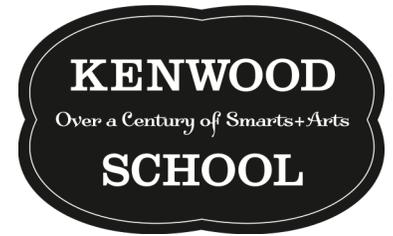


Kenwood Courier

2013 Penn Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55405
kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us 612-688-2760



A Note from our Principal, Heidi Johnson:

Dear Kenwood Community,

On Family Activity Night, November 15, our community gathered together to celebrate all that we love about our school: music, dance, the visual arts, cultural understanding and connections, a love of reading, conversations over a nourishing meal, and our partnership with families, local businesses, and artists. Thank you for your careful planning, your participation, your talents, and the time that you devoted to ensuring a welcoming and memorable evening. You make our community sparkle.

The day after the Barn Dance, I flew to Boston to participate in the Learning and the Brain Conference, sponsored by the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The theme for the conference was “Reaching for Greatness.” The majority of the keynote lectures and presentations were related to reaching all learners through creativity, arts integration, and innovative thinking. Maxine Green, a famous mentor to teachers around the world, wrote that “no encounters can release imagination in the way that engagement with works of art of aesthetic enactments can release it. Imagination, as is well known, is the capacity that enables us to move through the barriers of the taken-for-granted and summon up alternative possibilities for living, for being in the world.” At Kenwood, we know that arts learning is essential to our students’ academic, social, and emotional success. I’m looking forward to deepening our understanding of how collaboration and partnerships with artists on staff and in residence can help to reveal all children’s talents.

The Comprehensive Needs Assessment Process has been progressing. Thank you for your feedback related to our prioritized challenges. Our community has identified math and social emotional learning (specifically social awareness and self-management) as our most crucial areas of focus as we work to ensure that all children benefit from our

Smarts+Arts vision. This month we’re engaged in a root cause analysis related to our prioritized challenges. A root cause is one that, if eliminated, would greatly reduce the identified problem or remedy it entirely. The cause is something that we can influence within the “walls” of the school community. Once the root causes have been identified, we’ll use that information to revise or change our school improvement plan for next year. I will continue to share information with you about this process as the academic year progresses.

We have many wonderful things to look forward to this month: First grade’s drumming performance with Brother Ghana, after school band performances, Dining for Dollars at the Lowry, and a two-week winter break. It’s been a joyful first half of the year, and I’m so grateful to be working in partnership with you in support of Kenwood kids.

May you enjoy love, light, rest, reflection, and connection during the holiday season.

Warmly,
Heidi

Midnight Snow

By James Crews

Outside in the creek that feeds the lake
and never freezes, an otter slaps the water
with his paw to feel the current’s pulse -
Slip in, lie back. Slip in, lie back. He shuts
his eyes and obeys, knowing his layers
of hair and underfur will warm him while
he floats on a faith we wish could carry us.

The sound of his splashing fades, but not
his joy in being pushed, light as driftwood,
back to the mouth of the den I have seen
carved out beneath the roots of a fallen fir
now packed with snow and lined with leaves
that promise his sleep will be deep.

Because no dreams wait softly for me,
I open the woodstove and strike a match,
hold the bloom of the flame to kindling
that catches quick as my wish; To be that
slick body sliding into the lake that holds
the moon, bright portal to glide through
without so much as a shiver, no doubt
about where I’m going, how to get there.

Kenwood Eblast Updates

Are you getting the weekly emails on Mondays? If not, please email Lori Smith at kenwoodcommunitycoordinator@gmail.com to be added to the list. Eblasts are sent every Monday and on an as needed basis. It's a great way to gather information about what is happening at Kenwood School.

Winter Snow Gear

With last week's snow, the health office saw a large increase in the number of students coming to borrow winter gear (boots, snowpants, hats, gloves). Please make sure students have appropriate gear for cold and/or snowy days – kids go outside for recess unless the temperature or wind chill is below zero. If you are in need of winter gear for your child, please contact social worker Amanda Talan at Amanda.talan@mpls.k12.mn.us or 612-668-2760. If a child borrows winter gear from the office, please make sure they return them so they are available for the next person to borrow. Please check the lost and found before winter break! There are sweatshirts, hats, gloves, lunchboxes, and more. All remaining items will be donated during winter break.

News from the Health Office: 612-668-2766 IMPORTANT HEADLICE INFORMATION

There have been quite a few cases of head lice at school recently. Unfortunately, there continues to be new cases of head lice daily. Therefore, we are asking for your help as we work to control this problem.

- Please check your children's hair for signs of head lice today and then at least daily intervals throughout the next few weeks. Early identification of lice infestation makes it easier to treat and less likely to spread. You can have lice up to 4-6 weeks before you begin itching!!
- If you find signs of head lice: i.e. live lice or lice eggs (nits) begin a shampoo lice treatment right away. **Also, please notify the school immediately.**
- Precautions that you can take are to have your child wear their hair up, no sharing of hats/coats, no sharing of hair accessories, minimize head to head contact.

If you have questions or need treatment advice, please contact the school nurse. Thank you for your assistance. We appreciate it very much.

Sincerely,
Traci Cruikshank, RN, Licensed School Nurse
Jackie Milon, Health Assistant
612.668.2766

Approved District Calendars

The Minneapolis Board of Education has approved proposed calendars for the 2019/2020, 2020/2021, and 2021/2022 school years returning Minneapolis Public Schools to starting school after Labor Day. In addition, the calendars maintain a two-week winter break and weeklong spring break.

The proposed calendars were created after several months of work from the district Calendar Committee, which was composed of members representing both staff and families. The calendars also received significant public input. For more information or to view the calendars, please visit the district website at <http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us>.

Curriculum Guides

If you are interested in knowing the academic skills that your child will learn at each grade level (K-5) or activities that you can do at home to support your child's learning, visit the district webpage http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/curriculum_guides.html.

Supporting Kenwood: Chinook Book and Amazon Smile

Looking for a gift idea for that hard to please person? Or looking to save some cash for yourself this holiday season? Consider ordering a Chinook Book from Kenwood PTA. If you purchase the book/mobile app for \$22, \$11 is given back to Kenwood PTA and you are able to use each coupon twice - once from the book and the other on the app! Coupons are good until October of 2019 and include local restaurants, bakeries, home and garden shops, art studios, family entertainment, bike shops and much more! To purchase a Chinook Book, stop by the office or contact Lori Smith at kenwoodcommunitycoordinator@gmail.com.

Another easy way to support Kenwood is with Amazon Smile. Remember to add Kenwood School to your [smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) account and use your Amazon shopping cart for good during this busy time of year. A percentage of your purchases will automatically be donated back to Kenwood School PTA. Happy Shopping! Happy Holidays!

Green Team Information

Are you interested in joining the Green Team? There will be an informational meeting the first week back from winter break in January. More information will be coming home soon, but feel free to contact Marjorie Hegstrom at marjoriehegstrom@gmail.com if you are interested.

Dining for Dollars: The Lowry - Wednesday, December 19th

Mark your calendars for our next Dining for Dollars event on Wednesday, December 19th at The Lowry. A big thank you to families that were able to make it to our last event at Chipotle – together we raised \$377.72 for Kenwood PTA. We appreciate the support from Chipotle, and all the area restaurants that participate in Dining for Dollars.

Yearbook Cover Contest

It's time to design the cover for this year's yearbook. Forms went home last week, or you can find it on the Kenwood website. Forms are due to the main office by Friday, December 7th. Please make sure to use black ink – colored ink will not scan correctly. The yearbook committee is also looking for someone to shadow Lisa Hedges for the year to become familiar with the process and help with next year's yearbook. If you are interested, contact Lisa at kenwoodyearbook1@gmail.com

Calendar

Friday, December 14th 8:15-9:00am
Grade 1 African Drumming Performance

Wednesday, December 19th
Dining for Dollars – The Lowry

Thursday & Friday, December 20th & 21st
Third Grade Used Book Sale

Monday, December 24th – Friday, January 4th
NO SCHOOL – Winter Break

Monday, January 7th
School Resumes

