

# Kenwood Courier

2013 Penn Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55405

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

---



## From Your PTA Co-Presidents:

Hello Fall! Get out your sweaters and hats.... The cool weather is here! It's impossible to believe we are already almost into November and nine weeks into the school year! Amidst the falling leaves and changing colors, we hope you were able to enjoy a crisp MEA break with family or friends.

Thank you to all who contributed to the teacher conference meals and snacks over parent-teacher conference days! As one teacher put it, "I can't tell you how much this means to us. It's wonderful to be able to focus on my conferences and not have to think about my meals for two days!" Our staff is so appreciative of the ongoing support provided by our parent community. Bravo, Kenwood friends!

Another pat on the back to our incredibly generous and social Kenwood community for attending the PTA Evereve shopping fundraiser. Evereve, a local women's clothing boutique, partners with local organizations to provide personal shopping parties where 15% of the total sales go back to the partnering organization. In this case, the Kenwood party sales earned over a whopping \$1500 for the Kenwood PTA! Thank you, thank you, thank you! Those sweater purchases were aptly timed! And while a number of the PTA-sponsored events are fundraisers, they are also social and community-building events. We loved seeing so many familiar and new faces at Evereve and sincerely enjoyed taking a couple hours off from the daily grind to mingle with other Kenwood parents and friends. Thank you to Sarah Kreykes of the PTA for organizing this wildly fun and successful event, as well as the PTA members for contributing to the food and beverage table. We are eager to do it again in the Spring!

Beginning today, we are all Falling Into Reading with the 3rd annual Kenwood Read-A-Thon! Readers earn dollars for Kenwood School PTA through pledges for all the minutes they read outside of school, over the next two weeks! Be sure to have your young readers check out the free book selection in the atrium of the school! Families have donated books so all our young readers have multiple books to choose from throughout the Read-A-Thon. Borrow a book and/or donate a book! Books donated to the free library will then go to Ms. Gregory and the 3rd grade for the annual used book sale in December. Win, win, win!

And speaking of fundraising... you may wonder, "Why does PTA do so much fundraising, and what is the money used for?" Kenwood is special for many reasons – but we stand out because of how we incorporate arts into a traditional education model. Monies raised by PTA - through your generosity - provide grade level artist residencies (i.e. African drumming, Taiko drumming, MN Center for Book Arts) and school-wide residencies (i.e. Midwest Food Connection, Barn Dance) from year to year. The current school year's residencies are provided by fundraising efforts from last year (and previous years). Each year we work to raise enough funds to provide future residencies, as well as current activity scholarships, field trip busing, classroom supply stipends, office supply support, and professional development. Additionally, the PTA provides funding for pivotal contracted positions, such as our Community Coordinator and office support. Community-building events like the Ice Cream Social and Family Activity Night couldn't happen without the efforts of the PTA and your overwhelming support! Thank you for continuing to support Kenwood School and helping enrich our young learners' early educational experience.

The PTA is seeking a tech-savvy person(s) to join the 2018-2019 Kenwood Auction Committee! (The Kenwood Auction is scheduled for February 23, 2019). Major responsibilities include preparing a PowerPoint slide show for the Live Auction, as well as providing as-needed technical support during auction (computer) set-up and actual auction time. Please contact Sarah Kreykes [sarah.kreykes@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.kreykes@gmail.com), Coryn Petersen [corynpetersen@gmail.com](mailto:corynpetersen@gmail.com) or Jane Wolke [wolke.jane@gmail.com](mailto:wolke.jane@gmail.com) if you are interested or to learn more!

Bundle up, enjoy the last few days of fall, and mark your calendars for the upcoming Family Activity Night, on Thursday, November 15! Details to come!

Best,

Coryn Petersen & Jane Wolke

Co-Presidents, Kenwood PTA

---

**Minneapolis Public Schools require that all volunteers going on school field trips submit an online Background Check form. It can take 5-10 days (or longer) to process your request, so do not wait too long!**

Background checks are valid for 2 years from the date they were approved. A link to the form can be found on the Kenwood website or contact Lori Smith at [kenwoodcommunitycoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:kenwoodcommunitycoordinator@gmail.com) for instructions.

### Referendum News

It's election season! Here's the information you need related to your ballot and Minneapolis Public Schools. This November, Minneapolis voters will have the choice to vote on providing an additional \$30 million annually in our students. The funds will be used across the district to improve student achievement and well-being through equitable investments in literacy, social emotional learning, and support services. These funds will also help reduce future budget cuts and reductions in services to students across Minneapolis. Learn more here: [mpls.k12.mn.us/referendum](http://mpls.k12.mn.us/referendum)

Did you know you can vote before Election Day by absentee ballot for any reason? Early voting began on Sept. 21. To locate early voting in-person sites or get information about voting by mail, visit <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/>

### Calendar Survey

Last week, the district emailed a link to a calendar survey, regarding proposed school calendars for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022 school years. If you are interested in taking the survey, please visit [http://mpls.k12.mn.us/calendar\\_survey.html](http://mpls.k12.mn.us/calendar_survey.html)

### Parents as Partners Needs You!

Join other parents, grandparents, and community members and volunteer for Parents as Partners, our volunteer math enrichment program. Volunteers enjoy the program because it is a chance to be in the classroom and an opportunity to meet other Kenwood parents and students. This program is run entirely by volunteers, and we need quite a few people in order to run the program at multiple grade levels.

If you are looking to do even more for the program, we also need grade level leads to coordinate the volunteers and produce the packets each week in grades 1, 2, or 3. It only takes about 30 extra minutes a week and materials are provided for you. If you are interested in volunteering in any way with the program, please contact Ben Nelson at [papkenwood@gmail.com](mailto:papkenwood@gmail.com). Parents as Partners will meet at the following times:

- Grade 1 – Fridays, 8:15 - 8:45am
- Grade 2 – Wednesdays, 8:15 - 8:45am
- Grade 3 – Thursdays, 8:15 - 8:45am
- Grade 5 – Fridays, 9:30 - 10:00am

### Art Adventure

In partnership with the Minneapolis Institute of Art, we are pleased to bring Art Adventure to Kenwood during November and December. Thank you to the 18 volunteers who are attending training at the MIA and will be implementing the lessons in the classrooms as well as the PTA for sponsoring the program. This year's focus will be "Cultural Reflections in Art".

Art Adventure is a program that engages students with artworks from the Minneapolis Institute of Art's collection. The program encourages creativity, critical thinking and global awareness through in-depth explorations of art across various cultures and time periods. Art Adventure is an opportunity for students to experience art up close and personal through reproductions, technology and touch-and-feel props. For more information, please visit <https://new.artsmia.org/>

### Kenwood Read-A-Thon starts Today

*Fall Into a Good Book* with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kenwood Read-A-Thon! All students are asked to set a goal and read (or be read to) from October 22<sup>nd</sup> – November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students receive prizes for participating in the event and achieving the minimum reading goal of 240 total minutes. All participating students will be entered into a raffle for extra prizes. Top Prizes (a Kindle Fire) will go to the two students who read the most minutes and the two students who raise the most money. The class with the most participation will win a classroom celebration. There is also the chance to earn lunch with Principal Johnson! Check out the Read-A-Thon packet that came home last week in folders for more detailed information.

Sponsors can pledge an amount per minute or a flat donation. 100% of the money collected will go to Kenwood PTA, which supports our arts programs. Last year, Kenwood kids read 84,284 combined minutes and raised over \$12,500! Thank you to parents Beth Mason and Rachelle Morken for organizing this fun event.

Looking for a book to read during the event? Check out the Free Little Library in the atrium and grab or trade a book. Have extra books? Drop them off for someone else to enjoy.

Get reading Kenwood Kids!

### School Tours

School tours for prospective families for the 2019-2020 school year will begin in November. If you know anyone who is interested in a tour of Kenwood, please have them contact Lori Smith at [kenwoodcommunitycoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:kenwoodcommunitycoordinator@gmail.com)

## Calendar

Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Galactic Pizza – Dining for Dollars, 11am - midnight  
\*must show flyer

Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

Science Fair Open House

Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> & Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

NO SCHOOL – Teacher record keeping

Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>

Chipotle (on Hennepin) – Dining for Dollars, 5 - 9pm

Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

Family Activity Night  
(Barn Dance, Scholastic Book Fair, Art Showing)

Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

Give to the Max Day – GiveMN.org

Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

Picture Retakes

Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>

NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Holiday