



Learning Through Play, Every Student, Every Day

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

We have reached the final quarter of our 4K school year! I'm so excited that our district provides you and your child with many high-quality opportunities for your child to become more familiar with their 5K school and meet new friends in Countdown to Kindergarten summer school. Please see more information and registration details later in this newsletter.

As we look forward to summer and fall, I'd like to offer the following suggestions to assist your child and family as you transition to Kindergarten:

- We encourage you to enroll your child in [Countdown to Kindergarten](#). This experience allows students an opportunity to practice all of the skills they have learned in 4K in our elementary school settings while having great fun and meeting new friends. Registration information can be found on [page 4](#).
- Attend [Kindergarten Welcome Activities](#) at your child's elementary school. Doing so allows you an opportunity to meet Kindergarten teachers and learn more about the Kindergarten day and curriculum at your child's school. Dates and times are included on [page 5](#) of this newsletter.
- [Spend the summer playing and reading together](#). You will always be your child's first teacher, and you have a wonderful opportunity to continue their learning in fun and creative ways throughout the summer.

DID YOU KNOW?

April 11th through April 17th was the NAEYC National Week of the Young Child. NAEYC stands for the National Association for the Education of Young Children, a national organization promoting excellence in early childhood education.

In Appleton Community 4K, we are fortunate to partner with many child cares, preschools, and private schools that are dedicated to excellence in providing early care and education for our children. I hope you will join me in thanking them and everyone in our community for the exceptional work they do caring for and supporting our children in their early learning years!

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

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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



TUCKER'S CORNER



What behaviors lead to friendship?

Organizing Play: With 4K students, these are usually, "Let's" statements, such as, "Let's play trucks!"

Listening: The base of any good friendship is being able to listen to one another. When children are in 4K, they begin learning how to listen to teachers, parents, and peers.

Sharing: Children share their environment all the time! An easy way to work sharing toys into the equation is by providing an activity in which children share materials while working independently.

Assisting Others: Students can help each other throughout the day whether it is during clean-up or times of distress.

Giving Compliments: 4K students compliment one another's successes, efforts, and acts of kindness.

At home, families can model positive friend behaviors. Friendships aren't always perfect! Try working out unpleasant conflicts using stuffed animals, and then model positive ways to resolve conflicts with a friend. Seeing a situation acted out and resolved makes it easier for children to decide what to do in real life and shows them how to handle their emotions appropriately.

Resources: <https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/>

Share



Share your toys.

Give a Play Idea



Give your friend an idea about how you can play together.

Give a Compliment



Let your friend know that he is doing a good job.

THE LITERACY CORNER

Nurturing the Language of Young Children

Language and play are the most important tools for developing the foundational skills in early literacy. Research confirms that children's language and literacy skills in preschool and kindergarten are strongly related to later academic success (Dickinson and Sprague, 2001).

When children talk with adults, they are learning about the rules of conversation—learning to listen and respond. When they listen and talk about stories, they are learning about the structure of book language. Through these types of experiences, young children are also adding to their daily oral vocabularies—words they know as they speak and listen.

Ways that families can nurture language development at home:

- Engage your child in conversation, provide the names of things, and show interest in what your child has to say
- Read and reread stories, discussing what is happening
- Encourage your child to recount experiences and describe ideas and events that are important
- Make rhymes with words
- Play with the alphabet letters and their sounds

Remember, "children who do not hear a lot of talk and who are not encouraged to talk themselves often have problems learning to read." (Armbruster, Lehr, & Osborn, 2003)

This month's book recommendations focus on Rhyming / Poetry / Mother Goose

Jamberry by Bruce Degan
The Magic Hat by Mem Fox
My Truck is Stuck! By Kevin Lewis
To Market, to Market by Anne Miranda
We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
Three Little Kittens and Other Favorite Nursery Rhymes by Tony Ross
Animals Animals by Eric Carle
On the Farm by David Elliot



It's almost time to register for the *Countdown to Kindergarten* summer school program. See the next page of this newsletter for more information! Registration starts April 20th!

4K OFFICE
CONTACT
INFORMATION



SUZETTE PRESTON, PRINCIPAL
KABAO MOUA, DEAN OF STUDENTS

KARISSA COVINGTON & JOAN KRETZ
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APPLETON, WI 54911

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E-MAIL: COMMUNITY-4K@AASD.K12.WI.US



Appleton Area School District

Summer School 2026: Countdown to Kindergarten

June 9 – July 3 from 8:30-11:30 (No classes on June 19)

Daily Schedule

8:30–11:30 AM — Summer School Classes

Some sites may have:

8:00–8:30 AM — Free Breakfast

11:30 AM–12:00 PM — Free Lunch

11:30 AM–5:30 PM — Boys & Girls Club Program: to enroll, <https://www.bgclubfoxvalley.org/appleton/>

11:30 AM–5:30 PM — YMCA after care: to enroll, schoolage@ymcafoxcities.org

Locations

Appleton Bilingual, Badger, Berry Classical, Dunlap, Edison, Ferber, Foster, Franklin, Highlands, Horizons, Houdini, Huntley, Jefferson, Johnston, McKinley, Richmond, Sandy Slope, The Omoladé Academy

Class Description

Countdown to Kindergarten is a playful readiness class that builds early math, reading, writing, and social skills. Students also have a lot of fun and meet new friends while becoming familiar with routines and the school setting. This class is for students entering 5 year old Kindergarten the following fall.

Cuenta atrás para el jardín de infancia es un programa lúdico de preparación que desarrolla las habilidades básicas de matemáticas, lectura, escritura y socialización. Los niños también se divierten mucho y hacen nuevos amigos mientras se familiarizan con las rutinas y el entorno escolar. Este programa está dirigido a niños que ingresarán al jardín de infancia (para niños de 5 años) el siguiente otoño.

Countdown to Kindergarten yog chav kawm npaj ua si uas tsim kev ua lej, nyeem ntawv, sau ntawv, thiab kev sib raug zoo. Cov tub ntxhais kawm kuj muaj kev lom zem ntau thiab ntsib cov phooj ywg tshiab thaum paub txog kev ua haujlwm thiab kev teeb tsa tsev kawm ntawv. Chav kawm no yog rau cov menyuum kawm ntawv uas muaj hnub nyoog 5 xyoo mus kawm Kindergarten lub caij nplooj zeeg tom ntej.

Kushuka kwa Shule ya Chekechea ni darasa la utayari wa kucheza ambalo hujenga hesabu ya mapema, kusoma, kuandika na ujuzi wa kijamii. Wanafunzi pia hufurahiya sana na kukutana na marafiki wapya huku wakifahamu taratibu na mpangilio wa shule. Darasa hili ni la wanafunzi wanaoingia shule ya chekechea ya miaka 5 msimu unaofuata.

Registration Details

Current AASD Students

- Families will receive an email or message on the parent portal on **April 13** with assigned summer school site access.
- Enrollment will be open to the school the student will attend the next school year.
- To request a different site, please contact kadolphkarrie@aasd.k12.wi.us or call (920) 852-5332.

New or Private School Students

- Families should complete the registration form on the next page and return to the school you'd like the student to attend.

Course Registration Opens: April 20

- Families register through the **Infinite Campus Parent Portal** <https://portal.aasd.k12.wi.us>
- Student's finalized schedules and fees will also be available for viewing in the Portal within one week after registering the student.
- Fees may be paid online, also through the portal.
- Online registration will close on June 1st; however, registration forms may be dropped off at the school site after that time.

Need help logging in? Contact the Helpdesk: helpdesk@aasd.k12.wi.us • (920) 852-5555 ext. 63159.

Contacts

Coordination Specialist: Kamie Kadolph • kadolphkarrie@aasd.k12.wi.us

Summer School Director: Todd Kadolph • kadolph todd@aasd.k12.wi.us

Summer School Office: (920) 852-5332

Summer classes do not implement IEP services per WI DPI:

<https://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/programs-services/services/special-education/current-families/summer-school-participation-for-students-with-disabilities>

Fees may be waived for students that qualify for free and reduced lunch- contact School Site Coordinator

KINDERGARTEN WELCOME ACTIVITIES IN THE APPLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLEASE CONTACT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Appleton Bilingual School 852-5535	To Be Determined	Highlands Elementary 852-5480	To Be Determined
Appleton Public Montessori 852-5515	To Be Determined	Horizons Elementary 852-5485	To Be Determined
Badger Elementary 852-5440	To Be Determined	Houdini Elementary 852-5490	Kindergarten Preview May 13 th , 2026 5:30-6:30 PM
Berry Elementary 852-5445	To Be Determined	Huntley Elementary 852-5495	Kindergarten Round Up April 23 rd , 2026 6:00-7:17 PM
Classical School 852-5525	Kindergarten Visitation May 14 th , 2026 9:45-10:45 AM	Jefferson Elementary 852-5500	To Be Determined
Dunlap Elementary 852-5455	To Be Determined	Johnston Elementary 852-5505	To Be Determined
Edison Elementary 852-5460	Kindergarten Meet & Greet August 27 th , 2026, 3:30 PM	McKinley Elementary 852-5510	Kindergarten Orientation May 14 th , 2026 4:00-5:00 PM or 5:15-6:15 PM
Ferber Elementary 852-5465	Kindergarten Sneak A Peek May 5 th , 2026, 6:00-7:00 PM	Richmond Elementary 852-5520	To Be Determined
Fox River Academy 852-5500	To Be Determined	Sandy Slope Elementary 852-5300 x39020	Kindergarten Preview April 21 st , 2026 6:00-7:00 PM
Foster Elementary 852-5470	Kindergarten Orientation May 12 th , 2026 6:00 PM	The Omolade Academy 852-5495	To Be Determined
Franklin Elementary 852-5475	To Be Determined	Wisconsin Connections Academy 852-5415	To Be Determined
Hmong American Immersion School 852-5505	To Be Determined	We will update these dates in future newsletters as more information becomes available.	



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

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE: SCREEN TIME AND YOUR CHILD

"Screen Time" refers to activities that are done in front of a digital screen, such as watching television, playing a video game or using an iPad or smartphone. Most American children spend between 5-7 hours a day on screens, with 3 of those being watching television. Experts recommend that screen time be limited to 1-2 hours per day. We understand that playing outside in cold temperatures can be more work, but with the proper clothing/attire, student's health can be improved by playing outside in the winter months. The fresh air, full body movements, and sunshine help to boost immunity during cold/flu season.

Too much screen time has been linked to many negative health outcomes, including:

- Difficulty sleeping
- Poor attention span, anxiety and depression
- Behavioral problems and aggression
- Obesity and cardiovascular problems



The widespread prevalence of screens and our increasingly digital culture makes it difficult for parents to control the amount of screen time their children have. Here are a few tips for reducing screen time:

- **Limit your own screen time. Children learn by observation. Model this behavior yourself!**
- Prioritize homework, chores, (non-digital) socialization and free play.
- Set limited viewing times and remove devices and TV's from bedrooms.
- Turn off screens during dinner, bedtime and homework.
- Don't leave the TV on in the background.
- Give consequences for violating rules.














Teaching Appropriate Behavior and Online Literacy: Eliminating all digital media may not be possible, but you can talk with your child about appropriate online behavior. Explain what's allowed and what's not, such as cyberbullying, sending/receiving inappropriate photos and sharing personal information online. Teach your child not to send or share anything online that he or she would not want everyone to see. Be sure that you are monitoring everything your child is doing online. Teach your child that not everything they see on the internet is accurate. Show them how to tell which websites are credible and while are not.

Managing screen time will be a constant challenge, but setting limits while children are young can help them learn a healthy balance as they grow.

May Play Ideas Calendar

Preschool



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>3</p> <p>Give your child a pair of kitchen tongs and a bowl.* Let them pick up the toys and put them in the bowl.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4</p> <p>National Bird Day! Talk about different kinds of birds that we see outside. Shhhhh, listen to their sounds. How many can you find? </p> <p>Scan here for more information about Birth-Five Outreach </p>	<p>3</p> <p>5</p> <p>Stay & Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 (Registration required)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6</p> <p>Tape paper on the floor to look like a tunnel. Have your child roll a ball or race a car through them.* </p>	<p>5</p> <p>7</p> <p>Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 Campfire Kids (Registration required)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8</p> <p>Tape a different-colored piece of small paper to each hand and foot on your child. Have them touch something that matches that color.* </p>	<p>7</p> <p>9</p> <p>Enjoy this fun rain song...  Preschool Lear... or dip your finger in blue paint to make a raindrop picture.*</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10</p> <p>National Clean Up Your Room Day! Make cleaning fun by setting a timer or turning it into a game.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11</p> <p>Before you wash the dishes, scoop out some of the soapy suds. Put them on a tray for your child to play in.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12</p> <p>Stay & Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 (Registration required) </p>	<p>11</p> <p>13</p> <p>National Frog Jumping Day! Pretend you are a frog and hop around your house. Lay down pillows and jump from lily pad to lily pad. </p>	<p>12</p> <p>14</p> <p>Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 Dragon Wings & Unicorn Things (Registration required) Chicka Chickla Book Bonanza* 6:00 - 7:00 PM</p>	<p>13</p> <p>15</p> <p>National Bring Someone Flowers Day! Pick some dandelions or draw a boutique of flowers.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>16</p> <p>Set up a blanket in the grass and bring some toys outside to play with. </p>
<p>15</p> <p>17</p> <p>Make scissor skills fun by tracing their hands and adding strips of paper for nails or drawing a face and adding a rectangle for the beard.*</p>	<p>16</p> <p>18</p> <p>Let your child 'paint' with yogurt. Add a raspberry or blackberry to squish and change the color of the yogurt.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>19</p> <p>Stay & Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 (Registration required)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>20</p> <p>Turn a healthy snack into a flower or a sun.*</p>	<p>19</p> <p>21</p> <p>Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 Book Buddies (Registration required)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>22</p> <p>National Vanilla Pudding Day! Enjoy vanilla pudding for snack or make your own with 6 ingredients*</p>	<p>21</p> <p>23</p> <p>Ask your child to help you write a story. You write the words and they draw the pictures.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>24</p> <p>Check out our Fun in the Sun flyer*</p> <p>31</p> <p>National Smile Day!</p>	<p>17</p> <p>25</p> <p>Go for a walk outside and find flowers to smell. </p>	<p>18</p> <p>26</p> <p>Find a new park to visit today! Here's a list... <u>PARKS*</u></p>	<p>19</p> <p>27</p> <p>National Grape Popsicle Day! Eat a popsicle for snack or freeze juice to make your own.*</p>	<p>20</p> <p>28</p> <p>Watch this fun soup song...  Super Silly Soup Song! or make pretend soup with toys.*</p>	<p>21</p> <p>29</p> <p>Help your child gather a toy of each color of the rainbow.* </p>	<p>22</p> <p>30</p> <p>National Creativity Day! Let your child create a picture with crayons or craft materials.*</p>

Birth-Five Outreach & Appleton
Community 4k Invite You To

Chicka Chicka Book Bonanza!

Step into a world of stories and imagination! Bring your little readers for a fun-filled, book-themed adventure loaded with art, games, activities, and of course, stories! We'll be joined by the **Appleton Public Library** for extra storytime magic.

PLEASE BRING A NEW
OR GENTLY USED BOOK
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
PARTICIPATE IN OUR

Book
Swap!

Register
by
May 11th

The following
information is needed
for registration:
Parent/Caregiver
name, Child's
name/birth date,
phone number,
address & email
address

May 14th
6 pm-7 pm

Community Early
Learning Center
313 S. State St.

FREE to all families with
children aged five and
under. Siblings are always
welcome!

Please contact
Danielle Tzakais at
(920) 832-6470 #1
or
tzakaisdaniell@aasd.k12.wi.us



**FUN
in the
SUN!
2026**



Families with children ages birth to 5 are invited to join the Birth-Five Outreach team for FREE playgroups at our local parks from 9:00 - 10:00 AM

June 11 - Derks Park (3220 Guyette Dr): **Hello, Summer!**

June 18 - City Park (500 E Franklin St): **Chalk, Paint, Create!**

June 25 - Pierce Park (1035 W Prospect Ave): **Garden Wigglers**

July 9 - Memorial Park (1620 E Witzke Blvd): **Tiny Pirates Ahoy!**

July 16 - Plamann Park Children's Farm (1375 E Broadway Dr): **Barnyard Bash**

July 23 - Lundgaard Park (4900 N Lightning Dr): **Helper Heroes**

July 30 - Telulah Park (1300 E Newberry St): **Little Hands, Big Mess**

August 6 - Schaefer Park (610 S Buchanan St): **Outback Adventure**

August 13 - Pierce Park (1035 W Prospect Ave): **Sunshine & Rainbows (S.T.E.A.M.)**

August 20 - Telulah Park (1300 E Newberry St): **Ocean Explorers**

***Parents are required to stay with their children and encouraged to play along with them.**

We will post on Facebook if we are canceling due to weather.



No registration is required. Please check in with a Birth-Five team member upon arrival each week. Find us on Facebook for more information on these and other great events.



Questions contact Danielle at tzakaisdaniell@aad.k12.wi.us or (920) 832-6470.



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.

2026-2027 4K ENROLLMENT

Do you know a child who will be 4 years old on or before September 1st?!

Appleton Community 4K enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year began on Monday, February 9th, 2026!

Find more information on our 4K website: 4k.aasd.k12.wi.us/our_school/enrollment



THE APPLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FOX VALLEY FOOD TRUCK ASSOCIATION, PRESENTS THE 2ND ANNUAL

FOOD TRUCK RALLY

INCLUSION STROLL
PETTING ZOO
CAKE WALK
SILENT AUCTION &
RAFFLES
MUSIC &
ENTERTAINMENT
INCLUSION CLOTHING
CO. POP UP SHOP
FOX VALLEY FOOD
TRUCK ASSOCIATION
FOOD TRUCKS



JANET BERRY ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL PLAYGROUND
3601 S. TELULAH AVE. APPLETON

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026
4:00-7:00 PM

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FOOD, FUN, & ENTERTAINMENT THAT SUPPORTS INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUNDS BY ADDING COMMUNICATION BOARDS AND PROVIDING ADAPTED EQUIPMENT AT ALL AASD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

THANK YOU SPONSORS



DONATE NOW
Scan and click "Inclusive Play Fundraiser"