

Kenwood Courier

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Minneapolis, MN 55405

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Dear Kenwood Families,

You can tell it's mid-March by the snow, the rain, the ice, the massive melt and freeze, and the eager daffodils that have appeared on people's desks like talismans. Here's hoping for sunny days and signs of spring (outside) this week!

March is also budget season, and I'm pleased to report that we're in a better place this year than we were at this time last year. We have a strong base in kindergarten - second grade in 2019-20 (3 classes for each grade), which will support our enrollment in the upper elementary grades in years to come. I've worked in collaboration with the staff, the Instructional Leadership Team, the Site Council, and the PTA Executive Board to fund positions that reflect our priorities and our vision. We have aligned our discretionary dollars with our math and social emotional learning goals, as well as with our belief in the power of arts education, to ensure that all children grow and succeed at Kenwood.

In 2019-20, we're required to fund and have received funding for the following positions:

- Principal
- 15.0 Classroom Teachers (no change in allocation; 3 classrooms each in grades K-2, 2 classrooms each in grades 3-5)
- 3.0 Specialist Time (no change in allocation):
 - 1.0 Gym (same)
 - 0.6 Media (same)
 - 0.7 Art (up by .1)
 - 0.7 Music (down by .1 to allow for choir)
- 0.76 Social Worker (increased funding)
- Secretary
- Bell to bell Health Services Assistant (no change)
- 40 hours Associate Educator time (two 0.5 positions)
- 0.1 Instructional Specialist (no change)
- 0.5 Differentiation Specialist (supports planning for advanced learners and struggling students at all grades; this replaces the .2 Advanced Differentiation Specialist position)
- 1 English as a Second Language Teacher (we have enough students to support a full-time position in 2019-20)
- 1 Special Education Resource Teacher (no change)
- 1 Citywide Autism Teacher (no change)
- 3 Special Education Assistants (no change)
- Q-Comp (no change; \$10,000 to support teacher professional development and collaboration)
- Language Line (new; \$3,000 to support communication with families for whom English is a second or third language)

With our remaining allocation, we will fund the following positions:

- 0.24 Social Worker (to make 1.0)
- 0.1 Family Liaison
- 0.6 Additional Associate Educator time (permitting us to continue to have three AEs)
- 0.1 Choir (one class for 4th grade, one class for 5th)
- 0.1 Media Admin time (new)
- Math Corps volunteer (to support 4th and 5th grades; contingent upon our school's eligibility)

Reading Corps and Youth, Inc. will continue to provide volunteers for additional reading support for eligible Kenwood students. The District provides funding for the following part-time positions: Nurse, School Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Teacher.

The PTA has generously agreed to supplement our funds for non-salary expenses and a 15-hour Teacher Emeritus, who will offer differentiated reading instruction in kindergarten through second grades. The PTA will continue to fund arts residencies, classroom supplies, and programming that allows our students to flex their creative and critical thinking skills. Our school is deeply grateful for the many ways that you partner with us to help our children grow. You've shared your time, your talents, your advocacy, and your financial support so generously. Thank you.

While our budget allocation is better for 2019-20, I understand that it isn't perfect. The decisions I've made with input from many stakeholders may not strike the right chord with everyone. I believe that we'll continue to strengthen our programming at Kenwood over time, and that we have every reason to feel excited and optimistic about our journey together.

May this spring bring you peace and joy! I look forward to our conversations together over the coming months.

Warm wishes,

Heidi

Turning to One Another

There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.

Ask "What's possible?" not "What's wrong?" Keep asking.

Notice what you care about.

Assume that many others share your dreams.

Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.

Talk to people you know.

Talk to people you don't know.

Talk to people you never talk to.

Be intrigued by the differences you hear.

Expect to be surprised.

Treasure curiosity more than certainty.

Invite in everybody who cares to work on what's possible.

Acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something.

Know that creative solutions come from new connections.

Remember, you don't fear people whose story you know.

Real listening always brings people closer together.

Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world.

Rely on human goodness. Stay together.

—Margaret Wheatley, "Turning to One Another," 2002

Lost and Found

Our lost and found has many items waiting to be returned to their owners. Lunchboxes, gloves, sweatshirts, hats, water bottles, and more! Many times parents do not even realize something is missing, so it pays to take a look the next time you are at school. All items left at the end of this month will be donated.

District Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Sadie S. in room 205 who came in 5th place in the district wide spelling bee, competing against 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders from around the city. Way to go Sadie!

Summer School & GEMS/GISE

As many families know, summer planning has already started. MPS offers FREE summer options for students. For more information and to register for summer school, please visit <http://summerschool.mpls.k12.mn.us/> For more information and to register for the summer GEMS/GISE program, please visit http://summerschool.mpls.k12.mn.us/gems_gise_stem_3. Both the general summer program and GEMS/GISE run June 17th through July 25th; Monday through Thursday (Closed July 4th). Transportation and lunch are provided. The deadline for summer school applications, to have transportation the first day of summer session, is March 22nd. The second deadline, for transportation at a point after summer session has started, is May 6th. DO NOT MISS THESE IMPORTANT DEADLINES.

Southwest Parks

The Minneapolis Park Board is in the process of gathering community input regarding proposed changes to parks in the southwest area, including Kenwood Park. Most parks have 2 designs, and they are asking people to comment on what they like and dislike about each concept, not vote on which concept they prefer. You can also make general comments regarding the future use of parks. You can view park designs at www.minneapolisparcs.org/sw. Find the park/parks you are interested in under "Park Concepts". To leave comments go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sw_concepts or click the link on the main page under "Key Documents". The survey will remain open until the end of March.

Plant Sale – Order Deadline Extended

The plant sale order deadline has been extended to Wednesday, March 20th. You can find extra order forms in the main office or on our website at <http://kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us/index>. Orders will be available at school on Friday, May 17th in the afternoon for pick up. If you are going to buy plants, why not support Kenwood at the same time!

Jr. Iron Chef

Do you have a middle school student?

Applications are now OPEN for the 5th annual MPS Junior Iron Chef Competition on Thursday, May 2nd! MPS 6th-8th grade students are encouraged to grab a friend and apply to cook alongside some of Minneapolis' greatest chefs for a night. Selected students will be paired with local chefs to compete top-chef style for a panel of judges. The competition is free and open to anyone to view. Apply online at http://cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/junior_iron_chef

5th annual Jr. Iron Chef Competition
Thursday, May 2, 2019 | 5:30-7:30pm
Chowgirls @ Solar Arts
711 NE 15th Ave, Minneapolis
Free and open to the public!

Anthony Middle School Presents: Aladdin Jr.

Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* is playing at Anthony Middle School from March 20-23. Purchase tickets for reserved seats online at anthony-musical-2018.ticketleap.com/. General seating tickets (located in the back half of the auditorium) will also be available at the door. General seating tickets are \$5 for students and \$8 for adults. General seating tickets will be on sale one hour prior to show time, and doors will open 30 minutes before the show starts.

Southwest High School Presents: Beauty and the Beast

Mark your calendars for Southwest High School's production of *Beauty and The Beast*, with Kenwood alumni students Hema Patel as Belle and Amelia Watson in the orchestra. Visit <http://southwesttheatre.org/main-stage/this-seasons-shows/131-beauty-and-the-beast> for more information and advanced ticket sales. Performance Dates: March 14-16 and 21-23
<http://southwesttheatre.org/>

Calendar

Wednesday, March 20th

Plant Sale Orders Due (extended deadline)

Thursday, March 21st

Dining for Dollars – Nico's Tacos

Thursday, March 28th

Site Council, 4:00-5:30pm

Friday, March 29th

NO SCHOOL – Teacher Record Keeping Day

Monday, April 1st – Friday, April 5th

NO SCHOOL – Spring Break

Wednesday, April 17th

Dining for Dollars – My Burger