Students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade and their parents are invited to a free evening of science fun and learning November 8 at the center.

The evening will begin with a family dinner at 5:30, followed by experiments and presentations led by scientists from Edgewood College and the University of Wisconsin until 7. Students must be accompanied by a parent to attend the event.

Kennedy Heights after school students are part of a city-wide project designed to narrow the achievement gap in science that exists for low-income and minority students. Kennedy is one of six community centers participating in the project, funded by a three-year, $330,000 grant from the Madison Community Foundation. The project is called COMETS: Creating Opportunity In Math, Engineering, Technology, and Science.

Kennedy students do hands-on science work in after school programs twice a week. This fall, students are studying the physical and chemical properties of water. Next year, they will study engineering.

By year’s end, the UW will have provided 50 science lessons to center staff; parents will have participated in 12 parent events at Edgewood; and center staff will have participated in many hours of professional training with UW scientists.

Free Turkeys + Open Pantry = Good Eats!

The center still has a few turkeys available for distribution to neighborhood residents. Call Karen Seno at 244-0767 for more information.

Turkeys will be distributed from noon to 6 p.m., Monday, November 19, at the center. Turkeys not picked up by 6 p.m. will be distributed to families on the waiting list.

Families who use the food pantry are encouraged to pick up their turkey earlier in the day, and then shop the food pantry from 5-6 p.m.

Families are encouraged to shop the pantry to round out their holiday meal with bread, produce, and other goodies.
THANKS to Our Natural Playground Sponsors

By Alyssa Kenney, Executive Director

Thank you to the Kennedy Heights Community Center natural playground sponsors, supporters, and over 100 community volunteers. The Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Natural Playground was dedicated August 24. Special thanks to the following sponsors:


Tree Sponsors: Landscape Architects: ZDA, Wisconsin Housing Preservation Corporation, Door Creek Church.

Rock Sponsor: CUNA Mutual Foundation.


Fun in the Sun, Naturally

Every child needs nature.
- Richard Louv

Children play, climb, jump, run, relax, socialize, and enjoy nature in the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Natural Playground.
Meet Michael Sheahan, Youth Program Coordinator

My name is Michael Sheahan, and I am the new Youth Program Coordinator at Kennedy Heights Community Center, working mainly with the Boys’ Club and the After School Program.

I have been involved with schools and youth programs for more than 10 years in Madison, Milwaukee, and San Francisco. I am a student at Cardinal Stritch University, working toward my teaching credentials and a master’s degree in education.

I love hip-hop, film, and dogs (especially my pit bull, Franklin). I look forward to integrating art and music into after school youth programs.

Meet Kristen Thomas, AmeriCorps Member

I am excited to be one of the new AmeriCorps members at Kennedy Heights!

I attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I studied Spanish and Latin American studies. After graduation, I moved back to my hometown of Waukesha for two years.

I worked for the City of Waukesha Department of Parks and Recreation for several years before becoming an AmeriCorps member. I ran summer day camps for seven years and worked at a before and after school program for two years.

When I’m not hanging out with kids, I like to play badminton, cheer on the Packers and Badgers and travel. Someday I hope to make it to every corner of the world; in the meantime, I will enjoy being in Madison.

Meet Jordan Harder, AmeriCorps Member

I’m Jordan Harder, the second AmeriCorps member at Kennedy Heights Community Center. I am originally from Woodbury, Minnesota, near St. Paul.

I graduated from Carlton College in Northfield, Minnesota, where I studied German and philosophy. My favorite time in college was spent living and studying in Berlin, Germany.

In my free time I enjoy reading, playing ultimate Frisbee, and getting outside to bike and walk.

I am excited to work with Kennedy Heights students this year, and look forward to helping them learn, build a sense of civic engagement, and connect them to the broader community.

A lover of travel, Kristen has already visited Mexico, Ireland, and Ecuador (3 times!). Next on her list: Egypt.
Asian Adult Group: Fantasy Food, Fantasy Art

Food Carving
Swan, rose, rabbit, leaves.

Materials:
Apples, oranges, tomatoes, cucumbers.

Tissue Paper Hanging Star Ornament

Materials:
Tissue paper, glue, tape, thread, string.

The Asian Adult Group meets every Monday from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Northside Pride Progress Report: The M.E.R.I.T. Movement

By Stephanie Nash, M.E.R.I.T. Coordinator

As we step into year three, the Kennedy Heights Community Center and Team M.E.R.I.T. welcome our newest partners, Sherman Middle School and the Meadowood Neighborhood Center, to the Madison Empowering Responsibility In Teens family.

The M.E.R.I.T. movement continues to expand its city-wide effort to empower young people to make healthy choices about sexual health and to gain the knowledge, confidence, and skills necessary to reduce their risk of STDs and HIV, and becoming or getting someone pregnant.

M.E.R.I.T. is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Adolescent Health. The Kennedy Heights Community Center is implementing the M.E.R.I.T. program in partnership with the Goodman Community Center.

GIRLS RULE!

By Jaimie Schlicher, Girls Inc. Coordinator

Leadership and Community Action was the focus of Girls’ Inc. participants in October. The group kicked off the theme by attending a meeting of the Northside Planning Council to discuss plans for a Youth Council. Sophomore and Girls Inc. member Alexis Cameron offered several great ideas for the community, including providing discounted bus passes for youth and creating more entertainment opportunities on the city’s north side. The meeting also included a discussion about creating a North-side Youth Leadership Summit, which many in attendance supported.

October 11, the First International Day of the Girl, was an important day for all girls. Mayor Paul Soglin issued a proclamation in honor of the day, which was co-sponsored by the United States and 97 other countries. To celebrate the day, the Kennedy Heights chapter of Girls Inc. toured the Capitol and met with other local Girls Inc. groups.

At the end of October, Girls Inc. participants voted in a mock election and sent their results to be tabulated as part of a nationwide Girls Inc. event.

As a culmination of the Leadership and Community Action theme, the girls participated in Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat as a community service project.

Girls Inc. participants celebrating the First International Day of the Girl at the Capitol.

GIRLS RULE!
**Tidbits**

◊ **Wanted: Donations of frozen turkeys to be distributed to residents for Thanksgiving.** Deadline: Friday, November 9.

◊ **Reminder: Residents who signed up to receive a free turkey must pick up the bird from noon to six on Monday, November 19. Turkeys not picked up by six will be distributed to families on the waiting list.**

◊ **Wanted: Gently used books for pre-schoolers and elementary children to distribute at the center's weekly food pantry.**

◊ **The newly formed Sistas of Kennedy Heights, a discussion and support group for African-American women, continues to meet from 9-10:30 a.m. every Thursday in the computer lab. Join us for good conversation, good food, and good vibrations. Watch for us soon on Facebook.**

◊ **Save the date: Lindbergh Family Math Night, 5:30-7:30 p.m., December 4, 2012, Lindbergh School, 4500 Kennedy Rd.**