Hello Kenny Families,

The Variety Shows last Thursday were a blast. Thank you Mrs. Hanzal for 26 years of coordinating these amazing events! It was a wonderful production and highlighted the many talents of our students here at Kenny.

Last week, we received great news. When we received our budget allocation on Thursday night, it provided funding similar to the level we had at the end of the 14-15 school year. At that time, we had Title I funding for interventions and received additional allocations during the year to provide funding for the family liaison and our behavior Associate Educator. The current allocation, adjusting for inflation, will allow us to return to those staffing levels, even including daytime band!

Over the last five years, I have strongly advocated that there is a minimum level of funding for a school to open safely and meet the academic needs of children. In addition, a very strong group of parents advocated for Kenny’s budget to both district office staff and school board members. Those efforts and a new Chief Financial Officer, with 20 years of experience working with the Omaha Public Schools, seems to have paid off.

Our partnership with the University of Minnesota continues to provide us more support. We have three new student teachers spending an entire year with us, through the fall of next school year. Alaina Larson will be working with 5th grade teacher, Ms. Johnson, Leah Knobloch and Sarah Kobelinski will be working with kindergarten teachers, Ms. Mishler and Ms. Williams. We now have six student teachers this semester at Kenny! Additionally, Kenny has five practicum students from the University of Minnesota who spend Tuesday and Thursday mornings in our classrooms. We have amazing talent at Kenny and are proud to help train future teachers!

As always, thanks for all you do to make this such an amazing school.

Bill Gibbs, Principal

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### Dates to Remember

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<td>Tuesday, Mar 15</td>
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<td>Fri, Mar 25-Fri, Apr 1</td>
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<td>(Record Keeping Day, Spring Break)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 14</td>
<td>Science Expo</td>
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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
Family Reading Night
Thursday, February 25th 6:00-8:00pm
Come in from the cold and curl up with a good book at Kenny School.

Join us for:
- A visit from the Washburn Library staff: learn about Caldecott and Newberry medal books, hear stories, and register for a library card.
- Story time with local author David Grant, including traditional Somali folk tales.
- Hear winners of the Family Reading Night writing contest read their entries.
- Bring a book and find a cozy spot to read in the gym.
- Check out the graffiti wall!

The Family Reading Night writing contest entries are due Friday, February 19th.

The K-2 theme is: "What is your favorite book and why?".
The theme for grades 3-5 is: "What book would you jump into and why?".

One winner will be chosen from each classroom. Winners will read their entries on Family Reading Night.

Interested in volunteering?
Contact Terri Diamond at diamondltd@comcast.net

Grades K-2 Contest Theme:
Grades 3-5 Contest Theme:

CALLING ALL WRITERS
Kenny Family Reading Night
February 25

This is the year we need YOU to be a part of the WRITING CONTEST. Tell us on the attached paper:

What is your favorite book and why?

Write a picture (if you like), and return your work in your Wednesday folder by February 19.
ONE piece from each classroom will be selected to be read aloud at FAMILY READING NIGHT!!!(must be present)

See you there!!!
Questions? Email Anna Adams (anniel52@hotmail.com)

CALLING ALL WRITERS
Kenny Family Reading Night
February 25

This is the year we need YOU to be a part of the WRITING CONTEST. Tell us on the attached paper:

What book would you jump into and why?

Who would you interact with? WHAT settings would you see? HOW would you fit into the story?
Return your work to your teacher by February 19.
ONE piece from each classroom will be selected to be read aloud at FAMILY READING NIGHT!!!(must be present)

See you there!!!
Questions? Email Anna Adams (anniel52@hotmail.com)
The Kenny Foundation: By the Numbers

Total amount raised by the Foundation last year = $25,000
Total amount raised at March Magic last year by the 200 guests in attendance = $18,500
Total amount spent on projects in the 2015-2016 school year SO FAR = $19,000 (All for our kids and our school!)
Amazing Kenny staff members at March Magic last year (see photo below!) = 12
March Magic 2016 event ticket = $45
Kenny parents putting the ‘Fun’ in ‘Fundraising’ on March 12, 2016 = PRICELESS

March Magic RSVPs are due on Friday, Feb. 26!
Tickets can be purchased by submitting your RSVP and payment to the school office, or by purchasing online.

Go to www.kennymarchmagic.org for details.
For the 2016-17 school year, please use the school request site to request:

- A school for an incoming kindergartner. Please pass this information on to any family or friends with children who will be 5 by September 1st.
- A new school for a current K-11th grade student
- A middle school (only if your 5th grader wants to request a school other than the middle school pathway which is Anthony for the Kenny students)
- A high school for all incoming 9th graders

For elementary and middle school requests [http://schoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us](http://schoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us)
For high school requests please visit [http://highschoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us](http://highschoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us)

The site is easy to use and requires your address with zip code to learn more about your school options.

**Questions?** Contact the Kenny School Office at 612.668.3340 or the Minneapolis District Placement Office at 612.668.1840 or 612.668.3700.

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**A Note from the Nurse:**

Dear Kenny families,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported last week that influenza activity is increasing across the country, and that the agency has received reports of severe influenza illness. CDC has received reports of severe respiratory illness among young— to middle aged adults with influenza virus infection, some of whom required intensive care unit (ICU) admission; fatalities have been reported. **Most of these patients were reportedly unvaccinated.**

The CDC is recommending that all persons who have not yet received an influenza vaccine this season to be vaccinated against influenza. This recommendation is for patients 6 months of age and older.

Please make an appointment to protect your families today if you have not yet done so. While the flu vaccine is never a *perfect* match to the flu in the environment it offers significant benefits. At a minimum, people vaccinated are afforded some disease protection and see less severe illness/complications if they do contract influenza. This is especially important for children and adults with chronic health conditions and those who care for them, or share classrooms with them.

Thank you for making Kenny a safer, healthier place!

Ann Lumbar Bendson RN, LSN
Office/Attendance 612-668-3346
Attention All Kenny Students:

**HEALTH/PHYSICAL FITNESS POSTER CONTEST**
Help Kenny Community promote healthy living by making a poster for your school! Design a poster that promotes fitness, health or nutrition. See examples by the Phy. Ed. door.

Be creative! Add color, words, facts and/or pictures! Don’t forget to place your name and room number on the back.

The top 10 posters will be announced on March 15th during the Rope Power celebration. You could win a limousine ride for all of your creative artwork and healthy motivation!!

Poster paper is available by Ms. Johnson’s office door. Posters are due to Ms. Johnson by Friday, March 4th. GOOD LUCK and HAPPY DRAWING!

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**Spring Music Sharing Concerts!**

Grades 3-5 will be sharing a few things they’ve worked on this year at their Music Sharing Concert. It is a chance for students to demonstrate skills and concepts learned throughout the year in a fun and informal setting.

We hope you can join us in the Gymnasium:
- Grade 5: Thursday, March 3rd, 8:15am
- Grade 4: Recorder Recital, Thursday, April 7th, 8:15am
- Grade 3: Thursday, April 28th 8:15am

*Please note the calendar change for the 2nd Grade concert (the original was a little too close to my due date!)

Grade 2 and Grade 1 may have the opportunity to perform during their music class in late April or early May. Dates and details TBD - stay tuned!

Rachel Wixson, Kenny Music Teacher

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**KENNY SCIENCE EXPO 2016**

**Science Expo welcomes all Kenny Scientists!**
**Thursday, April 14th, 6:00–7:30**
**Dinner 5:30–6:30**

Science Expo Entry Forms due this week … through Feb 29th
Join the fun and sign up for the Science Expo!

Kenny scientists team up with another student to create a science project. It is time to fill out the Entry Form and hand it in to your teacher or the school office. The Entry Forms went home in Wednesday Folders earlier this month and can be found in the school office.

Parents interested in helping out during Science Expo 2016? Reach out to one of us listed below. Help needed with the following:

- Display board labeling and distribution on Wed March 9 (pm)
- Display board labeling and distribution on Thurs Mar 10 (am)
- Planning layout of tables, signage for Apr 14th
- Helping put up tables and signage after school hours on Apr 14th
- Helping with science presentations by volunteers in the Music Room or Media Room

If you have questions, contact parent volunteers Osha Roopnarine (eliastar@gmail.com), Padma Wudali (Padma.wudali@gmail.com) or ask any Kenny School teachers.
Need Ideas?

Ideas for your Science Expo project are all around. Pick something that you think is interesting and then think about how it applies to science. Just about anything can be turned into a science project. Here's some things you can do:

- Run an Experiment, which is a test to find something out. Start with an assumption (hypothesis) and design a test to prove whether this assumption is right or wrong. Run the test, collect the data, draw conclusions, and then tell everyone what you found out.
- Put together a Collection and show how it should be classified and organized.
- Design and make a hand-made Model, which is usually a smaller version of real-life object.
- Research an Explanation for how something works or how it is made.
- Make a Comparison between two or more systems and show how...

How about these ideas? Here's how the world of science is grouped together with some suggestions next to each category:

**Life Science**
- Animals (habitats, physical structure)
- Plants (seeds, growth needs)

**Physical Science**
- Chemistry (pollution, dissolving)
- Electricity (electric circuits, doorbells)
- Simple Machines (levers, ramps, pulleys)
- Technology (cameras, computers)

**Earth Science**
- Astronomy (planets, stars)
- Geology (volcanoes, earthquakes)
- Meteorology (clouds, tornadoes, tides)

**Natural Science**
- Ecology (recycling, making paper)
- Cycles (water cycle, food chains, seasons)

**Cultural Science**
- Anthropology (life in ancient Greece)
- Architecture (pyramids, skyscrapers)
- City systems

**Resources**

kenny.mpls.k12.mn.us/: Kenny's website has pictures of past student projects.
Look for Science Expo under Special Events.

mpls.k12.mn.us/Page/165: Links for Learning on the District's website has links to several on-line science resources for students.

sciencebuddies.org: Project Ideas tab lists several science areas with projects.

tryscience.com: Fun and simple projects with illustrated instructions.

pbskids.org: Dragonfly TV, Fetch, and Zoom all have science projects.

Ask Mrs. Kersteter, Kenny School Librarian, for help in locating print and on-line resources for your project.
Online Resources Students Can Access at Home

Thanks to a grant from the Kenny Foundation last year, our students have access to two wonderful online resources, specifically created for elementary school students. PebbleGo has four different databases (Animals, Biographies, Science and Social Studies) and is geared toward students in kindergarten through third grade (although older students still enjoy it). PebbleGoNext currently has two different databases (Native Americans and States) and is geared toward students in third through fifth grade. Students have access until the end of December, but I have requested another grant through the Foundation to pay for the subscription for another year that will hopefully go through. All grade levels use this resource for research projects they create in collaboration with their classroom teachers.

You will need a username and password, which your students have been given. I am unable to put it in the newsletter because it cannot be posted online. If your child has forgotten the username and password, please email me and I would be happy to provide that for you.

Students also have access to other online resources made available by the school district. Tumblebooks is one such resource and the kids really enjoy using it. The link to those resources can be found here. You must access Tumblebooks through the MPS Student Learning Resources page or it will ask you for a username and password. I have also created a Google site for the Kenny Media Center. This is something all students use as part of Media class and has some helpful links and resources arranged by grade level.

If you have any questions about any of these resources, please feel free to contact me: Dianne Kersteter dianne.kersteter@mpls.k12.mn.us

Used Computers for Students

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

If interested, please contact:
Karen Shannon, Kenny School Social Worker Karen.Shannon@mpls.k12.mn.us 612-668-3345
Youth Performance Company Presents…

Just Before Sleep

January 29 - February 24
Tickets: $7 to $15

Youth Performance Company at the Howard Conn Performing Arts Center
1900 Nicollet Avenue (at Franklin) in Minneapolis (free lot parking)
Box office: 612.623.9080 or (LINK): youthperformanceco.org

Just Before Sleep tells the story of homelessness through the lives of two young people. Compelling drama performed by area youth in Youth Performance Company production. Here in Minnesota, the most recent study of homelessness from Wilder Research counted 10,182 homeless people, and estimates that more than 14,000 Minnesotans are homeless on a given night, many of them children and young people.

ART ROOM WISH LIST:

High Priority: small cylinder containers from oatmeal or grits (approximately 18-24 oz size)

- egg cartons- paper only
- cottage cheese or yogurt plastic containers (16 or 24 oz) Please ---not individual size.
- Trims- ribbon, lace, braid….any amount.

Please do not send TP rolls, milk containers, or glass jars.

Thank you for all your help in keeping the art department filled with inspiring materials!
Mrs. McGovern
Art Teacher
Room 123
April 29 - May 15, 2016

Sideways Stories from Wayside School
Youth Performance Company at the Howard Conn Performing Arts Center
1900 Nicollet Avenue (at Franklin) in Minneapolis (free lot parking)
Tickets: Ask about our school day special rates!
Box office: 612.623.9080 or youthperformanceco.org

In this beautiful and empowering picture-book biography of presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, New York Times bestselling author, Winter, and award-winning illustrator, Colón, illuminate her distinguished life and career. This stunning project follows Clinton from her early years as an outspoken student at Wellesley College and Yale Law School.

Please join us for a special event with New York Times Bestselling author, Jonah Winter
Monday, March 7 at 7:00 pm
Barnes & Noble Galleria

Mr. Winter will be with us to read and discuss the inspiring story of Hillary, a book the New York Times Book Review says blends female empowerment with an anti-bullying message. We hope you will bring your daughters (and sons!) out for an evening sure to impress the young leader or aspiring writer in your life.

Student of the Month Volunteers Needed:
The Student of the Month ceremony takes place once a month so this would be an ongoing volunteer opportunity. If you are available to help with the Student of the Month program, please contact:

Darryl Johnson at 612-861-1334 or johnsondarryl_1@yahoo.com
Experience life-change growth:
Our tutors are trained to change the future.

Sam dreams to read big books.
You can make his dream come true.

Minnesota Reading Corps inspires community members to change the future of struggling students. As the nation’s largest state AmeriCorps program, we are recognized because our tutors are getting results with the students they serve and are helping to ensure that all children are successful readers by the end of third grade.

Become a tutor at Kenny
Literacy tutors commit to one year of AmeriCorps service. Tutors come from many backgrounds and include recent high school and college grads, career changers, stay-at-home parents, and retirees. Tutors are paid a living allowance, and are eligible for an education award of up to $5,730 and federal student loan forbearance. Tutors 55 or older may gift the award to a child or grandchild.

Benefits of serving include:
• Grow your career skills, network and resume
• Get training and coaching in research-based literacy methods
• Motivate kids in your community to succeed in the classroom

One year. This year.
Join Minnesota Reading Corps

To apply or more information, visit www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org
Contact recruitment@mnedc.org or 866-859-2825 with questions.

Why I Serve
“There is nothing greater than seeing a student who has no desire to read, develop into one of your best students and gain skills that will open doors for future success. By serving as an Elementary Literacy Tutor, I could be part of the change I wanted to see.”
George Ochoa, Minnesota Reading Corps tutor

MinnesotaReadingCorps.org
A strategic initiative of ServeMinnesota
Be sure to sign-up for the Kenny Electronic Newsletter!

Printed newsletters are only sent home to families who specifically request a paper version.

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

Email the Kenny School PTA and we will add you to our school's electronic communications.

If you know anyone who would like to be added to the list forward their email address:

kennyPTA33721@gmail.com

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

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

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

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.

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.