

Kenwood School Newsletter

Principally Speaking

March 27, 2024

School District Consolidation Frequently Asked Questions

Santa Rosa City Schools is considering moving forward on the idea of consolidating with 8 other school districts including Kenwood School District. As this process is confusing, we wanted to help Kenwood School District residents to understand what this would mean for Kenwood School District and its students.

- 1. What is “school district consolidation”?** School district consolidation involves merging two or more school districts into a single, unified district. Currently Santa Rosa City Schools is investigating the process to consolidate 9 elementary school districts into in New Big District. These districts include, Kenwood, Wright, Rincon Valley, Bennett Valley, Piner Olivet, Bellevue, Mark West, Roseland, and Santa Rosa.
- 2. How would consolidation affect students?** The impact on students can vary. Santa Rosa City Schools (SRCS) feels that consolidation may lead to increased resources and expanded academic opportunities. Kenwood School District feels that there will be lost resources for its students, increased class size, and the loss of local decision making.
- 3. Is it true that the new New Big District would save up to \$24 million?** According to the study completed by Christie White Inc., and commissioned by the Sonoma County Office of Education ([see report here](#)), the district COULD save up to \$24 million dollars after many years. Christie White based this prediction on the budget of a similar sized district in another part of California. This district has 16 less schools than the New Big District would have. Most of the savings would happen after the new New Big District closed the 16 extra schools.
- 4. How would consolidation help the Kenwood School district?** It quite likely will not be helpful to the Kenwood School District or to other districts. Consolidation would dissolve the Kenwood School Board and all other school district boards. All future decisions would be made by a new School Board that would be elected by the residents of the new New Big District.
- 5. If the new New Big District closed schools, would Kenwood School be affected?** Most certainly Kenwood School would be one of the first schools to be considered for closure. It would be cheaper for the New Big District to bus students from Kenwood to another school in Rincon Valley than to keep the school open. This is how the New Big District would begin to realize a savings. Many other schools would also be closed.
- 6. Currently Kenwood School has many valuable enrichments for my children. Would these enrichment programs continue?** Unfortunately, Kenwood School students would lose most of their enrichments such as STEAM, Art, Music, and Garden. These enrichments are paid for with donations from the Kenwood Education Foundation. This foundation would no longer be able to support the Kenwood School District if it was consolidated into the new New Big District. Kenwood School would also loose the small class sizes, individualized attention for each student and the close community feel.

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School District Consolidation Frequently Asked Questions cont.

7. Do residents have a say in the decision? Attending School Board Meetings at both Kenwood as well as Santa Rosa City Schools will allow you to voice your opinion to both school boards. If both county and state committees agree to move forward with consolidation, the voters of Kenwood would be given a chance to opt out of the consolidation.

8. What benefits will consolidation bring to students? SRCS feels that by consolidating 9 districts into 1 New Big District, money will be saved. Christie White has concluded (see report here: [Santa Rosa Unification Feasibility Study DRAFT Jan. 19 2024](#)) that the State of California would save \$21 million dollars through this consolidation process because of various revenue structures. Unfortunately, that is \$21 million dollars that the students of Sonoma County will no longer have access to. In addition, Christie White acknowledged that based on comparisons to a similar sized district in the state of California, the new New Big District COULD save as much as \$24 million through staffing cuts and multiple school closures.

9. How would the loss of \$21 million dollars affect the Kenwood students. Currently, Kenwood School receives about \$24,000 per pupil each year through district revenue (property taxes). If consolidation were to happen, the revenue per pupil would drop to around \$15,000 each. The \$9,000 loss per pupil would result in the loss to such programs as instructional aides, STEAM, Art, Band, Music, and Garden.

10. If Sonoma County students will be losing \$21 million dollars, why would SRCS want to consolidate? According to the SRCS School Board, they feel that by creating a New Big District with one set of state adopted curriculum for all of the students, there will be more articulation when students are promoted from 6th grade to 7th grade. They have not been able to explain why they feel the loss of \$21 million dollars is beneficial.

11. When would the consolidation happen? Timelines for consolidation can vary based on the specific circumstances and decisions of the involved districts (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lr/do/sdohandbook.asp>). It's essential to stay updated through official announcements, community meetings, and school board communications for accurate information on the consolidation schedule. If SRCS moves forward with a petition and the state, county committees agree that all criteria have been met and that consolidation is a viable option, it is estimated that the consolidation process would take up to 5 or more years from beginning to end. You can stay informed through official communications from Kenwood School District, attend community School Board meetings, participate in Coffee with the Principal, and regularly check the district's website for updates.

Please contact Kenwood School Board President, Cheryl Ghisla for more questions or concerns; cghisla@kenwoodschool.org

Kenwood School Newsletter

Events

Upcoming Events

- 4/1 Sonoma Math Week April 1-5
- 4/4 Board of Trustees Meeting, School Library, 4 p.m.
- 4/11 Yearbook Orders Due
- 4/12 No School, Emergency Closure Day (*not needed*)
- 4/13 KEF Day of Service (*See attached flyer*)
- 4/15 No School, Local Holiday
- 4/19 Coffee with the Principal, 8:30 a.m., School Library (Consolidation Discussion)
- 4/26 KSA Spring Fling (info to follow)
- 5/16 Open House
Early Dismissal at 1:30 p.m. Grades 1-6, 1:15 p.m. (K)
- 5/17 No School, Emergency Closure Day (*not needed*)
- 5/18 KEF Lights, Camera, Auction (*Tickets on sale now.*)
- 5/27 Memorial Day: No School

Main Office: (707) 833-2500
Attendance Line: (707) 341-0102
Cougar Club: (707) 833-4383
Rainbow Garden Preschool: (707) 833-6551

Parent Reminder
Wednesday
Dismissal Time is
1:30 p.m.
For Grades 1-6

It's time to order your child's Kenwood School yearbook for the 2023-2024 school year! **Kenwood School Yearbooks are only available for purchase online this year! Don't miss the ordering deadline of April 11th!** Cost \$27 + tax.



All orders are done online this year at:

<https://store.shopyearbook.com/kenwood-yearbook-2023-2024>



If you miss the deadline, you will need to order your copy during the summer, pay for your own shipping and miss out on collecting friends' autographs. Orders are **due by April 11, 2024!** Don't miss out on the opportunity for your child to forever keep memories of all the fun we've shared this year!



CHESS FOR KIDS

- Kenwood Elementary School-



Mondays:
April – 1, 8, 22, 29
May – 6, 13, 20
No class April 15
Time: 3:10 – 4:10
Location: Steam Lab
Fee: \$115 per Student
Siblings are always
Half Price.
(Scholarships considered)



CHESS FOR KIDS, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing chess to as many young people as possible in Sonoma and Napa Counties.

No refunds or make-ups. We will call ONLY if the class is full and cannot accept any more enrollments. Please inform us in advance of any special needs.

REGISTER ONLINE ONLY

Enroll online at: www.chessclubforkids.com

Call: (707)364-5193 for info

- **Kenwood Elementary School – April 2024**



Calling All Kenwood Students!



KEF's Day Of Service

A Helping Hand For

Redwood Empire Food Bank

Saturday April 13th 9-12

3990 Brickway Blvd, Santa Rosa

SIGN UP HERE!!

<https://bit.ly/DayOfServiceKEF>



All Ages Welcome!
We need You, Your Time,
and Your Cougar Spirit!
Let's Do This Kenwood!

For More Information Contact Megan:
dunwoodymeg@gmail.com

Giving Back To the Community After All They Have Given Us!





Kenwood Firefighters Association

Annual Easter Egg Hunt 2024

Saturday March 30, 2024

Kenwood Plaza Park

Starting time 9am sharp

Pre-K through 6th grade

Bring your own basket

Prizes

No charge



Sonoma Math Week

Family
Time
Matters!

April 1 - 5, 2024

A full week of family time with stories, games, and math activities in English and Spanish for families with students in PK-8.



mindresearch.org/sonoma-math-week



Semana de matemáticas de Sonoma

1 al 5 de abril de 2024

¡Tiempo en familia es importante!

Una semana llena de tiempo familiar, cuentos, juegos, y actividades matemáticas en Español e inglés para familias con estudiantes de grados PK-8.



mindresearch.org/sonoma-math-week



KENWOOD EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS



Lights Camera Auction!

Barbie & Ken Too!



MAY 18 2024
5PM-10PM

**HANNA
CENTER**

17000 ARNOLD DR
SONOMA, CA 95476

LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION: BENEFITING KENWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS



ART



MUSIC



STEAM



P.E.



LIBRARY



AFTERCARE



PRESCHOOL

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! SPACE IS LIMITED!

DINNER
OPEN BAR
DANCING



DJ LIONIZE
AUCTIONEER
JOHAN GRAHAM
FUN FOR ALL

TICKETS - [HTTPS://KEF.SCHOOLAUCTION.NET/KEFLCA2024](https://kef.schoolauction.net/keflca2024)

Lights Camera Auction!

Barbie & Ken
Too!

HANNA CENTER

MAY 18 2024

5PM-10PM

17000 ARNOLD DR, SONOMA, CA

DINNER
OPEN BAR
DANCING
DJ LIONIZE
AUCTIONEER
JOHAN GRAHAM
LIVE & SILENT
AUCTION

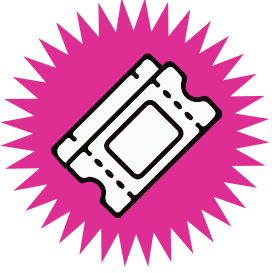
SCAN FOR TICKETS & MORE



KENWOOD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
IS A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ENTITY, SO
DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.
TAX ID: 68-0422393



DONATE AN ITEM ONLINE AT [BIT.LY/KEFLCA2024](https://bit.ly/KEFLCA2024)
YOU CAN CONTACT MOLLY BELOW OR ANY OF OUR
LCA COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO DONATE! WE ARE
LOOKING FOR LOCAL PRODUCTS, EXPERIENCES, FOOD,
WINE, GIFT CERTIFICATES, AND COOL SPOTS TO STAY.



PURCHASE TICKETS BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE:
[BIT.LY/KEFLCA2024](https://bit.ly/KEFLCA2024) SPACE IS LIMITED.
ALSO LET YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS KNOW TOO.
IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO DO AN EVENT LIKE THIS!



HOST A PARENT PARTY! WHAT IS A PARENT PARTY?
IT IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO DONATE AND ENJOY TIME
WITH OUR COMMUNITY. HOST A CRAFT NIGHT, DINNER
AT YOUR HOUSE, POOL PARTY, MOVIE NIGHT, TEACH A
SKILL YOU HAVE TO FRIENDS AND RAISE \$ TOO!
CONTACT: [LAURIEMARTINDALE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LaurieMartindale@gmail.com)



WE NEED GREAT WINES FOR OUR SILENT AUCTION.
DO YOU HAVE A CONNECTION TO A WINERY?
CONTACT US TO DONATE! ONE BOTTLE, A CASE, A
TASTING EXPERIENCE, OR COOL TOUR IS PERFECT!



WHETHER OR NOT YOU ATTEND, ANYONE CAN HELP
WITH OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR! JOIN
OUR LCA COMMITTEE, DONATE YOUR TIME, HELP WITH
THE SET UP, AND/OR HELP WITH OUTREACH! CONTACT:
MCRUIT@KENWOODEDUCATIONFOUNDATION.ORG



WE HAVE TO RAISE \$150,000 TO KEEP THESE PROGRAMS
GOING FOR OUR KIDS. EVERY EFFORT HELPS TO REACH
THIS GOAL. BUT WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE.
THANK YOU!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

ANY QUESTIONS: MCRUIT@KENWOODEDUCATIONFOUNDATION.ORG
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR AMAZING PARTICIPATION
ANY DONATION AMOUNT MAKES A DIFFERENCE
YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE ❤️

KSA Invites You to Our

Spring Festival

Join us for a fun evening of dancing, kickball, games, dinner, and dessert. Tri Tip Trolley will have food for purchase or you can bring your own picnic dinner.

APRIL 26, 2024
5:30PM TO 7:30PM

Kenwood School
Playground

Fun Photo Booth!

Inflatable Games!



Discount Giants Tickets Available



KSA is happy to offer discount Giants tickets! Tickets are valid for Monday-Thursday games in April and May, excluding the Dodgers games. The seats are located in View Reserve and Bleachers. Tickets cost \$10 each and KSA receives \$5 for each ticket sold. Feel free to share the link/QR code with friends, family, etc.

If you are interested in buying tickets, please go to:

<https://fevo.me/giantsfundraiser4>

or use the QR code below.

Promo Code: KENWOOD

