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Our Newsletter for Families

Kenwood Elementary School
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FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL...

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 2017-18 school budget. The Kenwood Site Council, PTA, and a group of parents have already made significant progress towards making this resolution a reality. We plan to seek your input on the priorities for the **2017-18 school year** by sending out a survey. We value your comments, questions and recommendations. It is very important that you complete the survey and return it to school. In the end, we remain committed to our motto of **SMARTS + ARTS = Kenwood.**

LEGOS Competition — On Saturday, January 14, Kenwood students who participate in the GEMS and GISE afterschool program at Kenwood, demonstrated their robot designs and programming skills at the 2017 Citywide Exploring Engineering Exhibition at Anne Sullivan School. Our students joined forces in a remarkable worldwide event with 255,000 participants, 32,000 teams, 32,000 robots, in 1,464 events and 88 countries. Our students won the following trophies: **Two 1st Place Awards for the Engineering Design Challenge, two 2nd Place for the Engineering Design Challenge, and one CORE Values Award GEMS/GISE.** Thanks to GEMS Coach & Kenwood Media Specialist, Joan Kallas, GISE Coach & fifth grade teacher, Darwin Lee, and third grade teacher & ALC Coordinator, Stephanie Green, Mark Tucker, Minnesota Math Corps for inspiring our students to become the science, engineering and technology leaders of tomorrow.

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 Friday, January 13th. 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 the children's book, *Lillian's Right to Vote* (Winter & Evans, 2015). Kenwood students provided the audience with meaningful context for how memorable events in Lillian's life influenced her right to vote. 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: Cynthia Quehl, music teacher, Darwin Lee, fifth grade teacher, Margaret Swenson, art teacher, Julie Young-Walser, first grade teacher, Steve Cornelius, physical education teacher, Terrance Brezny, first grade teacher, Bailey Bettes, Kindergarten Teacher, and Mike Robinson, band director. Our Kenwood parents and guest musicians: Tim Brunnelle, Luca Gunther, James Anderson, and Russ Auger. The period costumes, designed by Mrs. Dee Young, volunteer and alumni grandparent, helped to create vivid images of a time when segregation and denying the right to African Americans to vote.

Student Council Update — During the month of January, our Kenwood Student Council leaders and all students will engage collecting socks and toiletries to St. Stephen's Outreach. 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. On **Thursday, January 26,**



the Student Council is sponsoring — "Do you want to be a Snow Friend Day"

— Students can dress like a snowman/woman.

Invite a classmate to play that you wouldn't usually play with. Thanks to Cathy Sullivan, Kindergarten Teacher and Student Council Advisor for the support & enthusiasm she brings to the student council.



Book Sale Results: The third annual used book sale was a huge success. The sale made \$436.00. 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.

Thank you for supporting Kenwood,

Sincerely,

Dr. Aura Wharton-Beck, Kenwood Principal

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.



If you have a child ready for kindergarten this fall (2017) — you must fill out a School Request Form.



You can fill out a School Request online on the MPS school district website. <http://studentplacement.mpls.k12.mn.us>

School Request Cards are due February 4th, 2017!



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



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

Friday, February 3
•• Pajama Read Day ••
 Wear your PJ's to school!

Friday, February 10
•• Crazy for Reading Day ••
 Wear a hat while wearing a crazy do!

Thursday, February 16
•• Read in Red Day ••
 Wear red and show your love of reading!



Friday, February 24
•• Book Character Day ••
 Dress up as your favorite Book Character

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.

CALENDAR

- Monday, January 23**
Parent Information Night at Kenwood for Prospective Kindergarten Parents — 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 24**
Winter Choir Concert
7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. multi-purpose room
- Wednesday, January 25**
SPOTLIGHT — 8:00 a.m. Multi-purpose Room
SPOTLIGHT — 1:00 p.m. Multi-purpose Room
- Friday, January 26**
Student Council "Do you want to be a Snow Friend Day" — Dress like a snowman/woman. Invite a classmate to play that you wouldn't usually play with.
- Friday, January 27**
NO SCHOOL
- Friday, January 30**
NO SCHOOL
- Thursday, February 2**
District Spelling Bee — 6:30 p.m.
Fowell School
- Monday, February 13**
Kenwood Family Involvement Day
- Wednesday, February 15 & Thursday, February 16th**
Beauty & The Beast — Performances
6:30 p.m. Multi-purpose Room
- Friday, February 17**
NO SCHOOL — Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Monday, February 20**
NO SCHOOL — President's Day
- Tuesday, February 21 – Friday, February 24**
5th Grade leaves for Eagle Bluff Trip
- Saturday, February 25**
Kenwood School Auction
- Thursday, March 3**
5th Grade Ski Trip



GET CRANKED UP FOR THE BASH OF THE YEAR! WE ARE GOING TO VEGAS, BABY!

SHOW UP AS YOU ARE OR BREAK OUT SOME HIP THREADS, BOUFFANTS & DUCKTAILS. Think rat pack, Mad Men Cocktail Dresses & Glam. Don't Miss It – It's Gonna Be Outta Sight. 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 Sarah at sarah.kreykes@gmail.com. For Get Togethers contact Christine at cjconner@yahoo.com or Kristi at kristi.granacher@gmail.com. **The donation deadline is Monday, February 6th, 2017.**

HELP MAKE THE KENWOOD LIVE AUCTION CRAZY COOL!

We are working hard to make this years' auction a blast! You know what helps make an auction outtasight...great donations! On our "wish list" we are seeking high ticket items for the Live Auction and need your generous support.

- 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 WOW experience!

DO YOU HAVE A CRAZY COOL IDEA OR CONTACT?

If so, please contact Julie Coykendall at juliecoykendall@hotmail.com or Heather Shore at heathercashore@gmail.com to make your donation. 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 Sandy Dresen at sandra.dresen@gmail.com or Kathy Rodriguez at kathy08email@gmail.com.