



Learning
through
play, every
student,
every day!

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

Issue 6
February 2024

Inside this issue:

Dr. Seuss said, "You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book." In our Literacy Corner this month we explore things parents can do when reading aloud that children enjoy and engage with as they begin their journey to becoming a reader. It must seem like magic as they come to realize that those letters, and gradually words, tell a story and that they will eventually learn how to read that story. The developmental range for pre-reading behaviors is incredibly wide in 4-year-old lives. Some of our 4K students are learning to identify letters and some have started to identify their names. Some are writing sight words they see in their environment, like STOP from the stop signs they see on their way to school. Have you ever noticed a stop sign uses all capital letters? This range of skills is very typical at this age level and the best way to support your child's growth, no matter what level they are, is to read to them. I encourage you to sit back and relax, and enjoy some time reading together with silly voices, wide eyes, hushed voices, sleepy eyes, and whatever else makes the books come alive.



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

Appleton Community 4K enrollment for the
24-25 school year began on Monday, February 12, 2024!

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

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



Appleton Community 4K Literacy Corner—February

Reading Aloud

Reading aloud to children is the best way we know to teach them to love books. (Don Holdaway)

There is no exact right way to read aloud to children, however, the more expressive we read, the more fantastic the experience will be. As you read aloud, be aware of your body position, your eyes and their expression, your eye contact with your child, and the animation of your voice. Choose simple stories and try to read aloud to your child at least three times a day if possible. Although a read-aloud can happen anytime, it is important also to have a ritual about reading aloud every night, in the same place, at the same time. Having regular routines help children feel safe and secure in life.

Reading Aloud...

- Cultivates a passion for and love of reading
 - Develops a background knowledge that will help students achieve a higher level of understanding
 - Provides a risk-free learning environment
 - Fills the air with rich language
 - Develops a rich vocabulary
 - Allows children to grow their understanding of the world beyond the classroom walls
 - Allows for oral language development as children begin to have conversations about the story, the characters, and why the author made the decisions she/he made
 - Instills comprehension skills and strategies that children will use with their independent reading
 - Leads to active thinking in children easier than any other single activity
 - Leads to greater self-esteem and success, even in the most reluctant readers
- Lester Laminack

This month's book recommendations focus on books that children love:

I Went Walking by Sue Machin
Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? By Bill Martin, Jr.
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
Owl Babies by Martin Waddell
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins



4K Office Contact Information

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Tucker's Corner



In 4K we use many strategies to help our young students find success during their class time. One strategy we are teaching that will stay with them throughout their lives is following a daily routine. Our classrooms use visual schedules for our young learners. An example of the schedule to start the school day might look like this:



Hang Up
Outdoor Clothes



Table Top Activities



Class Meeting

An important routine at home is bedtime, yet we frequently hear from parents that they struggle with this routine. When young children don't have the 10-12 hours of sleep they need, their learning can be affected.

When children sleep, their body is busy developing new brain cells that they need for physical, mental, and emotional development. Young children thrive on predictability and learn from repetition. It is important to establish a bedtime routine that you and your child both understand and helps everyone to feel calm and relaxed.

Here are some tips to try at home to build a consistent bedtime routine.

- ◆ Be creative, engage your child in setting this routine.
- ◆ Give 10, 5, and 2 minute warnings prior to starting your bedtime routine.
- ◆ Help your child choose a quiet activity before bedtime like reading books, listening to music, or holding a stuffed animal.
- ◆ Watch for signs of sleepiness and teach your child the words to use to communicate when they are tired.
- ◆ Talk about what will happen the next day to reassure your child that they will not miss out on something and to encourage sleep to make sure tomorrow will be fun.
- ◆ Use a visual schedule with pictures to show the steps leading up to bedtime. To the right is one example of a bedtime routine. Other examples can be found at the website listed below if you type "visual schedule" into the search box.
- ◆ Give your child undivided and unrushed attention during this bedtime routine to make it positive and something to look forward to each night.

	Get ready for bed	
	Brush teeth	
	Use the bathroom	
	Story time	
	Go to sleep	



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.



AASD Summer School 2024

Kindergarten Here I Come!

For students entering 5 year old Kindergarten in the Fall

Class Dates: June 10 – July 3, 2024 (No School 6/19)

Class time: 8:30-11:30am

\$15 fee due at registration. Checks can be payable to: AASD

Appleton Area School District is offering a summer school class for students entering 5 year old Kindergarten in the fall of 2024. This course is designed to introduce and/or reinforce basic skills for kindergarten. Students have a lot of fun and meet new friends while becoming familiar with the school setting.

Kindergarten Here I Come classes will be offered at the following Summer School Sites:

Appleton Bilingual School	Edison	Houdini
Badger	Ferber	Huntley
Berry	Foster	Jefferson
Classical	Franklin	Johnston
Columbus	Highlands	McKinley
Dunlap	Horizons	Richmond

Clase para la preparación de Kinder

El propósito de esta clase de Prestancia es el ayudar a preparar a su hijo(a) a tener un buen comienzo en el Jardín de Niños el próximo otoño. Su hijo conocerá otros niños, tendrá varias actividades divertidas, conocerá a su maestro y se familiarizará con la escuela. Favor de llenar la solicitud de registro que se adjunta, y llevarla a la escuela en la que se desea inscribir al niño, durante la noche de inauguración de las inscripciones. Las fechas se anotan a continuación

Hoob Kindergarten Readiness

Lub homphiaj ntawm hoob kawm ntawv rau cov menyuam npaj yuav mus kawm nyob rau qib Kindergarten ntawm nov yog pab kom koj tus menyuam paub thiab kawm ntawv tau nyob rau qib Kindergarten xyoo no thaum lub caij nplooj ntoos zeeg uas menyuam rov qab pib kawm ntawv. Koj tus menyuam yuav ntsib lwm tus menyuam, yuav muaj kev ua ntau yam kom lom zem, yuav paub nws tus xifwb qhia ntawd, thiab yuav paub txog lub tsev kawm ntawv. Thov muab daim ntawv cuv npe menyuam kawm ntawv ntawm nov teb thiab ua kom tiav thiab muab nqa mus rau lub tsev kawm ntawv uas koj xav kom koj tus menyuam tau mus kawm. Nqa tuaj mus rau thaum hmo uas lawv qhib sau npe rau menyuam kawm ntawv. Cov vasthib uas yuav qhib cuv npe rau menyuam kawm ntawv muaj raws li nram qab no.

Registration will be conducted online this year!

Please see the following website for more information. www.aasd.k12.wi.us/families/summer_school_information

Current AASD students and private school students that attended last summer: Parents/ guardians will receive an email or message on the parent portal on April 8th to view what school site that the student will have enrollment access to for summer school. Enrollment will be open to the school the student will attend the next school year. Private school students will have access to the site that they attended last summer. If the student would like to attend a different school for summer school, please contact kadolphkarrie@asd.k12.wi.us or 852-5332 ext. 60350.

Course registration opens April 15th. Parents/guardians will register for summer school courses via the Infinite Campus Portal. 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 3rd; however, registration forms may be dropped off at the school site after that time. If assistance is needed logging on to Infinite Campus, please contact the Helpdesk at helpdesk@asd.k12.wi.us or 920-852-5555 ext. 63159.

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

****New out of district or private school students:** Please complete and return the form for the specific school to the school your child wishes to attend for summer school.

If you do not wish to use the online registration process, please complete and return the registration form to the school your child wishes to attend for summer school.



Dear 4K Families, You can be a 4K HERO!

Missing 10% of school (1 or 2 days every few weeks) makes it harder to:

- Gain early reading and math skills.
- Build relationships.
- Develop good attendance habits.

We are excited to announce we will be launching a “Books for Being HEROs” attendance initiative this spring to reinforce that students are Here, Every Day, Ready, and On Time.

From March 1st - March 22nd, any student who has three weeks of perfect attendance will receive a book to read– the book is yours to keep!

We are so excited to see our 4K students at school each day!



AASD BIRTH-FIVE OUTREACH & APPLETON COMMUNITY 4K

INVITE YOU TO

Book Bonanza!

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF BOOK-INSPIRED PROJECTS, GAMES, ACTIVITIES, AND STORY TIME WITH THE **APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY!**

FREE TO CHILDREN AGED FIVE AND UNDER. SIBLINGS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

**MARCH 14TH,
2024
6:00-7:00 PM**

313 S. STATE ST.
APPLETON

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

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY **March 11th**

PLEASE CONTACT DANIELLE TZAKAIS AT (920) 832-6470 #1 OR tzakaisdaniell@aasd.k12.wi.us



AASD **Birth-Five** OUTREACH










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.

March Play Ideas Calendar Preschoolers



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Scan for Birth-5 info	Are you registered for our playgroups on Tuesdays & Thursdays? Call TODAY!! 920-832-6470				National Wear Blue Day! Everyone dresses in blue today! See what you can find that's blue	Dip the following in washable paint: use stamps, toy cars, cookie cutters, or blocks
3 Read a book, then look through the pictures again have them tell you the story	4 National Marching Music Day! Make a drum out of a container or pots and pans and a wooden spoon. March to the music!	5 Play With Purpose at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30: Toys 101 (Registration required)	6 Play a matching game with socks or toys or blocks the same color or size	7 Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30: A Jungle Adventure (Registration required)	8 All About Me - use a mirror to ask questions; Who is in the mirror? Can you tell me what you see?	9 Take a pretend trip to the Zoo. Put stuffed animals around the room; make a train with chairs to view the animals
10 Make a shaker out of an empty bottle or plastic egg. Add cereal, dry pasta, or rice. Be sure to seal it. Shake to the music!	11 National Napping Day! Read the story: The Napping House or watch:  The Napping Hou...	12 Play With Purpose at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30: My Five Senses (Registration required)	13 What's missing? Line up 3 or 4 items, tell your child to close eyes, take one away. Ask: What's missing?	14 Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30: Little Blue Truck (Registration required)	15 Make a seepy sensory bucket, add small toys or kitchen tools to scoop and enjoy!	16 National Panda Day! Read a book about Pandas or learn more at:  Giant Pandas 101...
17 Make an indoor obstacle course; use tape or a string on floor to walk on or jump over, chairs to crawl under	18 Visit the library online and reserve some of your favorite books for pick up.	19 Play With Purpose at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30: The Power of Praise (Registration required)	20 Handprint Art: Use paint or trace child's hand(s) to make a flower, butterfly, or bird picture	21 Learning Through Play at CELC from 9-10 & 10:30-11:30: Froggy Gets Dressed (Registration required)	22 Go outside and look for birds, or read/make a book about birds: Bind Book	23 National Puppy Day! Play with your puppy or stuffed animal. Pretend to be a puppy!
24 Plan an indoor picnic. Put a blanket on the floor and make a picnic lunch together	25 Play with a ball. Roll it, bounce it or kick it across the room or in the yard	26 Plant a sunflower seed in a plastic cup with soil. Place by the window and water a little daily - watch it grow!	27 National Scribble Day! Scribble on paper with crayons or markers. Read the book or watch:  Never Let a Un...	28 Make someone laugh today! Tell a joke or make silly faces	29 Put flour or salt on a tray with edges. Have your child practice writing the first letter of their name in it with their finger	30 National Take a Walk In the Park Day! Play on the equipment or have a scavenger hunt
31 National Crayon Day! Draw and color a picture for someone special	