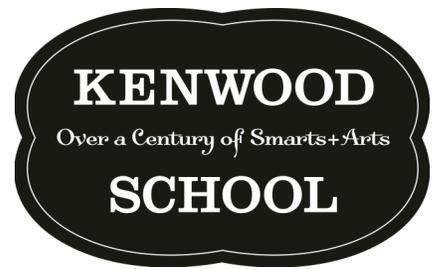


Kenwood Courier

2013 Penn Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55405

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



Dear Kenwood Families,

May is a time of wonderful celebrations, in school and in the environment around us. The orioles are back, the lilacs have burst, and the spring peepers are singing their hearts out. Speaking of which, it was wonderful to have sung with you at the Beatles Sing Along! The event couldn't have come at a better time in our school community. It was a joy to remember and sing together old songs that remain relevant and uplifting.

You've honored our teachers and staff in lovely and generous ways this month. Thank you for showing your appreciation for the Kenwood Team's hard work and dedication to helping all students reach their fullest potential in school. We are very lucky to have such a committed and loving staff. Additionally, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the parent volunteers who've helped make Kenwood such a special place in the lives of the children we serve: Kenwood PTA, Site Council, the Auction Committee, Parents as Partners, the School Picnic committee, the Plant Sale Team, the School Play Volunteers, Lunchroom Volunteers, The Green Team, Morning Greeters, Math POW, Classroom Parents, Student Council Parent Volunteers, parent musicians, the fourth and fifth grade parents who are supporting the 5th Grade end-of-year celebrations, and the many volunteers who've supported arts integration in our school community. We are fortunate to have your partnership in this gratifying work.

There's a lot to look forward to in these last weeks of school: Track and Field Days, the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the School Forest, the Awards Assembly, the Kindergarten and 5th Grade recognition ceremonies, the Rummage Sale, and many more events and trips to exciting places. I look forward to honoring our children's learning with you in the coming days!

I've appreciated your engagement in several recent district-wide meetings related to supporting students who've been identified as Advanced Learners and to the Comprehensive Design. Joan Kallas, our Media Specialist, has worked to support our Advanced Learners this year, and eight of our classroom teachers have participated in the Advanced Differentiation professional development opportunities offered by the Talent Development Team at the district this year. The Kenwood staff are working on creating balanced class lists for 2019-20 with our students' particular needs in mind. As was the case for this academic year, we will create clusters of advanced learners at each grade level. We'll welcome our new Differentiation specialist to Kenwood in August, and I'll introduce her to you in the fall. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with immediate questions about how we're supporting Advanced Learners at Kenwood.

As we learn more about the Comprehensive Design I've had many heartfelt and inspiring conversations with families who are wondering about how the proposed plans will have an impact on their family and on the Kenwood community as a whole. Thank you for attending the community meetings offered by the district to seek out information and to share your perspectives, and for meeting with me to discuss your particular concerns and aspirations. In the spirit of learning more about the proposed changes, please join us for a conversation with Anwatin Middle School Principal and Assistant Principal, Ellen Shulman and Liz Martin, on Thursday morning, May 23, in the lunchroom, from 8:15 to 9:30am. Ellen offered to come and speak with Kenwood families about her vision and her leadership at Anwatin. She's an inspiring and engaging school leader. On the same day, Eric Moore, Chief of Academics, Accountability, Innovation, Research, and Equity, will join our Site Council meeting from 3:30 to 4:30pm to respond to prepared questions about the Comprehensive Design's impact on Kenwood. You're welcome to join us for that meeting as well.

Thank you for your deep commitment to Kenwood. May the coming weeks bring you joy and time for reflection with the children and families in this beautiful community.

Warmly,
Heidi

**Remember
by Joy Harjo**

Remember the sky that you were born under,
know each of the star's stories.
Remember the moon, know who she is.
Remember the sun's birth at dawn, that is the
strongest point of time. Remember sundown
and the giving away to night.
Remember your birth, how your mother struggled
to give you form and breath. You are evidence of
her life, and her mother's, and hers.
Remember your father. He is your life, also.
Remember the earth whose skin you are:
red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth
brown earth, we are earth.
Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their
tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them,
listen to them. They are alive poems.
Remember the wind. Remember her voice. She knows the
origin of this universe.
Remember you are all people and all people
are you.
Remember you are this universe and this
universe is you.
Remember all is in motion, is growing, is you.
Remember language comes from this.
Remember the dance language is, that life is.
Remember.

Green Team Update

Get growing in the school garden this summer!!! Families are invited to help maintain the garden and enjoy the harvest this summer. Gardening experience not required, so take a look and sign up for a week or two.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4dafa82baaf94-kenwood2>

With warmer temperatures here (or at least on the way!) here are some great tips for saving energy while keeping your house cool.

Excerpted from "10 Energy Saving Tips for Spring", MARCH 20, 2015 By Paul Lester at the US Dept. of Energy
<https://www.energy.gov/articles/10-energy-saving-tips-spring>

Open windows. Opening windows creates a cross-wise breeze, allowing you to naturally cool your home without switching on air conditioners. This is an ideal tactic in spring when temperatures are mild.

Cook outside. On warmer spring days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of indoor ovens.

Math Corp Tutors

We were awarded the support of Reading Corps and Math Corps tutors for the 2019-20 school year. We've hired our reading tutors, but we're still looking for a math tutor to support our 4th and 5th grade students in 2019-20. We need your help to find the right person for this opportunity and want to reach out to our community first.

Tutors can come from many backgrounds and include recent high school and college grads, career changers, stay-at-home parents/grandparents, and retirees. They receive extensive training, and coaching support. In return for their service, tutors earn a living allowance, education award, federal student loan forbearance, and other benefits. Most importantly, they help students understand and practice math and watch them grow.

If you know anyone who may be interested in joining our school and team, please share this link with them:

<https://www.readingandmath.net/>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Dillon Lynch at dillon.lynch@servetogrow.org.

End of the Year Medication

All student medications must go home at the end of the school year.

- With parent/guardian permission, students can bring home asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors (i.e. EpiPen®, Auvi-Q®) on the last day of school ONLY.
- Parents/guardians must pick up all other medication from the school health office.
- Medication not picked up by the last day of school will be destroyed.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for delivering medication to summer school if their student will attend a summer program (i.e. GEMS/GISE, ESY Special Education programming, etc.).

This policy aligns with District Regulation 6692A Responsibilities for Student Medication. The same procedure will be followed at the end of summer programs. Please plan accordingly for medication pick up.

If you have further questions, you may contact Traci Cruikshank, RN, MaED, Licensed School Nurse at 612-668-2766.

A Message from the Anthony PTA

Moving on to Middle School? Get involved in the Anthony PTA. Do you love being involved in your child's school? Want to know more about how the middle school works? Want to meet parents from other elementary schools? Considering volunteering for the PTA Board at Anthony. The Anthony PTA raises funds to support the teachers and administration at Anthony, but with a narrower mission and a more hands off approach, being involved takes significantly less time. The Board at Anthony strives to have members from each of its three feeder schools and two of Kenwood's three representatives are moving on to high school next year. Board positions to consider include secretary, meeting coordinator, fundraising chair and volunteer coordinator. For more information, we encourage you to reach out to current Kenwood reps Kathy Ferrey (kathyferrey@gmail.com) or Nicole Valentine (nvalentine89@earthlink.net) or current co-chair Kai Gudmestad (kag4185339@msn.com). It's an easy gig and rewarding work!

Comprehensive District Design 2019 – 2022

MPS is currently working on the Comprehensive District Design, trying to rethink how MPS can best serve students and families. Please consider attending an upcoming community discussion to learn more and share your ideas.

- Monday, May 20th, 6:00pm
Wilder Building, 34th and Chicago Ave S
- Tuesday, May 21st, 6:00pm
Davis Center, 1250 W Broadway Ave

If you are unable to make the meetings, you can watch on the MPS Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/minneapolis.schools/videos/>
or website
https://mpls.k12.mn.us/comprehensive_district_design_2
You can also send emails by clicking the above link and then clicking on "Give Feedback".

Family Activity Forms

Please note that beginning in the 2019-20 school year, we will follow the district's attendance policy related to excused "family activity" days. The policy states that families must make the request for excused family activity days at least 10 days in advance of the absences. This provides teachers time to prepare any homework that the student may be required to complete while away. Additionally, a student is only permitted to miss five or fewer days of school for a family activity in the academic year. Any other missed days related to the family activity will be considered unexcused. We understand that many families are juggling several school schedules whose vacation days don't align. However, our students' consistent attendance is essential to building a strong learning community, and we deeply appreciate your understanding. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Principal Johnson with any questions you may have about the policy.

Calendar

Tuesday, May 21st

Grades 4-5 Track and Field Day

Wednesday, May 22nd

Grades 1-3 Track and Field Day

Thursday, May 23rd

Anwatin Conversation Meeting, 8:15 - 9:30am
Site Council Meeting, 3:30 - 4:30pm

Friday, May 24th

Kenwood DNR Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Monday, May 27th

NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day

Friday, May 31st

Awards Ceremony - Grades 1-5, 8:15 – 9:00am
Kindergarten Track and Field, 8:30 - 10:00am

Wednesday, June 5th

Grade 4 Bike Trip, 8:30-12:30am
Kindergarten Celebration, 1:45pm

Thursday, June 6th

Grade 5 Completion Ceremony, 8:05am

Friday, June 7th

Last Day of School

Saturday, June 8th

Rummage Sale, 9:00am – 2:00pm