Obama Makes Way for Young Kenwood Activist

By: Sloane Williams

Barack Obama has been receiving a lot of press since he left office, but he especially received attention regarding a recent event at the University of Chicago. Ayanna Watkins, a senior at Kenwood, was invited to the event to discuss civic engagements for current youth, or in other words, plan out how to get this generation more involved in the community. Watkins was able to speak on why our youth’s lack of resources in education has become a main component in their lack of engagement.

Watkins had a once in a lifetime opportunity, and surely it must’ve been nerve wracking. The event was broadcast nationwide, and many of her fellow Kenwood Broncos viewed it in support of her. “Beforehand, I was very anxious and nervous, but I especially knew I had something to prove because I was the youngest, and I was aware that what I said would reach millions,” Watkins explained.

This event was broadcast on the UChicago News site, streaming on a livestream webcast. The event received a lot of attention from media and viewers around the world, as this was Obama’s first public appearance since leaving office. He invited six young activists to join him in the discussion to talk about their work on initiatives, which included voter registration drives, mentoring programs and food drives. Ayanna was selected from a list of names provided for the former president. She was ecstatic about the event.

“I’m very supportive of the legacy former President Obama created,” Watkins continued, “Although he’s no longer in office, he is still aware of the conflicts at hand and stays involved. He continues trying to simulate solutions to problems in the community, she said.”

Kenwood’s New Field

By: Jonathan Butts

The Kenwood football and track teams gathered in the school’s Little Theater to announce the construction of a new turf field, along with a brand new track, replacing the current one.

The construction is due to begin in early June and end around mid to late August, according to Ms. Danae Russell, an athletic director at Kenwood.

Dr. Gregory Jones was on the front lines of getting the school the new field, which will cost a total of 3.5 million dollars. Alderman King came to visit Kenwood earlier this year, and agreed that the field needed to be improved.

“The field was already in bad condition, and the school needs better equipment to compete with the rival suburban schools with better gear,” said Russell. With the new field coming, it brings great excitement to those that currently occupy the field.

“It’s a great opportunity for the school, and Hyde Park,” stated Ms. Russell. “It also puts the teams in a better position to win. It provides better practice conditions, and prevents injury while at practice.”

The field includes a track and football field, which can also be used by other teams, including lacrosse and soccer. However, it must’ve cost the school a lot of money.

“Alderman King and Mayor Emanuel oversaw funds for the field,” said Ms. Russell. The new field, sponsored by Alderman King and Mayor Emanuel, is greatly appreciated by students and staff. Hopefully, the new field will boost the teams’ confidence and better their play.
Independent Lab Replaces Weekly Advisory

By: Kennedi Jeannine Glover

Next school year there will be a new class added to the student schedule every Wednesday to replace advisory.

The Independent Lab will be designed for students to catch up on any extra work they need or do things that are important to them. Students can use this time to plan events for organizations that they are involved in, catch up on extra work, or help around the school. This time will be very beneficial for students because they know they have a period of time they can rely on to get things checked off of their personal to-do list.

Dr. Gregory Jones, Kenwood Academy’s principal stated “The Independent lab is designed to replace the advisory we currently have, and to allow students to have a block of time to work on things that are important to them by all means. No matter what they need to do involving school, the block of time provided for the Independent Lab should be the time to do it.”

Students should take advantage of this time because it is not very often that administration gives students time to catch up on work or see teachers about their grades.

Most people think that this time period will be more effective for students more than teachers.

“The time provided during that particular school day will affect both students and teachers equally. Students will more than likely use this time to see what they can do to bring their grade up or talk to a teacher about their grade in general,” said Jones. “Both teachers and students will be overwhelmed during this time period.”

Overall, the Independent Lab should be very effective and most students will use it to their advantage, but teachers should be prepared as well.

Kenwood’s New Honor Code

By: Sydni Goodrum-Davis

Next school year, Kenwood’s administration plans on introducing a new system to students which would further encourage them to live through the virtues of honesty and trust; not just from an academic standpoint, but in every aspect of life. The system will be known as the Honor Code. The code would mainly promote the idea that students should look out for their peers consistently, and always hold themselves accountable for their actions. The main goal of the system is to create an entirely trusting environment and to build stable relationships between peers.

The idea was brought on by Assistant Principal, Karen Calloway, after taking students on a college tour to North Carolina last year. During the tour, they visited Davidson College, a private liberal arts school in Davidson North Carolina, which has upheld an honor code for over five years now. Under their Honor Code, each Davidson student is “honor bound to refrain from stealing, lying about college business, and cheating on academic work.” Because of the honor code, students are better able to control their own schedules; they’re able to do things such as pick their own exam times and to take their exams in the classroom of their choice. They’re not allowed to have cell phones or backpacks in the building during exam periods, but they may wander the halls as the wish.

Students are automatically trusted to refrain from cheating of any sort on exams, but students following the honor code are required to sign a receipt before taking exams in order to assure “proper distribution and handling of exams.” Professors also sign receipts when they pick up exams from the registrar to confirm that the exams are in their hands. In order to reinforce the importance of the honor code, each first year student at Davidson signs their pledge to uphold the honor code as part of orientation activities.

Seeing the benefits of the system, Calloway brought the idea to the rest of Kenwood’s administration, hoping that a similar system could be implemented in the school. “I did think it would be a good process to introduce at Kenwood, so I brought it up to Dr. Jones,” said Calloway. “He took it to the next level by bringing it up to the student council and discussing ways to gradually implement the honor code to guarantee the overall success of the program.”

With an honor code in place, there would be a substantial decrease in the amount of students who cheat, or plagiarize work. Students would be expected to follow certain morals; morals that would only encourage them to do their best.

“I think it’ll be beneficial to the school as a whole,” said Calloway. “It’s something to look forward to.” She plans on introducing the program to the whole school, but specifically focusing on incoming 9th graders.
Spring Break
College Tour

By: Kennedi Jeannine Glover

On April 9th Kenwood Academy’s junior and senior class went on a college tour to New York for five days and four nights and visited a variety of schools. Kenwood Academy is known for the large number of college tours they take throughout the year.

There is always one in the beginning of the school year and two at the start of the new year, but the most popular tour is the Spring Break college tour.

This Spring Break, Ms. Calloway took a group of the juniors and seniors to New York to visit schools like Cornell University, Columbia, Hamilton, New York University, and Syracuse University.

“The college tour was a great experience,” said Sydney Jones, a junior at Kenwood Academy. “I got to interact with students that I did not talk to as much throughout the school year. Visiting these colleges were also very helpful because I knew I would not have been able to visit these colleges on my own time.”

Many other students that went on the trip agreed that going on these college tours with the school takes a burden off their parents.

Laurence Minter, a winner of the Posse foundation scholarship attended the trip as well and said that it was an amazing time. “On the tour we visited Cornell University, which is the school I will be attending in the fall through the Posse Scholarship,” Minter said. “This was my second time visiting Cornell and this time was much better. I got to see what I missed the first time and it was fun visiting with my peers. The college tour was a great experience.”

Erin Gayles, a junior, went on the college tour as well. She described the trip as “a great experience and an opportunity to build relationships with students I have never really interacted with before.” This response was very common from students that went on the trip so this means that the trip was more than just a college tour, it was also an opportunity to meet new friends which is just as powerful as going on a college tour.

Kenwood’s initiative to take students on college tours provides students great experiences, new knowledge, and the opportunity to build new friendships. College tours are provided throughout the entire year, so for anyone that has not visited their dream college yet the opportunity is always right in front of you.

Six Flags
Senior Grad
Night

By: Kennedi Jeannine Glover

Kenwood Academy, along with a handful of other Chicago Public Schools attended “Grad night” at Six Flags Great America on Friday, May 5th from 9pm until 4am.

Kenwood has many senior class activities including senior nights for each sports team, buying and making senior shirts, and going on special field trips.

The most commonly attended field trip is grad night; A trip to Six Flags with other classmates and peers. The seven hour long trip is known to be a great time for students. However, there were some students who weren’t able to attend due to behavioral issues, problems with transportation, cost, etc.

Weather conditions on grad night were not very pleasing, and though it slowed down the excitement for some people, it was still an enjoyable experience for most.

“Grad night was a great experience, I got to get on all of the roller coasters with no line and it’s never this empty when I go to Six Flags. It was cold, so I was ready to leave pretty fast.” said Calvin Hill, a senior. A lot of other students agreed with Hill’s statement, that if the weather was better the trip would have been a much better experience.

“Grad night was fun to me, honestly, I love roller coasters, it was even better because I was with some of my closest friends,” said David Hunt, a senior at Kenwood. “I have not been to Six Flags since the summer, so I was excited to come I didn’t really care about the weather.”

Ms. Karen Calloway, Kenwood’s assistant principal, offered to change the date because of harsh weather conditions but students refused. There were also a handful of Kenwood teachers who went as chaperons for this field trip.

“I’ll be there,” said Dean Smith. “I’ll be there with a group of kids until 3:30 am.”

The trip turned out to be a success and Kenwood’s students and administration look forward to going next year. Stories and experiences from other students makes Kenwood’s current junior class very eager to go.

“I would go again if I could,” said Smith. “I had a lot of fun.”
Editorial: Slavery Reparations through Scholarships

Recently, many colleges in the U.S. have considered implementing a program that would grant ancestors of slaves with full scholarships to school, as it would be seen as a “reparation for slavery.” We believe the idea could potentially be one that leads to success if it is executed carefully and follows specific guidelines; guidelines that would guarantee educational benefits for students of African descent, who can prove they are related to slaves.

There are some schools, such as Western Kentucky University, where students have voted in favor of granting all black students with full tuitions, even if they can’t prove their ancestry with official documents. This reparation was first introduced by SGA members of Kentucky University, Andrea Ambam, and Brian Anderson. “We demand reparations for the systematic denial of access to high quality educational opportunities in the form of full and free access for all black people (including undocumented, currently and formerly incarcerated people) to Western Kentucky University,” wrote Ambam and Anderson. The program attempts to make up for the oppression that black people have faced in the field of education, based from the belief that slavery served as a major setback for the black community as a whole; a setback that has resulted in discriminatory education and employment policies. Often times, it is harder for people in communities that are already marginalized to attend school at a cost that is affordable, and to find well paying jobs. It is an attempt to make college more accessible for communities of color, an idea we fully support.

Though the program would have to be approved by school councils, it would also have to be approved by Congress, as the increase in funds for education demands government assistance. Some politicians believe the program would be completely divisive, and would take away from the other issues at hand. “What I think we should be talking about is making massive investments in rebuilding our cities, in creating millions of decent paying jobs, in making public colleges and universities tuition-free, basically targeting our federal resources to the areas where it is needed the most and where it is needed the most is in impoverished communities, often African American and Latino,” said politician Bernie Sanders when asked whether he was in favor of the “reparations for slavery.” Some people may argue that a program with a goal of “repairing slavery” would fail completely, seeing that there is no possible way for the damage of slavery to ever be fully repaired, and though we agree, we believe that providing free education to black students would only serve as a step forward in the improvement of education policies. It would make it easier for not only black students, but any students of color to find well paying jobs, which would only serve to benefit the U.S. economy. There should at least be an attempt to fully fund education for black students; it would not only serve as a reparation to slavery, but as an attempt to decrease some of the inequities of racial discrimination.

PWI vs. HBCU: Which is Right for You?

By: Sloane Williams

For the majority of African American high school graduates, many consider attending a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Because of their known history, some don’t even consider Predominantly White Institutions (PWI), and this is for a few reasons. These classifications of schools differ in many ways, and where students attend depends on many factors. In today’s society, the choice in institutions mostly begins with the decision of HBCU’s vs. PWI’s, but when it boils down to it, the main focus should simply be where the student feels they fit best.

College choices for graduating seniors vary, especially when considering what they want to study, what they want their profession to be, the types of degrees available, where the school is located, the cost/financial aid opportunities, class sizes, and even the ratio of their ethnicity attending the school. All of these and more should be taken into account when even considering any school. Lots of research should be done before actually applying to schools, for the simple fact that you should attain as much information on each school as possible. Getting a good feel of the school also helps to get a gage of what it would be like attending the school, and how much the school is really right for you.

HBCUs are the way to go for most African American teens, especially considering the fact that the majority consists of other African Americans like them. Most African American teenagers stay away from PWI’s for one obvious reason: they’re predominantly white institutions. While it has nothing to do with the specific race as a whole, not only would it make one uncomfortable to attend a school where they’re a minority, but there have also been various accounts of racism.

Mizzou, a PWI, has made headlines in many news outlets discussing their many occurrences of racism. From the New York Times to the Washington Post, this PWI has been involved in several cases in which students discriminate against African American students. “I am sorry that I cannot be on campus today when our students are dealing with yet another incident of racism and are angry and scared,” said R. Bowen Loftin, Chancellor of University of Missouri. He said this addressing those attending Mizzou and their families. The key words were “yet another incident of racism”, as in he wasn’t speaking on anything new at the school. This is not just Mizzou, but other PWI’s have had many reports on racism against African American students. While this may discourage many, there are pros and cons to both HBCU’s and PWI’s, and when it comes down to the decision process, it just depends on the person.

Chance for Mayor?

By: Ayanna Fourte

Since Chicago’s very own, Chance the Rapper, made his generous donation of 1 million dollars to Chicago Public Schools (CPS), it has been a topic of discussion that Chance should run for Mayor of Chicago. It was rumored some time before but his donation was a sign that he really cares about giving back to his city. In his song titled “Somewhere in Paradise”, he sings “They screamin’ ‘Chano for mayor’, I’m thinking maybe I should”. To a lot of Chicago youth, especially his fans, we would love this but when you really think about it-- would it be a good idea?

With being mayor comes a lot of responsibility. Their basic responsibility is to carry out the council’s directives and to implement the policies adopted by the council. The mayor is usually the council spokesperson on key issues and he/she has a significant ceremonial role at particular events. The mayor is also an important community leader and is often the spokesperson for the community on economic issues such as commenting on the impact of jobs lost or gained in the municipality. As well as when the community is put under stress such as disaster management and socio-economic issues. With this being said...Is Chance up for the job?

Chance the Rapper, Chancelor Bennett, definitely has the qualities and potential to be mayor but I don’t think he has room for it in his schedule. His passion drives him and I know he would lead us well as the Mayor of Chicago because he would be passionate about his work just like he’s passionate about his music. However, that’s the issue-- how would he be able to do his job as mayor and not slack on his music? Chance, although receiving many offers, is still independent from a music label. He, unlike many rappers, politicians and people in general, is not money hungry. Tickets to his concerts are around $25, he uploads his music for free and often makes appearances at Louder Than A Bomb events held for young Chicago writers to display their talent. He constantly dedicates his time to Chicago’s youth and promotes education so if he were mayor he would carry this out. Children and teens are the future so having a mayor that can reach the youth would be very beneficial.

Chance would make a great mayor, he’s responsible, mature and dedicated. However, his fans will have to suffer because I doubt that he would be able to be 100% dedicated to both lives. Chance the Rapper is a good influence on Chicago youth, he makes positive music and is exactly the type of person the City of Chicago needs as a representative. He’s a leader and would make a great mayor.
Better Rights for LGBTQ Community

By: Ayanna Fourte

It’s 2017, so you would think people of the LGBTQ community would have equal civil rights in society. Gay marriage was legalized only two years ago, as well as gay couples being able to adopt children. People are still openly homophobic, transphobic, etc and this doesn’t seem to be changing. As a society, we shouldn’t be continuously making members of the LGBTQ community feel like outsiders in their own country.

In some states, laws have passed that permit transgender students to use the bathroom which they feel comfortable with, but this isn’t enough. Laws like this should be present in all states, and should be applicable to all students.

If there is a designated women’s restroom and designated men’s restroom, then there should either be a designated “all gender” bathroom, or transgender people should be allowed to use the restroom of their choice. There should be at least one of these in any new construction and if needed, updates should be made to existing establishments.

When the idea of transgender men and women being able to use the restroom of their choice arose, there was a lot of backfire. Protesters of the concept were basically saying that perverts and pedophiles would take advantage of this. Not to say that this wouldn’t happen but it could easily happen whether this law were put in place or not. If some establishments don’t want to change their restrooms to accommodate then they must come up with a compromise.

I believe that sex change surgeries, therapy, hormone treatments, etc should be included in health care. People don’t choose to be the way that they are; if you feel as though you’re a boy living in a girl’s body then you should be able to do what you have to do in order to become a girl physically. Some might say this shouldn’t be covered by health insurance, that it’s not a necessity, that if this is covered by health insurance then so should breast implants and butt lifts. However, this is completely different. Plastic surgery of that nature is usually because a woman or man doesn’t like a part of their body and wants to enhance it. In contrast, transgender people desire surgeries in order to feel comfortable in the skin that they’re in.

LGBTQ community should not have to feel like third class citizens and should be treated equally. Society is warming up to LGBTQ. I see it; however, there is still a larger population that is living in the old times, a time when people had to hide who they were to please society. Recently, I had a professor at Harold Washington privately have the class take a survey. One of the questions asked which pronoun we would like to be referred to as. This was very inclusive of him and showed me that we are making some progress as a society especially because he is a white male and has stated that he recognizes his privilege.

School Dress Codes

By: Lauren K. Stewart

School dress codes have long been subject to scrutiny by students everywhere, and with platforms like social media and the resurgence of student activism, it seems this topic won’t be dying down anytime soon.

The subject first gained attention during the 1960’s, an era full of radical new ideas. Teenage baby boomers were challenging the conservative norms of the time, as well as mainstream liberalism. At the time, dress codes in schools were fairly strict, as institutions wanted to prevent the bohemian, counterculture styles of the time to be translated into the classroom. Boys were generally required to wear trousers or casual slacks, button down or collared shirts and couldn’t have long hair (including Afros). Girls were required to wear skirts or dresses, that were knee length or longer, pants were off limits. In the mid to late sixties, when student activism sparkled up in conjunction with other issues, such as civil rights and the war, many young adults rallied against school dress requirements. The most notable dress code protest was in December of 1966, when students at a school in Des Moines, Iowa sued their school for suspending them in response to them wearing black arm bands in protest of the Vietnam war. The students took their case to court, and though the school’s actions were upheld, the court pointed out that students are entitled to their Constitutional right of free speech and expression even when on school grounds.

Fast-forward to today and you’ll find that the hype hasn’t died down. I went to a few Chicago Public Schools, to talk to students about their feelings on their school’s dress codes.

“I feel like most people have a pretty good understanding of what’s appropriate for school and what’s not,” said Tiara Snell, a junior at Lindblom. “We don’t need adults to tell us what to wear, we have common sense.”

Kimberly Simpson, also a junior, said, “I like that they just leave it up to us.”

Students at Jones College Prep, another Chicago Public School in the city’s South Loop, felt differently than those at Lindblom. Unlike the previous school, Jones has a dress code policy.

Senior, Brellynn Lowery, said, “I think the dress code policy here is ridiculous and unnecessary, and it is not enforced equally. Usually girls who are more developed get in trouble for wearing the same things as skinny girls.”

Another concern in the enforcement of Jones’ dress code was race related. Many of the students felt that the administration singled out (thicker) black and brown girls when handing out punishments for dress code violations.

Jones is a school full of liberal student activists, similar to those of the aforementioned counterculture era. Just last year I remember girls walking the halls wearing T-shirts reading, “my body is not a distraction”, in protest of the dress code. Here at Kenwood, students have varying opinions about this topic. The divide seems to come between the sexes. Males generally had nonchalant attitude, and felt as if the dress code policy affected them less. On the other hand, female students were more apt to feel as though the dress code was too strict, and that administration was unfairly singling them out when enforcing it. But a common consensus is that the dress code policy should be reviewed and updated.

If Kenwood was to allow students to contribute their opinions when establishing the dress code policy, it would be a great decision. Kenwood’s mission is to create strong leaders that will thrive in the world. Giving them the opportunity to provide input on a major decision like this would teach them how to work with people who have conflicting opinions, and come to a reasonable compromise.

Many may feel that it is not the administrations place to settle with students, as they are teenagers. However, this mindset in itself is childish and arrogant, age is not a determining factor in wisdom or intelligence. There are many bad decisions made by adults, and in turn, many good ones made by children. This opportunity will allow new ideas to be brought to the table, and will hopefully help end the controversy over the dress code at Kenwood.
A Fast Start to the Baseball Season  
By: Johnathan Butts

The Kenwood Academy Broncos baseball team started their conference with a win, and have been leading their conference in wins ever since. They won their second game against Jones College Prep baseball team on home territory with a score of 4-3. The Broncos played Jones again, this time at UIC Curtis Granderson Field. They won again with a score of 7-1; an explosive 6th inning was set off by a leading home run from Jared Hunt. They went on to score all seven runs in that inning.

At the next game against Whitney Young, they won easily with a score of 7-1 at Newport Field. Next came a two game series against Harlan; Kenwood’s team won both games, leading 8-4 and 7-2. D’Eric Shenault, a junior, and the team’s starting shortstop was interviewed about the team’s conference start and how they continuously work to maintain their title. When asked how the team kept up with their hot conference start, Shenault stated, “Preparation in the off-season led up to our team starting off with great accomplishments”. The Broncos also had three non-conference wins at the beginning of the season. “The key is not letting the winning streak get to our head, and not becoming too cocky,” said Shenault. “The biggest task is to stay focused on our goal: winning the city championship.”

The Broncos have played against many challenging teams, and at times, they’ve had to work extremely hard to keep up their streak.”For a team to keep up a streak, they need to have a certain amount of trust and confidence in each other,” Shenault said. “Becoming closer as a team is giving us more confidence, and we know that we have each other’s backs.” The team’s record was 8-0 heading into their 9th conference game against the Simeon Wolverines. The Broncos were leading into the bottom of the 7th, when Simeon made a furious comeback from a 3-0 deficit.

The Wolverines eventually won 4-3 on a walk off hit by pitch on Madison Lowry. This ended the streak at eight games, but the Broncos went on to clinch the conference with another win against Solorio. They currently have a record of 10-1, with two more games left to play against Morgan Park. Playoffs started on May 12.

Kenwood Meets Lacrosse  
By: Amira Williams

Kenwood Academy has had a long list of sports teams, ranging from basketball to bowling, but one team we never had before this year is a Lacrosse team. Mr. Sarudi, a seventh grade Language Arts teacher for the academic center, and a Kenwood staff member for more than now, introduced Lacrosse in April and plans on coaching the team next year.

Currently, all the players on the team are 7th graders in the academic center. Mr. Sarudi does plan to expand the team next year. “The players we have now are predominantly seventh graders,” said Sarudi. “We want to expand to seventh and eighth grade, and maybe then we can move onto high schoolers.”

There are actually two teams being brought to the Kenwood Academy sports department; a Girls Lacrosse and Boys Lacrosse team. Right now, they both consist of only seventh graders.

“We didn't want one big team, so we have a boys team and girls team,” said Mr. Sarudi.

Neither of the teams have won any games but Sarudi is hopeful that next year they will Improve. “There's always room for improvement, so it's ok that we haven't won any this year,” said Sarudi. Along with expanding the team, he hopes it’ll improve next year. He plans on bringing in other coaches to help him out.

“Hopefully many will be interested in joining the team next year.”

Be on the lookout for the flyer to tryout for Lacrosse next year Broncos!

Kenwood (Soon To Be) Campgrounds  
By: Justin O'Hara
A World Famous Cellist Visits Kenwood Academy
By: Jazmyn Wright

On May 10th, a professional cellist, Yo Yo Ma, came to perform with the orchestra at Kenwood Academy. Yo Yo Ma is French-born cellist who started playing at the age of seven, and has grown to be a world renowned artist.

He visited Kenwood Academy and held a panel where he discussed his perception of music, gave performance tips, and asked the students about the music they were most interested in performing. He also helped to coach, instruct, and direct the orchestra; the song he helped the students with was in Concerto G Minor. The professional cellist played a piece written by two members of Kenwood’s orchestra, Joshua Begin, a senior, and Philip Kunze, a junior in the foreign exchange program that is from Germany; a highlight from the performance was when Yo Yo Ma played a solo piece on Kunze’s instrument. A lot of students gained insight from this.

“Yo Yo Ma has expressed his profound interest of arts in Chicago by playing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chicago Civic Orchestra, and working with an abundance of Chicago artist.

“He’s actually doing a residency program with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He is challenging other artists to remember how they started and give back to the community. To give tips and help the students that want a future in music,” said Mrs. Flemming Jones, the orchestra instructor at Kenwood.

Yo Yo Ma is scheduled to come back to Kenwood Academy with the Chicago Civic Orchestra on June 10th. The tickets are free but can be obtained at this website: cso.org/cieic

Upcoming Dance Studio
By: Tanaya Luckett

Next year, there will be a new course added to Kenwood’s scheduled classes, along with a new classroom to hold this course. A dance class will now be held as an elective during the routines of the school day, and instead, dance will be a class only permitted during school hours.

“The dances that will be taught are ballet, jazz, modern, and other contemporary dances,” said Dr. Jones, the principal of Kenwood. Current Kenwood Broncos are anxious for the studio to be up and running next school year, and incoming students constantly ask about what dance classes Kenwood has to offer. Some students prefer slower genres of dance as opposed to hip hop, which is simulated through the routines of Kenwood’s Pom Team.

“Yo Yo Ma played a solo piece on Kunze’s instrument. A lot of students gained insight from this.

“The performance was great, said Jadiea Muldrew, a senior at Kenwood Academy. “It was one of the best experiences in my life. I gained tips on how to become a better musician and what music is all about.”

Yo Yo Ma has expressed his profound interest of arts in Chicago by playing with the orchestra at Kenwood Academy. "I’m excited about the studio because it will be another thing that makes Kenwood attractive. We’re known for being a great school, and having a class strictly for dance will appeal to more incoming students for the new school year.”

This class is not like any other after school program, for it offers five classes in one, with two beginners dance courses, one advanced course and most likely a company course. The company course is for the students that are more experienced dancers, and more than likely will be choreographing performances done by the students. “I’m not really interested in dance, but I feel like this will be very beneficial to students, as well as incoming students,” said Kirya Jones, a junior.

Danye Bowman, a junior, says “I think this is a great idea, and hope it looks very professional. I am very excited for those who are going to join these dance classes. I hope everyone excels in their performances.”

This new dance studio will be located behind the second floor lunchroom, and there will be standard class sizes for each section.

A teacher has already been hired and students had a voice in selecting the teacher. “We are all excited for the new studio added to Kenwood Academy, and look forward to many more students signing up,” said Jones.

Yo Yo Ma
Juniors: What are you most excited for about Senior year?

Shayla Baldwin: “I’m excited for prom and senior activities.”

Ariah Kendall: “I’m just glad that I’m going to be a senior, and finally graduating”

Keavis Ali: “I’m excited about all senior activities and finally leaving the school.”

Jabreah Driver “I’m most looking forward to graduating and going on trips.”

Alejandro Vargas: “I’m looking forward to the 2017 soccer season, and graduating with my fellow classmates.”

Jordan Lockhart: “I’m excited for prom, college selections, and graduating.”

Gregory Wood: “I’m excited for prom and the after party.”

Jalissa Beard: “I’m excited about the senior prank and getting out of Kenwood.”

8th Graders: What high school are you attending?

What are you most excited about?

By: Alexander Shaw

Emmett Bonito
What school: Mount Carmel
Looking forward to: “I’m looking forward to taking new classes at Mount Carmel and playing JV soccer.”

Kimberly Vu-Smith
What school: Whitney Young
Looking forward to: “I’m looking forward to the new environment with the different kids and the different teachers and everything along the lines of that.”

Ayasha Garrett
What school: Kenwood
Looking forward to: “I’m looking forward to all of the social activities like homecoming, and being apart of actual sports teams.”

Jahtavia Mosley
What school: Kenwood
Looking forward: “I’m looking forward to playing for Kenwood’s girls basketball team.”

Desmond Dunn
What school: Kenwood
Looking Forward: “I’m looking forward to playing basketball at Kenwood.”

Lucia Sol de Leon
What school: Jones College Prep
Looking forward: “I’m looking forward to the new social aspects and meeting new people.”

Venisha Fowler: “I’m happy to be celebrating my last year with my peers.”

Maya West: “I just want to be able to do all senior activities without being penalized.”

Gabe Nepstad: “I’m excited about graduation and going off campus.”

Angelo Pike: “I’m happy I will have finally fulfilled my goals after being at Kenwood six years, and to finally be graduating.”

Jordan Lockhart: “I’m excited or prom, college selection, and graduating.”