

# Kenwood Courier

# 4

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## Our Newsletter for Families

Kenwood Elementary School  
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The PTA is always concerned that we make too many "asks"

## FROM YOUR PTA CO-PRESIDENTS...

The leaves are starting to change and parent teacher conferences are starting tomorrow. Remember that there is no school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week. Enjoy the time off with your family — and take advantage of the great fall weather.

**Bike/Walk to School Day** — It was a great weather day for this fun event — even the Principal rode her bike to school!



There were over 65 bikes locked up – bikers/scooters & walkers signed the mural hanging up outside. Bus riders signed the mural too after participating in a quick activity on the playground when they got off the bus. Thank you Chris Madden for organizing this day and parent volunteers for helping to pass out stickers and coordinate the mural signing.

**Family Activity Night** — Don't miss this popular community building event on November 12th. There will be a FREE pasta dinner in the Multi-Purpose Room, a Barn Dance and the Scholastic Book Fair. More details will be coming home soon.

**Money, money, money** — We often hear, "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. We can do this because of all your help. The money we raise is distributed as follows. Each year the PTA gives teachers resources for classroom

supplies as well as \$5000 for each grade to fund artist residencies selected by teachers (i.e. African drumming and Stepping Stones Children's Theater). We also give \$10,000 for residencies that benefit the entire school – Midwest Food Connection and Roots Traditional Dance are just two examples). This year we paid the salary for the band director and cover postage for welcome letters, expenses for the school tours, safety patrol and many community-building events like the Ice Cream Social, Family Activity Night and other needs that pop-up throughout the school year. This year the PTA plans to spend approximately \$175 per student.

**Again this year, Kenwood School will be participating in Give to the Max Day (November 12th)**, a national day of online fundraising. All money raised is given directly to Kenwood School to support our academic and arts enrichment. Last year, parents and community members donated just over \$24,000 to Kenwood School. These monies were used by teachers to purchase items for the classroom and to ensure our band and music programs were fully funded this year. Currently, the PTA is working closely with the newly formed Budget Committee to determine if there will be another budget shortfall this year and if so — what will the extent be and how will it impact our school. We will play a lead role in coordinating fundraising activities to support a full academic program at Kenwood.

**for money.** However, we have done several fundraising surveys throughout the years and the results tell us we should continue on our same path – multiple options throughout the year. However, you can always make a direct donation to the PTA as opposed to participating in the fundraiser. We also know that all families cannot participate in all fundraisers – that is OK. If we all do what we can, Kenwood will continue to be a great community for all families.

**All donations to the PTA that do not involve a product or service received are tax deductible.** If you feel that the variety of fundraisers do not meet your needs you can make an annual contribution to the PTA. Checks can be made out to Kenwood PTA (with annual contribution on the memo line) and put in the PTA box in the office. Annual contributions are fully tax deductible.

**To all those parents who are helping with conference meals** for teachers this week — we really appreciate it and so do the teachers.

*Thank you for being such an involved group of parents! Last year we had over 350 parents volunteer at Kenwood School. Let's keep up the good work!*

*Anna Schmalzbauer & Julie Coykendall*

## Kenwood Green Team & School Gardens

The Kenwood School Green team is a group of volunteer parents, sponsored by the PTA, that coordinates environmental friendly initiatives such as:



- 1). The Kenwood School Flower and Veggie Garden, helping kids grow since 2010
- 3). Leading hikes in East Cedar Lake Park
- 4). The Kenwood Rummage & Reuse Sale which in June 2015 earned over \$1100 for the Principal's Fund
- 5) The new Stone Poem Rain Garden built this year.

**Thank you** to the 20 families who maintained the vegetable and fairy garden over the summer.

### The new Stone Poem Rain Garden

In January 2015, Kenwood Elementary School received a Cynthia Krieg grant from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to develop a watershed curriculum and excavate/plant a raingarden at Kenwood Corner. Raingardens are purposeful landscaping featuring deeply rooted pesticide-free native plants which promote pollinators and depressed basins that capture storm water which protects the lakes. The recently completed garden includes a sculpted stepping stone path by Zoran Mojsilov which features an engraved poem by

Louise Erdrich. Partners involved or advising/supporting on this project: Kenwood parent Angie Erdrich, Louise Erdrich, Zoran, Metro Blooms, Rich Harrison, landscape architect and volunteer, the Kenwood Isles Area Association, Kenwood 5th grade teachers, Joan Freese (Master Water Steward), Heid Erdrich (curator), Keith Prussing of the Cedar Lake Park Association, Principal Aura Wharton-Beck, The Kenwood School Green Team, Nancy Hope, Todd Bockley and Bockley Gallery, the Conservation Corps as well as generous local art patrons and DNR educators working with Joan Freese.

The new raingarden has been designed with 8 basins and 22 infiltration columns that are 4 feet deep. 5th grade students are now learning about watershed in the new garden.

To learn more about the project, visit the Facebook Event "Kenwood Stone Poem Rain Garden at the creative Intersection of Artistic Mania and Storm Water Mitigation."

The story of Stone Poem Rain Garden was recently aired on the KFAI radio broadcast, Art Matters. There is an interview with the artist, Zoran Mojsilov and project coordinator and 3rd grade Kenwood Parent, Dr. Angela Erdrich. Many thanks to the skillful Marya Morstad, Radio Producer for KFAI, for the honor of being able to talk about this project on the air!

**Join the Kenwood Green Team.** Contact Kenwood Parent Angie Erdrich at [angie\\_sandee@yahoo.com](mailto:angie_sandee@yahoo.com) if you would be a part of this exciting group.

## Easy Money for Kenwood

Here are some easy ways to send extra \$\$\$ to Kenwood School. **Please note that we are NOT endorsing or pushing particular businesses or products.** But if you already shop at these stores or have these items on your grocery list, we simply ask that you take advantage of the bonuses offered to schools. The money raised pays for supplies used in the office and PTA school events — and the money really adds up.

### Target's Take Charge of Education Program:

This is free money! Target will donate 1% of all purchases charged on your Target card. Go to [target.com/tcoe](http://target.com/tcoe) and designate Kenwood as your "school of choice". Friends & family anywhere in the country can do this too. Last year we earned over \$2,000 for the school. If you are a Target shopper, please join up!

### General Mills BoxTop\$ for Education:

We are continuing the BoxTop\$ for Education program this year so clip those BoxTops and send them to school. They are worth 10¢ a piece. BoxTops are found on brands such as Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Kleenex, Hefty, Ziploc and more. Go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) to find a complete list of participating products. Last year we earned almost \$600 for the general PTA fund. Put your **clipped BoxTops** in Chris Madden's mailbox. Our first deadline of the year is October 28th.



### Holy Land Products:

Look for 25 cent donation coupons on packages of hummus & baba ghanouj from this northeast Minneapolis deli.

### Kowalski's Market on Hennepin:

Kenwood School has a receipt deposit bin at Kowalski's Market on Hennepin Avenue. This is part of their Groceries for Good Causes program. It is meant to help nonprofit organizations like schools. Customers place their receipts in labeled boxes at the front of the store. **A donation is made quarterly based on the total number of receipts (not the amount of money spent) collected in each charity's bin** So next time you shop at Kowalski's — please remember to put your receipt in the Kenwood box. Thank you!

### \*\*\*PLEASE NOTE:

We are **NOT** participating in the "Labels for Education" program. This is different than **BoxTops for Education** and does not have a reward program that is worth our time and effort (i.e. 500 labels yields one basketball).

**Minneapolis Public Schools now require that all parent volunteers going on School Fieldtrips submit a Criminal Background Check form by mail to the district along with a \$5 fee.**

**This background check is good for two years from the date it was approved.**

Note: It takes 5-10 days for processing. Forms are available in the school office.

## Innisbrook Update:

The Innisbrook Wrap and Gift Sale extended to **October 19th!**

It is simple to order:

- Submit both copies of your order along with your payment. Please note that a copy of your order form will be included with your Innisbrook items which will be delivered on November 13th.
- Make check payable to: Kenwood PTA.
- Please go to [www.innisbrook.com/user/102246](http://www.innisbrook.com/user/102246) if you wish to order online. Shipping is \$7.50 but is FREE with a \$125 order.

If you prefer to opt out of selling Innisbrook products and choose to make a donation instead, please fill out the opt out form that was included with the Innisbrook catalog. A suggested donation would be \$50 per child. However, any donation is welcome. If you choose this option, 100% of your tax-deductible donation will benefit the school.

Delivery date is Friday, November 13th.



## MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – PARENTS as PARTNERS

Parents as Partners is a math enrichment volunteer program at Kenwood. As a volunteer you will work with a small group of students every week for 30min in your child's grade level to reinforce math concepts that the students are learning in the classroom. Students love the program and look forward to it immensely. Volunteers enjoy the program because it is a chance to be in the classroom and an opportunity to meet other Kenwood parents. Each grade level depends on around 20 volunteers each year. That is 100 people who commit to working with Kenwood Students for the school year!

We would love for you to be one of those volunteers. We are on our final push to guarantee that each grade level will have enough volunteers to run a Parents as Partners program this year. Please look over the times below and email Mindy Glover at [papkenwood@gmail.com](mailto:papkenwood@gmail.com) to let her know if you can be a FT or PT volunteer or are interested in being a substitute.

1st Grade: Fridays, 9:00am – 9:30am

2nd Grade Wednesdays, 7:45am – 8:15am

3rd Grade: Thursdays, 7:45am – 8:15am

4th Grade: Fridays, 7:45am – 8:15am

5th Grade: Fridays, 7:45am – 8:15am

TRAINING for the Parents as Partners:

Grades 1, 2 & 3 - Wednesday, October 21, 7:30am – 8am MEDIA ROOM

Grades 4 & 5 - Wednesday, October 28, 7:30am – 8am MEDIA ROOM

TO THE MAX  
**give DAY**

NOV 12, 2015

We need your help!  
**November 12th is our opportunity to Give to the Max for Kenwood School**

as we will be participating in this wonderful 24 hours of philanthropy for the second time! We have an opportunity to raise funds for academic enrichment at Kenwood. More details soon, but please keep this in mind as you plan your charitable contributions.



## CALENDAR

### Tuesday, October 13

Parent-Teacher Conferences  
2:30 – 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, October 14

NO SCHOOL – Parent-Teacher Conferences  
7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### Thursday, October 15 & Friday, October 16

NO SCHOOL – MEA: Statewide Teacher Professional Days

### Monday, October 19

Innisbrook orders are due

### Thursday, October 22

Site Council Meeting  
4:00 – 5:30 p.m. — Media Center

### Friday, October 23

Picture Day

### Wednesday, October 28

Spotlights  
8:00 a.m. – Multipurpose Room  
1:00 p.m. – Multipurpose Room  
*Note: Each is a separate show.*

### Thursday, October 29 & Friday, October 30

NO SCHOOL

### Thursday, November 12

Family Activity Night  
Give To The Max Day  
PICTURE RETAKE DAY  
Native American Involvement Day

### Friday, November 13

Innisbrook Delivery Date

### Wednesday, November 25, Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27

NO SCHOOL — Thanksgiving Holiday