Hello Kenny Families,

The weeks leading up to winter vacation are always exciting at Kenny School. Last week, we had the Barnes & Noble Bookfair. Mrs. Totzke had the Kenny Glee choir sing to a packed house! The second graders had their music share concert Thursday and it was outstanding! The next two weeks have a lot going on too. The fourth and fifth graders leave for their three-day trip to Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center Monday morning, there are auditions for the Variety Show on Thursday, and the Student of the Month celebration for grades K-2 on Friday.

Last night there was an attempted child abduction near Lake Harriet Lower School. There are several resources at the end of today’s newsletter that could be useful to parents and children. As you know, we always put the safety of students first at Kenny School. Staff is always present at arrival, recess, and dismissal. The staff will be extra watchful, but we ask parents to partner with us in making sure all our children are safe. If you see something dangerous or suspicious around the school, do not hesitate to call 911.

I do have some great news to share. Mrs. Mishler had planned open heart surgery this week. The surgery went well and she is on the road to recovery. We wish her the best and can’t wait for her to come back to work.

As always, thanks for all you do to make Kenny the amazing community School it is!

Bill Gibbs, Principal
Due to the 4th and 5th grade field trip to Eagle Bluff, there will be **NO BUS PATROL OR CROSSING GUARD**

**Monday, December 17 through Wednesday, December 19**

Reminder...**Thursday, December 20** is the LAST DAY of the fall session of ALC, GEMS/GISE and Community Education classes.

Winter session resumes on Tuesday, January 15, 2019

**LOST AND FOUND!**

All lost and found items are now on a table in the hallway outside the gym. Please remind your kiddo to take a look! Hoodies, mittens, and lunchboxes galore!

The table will be set up until **Friday, December 21**.

All items will be donated that afternoon.

The after-school student group, **Everyday Leaders** has started a food drive!

Donation boxes can be found in the office area

Donations will be accepted through **Tuesday, December 18**

THANK YOU for your generosity!
Hello, 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Families!

We could use a few more volunteers to lead an activity on Winter Options Day!

When: Thursday, December 20 from 1-2pm
Where: 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classrooms

Sign up [HERE](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054caca22a2f58-its1) or visit:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054caca22a2f58-its1

It's time to get ready for the VARIETY SHOW

When: Thursday, February 14 at 12:15pm and 6:30pm
Where: Kenny Gym

AUDITION TIMES HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED!

WHERE: Music Room
WHEN: Thursday, December 20

PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE!

We are also looking for volunteers to support both day and evening shows, so please reach out if you are available.

We can’t wait to see all the wonderful talent our Kenny kids have to share!

Rachel Wixson (rachel.wixson@mpls.k12.mn.us) and Rebecca Totzke (rebecca.totzke@mpls.k12.mn.us)
KENNY SCHOOL ART DEPARTMENT WISH LIST:

1. EGG CARTONS (NOT foam or plastic, lids removed)
2. PAINT STIR STICKS
3. SMALL (Grits/Oats/Coffee) and SMALLER (Salt) CARDBOARD CYLINDERS, 16-18oz approx. (Such as: PANCAKE MIX, GRITS, OAT MEAL)
4. LARGE OATMEAL CARDBOARD CYLINDERS
5. ODDS and ENDS: GLITTER, WRAPPING PAPERS, etc.
6. PLASTIC CONTAINERS 5 OZ. and/or larger 32oz with lids, (Such as: SOUR CREAM, SALSA – and SHREDDED CHEESE)
7. YARNS (all types and amounts)
8. RIBBONS (any length and type)
9. ICE CREAM PLASTIC BUCKETS
10. WOOD PIECES FOR SCULPTURE BASES - About 6”x3”
11. FAKE FLOWERS, LEAVES

Thank you, friends of the arts,

Mrs. Cynthia McGovern
Kenny Art Teacher

WINTER RECESS

Winter weather is here! Please make sure your student has winter gear (coat, snow pants, hat, mittens/gloves, scarf and boots) as most days we will be outside!

Indoor recess is based on a temperature or windchill of –5° below zero .

We use the Weatherbug weather app with Academy of Holy Angels as the selected site to determine our current conditions.

**Crossing Guard will be cancelled if the temperature and/or windchill is below zero, also taking into consideration weather conditions**
Minneapolis Public Schools will be on Winter Break from Monday, December 24 through Friday, January 4, 2019. Classes resume on Monday, January 7, 2019.

Below are some resources for families during break. Please check back as this list will continue to be updated throughout December.

**Meals and Snacks**
The following sites will be serving free snacks and/or meals over the winter break. Days and times of service may vary, so those interested are encouraged to check in directly with the site for more specific information.

- Audubon Park
- Bottineau Park
- Central Gym Park
- East Lake Library
- Farview Park
- Luxton Park
- Northeast Library
- Powderhorn Park
- Webber Park Library
- Whittier Park

[FoodPantries.org](http://FoodPantries.org) maintains a list of local food banks and meal sites (soup kitchens). Culturally specific organizations are included.

**Programs and Activities**
[Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board](http://Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board)
Recreation Centers are open during Winter Break (all recreation centers closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for free, supervised, drop-in activities. Find a full list of recreation center locations and hours [HERE](http://HERE).

[Hennepin County Library](http://Hennepin County Library)
Libraries in Minneapolis are open over Winter Break and have fun events and activities for youth and families. Find library locations and hours [HERE](http://HERE) (all libraries closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) or search for activities [HERE](http://HERE).

**Other needs**
[United Way 211](http://United Way 211)- United Way 211 provides free and confidential health and human services information for people in Minnesota. Assistance is available in all languages. Phones are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. United Way 211 can connect families with resources and information including food, warm winter clothes, and toys/gifts. Call 211 or 651.291.0211.

[MPS Family Resource Center](http://MPS Family Resource Center) provides school-based resources and social services for families and students at Minneapolis Public Schools. The Family Resource Center is available by appointments and by walk-ins. For more information and office hours call 612.668.4281.
DRAW YOUR CITY!

Brix Real Estate and Kenny parent Jessica Brunsell are inviting all students to submit a drawing of the Twin Cities (or surrounding suburbs)

HOW TO ENTER:

STEP 1
Kiddo draws an amazing picture of the city. It can be a street, a house or a park. Whatever they like!

STEP 2
Adults can scan in picture and email it to hello@brixtwincities.com or drop it off in the front office

STEP 3—WIN!
BRIX Real Estate will select three (3) winners to be featured in the upcoming 2019 BRIX Report and win a $50 gift card to a place of their choice. ONE GRAND PRIZE WINNER WILL WIN $500 FOR THEIR CLASSROOM!

Entries must be received by: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2018

CLICK HERE to visit the link or visit: https://www.brixtwincities.com/draw-your-city

2018 HAiku CONTEST

Haikus originated in Japan and are three line poems containing five, seven and five syllables respectively. It is a type of poem that can be written on many different themes from love to nature.

All MPS students and staff are invited to enter!

CLICK HERE to access the entry form or visit: https://drive.google.com/file/d/17ohBCnuDg7GM1hR_uEtB2v9BLdCyNnAh/view

Entries MUST be received by: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018
December Holiday Resources

Toys for Tots of Minneapolis area: There are donations of new, wrapped presents from the community. Businesses, individuals, and charities may provide free toys, winter clothing, gifts, bicycles, and more for children under the age of 13. The USMC is also a partner. Application sites include the following, and low income families can also apply online. Or get more referrals to holiday help.

- Community Emergency Assistance Programs - 7051 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, 55429, Hennepin County residents dial 763-450-3666
- Spiritual Rock Outreach Ministries - 6010 65th Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, 55429, dial 763-316-8051
- Rise Inc. - 3708 Nicollet Ave South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 554409, telephone 651-403-1885
- Christmas Committee Inc. - PO Box 755, Anoka, Minnesota, 55303, phone 763-323-4982
- Grace and Mercy Tabernacle Church of God in Christ - 14501 Nowthen Boulevard NW, Ramsey, Minnesota, 55303, phone 763-427-4392. They serve Anoka County
- Red Lake Nation Embassy - 2929 Bloomington Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55406, 612-874-9588
- Southern Anoka Community Assistance is at 627 38th Ave NE, Columbia Heights, Minnesota, 55421. For hours, call 612-532-1914
- The father's house of Carver County. Address is 2940 N Chestnut St, Chaska, Minnesota, 55318. Phone 651-243-8687
- The CHAP Store is at 2020 E. HWY 13, Burnsville, Minnesota, 55337. They are in Dakota County, and dial 952-890-8222 for information on Toys for Tots
- The Father's House - Burnsville high school, Burnsville, Minnesota, 55337
  Phone 651-216-2241
- Real Believers Faith Center of Hennepin County is at 2010 Fremont Ave, Minneapolis Minnesota, 55411. For information on free christmas help, call 763-438-6335
- Tabernacle Faith church - 921 Downs Road, Champlin, Minnesota, 55316. Call 763-300-6547
- CROSS Toys for Tots is at 12915 Weinand Circle, Rogers, Minnesota, 55374. Dial 763-425-1050
- Good in the 'Hood - 2101 Chicago Ave S, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55404. Low income families in Hennepin County can dial 612-217-4003
- Grace Apostolic Church - The charity is at 3805 3rd Ave South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55409. The Hennepin County agency can be reached at 612-961-9132
- Harvest For Youth Ministries - Phone 952-428-8063.
- West African Family and Community Services helps people of all faiths. Location is 7200 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, 55429. Telephone number is 612-276-1527
- Minneapolis Urban League provides free toys, coats, and more in Hennepin County. Address is 2100 Plymouth Ave North, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55411. Phone 612-302-3114
- New Millennium Academy. Address is 2620 Russell Ave N, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55411. For information on holiday applications, call 612-377-6260.
- The Purpose Church - 3001 Russel Ave N, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55411. Phone 612-968-5197

Union Gospel Mission
435 University Avenue
For holiday assistance, dial 651-292-1721.
Hot meals, referrals, and Thanksgiving or Christmas help for families in poverty.

Salvation Army
Our Twin Cities Toy Shop hotline (651-746-3595) will be open during weekday business hours for registration and to answer questions.
All who register before Dec. 1 will receive an assigned location for toy pick up, based on their address. Distributions will be held Dec. 18-23.
If you miss registration but still need assistance, call United Way 2-1-1 to see what help may be available in your area.
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.

**STUDENT DROP OFF:** Please be courteous of other drivers and USE CAUTION when pulling away from the curb!

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

The staff is respectfully requesting students be dropped off at the front door #1 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 8:10am.

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.
Stay Informed

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

http://kenny.mpls.k12.mn.us/

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

http://www.facebook.com/kennyp TA

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:

kennyschool.pto@gmail.com
By 5pm on Friday
Safety tips for parents and guardians

Every parent should know and follow the safety tips offered below. Please take the time to read and share this information with your children.

Listen to children about their concerns.

Take responsibility to know where your children are at all times. Be familiar with their friends and daily activities.

Build self-esteem—A child who has low self-esteem cannot protect himself/herself. Listen carefully to your children’s fears, and be supportive in all your discussions with them, replacing fear with knowledge.

Teach decision-making—Children at all ages can make decisions. Practice early with little decisions so big decisions later are easier. Teach them to trust their own feelings, and assure them they have the right to say NO to what they sense is wrong.

Build support systems—Children need positive adult role models and need to know where to go for help.

Choose caregivers carefully—Interview and monitor baby-sitters, group leaders, youth pastors, etc. Be alert to a teenager or adult who is paying an unusual amount of attention to your children or giving them inappropriate or expensive gifts.

Protect kids who are home alone—Set ground rules, emergency contacts, and responsibilities for children.

Talk with children—Teach your children that no one should approach them or touch them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable. If someone does, they should tell their parents immediately.

Be sensitive—Watch for changes in a child’s behavior. They are signals that you should sit down and talk to your children about what caused the changes.

Use role-playing—Rehearse safety situations with your child. Give them power through knowledge. Play the WHAT IF? game.

Let kids be kids—Teach them what they need to know to be safe and let them know you will do your best to protect them. Don’t scare the fun out of children.

This and other safety information is available from the following organizations. Please share these tips with your family and friends.

THE JACOB WETTERLING FOUNDATION: 1-800-325-HOPE or www.jwrc.org

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN: 1-800-THE-LOST or www.missingkids.com

Contact your crime prevention specialist for additional prevention information. Call 311 (or 612-673-3000) or see www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/police_outreach_safe-teams to locate your neighborhood crime prevention specialist.

For further crime prevention resources, please visit www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/index.htm.
McGruff offers some crime prevention tips for children

1. Call 911 when you need the police, an ambulance, or when there's a fire.

2. Don't open your door to a stranger. If Mom or Dad are home, have them come to the door. If you're home alone, say "Mom/Dad can't come to the door now. Come back later."

3. Don't tell strangers on the phone that Mom or Dad aren't home. Again, just say, "They can't come to the phone."

4. Don't leave doors and windows open or unlocked.

5. Never get close to a car if a stranger asks for help or directions. It is easy for a stranger to pull you into the car. Never hitchhike or take a ride from a stranger.

6. Don't take candy, money, or anything from a stranger.

7. When walking or playing after dark, stay where there are lights.

8. Always tell Mom or Dad where you are going and what time you will be home.

9. When walking somewhere, go with a friend if possible. Be sure to know how to get where you are going.

Contact your crime prevention specialist for additional prevention information. Call 311 (or 612-673-3000) or see www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/police_outreach_safe-teams to locate your neighborhood crime prevention specialist.

For further crime prevention resources, please visit www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/index.htm.
MPS STRONG Safety Tips

Stay
✓ together with friends
✓ near your home
✓ out of alleys

Tell
✓ friends or parents where you will be, who you will be with, and when you will return
✓ an adult or the police if something doesn't seem right – call 911

Remember
✓ to trust your instincts
✓ your name, address, and phone number
✓ to identify safe adults, places, and friends to help you
✓ to avoid anyone offering a ride, drugs, alcohol, or guns

Open
✓ your eyes and ears by NO texting when walking
✓ your eyes and ears by using ONE EAR BUD when walking

Never
✓ open the door for anyone you don’t know
✓ do anything while home alone that you wouldn’t do when home with a trusted adult
✓ meet someone you only know online
✓ get into a car with someone you don't know

Give
✓ yourself a way out, get away from strangers and bad situations immediately