Hello Kenny Families,

It is hard to believe we are already at winter vacation. It has been a great year so far, but it is important to look at where we are and where we need to go as a building. I know you all set personal goals for your children at conferences, but now let’s look to see how that impacts our program. Let’s start by looking at the overall school goals on page 3.

All schools in Minneapolis complete a School Improvement Plan to help them work toward their goals. The focuses of Kenny’s School Improvement Plan include:

1. Training for all 3rd-5th grade science and math teachers to provide a deeper Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic (STEM) Foundation. The Region 11 Math and Science Teacher Center has partnered with Kenny to allow our teachers to participate in high quality professional development during the 2011-2012 school year. Grant funding provides five days (thirty hours) of content training in the Nature of Science and Engineering. Teachers’ weekly PLCs then support the new learning.

2. All K-5 teachers will learn and implement The Lucy Calkins Writing workshop. The 2010 Carnegie report "Writing to read" points out that intensive writing is a critical element of a literacy program.

3. All Title I and special education teachers will learn and implement the Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Literacy Interventions (LLI). A high percentage of Kenny’s African American students receive these services so this research based strategy will allow us to decrease the achievement gap between African American and Caucasian students.

4. Teams meet after scoring quarterly math assessments to review strengths and weaknesses based on the results. Teachers also review the math standards for the following quarter. We are working to compact and accelerate the district math curriculum. We also create common supplements to address the math standards.

5. To improve attendance and decrease suspensions, Kenny is implementing a number of positive behavior strategies that include Responsive Classroom, Kangaroo Koupns, Kindness Coins (coming soon), and peer mediation.

We then track the growth of all students at our weekly Response to Intervention (RtI) meetings. I will provide an overview of RtI in an upcoming newsletter.

(Continued on page 3)

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Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 12/19</td>
<td>No After-School Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12/23</td>
<td>School Spirit Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12/23</td>
<td>Student of the Month 8:30am in the gym</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12/26</td>
<td>No School Winter Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1/4</td>
<td>Winter Party 7-9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 1/9</td>
<td>Meetings: 5:45pm Foundation 6:30pm PTA Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 1/10</td>
<td>2:35 Student Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 1/16</td>
<td>No School Martin Luther King Jr Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 1/17</td>
<td>PTA Event—CANCELLED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 1/19</td>
<td>Variety Show! 12:30pm and 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 1/21</td>
<td>School Choice Info Fair</td>
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Newsletter submissions are due by 6 p.m. Mondays. Email to Michele Lieske at mblieske@msn.com.

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January 17th PTA Meeting is Cancelled

Please come to the

WINTER PARTY JANUARY 4th

Details are on page 4
Kenny Winter After School 2012

We are in the thick of entering all those wonderful registration forms. Please look for confirmation sheets for the winter session in the student's Wednesday mail after we return from winter break.

Classes will begin Tuesday January 17th. As always, any questions about Kenny's after school program can be directed to kristin.marshall@mpls.k12.mn.us. We look forward to another fun and fantastic session in the new year!

LOST AND FOUND UPDATE:

Has your student lost something at school? Now is the time to take a look. The Lost and Found items are on tables in the hallway by the Lunchroom.

Any items left on December 23rd will be donated during Winter Break.

School Store Open This Thursday Morning!!!

Come and buy some fun supplies at the school store. The store will be open from 7:50–8:10am.

HEAD LICE UPDATE

It appears that our epidemic head lice outbreak is coming to a close. Therefore, after this week (Friday, December 23rd), we will not be having students bagging all of their personal items.

HOWEVER! One of our Kenny parents went and purchased IKEA bags for their child's classroom (the big blue ones) to store personal belongings on the hook and I love this idea! So if you'd like to send your child with an IKEA bag or make a donation of IKEA bags to your child's classroom, that would be great! The IKEA bags are affordable, more durable than regular plastic garbage bags, look pretty good and serve a great purpose. Maybe IKEA will even donate some?! Doesn't hurt to ask!

Thanks again for all of your cooperation.

Nurse Ann
(Mr. Gibb’s Letter Continued from page 1)

The students are making great gains and they can give you updates on their reading levels. Ask them what they are learning each day. It will soon be time to review the goals that were set at conferences. If every child meets their individual goals, the school will more than meet its overall goals. We work hard to make sure there is thinking and learning every day.

Thanks for all you do to make this such an amazing school. Have a wonderful break. Enjoy the time with your children. They are the world to us.

Bill Gibbs, Principal

Kenny 2011-2012 School Goals:

Math (grades 3-5)
- Increase MCA proficiency from 51.68% to 70%
- reduce the achievement gap difference of 37.18

Reading (grades 3-5)
- Increase MCA proficiency from 67.58% to 75%
- reduce the achievement gap difference of 37.8

Science (grade 5)
- Increase MCA proficiency from 31.25% to 55% and
- reduce the achievement gap difference of 12.55

2nd – 5th grade growth:
70% of Kenny students make 1 or more year’s growth on NWEA reading and math assessments (3rd – 5th on Fountas & Pinnell).

1st grade growth:
95% of students at Level J on F&P spring assessment, green on total numeracy

Kindergarten growth:
95% of students at Level D on F&P spring assessment, green on total numeracy

Behavior:
Maintain the number of suspensions at <10

Attendance:
Maintain the number of students whose attendance rate is 95% or above.

School Spirit Day

This Friday, December 23rd is School Spirit Day! Don’t forget to wear school colors: Green and White.

Kangaroo Koupon Program Update!

Thanks to all for terrific first weeks of our school-wide positive Kangaroo Koupon program. We have seen hundreds of opportunities for acknowledging and supporting Kenny students as they work hard to Cooperate, Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Try Their Best.

Thanks also to parents and staff who have donated prizes for the weekly drawings. If you have a new item, ticket or gift card that you could contribute, please feel free to bring it in to the office to either Mr. Gawienowski, Mr. Gibbs or Mrs. Halverson.

With Gratitude,
Mr. Peter Gawienowski
School Social Worker

Kenny School Safety Patrols

Now that the cooler temperatures are upon us I wanted to remind families to be sure to have the safety patrollers dress warmly. Students that participate in patrols are a very important part of our school and can be outside 15-20 minutes.

We are also looking for donations of hot cocoa as well as volunteers to come in in the mornings and/or afternoons. These volunteers would make and serve the hot cocoa to the patrollers. Anyone interested in volunteering or donating hot cocoa can email Kristin Marshall at kristin.marshall@mpls.k12.mn.us

Older Computers for Students!

If your child qualifies for free/reduced lunch, you may be eligible to receive an eMac or PC that was previously used in the schools for your student to use at home.

If interested, please contact Dianne Kersteter, the Media teacher here at Kenny. You may send a note with your child, email (Dianne.Kersteter@mpls.k12.mn.us), or call (612-668-3340). You will need to pick the computer up from Kenny, should you receive one.

Dear Kenny Fans, Friends, and Family - To receive all the latest info, remember to “LIKE” Kenny Community School on Facebook!”
Safe Routes Update

Safe Routes to School will be hosting its first “parent” workshop the morning of Saturday, January 14th, 2011, at North Commons Park. Arrival time for the event is 9:45AM. The actual workshop runs from 10-1130AM. It is free and appropriate for anyone (parents, guardians, staff) interested in walk-and-bike-to-school efforts. Schools from across the District will be sharing information about events, walking buses (with Lyndale’s parent-volunteer Scott Bordon), safety and more. There will also be time to meet and share ideas, and even coordinate events. We are looking for Kenny representatives to attend this event. Please contact Deb Schiltz at debnjay@usfamily.net if you are interested.

Last week our school was given several Mall of America mystery ride tickets as a thank you for our efforts in promoting Safe Routes at Kenny School. These tickets were given to our hard-working safety patrol members for the fabulous job they do to make walking to school safer for our students.

To see the full flyer for the event, visit the Kenny website at http://kenny.mpls.k12.mn.us/.