

September 2018



SUN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS

# C.H. Bird Elementary

## A Note From Mrs. Toepfer

Dear CH Bird Families,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year! I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be principal of CH Bird Elementary supporting students, teachers, parents/guardians and our community. It is wonderful to have children filling our school, I love meeting and getting to know the kids! We are working to develop relationships and community in our classrooms and throughout the school, especially as we have so many new staff and students.

Our theme this year is kindness! We had a kick off to kindness assembly where we thought about what kindness means, the impact kindness can have and how we can show kindness at school. Our big question of the year, that students answer on the announcements each morning, is, "how can you show kindness at school?" The students are coming up with great ideas!



### Things to know:

**Drop off/Pick up:** Drop off no earlier than 7:45 in the morning, we do not have supervision for students before that time. Remember to follow our [traffic safety plan](#). Please continue to pull all the way forward in the line before dropping off or picking up students at door 8. If you want to walk your student to the playground or pick them up on the playground, park in a parking space to the left of the drop off/pick up line or on St. Albert the Great drive and cross at the crosswalk. Do not park or get out of your car to meet or walk kids in the pick up line. If it is raining, still drop off in the drop off line and students will enter school from the back doors.

**CH Best** meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the CH Bird Library. CH Best is our supportive parent group that helps our school in many ways from helping finance school projects to providing fun family events for all. We would love to grow this group with more participation. Hope to see a lot of you there!

**Clubs** are starting or will be starting soon. Check out information about our club offerings at CH Bird later in this newsletter.

We look forward to continuing our **WatchDOG** program this year at Bird that brings father figures (or any parent/guardian) to our school! If you are interested in being a WatchDOG (Dads of Great Students), please complete this [form](#) and send it to school with your student. A sign up Genius will be sent out soon to sign up for a date!

Please 'like' us on [Facebook](#) to get updates on the GREAT things happening here!

I wish all of you a great school year with us at CH Bird!

Go Blue Jays!

Nicole Toepfer  
Principal  
CH Bird Elementary  
608-824-7301



WatchDOG Sign-up



CH Bird FaceBook Page



## **Picnic in the Park**

**Wednesday, October 3rd 4:30-6:30pm.**

Let's get to know each other! Please join the CH Bird staff at Vandenburg Park for dinner, games and fun. This event is sponsored by Sunshine Supper with food provided by Summit Credit Union.

## **Blue Jay Shuffle**

**Friday, October 5th.**

The Shuffle is a great way for families to support CH Best and the many ways the parent group helps create the best school possible for all students. You will continue to see more information as we get closer to the Shuffle. We had a change in the times based on our new lunch schedule this year. The running times are as follows:

- **4th and 5th grade 9:00-10:00**
- **2nd and 3rd grade 10:00-11:00**
- **K and 1st grade 11:00-12:00**

## **Upcoming Activities/Field Trips**

- **October 3rd: 4th Grade Field Trip to World Dairy Expo**
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- **October 9th: Community Helpers visit Kindergarten—Police**
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- **October 10th: Community Helpers visit Kindergarten— Firefighters**
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- **October 10th: 3rd & 5th Grade Field Trip to the Overture Center**
- **October 12th: Community Helpers visit Kindergarten—EMS**
- **October 18th: Kindergarten Field Trip to Treinen Farms**
- **October 25th: 1st Grade Field Trip to Busy Barns**

## **Thursday Theme Days**

- **September 27th: Bird Day**
- **October 4th: National Golf Day**
- **October 11th: Stuffed Animal Day**
- **October 18th: Pink Out**
- **October 25th: Wear blue for Diabetes Awareness**

*We are excited to welcome new staff members to our NEST!*

- Playground - Linda Kordus, Phillip Yanke
- Welcome Center - Ellen Breunig
- Reading Specialists - Heidi Welch-Kramer & Jen Voit
- Instructional Coach - Jamie Lausten
- 1st Grade - Kensley Loppnow
- 2nd Grade - Jackie Broyles
- 2nd Grade Long Term Sub (for Kristen Emery) - Amanda Zahn
- 5th Grade - Krista Kaltenberg
- 5th Grade Long Term Sub (for Mick Kreuger) - Ryan Mielke
- Special Education - Kim Lodahl
- Special Education - Heather Kotten
- Associate Principal - Kristen Witzling
- Principal - Nicole Toepfer
- Welcoming back to Bird - Joan Parise will be teaching 4 sections of music



## Volunteering at School or Field Trips

### **\*\*Background Check Needed Every 3 Years \*\***

The Sun Prairie Area School District recognizes that volunteers make valuable contributions to the district's schools and welcomes volunteers into the schools or attend student fieldtrips. District policy requires that a criminal background check be completed **prior** to volunteering.



Prior to attending a child's field trip, becoming a Watchdog or working in a classroom, please make sure you have a criminal background check completed and on file. Students safety is our #1 priority. If you are unsure if you have one on file or have any questions, please contact the school at 608-834-7309 for assistance.

If you need to fill out a form, you can find it on the District website or the school office.

## CHBest Parent Group

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Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the library



### Upcoming Meetings

October 9th  
November 13th  
December 11th  
January 8th  
February 12th

**President:** Tara Muszynski  
[ruschbot@hotmail.com](mailto:ruschbot@hotmail.com) (219)308-9433

**Vice President:** Rita Walz  
[ritakay11@gmail.com](mailto:ritakay11@gmail.com) (608)438- 8589

**Secretary:** Liz Reinke  
[lizreinke@gmail.com](mailto:lizreinke@gmail.com) (608)318-1732

**Treasurer:** Terry Lechner  
[terrylechner@gmail.com](mailto:terrylechner@gmail.com) (608)335-2186

**Visit us online at:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/ChBirdPTO>

or

[http://www.sunprairie.k12.wi.us/schools/chbird/chbest\\_parent\\_group.cfm](http://www.sunprairie.k12.wi.us/schools/chbird/chbest_parent_group.cfm)

## Watch Dogs

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WatchDOGS® are fathers, grandfathers, uncles and other father-figures who volunteer at the school for a day.

During the day, WatchDOGS® will help in their child's classroom, play at recess, eat lunch with students, watch the school entrances and hallways, and any other assigned activities where they actively engage with not only their own students, but other students as well.

For more information about this national program, please visit the [Fathers.com website](http://Fathers.com). WatchDOGS® are great role models for our students!

To sign up, contact your students' teacher for a form!



## Music Notes from Mrs. Lynch

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Welcome back to a wonderful School Year! We dove right into music learning from day 1 and we're having a ton of fun making music together. We are focusing on **audiation** this year, which is hearing and comprehending music in our heads. We experience and feel music inside of us first and then bring it out to share with the world. Here's what's coming up:

Choir Club (4th and 5th grade only): Starts mid-to-late October (date TBD). Rehearsals will be on Tuesday mornings this year from 7:45—8:15 am.

**5th grade concert (including Orchestra and Choir): December 18th, 2:00-3:00 pm in the gym**



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## Schools of Hope

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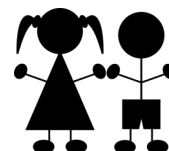


Do you have an hour of time to share every week?  
Do you enjoy spending time with kids?

Consider volunteering for Schools of Hope!  
Help a child improve their reading or writing ability.  
For more information, contact Cindy Melendy Schools of Hope Volunteer Tutor  
Coordinator.

Email at [cmelendy@schoolsofhope.org](mailto:cmelendy@schoolsofhope.org)

Phone at 834-7304



# Club News

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## CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

Yes, we are having a craft group this year!!

Crafting Club is open to 4th and 5th Grade students who are interested in making craft projects. Some of the projects you get to keep and some we keep for an annual sale where all proceeds benefit a local organization. Last year we donated over \$900 to area organizations!

Crafting Club will be starting in October. We are currently hashing out the details but we will either start the 8th or the 15th of October. Crafting Club will be on Monday's this year and will be after school until 4:30. Permission slips will be going out to all 4th and 5th Grade students on October 1st—be on the lookout! They are due by October 5th.

We are looking forward to a great Fall/Winter of Crafting!!



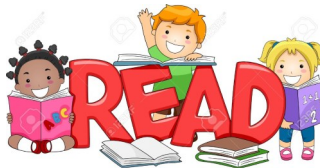
## CODING CLUB

Coding Club is a fun way to learn the basics of computer programming including game design. The purpose of this club is to build interest in coding and requires absolutely no skills or knowledge in coding to take part. This club is for 4th & 5th Grade students and will take place Monday mornings, 7:40 am beginning on October 1st.



## READING CLUB

Reading Club is open to interested students. We will find comfy spots, read, pick out new books, and share the exciting thing we are reading. This club will take place on Wednesday's at 7:45 am, beginning on October 3rd.



## CHOIR CLUB

Our CH Bird Choir is a fun group of 4th and 5th Grade students that sing together once per week. We give multiple performances throughout the year including singing at grade level concerts, the Winter Sing-A-Long, singing patriotic songs at a Madison Capitols Hockey game, popular music at CH Best Fest, and collaborating with other schools for the All-City Choir Festival. This club will be held on Tuesday's 7:45-8:15 am beginning late October.





## RUNNING CLUB



Running club spends 10 weeks training at the Prairie Athletic Club from January—March for a 5K race (3.1 miles) by gradually increasing the distance run each week to build kids' endurance and stamina. This club is for 4th and 5th Grade students and will meet once per week on Tuesday's. At the end of eight weeks, all students will participate in a 5K. Participation is limited to 20 students, look for a flyer with more information coming home in December.

## SAFETY PATROL

Safety Patrol is a leadership organization open to all CH Bird 5th Graders. As leaders of the school, Safety Patrol cadets assist with things such as walking younger grades to class, helping teachers before school, and interacting with younger grades in a positive way on the playground. Safety Patrol is starting soon! For more information, contact Ms. Valerie Grayson.



## HMONG HERITAGE CLUB

The Hmong Heritage Club provides support for Hmong native students to help learn their language, history and their culture. This club also helps build student self esteem and collaboration skills.



## EARLY BIRD CLUB

Early Bird Sports is an opportunity for 5th Grade students to have an extra physical education class and interact as a grade level. The focus is on a healthy body produces a healthy mind for the rest of the school day. All ability levels are welcome to attend. The Club will begin November 1st and take place Thursday mornings 7:45-8:15 a.m. An informational letter will be sent home with students.



## DRAMA CLUB



Drama Club Thespians learn acting skills through improvisational games, theater, activities, and stage work. 3rd-5th Grade Drama Club students work together through peer collaboration and ensemble-building to gain public speaking skills, build confidence and think about characters and story structure. Drama Club sign up forms and expectations will be sent home in a yellow packet in late November 2018. Students will be selected to be in either Monday or Friday cast, meaning rehearsals will be one day a week depending on which cast they are in. Any questions, please contact Mrs. Emery (formerly Ms. Murcott) at [keemery@sunprairieschools.org](mailto:keemery@sunprairieschools.org).



### Lice Happens!

Fall is the season of: back to school, football, pumpkins, Halloween costumes, and lice? *Yes lice.* Summer camps, vacations, sleep-overs, and sports with helmets can all be prime opportunities for sharing lice. Did you know that the average person has had lice for 4-6 weeks before it is discovered? That makes this time of the year one of the peak seasons for lice discovery.

**Now is a great time to get in the habit of checking your child's scalp periodically for lice.**

*What to look for:*

- Intense itching and scratching of the scalp
- Visible redness or sores from itching
- To check child's head for lice it is best to be in a well-lit room or natural sunlight. Be on the look-out for nits (eggs) and lice
- Nits are tiny tear-drop shaped eggs that attach to the hair shaft. They often appear yellowish-whitish and can look like dandruff, but cannot be washed off or blown away like dandruff can.
- Lice are small insects the size of a sesame seed. They can adapt to match hair color, but are usually tan or gray. They do not jump or fly, but they move quickly and can be hard to see. Lice often are found around the ears or on the nape of the neck.

*What to do if nits or lice are found*

Check all household members' heads and treat anyone with lice or nits. There are many different over the counter, prescription, and homeopathic options. For more information you can contact your school nurse or health care provider.

Please notify your child's school and daycare. This helps us in tracking and efforts in preventing transmission in school. It is also a good idea to notify any close contacts such as friends, teammates, neighbors, or extended family.

If you would like more information about lice – check out the following websites

[www.cdc.gov/lice/head/factsheet.html](http://www.cdc.gov/lice/head/factsheet.html)

[www.Kidshealth.org/parent/infections/common/head\\_lice.html](http://www.Kidshealth.org/parent/infections/common/head_lice.html)



## Morning Reminders



- ⇒ Breakfast is served beginning at 7:45 am in the Cafeteria. If your student eats breakfast at school, encourage them to come eat as soon as possible, then go out to play on the playground.
- ⇒ Students need to be dropped off in the back of the school for recess in the morning...rain or shine!
- ⇒ Pick up/Drop off Line—cars need to pull forward to the sign that says, “Drop Off”. Please do not let kids out of the car until they are in the drop off area.

## Donations Appreciated



For the oops closet...

Boys underwear size 6-8 (new)

Girls underwear size 6-10 (new)

Girls socks Medium & Large

Boys/Girls zip up sweatshirts size 6-14 (clean, gently used is fine)

### STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

No student may be unlawfully discriminated against in any school programs, activities or in facilities usage because of the student's sex (gender identity, gender expressions, and non-conformity to gender role stereotypes), color, religion, profession, or demonstration of belief or non-belief, race, national origin (including limited English proficiency), ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, homelessness status, sexual orientation, age, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. Harassment is a form of discrimination and shall not be tolerated in the District. It is the responsibility of administrators, staff members and all students to ensure that student discrimination or harassment does not occur.

(SPASD District Policy JB)

If a student or parent/guardian would prefer to have this information translated into Spanish, please contact us at 608-834-6620. **Si un estudiante, padre ó guardian prefiere tener esta información traducida en Español, por favor contactenos en el 608-834-6620.**

If a student or parent/guardian would prefer to have this information translated into Hmong, please contact us at 608-834-6630. **Yog tus me nyuam lub xiv los yog niam thiab txiv/tus neeg muaj cai saib xyuas tus me nyuam xav tau qhov ntawv ntawm no ua lus Hmoob, thov hais rau peb paub rau ntawm 608-834-6630.**

# News from Mrs. Shimek

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## Welcome Back to the 2018-19 School Year



The Advanced Learner Program (ALP) is excited to be back and involved in the education of our students.

### Meet our staff:

Advanced Learner Coordinator	Kathy Enstad	klensta@sunprairieschools.org	608-834-6586
Sun Prairie High School ALP Specialist and Advanced Placement (AP) Coordinator	Meghan Bosonetta	mlboson@sunprairieschools.org	608-834-6865
Patrick Marsh and Sun Prairie High School ALP Specialist	Aaron Knoploh	aaknopl@sunprairieschools.org	TBD
Cardinal Heights ALP Specialist	Scott Nelson	senelso@sunprairieschools.org	608-318-8155
Prairie View ALP Specialist	Craig Brandl	cvbrand@sunprairieschools.org	834-7884
Creekside & Horizon ALP Specialist	Bree VanDerKamp	brvande@sunprairieschools.org	834-7750 CS 834-7965HZ
Westside & Eastside ALP Specialist	Kim Rhodes	kjrhode@sunprairieschools.org	834-7501 WS 834-7425 ES
Token Springs & Meadow View ALP Specialist	Stephanie Burgess	smburge@sunprairieschools.org	TBD
CH Bird & Northside ALP Specialist	Leanne Shimek	leshime@sunprairieschools.org	834-7355 Bird 834-7157 NS
Royal Oaks ALP Specialist	Katie Plesac	klplesa@sunprairieschools.org	834-7218

### Meet your Advanced Learner Specialist

My name is Leanne Shimek. I am excited to be returning to C.H. Bird for my sixth year as the ALP Specialist and my 21st year in the District. I will be at Bird on Mondays, Wednesdays and some Thursdays. We are excited about our new math roll out that we will be using this year to work with our students to compliment the Bridges curriculum. I feel we will be reaching students at a more personal level and they will also be given choice to their math learning. We will be sending out more information within the first few weeks of school. Feel free to contact me at any time with questions about ALP or resources for your child.

### Differentiated Education Plan (DEP) update (Identified Tier 3 students)

This year all Differentiated Education Plans (DEP) will be reviewed during the fall for our identified Tier 3 students. In the past we met with them one year from identification date, however, after evaluation of our program, our staff decided we would better serve our students, parents and teachers by meeting with all students at the beginning of the year. We realize students change over the summer as well as goals, needs etc. We also feel that it allows our staff to get a face-to-face meeting with students to either start building a relationship with the student if new to a building or renew and continue to grow that relationship with returning kiddos. If you have any questions, please reach out to the ALP Specialist in your building.

## News from Mrs. Shimek

### Year Planning update

Our ALP staff will continue to meet with identified students in grades 8 to 12 to help plan out their 4 years of high school. We believe it is important to help students set short-term goals, plan class choices, and evaluate long-term plans after high school. After the initial planning meeting in 8th grade, each year ALP staff will meet with the student to re-evaluate choices, goals, etc. This is open to all identified students. Our staff will start reaching out to students mid-September to be sure we meet with all students who want planning meetings by mid-January. If you have any questions, please reach out to the ALP Specialist in your building.

### Parent Learning Sessions 2018-2019 School Year Schedule

I would like to extend to you an invitation to the following Parent Learning Sessions that we will be offering the last Wednesday of each month (except December) at District Office in the training warehouse - room 100 at 6:00 pm.

These are free events for parents of higher level learners. .

- Wednesday, October 24 - Opportunities at School and Outside of School
- Wednesday, January 30 - Summer Opportunities
- Wednesday, March 20 - Transitioning Building to Building/Grade to Grade



### Important Dates for the 2018-2019 School Year

Dates	Event	Time/Where/Grade
Wednesday, September 19, 2018	ALP Parent Information Night & Meet & Greet	6:30 - 7:30 CHUMS Auditorium
Monday, October 8, 2018	Yahara Projects Begin	Grades 5-8
Wednesday, October 24, 2018	Parent Learning Session	DO room 100 6:00-7:00 pm
Thursday, November 8, 2018	College Information Night	5:15 at HS in Auditorium
Thursday, November 8, 2018	College Information Night	6:45 at CHUMS in Auditorium
Friday, January 11, 2019	Final Edits of Yahara Projects due	Grades 5-8
TBD	Math 24 Tournaments (grades 4-8) Hosted by WCATY at UW Madison	9:00-11:00 am 4th and 5th grade 12:00-2:00 pm 6th, 7th and 8th grade
Thursday, January 17, 2019	AP Information Night	6:00 at SPSHS
Wednesday, January 30, 2019	Parent Learning Session	DO room 100 - 6:00-7:00
Wednesday, March 14, 2019	Local 7th and 8th grade Math Meet	8-noon @ PPA
Thursday, March 15, 2019	Local 5th and 6th grade Math Meet	8-noon @ PPA
Wednesday, March 20, 2019	Parent Learning Session	DO room 100 - 6:00-7:00 pm
TBD	Regional 5th and 6th Math Meet	Host School TBD
TBD	Regional 7th and 8th Math Meet	Host School TBD

If you ever have any questions, please contact the ALP Specialist for your student's building. I am available at the District Office at (608)834-6586, or by email [klensta@sunprairieschools.org](mailto:klensta@sunprairieschools.org) to help in any way. Have a wonderful start to the new year.

Kathy Enstad - Advanced Learner Coordinator

## Family Reading Fun



Welcome back to another exciting school year! As you are getting back into the routine, remember to take advantage of the WSRA website ([www.wsra.org](http://www.wsra.org)) which has Calendars of Ideas in the Families and Literacy section. These include several book titles as well as many ideas for how to engage your family in literacy activities at home. Also, make sure you are taking the time to read daily by establishing a routine, whether before bedtime, right away in the morning, or another part of the day you can find in your schedule!

Though it's an exciting time of year, the start of school can create some anxious feelings when considering a change in routine, new people, and a need for making new friends. Sometimes these conversations can be tough to have, so consider the use of picture books to help get the discussion started. Talking through these feelings with your child can help them prepare and feel at ease.

## Family Tips



Some topics are tough to tackle like divorce or a death in the family. One way to help is by reading a story about a character who has experienced similar circumstances. This will help you facilitate a discussion to meet your child's social/emotional needs during this difficult time.

When selecting books for your child, remember you can utilize your library's search engine to find books that reflect your family's current needs. The library's website usually has a spot for searching about topics, which you can access at home or on the computers when you get there.

Another way to help your child feel excited about reading is to tap into their interests. Think about what your child likes to do or is interested in, then get books to match. When looking for books of your child's interests, don't forget your local librarian is a great resource and person to ask!



# Mindfulness Matters!



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[www.SunPrairieEducationFoundation.org](http://www.SunPrairieEducationFoundation.org)



## JusTme is coming to your school!

JusTme is a hip-hop artist and mindfulness instructor who teaches love and insight on mindfulness by bringing students and their families positivity, mindful practices, and well-being through his coined term, "mindful Hip-hop". He gives everyone no matter their story the tools they need to experience their emotions without being overwhelmed by them.

JusTme has collaborated with Richard Davidson's Center for Healthy Minds at UW-Madison on the benefits of bringing mindfulness into classrooms. Now, this Fall, JusTme will spend **ONE WEEK AT ALL ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS** in the Sun Prairie Area School District thanks to the generosity of the **SUN PRAIRIE EDUCATION FOUNDATION** and create an experience of a lifetime for Sun Prairie youth.



WANT TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT THE POWER OF MINDFULNESS?

Visit these informative links:

[www.justmindfulness.com](http://www.justmindfulness.com)

[www.SunPrairieEducationFoundation.org/why-mindfulness](http://www.SunPrairieEducationFoundation.org/why-mindfulness)

**Contact your child's principal for activities  
happening in your schools!**

## ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

September 05, 2018

As a result of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), every school district is required to complete a comprehensive asbestos inspection and develop a management plan for all asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM), present within the district. In an effort to comply with this regulation, the Sun Prairie Area School District had all buildings owned or leased by the District initially inspected by an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), accredited inspector and any samples taken and analyzed by an independent laboratory. This information was then utilized to develop a comprehensive asbestos management plan.

A comprehensive re-inspection by an accredited inspector of all ACBM is required every 3 years, while periodic 6-month surveillance is an additional requirement. Beginning in July, 1998, the Sun Prairie Area School District contracted Environmental Management Consulting, Inc. (EMC), to perform 3- year re-inspections and 6-month surveillances for all district buildings.

Environmental Management Consulting, Inc. has completed the most recent comprehensive asbestos inspection and management plan, with this report available for your review during normal business hours in the Facilities and Grounds office. Copies of this report are also available to upon request.

All ACBM found within the District has been identified, with location and condition assessed. Any areas noted as being in moderate to poor condition will be repaired or removed. A district long-range management plan of all ACBM has been developed.

Any questions relating to ACBM present in any District buildings, management plan or regarding the District's on-going operations and maintenance program should be directed to Kevin Sukow, Director of Facilities and Grounds, 608-834-6567.

Thank You,

Kevin Sukow  
Sun Prairie Area School District  
Asbestos Designated Person





