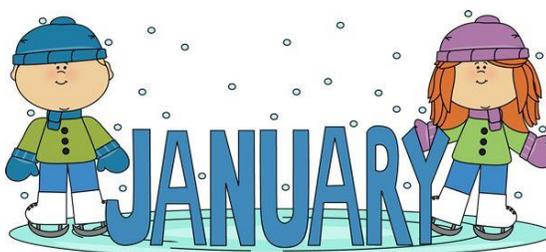


Holmen Public Preschool Office
Viking Elementary School
500 East Wall St.
Holmen, WI 54636

Ms. Sue Eitland, Principal
eitsue@holmen.k12.wi.us
608.526.3316



From the principal's desk...

Happy New Year!

We hope you and your family enjoyed the Winter Break and that you are ready for a wonderful 2024! A friendly tip for helping your children get off to a good start in the New Year is to maintain consistent routines in their daily schedule. If there will be a change, let them know well in advance in order to avoid unexpected big feelings. Visuals are a great way to remind your children of what to expect “next.”

With students returning to school on January 2nd, it would be a good idea to ensure the extra set of clothing you have sent to school still fits and is appropriate for the winter temperatures. Please also check that mittens/gloves are not too tight. Thank you.

The end of the second quarter is coming up on January 19th. It has been so enjoyable to watch the children play, learn, and grow during the first half of the school year! They are becoming more independent in various ways. We ask that you please continue encouraging their independence at home with tasks such as putting toys away where they belong before moving on to the next activity, cleaning up their own accidental spills, and getting winter gear on and off. You may need to plan for 10 additional minutes for the children to get dressed before leaving home so that it becomes a natural part of their daily routine.

As you know, when there is a District Early Release Day, our 4K/EC students do not have school. Please note: In January, we do NOT have a District Early Release Day, so we WILL have school on January 10th. There are two additional No School Days during the month of January. Please check them out in the “Dates to Remember” section of this newsletter, so your family is prepared in advance.

Mark your calendars now to attend the Family Math Night event on Thursday, February 1st from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Viking Elementary! You will learn about the math concepts we focus on during 4K, play a variety of games, and make/take some enjoyable family math games/activities, as well! You will not want to miss this special night!

Don't forget to check out the Virtual Backpack under the Community/Partners tab on the district's website (www.holmen.k12.wi.us) for additional educational opportunities, activities, and events available in our area. You may also wish to “Like” the Holmen Public Preschool Facebook page where you will find announcements, pictures, and links to articles pertaining to EC/4K.

Thank you for your ongoing support, which allows us to accomplish our program's mission and vision! We look forward to seeing you soon!

~Sue Eitland, 4K/EC Principal



Speech and Language

Holmen Public Preschool Resource

Provided by: Liz Dahlen and Caitlin Mosel, Speech-Language Pathologists

TRY THIS ACTIVITY

Play houses have been shown, through research, to elicit more language than a train set or cars. Labeling items & activities in the house is extremely functional and concrete for your child. Try...

Naming: all the items in the house that are furniture, things to cook with...

Describing: "the bed and pillow are soft" "the table is hard"

Verbs: "what are some activities you could do in the kitchen/ bedroom/ bathroom?"

Prepositions: "put the girl *on* the bed" "the dog is sitting *under* the table"

Sequence: the steps to get ready for bed with the dolls

FOCUS ON...VOCABULARY

Vocabulary development can vary greatly from child to child. Generally, first words should coincide with first steps. By toddler age, children will start to combine words into phrases. How can you boost your child's expressive and receptive vocabulary development?

Talk, talk & talk some more! Relatively simple, but immensely important. Try narrating your actions while interacting with your child. This technique is two-fold, exposing your child to more words, grammar and expression as well as relating it to concrete items around you.

Bombard your child with a single word. Pick one word to focus on during play and say this word over and over in many different contexts. It can feel overwhelming to be charged with increasing your child's vocabulary. Pick one word at a time to focus on and set realistic goals for you and your child.

Boost receptive vocabulary. This refers to what your child can understand separate from what they are expressing. Receptive language skills are the building blocks to later expression. Ask your child to point to pictures in a book or 'go find' different toys. Start with simple one-step directions then increase to two.

BOOK NOOK

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

This book has many different opportunities for vocabulary development with lots of types of food featured. Try categorizing the foods into fruits, vegetables and sweets. There are also plenty of new opportunities for word development including words like 'chrysalis' and 'cocoon.'

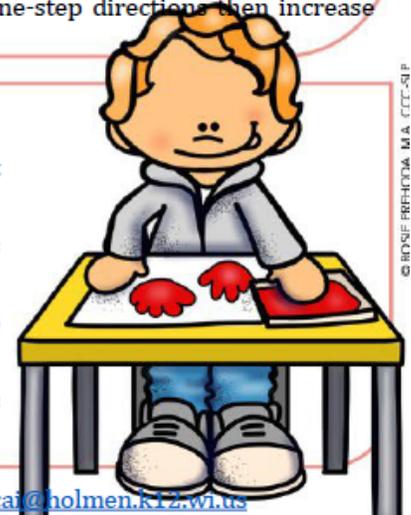
STRATEGY OF THE MONTH: WORD PLAY

Finding new and interesting ways to challenge your child with words is great way to keep them engaged and learning. Target these skills:

Categories—working on categorization helps form connections between words and organizes an internal word filing cabinet.

Context Clues—giving your child clues or describing features of their favorite toys stimulates early inferencing and main idea skills.

Word Associations— "which two things go together? juice, dog & milk" This also helps with identifying features and categorizing.



CONTACT INFO: Liz Dahlen, daheli@holmen.k12.wi.us Caitlin Mosel: moscai@holmen.k12.wi.us

News from Reading Together

Welcome 2024, and a new year of reading adventures! January marks the mid-year for our Reading Together program, and current students will be reassessed later this month. Some students may graduate from the program, while others may be invited to join, based on their teacher's recommendations.

Students in Reading Together have been working hard on learning to recognize letters, concepts of print and letter sounds. Some examples include recognizing the title of a book, where to begin reading, what a word looks like and tracking print from left to right.

Students will also continue to enjoy our collection of winter books and activities using the Echo Reading strategy. Some examples of echo reading books include Blue Hat, Green Hat (by Sandra Boynton) or Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? (by Eric Carle). These types of books allow us to read the text on one page and have the student repeat or "echo" the words. This strategy is very empowering and helps build confidence and skills. You may also practice the Echo Reading strategy at home. Here is a link to a video of a teacher and student reading Little Blue Truck together. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt1Twhs8KiA>

The La Crosse County Libraries have events and classes starting in January including Baby Bop, Tales for Twos and Teen Time/Bingo. Please visit their websites or click on the provided link for more information. <https://lacrossecounty.org/library/home-nav/youth-programming>

Quick Tip: If families are able to read together for 20 minutes each day, you can expose your child to 1.8 million words a year!

Hope your child is enjoying our reading together program.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Mrs. Sara Roemen
roesar@holmen.k12.wi.us

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| January 2 | Classes Resume |
| January 10 | NO district Early Release – EC/4K students DO HAVE SCHOOL |
| January 15 | No School |
| January 19 | End of 2 nd Quarter |
| January 22 | No School – Professional Development Day for Staff |



There is No School on Monday, January 15th and Monday, January 22nd, 2024. Enjoy the three-day weekends!



Virtual Backpack

The School District of Holmen has implemented 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.

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)

THANK YOU!!

WE APPRECAITE ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR VIKING ELEMENTARY & HOLMEN PUBLIC PRESCHOOL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE!



Creative Curriculum Interest Area: Discovery Center

Young children have many questions about the world around them. They ask “Where did the puddle go?” “What do worms eat?” “How can I make my truck go faster?” “Do fish go to sleep?”

In the classroom, the Discovery Area is a place where children can explore and investigate to answer their questions. They may observe, experiment, measure, solve problems, take things apart, and explore the materials and living things that are available to them. They make guesses about what will happen, based on what they know so far.

In the Discovery Area, children do what scientists do – ask questions, plan and conduct investigations, gather information, construct an explanation, and communicate findings. They also learn important concepts in science as they study plants and animals; magnets; light; shadows; properties of materials; how things work; our senses; and more. In addition to learning science content, they learn how to solve problems together and how to communicate with others.

Discovery - What You Can Do At Home

Young children are curious and love to investigate. You do not need to be an expert to help your child learn about science. Science is all around us – from making bubbles in the bathtub to making ice cubes. Your enthusiasm and positive attitude about science will be contagious. Get in the habit of wondering out loud (“I wonder how that ant can carry such a big piece of food.” “I wonder why your shadow is sometimes small and sometimes big.”). The kinds of questions you ask and statements you make when your child is exploring will help develop his scientific thinking skills. Here are some examples:

What do you think will happen if...?

I wonder why...

How do you think we can find out...?

Look for opportunities to develop your child’s scientific thinking during everyday activities: while playing with toys, taking a bath, helping to bake cookies, playing in the backyard, or going for a walk. Remember, you don’t need to know all the answers! It’s a good sign if your child is curious, wants to discover everything, asks lots of questions, and wants more answers. You can take the opportunity to learn with your child as you both investigate the endless possibilities!

Be Prepared for Inclement Weather or Emergencies

As a reminder, The School District of Holmen utilizes a text message notification system to alert families and staff about emergencies, including school closings due to inclement weather.

Additionally, we will communicate information regarding school closings or delays on the following platforms:

1. District's Homepage: [www.holmen.k12.wi.us]
2. Facebook Page:
[<https://www.facebook.com/holmenschools>]
3. Instagram Page:
[<https://www.instagram.com/holmenschooldistrict>]
4. Local Media Outlets:
[WXOW, WKBT, WEAU, La Crosse Tribune]

We encourage you to stay connected with us through these channels to receive timely updates on any changes to the school schedule due to inclement weather.

The safety and well-being of our students and staff are our top priorities, and we want to ensure that everyone is prepared and informed during these situations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the District Office at, 608.526.6610.

Please note:

If there is a 2-hour school delay, the AM session of Early Childhood and 4K will be cancelled for the day, but the PM session will run as usual.

If school is cancelled or if there is an early release due to inclement weather, all Public Preschool activities and programs for the remainder of the day/evening will also be postponed.



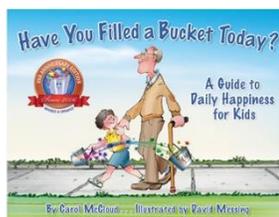
WI Pyramid Model/PBIS News – Cool Tools (lesson plans, resources, etc.)

At the beginning of the school year, teachers and students discussed what safe, respectful, and responsible behaviors look like and what the children should do (how they should behave) in each area of the classroom and in the various locations while they are at school (i.e. hallway, bathroom, playground, bus, etc.). These specific actions are placed on a chart that we call our Matrix of behavior expectations. We believe the matrix is clear and easy for children to understand.

The Public Preschool staff will be re-teaching expectations (Be safe, Be respectful, Be responsible) to students in January. This is one of the most important parts of our PBIS/Pyramid Model/Courteous Critters initiative: directly teaching and re-teaching skills and expectations to students through cool tools (i.e. lesson plans, resources, etc.)! You may even wish to create a similar matrix of expected behaviors to use at home. There is a template for you to use on the next page of the newsletter should that be something you would find useful.

In addition to the matrix, another cool tool/resource is one that some families have already put to good use: the PBIS Resource Library. In this library, there are books adults can check out that might help your family work through feelings or issues your child may be having at home or elsewhere, such as dealing with a new baby in the family or the loss of a loved one, etc. We also have books pertaining to specific feelings, as well as other types of situations.

This month, we would like to highlight the book, “Have You Filled a Bucket Today?”



DESCRIPTION:

This heartwarming book encourages positive behavior by using the concept of an invisible bucket to show children how easy and rewarding it is to express kindness, appreciation, and love by "filling buckets." The updated and revised 10th anniversary edition of this best-selling, award-winning, 32-page picture book will help readers better understand that "bucket dipping" is a negative behavior, not a permanent label. It also explains that it's possible to fill or dip into our own buckets.

Parents should let their child's teacher know if they would like to check out a book from our PBIS Resource Library, and it can be sent home with the student. When you're finished with the book, please return it to school in your child's backpack. The PBIS Resource Library can be used throughout the entire school year. We hope you will continue to take advantage of it!

In future issues of the newsletter and on our Holmen Public Preschool Facebook page, we will continue sharing articles to help your child with matters pertaining to their social-emotional development. Please keep your child's teacher apprised of any matters that may be impacting your child, as well, so that they can support him/her while at school.

Preschool Pride Matrix for Home

What does it look like to be safe, respectful, and responsible at home?

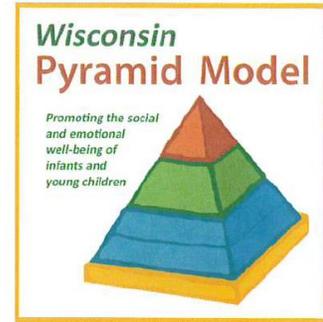
*State expectations clearly and positively
("Use inside voices" instead of "No shouting!" or "Hands to self" rather than "No hitting!")*

	Bathroom	Mealtime	Car	In the house	Outside
Safe					
Respectful					
Responsible					

Try to think of some ways you can "recognize" your child being safe, respectful and responsible (i.e. choose a family game to play; read 2 books instead of only 1 at bedtime; etc.). Even simple "I noticed you..." comments can be very powerful in promoting appropriate behaviors. ☺

Providing Descriptive Feedback to Young Children

- Descriptive Feedback can help children remain interested and motivated.
- Descriptive feedback focuses on effort, thinking and problem solving. It can be a difficult skill for adults to master and may take some planning to use.
- Descriptive feedback differs from praise. Praise is often generic, includes evaluative language or comments on the person or personality.



The table below outlines skills to target descriptive feedback to children. The table includes comparisons between praise and descriptive feedback.

Skills to target for descriptive feedback	Descriptive Feedback example (increase use)	Praise examples (avoid use)
Transitioning between activities or environments	"You heard the whistle and remembered to line up....way to go!"	"Nice job."
Engaging in activities	"You are putting lots of detail in your picture; it is interesting how you put the red on top of the yellow."	"That is a beautiful picture you painted!"
Meeting classroom/home expectations	"I see that you pushed the chairs in. That sure helps make our room look picked up after we play."	"You are helpful!"
Following directions	"Wow, when the bell rang, you followed directions and cleaned up the blocks just like we practiced."	"Good job!"
Using social skills	"You shared your play dough with Elliott. Look at his face. YOU made him pretty happy."	"You are a very generous person."
Expressing emotions	"Hunter stopped pushing you. Thanks for using your words to tell him to stop, it worked!"	"You were smart."
Becoming re-regulated enough to begin engaging in expected behavior	"You thought like a turtle and calmed yourself. It looks like you are ready to look at books with us"	"Way to go!"



Some descriptive feedback starters include:

- "I see that you are....."
- "I appreciate how you....."
- "You thought hard and then you..."
- "Thank you for....."
- "I saw how you...."
- "I heard you....."

Health Office Update:

Nurse: Emily Hanes BSN, RN

It's that time of the year when illnesses are on the rise! Please remember to keep your student home if: they are so sick that it would impede their learning, have a fever- may return when they are 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medication, vomiting, or diarrhea. Students do not need to stay home with pink eye unless they are very uncomfortable or unable to not touch their eye. Students with strep throat or impetigo are required to be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.

Here is a link to the district's illness guidelines for the 2023-24 school year.

<https://www.holmen.k12.wi.us/families/2023-2024-health-guidelines.cfm>

COVID-19 vs INFLUENZA vs COLD			
Symptoms	COVID-19	Influenza	Cold
Onset	Gradual	Rapid	1-2 days
Fever	Common	Common	Rare
Chills	Sometimes	Sometimes	Rare
Cough	Common	Common	Common
Short of breath	Common	Rare	Rare
Headache	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes - sinus
Muscle aches	Common	Common	Mild
Fatigue	Sometimes	Common	Mild
Stuffy/Runny nose	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
Sneezing	No	Rare	Common
Sore throat	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
Loss of smell	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes
Loss of taste	Sometimes	Rare	Sometimes
Itchy eyes	No	No	Rare
Ear ache	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes
Nausea	Sometimes	Sometimes	No
Diarrhea	Sometimes	Sometimes	No



START OFF 2024 WITH THE
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HOLMEN!

LEARN MORE OR APPLY TODAY:

WWW.HOLMEN.K12.WI.US/EMPLOYMENT

\$21.00/HR SUB BUS DRIVER

\$15.00/HR SUB COOK

\$16.30/HR SUB CUSTODIAN

SDH IS AN EOE

