Hello Kenny Families,

We are working on some structural changes this year on the Foundation, PTA, and site Council. Our goal is to have cross representation on all three groups (e.g. foundation member will attend the site council meetings). This should allow more transparency and bring more focus to the groups. We will also include minutes from the meetings on the Kenny website and in the newsletter. Also, PTA board meetings will now be PTA business meetings. Those meetings will include updates from me and a team of teachers will present at each meeting. We will let you know which teachers will present at PTA meetings through the website and newsletter.

MCA results were released last week. Kenny has increased the percent of students proficient on the reading test for four consecutive years. We have moved from 61.45% proficient to 67.6% (State average 57.8%.) Our science score dipped from 43.2% proficient to 31.3% (state average 48.1%). Our math scores dipped as did the state. Our percent proficient was 62.5% on the 2010 MCA II and our percent proficient on the 2011 MCA III was 57.1%. The statewide decline in math proficiency was 9%. Please visit the following website for detailed information. When you open the page, click on the “analyze your results” link on the right side of the page.


For 2012 I have set the following proficiency goals: Reading 75%, Math 75%, science 50%. I believe these goals are attainable this year. Our weekly professional development is focused on implementing a high quality literacy block that includes readers’ and writers’ workshop. We have found ways we will be compacting and accelerating the district math curriculum and supplementing to meet state grade level standards. The cohorts of children taking the MCAs have received 3 years of focused instruction and have strong proficiency rates on predictor tests. The entire building has a new focus on the delivery of the Foss science units and the teachers are incorporating science into their writers’ workshop.

It is a very exciting time to be at Kenny.

Bill Gibbs, Principal
Kenny School

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Volunteers Needed - Student of the Month

Would you like a chance to give kids treats guilt free? The Student of the Month program on Monday, September 26 is in need of volunteers from approximately 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Please contact Darryl Johnson if you are interested in helping, at 612 861-1334 or johnsondarryl_l@yahoo.com
MAKING KENNY GREAT:
Our Room Parents!

Let’s hear it for our 2011-2012 Room Parents. Room Parents are important to Kenny. Their role is to support teachers, be a liaison with parents to let them know about what’s going on in the classroom and at school, and recruit parents to get involved!

Ms. Mishler: Jennifer Knutson
Ms. Williams: Shannon Gunaca
Ms. Lamberty: Jan Peterson
Ms. O’Donnell: Dawn Anderle and Amanda Frosch
Ms. Horner: Lynn Barnhart and Shelley Johnson
Ms. Vang: Deb Basarich, Anthony and Sarah Rodriguez
Ms. Hunter: Kathy Engen
Ms. Hanzel: Theresa Dougan and Darryl Johnson
Mr. Mastel: Lisa Bierwagen
Ms. Ryan: Ellen and Wayne Strom
Ms. Tsao: Kendra Kramer
Ms. Peterson: Jahan and Rita Hajiani
Ms. Martel: Tina Erazmus and Shari Wiggins
Ms. Stillone: Linda Sapecky

Kenny Earns With Cub

In partnership with Box Tops for Education, you might get a special Bonus coupon when you checkout at Cub Foods. This is generated when you purchase at least 10 Box Tops items. These coupons expire quickly, so please either register them online, or turn them into school quickly. A 50 Bonus Box Tops equals $5 to Kenny, plus, you have at least another $1 of Box Tops you could clip!

We have already earned over $50 from these coupons in just the past couple months!

Area Parent Advisory Councils

Area Parent Advisory Council meetings provide parents an opportunity to meet with the district’s associate superintendents who represent each area, parents from other neighborhood schools, and community leaders to:

- Provide input concerning school-related issues.
- Make recommendations in support of enhancing learning opportunities and environments.
- Advocate for issues vital to the success of schools, youth, and families in their community.

Each Area Parent Advisory Council selects six people to represent them on the District Parent Advisory Council.

Next Area C Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday September 29, 6:30-8:30pm
Lake Harriet Upper Campus - 4912 Vincent Ave. South

Kenny Fit n’ Fun Walk

Is coming up: Friday, October 14th from 1:15 - 2:15

The Fit n’ Fun Walk is the PTA fall fundraiser in which Kenny keeps 100% of the money raised and gets the kids moving and working together as a community for their school.

Our goal is to raise money that funds activities, programs and events enjoyed throughout the year - Fall Festival, Student of the Month, Reading is Fundamental (RIF), Turkey Bingo, Bike Night, Yearbooks, Field Day, 5th Grade Environmental Trip, Staff Appreciation, Science Expo, Field Trips.... to name a few.

Pledge envelopes and more information will come home in next week’s Wednesday Folders.

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Plus, if you have family in other areas around the country who might use other grocery stores such as Albertsons, Jewel-Osco, Shaws...they can enter their codes, and credit Kenny School!


Information is only a click away...

If you need information about Kenny School or about upcoming Kenny events, go to our school website: http://kenny.mpls.k12.mn.us

To get information and news about the Minneapolis Public Schools, go to the district website: www.mpls.k12.mn.us
We had an amazing start to the school year, in large part to the generosity of the Target Corporation.

Kenny was the lucky recipient of the Target “Adopt-a-School” Grant for 2011-2012. You may remember from the spring that Kenny was a finalist for two different Target Grants: the Media Center Makeover and the PRESS Literacy Grant. Michael Stroik, the Target lead for these grants, recognized Kenny’s disappointment in our “runner-up” status and, during the few days of school, gifted over 800 hours of volunteer service and $6,000 towards teaching supplies and beautification projects.

All summer long, a few staff members from Kenny and the Target team had weekly conference calls to discuss and prioritize projects. The three major projects we decided upon were weeding and mulching the gardens, restocking and organizing the supply room, and giving the staff lunchroom a facelift.

There were 70 volunteers who did advance work at the Target headquarters early in the week. On the morning of August 24th, 70 more volunteers descended on Kenny and worked in the building to help us prepare. Every teacher had two volunteers that morning to help them prepare their rooms for the students’ arrival. Projects ranged from making learning games, leveling books, putting up bulletin boards, general cleaning, etc. You may have noticed the staff pictures on the large bulletin board as you walk into the building---this project was also completed by Target volunteers. Two Kenny parents from the Target Corporate office, Tisha Boarman and Daniel Barrett, were among the Target volunteers that day.

In the afternoon, another 70 volunteers came to Kenny to work on the gardens and paint the big chair with a new design. Volunteers weeded, spread cedar mulch, and planted $250 worth of new bulbs and flowers. Our local community vendors chipped in, too. Bachman’s on Lyndale gave the school a discount on the mulch and plants, and Settergren’s Hardware (54th and Penn) saved the day by lending us two wheel barrels. Staff and parents also lent their personal gardening supplies for the afternoon.

Volunteers really put some elbow grease into the staff lounge! They painted the walls, put new fabric on bulletin boards, added new lighting, new curtains, three new tables, two comfortable chairs, two new microwaves and a coffee pot! It went from a cafeteria to a cafe in one day!

In addition to the above projects, Target granted $2,000 towards the purchase of new books for guided reading instruction. The bookroom now has some fabulous new titles that we’re sure our kids will love. The books were purchased from the Wild Rumpus Book Store in Linden Hills, who in kind, scheduled two published authors who came to Kenny to talk about writing and their new books.

The biggest offshoot of all of this work from Target was the real boost of positive energy for our school. On that day, every staff member at Kenny felt supported and honored. When the kids crossed the threshold on the first day of school, they came anxious to learn, and the teachers were ready for them! The first week of school set a remarkable tone for the year.

Thank you Target: Laurie Hanzal and Joyce Vanderscheuren