

4K NEWSLETTER • COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Learning
through
play, every
student,
every day!

A Message from the Director of 4-Year-Old Kindergarten!

Issue 2
October 2023

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When the Appleton Community 4K program was in development, the planning team developed guiding principles. These guiding principles reflect the community leadership team's understanding about what is most important when considering a high quality early learning program for 4-year-old children. The guiding principles summary is on page 7 of our 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 families 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 27
- * **No School (Conference Compensation):** November 22
- * **No School (Thanksgiving Break):** November 23 & 24
- * **No School (Professional Development):** November 27



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)852-5595





HEALTH SERVICES * P.O. Box 2019, Appleton, WI 54911 * 920-852-5344

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 100.0 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 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 require a student to 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 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 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 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

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!

Appleton Community 4K 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 the 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 in a unique way. Some children develop more quickly in some areas than others. It is our job in Appleton Community 4K to provide every child 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, and a school health services coordinator. Each of the schools in the Appleton Area School District has a similar team who work 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 on a regular basis 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! For the third year, we are fortunate to add a parent coach as well as a mental health therapist!

Vicki Fors 4K School Nurse

Hello! My name is Vicki Fors, and I am the new 4K 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 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 which 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 your 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 seventh year as a School Psych in the district and third 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.

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.

Larissa Brown School Social Worker

My name is Larissa Brown, school social worker for Appleton Community 4K. I am excited to begin my sixth year here in AASD. As a school social worker, I strive to utilize a trauma-informed; strengths-based approach when working with students and their families. I strongly believe in the importance of social-emotional learning within the school environment as an active agent in promoting mental health and wellbeing in students. I also believe learning through play is a vital part of early childhood development. This is how children can learn to make sense of the world around them. I am excited to work with you and your family this school year!

Cheryl Daley Program Support Teacher

Hello, my name is Cheryl Daley. As a 4K Program Support Teacher, I help support both teachers and students in the classroom. One of the primary focus areas in my support role is to work with teachers and 4K sites to implement and promote the Pyramid Model for Social and Emotional Competency.

I serve as a coach to teachers to promote the use of social and emotional teaching and help support children by providing strategies for teachers to use with them. My hope is to make a positive impact for 4K teachers, students, and their families.

Summer Howard School Social Worker

Hello, I am Summer Howard, a new school social worker for Appleton Community 4K! This is my first year in Appleton, however, it is my fifth year in education and my 3rd year working with 4K students. I received my Masters in School Social Work from UW Green Bay. In my role with Appleton 4K I work with teachers, students, and families. I am passionate about supporting the growth of students and families in education.

Stacey Otto, LCSW, IMH-E Mental Health Therapist, Catalpa Health

Greetings. My name is Stacey Otto. I am a mental health therapist working with Catalpa Health. In September 2021, I joined with the Appleton Area School District to provide mental health consultation services for the Student Services Team that supports 4K. I have worked as a therapist with children and families since 1997. For the past 8 years I have pursued specialized training to work in Infant, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health. I am grateful for this opportunity to join with the SST in their efforts to provide support and guidance to 4K children, their families and teaching staff.



Tucker's Corner



Be Safe



Be Kind



Be Helpful

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.

Community Opportunities for Students

Each month the Appleton Area School District shares local, community opportunities for students with our families. These community opportunities for students include upcoming events and activities such as art and music camps, youth athletics, cultural events, enriching programs, and more. We encourage our families to review these opportunities for students of all ages.

https://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/families/community_opportunities_for_students

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.



Suzette Preston,
Director of 4-Year-Old Kindergarten

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Appleton Community 4K Administrative
Assistants

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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

November Play Ideas Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>Are you registered for our playgroups on Tuesdays and Thursdays? Join our November Event too! Call TODAY!! 920-852-5595 #2</p>		<p>Join APL for Preschool Storytime at the library 10:00-10:30 am</p>	<p>Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 am & 10:30-11:30 am: Never Let a Unicorn Scribble (Registration required)</p>	<p>Put leaves, sticks and acorns in a ziplock bag. Add some extra small toys, letters for your child to explore</p>	<p>National Play Outside Day! Visit one of your favorite local parks!</p>
<p>5 Make a snack with layered pumpkin, vanilla pudding and whip cream eat with graham crackers</p> 	<p>6 Use cereal to make a fall tree picture</p> 	<p>7 Play it'sy bitsy spider with your child or sing along IT'SY BITSY ...</p>	<p>8 Join APL for Preschool Storytime at the library 10:00-10:30 am</p>	<p>9 Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 am: Learning to Share with Pig the Pug (Registration required)</p>	<p>10 National Cupcake Day! Make or buy some cupcakes, and enjoy: If You Give A...</p>	<p>11 Go for a walk and search for different color leaves. Create a fall picture with them</p>
<p>12 Throw and catch leaves; sort them by size and color with your child</p>	<p>13 Make a <u>leaf suncatcher</u> with your child, hang in a sunny window</p>	<p>14 National Family Pajama Day! Stay in your pajamas and read: LLama, LLama Red Pajama Llama Llama Re...</p>	<p>15 Join APL for Preschool Storytime at the library 10:00-10:30 am</p>	<p>16 Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30 am: Quack & Count (Registration required)</p>	<p>17 National Bread Day! Try a variety of breads with your child. What is your favorite? Learn more: Bread, Bread, Bre...</p>	<p>18 Camp out in the living room, make a tent out of blankets over tables or chairs</p>
<p>19 Rake leaves and jump in them; build a maze with leaves for your child to follow</p> 	<p>20 Make a corn shaker and dance to music</p> 	<p>21 National Gingerbread Cookie Day! Help child to decorate cookies</p>	<p>22 Bring your family to APL for Lego Lab at the library 4:00-6:00 pm</p>	<p>23 Happy Thanksgiving! Make a meal of favorite foods that your family can enjoy!</p>	<p>24 Make and play with homemade <u>scented play dough</u></p>	<p>25 Visit a nature center or park; what do you see? What do you hear?</p>
<p>26 National Cake Day! Make a small cake and have child help decorate</p> 	<p>27 Create watercolor leaves using spoons</p> 	<p>28 Make a fall snack with popcorn pretzels and candy corn</p> 	<p>29 Join APL for Preschool Storytime at the library 10:00-10:30 am</p>	<p>30 Play a board game or build a puzzle with your child. Talk about taking turns and following directions</p>		



Shake, Rattle & Roll!



Calling all movers and shakers!

Birth-Five Outreach and Appleton Community 4K invites you to roll on over for a night of musical fun and adventure!

Open to all families with children birth-five years of age! Siblings are welcome!

Registration is required for this event by
Monday, November 6th.

Please contact Danielle Tzakais at
(920) 851-5595 #2 or tzakaisdaniell@aasd.k12.wi.us

When:

November 9th, 2023
(Thursday)

6-7 PM

Where:

Community Early
Learning Center

313 S STATE ST.
APPLETON



AASD
Birth-Five
OUTREACH

Appleton
COMMUNITY 4K



Appleton Area School District

Phone: 920-852-5600
Fax: 920-852-5601

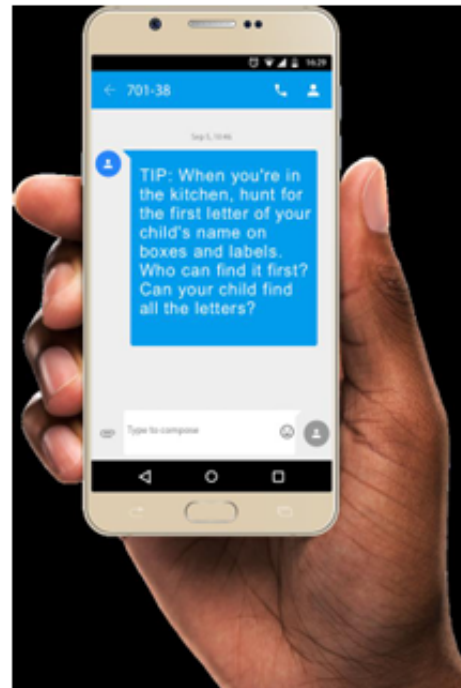
2701 N Oneida St, Suite C2
Appleton, WI 54911

Ready4K

The Appleton Area School District invites you to participate in **Ready4K**, 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. **Ready 4K** activities build on the things that you already do with your child – like getting ready for school, meal time, 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 Ready4K, 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 Ready4K, (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 Ready4K 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 Ready4K text messages any time by texting STOP to 70138. For help with Ready4K text HELP to 70138 or email us at support@parentpowered.com.

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