Musicals this Spring. . .

Please watch the calendar as Mrs. Hutter will have a series of grade level musical performances this spring. The first performance will be for Grades 1 & 2 and is scheduled for Thursday, March 29th at 1:45pm.

There will also be an afterschool Glee Choir performance and two band concerts.

Plant Sale Starts Today!

See page 3 for more information

Family Reading Night is Tuesday, February 28th
6:00-7:30 p.m.

See page 2 for more information

March Magic

You’ve booked the babysitter, you’ve chosen what you’ll wear, BUT have you purchased your tickets yet?

The deadline for buying tickets is this Friday, February 24

Buy online by going to the Kenny website and clicking the March Magic butterfly for a link

This Friday, February 24th is Career Day!

Newsletter submissions are due by 6 p.m. Mondays.
Email to Michele Lieske at mblieske@msn.com.
Science Expo boards will go home
Friday, February 24!

148 students will be showing 92 exciting science exhibits the night of the Science Expo, Tuesday, March 13.

The boards are three feet tall and bulky to carry. Please plan ahead if your child will need help carrying it home. If your child is working with other students, the board will be given to the child whose last name is the closest to the beginning of the alphabet. If siblings are working together the board will be given to the child whose first name is closest to the beginning of the alphabet.

Please take a minute to check the label attached to the back of the board. If you have any corrections to your name, topic or have special need the night of the Expo, such as an electrical outlet, fill out a Corrections and Special Request form found in the school office. Return the forms to the office or your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

Also attached to your board is a sheet with suggestions on ways to make your display look cool and show what you’ve learned. Take a look.

Have fun working on your science projects!

Family Reading Night
Tuesday, February 28th
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Kenny kids love to read. Join us for an evening of family reading fun.

• Come hear celebrity readers (a WCCO-TV reporter, a screenwriter, and a special guest
• Bring a favorite book from home and read with your Kenny student
• Write a silly story, make a book, and create a poem for the poetry wall
• Grab a snack

PALA News

We are in the third week of PALA! Here are some great reasons to keep movin:

• Easing stress and anxiety. A twenty-minute bike ride won’t sweep away life’s troubles, but exercising regularly helps you take charge of anxiety and reduce stress. Aerobic exercise releases hormones that relieve stress and promote a sense of well-being.

• Lifting your mood. Exercise can treat mild to moderate depression as effectively as antidepressant medication. Exercise also releases endorphins, powerful chemicals in your brain that energizes your spirits and makes you feel good.

• Sharpening brainpower. The same endorphins that make you feel better also help you concentrate and feel mentally sharp for tasks at hand. Exercise also stimulates the growth of new brain cells and helps prevent age-related decline.

• Improving self-esteem. Regular activity is an investment in your mind, body, and soul. When it becomes habit, it can foster your sense of self-worth and make you feel strong and powerful.

• Boosting energy. Increasing your heart rate several times a week will give you more get-up-and-go. Start off with just a few minutes of exercise a day, and increase your workout as you feel more energized.

http://helpguide.org/life/exercise.htm

Yearbook Team Needs Your Photos!

There are 2 ways to contribute your school activity photos for yearbook consideration:

1. Email photo@hajiani.com

2. Upload directly to our online yearbook program: Community Upload Site: https://community.lifetouch.com/ Access Code for Kenny: YSASLT
Safe Routes—Walking School Bus

Last Friday we had the perfect weather for starting our Kenny Walking School Bus!

Please join other Kenny families in walking to school Fridays and earn minutes towards your PALA. We will start at 57th & Oliver at 7:35AM and plan to arrive at 57th & Emerson at 7:50AM.

If you are interested in hopping on our bus, please email Deb Schiltz at debnjay@usfamily.net. I will provide you with the times for various check points along 57th Street and notify participants if the Kenny Walking Bus will not be running.

Please note: parents remain responsible for getting their children to and from school safely; Kenny Walking Bus cannot guarantee the safety or security of these routes and is not taking responsibility for those travels by Kenny Walking Bus.

Safe Routes also has scheduled a meeting the end of February with Council Member Betsy Hodges to continue discussion about the stop sign at 57th and Emerson. We will keep you posted on the outcome of this meeting.

Kenny School Plant Sale

There will be plenty of exciting changes to the Kenny School Plant Sale this year! Changes will include an interactive online order form, more plant varieties and a later delivery date.

Look for Plant Sale information in this week’s Wednesday Folder as well as an email from Kenny School with the online form.

This is a great community event and funds raised will support environmental education at Kenny School!

Orders due back on March 14th.

Any questions please contact Jessica McLawhorn at 651-261-0632 or jjmclawhorn@gmail.com

RIF Thank You

We would like to thank all the volunteers who participated in the RIF book distribution:


Thanks for your help!
Chris Colston and Tracy Smith
RIF co-chairs

MAKING KENNY GREAT:
Volunteer Bulletin Board

Who Reads These Posts? Lisa, Ann and Jan do. Thanks to these 3 Kenny parents who responded to the past week’s posts offering great volunteer opportunities. How about you? If you can help with the events listed, contact one of our volunteer chairs (emails below).

- We need volunteers at the Family Reading Night event on 2/28. Contact Teri Diamond directly at diamondltd@comcast.net

- FEELING LIKE A CLOWN? We need leaders for the Carnival. You’ll be mentored by the past chair and the time spent will be more fun than a night at the big top.

- Volunteers to help at the Science Fair, Tuesday, March 13.

- Do you like mixing business and pleasure? We need fun volunteers to work at the year’s most fun event: Volunteers to help at March Magic, Friday, March 9. Work a table selling raffle tickets, work the backroom handling sales and receipts and more.

To volunteer, contact Lynn Barnhart at lynn@grasslake.net or Laura Ronay at laura.ronay@gmail.com.
KENNY NEWSLETTER IS GOING GREEN

Beginning in March the newsletter will be sent via email or can be read on the school website. Only families who return this form will continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.

I do want a paper copy of the school newsletter.

Parent Name: ___________________________ Youngest Kenny student & room: ___________________________

Return this to the Kenny Office if you want to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.

Million Minute Reading Challenge February 1-March 29

The thermometer is rising as Kenny students and teachers are reading. Look for the thermometer in the school lobby to see how many minutes have been read so far.

Turn in your tracking sheet on Thursday each week and read as often as you can. Read to your relatives, read to your friends, pull out a chapter book and read on the bus. It all counts!

If you have any questions, email Mrs. Kersteter at Dianne.Kersteter@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Washburn Lady Millers Basketball

It’s Fan Appreciation Night, Friday, February 24th! Come see the Lady Millers play the Southwest Lakers at Washburn High School. Tickets are just $2 for all kids who come wearing their park or school basketball jersey or Washburn colors (bright blue and orange).

Freshmen play at 4:00, JV at 5:30 and Varsity at 7:00. All fans are eligible for the half-time contest with a cash prize!

PTA Update

Next PTA Business Meeting:
Monday, March 5 at 6:30pm in the Media Center. Join us as we welcome Gael Ellis from MPS, to learn more about Area C actions and plans.

Recent Activities & Decisions:
What a great turn out for Family Fun Night. There were some 200 people enjoying time playing board games in the cafeteria or trying one of the great activity stations in the gym.

We are starting to work on our plans for next school year (what activities to keep, etc.). In an effort to respect our volunteers, we have decided to combine Bike Night and the Kenny Carnival into one new event (watch for details)!

Hope to see you all at our next PTA event: the Science Expo on Tuesday, March 13 from 5:30-7:00.

If the weather cooperates, the first Walking School Bus will take place Friday morning.

Plus, lots of fun additions for the upcoming Plant Sale to be revealed soon -- yes, spring is in the air!

MAKING KENNY GREAT: Volunteers

What’s New at the PTA, Dad?

Check out this great article in the Sunday “New York Times” about the difference DADS make in the PTA and at school as volunteers. Come on, Kenny dads - get involved. And, thanks to all the dads currently involved - you make a difference! Contact lynn@grasslake.net for volunteer opportunities.


Kenny NEWSLETTER IS GOING GREEN

Beginning in March the newsletter will be sent via email or can be read on the school website. Only families who return this form will continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.

I do want a paper copy of the school newsletter.

Parent Name: ___________________________ Youngest Kenny student & room: ___________________________

Return this to the Kenny Office if you want to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.
February 16, 2012

Dear Families:

I am writing to provide additional information about the proposed 2012-13 school year calendar. On February 14, the Minneapolis Board of Education received a recommendation on my behalf regarding the 2012-13 school year calendar. The recommendation includes a proposal to have two different school start dates for two different groups of schools. For Anishinabe, Bancroft, Bethune, Broadway, Cityview, Edison, Folwell (program moved from current Ramsey site), Green Central, Hall, Hmong International Academy, Lucy Laney, North, Olson, Pratt, Sheridan and Wellstone, we are recommending that students in grades 1-12 would begin the school year on Monday, August 20, adding nine days to the calendar. The rest of the school district would begin the school year on Monday, August 27, adding four days to the calendar.

Minneapolis has one of the largest achievement gaps in the nation and we all have a stake in helping every student succeed. This proposal represents a proven strategy to increase the amount of instructional time we are providing students, particularly at sites where academic performance is lower than at most other schools. When combined with other key strategies developed at school, research shows that quality additional time in the classroom can help students improve their academic performance, which is why it has been one of MPS’ priorities in negotiating the teacher contract. Final approval of this calendar is pending the result of teacher contract negotiations.

We know that changes to the school calendar have an impact on you and your family. The development of the calendar was informed by parent and staff surveys as well as a representative committee of administrators, teachers and parents who shared their suggestions and recommendations. While we know extending the instructional year will benefit students who are struggling, we are also confident that it will have a positive impact on students who are excelling. It is my firm belief that developing two calendars is a necessary step in closing the achievement gap. We need your support and partnership to put this strategy in place.

The Board of Education is scheduled to vote on the calendar recommendation at its meeting on February 28, which will take place at 6 p.m. in the Assembly Room at 807 NE Broadway in Minneapolis. To learn more about the recommended calendar or provide feedback, please contact Minneapolis Public Schools at 612.668.0000 or answers@mpls.k12.mn.us. Thank you for your continued engagement in your child’s education.

Sincerely,

Bernadeia H. Johnson, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Frequently Asked Questions: 2012-13 School Calendar (2-16-12)

1. What changes are proposed to the 2012-13 school calendar?
In 2012-13, the Minneapolis Public Schools are proposing two different start dates for two different groups of schools. Students in grades 1-12 at 16 schools identified as “high priority,” would begin the school year on Monday, August 20. This would add nine days to the calendar. Kindergartners at these schools would begin on August 22. High priority schools include Anishinabe, Bancroft, Bethune, Broadway, Cityview, Edison, Folwell (program moved from current Ramsey site), Green Central, Hall, Hmong International Academy, Lucy Laney, North, Olson, Pratt, Sheridan and Wellstone.

Students in grades 1-12 at all other schools would begin the school year on Monday, August 27. This would add four days to the calendar. Kindergartners at these schools would begin on August 29.

The 2012-13 calendar proposal also includes a winter recess of seven school days rather than previous years’ winter recess of 10 school days.

2. Why were these changes proposed?
Minneapolis has one of the largest achievement gaps in the nation and we all have a stake in helping every student succeed. This proposal represents a proven strategy to increase the amount of instructional time we are providing students, particularly at sites where academic performance is lower than at most other schools. When combined with other key strategies developed at school, research shows that additional time in the classroom can help students improve their academic performance, which is why it has been one of MPS’ priorities in negotiating the teacher contract.

3. What does “high priority” mean?
High priority schools are those that rank among the lowest 25% in MPS in terms of both student achievement and student academic growth. One of the many strategies the school district is using to help improve achievement at these schools is to lengthen the school year and provide students with more instructional time.

4. How many school days are required by law?
In 2012-13, MPS has proposed 176 instructional days at most schools (181 at high priority schools). The state requires that students have at least:
- 425 instructional hours for kindergarten (equivalent of 170 days @ 2.5 hours)
- 935 instructional hours for grades 1-6 (equivalent of 170 days @ 5.5 hours)
- 1,020 instructional hours for grades 7-12 (equivalent of 170 days @ 6 hours)

5. How many instructional days did MPS offer in 2011-12 compared to other area school districts?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Instructional Days</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvest Prep</td>
<td>196 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richfield</td>
<td>175 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Anthony</td>
<td>174 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Center</td>
<td>174 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. Wash. Co.</td>
<td>174 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosemount</td>
<td>174 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>N. St Paul</td>
<td>173 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lakeville</td>
<td>173/175 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>173/175 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPS</td>
<td>172 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eden Prairie</td>
<td>170 days</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Other urban school districts:
- Baltimore 180 days
- Boston    180 days
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg 180 days (185 for 2012-13)
- Houston   180 days
- Memphis   180 days
- Philadelphia 181 days
- San Francisco 176 days
- St. Louis  176 days

6. Is it legal to start school before Labor Day?
State law requires school years to start after Labor Day. However, there are several exemptions to that law that provide school districts with the flexibility to develop an appropriate local calendar. MPS has legally started school before Labor Day during several recent school years.