

Kenwood PTO

Welcome to the Kenwood PTO. Whether you are a new parent to our school or have been with Kenwood for a few years, have you ever wondered exactly what the PTO has done to benefit Kenwood?

The names of the Chairperson(s) for each committee are listed also. Please check the PTO tab on the Kenwood website for contact information if you have questions. Committee chairs are elected at the May meeting the previous year so these individuals are ready to plan the activities the following year. We try to have a chairperson and a helper. Sometimes that helper may be the person interested in taking over as chairperson the following year.



Fall Open House (Meredith DeHaven)

The PTO hosts the 'Welcome Back to School' open house. This is a great time for families at Kenwood to get to know other parents and children and for others to get re-acquainted after the summer. We also have a table promoting the PTO. This is a great time to talk to parents about the PTO and welcome them to our meetings.



Fall Fundraiser (Kirsten Scheer)

The district allows for the PTO to host one major fundraiser per year. We conduct ours in the fall and currently work with a company called Greater America. They have been a great company to work with and so far, we have not found a company that provides us with the percentage of profits they do. These profits are what allow the PTO to help fund major projects for the school, i.e. the trees that were planted during the 2016-2017 school year, field trips, new books for the library, prizes for end of the year activities, etc. We are always looking for new ideas that we can use the funds on that will benefit the school.

*While there are other activities that we host that can turn a profit, they are not meant to be major fundraiser projects.



Run Club (Allison Birdwell)

The Run Club was developed as a way to increase physical fitness in our kids and make them more alert for the school day. This was a project that was originally funded by a grant with little help from the PTO, but now is 100% funded by the PTO. We pay for t-shirts for our finishers and administrative costs to keep the program organized. Run Club doesn't happen without parents help to stand at corners for the student's safety, hand out lanyards and document laps.



Spirit Wear (Mike Pohl)

Each year the PTO works with local vendors to create spirit wear for our students and families to show our Kenwood pride. We offer affordable spirit wear for families and look to create little profit from this activity.



Teacher Appreciation Week (Meredith DeHaven)

The staff at Kenwood are so important to us and we love to take the time to show our appreciation to them throughout the year. This chairperson will coordinate meals during Fall and Spring parent teacher conferences, a Holiday meal, and meals/snacks/gifts during Teacher Appreciation week in May. A sign-up genius goes out prior to these activities asking parents to donate items. Be quick, it fills up quickly because we have such generous parents that make this activity happen.



Directory (Tessa Wells)

The PTO provides each family with a student directory. The directory will only list those children that have given parental consent to having their name and personal information (name/parents phone number/address) published. This directory is only available in print for the safety of our students.



Family Fun Night (Sarah V., Taren S., Tessa W.)

The name says it all! This is a night that is CRAZY FUN! Each year a theme is picked and activities are planned around that theme. We also have a meal that generally is a minimal cost to families, or is funded by the PTO with a free-will donation jar.



5th Grade Party (Amy Lowe)

The PTO organizes a day that the 5th grade class gets together and has an end of the year party to celebrate their time at Kenwood. Typically, this includes play time at the park, pizza for lunch and the afternoon at the Big Apple. A keepsake gift is also provided such as a t-shirt, towel, or bag.



Sing Around Nebraska

The PTO provides an entry fee for 4 to 5 students to attend the Sing Around Nebraska.



Field Trips

Field trips are a wonderful way for students to learn about things that are specific to what they are learning in the classroom. Field trips are not funded by the district and were something that the PTO felt strongly that they needed to still continue. Students are able to go to the Pumpkin Patch, tour of Kearney, the hospital, Stuhr Museum, Hastings Museum, the Archway, and the unforgettable trip to the Trails and Rails Museum. The PTO funds the entrance fees and transportation costs.

The Kenwood PTO is also responsible for funding large purchases that come up throughout the year. These items are discussed at PTO meetings.

The Kenwood PTO takes a lot of pride in working together as a TEAM to be able to provide the school with things that can only help make the learning environment one that is nothing but positive for our children. It takes dedicated parents to make this all happen. Everyone is welcome to participate in any way they are able to. PTO meetings are a great opportunity to meet other parents, work together to come up with new ways to benefit the school, meet teachers and learn things that are going on in the school.

If you have any questions that you would like to ask, please contact an officer:

President

Allison Birdwell- 307-630-6151 / allbirdwell@kearneycats.com

Vice President

Kirsten Scheer- kirstytb@yahoo.com

Secretary

Erin Racer- ksuracer@aol.com

Treasurer

Amy Lowe- amy5lowe95@gmail.com