

Pinocchio — Performances 6:30 p.m. Multi-purpose Room

Saturday, February 27

Kenwood School Auction

Thursday, March 3

5th Grade Ski Trip