



## Learning Through Play, Every Student, Every Day

### WELCOME TO 4-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN!

A very special welcome to all of our 4K students and families! This is our first Appleton Community 4K school newsletter for the 2024-2025 school year; we hope you will find the contents provide you with important information about events taking place in your child's school, as well as helpful information you can use as you support your child's development.

Appleton Community 4K was designed to be a community collaboration with our childcare, preschool, and Head Start partners in the Appleton community. We are currently collaborating with 13 community partner sites and 4 school host sites, to provide high-quality early learning experiences for our 4K students.

In this issue of Appleton Community 4K, Community Connections, you will learn more about the parent survey we completed with our parents last spring and how we are hoping to improve our communication with you to improve our partnership. You will also read about our Ready 4K text messaging service, now called Parent Powered. With nearly 100% of the over 400 users indicating they found the weekly messages to help support their child's learning in fun and easy ways, our families have greatly enjoyed this opportunity to support their child's learning while they are at home.

Also, in this newsletter, you will find information about how to create your Parent Portal. Your Infinite Campus Parent Portal becomes your primary tool to communicate with the district in many ways. Please read on in this newsletter to learn more about the importance of this essential connection to the School District. Additionally, you'll find Birth to Five program offerings and information about upcoming special events.

As we move through our school year together, we look forward to sharing the many new skills your children learn in their 4K school year.

### WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

- Family Engagement
- Continuous School Improvement Plan
- Parent Powered
- 4K Office Contact Information
- Parent Portal Information
- Jr. Explorers Learning Opportunity
- September Activity Calendar

#### Upcoming Events

- Learning Through Play Playgroups sponsored by Birth to Five Outreach: join on Thursdays each month from 9:30-10:30 AM. Registration is required, see below for more information.
- Play with Purpose: join on Tuesdays each month from 9:00-10:00 AM or 10:30-11:30 AM. Registration is required, see below for more information.

For more information OR to register for any of these events, please contact:

(920) 832-6470



# CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

*Building lifelong learners through collaborative partnerships and play-based learning.*



August 2024

Dear Appleton Community 4K Families,

In April, the Family Engagement Survey was offered to all parents/caregivers/families with a child in the school district to assess their level of satisfaction with their child's school. Collecting this feedback allows leaders to recognize the good work that our teachers, staff, and school leaders accomplish every day. With our mixed service delivery model as the Director of 4K, I work closely with the 4K site directors to ensure we also use this data, with many other data pieces, to identify areas such as essential goals and measures in order to identify gaps and take action, thus ensuring our continuous improvement.

I'd like to thank those who gave their time and shared their satisfaction. The more feedback we receive, the more we know and can guide our school on the priorities of our community. Our school's top strengths were:

- My family is treated with respect at this school.
- The staff members at the school demonstrate a genuine concern for my child
- My child's school is clean and well-maintained.

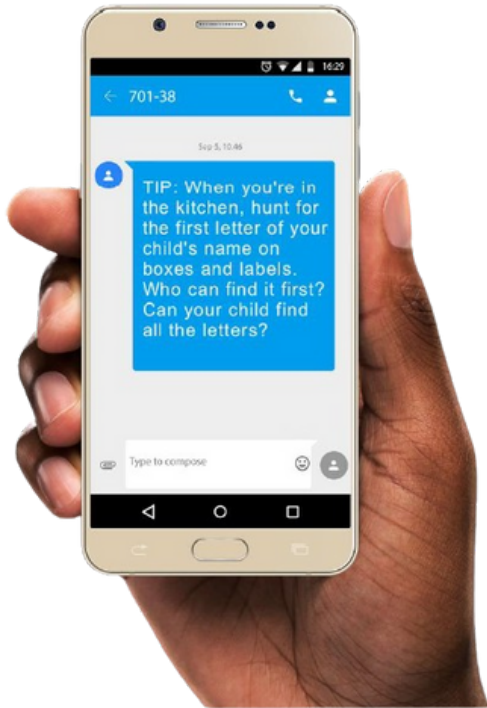
An area for improvement that we are committed to improving this year is providing feedback more frequently about how your child is learning. Over the summer, our team worked to develop an action plan related to this area which we will implement in September so that we can continue to "*Build lifelong learners through collaborative partnerships and play-based learning.*"

If you have immediate feedback you would like us to consider, please feel free to contact me at the email below! Thank you for being involved in your child's learning.

Sincerely,

Suzette Preston  
Director of 4K, Principal Appleton Community 4K

[prestonsuzette@aad.k12.wi.us](mailto:prestonsuzette@aad.k12.wi.us)



## PARENT POWERED (PREVIOUSLY READY4K)

The Appleton Area School District invites you to participate in ParentPowered, a research-based text messaging program for families. Each week you will receive three texts with fun facts and easy tips to boost your child's learning. ParentPowered activities build on the things that you already do with your child - like getting ready for school, mealtime, and going to the store - to make supporting your child's development fast, fun, and easy.

Please be sure to complete the ParentPowered sign-up form at your student's Meet & Greet event to join!

**Text messages to  
boost your child's  
learning!**



### 4K OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Suzette Preston,  
Director of 4-Year-Old Kindergarten

Karissa Covington & Joan Kretz  
Appleton Community 4K Administrative Assistants

Appleton Community 4K  
2701 N Oneida Street, Suite C2  
Appleton, WI 54911

Phone: (920) 852-5600

Fax: (920) 852-5601

E-mail: [community-4k@aasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:community-4k@aasd.k12.wi.us)

Have you created your

# PARENT PORTAL

account yet?

Here are some great reasons to do it now!

## YOU CAN...

- Update your household information and emergency contacts as needed
- Report your child's absence
- Pay school fees
- Register for summer school (Kindergarten Here I Come)
- Register! Every year after 4K, registration will be done through your Parent Portal

## AS YOUR STUDENT GETS INTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YOU CAN DO THE FOLLOWING THROUGH YOUR PARENT PORTAL:

- Add lunch money
- See progress reports
- See assignments/grades
- Track attendance
- Learn about school activities
- So much more!

## NEED HELP CREATING OR ACCESSING YOUR PARENT PORTAL?

Please contact the AASD Helpdesk at:  
[helpdesk@aad.k12.wi.us](mailto:helpdesk@aad.k12.wi.us)  
OR (920)852-5555

## TO-DO

*Infinite Campus*

Campus Portal Login



<https://appletonwi.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/appleton.jsp>

# Jr. Explorers

## What:

- 90-minute drop off program
- Children will engage in learner-directed and guided play activities

## Who:

- 3- 4 year olds who are toilet independent
- Members and non-members are invited!

## When:

### Sessions start in August

*Tuesdays/Thursdays or Wednesdays/Fridays*

- Drop Off: 8:30 - 8:45am
- Pick-Up: 10:00am

## Program Goals

- 1. Build confidence** through child-directed, play-based learning
- 2. Build communication and collaboration skills** through the Plan. Play. Share. method
- 3. Build emotional awareness** through sharing their experiences















Learn more and register here:  
or visit our website





# September Play Ideas Calendar Preschool



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Are you registered for our playgroups on Tuesdays and Thursdays? Call Birth-Five TODAY!! (920)832-6470 #1</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Celebrate Labor Day with a family picnic in your backyard or a local park!</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>"Chick-Chick-Hooray!" Celebrate National Chicken month with <u>Elmo Goes to Chicken School</u>   Sesame Street Full Episode - <u>YouTube</u></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>National Wildlife Day! Visit a local nature preserve or go on a wildlife walk. Listen to:  Panda Bear, ...</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Join us for Learning Through Play at Pierce Park from 9:30-10:30: <b>Shark in the Park</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Have a chalk day outside! Draw pictures and make an obstacle course with chalk. Have child walk or run through the course</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Visit your local farmers market; stock up on veggies and enjoy the children's area!</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>National Grandparents Day! Make a card with your child for their grandparents.</p> 	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>National Teddy Bear Day! Have a teddy bear picnic inside or outside. Sing and dance to:  Teddy Bears' P...</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Join us for Play With Purpose 9:00-10:00 and 10:30-11:30: <u>All About Me</u> (registration required)</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Make some <u>edible paint</u> to brighten up a sandwich or create a fall picture</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Join us for Learning Through Play at Pierce Park from 9:30-10:30: <u>Apples All Around</u> &amp; join our event Autumn Adventure at Pierce Park 5:00-6:30</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>National Positive Thinking Day! Recite some <u>positive affirmations</u> with your child and read or listen to:  The Best Bad ...</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Check out <u>Latino Fest</u> 10:00-3:00 at Pierce Park!</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Snack and craft with popcorn!</p> 	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>National Play-Doh Day! Try this homemade play dough <u>recipe</u>. Make a keepsake or encourage your child to build and explore</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Join us for Play With Purpose 9:00-10:00 and 10:30-11:30: <u>Wiggles, Giggles and Grins</u> (registration required)</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Go for a family walk to enjoy the fall air. Collect leaves and make a leaf rubbings picture with crayons</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Join us for Learning Through Play at Pierce Park from 9:30-10:30: <b>Leaf Hunt</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Make an apple sensory bin!</b> Use the ideas from the next page or <u>check here</u></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>National CleanUp Day! Visit your favorite park and clean up at least one piece of litter by putting it in the trash can</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>National Elephant Appreciation Day! What sound does an elephant make? Read or listen to:  The Saggy Baggy...</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Find a local apple orchard and go apple picking. Sing the <u>Apple Song</u> together</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Join us for Play With Purpose 9:00-10:00 and 10:30-11:30: <u>Table Talk</u> (registration required)</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>National Open the Magic Day! Go to the library to pick out and read some favorite picture books</p> 	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>National Johnny Applesseed Day! Make <u>Easy Homemade Applesauce</u> or do apple stamp paintings</p> 	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Camp out in the living room, make a tent out of blankets over tables or chairs</p> 	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>National Family Health and Fitness Day! Here are some <u>great ways to exercise</u> with your child</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Have a dance party! Listen to music and dance with your child. Allow them to take the lead!</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Take a walk and talk about what we can find in nature. Are the leaves changing colors? What sounds do you hear?</p>			<p>See back side of calendar for activity details </p>		