

4K Early Learning News

DECEMBER 2021

FROM THE DESK OF SP4K

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

Sun Prairie Parks Recreation & Forestry Holiday Programs

Tis the season, check out our upcoming Holiday programs!

Snow Globe Workshop

Join us for a class in the museum! Students will sculpt, and design their own snow globes and add glitter and sequins to their mason jar. A fun gift for someone or to keep as a decoration for yourself!

Saturday, December 4, 3:00-4:30 PM
[3258312.1](tel:3258312.1)

WINTER/SPRING

Rec Connection - Coming Nov. 23rd

Registration Starts -
December 7th -
rec.cityofsunprairie.com

Bedtime Buddies - December

A themed-based stuffed animal kit for toddlers and preschoolers ages 2-4. December theme is "The Littlest Reindeer" Each kit will feature a themed-based unstuffed animal, stuffing, book, and snack. Pick up or Delivery is available.

Pickup Starting 12/17
[3254900.2](tel:3254900.2)

Rec on the Go - Nov. & Dec.

Rec on the go is a theme-based exploration kit for kids ages 5 and up. Kits include crafts, experiments, and activities for kids. Pick up or Delivery is available.

Dec. Pickup Starting 12/17
Dec. "Elves Workshop" - [3255900.4](tel:3255900.4)

Cookie Decorating

Learn to decorate cookies with the lady from Pretty Killer Cookies, Laura! She will show you basic royal icing cookie decorating techniques.

Decorating cookies has never been more fun! Each participant will go home with their own set of cookies. Cookies will be holiday-themed.

Adult (ages 18+) - 12/7/2021
Youth (ages 8-12) - 12/8/2021

Starts @6:15pm
[3253307.1](tel:3253307.1) - [3255307.2](tel:3255307.2)

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, call
608-837-3449 or email rec@cityofsunprairie.com



Want to Register?

1. rec.cityofsunprairie.com
2. Under "register for programs" click "Youth Programs", then "Enrichment"
3. For Bedtime Buddies, click "Preschool Programs" instead.
4. For Holiday Light Contest click "Family Programs"
5. Or search the Blue Course Code!

If you have any questions call (608)
[837-3449](tel:837-3449)



Cookies for Santa - 12-21-2021

Pre-registered families will receive a dozen yummy cookies for Santa... and may even snack on one for themselves. This year you will be able to decorate cookies from the comfort of your own home. We will have everything you will need to decorate your cookies pre-packaged with a few surprises and when you drive up our Elves will be on hand to deliver them to your cars.

Fee is per 1-dozen cookies.
[3253307.2](tel:3253307.2)

4th Annual Holiday Light Contest

Enter for a chance to win "Best Decorated Home in Sun Prairie!"

Registration:

*Registration Deadline - Thursday, December 9th, 11:59pm Register online at rec.cityofsunprairie.com. Home/Business must be located in Sun Prairie School District. For more info, follow the instructions on the left!

*By registering using either method, you are granting the City of Sun Prairie permission to use your name and photo of your house/business for future publicity.

Judging:

Judging will be 5:00 - 9:00pm the week of December 13th.

Awards:

\$50 gift card awarded to Best First-Time Entry, Judge's Choice and People's Choice - donated by Sun Prairie Utilities

- Best First-Time Entry
- Judge's Choice
- People's Choice (online voting)
- Best Decorated Business - New for 2021

*All winners will also receive an official City of Sun Prairie 'Holiday Lights Contest Winner' yard sign

[3258803.1](tel:3258803.1)

Sun Prairie Public Schools has neither reviewed nor approved the program, personnel, or activities announced in this flyer. Permission to distribute this flyer is not considered a recommendation or endorsement by the school district.

SOUP WITH SANTA

Updated Information

DECEMBER 6TH

5:00-7:00PM

SUN PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Space to enjoy:

- Dinner options provided by
- Buck & Honeys
- Crafts and games
- Pictures with Santa



SUN PRAIRIE
DECA

ADULTS 10 & OLDER: \$7
CHILDREN 9 & UNDER: \$5
Cash or Check Only

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



Santa Claus is Coming to Sun Prairie!

Sun Prairie Lions Club presents the 2nd annual *Santa Claus is Coming to Sun Prairie!*

The Sun Prairie Lions Club is excited to host their 2nd annual Santa Claus is Coming to Sun *Prairie!* This event will have Santa stopping by your home, knocking on a window and waving to children while elves leave bags of candy by the closest door.

For more information or to sign up for a visit from Santa, click [here](#).



All proceeds benefit local 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.

With over 1.4 million members, Lions Clubs International is the largest service organization in the world. Our motto is "We Serve" and Lions put it into action every day. We are caring women and men who come together to be the difference in our communities.

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

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 with 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?



WEEKEND FOOD FOR KIDS

Starting mid-December, we will offer nutritious meals and snacks for children over the weekend and extended breaks, free of charge.



Sign up using the QR Code above -
only one form is needed per family

When you sign up, you will receive information on
where/when food pick up will be available.
Pick ups will take place on Thursdays each week.

Have questions? Please email
sunprairiecommunityschools@gmail.com



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:

- Token Springs and Creekside- 12:20-2:03
- All other Community Based sites- 11:50-1:33

COVID REMINDERS

SP4K-EC COVID Protocols

In addition to site specific policies and procedures the Sun Prairie Area School District, SP4K Program and Early Childhood (EC) Programs have developed the following protocols in order to reduce the risk of COVID transmission in our classrooms.



QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS:

When a student tests positive:

- Students will be required to quarantine when there is a positive case in the classroom.
 - Students are required to quarantine for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or the date of the positive test (if asymptomatic) whichever is first.

What will teaching look like during the quarantine period?

- During quarantine there will be no live 4K instruction.
- Students will access learning opportunities through ReadyRosie and Seesaw.
- Teachers will work with students and their caregivers to insure access to educational materials during the quarantine. These will be determined by the individual teachers and programs.
- Students with disabilities will follow their agreed upon IEP contingency plan.

Contact Tracing

- In cooperation with the district nurse, the school will contact employees and families of students identified as close contacts using the letter templates from PHMDC to notify them that they are a close contact and if they need to quarantine. PHMDC will not contact these individuals separately unless they are in the same household as the person who tested positive. For confidentiality purposes, the individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the families, students and employees at large.

INFECTION MITIGATION:

Infection mitigation efforts are intended to minimize exposure and keep the virus out of school environments. Our programs follow infection response plans based on guidelines from State Child Care Licensing and Public Health Madison & Dane County in the event that we have a positive case within a 4K location.

This includes separation, disinfection, notification, and contact tracing.

Masking will be required for all staff, students, and adults inside 4K classrooms.

[American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[Wisconsin Department of Health Services \(DHS\)](#)

[Public Health Madison & Dane County \(PHMDC\)](#)

- The American Academy of Pediatrics—the U.S. professional organization for all pediatricians—has endorsed mask wearing indoors for all children age 2+.

- Studies have shown that face masks can help block respiratory droplets and that face mask use has been associated with lower COVID-19 infection rates.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has a [website](#) detailing information on face coverings. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains a [website](#) that reviews the evidence behind use of face coverings.
- [SPASD Face Covering Information for Families](#)
- [SPASD Protective Measures](#)

Screening Checklists

All students and staff are asked to monitor themselves for signs of possible infection. Please use the following checklists as screening guidelines.

- [SPASD Student COVID-19 Symptom Screening Checklist \(English\)](#)
- [SPASD Student COVID-19 Symptom Screening Checklist \(Spanish\)](#)

Hand Washing and Social Distancing

- Routine hand washing and/or hand sanitizing and cleaning of personal items will be taught and encouraged in all classrooms. This is an important life skill that is part of living a healthy life, and this is an opportunity to reinforce knowledge and skills in this area.
- It is the nature of 4K students to play with their teachers and their peers. We will work to educate students on the importance of social distancing and will maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

SPASD Student COVID 19 Symptom Screening Checklist

Lista de verificación de los síntomas de COVID 19



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 "velling". 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 buckled in their seats is very important. Even if the ride is short please help us to reinforce the need to stay buckled and 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.

- Early release is EVERY THURSDAY at 1:30. This means the buses in the afternoons will arrive home an hour and fifteen minutes earlier than the rest of the week. Please be ready to meet the bus earlier on Thursdays.

- If you are interested in more information about how you can help your child with riding the bus please talk with your child's teacher about our "Riding the Bus" social story.

- 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.

SUN PRAIRIE FOOD RESOURCES

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 on Tuesdays from 3:00-5:00 pm.

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.



Sun Prairie YMCA

1470 Don Simon Dr, Sun Prairie

608-478-4308

Email: mhrubes@ymcadane.org

- **Mobile Food Pantry**

Drive up service with no questions asked.

We load your trunk with boxes of food.

This is held at Westside Elementary every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry

18 Rickel Rd, Sun Prairie

608-478-0510

Free taxi service is available to and from the pantry. Call Sun Prairie Taxi at 608-837-5550 to request a ride to the pantry. Once at the pantry you can request a voucher to pay for the taxi.

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.

Hours:

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

Sunshine Supper

1632 W. Main St, Sun Prairie

Email: 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.

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

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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 pa-rental 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.