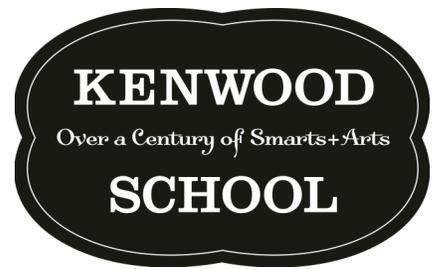


Kenwood Courier

2013 Penn Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55405

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



Dear Kenwood Families,

As we honor Earth Day, Autism Awareness, poetry and math this April, we are also, incredibly, near the end of the school year. There are so many events that will honor our students' growth, transitions, and class communities in the remaining seven weeks of school. I'm grateful for these opportunities to mark milestones and to celebrate, and I look forward to seeing you at school!

In the spirit of wrapping up this chapter and peeking into the next, I'm pleased to share the grade level assignments for our classroom teachers for the 2019-20 school year:

Kindergarten: Patti Sharp, Cathy Sullivan, Bailey Bettes
First Grade: Stacey Maupin, Christy Thompson, Jens Holmboe
Second Grade: Susan Ferrell, Kathy Schuette, Jacquelyn Williams
Third Grade: Deb Gregory, Julie Young-Walser
Fourth Grade: Jane Adamson, Martha Suedbeck
Fifth Grade: Darwin Lee, Stephanie Green

I have deep respect for and confidence in these grade-level teams. I'm excited to continue to work in collaboration with them to ensure the success of all Kenwood students.

This leads me to an explanation of how class placement will proceed for the 2019-20 school year. It's our goal to have all students in instructional settings that will allow them to learn to their fullest potential in a safe, secure, and supportive environment. Class communities are diverse in their design, which means that each class has a wide variety of talents, interests, and abilities. A well-balanced classroom is in everyone's best interest. We consider gender balance, academic mix, personality and learning styles, peer relationships, special needs, and class size. To make placement decisions, we utilize: input from current teachers, the principal, the social worker, and other staff members; information provided by families; and data related to our students' academic, social, and emotional strengths and areas of growth.

We will provide families with the optional opportunity to fill out a Parent Information Form. This form will give you a chance to share valuable information with us about your child. We will not honor specific teacher requests, and I respectfully ask that you not ask for a particular teacher, either on the form or in conversations with current teachers. The form will be sent home in backpacks the week of April 22 and should be submitted to classroom teachers no later than May 3. Once class rosters have been finalized, the forms will be given to your child's new teacher. I can assure you that the Kenwood team takes class placement seriously. This is an important process that must be fair, consistent, and student-focused. Thank you for your partnership in this way.

Earlier this month I had the joy of attending the Minnesota Book Awards in St. Paul. I thought you may want to add these titles to your collection, too! The winners of the 2019 Minnesota Book Awards for a younger audience include:

Award for Children's Literature:

Cori Doerrfeld – *The Rabbit Listened* – published by Dial Books For Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers

Award for Memoir & Creative Nonfiction:

Wing Young Huie – *Chinese-Ness: The Meanings of Identity and the Nature of Belonging* – published by Minnesota Historical Society Press*

Award for Middle Grade Literature:

Pat Schmatz – *The Key to Every Thing* – published by Candlewick Press

Award for Young Adult Literature:

Shannon Gibney – *Dream Country* – published by Dutton Books for Young Readers/Penguin Random House

You can find the complete list of winners

here: <https://thefriends.org/2019/04/07/2019-minnesota-book-award-winners-announced/>

May this spring bring you many opportunities to enjoy the sunshine, the lakes, and the blossoms with loved ones!

Warmly,

Heidi

Instructions on Not Giving Up

[Ada Limón](#), 1976

More than the fuchsia funnels breaking out of the crabapple tree, more than the neighbor's almost obscene display of cherry limbs shoving their cotton candy-colored blossoms to the slate sky of Spring rains, it's the greening of the trees that really gets to me. When all the shock of white and taffy, the world's baubles and trinkets, leave the pavement strewn with the confetti of aftermath, the leaves come. Patient, plodding, a green skin growing over whatever winter did to us, a return to the strange idea of continuous living despite the mess of us, the hurt, the empty. Fine then, I'll take it, the tree seems to say, a new slick leaf unfurling like a fist to an open palm, I'll take it all.

Green Team Update

Happy Earth Day from the Kenwood School Green Team! We have been busy doing many green things and are excited to share updates with you in the next several issues of the Courier. We'll also use this space to share a Green tip or idea for you to try at home!

Kindergarten and 3rd Grade students will be starting seeds, planning the garden layout and planting the garden when it's time. Ask your kids what they're up to in the garden! We are also working to get as many students as possible in the garden this year - and that includes families. If you'd like a tour, please email marjoriehegstrom@gmail.com!

Yard/Garden tips for Spring: Resist the urge to clean up your gardens until after temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees! Many butterflies, bees and other pollinators are currently overwintering in the dead leaves and hollowed out stems of last year's plants. If you clean out your garden now, you will literally be throwing away this year's butterflies, bees and other beneficial pollinators.

If you're cleaning up a yard, boulevard or alley please be sure to collect and bag all debris for the city to pick up. If these materials are left in the alleys or gutters they wash into our lakes and streams and damage the ecosystems.

Earth Week

Classrooms will find time this week to clean up the neighborhood around Kenwood School. Each room will collect trash and bring it back to school to be weighed. The room with the heaviest bag of trash will win the Trash Trophy! Thank you to Cathy Sullivan and Student Council for organizing this event.

Friday, April 27th – Lorax Day

Wear yellow and take the Lorax's UNLESS Challenge: *Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.*

Lunchroom

A great way to help our Earth is to talk with children about their food waste. Children eating a home lunch can bring home uneaten food that is safe to keep for another day. Students that eat school lunch can be encouraged to take only what they are going to eat. They can always grab something from the sharing table if they are still hungry!

School Dances

The end of this week will bring us the student council sponsored dances. Dances are for current Kenwood kids only. We are still in need of at least 10 more chaperones for each dance. Please contact Cathy Sullivan at Catherine.sullivan@mpls.k12.mn.us if you are able to help. Food will not be served, but drinks will be available. Parents must come inside to pick students up promptly at the end of the dance.

Friday, April 26th: Grades 3, 4, & 5
6:30-8:30pm Enter on 21st Street – Door 4
\$5 suggested donation (or pay what you can)
DJs – Kenwood Alums Carly Madden & Lucie Allen

Saturday, April 27th: Grades K, 1, & 2
10:00-11:30am Enter on 21st Street – Door 4
\$3 suggested donation (or pay what you can)
DJ – Kenwood Alum Piet Slager

Lost and Found – Please Label

As the weather turns warmer, we have an abundance of sweaters/sweatshirts (as well as lunchboxes) that are left on the playground each day. If an item is labeled, it is easier for us to return it to the proper owner. Items without names will be donated throughout the year.

True Food Taste Test

On Wednesday, May 8th, students will be invited to try a sample of a newly created dish, Ginger Soy Spring Salad. This spring-inspired recipe features pasta and an assortment of fresh vegetables tossed in a smooth dressing made with ginger, soy sauce, sun butter, and spices. Three times each school year, MPS Culinary & Wellness Services hosts True Food Taste Tests during lunch in elementary and middle school cafeterias to expose students to new flavors and food, and encourage adventurous eating habits. With support from The Wedge and Linden Hills Co-op, MPS Culinary & Wellness Services began their True Food Taste Tests in 2013. Since then, they have provided taste testing for a variety of recipes featuring local ingredients, Farm to School produce, and unique textures and flavors. For more information, or for recipes from previous tastings, please visit the district nutrition website at <https://nutritionservices.mpls.k12.mn.us/>

Attention Grade 5 Families

Event though it feels like you were just getting ready to send your student to kindergarten, it is almost time to celebrate their time at Kenwood. The 5th Grade Completion Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, June 6th. There are many plans in the works, and it takes a team of volunteers to plan and execute the events. If you are interested in helping, please contact 5th grade parent Julie Coykendall at juliecoykendall@hotmail.com. We are also looking for some 4th grade parents to pay it forward and help serve food during the event.

Calendar

Monday, April 22nd
Earth Day – Trash Clean Up Week

Tuesday, April 23rd
Band Concert, 3:15pm

Thursday, April 25th
Site Council, 4:00-5:30pm

Friday, April 26th
Grades 3-5 Dance, 6:30-8:30pm

Saturday, April 27th
Grades K-2 Dance, 10:00-11:30am

Monday, May 6th – Friday, May 10th
Teacher Appreciation Week

Wednesday, May 8th
Walk/Bike to School Day
Last Day of ALC
True Food Taste Test – Ginger Soy Pasta Salad

Wednesday, May 15th
Incoming Kindergarten Registration, 8:30am

Friday, May 17th & Saturday, May 18th
Plant Sale

Saturday, May 18th
Spring Picnic, 11:00am-1:00pm

Tuesday, May 21st
Grades 1-3 Track and Field Day

Wednesday, May 22nd
Grades 4-5 Track and Field Day

