

## Our Newsletter for Families

Kenwood Elementary School  
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## FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL...

### Kenwood School Students Honor and Remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

My childhood memories of Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement flooded my thoughts as I listened to the entire Kenwood School student body triumphantly sing a litany of Freedom Songs on Thursday, January 15th.



I listened intently as I watched the faces of our diverse student body, and tears rolled down my face. I believe that Dr. King would be proud of how our students routinely demonstrate respect, compassion, and acceptance of each other. The diversity among our students and the high degree of acceptance of all cultures at Kenwood School serve as a model for Dr. King's dream. Through selected vignettes and musical tributes, Kenwood students re-enacted pivotal scenes from Dr. King's childhood. Kenwood students provided the audience with meaningful context for how particular events in his life were shaped. I remain in awe at how Kenwood students continue to demonstrate and live out Dr. King's legacy. We owe a debt of gratitude to the organizers of this year's MLK Celebration: teachers Cynthia Quehl, Darwin Lee, Margaret Swenson, Julie Young-Walser, Steve Cornelius, Jens Holmboe, Stephanie

Green, Bailey Rasmussen and Mike Robinson, and Kenwood parents and guest musicians, Tim Brunnelle and Ken Brahmstedt! During the month of February, our Kenwood Student Council leaders and all students will engage in a school-wide day of service. Kenwood students will be making blankets for the Minneapolis Children's Hospital. Thank you for inspiring our students to live Dr. King's dream and to carry on his legacy of hope and equality for all Americans.

### Today Kenwood 5th graders' depart on their annual Eagle Bluff field trip.

Students and chaperones pack their sleeping bags, journals, and necessary winter gear for four days of intense environmental seminars. Under the supervision of our 5th grade teachers, our School Social Worker and parent chaperones, Kenwood students will spend 4 days and 3 nights at Eagle Bluff which is located in Lanesboro, Minnesota. During these four days, they will broaden their appreciation and knowledge of the environment, learn critical team-building and problem-solving skills, and strengthen their understanding of the importance of respecting our natural environment. The Eagle Bluff field trip has been organized by teacher Darwin Lee



who, for over 15 years, has led students through this dynamic hands-on experience.

### February 3rd — CONNECT CONCERT

For Kenwood students in grades 1-5, the music of Mozart, Vaughan Williams, Beethoven, and Copeland will come alive during this performance by the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. This narrated orchestra concert will explore the various styles of music from these dynamic composers. Prior to the concert, guest artists from the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra perform for Kenwood students. Additionally, during their vocal music class, Ms. Quehl will teach the elements of rhythm, melody, and harmony. Look for your child's copy of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Connect magazine. This is one example of how Kenwood School continues to reinforce our commitment to "educating the heart and the head" of our wonderful students.

**Book Sale Results:** The third annual used book sale was a huge success. The sale made \$400.00. This money will be used to buy sets of books for the Kenwood Resource Book Room. Thanks to all the families who donated books and purchased books! A special thank you goes to third grade teacher Deb Gregory for organizing this successful sale every year.



**February is I Love to read Month!** During the month of February, students will be engaged in an all school-read aloud using the book, 28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World. Each day, Kenwood students will read and learn about twenty-eight exceptional events that changed the course of Black history in America.

**Ushering in a new year creates a space for us to make resolutions.** This year, my New Year's resolution is to work closely with our Site Council and PTA to develop a viable and transparent system to address the 2016-17 school budget. The Kenwood Site Council, PTA, and a budget task force have already made significant progress towards making this resolution a reality. We are hosting a **community meeting on February 4th at 6:00 p.m.** to discuss our budget options. We value your comments, questions and recommendations. In the end, we remain committed to our motto of **SMARTS + ARTS = Kenwood.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Aura Wharton-Beck, Kenwood Principal

## Kenwood School Night Out At

**nico's**  
**Taco bar**

**Tuesday, January 26th**  
**11:00 am to 11:00 pm**

Treat yourself and your family to a fun dinner out at Nico's Taco Bar – owned by a Kenwood family.

**2516 Hennepin Avenue South (612) 345-7688**

Just mention Kenwood School and Nico's Taco Bar will donate proceeds of all Kenwood sales to Kenwood School — including carry-out orders.

Anyone can participate. Tell your friends & neighbors. We hope to see you there.

February is  
**"I LOVE TO READ" month.**  
**Kenwood Student Council**  
**"Reading" Spirit Days**

**Friday, February 5**  
**•• Pajama Read Day ••** Wear your PJ's to school!

**Thursday, February 11**  
**•• Read In Red Day ••** Wear red and show your love of reading!



**Friday, February 19**  
**•• Crazy Hat/Hair Day ••** Wear a hat while wearing a crazy do!

**Friday, February 26**  
**•• Book Character Day ••** Dress up as your favorite Book Character

**If you have a child ready for kindergarten this fall (2016) — you must fill out a Request Card.**

Request Cards will be available online on the MPS school district website on January 31st or in the school office.

**School Request Cards are due March 5th!**

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

**CALENDAR**

**Monday, January 25 – Thursday, January 28**  
 5th Grade Eagle Bluff Trip

**Tuesday, January 26**  
 Nico's Tacos for Kenwood School  
 11 am-11 pm at Nico's Taco Bar

**Thursday, January 28**  
 District Spelling Bee — 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, February 6**  
 MPS School Fair Showcase — 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Minneapolis Convention Center

**Thursday, February 4**  
 Kenwood School Update  
 6:00 p.m. Multi-purpose Room

**Monday, February 8**  
 Kenwood Family Involvement Day

**Tuesday, February 9**  
 Parent Information Night at Kenwood for Prospective Kindergarten Parents — 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Friday, February 12**  
 NO SCHOOL — Parent/Teacher Conferences

**Monday, February 15**  
 NO SCHOOL — President's Day

**Wednesday, February 17**  
 SPOTLIGHT — 8:00 a.m. Multi-purpose Room  
 SPOTLIGHT — 1:00 p.m. Multi-purpose Room

**Wednesday, February 24 & Thursday, February 25th**  
 Pinocchio — Performances  
 6:30 p.m. Multi-purpose Room

**Saturday, February 27**  
 Kenwood School Auction

**Thursday, March 3**  
 5th Grade Ski Trip



**Kenwood School Update**

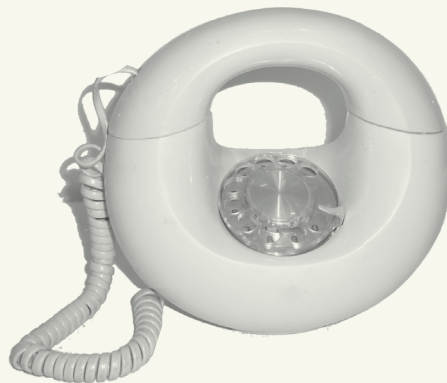
Thursday, February 4th 6:00 p.m. multi-purpose room.

Site Council update – 10 minutes • PTA update – 10 minutes

2016-17 Budget forecasting – 15 minutes • Q & A



**does your Kenwood kid know what this is?**



**totally eighties. saturday night. february 27th.**

**It's this year's annual Kenwood School Auction. An evening for adults to benefit all the children of Kenwood School. Be there or be square.**

**the auction donations and get togethers**

contributed by Kenwood Families are among the most favorite items available at the Kenwood Auction. We are hoping we can count on our generous families again this year! Whether you have something you have donated in the past or have thought of something new we look forward to your contributions. Fill out the form that went home with students last week OR email us if you need a new form or have any questions.

**for donations** contact Nicole at [nvalentine89@earthlink.net](mailto:nvalentine89@earthlink.net)

**for get togethers** contact Christine at [cjconner@yahoo.com](mailto:cjconner@yahoo.com) or Kristi at [kristi.granacher@gmail.com](mailto:kristi.granacher@gmail.com).

**the donation deadline is Monday February 8th, 2016.**

**attention Kenwood parents with community businesses.**

**The Kenwood Auction team is seeking corporate sponsors for this year's event.** If you have a local business that could benefit from the visibility the Kenwood Auction brings with the school community and would like to join our list of amazing and generous Auction Sponsors, please let us know. For more information about Sponsorship Levels and benefits please contact Jennifer Bishop at [jennifer\\_nihmey@rogers.com](mailto:jennifer_nihmey@rogers.com) or 612-239-9864.

**help make the Kenwood live auction rad!**

We are working hard to take this year's auction to the max! You know what helps make an auction like totally tubular ... choice donations! On our "wish list" we are seeking high ticket items for the Live Auction and need your generous support.

- **dude**, we are looking for a family-fun, cabin experience and we need your cabin to make it happen! We can work with you to outline any parameters (i.e. date range, minimum bid, etc.).

- **VIP** tickets or suite at an upcoming sporting or cultural event – your 2 to 4 tickets plus a limo ride there and back ... would be a **fresh** experience!

Do you have **like** a **gnarly** idea or a **boss** contact? If so, **fur sure** let us know!

**Contact** Julie Coykendall at [juliecoykendall@hotmail.com](mailto:juliecoykendall@hotmail.com) to make your donation.