

Kenwood Courier

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A Note From Our Principal, Heidi Johnson -

Dear Kenwood Families,

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year! Our building shines and is squeaky clean, thanks to custodians Penny and Patrick's careful planning and attention to detail. The lunch room is inviting and calm, thanks to Mary Jo, our Food Service Manager, and our new Associate Educators, Karalyn and Bryan. Our buses are mostly arriving on time, preparing our students for success. And our teachers have worked so hard to plan for these formative first weeks of school! They're guiding their class communities to articulate their hopes and dreams, and the rules that will help every student to achieve them.

"What are your hopes and dreams for the school year?"

Kenwood teachers ask this question in the first weeks of school to help students make a personal connection with what they will learn throughout the year. In addition to providing students with a model for setting and achieving goals, having students name their hopes and dreams connects us with them as individuals, helps them become active participants in their own learning, and brings the learning community together around shared goals.

Hopes are personal. And, hopes are shared. They give us something to strive toward and help us shape our communities. (Visit responsivclassroom.org for more information about setting hopes and dreams for the school year).

My daughter, Eliza, and I are reading *Wishtree*, a novel by Katherine Applegate. It's about Red, an oak tree, who is many rings old and serves as the neighborhood "wishtree." People write their wishes (hopes and dreams) on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. The tree watches over the neighborhood, along with her crow companion, named Bongo. When a new family moves into the neighborhood, not everyone is welcoming, and Red is moved to serve as an ally for a young girl in ways that shift Red out of her/his comfort zone.

The book provides a wonderful way to discuss how we welcome others into our community and shine the light on kindness and compassion. It's my hope that your family seeks out books like this one to share together to support the ways that we embrace every child, and their dreams, into the Kenwood school community.

As I walked into school this morning, a red-tailed hawk, sitting in the branches of one of our own oak trees, watched me crunch over acorns. I was happy to know we have our own wishtree and trusty bird companion in our midst!

I look forward to seeing you at the Kenwood Crawl on Saturday, September 15th, and at Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 20th. We invite new families to gather in the multipurpose room at 5:15 for a brief introduction, and all families at 5:30 for the Principal's Welcome before classroom rotations, beginning at 6:00.

Enjoy this beautiful week!

Excerpt from *On the Pulse of Morning* by Maya Angelou

The horizon leans forward,
Offering you space to place new steps of change.
Here, on the pulse of this fine day
You may have the courage
To look up and out upon me, the Rock, the Tree, your country.
No less to Midas than the mendicant.
No less to you now than the mastodon then.
Here, on the pulse of this new day
You may have the grace to look up and out
And into your sister's eyes, into
Your brother's face, your country
And say simply
Very simply
With hope
Good morning.

Kenwood Crawl!

Mark your calendars! The Kenwood Crawl will take place on **Saturday, September 15**. Students, staff, family members, friends and neighbors are invited to participate with the goal of raising funds to support Kenwood's performing arts programs.

The Crawl is not only fun, it is an important PTA fundraiser—funds raised support the school's arts programs. Students return the provided donation envelopes to their teachers by **Friday, September 14** or bring them to the Crawl on Saturday morning. Last year's donations totaled more than \$17,000. *If every child raises \$40, Kenwood School will reach its goal!*

- Enjoy breakfast generously donated by Isles Bun & Coffee, Lunds, Kowalski's Market, and Corner Coffee.
- Children's activities will include an ARTrageous Adventures station as well as a Kenwood Gymnastics demonstration.
- Hennepin Healthcare (www.hennepinhealthcare.org) will provide flu shots for anyone three years of age and older. This service is optional and free (please bring a health insurance card if you have one). A community grant will cover the uninsured. The Center for Disease Control recommends flu shots for those above 6 months.

Details + Timing

- The Crawl begins at **9 a.m.** and ends at **11 a.m.** Each grade walks around the park separately.
- Walk schedule:
Kindergarten – 9:30 a.m.
1st grade – 9:45 a.m.,
2nd grade – 10:00 a.m.
3rd grade – 10:10 a.m.
4th grade – 10:20 a.m.
5th grade – 10:30 a.m.

Prizes!

- The class with the highest percentage of event participants will receive the Kenwood walking stick and a recess-in-the-park party.
- The class with the highest amount of donations will win a recess-in-the-park party.
- First, second, and third place prizes will be awarded to individual students with the most donations (prizes will be announced shortly).

Donations are optional. Everyone walks!

We need volunteers during the event to help with set up, clean up, stamping hands, setting out food, helping at the ARTrageous table and more! Please visit the sign up page to see if there is a shift that works for you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4fa8af2fa0fd0-2018>

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 Community Coordinator Lori Smith, please e-mail kenwoodcommunitycoordinator@gmail.com to be added to this valuable email list. E-blasts are sent out at the beginning of each week with extra reminders for important information & events emailed on an as needed basis.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL INFORMATION

- **Classes begin promptly at 8:05am.** Door 1 will be unlocked at 7:50am and is the only door available for students to enter. At that time, students may walk to their classrooms or to breakfast. If you arrive with your student before 7:50, please wait with them until the doors are open. It is wonderful to see all the students that are arriving on time, creating a positive start to the school day.
- During the day, all visitors should enter at door #1 by the flagpole. As you enter the outer door, ring the bell at the inner set of doors. The office staff will buzz you in with a minimum of delay/disruption. Please come directly to the office to sign-in and get a visitor's badge.

Drop Off/Pick Up

Penn Avenue is the location for family drop-off. If possible, please use the east side of the street (school side) for dropping students off. Buses will be lining up on this side of the street as well, so we ask that you stop your car north of the fence archway when dropping off your child in the morning.

- If you plan on dropping your child off on the west side of Penn Avenue, please be sure that you and/or your child use the crosswalks where school patrols are located. Your child should exit the car on the sidewalk side, walk down to the crosswalk, and wait for school patrol to help him/her cross. Please do not block the driveways of homes or businesses with your car. **DO NOT HAVE YOUR CHILD CROSS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET!**

- Buses will line up on Penn Avenue. Arriving students will enter through door #1 and go directly to breakfast or to their classrooms.

- Please do not drop off students in the back parking lot near the kindergarten classrooms (these doors are locked) or the side parking lot by the rec center - it is not safe for students and staff needs to be able to park. **Please do not park in the staff parking lots** (including the lot along Franklin Ave by the Rec Center). These spots are reserved for staff during the school day.

- Students who are picked up at the end of the day will wait in the gym with staff members until they are picked up by a designated adult at 2:35pm. Please enter through **door 8** (Franklin Ave. side near the Rec Center) when picking up your child. At 2:40pm, all students who have not yet been picked up will wait at the office. Remember, no parking is allowed on the school side of Penn Ave. at the end of the school day. We have seven buses that must line up there to transport children home.

- Students who are " independent walkers" must go home and check-in with their parents or day care providers before they may come back and play on the playground.

- **Bicycle policy:** Students may ride their bicycles to school. Bike racks are located in front of the Kenwood Rec Center and on the Franklin Avenue side of the building. Parents and children must understand that there are serious safety ramifications to the decision to use bike transportation. Kenwood School does not assume responsibility for the security of the bicycle or the safety of the biker. Please note that students **MUST** wear helmets, which can be stored in their lockers during the school day.

Minneapolis Public Schools requires that all volunteers going on school field trips submit an online Background Check.

Background checks are good for 2 years from the date they were approved. It takes 5-10 days for processing once you have completed all the steps. More information and a link to the request form can be found on the [Kenwood website](#). As a field trip chaperone, your role is to assist with Kenwood students, therefore you may not bring other children with you when you are chaperoning.

Please join us for Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 20th

5:15pm: New families are invited to gather in the multipurpose room for a brief orientation with members of the Kenwood team

5:30pm: All families are invited to the multipurpose room for Principal Johnson's welcome and to learn more about Kenwood's designation under the North Star Accountability System

6:00 – 6:20pm: Visit your child's classroom to hear about curriculum, homework policies, classroom expectations, and academic goals

6:30 – 6:50pm: Classroom presentations repeated for parents who have more than one student at Kenwood.

To allow for sufficient space for parents, children may not attend the curriculum presentations. There will be **free** childcare available for ages 3+ and potty trained by advance reservation only. Please contact Lori Smith at kenwoodcommunitycoordinator@gmail.com or 612-668-2778 to reserve your spot or for transportation requests.

Kenwood School Band

Start the school year on a high note with new band classes at Kenwood! In partnership with Twin Town Guitars, we are excited to offer band class for 4th and 5th grade students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To learn more about these music programs and to register, visit the Kenwood website or click here: <https://twintown.com/kenwood>

Lost and Found

As the weather turns cooler in the mornings, we are seeing an increase in light jackets and sweaters left behind at the end of the day. Please make sure to label your child's items so that they can be returned. If you are missing an item, please check the lost and found which is located on the basement level near the art room.

Calendar

Saturday, September 15

Kenwood Crawl 9:00 - 11:00am

Thursday, September 20

Curriculum Night 5:15 – 7:00pm

Friday, September 21

Circle of Peace

Wednesday, October 10

Walk/Bike to School Day

Friday, October 12

Picture Day

Tuesday, October 16

Parent Teacher Conferences 2:35pm - 7:00pm

Wednesday, October 17

NO SCHOOL - Parent Teacher Conferences 8:05am – 3:00pm

Thursday, October 18 & Friday, October 19

NO SCHOOL - MEA Statewide Teacher Professional Days

