### Kenny PTA Newsletter 11-8-17

**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Nov 10</td>
<td>Academic Spirit Wear Day</td>
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<td>Monday, Nov 13</td>
<td>6pm Foundation Meeting</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Nov 14</td>
<td>PTA Turkey Bingo</td>
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<td>Richfield Lutheran Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Nov 15</td>
<td>8:15am 5th Grade Music Share</td>
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<td>Report Cards sent home</td>
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<td>Thursday, Nov 16</td>
<td>8:15am Student of the Month</td>
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<td>Give to the Max Day</td>
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<td>NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<td>Monday, Dec 4</td>
<td>5:30pm Barnes &amp; Noble Book Fair</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Dec 5</td>
<td>4:30pm Prospective Parent Open House</td>
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<td>5pm PTA Meeting</td>
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<td>6pm Foundation Meeting</td>
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<td>Wed, Dec 6</td>
<td>9:00am MN Sinfonia Concert</td>
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<td>Dec 25—Jan 5</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL—Winter Break</td>
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**NEXT WEDNESDAY!**

Tuesday, November 14  
Dinner: 6pm-6:30pm  
Bingo: 6:30pm—7:30pm  
Richfield Evangelical Lutheran Church  
8 West 60th Street, Minneapolis

***RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS STILL NEEDED!***

All donations can be dropped off in the front office

***TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE!***

Contact Susie Friederich to arrange: susan.friederich@mpls.k12.mn.us or (612) 668-3365

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Contact Kenny School:  
5720 Emerson Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55419  
Bill Gibbs, Principal William.Gibbs@mpls.k12.mn.us  
Main Office: 612-668-3340 Fax: 612-668-3350  
Attendance: 612-668-3346 Minneapolis Kids: 612-668-3344  
Link to Kenny School Website: http://kenny.mpls.k12.mn.us
Support Kenny School on
GIVE TO THE MAX DAY
Thursday, November 16, 2017
5th Grade Families...

The 5th Grade Music Share is right around the corner! Please join us on **WEDNESDAY, November 15th at 8:15am** in the gym.

Students will be performing and sharing concepts they have learned so far this year. We hope to see you there!

Contact Rachel Wixson with questions:

rachel.wixson@mpls.k12.mn.us

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**Want to share your love of Kenny School?**

Sign up today to show prospective Kenny families just what makes our school the greatest!

**TOURS are Tuesdays at 8:15am and Thursdays at 1pm**

**PROSPECTIVE PARENT OPEN HOUSE**

Tuesday, December 5 from 4:30-6:30pm

*Training is provided!*

Contact Susie Friederich if interested or with questions:

susan.friederich@mpls.k12.mn.us or (612) 668-3365

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**HOLIDAY FOOD, TOYS AND GIFT RESOURCES**

- Call the **United Way** at 211 or (651) 291-0211 to learn about organizations providing Holiday food, toys or gifts within your zip code.

- Contact the **Salvation Army Toy Shop** at (651) 746-3595 or online ([http://www.SalvationArmyNorth.org/toyshop](http://www.SalvationArmyNorth.org/toyshop)) between November 8th and December 5th to register for an appointment.

- **Fare For All Express** offers a special holiday package for $30 which typically includes ham, whole chicken, beef ring sausage, turkey, breakfast sausage, mixed vegetables and Dutch apple pie (items are subject to change). Payment includes cash, credit/debit card or EBT. Call (763) 450-3880 or visit [http://fareforall.org/find-s-site](http://fareforall.org/find-s-site) for locations and times.
Kenny Community School, along with the Kenny Foundation is partnering again this year with the Sheridan Story. The Sheridan Story’s purpose is to try to close the weekend food gap between Friday and Monday by delivering individual bags of dry and canned food to Kenny School every Friday. The bags are then discreetly sent home in student’s backpacks, always keeping the student’s and the family’s information confidential.

If your family needs assistance with food and you have not already filled out the form, please complete and return to the main office. Extra forms are available in the main office! **Food distribution begins on Friday, November 10th!**

Please contact Susie Friederich with any questions at: susan.friederich@mpls.k12.mn.us or (612) 668-3365

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**Native American Family Involvement Day (NAFID)**

**Thursday, November 16 is Native American Family Involvement Day!**

You are invited start the day off with our Student of the Month assembly at 8:15am in the gym. Later, pay a visit your student’s classroom, join them for lunch and even stay for recess! Lunch times are listed below.

- Kindergarten / 1st Grade: 10:40-11am (recess 11-11:20am)
- 2nd Grade: 11-11:20am (recess 11:20-11:40am)
- 3rd Grade: 11:20-11:40am (recess 11:40-Noon)
- 4th Grade: 11:40-Noon (recess Noon-12:20pm)
- 5th Grade: Noon-12:20pm (recess 12:20-12:40pm)

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU VISIT!

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**TRUE FOOD TASTE TEST!**

On Thursday, November 16, Kenny students will have a chance to put their taste buds to the test with a sampling of “Kid Kimchee”, a Korean-inspired and kid-friendly recipe that features locally sourced carrots, kohlrabi and purple daikon radishes.

The students will have a chance to enter the Name Contest and come up with a name for this new recipe, which will appear on our lunch menu!
A Note From the PTA...

Here is how parents can get involved this month:

- **Donations toward Classroom Budget Allocations:**
  - Each year the PTA provides additional *cash funding to each classroom*. This extra funding helps teachers purchase much needed supplies for their classrooms and students. Funding is possible through fundraisers and direct donations from parents. Checks can be made out to Kenny PTA and left in the front office. **100% of this money is split equally amongst all classrooms.** Please label as “Staff Classroom Fund”

- **Turkey Bingo** is a fabulous *FREE* event in November for all Kenny students and families!
  - Every kiddo who attends gets a prize! *Please consider donating to the prize collection!* The prizes can range anywhere from $1-$10 and can be left in the front office.

**What is the Kenny Foundation?**

The Kenny School Foundation is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit that supports building projects and academic programs at Kenny School. We support Kenny kids, the building and staff! Some of our projects include:

- Lockers in the hallways
- Media Center
- Front Foyer and office remodeling and upgrades
- Staff lounge updates
- Band program
- 5th Grade Dulcimers
- Art supplies
- Phys. Ed Equipment
- Whiteboards for all classrooms
- Woot Math
- StoryWorks

The Foundation relies on the generous support of parents and neighbors. How can you help?

1. Designate the Kenny School Foundation as the beneficiary of your employer giving or United Way giving program (EIN # 75-3071701)
2. Make an individual gift
3. Shop online at: [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and choose Kenny School Foundation Inc.
Minnesota Reading Corps (MRC) at Kenny!

Kenny School is excited to introduce our two Reading Corps Tutors, Joe McLean and Kelli Thompson! Joe and Kelli are currently providing reading interventions to students in first through third grades.

Kenny Neighborhood is home since 1998, when Colleen and I got married. Our kids are Charlie, Brenna and Molly. We have two dogs, four hens, one hamster and one beta fish. I worked in IT distribution for ten years and traveled all over the U.S. In 2010 I became a stay at home dad. Molly started 4th grade at Kenny this year. She pointed to an article in the Kenny Newsletter and shouted, "Dad, you should do this!" It described Minnesota Reading Corps (MRC). I applied and here I am. Kenny students, teachers and staff are the best! They help me feel right at home. Three fun facts: 1) I was the 1975 St. Paul Parks & Rec Bowling Champion for 5th graders. 2) In 1982, on a plane from Denver to Minneapolis, I sat next to Orville Redenbacher, the Popcorn King. 3) I spent nearly a year of my life under water! - Joe McLean

I am a mother, writer, graphic designer, writing teacher, and most recently a Reading Corps tutor at Kenny Elementary. Last year my husband was offered a job at University of Minnesota which brought my family from Plymouth, New Hampshire to Edina. We had never set foot in the Minneapolis area before we hopped on a plane with our two cats to meet the moving truck. I have called multiple places my home including Joplin, Missouri, Paris, Brooklyn, Atlanta, Dallas, London, and Plymouth, New Hampshire. I received a BA in English from University of Dallas and an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Stonecoast in Freeport, Maine. Before moving to Minnesota, I worked as a Composition Instructor at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire and before that as a graphic designer in New York at TimeOut New York, and Scholastic. Currently, I am working on a memoir about my life in Paris working as an au pair circa 1993 shortly after my mother’s untimely death. Aside from being a writer, I am an avid reader. My passion for the written word and early literacy led me to Reading Corps. A powerful catchphrase that Reading Corps uses is that first students must “learn to read” before they can “read to learn.” Making the leap from “learning to read” to “reading to learn” is crucial to higher education. Studies show that if a student struggles to read after 4th grade they will not attend college. I believe in meritocracy and that a good education opens many doors, which starts with solid reading skills. It is a privilege to implement the Reading Corps program to help the students at Kenny learn how to become even better readers. — Kelli Thompson

Interested in joining our team? We currently have room for two more full-time tutors through MRC at Kenny. If a full-time position is too much time, you may be interested in a NEW POSITION OFFERED THROUGH MRC. Starting in January MRC is offering a three day a week position. This three day (6 hours a day) position is a great fit for retired persons, college students, stay at home parents and those that just need a bit more flexibility! Training for both position will take place in January. For more information on both the full-time position and the three day position, contact Marie Hartke, Recruiter: marie.hartke@servetogrow.org or (612) 206-3044
Important Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) Changes:

Kenny Community School prides itself on the academic rigor and opportunities that are presented for all students. Throughout the school year we administer many forms of assessment in the classroom, at the district level and at the state level to measure our progress and ensure that students are learning. We use these various data points to inform our practice as educators and identify areas of strength and growth for our students. We recognize that families and students come to us from various backgrounds and based on different backgrounds may or may not value standardized assessments. We support all families’ decisions to engage in or remove themselves from these assessment opportunities.

NEW CHANGE FROM THE STATE THIS YEAR: We would like to reach out to inform you of changes at the state level of assessments and how refusing to engage in the assessments at the state level could impact your student and our school. In previous years, when a family submitted the form that exercised their right to refuse the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) in reading, math and science, we submitted this information to the district and state. In the past opting out only impacted the school as a percentage of students who did not take the assessment and did not affect the overall proficiency rating we received as a school. Beginning this year, opting a student out from the MCA will negatively impact the overall schools testing status. A student who opts out will now be categorized as not proficient in our school proficiency calculation. As a school we are still working to understand the immediate impact this may have on your student’s testing history (will result in gap in student testing history) and how this may affect the way we analyze the many pieces of data collected on students to understand their level of comprehension and learning. We would like to reiterate that we support all families’ and students’ right to opt out of testing and support each individual families’ decision and what is best for each individual child.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the changes and we do support any decision you make in regards to what is best for your student. We also welcome any questions you may have in regards to this new state level change. Please contact Shari Wiggins, Testing Coordinator with questions at: shari.wiggins@mpls.k12.mn.us
Share your values

Minneapolis Public Schools is on the path to financial sustainability, however the costs of the programs and services we offer continue to be more than available dollars.

what would you do?

We want to know what you value for your child and for all children in Minneapolis Public Schools. If you had to make these difficult budget and programming decisions, what would you do?

From Oct. 23 through the end of November, please go to the MPS homepage to find links to:

- Information on how school budgets are created and how MPS got where we are today
- The “MPS Values Survey”
- Send us your ideas and questions
- Participate in an upcoming “MPS Values Focus Group” at a site near you

Results will be posted on our website

Our budget should reflect our values. Let’s find our common values and put them to work for our students.

Let’s be MPS Strong - together.
Stay Informed

Bookmark the Kenny Website
for quick access to the Staff Directory, the school schedule, meeting times, and new information.

To be added to the Wednesday newsletter email list or if you have information you would like to submit to the Wednesday newsletter, please email:

kennyPTA33721@gmail.com
By 5pm on Friday

Join us on Facebook & keep up with all the latest Kenny news

http://www.facebook.com/kennypta
STUDENT DROP OFF:

Children will be admitted to the building at 7:50am.

The staff is respectfully requesting students be dropped off at the front door in the morning.
- Teachers need to be able to greet and assist children.
- Children have morning work assignments that need to be completed before the morning meeting that starts at 8:10.

Thank you for your help with this as it allows us to give your children our undivided attention for greetings and assistance with morning work and routines.

All adults entering the building must sign in at the office.

TRANSPORTATION:

Send Information to School when:

1. You have an address or daycare change.

2. If you are picking up your child and they usually ride a bus, they must be signed out in the office even with advanced notice.

3. Your student is using a different bus stop.

4. Your student is going home with another student. (Note: we need notification from BOTH families).

Information will be sent home when:

1. Your student has been added to a bus route.

2. The bus stop for your student has had a change in location.

3. The IN bus stop for your student has had a cumulative time change of five minutes or more.

Changes can become effective any day of the week so watch for the effective dates on the notices sent home with your student.

BUS PASSES: Bus passes are REQUIRED to board a bus that is normally not a student’s assigned bus. We request notes be turned into the office as early in the day as possible.

We need notes from both sets of parents/guardians i.e. the parent/guardian of the student taking a different bus or using a different stop and the parent/guardian of the student they are traveling with.

The note should include:
- Student’s FIRST and LAST NAME
- FULL name of student they are riding with
- Date of request
- Signature of parent or guardian

A bus pass may not be able to be honored if we have not received two permission forms or if the bus requested is full.

ATTENDANCE:

Call the Attendance line (612-668-3346) when your student will be absent.

Doctors or dentists notes should be brought into school when the student returns to the building. Your help with this is appreciated.