

Holmen Public Preschool NEWSLETTER

4K & Early Childhood Services
Viking Elementary

Public Preschool Office

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Ms. Sue Eitland, Principal
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Dates to Remember

April 5th: No School

April 17th: Early Release
No school for EC/4K Students

Please join us for Story Time at
the Holmen Public Library from
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.



From the principal's desk...

Can you believe it's already April? We hope you and your family were able to get out and enjoy your favorite activities over Spring Break!

Thank you

- The EC/4K staff would like to thank families for attending Conferences in March. The partnership between home and school plays a significant role in the ongoing success of your child.
- We would also like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the families who provided items for a teacher meal during our longer work days (Conferences). Your generosity and kindness is appreciated!

4K/EC Information

- During the month of April, we will be practicing the following safety drills.
 - Tornado Drill: during Severe Weather Awareness Week from April 8th – 12th, plus one additional practice drill (One drill in AM and one in PM)
 - The Transportation Department will also be having evacuation drills April 15th – 19th.

The EC/4K staff do an excellent job of preparing the children for these drills and assuring them that they are not real, but we want them to know what to do if there ever IS a real emergency. Should you have questions, feel free to contact your child's teacher or me.

- With only nine weeks left of the 2023-24 school year, we will continue to focus on the social-emotional components of the school day with our EC/4K friends. We want them to go into Kindergarten with confidence, knowing school expectations (safe, respectful, and responsible), being able to identify their emotions, and having tools to resolve friendship issues in an empathetic, fair, and kind/respectful manner. Research has shown that having a strong foundation in social-emotional skills will also support children's academic learning as they continue on their educational journey.
- As always, please reach out if there is something we can do to support your child's school experiences!

~Ms. Eitland

School District Open Enrollment

Wisconsin's inter-district 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 2024-25 school year is from February 5 - April 30, 2024 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, 2024. 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](tel:608.526.1309).

Don't Forget!

Wednesday, April 17th

is a District Early Release Day.

Therefore, **EC/4K students will not have school!** Feel free to join us for Story Time at the Holmen Public Library from 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

SPRING



There is No School on Friday, April 5th!



From the Health Office
Emily Hanes BSN, RN

2024-2025 Kindergarten Immunization Requirements:

Students going into Kindergarten next fall will need to have the following immunizations on file with the school or the appropriate waiver in place:

- * 5 doses of DTaP/DTP/DT (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis)
- * 4 doses of Polio
- * 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- * 2 doses of MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella)
- * 2 doses of Varicella (chickenpox)

Your primary care provider can provide these immunizations. The La Crosse County Public Health Department also offers these immunizations. La Crosse County Public Health Department's phone number is 608-785-9723.

Bike and Wheels Safety for Kids

Top Tips



Before riding or wheeling:

- Every child (whether riding a tricycle or bike or as a passenger on an adult's bike) must wear a well-fitting helmet. The helmet should bear a sticker saying it meets standards set by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).
- Always purchase tricycles and bicycles that are the right size for the child.
- Always take the child to the store when purchasing a helmet to ensure proper fit.

During riding or wheeling:

- Always supervise your children.
- Never allow children to ride in the street.
- Do not let children wear long or loose clothing (including dresses and wide-legged pants) that can get caught in bike chains or wheel spokes.
- Don't allow children to ride when it's dark.

Virtual Backpack

The School District of Holmen utilizes a “green” approach for distributing flyers from community organizations, and has discontinued the process of sending paper flyers in your student’s backpack unless they are school related. The information is divided into three sections, by grade levels, and updated on a regular basis.

Click on this link: <https://www.holmen.k12.wi.us/community/pre-k-elementary-school-flier.cfm> to be directed to the actual webpage which is housed in the COMMUNITY/PARTNERS tab of the homepage.

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.

Creative Curriculum Interest Area: Music and Movement

This month’s information focuses on the Music and Movement interest area. Children do a lot of singing and creative movement while at school. Singing and moving to music provides them with an opportunity to hear and appreciate different kinds of music, express themselves through their movement, and practice new skills. The children love singing and dancing, and it helps them learn to cooperate in a group as well. Listed below are some of the things we do to encourage a love for music and movement:

- Listen to different kinds of music.
- Play instruments to make our own music.
- Use props, like scarves and streamers, to use while we move to the music.
- Use little songs and rhymes to help us get through the daily routine, like clean-up time and walking in the hall.

What Parents Can Do At Home

You don’t have to play an instrument or sing in key to enjoy music with your child. Taking a few minutes to sit together and listen to music can provide a welcome break for both of you. Also, the music you share with your child doesn’t have to be “kids’ music” only. It can be reggae, country, jazz, classical, rap, or any other music you like (keeping the lyrics in mind, of course). Listed below are some ideas for enjoying music and movement with your child.

- Children love a song or chant about what they are doing at the moment, especially when it uses their name. While pushing your child on a swing, you might chant, “Swing high, swing low, this is the way that {your child’s name} goes.”
- Songs and finger plays help keep children occupied at challenging times, for instance, during long trips, while waiting in line, or when grocery shopping.
- Songs can ease your child into tasks like picking up toys, getting ready to go outside, undressing for a bath, and so on. You might try making up a chant to the tune of “Here We Go ‘round the Mulberry Bush” such as, “Water is filling up the tub, up the tub, up the tub...” or “Pick up a toy and put it away, put it away, put it away...”
- Musical instruments can be made or improvised at home easily. You and your child may have already discovered that many household items like pots, pans, and silverware make wonderful instruments.

Sharing music with your child is a wonderful way to build a warm, loving relationship. It’s a gift that will last forever.

Pyramid Model/PBIS: We Can Be Problem Solvers at Home!

The following link is a great resource for adults to help their children work through problem solving. There is a story outlining each step of the process, plus parent tips at the end, and solution cards you could cut out for you and your children to use. Give it a try and see how well it can work for your family!

https://challengingbehavior.org/docs/ProblemSolving_Story_Home_EN.pdf

SPRING BUS EVACUATIONS

Bus Evacuations will be practiced April 15 - 19. Evacuations are required two times each year and are an important item of safety training for all students. Drivers will announce in advance when they are completing evacuations and will attempt to do them on nice weather days. Drivers will review the proper procedures for exiting the bus through the emergency door, as well as additional safety information.



Please contact Transportation Services at (608) 526-4752 with questions.



Spring is a wonderful time to become a substitute in the School District of Holmen. Why? Because it's the time of year where we have the most opportunities for you to try different schools and grade levels, to see what you like best. We invite you to apply today: <https://www.teachersoncall.com/talent/apply-now>. Whether you're wanting to work a little or a lot, we have lots of bright smiles ready to greet you!

Receptive Language



What is receptive language (understanding words and language)?

Receptive language is the ability to understand words and language. It involves gaining information and meaning from routine (e.g. we have finished our breakfast so next it is time to get dressed), visual information within the environment (e.g. mum holding her keys means that we are going to get the car, a green light means go), sounds and words (e.g. a siren means a fire engine is coming down the street, the word ball means a round bouncy thing we play with), concepts such as size, shape, colors and time, grammar (e.g. regular plurals: cat/s, regular past tense: fetch/ed) and written information (e.g. signs in the environment like “no climbing”, written stories).

Why is receptive language (understanding words and language) important? Receptive language is important in order to communicate successfully. Children who have understanding difficulties may find it challenging to follow instructions at home or within the educational setting and may not respond appropriately to questions and requests. Within the school setting, difficulties in understanding may lead to attention and listening difficulties and/or behavioral issues. As most activities require a good understanding of language, it may also make it difficult for a child to access the curriculum or engage in the activities and academic tasks required for their year level of school.

What are the building blocks necessary to develop receptive language?

- **Attention and concentration:** Sustained effort, doing activities without distraction and being able to hold that effort long enough to get the task done.
- **Pre-language skills:** The ways in which we communicate without using words and include things such as gestures, facial expressions, imitation, joint attention and eye contact.
- **Social skills:** Determined by the ability to engage in reciprocal interaction with others (either verbally or non-verbally), to compromise with others, and be able to recognize and follow social norms.
- **Play skills:** Voluntary engagement in self-motivated activities that are normally associated with pleasure and enjoyment where the activities may be, but are not necessarily, goal oriented.

How can you tell if my child has problems with receptive language? If a child has difficulties with receptive language they might:

- Have difficulty attending and listening to language.
- Not pay attention within group times at kindergarten and school.
- Not follow instructions that others the same age would be able to follow.
- Respond to questions by repeating what you say instead of giving an answer.
- Find it difficult to listen to stories.
- Give unusual answers to questions.

*These difficulties may vary depending on the child’s age

What activities can help improve receptive language?

- **Name items** together when completing tasks, such as looking at a book, in the car, looking outside, while playing or when shopping.
- **Day to day activities:** When going shopping and visiting places, such as the park, zoo or museum encourage the child to talk about what you did and saw and possibly even draw or act out what happened.
- **Model new words:** Play activities with the child that they really enjoy and throughout the game model new words and phrases.
- **Explain new concepts** in different ways (e.g. looking at the concept of “wet”: use water to wet things and talk about things that are wet and dry; look at pictures of things that are “wet”; if it rains, or the child is in the bath, talk about the concept of being “wet”; make up sentences and stories about being wet/dry).
- **Simon says:** Take turns with the child in following and giving instructions. Also, gradually increase the length of the command that is provided (e.g. ‘Simon says touch your toes’; ‘Simon says first touch your toes, then clap your hands’; ‘Simon says before you shout hurrah, count to 10’). Additionally, reinforce body parts (e.g. pat your head, pull your ear) and simple verbs (e.g. jump, shake) when playing the activity.
- **Obstacle course:** Put together an obstacle course in the house or outside in the backyard. Take turns with the child in following and giving instructions. Gradually increase the length of the command that is provided (e.g. run to the sandpit; first run to the sandpit then crawl over to the bikes).
- **Feely bag game:** Place different everyday items/objects (e.g. toothbrush, car, cup, block) into a bag. Take turns with the child in taking an item out of the bag. Encourage the child to:
 - Reach into the bag and try to guess what the item is before taking it out.
 - Describe characteristics about the item once they have pulled it out of the bag (e.g. colour, shape, use/function).
 - Answer questions about the item that they have pulled out (e.g. Is it round? Can you eat it?).
 - Guess the item that you have pulled out of the bag by asking you questions (e.g. Is it round? Can you eat it?).
- **Books:** Look at picture books with the child. Take turns in asking each other questions about the pictures (e.g. Who is in the picture? What is the girl/boy doing?). Try to think about what might happen next in the story and different possible endings.

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

Above picture is copyrighted from: Shrimp Graphic – Fotolia and the information in the text is from the website: <https://childdevelopment.com.au/areas-of-concern/understanding-language/receptive-language-understanding-words-and-language/>



2024 ELEMENTARY SUMMER SCHOOL

April Update



SUMMER SCHOOL NEWS

Summer school registration will soon be open for recommended students! Families of recommended students should have received an email containing information about their student's recommendation.

Registration for recommended students will take place from **April 2nd to April 4th, 2024**. Keep an eye out for an email at 7:00 a.m. on April 2nd with the registration link.

Remember to register early, as even those who register on the first day could end up on a waiting list.

ALL students will have an opportunity to register for any potential remaining grade level spaces from April 9th - April 11th

REGISTRATION TIMELINE

April 2: Registration Link will be emailed at 7:00 a.m. only to families of recommended students

April 2 - 4: Families can register any of their children who were recommended.

April 9: Registration Link will be emailed to ALL families at 7:00 a.m.

April 9 - 11: Families of ALL students can register by grade level for any remaining grade level spots.

April 30: Families will be informed if children are enrolled or on the waiting list for their grade level

CONTACT US

LEARN MORE >>

Or Need Help With Registration?



Sue Eitland, Summer School Principal

608-526-3316, ext. 4133

Kristy McKnight, Administrative Assistant

608-526-3316



WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN?

WHO?

Students who will enter Kindergarten through 5th grade in the Fall of 2024

WHAT?

Kindergarten will be a class called, Ready, Set, Let's Learn or RSL. Grades 1 - 5 have reading, math, and enrichment

WHERE?

Evergreen Elementary School

WHEN?

July 8th - July 25th, 2024

REMINDERS



Completing the registration form **does NOT guarantee enrollment**



All students are enrolled on a first come - first served basis. Mark your calendars and submit the registration form as early as possible



Once spaces in the grade level are filled, we will place students on a waiting list. This may occur even if you complete the registration process right away on the first available registration date as we have limited spots available in each grade level



By April 30th, we will notify all families whether their child is enrolled or placed on the waiting list

DON'T LET APRIL SHOWERS
KEEP YOU AWAY...

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
HOLMEN IS HIRING TODAY!

\$15.00
SUB
COOK

\$16.80
SUB
VAN
DRIVER

\$21.00
SUB
BUS
DRIVER

\$16.30
SUB
CUSTODIAN

APPLY VIA [WECAN](#) OR STOP BY THE
DISTRICT OFFICE FOR A PAPER APPLICATION



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HOLMEN IS AN EOE