

Holmen Public Preschool
4K & Early Childhood Services
500 East Wall St.
Holmen, WI 54636

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



2023

Newsletter

From the principal's desk

Thank you...

- Parents/Guardians - for attending Family/Teacher Conferences in October. Home and school collaboration is key to student success! Please reach out to your child's teacher if any questions arise throughout the school year.

Reminders...

- Public Preschool Outreach Events take place each District Early Release Day. On November 8th, join us at PALM + PINE Yoga Studio in the Holmen Square Mall from 10:30 – 11:15. If you and your child are able to attend, please make certain you are on time for the session!
- If you haven't already, it's time to dig out your children's winter gear (coat, mittens, hats, boots, snow pants, etc.) now that the weather has turned colder. Remember to label their clothing. We do play outside most days.

Dates to Remember

- Nov. 3rd** End of 1st Quarter
- Nov. 5th** Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov. 6th** No School – Staff Dev. Day
- Nov. 8th** No School for EC/4K students
PALM + PINE Yoga Opportunity
- Nov. 10th** Progress Reports sent home
- Nov. 16th** WI Pyramid Model/Literacy Night
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 13th – 17th**: American Education Week
- Nov. 22nd – 24th**: No School; Thanksgiving Break

From the principal's desk *(continued)*

What's New this month in 4K/EC?

- We're looking for volunteers to approve fall PreK PTO mini grants for classrooms. This involves reading through the grants submitted and determining whether it should be granted. Everything is done via email. Contact me soon if you can help! eitsue@holmen.k12.wi.us or 608.526.3316
- We will be having our first Lockdown safety drill in November. There are two Lockdown drills throughout the school year. By practicing planned procedures, we will be better prepared in the event of an actual emergency.
 - A letter will be sent home in the next week or so with more details.
 - Be assured that teachers do introduce this safety drill to the children in a developmentally appropriate manner.
 - Our message to students is that when they hear a Lockdown announcement, they are to immediately stop what they are doing; turn off voices; and look to their teachers for directions.
 - After this Lockdown Safety Drill, follow-up information will be sent to families.
- Please take time to review the "Dates to Remember." Hope to see you again soon!

If you have questions regarding any information in this newsletter, please contact your child's teacher or me at your convenience. Thank you.

~ Sue Eitland, Principal

BATTLE OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FOOD DRIVE

**Help support Holmen's Hope and the
Weekend Backpack Food Program!**

All food will go to families in Holmen!



November 13-17, 2023

The school that collects the most
items will win a **SCHOOL WIDE MOVIE!**

Items Needed

**Since this is for the backpack program, please send only items that
are listed below!**

- *Hormel Complete Meals *Cracker with Cheese Snacks
- * Microwaveable Mac and Cheese cups *Microwaveable Popcorn
- *Ramen Cups *Fruit/Applesauce Cups
- *Granola Bars *Breakfast Bars *Oatmeal Packets
- *Easy Open canned Ravioli, Spaghetti, Soup, Beef Stew
- *Personal Hygiene Items



“Meet the Staff”



Hello, my name is Amy Gasch. This is my fifth year as a 4K teacher in the Holmen Public Preschool Program, and my 14th year teaching. Prior to working in Holmen, I taught in Lawrence, MA. While there I mostly taught 4K, but I did loop with my class to kindergarten for two school years. When we returned to the area, I stayed home with my daughters, and then eventually worked at their preschool. When I am away from work, I enjoy spending time with my family. We like hiking, reading, playing games, watching movies, going to plays, traveling, and attending many of the wonderful events put on by the community. I am enjoying getting to know all of my new 4K friends in class. We plan to have lots of fun and exciting adventures as we play, learn and grow together!

Hello families! My name is “Ms. Debbie” Butzler and I am the Educational Assistant in Mrs. Gasch’s classroom at Viking Elementary. Some of our families may also have spoken to me at the bus stop as I pick up your child for school. I have been working with the Holmen Public Preschool since the 4K program started 15 years ago and I subbed in the District for 4 years prior to that. My husband Jack and I live in Holmen. We have two sons and one daughter: Zachary, Matthew and Jenna. Zachary is married and lives and works in Minneapolis while Matthew lives and works outside of Chicago. Jenna lives and works in La Crosse. Our family likes to go hiking in our nation’s national parks and also in our parks in Wisconsin. Some of my additional hobbies include gardening, antique shopping and upcycling. I truly enjoy helping support children in their learning and I look forward to meeting the new students and their families each year.



Hi! I am Ms. Jodi and I am one of the Early Childhood Special Education teachers. I have been working with the district since 2017 and absolutely love being a part of the Early Childhood/4K program. I enjoy getting to work with many children to help them learn and grow! I currently live in Holmen with my husband Matt, our 10 year old son, Soren and dog, Marley. Soren started 5th grade this year and it's been so exciting to watch him learn so many new things! In our free time, we enjoy hiking, biking, boating and anything outdoors! I also enjoy reading, as well. I am looking forward to continuing to get to know your child and your family this school year!

Hi! My name is Jackie Guetschow and I am an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher. I have been teaching at Holmen Public Preschool since 2010! I support young students with IEPs in our Early Childhood program, in 4K classrooms, in children's homes and other settings. I live in La Crosse with my husband Jeff. We have been married 29 years this past June. I have 3 adult daughters; Naomi, Jasmine and Kira, one son-in-law and one soon to be son-in-law. I love working here because we have a wonderful team who gives their all to support our students!



“Meet the Staff”



Hello! My name is Vanessa Jagim, I am an early childhood special education teacher in 4K and Early Childhood at Viking Elementary. My husband and I live in Holmen with our two girls who attend Evergreen Elementary. I am a big animal lover and I have two dogs, a beagle named Riggins and a yorkie named Zoey. I stay very busy with our kids' sports and activities. In my free time I like to be outside with my family, often building forts in the woods and geocaching. I love to go hiking with my family and our dogs whenever we get a chance. I am excited about being a part of the 4K/Early Childhood team and look forward to a great year.

Hi! My name is Allyson Wozney and I am an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher. This is my first year at Holmen Public Preschool. I support young students with IEPs in our Early Childhood program, in 4K classrooms, and in children's homes and other settings. I live in Onalaska with my husband and children. I have a son in 1st grade, a daughter in 4K, and two naughty cats. I am excited to join the Early Childhood team in Holmen!



Hello! My name is Emily Gardner, and I am one of the 4K and Early Childhood EAs. I grew up in Trempealeau and moved back to the area after graduating from college. I love this beautiful area and being part of this amazing community! In my free time I love hiking and taking my pets for walks or going exploring with my young cousins at local businesses and parks.

I am Missy, a special education assistant, with 19 years of experience. My husband and I have two sons and lived most of our past years in Illinois. We relocated to Holmen over a year ago and just love the area, as well as the community. Our family enjoys spending time outdoors and watching sports on tv.



Hello, my name is Jody Englerth and this is my 7th year with the Holmen School District and my 2nd year with 4K and Early Childhood as a special education assistant. I previously worked at both Evergreen and Sand Lake Elementary. I live in Holmen with my husband, Matt. We have 4 boys, the older three currently live in Madison and the youngest is a sophomore at Holmen High School. When I am not at school, I love to read, go to the theater, travel and spend time with my family. I am happy to be part of the 4K and Early Childhood team and I am looking forward to a wonderful year!



From November 13th – November 17th, the Holmen Public Preschool Program will be celebrating *American Education Week*. We will bring a guest reader into the classroom to share a favorite book with the children. You may also like to wish all those who help educate your child a great week (i.e. teacher, specialists, daycare provider, bus driver, etc.)!

The Holmen Public Preschool staff would like to reaffirm our commitment to early learning. We recognize that we all share in the responsibility of educating our students. As always, families are encouraged to participate in our program's family outreach events and contact us if we can be of assistance to you and your child. Thank you, once again, for your partnership with us!



News from Reading Together

Hello Families! As the students have become more familiar with their daily routines, we have started our Reading Together program. Some families may have received a welcome letter packet outlining the benefits of our Reading program. Throughout the school year, these students will read one on one, or in small groups, for a short period of time each week. We read books related to the 4K theme of the week, seasonal books, and work together to better understand concepts of print. Some examples of concept of print include; the parts of a book, the difference between a letter and a word and answering comprehension questions after completing the book.

We have also introduced a new strategy of reading with your child called Echo Reading. This strategy helps by including the student in the reading process and encouraging the student to become an active listener. When Echo Reading, the adult reads the words out loud and the child echoes the words back to them. This is a fun way to read at home as well. Choose board books or books with short sentences. Read out loud and track the words with your finger as you read. Let your child repeat the words to you, by tracking the words with their finger as well. This strategy is very empowering and builds confidence by showing the students that they can “read” too!

Here are a few links regarding our Reading Together program and also demonstrating the Echo Reading Strategy.

<https://www.holmen.k12.wi.us/families/reading-together.cfm>
<https://www.holmen.k12.wi.us/families/helpful-links.cfm>
<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/videos/echo-reading-video-2/>

Thank you for your support of the Reading Together Program. Please reach out at any time if you have any questions.

Mrs. Sara Roemen
Reading Together Facilitator
roesar@holmen.k12.wi.us
608-526-3316 ext 4109

*Happy
Thanksgiving
To You*

Wishing you and your family a day to remember. One filled with laughter and joy, great conversation, along with thankful hearts and a renewed appreciation for all that life has to offer.

Don't Forget!

Wednesday, November 8th is a District Early Release Day. Therefore, **EC/4K students will not have school!** Please join our staff at **PALM + PINE Yoga Studio** in Holmen Square Mall at 10:30 a.m. There will be a sign-in sheet for us to keep track of # of participants. Hope to see you there!

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
- 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
608.526.6610



There is No School on Wednesday, November 22nd, Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th. Classes will resume on Monday, November 27th.

Happy Thanksgiving from our school “family” to yours!

SAFETY DRILLS throughout the 2023-24 School Year

Within the Public Preschool Program, safety is a priority. Throughout the school year, students and staff practice various safety drills/procedures (fire, evacuation, lockdown, etc.) that will be used in emergency situations. It is our belief that by practicing planned procedures, we will be better prepared in the event of an actual emergency.

Are you missing social connections? Need heating assistance? Job insecurity? The Parenting Place can help. They provide assistance with housing, parenting, food resources, and more. Call (608)792-3923 for more information.

A special “Thank You” is extended to all service members as we honor you on Veterans Day. Your commitment to the people of our country is greatly appreciated!



Speech & Language

Holmen Public Preschool Resource

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

Try This Activity

Arts and crafts is the perfect way to practice following directions. Give your child the steps to complete a craft. Here's some ways to incorporate directions into arts & crafts:

Give them directions to color a picture. "first color the apple red then color the cup purple"

Cut and paste activity. Give them the steps one by one. "first cut triangles for the eyes, then a circle for the nose."

Let your child be the teacher! After modeling how to give a direction a few times, let them direct you on how to color a picture.

Focus on RECEPTIVE SKILLS

Receptive language refers to what we can understand separate from what we express. For example, your child may be able to point to a picture of a car on command but is not saying the word "car" just yet. Typically, a child's receptive skill level is higher or more well developed than their expressive. This is very common among both typically developing children and those with language delays. Here are some skills to focus on receptive language:

Following directions is an extremely important skill that will follow a child all the way through schooling. Being able to focus in, comprehend and execute an auditory direction may be a challenge for your active preschooler. Try giving directions one concrete step at a time. Rather than the broad, "clean up your toys," say, "put the blocks in the bin" "put the dolls in the house."

Receptive vocabulary is very important to building later language skills. Point out new vocabulary words to your child during book reading.

Comprehending concepts such as, prepositions, "on, in over, under", quantitative sums "more, less" and qualitative words "big, little, fast, slow" are important for describing and following directions.

BOOK NOOK

Press Here
by Herve Tullet

An interactive book great for following directions. The child is directed to touch the dots in a specific way, which causes the dots to change position or size on each page. Your little one will love the interactive nature of the pictures and they'll be following directions to boot!

STRATEGY OF THE MONTH: FOLLOW THEIR LEAD

Following the child's lead refers to engaging her in what she is interested in rather than trying to divert her attention to something else. Research has shown that when we use a preferred toy, a child is more likely to produce language and use communication acts more frequently than with a non-preferred toy.

Use this strategy to your advantage and get down on the floor with your child. Pay attention to the toys she gravitates to and attempt to insert language into the play. Start by labeling the actions and toys she is playing with, then try to prompt her to verbalize.



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From the Health Office:

Emily Hanes BSN, RN

Immunizations

Every state requires immunizations for students attending school or daycare. Immunizations protect students against disease that are preventable by vaccinations.

All students are required to have a copy of their immunization record or have a completed immunization waiver. School nurses report immunizations to the county to stay in compliance with Wisconsin's Student Immunization Law. If the school is not within 99% compliance, the school is required by law to exclude students from school that are not up-to-date on their immunizations or have not signed a waiver.

Age/Grade	Number of Doses				
Pre K (2 years through 4 years)	4 DTaP/DTP/DT	3 Polio	3 Hep B	1 MMR	1 Var
Kindergarten (through 5 th Grade)	4* DTaP/DTP/DT/Td	4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var

*Some students do require a 5th DTaP immunization depending on age of vaccination.



(Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)

Mark your calendars for the Holmen Public Preschool's PBIS/Pyramid Model/Literacy Event this month!

Thursday, November 16th
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. (Open House style – come and go as you wish)
Viking Elementary Cafeteria and Gym

Our staff will introduce families to a number of books for promoting social-emotional development and ways to share these books with your child. You will also learn about parent resources for encouraging reading and social-emotional development at home.

At the end of the evening, you will have a folder full of resources to take home. There will be refreshments provided and each EC/4K student will go home with a book!

We hope to see many families in attendance! An RSVP will be sent home soon. Please return it in your child's folder on or before Tuesday, November 7th if your family is able to join us for the PBIS/Literacy Event!

Be Safe
Be Respectful
Be Responsible

Holmen Public Preschool Staff

PTO News

Are you interested in being a member of one of the following committees? If so, please call us at 608.526.3316. We appreciate parents' willingness to assist in these areas!

- Mini Grant Committee (Approve or deny teacher mini grant requests; once in fall and once in spring)
- Staff Recognition Committee (Recognize EC/4K and/or district staff on behalf of EC/4K families during American Ed Week; Staff Appreciation Week; etc.)
- Special Event Volunteers (Planning, Set-Up, and/or Clean-Up during family events; Help facilitate stations during special events; provide food items or paper products; etc.)

Thank you for your consideration!

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HOLMEN

Are you looking for some extra income before the holidays?
Do you have some spare time to fill while enjoying retirement?



Visit the **EMPLOYMENT** tab on our website today to find the perfect fit for YOU!

\$16.30 SUB CUSTODIAN

\$21 SUB BUS DRIVER

\$16.80 SUB VAN DRIVER

\$15 SUB COOK

For more information, please reach out to Wendy McCoy

mccwen@holmen.k12.wi.us

608-526-1314

The SDH is an EOE