

# Kenwood Courier

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Dear Kenwood Community,

Happy last week of school!

It's a joy to have been a part of the many celebrations that honor our students' academic progress and personal growth over the past two weeks. Thank you to staff and families for creating such memorable and magical events that seal our students' elementary school experiences at Kenwood.

We've had a great first full year together. We've formalized our School Forest designation, dived into our academic, climate, and culture data, identified our priorities for the 2019-20 school year, and engaged in earnest conversations about the District's Comprehensive Design. I love how we've begun to imagine new ways to bridge our students' elementary and middle school experiences, honoring what's working and speaking honestly about what could be better, in the interest of serving all children equitably. It's deeply satisfying to be partnering with you in this work.

I wish you a restful, rejuvenating, and inspiring summer. I'll be at school and at district-related meetings in June and August but will be traveling in China with my family for most of July! I can't wait to hear about your summer adventures when we come back together at our Meet Your Teacher/ Ice Cream Social on August 28, 2019 from 4:30-6:30pm.

Between now and then, I encourage you all to model and share your love of reading with your children! Here are a few lists of recommended books to inhale while in the hammock, the tent, the backseat of the car, or under the branches of a beloved tree:

American Library Association Summer Reading lists (organized by grade):

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/publications-resources/book-lists/2019-summer-reading-list>

Minnesota Youth Reading Awards, Star of the North 2019-20 Nominees (picture books):

<https://myrahome.org/2020-sotn/>

Minnesota Youth Reading Awards, Maud Hart Lovelace 2019-20 Nominees (chapter books):

<https://myrahome.org/2020-mhl/>

I will be thinking of you and anticipating our collaboration and shared adventures in the 2019-20 school year. To our families who are moving on, please know that you will be missed; you'll always be an important part of the Kenwood community!

Warmly,

Heidi

## Peonies by Mary Oliver

This morning the green fists of the peonies are getting ready to break my heart  
as the sun rises,  
as the sun strokes them with his old, buttery fingers

and they open ---  
pools of lace,  
white and pink ---  
and all day the black ants climb over them,

boring their deep and mysterious holes  
into the curls,  
craving the sweet sap,  
taking it away

to their dark, underground cities ---  
and all day  
under the shifty wind,  
as in a dance to the great wedding,

the flowers bend their bright bodies,  
and tip their fragrance to the air,  
and rise,  
their red stems holding

all that dampness and recklessness  
gladly and lightly,  
and there it is again ---  
beauty the brave, the exemplary,

blazing open.  
Do you love this world?  
Do you cherish your humble and silky life?  
Do you adore the green grass, with its terror beneath?

Do you also hurry, half-dressed and barefoot, into the garden,  
and softly,  
and exclaiming of their dearness,  
fill your arms with the white and pink flowers,

with their honeyed heaviness, their lush trembling,  
their eagerness  
to be wild and perfect for a moment, before they are  
nothing, forever?

### Are you moving on from Kenwood?

Please email Lori Smith at [kenwoodcommunitycoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:kenwoodcommunitycoordinator@gmail.com) if you would like to be removed from the eblast list over the summer.

#### Art Update from Ms. Swenson

##### *Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists*

On May 28, the two fifth grade classes saw the exhibit, "Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists" at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA). It is the first major exhibition of artwork by Native women. It celebrates the achievement of over 115 artists from the United States and Canada spanning more than 1,000 years. Dyani White Hawk, the artist the students worked with in fourth grade for their Native American artist residency has a piece in the exhibit.

A retired teacher, Larry Riser, was kind enough to pay for the transportation. MIA paid for the exhibition tickets for our students, teachers and parent chaperones. Kenwood Community School would like to thank both Larry Riser and MIA for their generosity. They made this special, educational opportunity possible for our school.

##### *Four Ravens Looking for Guidance from the Four Directions by Gordon Coons*

Gordon Coons, the artist who works with the second graders for the Native American residency, generously donated a work of art to our school. It is titled, "Four Ravens Looking for Guidance from the Four Directions". It is a reduction block art piece. It is on display in the office, near the sign-in desk.

On Gordon Coons' website, [www.gordoncoons.com](http://www.gordoncoons.com), he says, "My creations are reflections of my heritage and life experiences. I portray my views of traditional Native stories, incorporating strong family influences into each image. My inspiration comes from my heritage of Chippewa and Ottawa. I try to express my culture through works using a contemporary style. My color palette is important to me when expressing nature and humanity. My preference is to use bright colors." Please visit his website to learn more about him and to see addition artwork.



Kenwood Community School would like to thank Gordon Coons for the beautiful piece he gave us and for teaching and working with our second grade students for the past three years.

#### Summer Resources

Visit the district webpage for a variety of resources available to families, including links to Minneapolis Park and Rec, Community Education Summer Classes, YMCA, Hennepin County Libraries, as well as resources for food, clothing, and healthcare.

[https://mpls.k12.mn.us/summer\\_resources](https://mpls.k12.mn.us/summer_resources)

**Free Chess for Kids** Sign up for a FREE chess account, allowing students to play online.

<https://www.chesskid.com/>

**Half Priced Books** Read 15 minutes a day in June and/or July, turn in your logs in August and earn Bookworm Bucks. Go online or visit in person to pick up a reading log. <https://www.halfpricebooks.com/fyb/>

**Barnes & Noble** Read any 8 books and record them in a B&N log. Return the log in August to pick a free book. Go online or visit in person to pick up a reading log.

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/kids/get-ready-for-bns-summer-reading-triathlon/>

**Every Kid in a Park** Fourth grade students can sign up for a free pass for themselves and their families to visit many National Parks for FREE.

<https://everykidinapark.gov/>

**Math and Reading Activities** A collection of math and reading websites for kids.

<https://www.freetech4teachers.com/2019/05/5-places-to-find-summer-math-activities.html>

**Minneapolis Institute of Art Book Tours** Wednesdays and Fridays at 1:00pm, FREE tours to connect books with museum artwork.

<https://new.artsmia.org/event/youth-book-tour/>

**Minneapolis Institute of Art Family Days** On the second Sunday of every month, make art, go on artful adventures, meet local musicians, dancers, and storytellers, and more!

<https://new.artsmia.org/programs/youth-and-family/family-day/>

**Sanneh Soccer and Basketball Camps** FREE camps at parks in Minneapolis, St Paul, and surrounding suburbs.

<http://thesannehfoundation.org/programs/camps/register-for-camps/>

## Calendar

### 2019-2020 School Year

Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>

Meet Your Teacher/Ice Cream Social, 4:30-6:30pm

Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>

First Day of School, grades 1-5

Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>

First Day of School, kindergarteners

Coffee and Kleenex (kindergarten and new families)

Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

Kenwood Crawl, 9:00-11:00am

## Calendar

Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>

Grade 4 Bike Trip, 8:30am

Kindergarten Celebration, 1:45pm

Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>

Grade 5 Completion Ceremony, 8:30am

Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

Last Day of School

Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>

Rummage Sale, 9:00am-2:00pm

