

4K & Early Childhood Services  
Viking Elementary School  
500 East Wall St.  
Holmen, WI 54636

Ms. Sue Eitland, Principal  
[eitsue@holmen.k12.wi.us](mailto:eitsue@holmen.k12.wi.us)  
608.526.3316, Option 1

## Dates to Remember

### **March 3<sup>rd</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>**

Read Across America Week:  
Dress up days

**March 9<sup>th</sup>:** Daylight Savings Time  
Remember to set clocks forward

### **Week of March 10 – 14**

Practice Lockdown Drill

**March 12<sup>th</sup>:** Early Release  
No school for EC/4K Students

Family/Teacher Conferences

Burn Kidz Camp 11:00 a.m.  
500 North Holmen Drive

**March 17<sup>th</sup>:** St. Patrick's Day

**March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup>:**  
Family/Teacher  
Conferences

**March 24<sup>th</sup>:** No School



## 2025 Newsletter



### *From the principal's desk...*

#### **Thank you...**

To those of you who will be reviewing spring PreK PTO Mini Grants. Your time and input are valued!!

#### **4K/EC Information...**

- **AM Student Drop Off:** If you drop off your child for 4K/EC in the AM, please plan to park in the lot and walk your child over to our staff unless the weather or wind chill is below zero. The drop off lane is meant to continue moving forward. For example, the older children can quickly and easily exit the vehicle without help from an adult. Our younger children typically need an adult to get out of the vehicle and help them. This causes the drop off lane to get backed up and makes it more likely for accidents to happen. Our goal is safety for ALL.
- **PM Student Drop Off:** As another gentle reminder, students are not allowed to be on the hill. It causes a disruption to students inside the building who are learning. Please keep your child close to you until our staff comes out at 11:40 am to help guide them to their teachers.
- Our staff looks forward to connecting with you during our **Spring Family-Teacher Conferences** coming up on March 12, 13, and 18. A link was sent to families on Feb 27 for you to use Sign-Up Genius to schedule your child's conference date/time. Please sign up early as the slots fill up quickly.
- During the week of March 10 – 14, we will be practicing a Lockdown Drill. You may refer to the [Parent Guide to the Standard Response Protocol](#) for an overview of all the drills. Be watching your email for additional forthcoming information from the district communications specialist.
- We hope many of you can join us at Burn Boot Camp (500 North Holmen Drive) for our **Family Outreach Event:** Burn Kidz Camp on March 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am. – 11:45 am! Not only is it a great work out for the children, but it will also be a lot of fun!

We look forward to seeing you soon.

~Ms. Eitland and the Public Preschool Staff

## School District Open Enrollment

Wisconsin's interdistrict public school Open Enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school districts other than the one in which they live. Applications may be submitted to no more than three non-resident school districts. Students in 4K through grade 12 may apply to participate in Open Enrollment. Parents should call their resident school districts to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify for Open Enrollment. The Open Enrollment application period for the 2025-26 school year is from February 3 - April 30, 2025 until 4:00 p.m. Parents must apply to the non-resident district. A non-resident district is defined as the district in which you do not live, but where you want your child to attend. It is recommended that you apply for Open Enrollment through the on-line application process at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oe>. The Open Enrollment application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2025. Late applications will not be accepted for any reason. If you have any questions regarding Open Enrollment, please contact Courtney Wilson, Open Enrollment Coordinator/Registrar for the School District of Holmen, Student Services Department at 608.526.1309.



### All things PBIS/Pyramid Model! (Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports)

#### *PBIS/Pyramid Model Lending Library*

As a friendly reminder, our Holmen Public Preschool Program has books that you can check out to focus on a variety of social-emotional and everyday situations. Books are a great way for families to help children understand something they may be going through at the time. Plus, it gives you special reading time together, which benefits children in numerous ways!

#### How do we know which books are available?

- We have a variety of topics, including but not limited to: general feelings books, anger, apologizing, being bossy, body safety (hitting, kicking, biting), bedtime, cancer, disappointment, death/loss, divorce, empathy, fear, happiness, independence, jealousy, listening, lying, manners, military deployment, mistakes/perfectionism, new babies, problem solving/sharing, school, sibling rivalry, shyness, worry/anxiety, etc.

#### How do we check out the books?

- Inform your child's teacher if you would like a book related to a specific situation or topic. She can help with finding titles we have available.
- Make arrangements with the teacher regarding how to get you the books. (Send home in child's backpack; you will pick them up; etc.)
- Your family may keep the books as long as you need them. Return them to the teacher or Public Preschool Office when you are finished with them.

#### *Additional Social-Emotional Learning*

During the month of March, our Second Step curriculum will focus on having fun with friends.

- Inviting to play - Your child is learning how to invite others to play. For example, using a friendly voice and asking, "Do you want to play with me?" Part of this will involve using story cards to notice when other children are not playing with someone and inviting them to play. This helps everyone feel included!
- Joining in with play - Your child is also learning how to join play with others. They are learning steps, such as asking to play, giving ideas for play to help them join in, and asking questions.

If you have questions about Second Step or our PBIS Lending Library, please reach out to your child's teacher.

## Virtual Backpack

The School District of Holmen has implemented a “green” approach for distributing flyers from community organizations. The information is divided into three sections, by grade levels, and updated on a regular basis.

Follow the path below to view community flyers:

- Go to [www.holmen.k12.wi.us](http://www.holmen.k12.wi.us)
- Click on Community tab
- Along left side column, click on Virtual Backpack/Online Flyers
- Select PreK & Elementary

Note that most of these advertisements are not district publications (unless marked). The District enables their online distribution as a community service to inform you of educational opportunities, activities and events available in our area.

In order to have a flyer published on the district’s Virtual Backpack, it must first be approved through our District Administrator. Contact Stacy Lockington, executive assistant, with any questions.

[locsta@holmen.k12.wi.us](mailto:locsta@holmen.k12.wi.us)  
608.526.6610, ext. 1320

## 4K REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**4K Registration for the 2025-2026 school year opened on February 3, 2025!**

### **Who can participate?**

Any child, who is four-years-old on or before September 1, 2025 and lives in the school district boundaries, is eligible to participate in our 4K program.

### **Can my child attend Holmen’s 4K program if they attend daycare in Holmen?**

If an age-eligible child attends daycare within School District of Holmen boundaries, please complete the Open Enrollment process. You will hear from our Student Services Department in May regarding whether your child was accepted for Open Enrollment. Upon acceptance, you will be able to register for 4K in Holmen.

### **How do I enroll my child?**

Go to [www.holmen.k12.wi.us](http://www.holmen.k12.wi.us) and click on “Enroll a Student” along the right side of the page. Starting this fall, 4K will be housed in all four elementary schools. You are encouraged to enroll as early as possible. Contact Courtney Wilson, District Registrar, at [wilcour@holmen.k12.wi.us](mailto:wilcour@holmen.k12.wi.us) or 608.526.6610, ext. 1309, with any questions.

### **Program Questions?**

4K Programming – Contact Sue Eitland, Administrator at 608.526.3316, Option 1



**There is No School on Monday,  
March 24<sup>th</sup>, due to a Staff  
Development Day!**



## Creative Curriculum Interest Area:

### **Cooking**

This month's *Creative Curriculum* interest area is cooking. When children help adults with cooking, they have an opportunity to learn about nutrition, to be creative, and to prepare their own healthy snacks. Cooking teaches a lot of academic skills, as well. When children learn to follow recipe cards, they develop skills they need to read and write. They are also beginning to experience math concepts by measuring 1 cup of flour and pouring  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon of lemon juice into the batter. Whipping egg whites into meringue and melting cheese are lessons in science.

When children cook, we talk a lot about what they are doing and why. They are scientists, observing what happens to flour when we add water to it, and predicting how high we should fill a muffin tin, so the batter doesn't overflow.

Cooking is one of the few activities that children get to do that is also done by adults. Children pretend to be grown-ups by making meals in their dramatic play. They can also read books and sing songs about food. But when actually preparing food, children can behave as grown-ups.

#### **What You Can Do At Home**

Since cooking is already a part of your home life, consider involving your child. Including your child may take extra time, and there may be more of a mess than if you cooked alone, but there are many rewards. Your child will be learning literacy, math, and science skills just by helping you. In addition, cooking sets the stage for lifelong healthy eating habits. When children help prepare their meals, they tend to eat better. Start your child on simple tasks like stirring batter, squeezing lemons, adding spices, or shaping meatballs. Discuss what you are doing together while cooking. Ask questions like these:

- *What happened to the butter when we put it in the microwave?*
- *How should we get the flour into this cup?*
- *Did we get all of the juice out of that lemon? Let's push down on the lemon together and see what happens.*

The beauty of cooking with children is that they learn skills and have fun at the same time you are attending to a household chore. What could be better than that?!

## From the Health office:

**Emily Hanes BSN, RN**

### **National Sleep Awareness Week starts March 9, 2025**

Sleep is a vital need, essential to a child's health and growth. Sleep promotes alertness, memory and performance. Children who get enough sleep are more likely to function better and are less prone to behavioral problems and moodiness. That is why it is important for parents to start early and help their children develop good sleep habits. Each child is different and has different sleep needs, but the chart presents the recommended hours of sleep by child's age, including naps for children up to five years of age.

#### **How much sleep should my child get?**

Age	Hours Of Sleep
0 - 3 months	14 - 17
4 - 12 months	12 - 16
1 - 2 years	11 - 14
3 - 5 years	10 - 13
6 - 12 years	9 - 11
Teens	8 - 10
Adults	7 or more

The promotion of regular sleep is known as sleep hygiene. Here are some simple sleep hygiene tips:

- The #1 tip for good sleeping habits in children is to follow a nightly routine. A bedtime ritual makes it easier for your child to relax, fall asleep, and sleep through the night.
- Go to bed at the same time each night, and rise at the same time each morning.
- Sleep in a quiet, dark, and relaxing environment, which is neither too hot nor too cold.
- Make your bed comfortable and use it only for sleeping and not for other activities, such as reading, watching TV, or listening to music.
- Remove all TVs, computers, and other electronics from the bedroom.
- Avoid physical activity within a few hours of bedtime.
- Avoid large meals before bedtime.

Courtesy of <https://www.cdc.gov/sleep/about/index.html>

## Articulation (Pronunciation and Talking)

### What is articulation (pronunciation and talking)?

- Articulation (pronunciation and talking) is the ability to physically move the tongue, lips, teeth and jaw to produce sequences of speech sounds, which make up words and sentences.

### Why is articulation (pronunciation and talking) important?

- It's important to be able to produce sounds, words and sentences which are clear and can be easily understood by others in order to be able to express basic needs and wants, right through to being able to engage in complex conversations.

### What can be done to improve articulation (pronunciation and talking)?

- **Play:** For the young child, engage in play where you model and use lots of different sounds while playing (e.g. saying “ch ch ch” as the train passes by, “baa” goes the sheep).
- **Talk** to your child often throughout the day to model correct pronunciation of words.
- **Reduce background noise:** Turn off background noise in the home (e.g. television, radio, music) when engaging with your child to minimize distractions.
- **Look** at the child when they are speaking and encourage them to look at you so that they can imitate how to say words or sounds correctly.
- **Read** to the child.
- **Listen and respond** to the child's message (not the exact pronunciation of the words).
- **Repeat** the child's sentences if their speech is not clear (e.g. child: “Dat my deen tar.” adult: “Yes, that's your green car.”). By repeating what your child has said you are producing a good language model and you are also showing that you have listened to what the child has said.
- **Show:** Ask the child to show you what they are talking about if you don't understand what they have said. Ask for ONE repetition and try to have a guess. Don't be afraid of saying you can't understand what the child has said.

### What activities can help improve articulation (pronunciation and talking)?

- **Naming** items together when completing tasks such as looking at a book, in the car, looking outside, while playing and during shopping.
- **Copying** facial expressions in the mirror (e.g. smiling, kissing, licking lips).
- **Playing** something together that the child really enjoys and throughout the game model words with which they are having difficulty.
- **Modeling** and using different sounds during interactions and in play (e.g. “s” is the snake sound, “sh” the baby is sleeping).
- **Listening to** and identifying sounds in words (e.g. “shoe” starts with the “sh” sound).
- **Correcting:** If a child says a word incorrectly, model the correct production back to them but there is no need to make them say it again (e.g. child: “Look at the tat”. adult: “Yes, it's a cat” and then continue with the conversation). This helps to provide a subtle, positive correction by modeling the correct response rather than highlighting that the child has said it incorrectly.

Liz Dahlen and Caitlin Mosel, Speech/Language Pathologists, Holmen Public Preschool

The above information was gathered from: <https://childdevelopment.com.au/areas-of-concern/talking/articulation-pronunciation-and-talking/>





# VIKING ELEMENTARY & HOLMEN PUBLIC PRESCHOOL



## READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

**MARCH 3-7, 2025**



### DRESS-UP DAYS



#### Monday

Cozy Up with a Good Book  
(Wear your pajamas or something comfy.)

#### Tuesday

Friendship Is a Rainbow  
(Wear your grade's color.)

#### Wednesday

Aliens vs. Cowboys:  
a Friendly Competition  
(Dress like you're  
from or going to space or  
wear your western best.)

#### Thursday

Twin Day  
(Dress like a friend.)

#### Friday

Peace and Friendship  
(Wear your grooviest, 70s or tie dye  
inspired outfit. We will all be wearing  
friendship bracelets from the LMC.)

We will celebrate  
reading with:  
a read-a-thon, treats,  
prizes, dress-up days,  
contests, book trivia,  
and more!

### TUESDAY IS COLOR DAY!

4K/EC: black

Kindergarten: red

1st grade: orange

2nd grade: yellow

3rd grade: green

4th grade: blue

5th grade: white





SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HOLMEN

*MAKE OUR LUCKY DAY!*

Visit our EMPLOYMENT tab and apply via WECAN today

*Sub Custodian - \$16.80*

*Sub Cook - \$15.50*

*Sub Bus - \$22.00*

*Sub Van - \$17.30*

