

# 4K Early Learning News

NOVEMBER 2022

## **This newsletter can be translated**

*¡Este boletín se puede traducir! Primero, haga clic en el enlace "View it in your browser" en la parte superior del correo electrónico (si lo está viendo desde su bandeja de entrada). Luego, desplácese hasta la parte inferior de la página donde dice "Translate" y elija su idioma.*

## FROM THE DESK OF SP4K

### FALL FAMILY CHECK-IN SURVEY

Please take a minute to let us know how your year is starting out! This quick survey will help our teachers and our program meet the needs of all our students and families.

Survey in English: <https://forms.gle/tvXFmzz1Bupic2jaA>

Enquesta en Español: <https://forms.gle/wTfX9dd7Lb2pdHPe6>

### WINTER IS ON THE WAY!

The leaves are falling and we are on our way to colder weather. I wanted to share with you the policies and procedures the 4K program follows when it comes to the weather affecting school closures.

All SP4K programs will follow Sun Prairie Area School District practices during inclement weather. If school is cancelled for the day, an announcement will be made before 6:30 a.m. on the district website ([www.sunprairieschools.org](http://www.sunprairieschools.org)) and on local television and radio stations. A message will also be on the school closing information line at 834-6688, Ext. 2561. In addition, families will also be notified through the "Blackboard Connect" notification system.

When the start of the school day is delayed for 1-2 hours, there will be no morning SP4K program. The afternoon program will be in session according to usual times.

If school is already in session and inclement weather moves into the Sun Prairie area, please check the district website, message line, and local television/radio stations as students may

need to be dismissed early. Our "Blackboard Connect" system will also notify families. If that happens, all SP4K students who ride the bus will be transported home and our usual drop-off procedures will be followed. Students who ride home with parents will remain at their SP4K sites until a parent/guardian arrives.

Please notify your site if your child's transportation needs will change during inclement weather.

Please contact your site director or the 4K office with any questions.

With colder weather soon to come, please make sure your student(s) are dressed appropriately for outside recess! **Please make sure to put your student's name on anything that could be taken off at school.**

- Hats
- Gloves or Mittens
- Fall/Winter Coat
- Boots (don't forget a change of shoes for afterwards)

#### SPASD Winter Guidelines for Recess

Students will stay indoors during inclement weather or when the air or wind chill temperature is at or below 0°F. Your site administrators and teachers will check local weather websites for temperature and wind chill factors.

#### Why Do We Need a Referendum?



## INTRODUCING SP4K- EARLY LEARNING HOME READING PROJECT

SP4K is excited to introduce our Home Reading Project. Through a grant from the Sun Prairie Educational Foundation, we are able to provide each 4K family with three new books to help



build home libraries for children. These books will be handed out at school three times this year- Fall, Winter, and Spring.

We know, through research, that having books in the home and having someone to read with is a great predictor of school success. Reading to children in the early years is not only a great bonding experience it also “stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word” (<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-your-child>, <https://www.readingrockets.org/shows/launching/roots>)

“Reading aloud and talking about what we are reading sharpens children’s brains. It helps develop their ability to concentrate at length, to solve problems logically, and to express themselves more easily and clearly” (Mem Fox). Children connect stories to other areas of their learning. They are role-playing and acting out books to build cognitive skills- sequencing events in stories, characters, and settings.

We hope that you will enjoy these books. Read them together, read them over and over, act them out, ask questions about the story, ask your child to find things on the pages, and ask them if they remember what happens next. Our wish for you is summed up in another quote from children’s author, Mem Fox, “When I say to a parent, “read to a child”, I don’t want it to sound like medicine. I want it to sound like chocolate”

Happy Reading,  
Elizabeth

## NOVEMBER IS HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

According to federal definition,  
**HOMELESS IS DEFINED  
AS THOSE WHO “LACK  
A FIXED, REGULAR, AND  
ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME  
RESIDENCE.”**

**HOMELESSNESS IS NOT  
ALWAYS VISIBLE.**

People live doubled up with friends or family, in areas not meant for habitation such as cars, hotels, shelters, or they may be unsheltered on the streets or in tents.

**OVER 150 STUDENTS  
EXPERIENCE  
HOMELESSNESS IN SUN  
PRAIRIE SCHOOLS  
EVERY YEAR.**



# November is Homelessness Awareness Month

## *What is Homelessness Awareness Month?*

Over 150 students experience homelessness in Sun Prairie schools every year. Homelessness is not always visible. People live doubled up with friends or family, in cars, hotels, shelters, or they may be unsheltered and on the streets.

## *How can you help?*

All month of November, Sunshine Place Cards Closet is collecting winter items. You can help by donating new/gently used, adult/youth size winter items such as

- waterproof gloves
- hats
- snow pants
- winter jackets & boots

Donations will be collected at the Cards Closet drop-off box located at 1632 W Main St. The drop-off box is open daily 8am-4pm.

## ROUTINES.... IN 4K AND HOW TO BRING THAT LEARNING HOME!

Children feel the most secure when their lives are predictable. When adults provide environments that feel safe, children learn that they can trust others to take care of them and meet their needs, so they become free to relax and explore their world. Young children do not yet fully understand the concept of time, so they do not order their lives by hours and minutes, but rather by the events that happen. When events happen in the same order every day, children have a better understanding of their world, and therefore feel more secure. A regular schedule gives children a way to order and organize their lives. When young children know what to expect, they become more confident in both themselves and the world around them. They know they will not be confronted with unfamiliar tasks that they are for which they are unprepared.

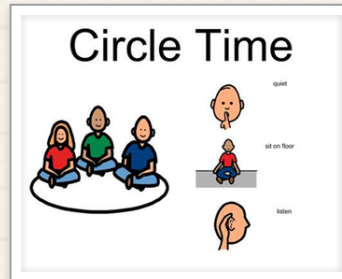
MORE HOME IDEAS CAN BE FOUND HERE: [education.com](http://education.com)

In our classrooms you will see visual schedules of our day, the activities we are working on and procedures that we follow– washing hands, snack time and what we do before we enter the room. These routines help our students practice and LEARN what school behaviors look like, sound like and feel like. Students are beginning to learn concepts like “before and after”,



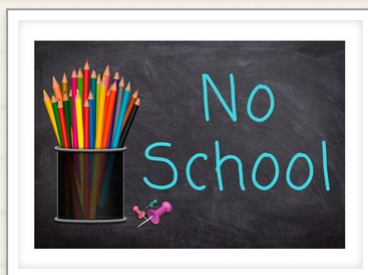
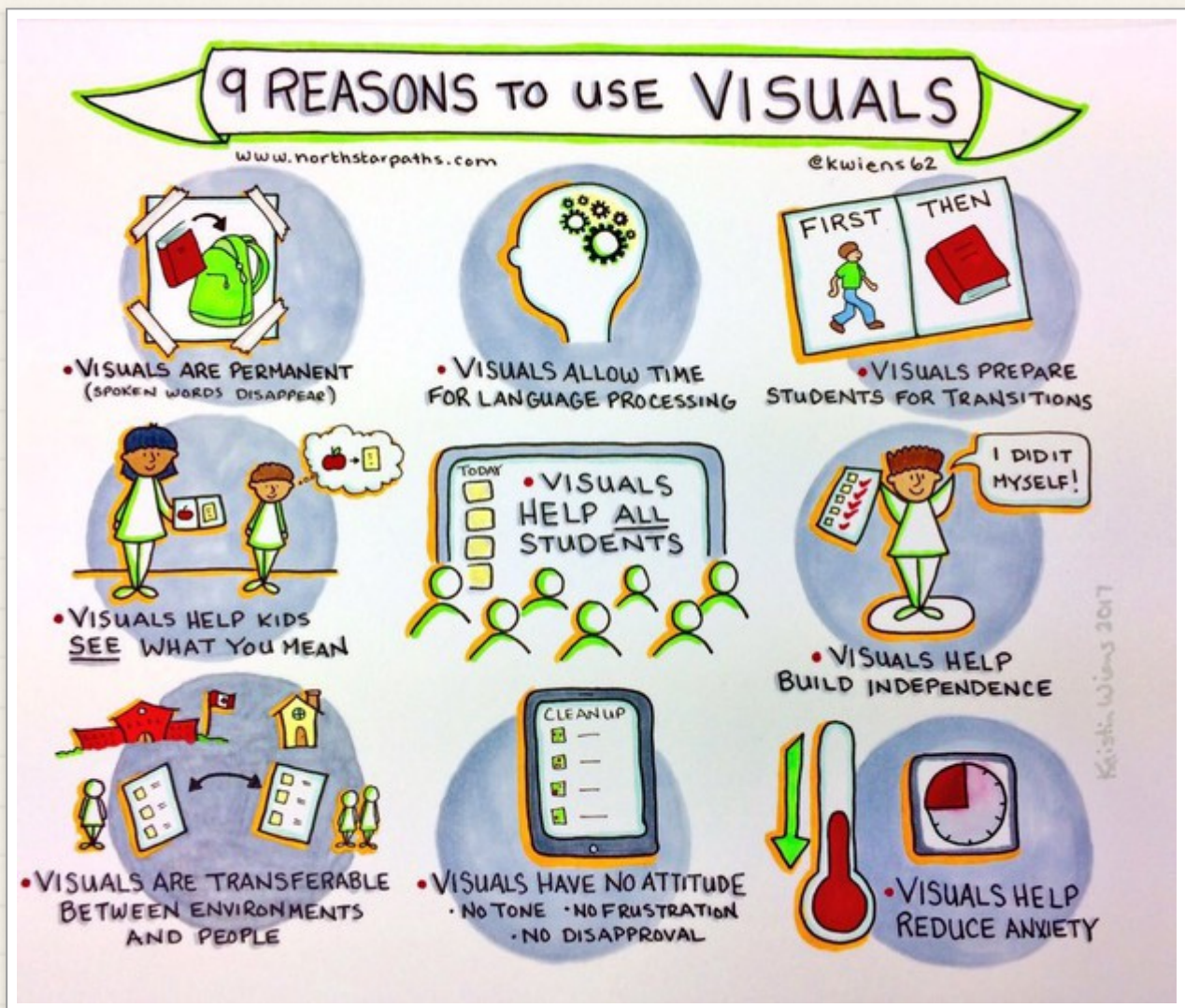
and they begin to understand complex ideas like time management, impulse control and patience.

We use visuals to support these routines because children can independently look at the picture and know the expectation.



	
	<b>GO POTTY</b>
	<b>GET DRESSED</b>
	<b>EAT BREAKFAST</b>
	<b>BRUSH TEETH</b>
	<b>BRUSH OR COMB HAIR</b>
	<b>PUT ON SOCKS</b>

Here is a PDF with a sample home  
schedule/routine



## CALENDAR REMINDERS:

NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Break

- Wednesday-Friday, November 23, 24, 25

## 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](#).

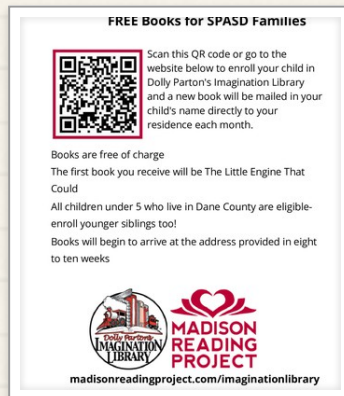
### Did you know?

**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.



## 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.



## 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

# 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 seated in their seats is very important. Even if the ride is short please help us to reinforce the need to stay 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.**

I am a Safe Bus Rider Story- English

If you would like a paper copy please tell your teacher

## DISTRICT RESOURCES

Click on buttons below for more information

SPASD Food Resources



## COVID FLOWCHART-ENGLISH

## COVID FLOWCHART-SPANISH



ELIZABETH KNUDTEN

Facebook

SP4K Program Supervisor

1435 North Thompson Road, S... [elknudt@sunprairieschools.org](mailto:elknudt@sunprairieschools.org)  
 608-478-5176 [sunprairieschools.org/sp4k](https://sunprairieschools.org/sp4k)



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](https://sunprairieschools.org)



CINDY SCHMITZ

SP4K Admin. Assistant

501 South Bird Street, Sun Pra... [csschmit@sunprairieschools....](mailto:csschmit@sunprairieschools....)  
 608-834-6672 [sunprairieschools.org/sp4k](https://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 peb paub rau ntawm 608-834-6630.

