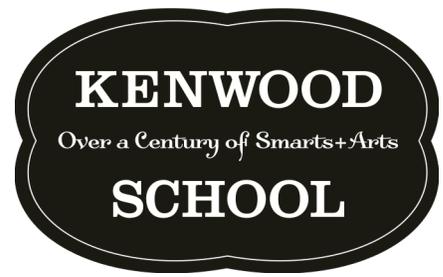


Kenwood Courier

2013 Penn Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55405

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



Dear Kenwood Families,

Happy New Year! Last January I was just beginning to get to know the staff, students, and families that make Kenwood such an inspiring place to work, learn, and grow. It's been a privilege to build relationships with you all over the past twelve months. As we enter 2019, it's my goal to strengthen school-to-family communications to enhance our partnership as we guide our young people. We're grateful that you've chosen Kenwood, and we want your children and your family to feel confident in the way we nurture academics, the arts, and social emotional learning for every student.

There are many events that will make January an exciting time at school:

Kindness In our first week back to school, the fourth and fifth graders participated in Kindness Retreats, facilitated by Youth Frontiers and generously sponsored in part by the PTA. Our students were invited to engage in games, activities, and reflections intended to help them consider the power of kindness and how we can all strive to practice it. Here's what a couple of Kenwood fifth graders reported about the retreat:

- "We learned lots of stuff about how to thank and forgive others."
- "It was really fun because we all danced around. We had goals, not rules, which made it happier."
- "I learned about how I can really change Kenwood. I think that future 5th graders should go to the Kindness Retreat because it would be a good influence on kids who have trouble."
- "It's really fun, and sometimes you just need a break from all the stress that school brings."
- "We learned how to be a hero in bullying situations."
- "What I remember about the Kindness Retreat is that when we walked in the parents were clapping for us."

The Young Poets of Winnipeg

[Naomi Shihab Nye](#), 1952

scurried around a classroom papered with poems.
Even the ceiling, pink and orange quilts of phrase...
they introduced one another, perched on a tiny stage
to read their work, blessed their teacher who
encouraged them to stretch, wouldn't let their parents
attend the reading because parents might criticize,
believed in the third and fourth eyes, the eyes in
the undersides of leaves, the polar bears a thousand miles north,
and sprouts of grass under the snow. They knew their poems
were glorious, that second-graders could write better
than third or fourth, because of what happened
on down the road, the measuring sticks
that came out of nowhere, poking and channeling
the view, the way fences broke up winter,
or driveways separated the smooth white sheets
birds wrote on with their feet.

Prospective Family Night, January 15 We look forward to welcoming families who are considering kindergarten at Kenwood this Tuesday evening. Thank you to the amazing Kindergarten Team, the PTA, and our many parent volunteers who will contribute to our narrative about why Kenwood is such a special place to learn and grow.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program, January 17 On Thursday, please join us to honor Dr. King's legacy and dream. Our fourth and fifth graders have worked so hard under Ms. Quehl's creative guidance to present a memorable performance about love and justice. We hope you can join us.

Brother Ghana in Kindergarten We're delighted that our youngest students are learning Ghanaian drumming, song, and dance from Brother Ghana this month. We're eager to watch them perform on February 11, Family Involvement Day. Stay tuned for more information about that in future communications!

No School on Jan. 21, Jan. 24, or Jan. 25 We'll have an unusual week next week – please note that the 21st is a holiday, the 24th is a teacher record-keeping day, and the 25th is devoted to further 6+1 Traits professional development for the Kenwood staff. We're excited to learn more about how to support strong writing practices at Kenwood.

February Conferences: Feb. 12 (3:00-7:00pm) and Feb. 15 (7:30am-3:30pm) Mark your calendars -- we're eager to meet with you again to discuss your children's learning and growth during our winter conferences. Conference sign-up forms were sent home today to families who have more than one child at Kenwood. We want to make sure that sibling conferences are scheduled in a way that makes sense for families. Conference sign-ups will open for all other students on January 18. Look for communication from your classroom teachers for further details.

It's my joy to be a part of this thriving school community. May 2019 shine brightly for you all!

Warmly,

Heidi

Dining for Dollars – Thursday, January 17th

Noodles World Kitchen - 3040 Excelsior Blvd

Join Kenwood families from 4-8pm for a bite to eat while supporting Kenwood School. 25% of sales will be donated back to Kenwood PTA. No flyer is necessary, but make sure to let them know you are from Kenwood and thank them for their support.

Grade 5 Spelling Bee

The fifth grade spelling bee will be on Wednesday, January 30th from 9:30 – 10:30am at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church. All fifth graders are invited to participate. We are looking for 3 or 4 fourth grade parents to help with the event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lori Smith at kenwoodcommunitycoordinator@gmail.com

It's School Choice Time

If you have a child that is starting kindergarten next year, you need to fill out a request by **February 8th**. Please visit http://schoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us/mps_enrollment_process and submit your request. Families that submit after this date will be placed at schools on a space available basis. Fifth grade students at Kenwood planning on attending our pathway middle school (Anthony Middle School) do not need to fill out a request. Any student planning on attending a MPS school other than Anthony must fill out the request by February 8th. Please visit the district webpage or contact Lori Smith if you have any questions.



Kenwood Auction

Mark your calendars for the annual Kenwood PTA Auction on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, in Minneapolis! Not only is this adult-only evening the PTAs largest fundraiser of the year, it's also a great party and a fabulous way to unwind with other Kenwood School parents. With appetizers, cash bar, silent auction, live auction, DJ, dance floor, and generous bidders, the night is a sure WIN. Invitations will be coming in early February, as well as a Sign Up Genius for opportunities to volunteer prior to and during the event. We look forward to seeing you in the ROARING TWENTIES. For questions, please contact the 2019 Auction Co-Chairs, Sarah Kreykes (Sarah.kreykes@gmail.com), Coryn Petersen (corynpetersen@gmail.com), or Jane Wolke (Wolke.jane@gmail.com).

Meet Your Rep – School Board Member Bob Walser

This year the district is inviting our local elected officials to stop by and chat — they will be hosting a series of meetings to invite conversation about what's happening in our community. They are asking elected officials to suggest a topic they'd like to focus on.

The first guest of the year is School Board Member Bob Walser. The topic is: The future of Minneapolis Public Schools given changing demographics, unpredictable funding from the legislature and more. We'll discuss what's in the works to set us up for an economically sustainable future and share ideas about what we should be considering moving forward.

This is a free event and all community members are welcome to attend.

Common Roots Café – 2558 Lyndale Ave S
Wednesday, January 23rd
5:30 – 6:30pm

After School Class Pick Up Times

Please be mindful of the time you arrive to pick up students from after school classes. Students are expected to be picked up when class ends.

- ALC (Sewing, Grade Level Reading/Math, GEMS/GISE, Play, Young Athletes): 4:45pm
- Chess, French and Spanish: 3:35pm
- Band 3:30pm

Health Office Request

The health office is in need of pants for boys and girls in smaller sizes (sizes 5, 6, and 7) as well as donations of packs of underwear. If you are cleaning out closets and have any to donate, please send them to the health office.

Attendance Line

If you need to report a student absence or talk with the health associate, please call the attendance line directly at 612-668-2766. Having this number in your phone contacts is an easy way to find it quickly.

A Note From Minneapolis Park and Rec

On behalf of the [SW Service Area Master Plan](#) project team, I'd like to invite you and your network to participate in and share information for the Initial Concepts Workshops for southwest parks.

The workshops will be a way for people to provide in person feedback on the initial park concepts. The workshops will all be the same, so people would only need to come to one workshop. They will also be formatted so people can stay for as long or as little time as they'd like. Following the first workshop on January 31st, the concepts will be posted to the project page at www.minneapolisparcs.org/sw along with an online survey. For more information about dates and times for workshops, please visit www.minneapolisparcs.org/sw

MPS Parent Advisory Councils (PACs)

PACs create and support a space for vibrant family groups to come together around shared interests and experiences focused on ways to support and sustain student academic and social-emotional success. They increase parent and family involvement in their children's education through effective communication and leadership development while empowering and advocating for all families. By attending an Advisory Council you can:

- Connect with other parents and community leaders
- Provide input concerning school-related issues
- Make recommendations in support of enhancing learning opportunities and environments
- Advocate for issues vital to the success of schools, youth, and families in their community
- Each Parent Advisory Council selects two people to represent them on the District Parent Advisory Council

For more information, please visit the district webpage at <http://engagement.mpls.k12.mn.us/pac>

Calendar

Thursday, January 17th
Martin Luther King, Jr. Program 9:15am

Thursday, January 17th
Dining for Dollars – Noodles 4-8pm

Monday, January 21st
No School

Tuesday, January 22nd – Wednesday, January 23rd
No ALC classes (Grade Level Reading/Math, GEMS/GISE, Play, Young Athletes)

Wednesday, January 23rd
Meet Your Rep – Common Roots Café 5:30-6:30pm

Thursday & Friday, January 24th & 25th
No School

Wednesday, January 30th
Grade 5 Spelling Bee 9:30am (Lake of the Isles Church)

Thursday, January 31st
Site Council Meeting 4-5:30pm

