



A Message from the Kenwood Education Foundation

August 17, 2011



Dear Kenwood School Parents:

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! While everyone is settling into a new routine and our children are excited about the start of the new school year, their new classrooms and new teachers, it is also a time that we, as parents, realize how fortunate we are to watch our children learn and grow in such an enriching, nurturing educational environment. It is because of the commitment and support of the parents and community that Kenwood School is what it is today. So thank you for all you have done and continue to do to make our children's education so well-rounded and strong.

As you know, the state continues to make cuts to the education budget. As a result, schools state-wide are closing or cutting back on programs. Through your help, we have weathered the storm thus far. However, **the Kenwood School needs your ongoing support** to ensure the continuation of these programs we have come to expect. You'll be amazed at what a "free" education today covers at Kenwood and what we are able to provide to the students through our financial donations. The chart below illustrates what the state provided when we were in school versus what it provides today:

	State-funded in 1970 (source: CA Dept of Ed)	State-funded in 2011
Teacher Salaries	x	x
Teacher Aides	x (some districts)	
Math	x	x
Language Arts	x	x
Building - maintenance & utilities	x	x
Science	x	x
Social Studies	x	x
Language (Spanish)	n/a	
PE	x	
Art	x	
Music	x	
Library	x	
Computer Lab / Technology	n/a	

In 2010-11, the Kenwood Education Foundation (KEF) raised \$140,000 and was able to fund teacher aides, PE, Art, Music, Spanish, the library and computer lab in addition to helping fund Cougar Club and the Preschool. Kenwood is able to provide a well-rounded education thanks to the generosity of the parents and community. If it weren't for this generosity, we would no longer be able to offer these valuable programs.

Each year, Mr. Bales comes to the KEF and requests funds to support programs not covered by state monies. His current request is \$148,669 to support enrichment programs for the 2011-12 school year, so we need to raise at least that during the fiscal year to fund these programs. It is equally important to raise funds to build the endowment to keep these programs in place going forward. In order to avoid cutting programs next year and in subsequent years, we need to do everything in our power as parents and community members to ensure we raise the funds to keep these programs alive now and in the future!

So what does this mean to you, as a parent of a Kenwood student? These “extra” programs cost approximately **\$1,100 per student per year** and so we request your participation in securing that \$1,100 per student in donations to ensure that these programs that benefit your children can continue. You can do this by donating to the Kenwood Invests in Dynamic Students (KIDS) campaign, attending KEF-sponsored events such as the Big Heart Luncheon and Lights, Camera, Auction! (LCA!), and encouraging family, colleagues, employers and your community to get involved and support the school in any way possible (cash donations, gift-in-kind donations, attend events, etc.).

Today, we are kicking off the annual **KIDS** campaign, which will run thru September 30th. Last year, we raised an impressive \$32,000. This year **our KIDS goal is to raise \$50,000 (or 30% of the requested funds)**. **We urge each and every one of our families to participate in a personally significant manner.** It is because of this continued support that our children have benefitted from these programs without state funding for 12 years straight. Let’s keep it going for years to come!

If we divide the KIDS campaign goal of \$50,000 by the number of students attending Kenwood, the average contribution per student would be \$320 - just \$27 per month or \$1.78 per school day. Please review the attached pledge form for the options of how to participate. If your company offers a Matching Program, please be sure to apply. We will provide whatever documentation is needed to help you.

Members of the KEF and Kenwood School Association (KSA) will be at a table outside the school entrance over the next few weeks to answer any questions you may have about the school, annual events and activities, and the KIDS campaign. Drop by for a cup of coffee, a sweet treat and some conversation. We’re all in this together, so let’s make it happen!

Thank you in advance for your continued support of **KIDS**, our children and Kenwood School (51 years & counting).

Sincerely,
Kenwood Education Foundation

Lesley LemMon, President	Mary Caughey
Dawn Benziger, Vice President	Anne Cobb
Henry Belmonte, Treasurer	Toby Halkovich
Laura Stolkin, Corporate Secretary	Diane Kopes-Kerr
Bob Austin	Jeff Kubiak
Phil Barmore	Fred Parker
Virginie Boone	Sarah Poletto
Joe Carbonaro	

P.S. Please be sure to **sign up for eScrip**. It’s another revenue source to help fund activities for the entire school community. Information can be found in the information packet distributed on the first day of school.

Kenwood Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization operating under the laws of the State of California.
Cash donations to KEF are voluntary, tax-deductible, and non-refundable. Our Tax ID number is 68-0422393.