

# 13 Kenwood Courier

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## Our Newsletter for Families

Kenwood Elementary School  
2013 Penn Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55405  
kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us 612-668-2760

### FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL...

#### Thank you to everyone involved with the "Kenwood In Vegas" Auction.

It was a wonderful event. I applaud the auction team and volunteers for all of their hard work. The money raised from this night will support and strengthen our commitment to maintaining the mission of Smarts + Arts at Kenwood. The Kenwood School community is amazing!

#### Spring is almost here and so is

**MCA testing.** All state assessments will be taken online. Students have already started the reading sections; with math following later next month. 5th graders will also take the science assessment before the MCA window closes in

May. The schedule for testing is posted on the Kenwood School Website. Thank you for sending your student well rested and prepared to do their best.

**School Attendance** – Daylight savings time quietly sauntered into our homes



on Sunday, March 12, 2017. We continue to see a new trend of students arriving to school after 7:30 a.m. **Our official start time begins at 7:30 am.** Students are expected to be in their classrooms and ready to be a part of the Responsive Classroom Morning Meeting routine. Hennepin County requires us to report our attendance data. Daily school attendance is the focus of the State of Minnesota Compulsory Attendance laws and legislation by Hennepin County. Unexcused absences, (i.e. those absences not acknowledged by a note or telephone call) are subject to school district truancy/attendance procedures.

#### Our Kenwood School handbook

clearly outlines the school and district attendance policy. Please review the following statement on attendance:

**Regular attendance is important to school success. It is expected that a student will**



**attend daily and will be on time.** Please call the school office before 8:00 a.m. when your child is absent (612) 668-2780. When a student returns to school after an absence or tardiness, please send a note stating the child's name, classroom number or teacher's name, and the reason for absence or tardiness, with a parent or guardian signature. This information must be received within the week of the intended school absence.

**If you are taking a family vacation,** a vacation form needs to be filled out 10 days prior to the event. Daily school attendance is the focus of the State of Minnesota Compulsory Attendance laws and legislation by Hennepin County. Unexcused absences, are subject to school truancy/attendance procedures.

*Thank you for your continued support. I am so proud to be a part of this school.*

**Kind regards,**

### KENWOOD SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATE 2017

On March 9th, Ronald Wagner, K-8 West Area Superintendent, Jim Liston from Student Accounting, and Tammy Frederickson and Kate McKay from the MPS Finance Department, answered questions and concerns from Site Council members and parents about enrollment projections and trends, funding formulas, and class size. It is important to note that the Minneapolis district has a budget shortfall of \$28 million. As a result, all schools in the MPS district are faced with a 2.5% cut, and there is a proposed cut of 10% at the Central Office. Kenwood does not receive Title I funds, therefore, we are challenged by the lack of federal funds directed to schools with a higher poverty index than Kenwood. A school's poverty index is determined by its Free and Reduced Lunch ratio. Kenwood's Free and Reduced Lunch ratio is 21.5% for this school year.

The Kenwood budget is a combination of complicated enrollment trends, lack of federal Title I funding, and a 2.5%

reduction in this year's budget allocation. Comparing last year's allocated budget of \$3,011,843.00 and the allocation for 2017-18 of \$2,713,722.00, it is clear that our school is faced with difficult decisions to make on behalf our students. We must create a budget with a substantial decrease in operating funds. For next school year, Minneapolis Public Schools has funded Kenwood School for 16 teachers. We are currently funded at 17 teachers for this year. The Site Council, teachers, and the community are engaged in discussions on how to meet the needs of our students with the budget allocated to us.

Reductions in staffing will be necessary. It is too early for me to identify where the reductions will occur. Before final decisions are made, I want to reassure you that the best interest of all Kenwood students will be at the heart and soul of our conversations.

A small delegation of Kenwood Parents met on March 16th with Micheal Thomas,

Chief of Academics, Learning & Leadership, Associate Superintendent Ron Wagner and other district officials to present concerns and options for next year. Parents reported that it was a productive meeting and that we need to lean forward and push towards 17 teachers for next year and make a concerted effort to maintain and recruit Kenwood families. This message was shared at our Community Meeting. Thank you to all the parents who have taken a special interest in looking at our enrollment numbers and asking grounded questions to our district leadership. Thank you to the Kenwood Site Council for all of their hard work on our behalf.

Thank you for your vote of confidence as we move forward with a challenging budget. I respect the voices of advocacy for all students and welcome your comments and concerns. The deadline for Kenwood School to submit the 2017-18 budget is March 24, 2017.

# Kenwood Media Center News

In **Media class**, Kenwood students have been doing a lot of research and sharing their research.

For research the **3-5 graders** have been using **PebbleGo Next**, **African American Registry** and other links provided on the Student Learning Resources page. That includes **Destiny**, **Encyclopedia Britannica**, and **CultureGrams** as well as additional databases available through **ELM**. They have been using **Comic Life**, **PowerPoint**, **Google Slides**, **Google Drawing** and **Google Docs** to write up and share their information. **Google Drive** is an excellent way for your child to work on school projects at home. It is affiliated with Mpls. Public Schools so it must be accessed through the district website or the link provided on the **Kenwood Media Page**. <http://kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us/Media.html>

**Students in K-2** have been using **PebbleGo**. **PebbleGo** is a database with information about Animals, Biographies, Science, Social Studies, and Dinosaurs.

**Blogging:** Students in grades 2-3 have been blogging. I have set up blogs using **Kidblog**. It is a secure site that can only be accessed by students and the teacher. Here's a bit of information from the site.

"**Kidblog** provides teachers with the tools to help students safely navigate the digital – and increasingly social – online landscape. **Kidblog** allows students to exercise digital citizenship within a secure, private classroom blogging space. **Kidblog's** security features put safety first":

- Teachers have administrative control over all student blogs and student accounts.
- Your students' blogs are private by default – viewable only by classmates and the teacher. Teachers can elect to make posts public, while still moderating all content.
- **Kidblog** is fully **COPPA** compliant and does not require any personal information from students."

Students can blog from home by going to the **Kenwood Media webpage** (<http://kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us/Media.html>) and clicking on the blogging links. They log in by selecting their name and using their school password.

**Keyboarding:** With all of this writing students have also been

working on Keyboarding. **2nd graders** start with the school based program **Type to Learn 4**. **3-5 graders** use the web based program **The Typing Club** and **The Typing Club Jungle**. They log in using their school username and password.

**Coding:** In December students participated in "**The Hour of Code**" to get a taste of what programming or coding is like. They continue to be popular sites to explore.

**Wixie:** New this year, **Wixie** is a web based drawing program. Students access it from the Kenwood Media page and use their school username and password to get in. Students from K to 5 have used it for an assortment of assignments from drawing hats to Timelines to Brochures. Please a look at it with your student(s).

**MackinVia**, is the main site for our school's eBooks. They are available from home by downloading the **MackinVia app**. You can find out more information at this site. <http://www.mackin.com/ESERVICES/MACKIN-VIA.aspx>

In addition we have added some **Capstone Interactive eBooks**. Please take a look at our collection at [www.mycapstonelibrary.com](http://www.mycapstonelibrary.com) and log in with our school-wide user name and password. Login: **MPSKenwood** Password: **interactive**

**Book Awards:** Students in **grades 3-5** continue to participate in the **Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award** chosen by the students of Minnesota. By reading at least three of the nominated books students are able to cast their vote for their favorite and participate in a voting party at the end of March. The winner is announce in April. This year the students in **K-2** also participated in a Minnesota book award, **The Star of the North**. After listening and viewing the nominees the students selected "The Red Crayon" by Michael Hall as the winner for our school. We will find out the state-wide winner in April also.



Our students are wonderful readers, continuing to check out books every week. If they return or renew their books on their Media day they are able to check out an additional book in grades 1-5. Please remind your students to return their book(s) on their Media day.

**Thank you for your help and support.**

Joan Kallas  
Kenwood Media Specialist

## Student Learning Resources Online

Go to this link to reach all of these helpful tools for kids  
<http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/learningresources>

- At home login for **CULTUREGRAMS** and **TEACHING BOOKS**:  
username: mpls password: inspires
- **TUMBLEBOOK CLOUD/TUMBLEBOOK PREMIUM LOGIN**: username: mpls password: login
- For **ELM RESOURCES** and **RESEARCH PROJECT CALCULATOR**, use your public library card.
- **PEBBLEGO/PEBBLEGO NEXT LOGIN**:  
username: mps password: mps



### DATABASES AVAILABLE ONLINE

- DESTINY** — Search all Minneapolis Public School libraries from school and home.
- CULTURE GRAMS** — Country and state information including cultural perspectives
- AFRICAN AMERICAN REGISTRY** — The largest African American History website in the world!
- BRITANICA SCHOOL** — Comprehensive up-to-date online encyclopedia with versions for elementary, middle and high school students.
- ELM: Resources for Kids: Grades K-5** — KidsInfoBits: information in all subjects.
- ELM4You:** Databases, video clips, magazines, newspapers @ your fingertips, includes links for teens from 6-12
- AskMN** — Get real-time answers from a librarian 24/7.
- RESEARCH PROJECT CALCULATOR** — Developing cool tools for Minnesota secondary school students and teachers.

### BOOKS & EBOOKS

- TEACHINGBOOKS.NET** — An easy-to-use website that adds a multimedia dimension to the reading experiences of children's and young adult books.
- TUMBLEBOOK CLOUD** — This collection for upper elementary and middle school readers has 125 Read-Along titles of picture books, early readers, chapter books, middle school readers, YA/teen Novels, children's classics, classics and Shakespeare.
- TUMBLEBOOK PREMIUM** — Online books for elementary and ELL students to listen and read-along; in English, Spanish & French.

### OTHER RESOURCES

- MYMPS:** Online content for your classroom courses

## CALENDAR

**Thursday, March 30**

Third Quarter ends

**Friday, March 31- Friday, April 7**

NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK

**Monday, April 10**

School resumes

Fourth Quarter begins

**Tuesday, April 17**

Pits & Alleys starts in the gym

**Wednesday, May 3**

International Bike/Walk to School Day

**Friday, May 19**

Kenwood Plant Sale Pick-up

**Saturday, May 20**

Kenwood School Picnic

**Have A Great  
Spring Break!  
Enjoy Time With  
Your Family.**

