

7 Kenwood Courier

DECEMBER 5 2016
ISSUE NUMBER 7

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...

4th Grade Survey Day 2016

As part of a unit using the scientific method, Kenwood fourth grade students engaged in an all-school survey on November 30th. This inquiry-based learning activity, which is an annual project, showcased a variety of interests and genres. Here are a few of the typical questions I answered during survey day:

There were a wide range of questions about food choices, favorite holidays, type of music, etc.

What is your favorite dessert?

(cupcakes, ice cream, pie, cake)

What is your favorite December holiday?

(Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan)

What is your favorite type of music?

(jazz, ballet, hip-hop, tap)

What is your favorite birthstone?

(diamond, turquoise, aquamarine, peridot)

What is your favorite type of shoe?

(Flip-flops, Converse, Cleats, sneakers)

What would your favorite vacation be?

(Water Park, the mountains, the beach, or African safari)

Data analysis serves as the core of this exercise as students learn to tabulate data, create graphs, and present their data. Graphs will be on display on December 9th. As students create spreadsheets and manipulate the data, they discover how to interpret mathematical terms of mean, mode, and median. They learn that math has practical applications when real data is used in their daily lives. This early exposure to using statistics builds confidence in our young scholars. This annual survey project is interdisciplinary in nature and requires students to work across the curriculum to develop research questions on a topic of interest. As they read text, record factual information, design survey questions, analyze data graphs with statistical findings, and evaluate hypotheses, they transform raw data into meaningful information. Because of the high level of enthusiasm generated through this process, I would not be surprised if a few of our Kenwood students used their skills in the future to influence policy changes in America.

10th Annual Room 117 performance of "Where the Wild Things Are",

Maurice Sendak's classic children's book, came alive in Ms. Cathy Sullivan's room! With minimal prompting from their teacher, our kindergarten students recited the iconic lines from this 1964 Caldecott Medal award book with determination & tenacity. To add to my surprise and enjoyment, the students remained in character as the audience applauded their efforts. Intuitively and on cue they

marched around the room displaying their wild behavior for the people who love them the most...their own parents and grandparents!

This fall Kenwood 1st grade students are enjoying a six week long African Drumming residency with Ghana Mbaye, affectionately known as Brother Ghana. They are learning call and response drum patterns and songs, as well as dances. Our students are making connections



in academic areas such as patterning and counting, and they even have time for a bit of World Studies as

they question Brother Ghana about his childhood and education in Senegal. Ghana Mbaye is a teacher at the WISE school in North Minneapolis, and travels around the state leading drumming residencies. The 1st grade students will be sharing their knowledge in a performance with Brother Ghana on December 15th at 7:50 a.m. Kindergartners will start a residency with him next month.

The annual Barn Dance Residency

officially called the "Roots Dance residency" culminated on the night of Thursday, November 17. This signature event capped the students' two weeks of work with Dr. Bob Walser. A renowned ethnomusicologist, (and newly elected School Board member), Dr. Bob brings a unique and world class experience to this annual residency. He shared his knowledge of folk music to weave a common understanding of the universality of this music. It is through

dance, movement, and rhythm that our students quickly begin to connect the dots that folk music can serve as a platform for reconciliation, tolerance, and social justice. Over 700 students, Kenwood alumna, friends, and families joined us for an evening of festive music and dancing. Bob and his musical accompanists played "Sasha," "Zudio" (a singing game from the Afro-American playground tradition), "Akisodo," "Angelina Baker," "Seven Step" and "Kinderpolka" from Whoopee John. The evening ended on a high note when our fifth grade students proudly marched into the gym dressed with red sashes and "swords" for the Sword Dance, an annual Kenwood rite of passage. Our arts residencies are made possible through the generosity of our Kenwood



PTA. A special note of appreciation to *The Lowry* Restaurant for providing a delicious pasta dinner for this fun family evening!

Give to the MAX – Thank you to

our Kenwood parents and families who generously raised over

give to the MAX

NOV. 17, 2016

\$5000, which will be used by all teachers to support instruction. Your support continues to make an indelible mark on our community of learners. Thank you to the team of Julie Coykendall, Coryn Petersen, Cindy White, Christy Kujawa & Lori Smith for coordinating this day of giving.

The Scholastic Book fair successfully sold over \$9000 worth of books that will provide \$2250 for our media specialist, Joan Kallas to use towards tools and resources for the Media Center to benefit all Kenwood Kids. Thank you to Kirsten Anderson, Lisa Thompson, Cindy White, and Heather Wulfsberg for transforming our Media Center into a mini-bookstore for our students. Thank you to all the families who shopped at the book fair.

Thank you for supporting Kenwood.

Sincerely,

If you have a child ready for kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year — you must fill out a Request Card.

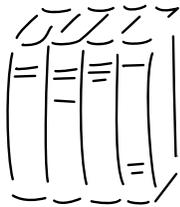
Request Cards are available ONLINE on the MPS school district website on RIGHT NOW!

School Request Cards are due February 4th, 2017!

(Even if the child has older siblings at Kenwood, you must fill out a request card.)

Book Sale

Mrs. Gregory & her third grade students are gearing up for their annual **Kenwood Used Book sale**. If you can



donate any children's books, please start sending them in with your child. Baskets for books will be set up outside of Mrs. Gregory's Classroom – Room 221 and in the atrium. **The sale will be Thursday and Friday December 15th & 16th in the third grade hallway.** All proceeds of the sale will go update the book selections for the Kenwood School Book Room. The Book Room is a small room on the second floor which houses multiple copies of books for book club use in all Kenwood classrooms.

Holiday Boxes

A flyer went home last week about participating in this great Kenwood tradition of helping another family in our school community. We will need assistance in assembling the boxes on the morning of Wednesday, December 14th in the art room hallway. If you can help, contact Chris Madden at christine.madden@mpls.k12.mn.us. **If your family would like to receive a food box this year, please don't be shy about calling Michele Edwins at 612-668-2784 to request one.** She can also share information about other holiday resources that may be helpful for your family.



Anthony Middle School Tours are starting now.

Anthony Middle School is Kenwood Elementary School's pathway middle school. Visit their website <http://anthony.mpls.k12.mn.us/> and contact them to sign up for a school tour.

The Kenwood Auction will be February 25th.

The annual Kenwood School Silent & Live Auction will be happening on Saturday, February 25th so mark your calendar and line up your babysitter. **This special evening is the PTA's biggest fundraiser of the year — last year we raised over \$50,000 for the school.** The money raised from this event helps to support all of our arts residencies — part of what makes Kenwood School so special. This fun event needs many volunteers so if you would like to get involved, contact auction co-chairs, Cindy Docteur White (cindy_brett@hotmail.com) & Melanie LaMere (lameremel@yahoo.com).

Winter Choir Concert has been rescheduled to January 24

There will be a short choir concert on Tuesday, January 24th at 7:45 a.m. in the multi-purpose room. It would be helpful if your son or daughter has breakfast before school and arrives to check in at his or her classroom no later than 7:30 a.m.

If you are in need for resources for holidays, please contact our school social worker Michele Edwins at 612-668-2784

School Play

The 4th & 5th grade school musical this year is *Beauty & The Beast*. 65 students are participating in the play. Kudos to the directors — music teacher Cindi Quehl & alumni parent Kathleen Bloom for finding parts for everyone! You can get updates about the play by visiting the Kenwood website. Performances on February 15th & 16th.

KENWOOD SCHOOL WEEKLY E-BLASTS

The best way to keep informed about what is happening school-wide.

This is an opt-in list. To get on this valuable e-mail list please contact Family Liaison Chris Madden, christine.madden@mpls.k12.mn.us

E-blasts are sent out every Monday with occasional extra reminders for important information & events.

Kenwood Tours

School Tours are happening now for parents of children starting Kindergarten in the Fall of 2016. If you know someone interested in a tour of Kenwood Elementary School, have them contact Kenwood School Family Liaison Chris Madden at christine.madden@mpls.k12.mn.us. The 2017-18 MPS School Request Cards for Kindergarten are due on February 4, 2017. You can do this online on the MPS website. Kenwood School will also be having an information night for Prospective Parents on Monday, January 23rd.

Donations of waterproof gloves & mittens are desperately needed! (Larger sizes are preferable.) THANK YOU!!!!

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.

Please remember to send your kids dressed for the cold weather. Students go outside for recess every day unless the temperature is below zero or the wind chill is below zero.



Remember to label your child's winter gear and check the Lost & Found often for lost items!

CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 14

Holiday Food Box contributions are due at school by 8:00 a.m. Assembly begins.

Thursday & Friday, December 15-16

Room 221 Used Book Sale

Monday, December 19 - Monday, January 2

NO SCHOOL — Winter Break

Tuesday, January 3

School Resumes

Friday, January 13

MLK Assembly 8:00 a.m.

Monday, December 19 through

Monday, January 2

NO SCHOOL — Winter Break

Monday, January 3

School Resumes

Friday, January 13

MLK Assembly 8:00 a.m. in the gym

Monday, January 16

NO SCHOOL — Record Keeping Day

Tuesday, January 24

RESCHEDULED Winter Choir Concert 7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. multi-purpose room

Wednesday, January 25

Spotlights

8:15 a.m. — Multipurpose Room

1:00 p.m. — Multipurpose Room

Note: Each is a separate show.

Friday, January 27

NO SCHOOL

Monday, January 30

NO SCHOOL