

# 4K Early Learning News

DECEMBER 2022

Hello 4K Families and Caregivers,

It is hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the halfway point in our year together. The time has flown by and your children have grown and learned so much. It has been wonderful to watch them grow into learners, explorers, friends, and independent thinkers!

As the weather turns colder please remember to dress your kiddos for the colder weather. They will have opportunities to play outside and teachers add in practice time for putting on snow pants, zipping coats, hats, and mittens. It takes a bit longer but the more independent they are with these skills the longer they have to play outside (and it is a must for kindergarten!). Be sure to label all your gear with your child's name! There are lots of black snow pants that get mixed together. This is also a great time to double-check backpacks for that extra set of clothes and switch them to warmer clothes– especially extra socks! Learning is tough in wet, cold clothes!

The success of our programs would not be possible without the support of our families. I want to thank you all for sharing your children with us. Together we are preparing these young students to be great learners.

Wherever the season takes you this year I wish you well. Take time out during the rush and chaos to enjoy your little people! The moments you spend playing in the snow- building snow forts, playing games, and reading books will be memories to last a lifetime.

Cheers,

Elizabeth Knudten

## BENEFITS OF PLAYING GAMES

Games are a valuable, fun, and interesting way of helping children to work together and to raise the level of cooperative consciousness within the class. Games that enable children to work together in a caring and cooperative way, to include all children, develop both coordination and problem-solving skills and help children to work together as a social unit. Games involve children at three levels: at a physical level, at an emotional level, and at a cognitive level. Games range from active games that require space for movement to quieter games and activities that can be used in the classroom. Games are fun, appealing, and motivating to students of all ages and backgrounds.

### **Games support the curriculum:**

- Word games and matching and memory games foster language development and literacy.
- Board games improve counting skills and spatial awareness and develop strategic thinking for improving skills in mathematics.
- All games provide lessons in taking turns, understanding how to win and lose, and fitting in with others for social and emotional development.
- Games provide a forum for initiative and leadership, reasoning, and problem-solving.
- Different types of games develop small and large motor skills and hand/eye coordination.
- Challenging and strategic games help children learn to focus and concentrate, which are essential ingredients in developing creative thought.

Group games are excellent tools to help children learn to take turns, work in teams, and follow rules and directions. These games can break the ice for a new group of students, make transition times more productive and less chaotic, and are excellent outdoor substitutes for rainy or cold days. Language learning is a hard task that can sometimes be frustrating. Constant effort is required to understand, produce and manipulate language. Well-chosen games are invaluable as they encourage students to practice language skills.

Games are highly motivating since they are amusing and at the same time challenging. Furthermore, they employ meaningful and useful language in real contexts. They also encourage and increase cooperation.

## **SKILL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH GAMES**

### **Language:**

- encourages creative and spontaneous use of language
- promotes communicative competence
- focuses on communication
- motivates
- fun

### **Cognitive:**

- reinforces skills being taught
- critical thinking
- reinforce early math concepts
- reviews and extends knowledge base
- integration of learning objectives

### **Class Dynamics:**

- student centered
- teacher acts only as facilitator
- builds class cohesion
- fosters whole class participation
- promotes healthy competition

### **Adaptability:**

- easily adjusted for age, level, and interests
- utilizes all four skills
- requires minimum preparation after development

# \* Holiday Childcare \*

DECEMBER 3RD 11:30-4:30  
\* AT HORIZON ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

Drop your kids off to get all your holiday  
necessities done kid free!

Donations Appreciated!

Sign Up Here!

<https://tinyurl.com/3yyxjv65> \*



\*  
For Students 4k- 5th Grade

\*  
Organized by: SPW NHS





*Here Comes Santa  
... To Your Home*

Starting Dec 3rd until Dec 24th

Start the Christmas celebration with a visit from Santa Claus. Santa & his elves will visit your home, knock on a window or storm door at a specific time, wave, chat with kiddos (calling them by name), photo ops, and yes Santa will leave a sweet little gift

**SCHEDULE SANTA**

REINDEER ROUTES ARE SET FOR  
SUN PRAIRIE, BRISTOL, BURKE, WINDSOR

**\$30 PER VISIT - \$50 CHRISTMAS EVE**

Brought to you by the Sun Prairie Lions Foundation. All proceeds benefit local Charities and community organizations such as Sunshine Place, Sun Prairie High School Scholarship Fund, Sun Prairie Dream Park, Stuff the Bus, Wisconsin Lions Camp, Adopt-a-Highway, Restoring Hope Transplant House, Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin and many more.

## HAVE YOU MET MILO?

This phonics curriculum splits our year into two units of study: **The Name Study and The Letter Study**. Both units focus on developing phonics and handwriting skills while also supporting social-emotional growth in the classroom. To help us implement this curriculum we have a 4K mascot, Milo the dog! Milo helps us teach phonics and handwriting in an exciting way. He models the lessons and skills for us and can be involved in our classroom in many different ways. Milo has phonic siblings too! Mabel, the elephant is in Kindergarten, Rasheed, the lion in first grade, and August, the dragon in second grade.



Our year began with the name study. In this unit, we studied each of our classmates' names, including Milo, in fun, interactive ways. This study is our 4Kers first introduction to letters in 4K.

We started by focusing on:

- Recognize their name (uppercase letters only)
- Learn the names of our classmates and begin to recognize them
- Understand that our names are made up of letters and the sounds those letters make

- Begin to write names and letters
- Develop beginning handwriting skills such as grasp
- Begin to include literacy in our play

Now that we've studied all of our friends' names, begun to understand the purpose of letters, and practiced our beginning handwriting skills we are ready for our letter study. In this unit, we will study every letter in depth using hands-on activities.

During this time students will:

- Study one letter weekly in-depth (formation, sound, and role in print) while still working and exploring with other letters and early literacy skills.
- Learn the formation pathways for writing letters - especially the letters in our names
- Practice beginning sounds in fun interactive ways
- Participate in hands-on learning opportunities to support the letter study.

Talking to your child about school is a great way to reinforce what they are learning. During our phonics program some great questions are:

- Did you meet any new friends today?
- Who was the star name today?
- What did Milo do in school today?
- Who did you play with today?
- What letter did you learn about in the name study today?
- What letter are you studying this week?
- What letters do you see on \_\_\_? (signs, food items, labels, etc.)
- What did you feed Mr. Munch this week?
- What did Milo do this week?

## STAY CONNECTED WITH THE SPASD APP

This app allows students, staff and caregivers to access information quickly and easily. It provides access to school blackboard connect notifications, District news, Peachjar flyers, COVID updates and more. Students and caregivers can also access Infinite Campus via the app, which provides information regarding attendance, grades and more. To download the app, visit either the iPhone App Store or the Google Play Store.



REMINDER- THURSDAY IS EARLY RELEASE FOR 4K AFTERNOON CLASSES!!!

Please be aware that EVERY Thursday is Early Release for AFTERNOON 4K classes. (Morning class times do not change)

Please be ready to pick up our child or meet the bus at an earlier time...

#### **AFTERNOON Classes Times on THURSDAYS:**

- Creekside, Northside, and Token Springs- 11:42-1:30
- All other Community Based sites- 11:32-1:20



## KOBUSSEN BUS-

· Buses can be noisy places. Please help your child remember to use their "0-1" voices, so the drivers can be safe. Sometimes, when bus drivers have to speak loudly to be heard, our kiddos mistake loud for "yelling". We have given the bus drivers this tool to help our 4K students understand what kind of voice they should be using on the bus. It is also used in our classrooms so your children should be familiar with the tool and the language used.

· Staying seated in their seats is very important. Even if the ride is short please help us to reinforce the need to stay sitting in their seats, until the teacher comes to get them off the bus.

· Please be prepared to meet your child's bus 10-15 minutes before the scheduled bus times you have been given. Due to absences and our door to door busing the bus times may vary within that time frame.

· If your child is not going to be riding the bus to or from school please let the bus company AND your teacher know. We want to make sure we know exactly who is getting on and off the bus every day. **The bus company can be reached at 825-8700.**

**I am a safe Bus Rider- English (click)**



**I am a safe Bus Rider- Spanish (click)**

## ANNUAL NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION REFERRAL AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

The Sun Prairie Area School District is required by state and federal law to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities who are in need of special education and related services. This process is known as child find. The Sun Prairie Area School District is also required to provide annual notice of its child find activities.

Please follow these links to read our Annual Notice for Child Find...

[Child Find Notice English](#)

[Child Find Notice Hmong](#)

[Child Find Notice Spanish](#)



## SUN PRAIRIE FOOD RESOURCES

- **Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry** - 608-478-0510

People can use the Pantry every other week. Neighbors struggling with food insecurity can visit the food pantry once every 14 days for healthy food options and weekly kid's boxes. The pantry also offers personal care items.

Website: <https://sunprairiefoodpantry.com/services/>

18 Rickel Road, Sun Prairie

Hours:

- Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:00pm - 3:30pm
- Tuesday/Thursday 5:00pm - 7:00pm
- Saturday 9:00am - 11:00am

### **FREE Weekend Wellness Packs for Kids**

- To ensure no child goes hungry over the weekend
- Contains easily prepared, kid friendly, nutritious food, including fresh milk
- Available at the Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry (18 Rickel Rd):
  - Thursdays 5-7 PM
  - Fridays 12-3:30 PM
  - Saturdays 9-11 AM

- No sign up or registration is necessary

### **McKenzie Family Boys & Girls Club**

232 Windsor Street, Sun Prairie

- **Family Meals to Go**

Family Meals consist of a premade meal for a family of 5, a produce box, and a cooler box with meats, cheeses, and yogurts. Available for anyone in the community from 3:00-5:30 pm with registration!

Register ONCE at <https://www.classy.org/event/family-meals-to-go-mckenzie-family-boys-and-girls-club/e316731> then receive a WEEKLY form to reserve your meal for the following week. Pick up is a drive-through in the parking lot of the club.

### **Sunshine Supper**

1632 W. Main St, Sun Prairie

Email: [sunshinesupper@gmail.com](mailto:sunshinesupper@gmail.com)

- **Drive Through Meal Program**

Available for anyone on Mondays 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Enter the parking lot off Hart Road (behind the building).

Meals are brought to your car. Walk-up service available.

## FOOD PANTRIES IN DANE COUNTY

[Dane County Food Pantry Network](#)

[Sunshine Place](#)

[DeForest Food Pantry](#)

[The River Food Pantry](#)

[Waunakee Food Pantry](#)

COVID FLOWCHART-ENGLISH

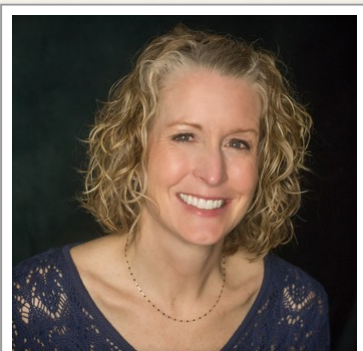
COVID FLOWCHART-SPANISH

## WHO DO I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

The best place is to always start with your child's teacher. They have close contact with your child and have a deep understanding of their program and can most quickly address any of



your concerns. The next step is to contact your 4K site director. They have a wealth of knowledge and can answer questions about the many site specific policies and procedures. You can also contact the 4K Program Supervisor to answer questions from a 4K- Sun Prairie School district perspective and help you navigate the school district in general.



## ELIZABETH KNUDTEN

SP4K Program Supervisor

📍 501 South Bird Street, Sun Pra...

✉ [elknudt@sunprairieschools.org](mailto:elknudt@sunprairieschools.org)

☎ 608-834-6671

🌐 [sunprairieschools.org](http://sunprairieschools.org)



## BECKY PENTICOFF

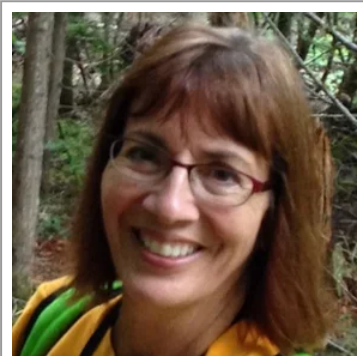
Early Childhood Special Education Program Manager

📍 1435 North Thompson Road, S...

✉ [rcpenti@sunprairieschools.org](mailto:rcpenti@sunprairieschools.org)

☎ 608-478-5178

🌐 [sunprairieschools.org](http://sunprairieschools.org)



## CINDY SCHMITZ

📍 501 South Bird Street, Sun Pra...

✉ [csschmit@sunprairieschools....](mailto:csschmit@sunprairieschools....)

☎ 608-834-6672

🌐 [sunprairieschools.org/sp4k](http://sunprairieschools.org/sp4k)

## 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 expression 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. (SPASD Policy JB)



If a student or parent/guardian would prefer to have this information translated into Spanish, please contact us at 834-6620.

Si un estudiante, padre ó guardian prefiere tener esta información traducida en Es-pañol, por favor contactenos en el 834-6620.

If a student or parent/guardian would prefer to have this information translated into Hmong, please contact us at 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 834-6630.