



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 caregiver in their learning journey. It is widely understood and appreciated that as a family, and/or caregiver, 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. Why school attendance? When children miss school, they miss important chances to learn. Studies show that students who miss 18 or more days of school have a harder time learning to read and developing early reading skills. Attending school regularly, even for our youngest learners, helps children understand that school is important. 18 days of a school year translates to just 2 days a month. When students are absent a lot, they miss out on experiences their classmates have and might feel left out. Also, school helps children learn routines, and missing many days can make it harder for them to keep up with these routines. Parents can encourage good attendance for 4K students by creating a positive routine around going to school every day. They can talk about school in a fun and excited way to help their child feel happy about attending.

It's important for caregivers to keep in touch with teachers and the school to stay informed and address any concerns early. Caregivers can also work toward success with their child by ensuring he/she get enough sleep and have everything ready for school each day to avoid rushing in the morning. Praising your child for going to school regularly helps build good habits. If there are any problems, like transportation or health issues, caregivers can ask the school for support. By showing that school is important and making attendance a priority, you will help your child succeed and feel confident at school.

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!

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

- Health Services Notes
- Unit of Study Information
- 4K Contact Information
- Literacy Corner
- Meet Your 4K Student Services Team
- Tucker's Corner
- Student Nondiscrimination
- School Fees
- 4K Guiding Principles
- AASD & Birth-Five Events
- November Activity Calendar

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- No School (Professional Development): October 31
- No 4K (Professional Development): November 14
- No School (Conference Compensation): November 26
- No School (Thanksgiving Break): November 27 & 28



Upcoming Events

- Learning Through Play Playgroups sponsored by Birth to Five Outreach: join on Thursdays each month from 9:00-10:00 AM OR 10:30-11:30 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:

Is Your Child Well Enough to Go to School?

It is not always easy to decide if your child is sick enough to stay home or well enough to be in school. Children who come to school are expected, with few exceptions, to participate fully in school activities.

Here are some guidelines that might help in a parent's decision-making:

1. **Fever:** A fever of 100.4 degrees or more signals an illness that is probably going to make a student uncomfortable and unable to function well in class. Your child should stay home until his or her temperature is less than 100.4 degrees (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours and he/she is feeling better.
2. **Vomiting, Diarrhea, or Severe Nausea:** These are symptoms that suggest a student remain at home until a normal diet is tolerated for 24 hours.
3. **Infectious Diseases:** Diseases such as impetigo, pink eye with thick drainage, and strep throat require a health care provider's visits and possibly a prescription for medication. Contacting the health care provider and using the medicine as directed for the full recommended length of time are necessary. A student may return to school 24 hours (or as advised by a healthcare provider) after the first dose of an antibiotic and if he/she is feeling well.
4. **Rashes:** Rashes or patches of broken, itchy skin need to be examined by a health care provider if they appear to be spreading, draining, or not improving.
5. **Injuries:** If a student has an injury that causes continuous discomfort, the student should not attend school until the condition is checked by a healthcare provider or it improves. Injuries that interfere with class participation need a medical evaluation. If participation in physical education classes is not recommended, a health care provider's excuse is required.

If your child becomes ill in school, we will need to be able to reach you. Please make sure to notify the office of any work or phone number changes as they occur.

If you have further questions, please contact your school nurse through the school office.

Here are some things you can do to help:

- Frequent handwashing
- Coughing or sneezing into a tissue or sleeve
- Drink plenty of water
- Eat a well-balanced diet
- Get adequate sleep



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

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 nurse. 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 support 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 visits 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 ninth year as a School Psych in the district and fifth 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 my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. I have been a part of the 4K family since we began in 2013. This means our first 4K class is in their junior year of high school! Wow!

Through the years, I have been incredibly fortunate to have learned and grown as a teacher from and with the professionals who make up Appleton Community 4K. I am honored 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 for Appleton Community 4K. I've been working in the field of Education for almost 30 years, primarily in Early Childhood. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and a Master's of Education, specializing in Early Childhood Education and Administration.

In my role, I support students, families, and teachers by guiding our practice with the Pyramid Model. This is a research-based framework that allows us to proactively build strong social and emotional skills in all children. I focus on creating nurturing and responsive relationships—the foundation of all learning—and help teachers design high-quality, supportive environments. I coach our teams on explicitly teaching social skills like problem-solving, sharing, and managing big feelings. By giving children the language and tools to express their emotions and navigate friendships, we are setting them up for success in both school and life. I strive to support our teachers in cultivating a supportive environment and building a lifelong appreciation for learning in our 4K students.

KABAO MOUA
DEAN OF STUDENTS

Hello families! My name is Kabao Moua, and I'm thrilled to be your Dean of Students. With 14 years of experience working with children in this age group and a master's degree in Early Childhood Education, I am truly passionate about nurturing young minds. This year, I'm also heading back to school to earn my special education certificate, and I'm excited to grow and learn alongside our amazing students!

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 menyuum kawm ntawv los ntawm qhov yog poj niam los txiv neej, haiv neeg, cev nqaij daim tawv txawv, kev teev hawm, lub hnuv 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 [AASD COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WEBPAGE](#) for a current list of opportunities for students.

AASD
Birth-Five
OUTREACH

JOIN AASD BIRTH-FIVE OUTREACH AND
APPLETON COMMUNITY 4K FOR:



Sports EXTRAVAGANZA!

NOVEMBER 13TH, 6-7 PM
313 S. STATE ST., APPLETON



COME HAVE A BALL WITH US!

**ACTIVITIES:
SPORTS-THEMED
GAMES, CRAFTS,
STORIES AND MORE!**

**REGISTRATION IS
REQUIRED BY
NOVEMBER 10TH**

PLEASE CONTACT
DANIELLE TZAKAIS
AT (920) 832-6470 #1 OR
TZAKAISDANIELL@AASD.K12.WI.US

FREE!

OPEN TO FAMILIES
WITH CHILDREN
AGES BIRTH-FIVE.
SIBLINGS ARE ALWAYS
WELCOME!

THE FOLLOWING IS NEEDED
FOR REGISTRATION:
PARENT/CAREGIVER NAME,
CHILD'S NAME/BIRTHDATE,
PHONE NUMBER,
ADDRESS &
EMAIL ADDRESS



Sensory-Friendly Trunk or Treat & Resource Fair for All Families

 Thursday, October 23, 2025

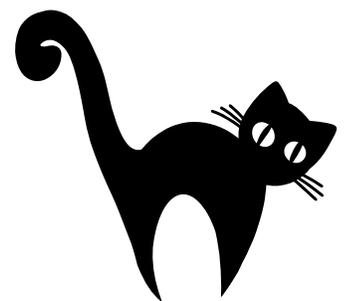
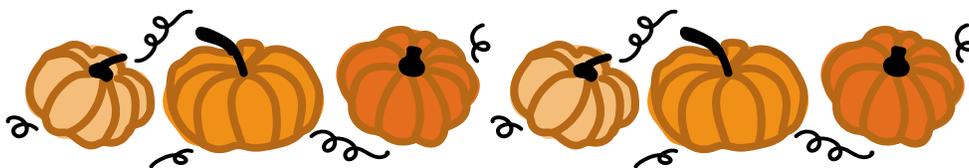
 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

 Sandy Slope Elementary School
2625 E. Edgewood Drive, Appleton



Families are invited to enjoy a sensory-friendly Trunk or Treat alongside a Community Resources Fair!

- Connect with local agencies and learn about services and programs for families of students with disabilities
- Enjoy activities and giveaways at each decorated trunk (candy and non-candy options available)
- Food trucks will be on-site for everyone to enjoy
- This fun, safe, and inclusive evening is organized by the AASD Special Education Parent Advisory Council.



November Play Ideas Calendar Preschoolers



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>Make a 'THANKFUL' banner* to decorate your house. Cut out the letters and let your child color them.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>National Sandwich Day! Help your child make their favorite kind of sandwich.</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>Play With Purpose at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 I Love Books! (Registration required)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>National Donut Day! Let your child pick out their favorite kind of donut OR draw a picture of what it would look like.</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 Little Scientists (Registration required)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Go get messy with the Appleton Public Library* At 10:00 they are hosting a Messy Little Learner Group.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>National Parents as Teachers Day! YOU are your child's first teacher.  Keep teaching!</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Help your child learn early literacy skills and meet new friends at the Appleton Public Library* for their Little Learners playgroup at 1:00 pm.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Creating routines with your child is important. Try making a hand drawn picture schedule. EX. Wake up, breakfast, change clothes, brush teeth....</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Play With Purpose at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 Wiggles, Giggles & Grins (Registration required)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Make a picture puzzle* Have your child draw someone they are thankful for. Cut that picture into pieces and help them put it back together. </p>	<p>13</p> <p>Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 Color Craze (Registration required) Sports Extravaganza* 6-7 PM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>National Pickle Day! Enjoy some yummy pickles for a snack today. NO pickles? Read this silly book 'Pickle Things' </p>	<p>15</p> <p>Make a pinecone sensory bin* Add water to cover the bottom of a container. Add a few dashes of cinnamon, pinecones and kitchen utensils.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>National Button Day! Help your child find clothes with buttons. Build finger muscles by learning to fasten them. </p>	<p>17</p> <p>Surprise Bag! Put a toy inside a bag. Have your child feel it, without looking to see if they can guess what it is.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Play With Purpose at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 Family Recharge (Registration required)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Ask your child how they are feeling today. Talk about things that make you feel that way.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 Stir It Up! (Registration required)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Try singing a song to the tune of 'Here we go round the Mulberry Bush' to get your child to listen. EX. "This is the way we brush our teeth..."</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Is it getting cold yet? Warm up by making a pot of soup with your child. Label what you put into the soup.</p>
<p>23</p> <p>National Cranberry Day! Try some juice. ----- Spend time 30 smuggling today.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Instead of reading a book, try making up a story to tell your child.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Talk to your child about being thankful. Ask them what they are thankful for and enjoy 'Bear Says Thanks' </p>	<p>26</p> <p>Use ripped paper to make a leaf project* </p>	<p>27</p> <p>Work on counting today! EX. Count the stairs you use, count the apples in your fruit bowl.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>National French Toast Day! Make this easy <u>recipe*</u> with 5 ingredients.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Find items around the house to use as instruments and rock out to some music.</p>