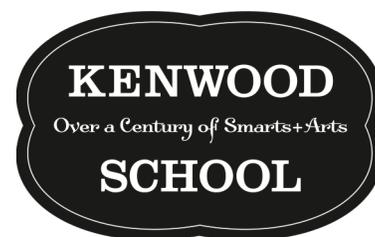


Kenwood Courier

2013 Penn Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55405

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



Dear Kenwood Families,

We've survived the polar vortex and have emerged as heartier, more flexible people! Here's hoping that the temperatures and precipitation settle down and permit us to move back into the comfortable hum of our school routines. February and March promise to be action-packed! Here are some details:

ESSA Update

Thank you for your feedback related to our equity work and our School Improvement Plan, which will be finalized on March 1. Your thoughtful responses, encouragement, suggestions, and nudges toward engaging differently in the work are deeply appreciated. I look forward to our continued partnership as we work to ensure that all Kenwood children thrive academically, socially, and emotionally in a learning community that is creative, innovative, and responsive.

Budget Update

Kenwood's budget allocation will be released on February 22. We'll finalize all budget decisions by March 15. The Instructional Leadership Team, Site Council, the staff, my conversations with families, and our School Improvement Plan will guide all decision-making. Please stay tuned for more updates in the next couple of weeks.

Conferences

It was good to see so many of you at conferences. Having time to connect with you in the middle of the school year is important to teachers; they're grateful for the opportunity to share how your children are blossoming, and to also discuss areas of growth. Thank you for taking the time to engage in these important conversations and to celebrate your children.

Joy

- We've had two All school Morning Meetings since the start of 2019. These brief meetings, aligned with the Responsive Classroom framework, allow the entire school to come together in the gym for a greeting, a share, an activity, and a school-wide message. It's been joyful to have this time together to build school spirit and a sense of belonging. Many thanks to our Equity and Engagement Team, and to Mr. C, for their hard work in planning and preparing for ASMM.
- The kindergartners are ready to share their learning about West African drumming, dancing, and singing. Brother Ghana has been a kind teacher and guide to our little ones, who soak in the music and movement like sponges. Their performance is on Tuesday, February 19, in the gym. It was wonderful to see so many of you there!
- Thanks to Ms. Sullivan's leadership, Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo and the Kenwood Student Council met last week to discuss his hopes and dreams for how the MPD builds relationships with our community. Trust, integrity, and accountability were major themes in the conversation. I was so proud of the way that our students, our future leaders, engaged in this important discussion.
- Our fifth graders are heading out to Eagle Bluff this week. Under Mr. Lee and Ms. Julie's guidance, the students have prepared for this important adventure in outdoor learning, team-building, and scientific inquiry. I look forward to spending a day with them and will be sure to pack my mukluks!
- The weather may have interrupted our plans for *Alice in Wonderland's* debut, but it's clear that the additional time for practice and preparation has paid off. Our student performers have worked incredibly hard under Ms. Quehl's leadership and are just about ready to light up the stage. We look forward to the evening performances on March 6 and 7!
- The Roaring Twenties is this year's theme for the Kenwood PTA's Auction on February 23. Thanks to the PTA's careful planning, attention to detail, and dedication to raising funds to support arts education at Kenwood, the evening is bound to be meaningful and incredibly fun! I hope to see you there!

Speaking of the Roaring Twenties, and in honor of Black History month (have you seen the beautiful bulletin board and door decorations near the main office, by the way? Many thanks to Mr. Jackson and Ms. Ashley for their artistic talent), here's a poem written by Claude McKay, a poet of the Harlem Renaissance.

Warmly,

Heidi

Subway Wind BY [CLAUDE MCKAY](#)

Far down, down through the city's great gaunt gut
The gray train rushing bears the weary wind;
In the packed cars the fans the crowd's breath cut,
Leaving the sick and heavy air behind.
And pale-cheeked children seek the upper door
To give their summer jackets to the breeze;
Their laugh is swallowed in the deafening roar
Of captive wind that moans for fields and seas;
Seas cooling warm where native schooners drift
Through sleepy waters, while gulls wheel and sweep,
Waiting for windy waves the keels to lift
Lightly among the islands of the deep;
Islands of lofty palm trees blooming white
That led their perfume to the tropic sea,
Where fields lie idle in the dew-drenched night,
And the Trades float above them fresh and free.

Dining for Dollars – Tuesday, February 26th

Mark your calendars for our next event, at Red's Savoy Pizza. Red's Savoy will donate 20% of sales from 11am-9pm to PTA when you mention you are from Kenwood School. Offer is valid on dine in, take out, and delivery.

2329 Hennepin Ave S, 612-377-3110

<https://savoypizza.com/>

Kenwood Silent Auction: February 23rd

We are less than a week away from the biggest fundraiser of the year! This event is sponsored by the Kenwood PTA to benefit all Kenwood students. Proceeds raised provide funding for art resources, field trips, workshops, professional development, classroom and office support, online educational subscriptions, and more. You can dress for the occasion (The Roaring Twenties) or come as you are.

To register and get a sneak peek at auction items, visit bit.ly/kenwoodptauction2019. Your registration includes appetizers by Nico's Taco Bar, sweets by Bogart's Doughnuts, cash bar, lively conversation, music, and dancing! Please contact Lori Smith at kenwoodcommunitycoordinator@gmail.com for auction ticket assistance. If you are unable to attend but would like to bid on items or make a donation, you can do so online.

Saturday, February 23rd 6:30pm
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Ave S

Eagle Bluff

On the morning of Tuesday, February 19th, Kenwood 5th graders departed on their annual Eagle Bluff field trip. Students and chaperones pack their sleeping bags, journals, and necessary winter gear for four days of intense environmental seminars. Under the supervision of our 5th grade teachers, our School Social Worker, and parent chaperones, Kenwood students will spend 4 days and 3 nights at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center located in Lanesboro, Minnesota. During these four days students will broaden their appreciation and knowledge of the environment, learn critical teambuilding and problem solving skills, increase their environmental and academic literacy, and strengthen their understanding of the importance of respecting our natural environment. The annual Eagle Bluff field trip has been organized and led by 5th grade teacher Darwin Lee for over 16 years.

Founded in 1978, Eagle Bluff is a private, non-profit residential environmental learning center providing accredited education programs & outdoor adventures in the scenic bluff country near Lanesboro, Minnesota. Through a variety of programs for children and adults, they provide transformative experiences, which empower people to care for the earth and each other. Their curriculum is written to Minnesota's Academic Standards with a focus on STEM concepts and life skills and they utilize hands on, experiential teaching methods to engage students in their learning. Around 75% of the lessons are taught outside, in nature's classroom! To learn more about Eagle Bluff, please visit <http://www.eagle-bluff.org/>.

MPS Budget Meetings: February 19th and 21st

The district is offering 2 sessions to give families an overview of the district budget and factors that will influence school budgets. Light snacks, childcare and interpretation will be available. Please view the district webpage for locations and times. http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/2019-2020_budget. These meetings will not be rescheduled if cancelled due to bad weather.

Kenwood School Band

4th and 5th graders are invited to join the Kenwood School Band! Classes begin February 26th and 28th. Please contact Amanda Talan or Lori Smith to request a scholarship. For more information regarding available instruments and to register, please visit <https://twintown.com/kenwood>.

Composting and Recycling at Lunch

Thank you to all the volunteers who have been helping students sort their lunch waste. Students watched a short video explaining why we are sorting our waste into trash, recycling, and composting and what happens to it when it leaves Kenwood. Every bit helps and we are excited to do our part.

Parking

Please pay attention to parking regulations and procedures at Kenwood School. There were 7 unattended cars blocking the bus drop off zone on Wednesday morning last week. Cars are required to pull up past the Kenwood arches when dropping students off. The lots are for staff use only during the school day. Cars should not pull through to drop students off, park, or be double-parked in the parking lot at any time of the day. We understand that snow emergencies impact our already limited parking and appreciate your cooperation.

Green Team: Wednesday, March 13th

Want to learn more about the exciting projects we have to grow food, reduce waste and get our kids learning outdoors? Come to the Green Team meeting and see how you can get involved! 8-9am in the Kenwood School Media Center

Yearbook

The Yearbook team is currently laying out the picture pages and needs your photos. Please send any photos you may have taken to our yearbook team – kenwoodyearbook1@gmail.com

And ... don't forget to take photos of your kid for book character day, pajama day, read in red day or any class events or field trips that you might be attending. It is much appreciated.

Southwest Parks

The Minneapolis Park Board is in the process of redesigning the parks in southwest Minneapolis. Proposed designs are online and a survey is available for the community to complete. To view the designs, visit the link below and click on "Let us know what you think about proposed long-term plans for all southwest Minneapolis neighborhood parks". To complete the survey, visit the website and click on "Park Concepts Survey" https://www.minneapolisparke.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/southwest_service_area_master_plan/

Alice in Wonderland: March 6th and 7th

Due to the number of days off of school because of the weather, the Kenwood play has been postponed until March 6th and 7th at 6:30pm. The students have been hard at work and look forward to performing for you. We hope to see you there.

Calendar

Tuesday, February 19th

Kindergarten African Drumming Performance

Tuesday, February 19th – Friday, February 22nd

Grade 5 at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center

Friday, February 22nd

Pajama Day – I Love to Read Month

Saturday, February 23rd

Adult Only Silent Auction – 6:30pm
St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

Tuesday, February 26th

Dining for Dollars: Red Savoy's – 11am - 9pm

Thursday, February 28th

Grade 5 Ski Trip

Friday, March 1st

Dress as your Favorite Book Character – I Love to Read Month

Wednesday, March 6th & Thursday, March 7th

Alice in Wonderland – 6:30pm