Hello Kenny Families,

Great things continue to happen at Kenny School. It is so amazing to walk through classrooms and see such high levels of student engagement. On Monday, the teachers had a Professional Learning Community (PLC) celebration. Each team shared their goals, learning, and showed examples of student work—demonstrating how students are using their learning and the team collaboration of growth and development. The level of professionalism is so strong at Kenny.

This week we have a number of celebrations to honor positive behavior and student learning. Every Friday, we reward positive behavior by rewarding “Bees of the Week” to students who have earned Kenny Coupons. This Friday, we also have a Student of the Month celebration. We will be sending home Perfect Attendance awards on Friday for those students that have not missed any school in the first quarter of school. This will be a big week for Ms. Peifer and Ms. Shannon, as they get to pass out the certificates.

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I am leaving for Phoenix early on Friday to celebrate the holidays with family. I know the students will be more than willing to tell Ms. Peifer what happens when she says “The Harder we work…”

There have been some interesting statements about Kenny on social media lately. If you hear something that just does not sound like the Kenny you know or you have a question, please ask your child’s teacher or ask me. We try to get you as much information about current events through the website, handbook/calendar, and the weekly newsletter.

Have a wonderful vacation with your families. You can let the children know Mr. Gibbs and their teachers want them doing ST math and reading every day!

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

Bill Gibbs, Principal

A Note From the Principal Intern... 

Site Council: Last week, we held our second Site Council meeting. This meeting was to adopt the Bi-Laws, unifying the role of the Site Council across the schools in the district. The Site Council is designed to be an advisory voice for parents and community to the school, especially during budget and School Improvement planning.

We also voted in 7 parent members and a co-chair. Angela Kiese (Co-Chair), Karen Wilson, Joy Obadiaru, Kathy Hendrickson, Osha Roopnarine, Peggy Kirkpatrick or Terri Diamond (PTA Rep), Megan Peterson (Foundation Representative) and Kate Bischoff (Community at Large Representative). The term for Site Council is 2 years, however half of our members will rotate next September. The meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. Our next meeting is January 12, 2015 at 5:30pm.

Jessica Peifer, Principal Intern
Some great things have been happening in 2015 at Kenny!

Here are a few highlights:

- Kindergartners have loved their author study with Jan Brett and making gingerbread houses. We’re busy learning math, reading and writing. Of course, we can’t wait for the snow to come!

- Our first graders are becoming ROCK STARS at using a rubric to self-assess their written responses to the books they read! Periods…capitals…and details…OH MY!

- Second graders have been busy as bees learning and growing. We have celebrated holidays and cultures around the world. We have also pulled, pushed, rolled, and spun as we explored force and motion. Finally, we have perfected our paragraph writing skills using the hamburger model. Second grade is great! (PS: We got a 4 on this paragraph).

- Third graders were eager to attend our field trip to the Mill City Museum where they will learn about the history of Minneapolis. Students are finishing up a science unit on Matter and Energy and a math unit on Equal Groups. Third grade also welcomes Ms. O’Donnell to Room 120 while Ms. Schinneer is out on maternity leave. Room 117 just sent off their latest pen-pal letters to Santa Cruz with a snowflake bookmark. Room 118 finished learning about different cultural celebrations with guest speaker Sandrine, Evalie’s mom. She talked about holiday celebrations in Belgium.

- Fourth graders are working really hard on becoming critical thinkers, mathematicians, and positive members of the Kenny Community. We fourth grade teachers are proud of our kids, their families, and all of the talented professionals at Kenny School.

- Our fifth graders are eager to take on a challenge and have been concentrating on a growth mind set this fall. It is exciting to see them light up with wonder and love to learn and explore. Kenny is a great place to do that!

- I love how the band students are working so hard. They’ve only been with their instruments a little over a month. It is amazing to see how much they have grown during that time! I’m thankful for their hard work and dedication! Brian Vander Heul - Band Director.

- When I walk down the hallways kids and staff smile and greet one another. Everyday I see and experience acts of kindness between staff, teachers, parents and students. When people are happy, learning is alive and well. I am thankful for the many Kenny community members that make my life so fulfilled and happy. Cynthia McGovern - Art Teacher

There are so many great things about Kenny.
Kenny school and staff and students are a home away from home.

Kenny kids care for each other. Kenny cares about every child.
Kenny welcomes everybody with open arms.
Kenny makes you feel like you belong. You are so special! You matter!
CARING CARING that’s what we do. You care about me and I care about you.
LEARNING LEARNING that’s what we do. Every day we learn something new.
GROWING GROWING that’s what we do. Our garden is awesome and we are too!
We are having a friendly competition: K&1, 2&3, 4&5!
Let's cover some tushy! Bring in any size baby diapers and place them in the corresponding plastic tubs by the front office! Ready, set, fill!

Thanks for helping our community!

Diaper drive challenge Jan 3-27th
Let's see how many diapers we can collect for People Serving People!

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From the Music Room:

4th Grade Families!
We will be starting our recorder unit shortly after break. A blue order form for buying a recorder went home this week. ALL students need to return the form, even if using a school recorder (all details are on the blue order form). **Forms and money are due JANUARY 13th!**
Contact me with any questions.
Rachel Wixson  Rachel.Wixson@mpls.k12.mn.us

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Family Reading Night
volunteers needed

Kenny PTA needs volunteers for a Family Reading Night planning committee. The committee will be finding authors and planning fun reading activities for the February 2016 event.

Contact Terri Diamond if you are able to help:
diamondLtt@comcast.net, or call (612) 269-2550
Thanks everyone for continuing to collect and clip box tops!

Keep clipping for Kenny!!

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**Kenny Variety Show**

**Thursday, February 11 at 12:30 and 6:30**

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**Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells**

Sassy, Silly and Super-Fun for the Holidays!
Youth Performance Company presents naughty-not-nice fun in:

"Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells"

Dates: December 4 - 20, 2015

Performance Location:
Howard Conn Fine Arts Center
1900 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis
(corner of Franklin and Nicollet)
Phone: 612.623.9080
Web: youthperformanceco.org

Ticket Prices:
$15 for adults
$12 for children/seniors
$10 for weekend groups (10+)
$7 for weekday groups (10+)

Opening Night:
$5 on Saturday, December 5 at 7:00pm
online only
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@mpls.k12.mn.us
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

**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

One year. This year.
Join Minnesota Reading Corps

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

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.

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

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

http://www.facebook.com/kennyppta

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
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 7:50 am.

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.