

# 4K Early Learning News

OCTOBER 2022

## FROM THE DESK OF SP4K

Happy October!

We've had a great start to our 4K year, and our young scholars are settling into their school routines. I hope your child goes to school with a smile and has shared some fun and positive experiences with you.

In 4K, we provide our students with opportunities to learn and practice skills through play. Over the last few weeks the teachers have been working hard to establish classroom routines, set expectations and help students acclimate their new surroundings and weekly schedule. Thank you for supporting your student, getting them to school and working with us in this initial transition time. During the month of October, teachers will begin digging a little deeper into each student's skills in several developmental areas, and identify what they need to do to support their continued development.

*The Creative Curriculum for Preschool* guides our practice in 4K, and *Teaching Strategies GOLD* is the tool we use to track student progress throughout the school year. As we observe your child during their 4K day, we note which skills they have mastered and which skills we need to place focus on; through interventions, extensions or direct teaching activities.

We look forward to discussing the start of our school year at our upcoming Family/Caregiver Conferences.

## FAMILY CONFERENCES!!

In 4K we offer family conferences two times per year, in the fall and early spring. This FALL our conferences will take place **between October 10th and October 14th.**

Conferences are a great time for families and teachers to touch base. You will have the opportunity to hear how your child is adjusting to school, what they have been working on, and

ask any questions that you may have.

Conferences will be held in person or via Zoom! Keep an eye out for dates and times your teacher is holding conferences. The times and dates will vary by site and by teacher.

If you do not hear from them reach out and check to see how they are holding conferences this fall.



## CALENDAR REMINDERS:

### NO SCHOOL:

- October 13th and October 14th- Family Conferences

## PLANNING ON CHAPERONING OR VOLUNTEERING?

Are you planning on chaperoning field trips or volunteering this year? Criminal background checks are now completed online. If you have not had a criminal background check completed in the last 3 years, please take a moment to fill out the online [criminal background check](#).

### Did you know?

**It can take up to two weeks for your background check to be approved.** If you are planning on chaperoning any upcoming field trips or volunteering in the school, please take a moment to fill out the online criminal background check so that you are ready to go when these events occur.

### Site Specific Needs:

In addition to completing district requirements please check with your child's teachers or site directors as they may have additional needs.

## FREE Books for SPASD Families



Scan this QR code or go to the website below to enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and a new book will be mailed in your child's name directly to your residence each month.

Books are free of charge

The first book you receive will be *The Little Engine That Could*

All children under 5 who live in Dane County are eligible- enroll younger siblings too!

Books will begin to arrive at the address provided in eight to ten weeks



[madisonreadingproject.com/imaginationlibrary](http://madisonreadingproject.com/imaginationlibrary)

## Libros gratis para familias en SPASD



Escanear este código QR o ir al sitio web de abajo para inscribir a su hijx en Dolly Parton's Imagination Library y un libro nuevo en el nombre de su hijx enviará directamente a su residencia cada mes

Los libros son gratuitos

El primero libro recibe es *The Little Engine That Could*. Todxs niñxs menores de 5 años que viven en condado de Dane son elegibles – ¡inscríbese a hermanxs menores también!

Libros llegarán a la dirección indicada en ocho a diez semanas



[madisonreadingproject.com/imaginationlibrary](https://madisonreadingproject.com/imaginationlibrary)

## STAY CONNECTED WITH THE SPASD APP

This app allows students, staff and caregivers to access information quickly and easily. It provides access to school blackboard connect notifications, District news, Peachjar flyers, COVID updates and more. Students and caregivers can also access Infinite Campus via the app, which provides information regarding attendance, grades and more. To download the app, visit either the iPhone App Store or the Google Play Store.



# WHY PLAY? THE VALUE OF A PLAY-BASED 4K CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE-LAUREL BONOGLONO

## **1. Children learn through their play.**

Don't underestimate the value of play. Children learn and develop:

Cognitive skills – like math and problem solving in a pretend grocery store

Physical abilities – like balancing blocks and running on the playground

New vocabulary – like the words they need to play with toy dinosaurs

Social skills – like playing together in a pretend car wash

Literacy skills – like creating a menu for a pretend restaurant

## **2. Play is healthy.**

Play helps children grow strong and healthy. It also counteracts obesity issues facing many children today.

## **3. Play reduces stress.**

Play helps your children grow emotionally. It is joyful and provides an outlet for anxiety and stress.

## **4. Play is more than meets the eye.**

Play is simple and complex. There are many types of play: symbolic, socio-dramatic, functional, and games with rules--to name just a few. Researchers study play's many aspects: how children learn through play, how outdoor play impacts children's health, the effects of screen time on play, to the need for recess in the school day.

## **5. Make time for play.**

As parents, you are the biggest supporters of your children's learning. You can make sure they have as much time to play as possible during the day to promote cognitive, language, physical, social, and emotional development.

## **6. Play and learning go hand-in-hand.**

They are not separate activities. They are intertwined. Think about them as a science lecture with a lab. Play is the child's lab.

## **7. Play outside.**

Remember your own outdoor experiences of building forts, playing on the beach, sledding in the winter, or playing with other children in the neighborhood. Make sure your children create outdoor memories too.

## **8. There's a lot to learn about play.**

There's a lot written on children and play. Here are some [NAEYC articles and books about play](#). David Elkind's *The Power of Play* (Da Capo, 2007 reprint) is also a great resource.

## **9. Trust your own playful instincts.**

Remember as a child how play just came naturally? Give your children time for play and see all that they are capable of when given the opportunity.

## **10. Play is a child's context for learning.**

Children practice and reinforce their learning in multiple areas during play. It gives them a place and a time for learning that cannot be achieved through completing a worksheet. For example, in playing restaurant, children write and draw menus, set prices, take orders, and make out checks. Play provides rich learning opportunities and leads to children's success and self-esteem.



SUN PRAIRIE FIRE & RESCUE'S  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 ★ 8AM TO 1PM  
AT FIRE STATION NO. 1 ★ 135 N BRISTOL STREET

- ★ Free Pancake Breakfast
- ★ Fun for the Whole Family
- ★ Fire Truck Rides
- ★ Information Booths
- ★ Fire and Extrication Demos



Scan for the Sun Prairie Fire & Rescue Open House Facebook event.  
Questions about the event? Email [ncourtier@cityofsunprairie.com](mailto:ncourtier@cityofsunprairie.com)

## REMINDER- THURSDAY IS EARLY RELEASE FOR 4K AFTERNOON CLASSES!!!

Please be aware that EVERY Thursday is Early Release for AFTERNOON 4K classes. (Morning class times do not change)



Please be ready to pick up our child or meet the bus at an earlier time...

### AFTERNOON Classes Times on THURSDAYS:

- Creekside, Northside, and Token Springs- 11:42-1:30
- All other Community Based sites- 11:32-1:20

Review Bus Safety with this quick story-  
English

Review Bus Safety with this quick story-  
Spanish

## KOBUSSEN BUS-

· Buses can be noisy places. Please help your child remember to use their "0-1" voices, so the drivers can be safe. Sometimes, when bus drivers have to speak loudly to be heard, our kiddos mistake loud for "yelling". We have given the bus drivers this tool to help our 4K students understand what kind of voice they should be using on the bus. It is also used in our classrooms so your children should be familiar with the tool and the language used.



· Staying buckled in their seats is very important. Even if the ride is short please help us to reinforce the need to stay buckled and sitting in their seats, until the teacher comes to get them off the bus.

· Please be prepared to meet your child's bus 10-15 minutes before the scheduled bus times you have been given. Due to absences and our door to door busing the bus times may vary within that time frame.

· If your child is not going to be riding the bus to or from school please let the bus company AND your teacher know. We want to make sure we know exactly who is getting on and off the bus every day. **The bus company can be reached at 825-8700.**

## HALLOWEEN TIPS

Halloween needs to look different this year to reduce risk of spreading COVID-19.

**If you're trick-or-treating**

**Only trick-or-treat with people you live with.** Going with friends you don't live with can expose you to COVID-19.

**Risk from handling candy should be low, but here are some tips to reduce risk even further if you're concerned:**

- **Washed kids to open the piece of candy they want before handling it.** To avoid carrying germs home.
- **Bring hand sanitizer to you all** can sanitize your hands often and wash everyone's hands when you get home.
- **Let the candy sit for a day or two before eating one.**

**Do not come within a feet of other groups.** Leave space on the sidewalk and when going up to houses.

**If you're handing out treats**

**Set your bowl outside.** This way trick-or-treaters can get candy without coming too close.

**Get creative with distributing candy and maintaining distance.** Have you seen these candy cutouts?

**Consider the placement of your bowl.** If you normally put your bowl just outside your door, maybe place it at the bottom of your steps or your driveway. If you trick-or-treaters won't create a bottleneck in tighter spaces.

**Consider placing hand sanitizer by your treats.**

**Gatherings & other fall activities**

- **Do not hold gatherings or parties.** Save your epic Halloween party ideas for next year!
- **Stick to outdoor activities that allow a feet physical distancing.** Those are the scary!
- **Ahead outings with people you live with.** Stick to members of your household when you go to a corn maze, go apple picking, or go to a haunted house.
- **Look for activities that exclude groups to appointment or limit capacity.** This way you can more easily stay a feet from other groups.
- **Wear masks and stay a feet from people you don't live with.**

## Consejos de Halloween

Este año Halloween debe lucir diferente para reducir el riesgo de propagación de COVID-19.

**Si va a recoger dulces**

**Salte a con las personas con las que vive.** Salir con personas con las que no vive puede exponerlo a COVID-19.

**Riesgo de infección por tocar los dulces se considera bajo, pero si le preocupa, o simplemente quiere asegurarse para reducir el riesgo aún más:**

- **Recuerde lavarse y/o desinfectar sus manos que agarran antes de tocarlos** para evitar volver en casa con propagación más oportuna.
- **Deje desinfectante de manos** para que se desinfecten las manos con frecuencia y toquen las manos al llegar a casa.
- **Deje los dulces reposar por 1 o 2 días** antes de comérselos.

**Si va a repartir dulces**

**Coloque su bowl afuera.** De esa forma los que están recogiendo dulces pueden agarrar los suyos sin exponerse demasiado.

**Considere la ubicación de su bowl.** Si normalmente lo coloca afuera de su puerta, tal vez considere colocarlo al pie de los escalones o en el camino de la entrada. De esta manera los que están recogiendo dulces no se amontonarán en espacios reducidos.

**Use su creatividad para distribuir dulces y mantener la distancia.** He visto en Instagram algunas ideas.

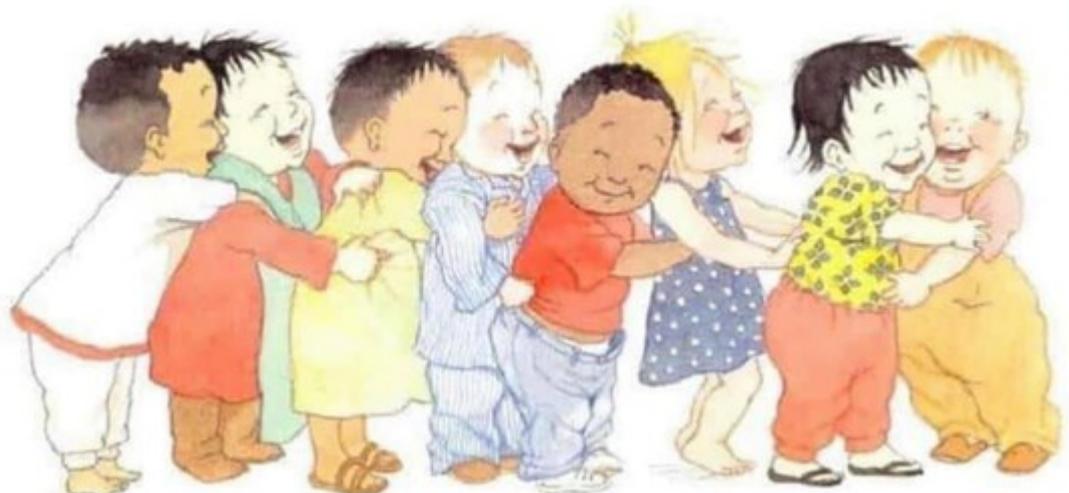
**Considere que exponer los dulces para que no haya que tocarlos en un bowl.**

**Considere colocar desinfectante de manos cerca de los dulces.**

**Reuniones y otras actividades de Otoño**

- **No realice reuniones ni fiestas.** Guarde sus ideas épicas para la fiesta de Halloween del próximo año!
- **Realice actividades al aire libre y que permitan una distancia física de 6 pies:** entre representaciones de terror night.
- **Salga con las personas que vive.** Montañismo con los miembros de su familia cuando vaya a un bosque de maíz o recoger manzanas a un campo de calabazas.
- **Busque actividades que programen actividades para grupos con cita previa o con límite de capacidad.** Así será más fácil mantener 6 pies de distancia de otros grupos.
- **Use cubre bocas y manténgalos a 6 pies de distancia de las personas con quién no vive.**

# HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS from the Department of Health



## Early Childhood Fails

If a child can hold a pencil, write their own name, count to a hundred, recognise all the colours and shapes, sit up straight on the mat, use their 'walking feet inside' and their 'inside voice' **but doesn't** know how to play, build friendships, manage their emotions, resolve conflict, stand up for themselves and for others, then none of the other stuff matters. **Not even a little bit. We have failed them.**

*Text: gathered bits from many places • Artist: Helen Oxenbury*

# DISTRICT RESOURCES

Click on buttons below for more information

SPASD Food Resources

COVID FLOWCHART-ENGLISH

COVID FLOWCHART-SPANISH



## ELIZABETH KNUDTEN

SP4K Program Supervisor

📍 501 South Bird Street, Sun Pra...  
✉️ [elknudt@sunprairieschools.org](mailto:elknudt@sunprairieschools.org)  
☎️ 608-834-6671  
🌐 [sunprairieschools.org](http://sunprairieschools.org)



## BECKY PENTICOFF

Early Childhood Special Education Program Manager

📍 1435 North Thompson Road, S...  
✉️ [rcpenti@sunprairieschools.org](mailto:rcpenti@sunprairieschools.org)  
☎️ 608-478-5178  
🌐 [sunprairieschools.org](http://sunprairieschools.org)



## CINDY SCHMITZ

📍 501 South Bird Street, Sun Pra...

✉️ [csschmit@sunprairieschools...](mailto:csschmit@sunprairieschools...)

☎️ 608-834-6672

🌐 [sunprairieschools.org/sp4k](http://sunprairieschools.org/sp4k)

## SPASD: STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

No student may be unlawfully discriminated against in any school programs, activities or in facilities usage because of the student's sex (gender identity, gender expressions, and non-conformity to gender role stereotypes), color, religion, profession, or demonstration of belief or non-belief, race, national origin (including limited English proficiency), ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, homelessness status, sexual orientation, age, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. Harassment is a form of discrimination and shall not be tolerated in the District. It is the responsibility of administrators, staff members and all students to ensure that student discrimination or harassment does not occur.

### [\(SPASD District Policy JB\)](#)

If a student or parent/guardian would prefer to have this information translated into Spanish, please contact us at 608-834-6620. Si un estudiante, padre ó guardian prefiere tener esta información traducida en Español, por favor contactenos en el 608-834-6620.

If a student or parent/guardian would prefer to have this information translated into Hmong, please contact us at 608-834-6630. Yog tus me nyuam lub xiv los yog niam thiab txiv/tus neeg muaj cai saib xyuas tus me nyuam xav tau qhov ntawv ntawm no ua lus Hmoob, thov hais rau pib paub rau ntawm 608-834-6630.