

4K NEWSLETTER . COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS .

OCTOBER 2024 ISSUE 3



# Learning Through Play, Every Student, Every Day

# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 4-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN!

When 4K was in development, the planning team developed guiding principles. These guiding principles reflect the community leadership team's understanding of what is most important when considering high-quality early learning for 4-year-old children. You'll find the summary of our guiding principles later in this newsletter. Many of our guiding principles focus on the importance of a child's family in their learning journey. It is widely understood and appreciated that as a family, you are your child's first teacher.

Research over the past few decades has shown that when parents/guardians are involved in their child's school experiences, children experience stronger math and reading achievement, increased motivation and self-esteem, and better school attendance. Knowing how important it is to you to continue in your role as your child's teacher, as well as how critical your participation in school activities is for your child's development, our 4K school includes as an essential component, family engagement activities.

During the 4K school year, Birth to Five, Appleton Community 4K, and your child's 4K site will be offering a number of family engagement activities. These opportunities have been developed to provide a variety of types of activities so that you can choose those activities that meet your family's needs and interests. One opportunity would be to join Ready4K, a text program that includes fun facts and tips to boost your child's learning- please reference the last two pages of this newsletter for more information and sign-up. In addition to scheduled activities, there are many opportunities to volunteer in your child's classroom or after hours if your schedule permits. Another option to extend your child's learning at home is by completing some of the activities in our monthly attached calendars.

As providers of your child's first year of education in the AASD, we are excited to be building this partnership with you as we work together to support your child's learning!

### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

No School (Professional Development): October 25 No School (Professional Development): November 18 No School (Conference Compensation): November 27 No School (Thanksgiving Break): November 28 & 29



# WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

- Health Services Notes
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- · AASD Birth-Five Events
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### **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







Health Services \* P.O. Box 2019, Appleton, WI 54911 \* 920-852-5344

# FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE: BEGINNING OF YEAR REMINDERS

# Meningococcal Disease

As you may be aware, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) made recent and very important changes to Wisconsin's administrative code (Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 144), which outlines immunization requirements for school entry. This change includes adding Meningococcal <u>ACWY-containing vaccines</u> to the requirements for students entering seventh grade, and a booster dose for eligible students entering 12th grade. This change comes after an increase in meningococcal cases seen in the US. As of March 25, 2024, the CDC reported 143 cases of meningococcal disease in the United States, which is a 75% increase from the same time period in 2023. This is the highest number of cases reported since 2014. The CDC notes that the increase in cases is mainly due to the serogroup Y, which can be prevented with vaccination. For additional information about these vaccines, please discuss with your student's provider or visit <u>CDC Meningococcal Vaccination Information</u>.

October 5th is World Meningitis Day. Meningitis is one of the most common types of meningococcal disease. The observance aims to raise awareness about meningitis, its symptoms, and vaccines that can help prevent it. Visit the World Meningitis Website here to learn more-Meningitis Research Foundation.

What is meningitis? Meningitis is the swelling of the lining around the brain and spinal cord (the meninges) and is usually caused by a bacterial, fungal or viral infection.

What are some common symptoms of meningitis? Fever, headache and stiff neck. There could also be other symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, eyes being more sensitive to light and confusion.

For more information about meningitis and other types of meningococcal disease, please visit the CDC website-CDC Meningococcal Disease



THE CREATIVE CURRICULUM®

# A NEW UNIT OF STUDY: BALLS

Dear Families,

We have noticed that children are very interested in balls. They're curious about different kinds of balls, how people use balls, what they are made of, what is inside them, and how high they can bounce. We think balls will make an interesting study and will be our next unit of inquiry.

As we study balls, we learn concepts and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology. We'll also be using thinking skills to investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions, and test our ideas.

What You Can Do at Home:

- Spend time with your child, playing with balls of all types, and sizes, such as playground balls, tennis balls, ping-pong balls, volleyballs, baseballs, footballs, cotton balls, and marbles.
- Talk about what the balls are made of, whether they are heavy or light, and whether they are big or little.
- Wonder aloud with your child to encourage his or her thinking about balls. For example, you might
  ask, "I wonder what's inside a tennis ball. I wonder how far you can throw a foil ball, a beach ball,
  or a tennis ball. How can we find out?"
- Help your child use all of his or her senses when playing with balls. You might ask, "What does it look like? Feel like? Sound like? Smell like?"
- Look for examples of balls around you, at home, in play areas of parks, or signs around town.

Thank you for playing an important role in our learning!



4K OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION Suzette Preston, Principal

Kabao Moua, Dean of Students

Karissa Covington & Joan Kretz Administrative Assistants

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# THE LITERACY CORNER

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# Living and Learning in the 4K Classroom

Strong literacy-rich 4K classrooms are joyful, busy places where children, through play, develop relationships, explore, negotiate, and learn.

4K classrooms offer children opportunities to learn many important things.

### For example:

- School is a place where people work, talk, and play together.
- You can learn many new things about your world at school.
- · You help others at school.
- · You do your part to keep the classroom clean.
- · You learn how to care for classroom materials.
- At school, you discover more about the things you encounter in your life.
- · You learn how to take turns.
- · You learn how to talk nicely to others.
- · You learn how to share with others.
- You can tell your stories, and your classmates can tell their stories.
- · Stories are told the same way again and again.
- Print is different from pictures; it represents language that you can say.
- · You can tell your own stories by drawing and writing.
- · You can make books to share your ideas.
- You can draw to show your thinking.
- · You can talk to show your thinking.
- There are letters in your name and you can write them.
- · Some words sound alike; you can say and hear the sounds in words.
- You can read all together by pointing at the words.

Literacy Beginnings-Fountas and Pinnell

We know that every child arrives at school with a different set of understandings and has developed uniquely. Some children develop more quickly in some areas than others. It is our job in Appleton Community 4K to provide every child with a literacy-rich and social environment that promotes confidence, respect, and curiosity.

This month's book recommendations focus on going to school: Llama, Llama Misses Mama by Ann Dewdney
The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
David Goes to School by David Shannon
Timothy Goes to School by Rosemary Wells
How Do Dinosaurs Go to School? by Jane Yolen





# STUDENT SERVICES OVERVIEW

Our Appleton Community 4K school is supported by a Student Services Team comprised of a school social worker, a school psychologist, 2 program support teachers, a dean of students, and a school health services coordinator. Each of the schools in the Appleton Area School District has a similar team that works closely within the school to support our students in their learning journey. The Appleton Community 4K team works together to provide supports to teachers, children, and families in a variety of areas including designing classroom accommodations and modifications, assisting with individual interventions and supports, and providing staff development and family engagement opportunities. The student services team consults with 4K teachers regularly and often visit classrooms for observations and collaboration. At times, concerns about progress with an individual child may be raised by parents or a child's teacher. Should that be the case, our team will work closely with families and 4K staff in considering individual supports and accommodations. We are very lucky to have the following individuals as our team in 4K!

### VICKI FORS SCHOOL NURSE











Hello! My name is Vicki Fors, and I am the 4K school nurse. I received my bachelor's in nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. In 2017, I started my career in school nursing, and I have loved every minute of working with your children. Appleton's motto is 'Every Student, Every Day', and this is evident working with your dedicated staff at Appleton Community 4K.

The National Association of School Nurses defines school nursing as a specialized practice of nursing that protects and promotes student health, facilitates optimal development, and advances academic success. With this in mind, the role of the professional school nurse in the AASD is to collaborate with staff, students, parents, and community resources to promote the well-being of children in order to maximize the potential for learning. I am thrilled to work with our students this school year!

### OLIVIA VER KUILEN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Hi! My name is Olivia Ver Kuilen and I am the School Psychologist with Appleton Community 4K. This is my eighth year as a School Psych in the district and fourth year with Appleton Community 4K. I am passionate about facilitating the development of young children and believe learning through play is an important part of a student's development and education career.

I am here to support students in learning and social/emotional development through observations, interventions, and collaboration with parents and teachers. I look forward to working with and supporting students, teachers, and families this school year.

KATHY JO USLABAR PROGRAM SUPPORT TEACHER

Hello! My name is Kathy Jo Uslabar. I am a Program Support Teacher for Appleton Community 4K, focusing on curriculum and instruction. I received by Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. While this is my first year in this role, I have been part of the 4K family as a classroom teacher since we began in 2013.

I have been incredibly fortunate to have learned and grown as a teacher from and with the professionals who make up our Appleton Community 4K. I am excited to pay it forward and support our teachers in the classroom as they implement our curriculum, meet each student where they are at, design effective lessons, and support learning through play.



# STUDENT SERVICES OVERVIEW

# Continued. . .

### DIANE BISHOP PROGRAM SUPPORT TEACHER

My name is Diane Bishop, and I am a Program Support Teacher with Appleton Community 4K. I have been working in Education for nearly 30 years. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and a Master's of Education, specializing in Early Childhood Education and Administration.

As a Program Support Teacher of Curriculum and Instruction, I will work with teachers to implement a developmentally appropriate curriculum that maximizes the learning of a four-year-old. I strive to support the teachers in building a lifelong appreciation of learning from our 4K students.

# **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

### KABAO MOUA DEAN OF STUDENTS

Hello families! My name is Kabao Moua, and I am your new dean of students. I have 14 years of experience working with this age group and have a master's degree in early childhood education. This past summer was full of adventures and change. I received my administrative license, got married, went on a month-long road trip, accepted this wonderful position, moved to Appleton, and am in the process of renting my house back in Milwaukee. I am excited to learn and grow with the Appleton Community 4K.

As the dean of students, my main goal is to support your child's growth, nurture their love of learning, and foster a positive school experience. I am committed to having clear communication and building relationships with each of you. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I hope to have the chance to meet you at family events.

Before I forget, I have two adorable Pomeranians, Loki and Thor, who are a big part of my life. I'm excited to share pictures and stories of them with the children, as these personal connections can help us all feel more at home in our school community.











ROB MCINNES SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

My name is Rob McInnes, and I am the School Social Worker for Appleton Community 4K. Prior to 4K, I was the social worker for two elementary schools and our district's early childhood diagnostic center which evaluates children for special education. I have a bachelor's and master's degree in social work and a Master of Education, specializing in Special Education, Pupil Services, and Administration.

As a School Social Worker, I am an advocate for students and their families to ensure that students receive the support they need both in and out of the classroom while also serving as a bridge between the school, families, and community resources. I also work with our teachers to help students develop age-appropriate social skills and provide early intervention for children struggling with social or behavioral issues.



# TUCKER'S CORNER



In all of our Appleton Community 4K classrooms, we use the Wisconsin Pyramid Model for Social and Emotional Competence, a framework similar to PBIS that is used in the AASD K-12 system. In our Pyramid Model classrooms, teachers use a wide variety of activities and tools to promote social and emotional development. Through our Pyramid Model framework, our 4K students are also learning how to follow classroom routines, identify and express their emotions, and learn to play, share, and take turns with their peers.

Tucker Turtle is our Pyramid Model mascot and can be found in several locations in all Appleton Community 4K classrooms. Tucker is an important friend in 4K. He teaches our students about solving problems and managing behaviors when they have strong feelings of anger, frustration, or disappointment. Each month Tucker will be here in our newsletter to share some of the strategies and activities we are using at school with you to try at home.

This month, we would encourage you to ask your child about the 3 classroom expectations or rules at school. By this time in the school year, all of our children should know Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Helpful. One of the activities many of our teachers use is to have the children identify someone in the classroom and something they noticed that demonstrated one of our expectations. At home, you can ask your children to name one or two ways they can show you how they are following each of these expectations while at home.

Tucker is a friendly reminder of our expectations and strategies to help our children manage their growing feelings. Please keep an eye out for him around town and at 4K family events. You never know where he may show up, always ready to give high5's and congratulate our students for Being Safe, Kind, and Helpful.



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF APPLETON COMMUNITY 4K

We believe that a successful and effective four-year-old kindergarten program:

- Recognizes early relationships between the individuals in a child's world matter.
- Is universal, yet optional, and provides choices for children and their families.
- Is inclusive of all children, recognizing and supporting diversity and individual stages of child development.
- Prepares the whole child.
- Uses knowledge of child growth and development as the foundation for educational experiences.
- Is engaged with and supported by the community.
- Supports parents as the child's primary teacher.
- Views a child as a part of a family.
- Takes place in high-quality environments.
- Fosters each child's love of learning.



# SCHOOL FEES

Thank you for paying your student(s) school fees!

If you still need to make a payment, you may pay online via your Infinite Campus Parent Portal or in the 4K office via cash (exact amount) or check (made out to Appleton Area School District). Free and Reduced forms are also available.

The school fee for Appleton Community 4K is \$15.00.

# 411.2 STUDENT NONDISCRIMINATION

The Appleton Area School District does not discriminate against students on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or physical, cognitive, emotional or learning disability in its education programs or activities.

El Distrito Escolar del Área de Appleton no discrimina a los estudiantes por sexo, raza, color, religión, edad, origen nacional, ascendencia, credo, embarazo, estado civil o parental, orientación sexual, identidad de género, expresión de género o físico, cognitivo, discapacidad emocional o de aprendizaje en sus programas o actividades educativas.

Tsev kawm ntawv hauv Appleton tsis cais tawm menyuam kawm ntawv los ntawm qhov yog poj niam los txiv neej, haiv neeg, cev nqaij daim tawv txawv, kev teev hawm, lub hnub nyoog, keeb tiv ntawm haiv neeg, poj koob yawm txwv, kev ntseeg, lub cev tsis tab seeb, muaj txij nkawm los yog leej niam leej txiv, hloov lub cev poj niam mus ua txiv neej hloov txiv neej lub cev mus ua poj niam, tus yam ntxwv poj niam los txiv neej, hais lus coj li poj niam los txiv neej los yog cev nqaij daim tawv, lub hlwb kev xav, tus xeeb ceem kev xav los yog muaj qhov ua rau kawm tsis tau ntawv nyob rau cov khoo ka kawm ntawv los yog tej kev ua ub ua no.

Amend Dates: 6/23/2014 and 04/22/2019

# COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

The AASD shares local, community opportunities for students. These community opportunities include upcoming events and activities such as art and music camps, youth athletics, cultural events, enrichment programs, and more. We encourage AASD families to regularly review these opportunities for students of all ages. Check out the <u>AASD COMMUNITY</u> <u>OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WEBPAGE</u> for a current list of opportunities for students.



BIRTH-FIVE OUTREACH & APPLETON COMMUNITY 4K INVITE YOU TO



# FALL,FEST

November 14, 2024 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 313 S. State St., Appleton

FREE & OPEN TO CHILDREN AGES BIRTH TO FIVE.
SIBLINGS
WELCOME!

Join us for fall-themed games, crafts, stories, & more!

PLEASE CONTACT DANIELLE TZAKAIS AT (920) 832-6470 #I OR

tzakaisdaniell@ aasd.k12.wi.us

REGISTRATION
IS REQUIRED
FOR THIS
EVENT BY
November II

The following information is needed for registration:

Parent/Caregiver name, Child's name/birth date, phone number, address & email address



# November Play Ideas Calendar



Saturday	National Play Outside Day! Visit one of your favorite local parks!	Visit a nature center or park; what do you see? What do you hear?	Camp out in the living room, make a tent out of blankets over tables or chairs	National Eat a Cranberry Day! WI produces the most in the world! Try the juice or make cranberry sauce toaether	Maize Day! Make a corn shaker and dance to musici
Friday	National Family Literacy Dayl "A family that reads together succeeds together" Have a book night and read a family favoritel	National STEM/STEAM Dayl Do a Eizzing Pumpkin Patch experiment to celebratel	America Recycles Dayl Talk about the importance of recycling with your child. Read/listen: • Recycling Is Fun.	Make and play with homemade scented play dough	Play a board game or build a puzzle with your child.  Talk about taking turns and following directions
Thursday	See back side of calendar for activity details	*No Learning Through Play at CELC for Staff Development* Play itsy bitsy spider with your child or sing along  ITSY BITSY SPI.	Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 am: Stir Crack Whisk Bake and FALL FEST: 6-7 pm (Registration required)	Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 am: We Love Our Pets (Registration required)	Happy Thanksgiving! Make a meal of favorite foods that your family can enjoy!
Wednesday		Join APL for Family Storytime at the library 10:00-10:30 am	Join APL for Family Storytime at the library 10:00-10:30 am	Join APL for Family Storytime at the library 10:00-10:30 am	60 for a walk and search for different color leaves. Count and create a fall picture with them
Tuesday		National Donut Dayl Make your own or visit a bakery. Enjoy together while reading/listening to:	Make a snack with layered pumpkin, vanilla pudding and whip cream eat with graham crackers	Sing and dance to songs about fall, like this one about autumn leaves:  • Preschool Fall	National Cake Dayl Make/eat cake or do a cake craft, and read/listen to: Froggy Bakes
Monday	Are you registered for our playgroups on Tuesdays and Thursdays? Join our November Event tool Call TODAY!!!	Use cereal to make a fall tree picture	Make a <u>leaf</u> suncatcher with your child, hang in a sunny window	Make a fall snack with popcorn pretzels and candy corn	Rake leaves and jump in them; build a maze with leaves for your child to follow
Sunday	Scan here for more information about	Put leaves, sticks and acorns in a ziplock bag. Add some extra small toys, letters for your child to explore	Throw and catch leaves; sort them by size and color with your child	National Take a Hike Dayl Visit a local nature preserve or try one of these 10 best kid-friendly trails in Appleton	Create silly leaf
	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday	Are you registered for our playgroups on Thursdays Join our November Event tool Call TODAN!  See back side of National Family Courside Dayl family that reads together succeeds favorite local parks!  See back side of National Play Outside Dayl family that reads together succeeds favorite local parks!	Are you registered for our playgroups on Tuesday Truesday Truesday Truesday for our playgroups on Tuesdays and Truesdays and Thursdays 2 Jain our November Event tool Call Toboxy and Thursdays 2 Jain our November Event tool Call Toboxy 2 Jain our Day Make your own or visit a bakery.  3	Are you registered for activity truesdays and truesday and truesdays and	Andre our playgroups and for our playgroups and for our playgroups and for our playgroups and for our playgroups and the play our call of the play at Call TOOAXII Section 11 Make a leaf substant with paper and play at Call TOOAXII Section 11 Make a leaf substant with paper pretate and the pumpkin, wontil a pudging and whip ground for a sunaw window craw at with paper pretates ange about fall.         Thursday Friday Literacy Day 'A family and read for our play trade to you see favorite local parker acceeds the major standard details and read a family storytime play at CBL from 9-10.         Andre out play at CBL from 9-10 and the population of the play at CBL from 9-10 and the population of the play at CBL from 9-10.         Andre out play at CBL from 9-10 and the population of the play at CBL from 9-10 and the play at the library and the library and and the play and and the play and and the play and

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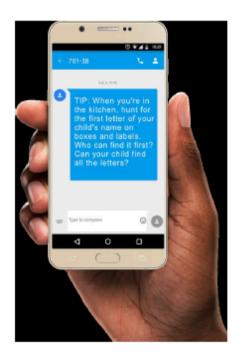
Phone: 920-852-5600 2701 N Oneida St, Suite C2
Fax: 920-852-5601 Appleton, WI 54911



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.

See the other side to enroll!

Text messages to boost your child's learning!









# Text messages to boost your child's learning.

While there is absolutely no cost for enrolling in ParentPowered, data and message rates may apply. Please fill out the form below to begin boosting your child's learning today!

Your name:
10-digit cell phone number (e.g., 920-123-4567):
E-mail address:
Zip code:
Your 4K child's birth date (e.g., 01/31/2014)://
Texting language (check one): English Spanish
Your signature:

By signing you hereby agree to (i) enroll in ParentPowered, (ii) the ParentPowered PBC Terms of Use available at parentpowered.com/terms.html and Privacy Policy available at parentpowered.com/privacy.html, and (iii) receive approximately three ParentPowered text messages per week from 70138. While there is absolutely no cost for enrolling, data & message rates may apply. You can cancel your receipt of ParentPowered text messages any time by texting STOP to 70138. For help with ParentPowered text HELP to 70138 or email us at <a href="mailto:support@parentpowered.com">support@parentpowered.com</a>.

Please print and return this form to your child's 4K teacher OR e-mail your responses to ALL of the above areas on the form to community-4K@aasd.k12.wi.us!