



From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to our first issue of the Kenwood Communicator for the 2021-2022 school year. It's hard to believe September is already upon us, though it is true that time flies when you are having fun. Our staff and students have definitely been having fun getting into the swing of back-to-school. I have enjoyed students telling me some fantastic knock-knock jokes during lunch, observed students so eager to read their newest library book they do so while walking back to class, and celebrated our kindergartners and first graders already show big steps toward independence by walking to class smiling with a spring in their step!

September is American Founders' Month! Constitution Day is celebrated September 17 followed by Celebrate Freedom Week the last week in September. Our students will learn about the Constitution including the intent, importance, and meaning of the Declaration of Independence. We will observe Patriots' Day, September 11, on Friday, September 10 and commemorate those who died in the terrorist attacks. Superintendent Chambers has given the Kenwood media center a copy of the book, 30,000 Stitches: The Inspiring Story of the National Flag, by Amanda Davis, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of this event, and we look forward to reading it. In other September news, Ms. Jagers is excited to host our Book Fair the week of September 20. Originally, we had planned for Open House that week; however, Open House is currently postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

When we began this school year, our team agreed that after last year's ups and downs, we were ready and able to take on any challenge. Well, we have very quickly discovered that COVID-19 is still our predominant challenge. As a result, we have had to adapt to the ever-evolving situation, and we appreciate our Kenwood families for working with us and remaining flexible and supportive. We have updated protocols that include suspending visitors, field trips, and large gatherings for the time being. We are following Health Department guidelines for positive cases, close contacts, and those exhibiting symptoms. Please know that the last thing we want to do is send home a student due to these reasons, but, for everyone's safety, we must follow established protocols. To help us, please self-check symptoms and keep your student home if he/she has any.

Parents, you are such a vital part of the success of Kenwood, and we look forward to being able to see you back on campus. Until we can resume having parents on campus, we have many ways to stay informed. Be sure we have your current phone number for automated calls, check out our website at www.okaloosaschools.com/kenwood/, follow us on Facebook at Kenwood Elementary School, <https://www.facebook.com/KenwoodElementarySchool/>, follow Kenwood PACK (Parent Activity Committees at Kenwood) at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1187723694655415/>, and/or plan to attend SAC zoom meetings (dates and times are in the office and on the Kenwood website), email me at peggy.nehring@okaloosaschools.com, or call us at 833-3570.

We appreciate all your assistance in keeping our students safe by not checking out students after 2:45 PM and providing all transportation changes in writing either before or the morning of the dated change. We also kindly ask that you continue to be mindful of our wonderful Kenwood neighbors by following the speed limit and refraining from blocking driveways during arrival and dismissal.

It is my pleasure to be able to work with you and your children. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or good knock-knock jokes!

Peggy Land Nehring, Principal

COVID-19 INFORMATION

In these unprecedented times, we want you to know that we are aware of the difficult decisions you must make as a parent, and we want to provide as much information as possible to you. If your child is symptomatic, please keep him/her home and notify the school. Symptoms can include fever greater than 100.4, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, headache, body or muscle aches, gastrointestinal symptoms, new loss of taste or smell, and/or nasal congestion/runny nose.

The only tests that are accepted for negative results (for a student to be able to return to school from required quarantine) are the PCR, the Rapid PCR, or the Ellume COVID-19 Home Test. If you decide to use the Ellume test, the directions MUST be followed exactly for negative results to be accepted. We are following the guidelines per the Florida Department of Health Emergency Rule 64DER21-12.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

i-Ready Diagnostic test? What's i-Ready?

i-Ready is a comprehensive assessment and instruction program used throughout our school. Your child will take the i-Ready diagnostic test in Reading and Math three times per year: once in the fall, at semester, and then again at the end of the year. Teachers will be sharing the results of your student's i-Ready Diagnostic test just taken in the last couple of weeks. If you have any questions about i-Ready test scores or instruction, please call your child's teacher.



Food for Thought:

Food for Thought is a program that provides additional food for students in need. Their current method of distribution will be through curbside pickups only. Participating families will receive bags that contain at least 30-50 food items including

breakfast items, snacks, proteins, fruits, and more. To receive Food for Thought program updates, text OKALOOSA to 474747. September food pick up dates are:

9/9 – 3:45-5:30 PM at Mary Esther Elem.

9/10 – 3:45-5:30 PM at Niceville HS

9/11 – 8:30-10:30 AM at the Food for Thought Pantry in Destin-908 Airport Rd.

Feel free to call me at 833-3570 if you have concerns or questions. I am excited to work with such an awesome group of children! Linda Holland, Guidance Counselor.

TITLE I INFORMATION

Your child's teacher will share our annual Title I Student-Parent-Teacher Compact. This compact outlines our shared responsibility for improved student achievement. We look forward to working with you this year and helping every student reach his/her full potential.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Please join us in person or on Zoom on September 16 at 3:30 PM to give input on Kenwood's Parent Family Engagement Plan and School Performance Plan. We need and value your input to continue to make Kenwood the best school that it can be. The Zoom meeting ID is 856 4685 4093 and the passcode is Lk7a0Q.

CAFETERIA NEWS

While all students will receive free meals through the end of this school year, it is still very important that families apply for the program. The percentage of students who qualify each year is what determines our Title I school eligibility status. We receive federal funding as a Title I school and are able to provide extra supports to students because of this. Even if you think you don't qualify, please apply online at the Food Service web



page: www.myschoolapps.com. You will need your student's ID number to register online. It can be obtained from your student's teacher.

CLINIC CORNER

Please join us in welcoming Cassondra Reynolds, our new LPN. We are happy to welcome her to bulldog territory!

If you have not already done so, please complete your student's medical form. If you need a blank form please contact the school or teacher, and we will send one home with your child. Be sure to include any allergies your student may have, any medications taken on a regular basis, any medical problems they are experiencing or underlying medical issues, and current phone numbers so we can contact you in case of an emergency. Also, do NOT send medications to school with your student. This includes cough drops, over the counter medications, or refill medications for the clinic. ALL medications MUST be brought by parent or guardian. Please bring the medication to the front office. The health technician or a front office staff will assist you with completing the required form. For students in kindergarten or 1st grade, we ask that parents please pack a change of clothes, including underwear and socks, to be kept at school in your student's cubby. Accidents happen, and we are limited with underwear and shorts/pants in the clinic.



MEDIA CENTER

Welcome back, Bulldogs! We hope you had a well-read summer. Our back-to-school orientations are complete and we are in full swing with students checking out books. We are always happy when our students are reading!



September 20th- 24th is our **Book Fair!** It will be open for student visits from 9:00am to 2:30pm daily.

CAR RIDERS

Thank you, parents, for your patience while we teach our students Kenwood's car rider procedures. Dismissal time has decreased to only 16-17 minutes each afternoon, which takes all of us coming together to follow procedures and keep our children and neighbors safe. To ensure a smooth dismissal, please note the following:

- All car rider vehicles should enter and exit via Camborne Avenue.
- Be mindful of neighborhood speed limits.
- Stay clear of our neighbors' driveways while waiting to pick up your children.
- When driving through the Kenwood parking lot, it is imperative that cell phones not be in use.
- If you do not have a car rider tag displayed during pick-up, please park and go to the office for an ID check.

Again, we thank you for your patience and support.

WALKERS

Parents who choose to walk up to the school and meet their children at dismissal are asked to wait at the bike racks – on Powell Drive side or on Camborne Avenue side – whichever side you selected on the walker form. Please do not stand in the bus or car rider dismissal area to wait for your children. We thank you for cooperating with us as we work to maintain student and staff safety. We love seeing you walk up to greet your children each day; however, animals are not allowed on campus for the safety of all.

ATTENDANCE

Did you know that September is Attendance Awareness Month? While we will continue to face attendance challenges related to COVID-19, we can continue to teach students about the benefits of regular attendance. Our Okaloosa County School District Pupil Progression Plan states that after the fifth absence (excused or unexcused) per semester, the parents or legal guardian will be notified of the absences in writing. After the ninth absence (excused or unexcused) per semester, a letter will be sent to the parents

or legal guardian notifying them of the necessity for a doctor's excuse or an excuse from an official agency in order for make-up work to be provided. In addition, this letter will notify parents of the consequences of any additional absences. After the fifteenth absence per semester, no make-up work will be allowed, and a parent/teacher conference should be scheduled before the student returns to school. A written note from the parent must be provided within five days of the absence for an absence to be considered excused.

LATE ARRIVALS & EARLY CHECK OUTS

Students arriving to class after 8:40 are tardy. Car riders who arrive late must be accompanied to the office by the parent/guardian for check-in. Parents of students who are walkers or bike riders will be notified if their child is tardy to school. Continued tardiness will require a parent conference. Students must be checked out through the main office. Only those individuals indicated on the contact card by the enrolling parent will be allowed to check out a student. Photo identification is required. This OCSD policy is in place for the safety of all students. To minimize disruptions, Kenwood's policy states that there will be no checkouts after 2:45 PM unless there is an emergency. The office closes at 3:30 PM. Please pick up your student(s) no later than 3:10 PM.



VISITORS

At this time, no visitors are allowed on campus. Parents may come to the front office as necessary for check-ins, check outs, and drop off/pick up of items. We appreciate your patience as we will only permit one guest at a time into the office when needed. Please call ahead if possible, and remember to always bring your ID when coming to the front office.

VOLUNTEERS

We love our volunteers and can never have too many! However, we are currently without our on-campus volunteer program due to COVID-19 guidelines that require restricted visitor access. You may be able to help your child's teacher at home with tasks. Please let them know if you have available time. We appreciate you!



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Florida DCF Child Safety Month
American Founders' Month
Hispanic Heritage Month
3 – FALL PICTURE DAY ☺
6 – Labor Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
10 – First PACK Meeting in Media Center @3:45 (parents are invited to attend this after-hours meeting)
16 – SAC Meeting @ 3:30
17 – Constitution Day
20-24 – Book Fair



OCTOBER

National Bullying Prevention Month
Dyslexia Awareness Month
6 – Lunch and Learn Zoom Parent Program @ 11:30
8 – End of 1st Nine Weeks
11 – Teacher workday/NO SCHOOL
15 – Class Group Picture Day
20 – Report cards available in Parent Portal



NOVEMBER

National Child Safety Month
Parent Involvement Month
5 – PACK Meeting
10 – Veteran's day parade on bus ramp
11- Veterans Day Holiday - NO SCHOOL
18 – Thanksgiving Lunch in the Cafeteria
22- 26 – Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL

