

SPENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PARENT NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

The Place to Succeed!
Every Student ~ Every Day



Wake up
SPRING

Gratitude! Maybe it is because my feet are still dancing from the Family Folk Dance Night, but I am filled with gratitude for all the amazing opportunities our children and families have to engage in activities that enhance the love of learning and strengthen our community. For example, tonight the gym was filled with dancing, history, and joy. For another example, the 4K students and families have many activities in the community throughout the year to learn more about places in our community and opportunities to engage in them. In April, we will have a Family Night coordinated by the Title 1 staff. So many great ways to learn, grow, and support each other!

Family involvement in children's learning has a huge impact on that learning, but that involvement is not always easy to do. Families may have work schedules, technology challenges, or other barriers that make involvement difficult. We have wonderful resources in our school that are here to help you participate in the big events as well as daily events, such as being in school daily, completing homework, and having adequate meals to eat. Please reach out to our school counselor, Mrs. Jeseritz, your child's teacher, me, or another staff member you know to help you make connections. We want to help all children and families be connected to school and learning.

Have a wonderful month and keep dancing!

-Mrs. Eide

REMINDER: The Wisconsin Forward State testing will take place April 3-18 for students in grades 3-5. Please help your child do their best by making sure they are in school on time and have a good breakfast either at home or school.

Children not present will need to make up missed test sessions before the window closes toward the end of April. We do many things to help make sure students are able to "show what they know," such as schedule only a few test sessions each day and test in the morning. Thank you for partnering with us to help your child complete the state testing!

MARCH

- 1 – Read Across America Day & Pajama Day
- 1 – 4th & 5th Graders to Logan Middle Music
- 1 – Lucky to be A Reader Daily Challenge Calendar Begins
- 4-8 – National School Breakfast Week
- 4 – NO SCHOOL
- 4 – Family Conferences
- 5 – 2nd Graders to GROW La Crosse
- 7 – ASYD Session 3 Clubs, 2:40 pm to 4 pm
- 7 – Family Play Catch Night, 6 pm to 7 pm
- 8 – Battle of the Books at UW-L
- 10 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 11 – Reading "JOGS" the mind – wear exercise clothes
- 12 – Readers are Leaders – dress for a job you'd like someday
- 12 – PTO Meeting, 6 pm in LMC
- 13 – Dress Like a Story Book Character
- 14 – Reading is "Fancy" – dress fancy today
- 14 – Lucky to Be a Reader Book Café
- 14 – ASYD Session 3 Clubs, 2:40 pm to 4 pm
- 14 – Family Play Catch Night, 6 pm to 7 pm
- 15 – Spence Apparel Dress-Up Day
- 15 – Irish Dance Performance for Students
- 19 – First Day of Spring
- 19 – 5th Graders All City Strings
- 21 – ASYD Session 3 Clubs, 2:40 pm to 4 pm
- 21 – Family Play Catch Night, 6 pm to 7 pm
- 22 – Exchange Student Presentation
- 27 – Movie Day PBIS Celebration
- 28-April 2 NO SCHOOL



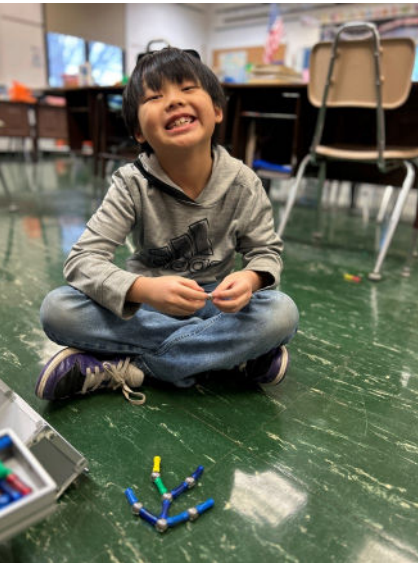
TEACHER REQUESTS

If you have a teacher request for the 2024-2025 school year, please write a short letter of request, including your rationale. Return it to the Spence office, addressed to Mrs. Eide. Do NOT send via email, as these are often misdirected to a SPAM folder.

Deadline for requests is April 12, 2024.

Late requests will not be accepted. All requests will be considered, but not guaranteed, as we work hard to create balanced classrooms.

GLOBAL SCHOOL PLAY DAY



"Over the past 50 years, kids have missed out on play. Evolutionary psychologist Dr. Peter Gray points to a decline in free play as the reason for an increase in anxiety and depression, a decline in empathy and rise in narcissism, and a decline in creativity. Kids today spend more of the year in school — five weeks more, on average, than 50 years ago — and more of that day is spent on academics. Most kids have only a few minutes of their school day for self-chosen free play."

-Parker Barry

<https://globalschoolplayday.com/research>



Spence Elementary is so lucky to have staff members that understand the importance of PLAY! We are so lucky to have participated in Global Play Day to pledge that we know there's so much more to play than "just playing!"



Media Balance Is Important 🌟



Good news:

Your kid is learning about media balance! What does that mean? They're learning to ...

- "Pause for people" and stop using devices when someone wants to talk.
- Know when it's time to move their bodies and go outside to play.
- Turn off screens before bedtime.
- Ask before they use a device, and stay on trusted sites and apps.
- Listen to their feelings and tell an adult if something makes them uncomfortable.

PBIS School-to-Home Connection

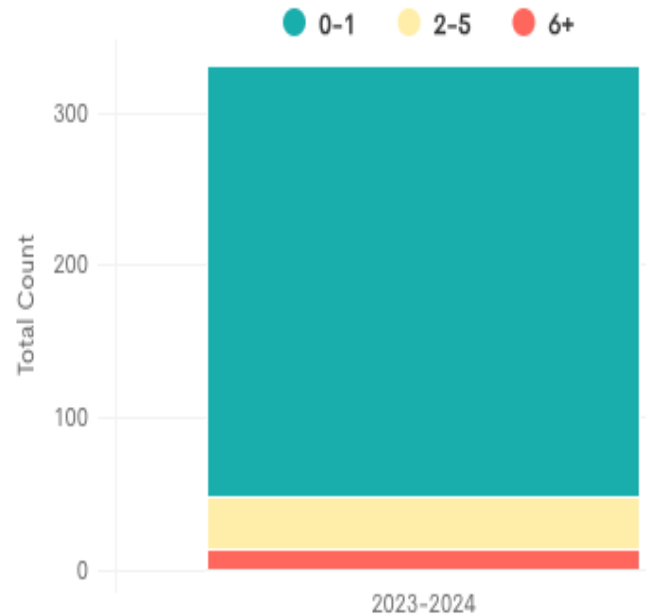
One of the ways that our PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) Tier 1 team measures our progress is by the number of behavior incidents that are documented by staff. The overall goal is to have more than 80% of our students with 0 or only 1 incident in a given time period. We are so proud of our entire school community this year because we have exceeded that goal with 85.5% of our students having 0 or only 1 incident so far this school year!

Keep it up, Mustangs!

-Spence PBIS Team

Positive Behavior Interventions & Support

Incident Ranges



Save the Date for Music

This year, our concerts for grades K through 5 will be at the Central High School Auditorium!

SAVE THE DATE: **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**

K & 1 @ 5:30 pm

2 & 3 @ 6 pm

4 & 5 @ 6:45 pm

Thanks for supporting Music in our school!!!

Amy Pierce

Music Specialist

Orchestra



The All-City Orchestra Festival Concert is coming up soon! The date is now March 19th, and this concert will begin at 7pm at the La Crosse Center. Students need to arrive at 6pm and be in their seats by 6:30.

This concert is free and open to the public! It will be a great concert filled with fun music at all the different levels (5th through 12th grade)!! If your student is interested in joining orchestra in the future or has been in orchestra in the past, this would be a great concert to go to because the audience will see the journey that our students go through from 5th grade until the time they graduate from High School. Hope to see you there!

UPDATES BY GRADE



February brought us beautiful weather and beautiful memories! Lots of learning and fun with Global Play Day, building ramps with Trane Company, Valentine's Day celebration, spreading kindness throughout our community with an awesome Kindness Week planned by Mrs. Jeseritz, our 100th day of learning, adding letters K and M to our letter wall, Mario Day, bikes and scooter fun outside, and Family Day at the Hmong Cultural Community Center. February is going to be tough to top, but we are so excited for all the growth and learning going on in preschool!



Literacy- In February, we continued to focus on letter identification, letter sounds, sight words, rhyming, syllables, letter formation, and word dictation. We also continued working on beginning, middle and ending sounds.

Math- Students completed our unit on subtraction. We have now started learning about numbers 11-20. We continue to work on number formation and counting.

Science/Social Studies- Our Science and Social Studies themes for February included: trees and weather and dental health

Writing- We finished our first unit for writing. The students are learning about opinion writing currently. They learned that an opinion is how they think or feel about something. The students have participated in a variety of writing activities and prompts in which they gave their opinion about a topic.

We had a fun trip to the La Crosse Public Library. They did a wonderful job planning fun activities for the students and letting us know all the great things the library has to offer!



This time of the year is very exciting in first grade. Students are making major progress in their reading and math skills! We are working on reading blends at the beginning and end of words as well as diving into the world of 'magic e'. Students will be practicing reading and writing words with long vowels and the 'Magic e'. In math, we continue to work on reading, writing, and showing models of tens and ones for place value. We will also be comparing numbers with greater than, less than, and equal symbols. We have been working on becoming proficient in counting numbers through 120. We have worked on our social studies unit about culture and will begin the science unit sound and light. We will continue to practice our Mustang Pride by learning how to be a good friend and a kind person through guidance and second step lessons.



Kindness Week was amazing! Our third-grade classes worked hard to show kindness around the school and in their community! Painting and hiding kindness rocks was a highlight! We are looking forward to sharing all about your child's success at parent/teacher conferences.

In math, it's all about FRACTIONS! (equal parts of a whole, fractions of a set, and on a number line). We continue to review multiplication/division strategies and facts. We are starting an OPINION WRITING unit. In your opinion, what is the best elementary school? HA, HA, HA! Spence, of course! Lastly, the 3rd graders will be switching classrooms for science to learn about: weather and climate, motion and matter, and structures of life. We want to also thank Ms. Sue for providing an amazing folk dancing experience for all students.



2nd grade has been learning a lot recently! We've continued to learn a new OG sound each week. Our recent ones are: bossy ar, or, au/aw, and contractions. In March, we will continue with silent letters, y as a vowel, and ph/gh. In reading, we are continuing to learn strategies such as; sequencing, summarizing, and compare/contrast. In math, we are finishing our time/money unit. Students learned about time to 5 minutes, am/pm, and how to figure out elapsed time. We also learned about coins/bills, how to count them, and how to determine change. Our next unit is learning numbers up to 1,000.

Some reminders: We have parent/teacher conferences February 29th and March 4th. Please make sure to attend at your scheduled time! We also have a field trip on March 5th to the WTC Greenhouse. If you have not sent back the field trip form (bright yellow sheet), please do so ASAP! If you need a new one, reach out to your teacher. Thanks!

THANKS
thank you very much



suehulsether.com

Thank you to Sue Hulsether for providing such fun during her Folk Dance Residency and such a wonderful time at our Family Folk Dance!





Dear Families,

We hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the start of the new month! We have some exciting news and updates to share with you.

Important Announcements:

Reading/Writing Unit- We are nearly at the end of reading titles from the "I Survived" book series. Following this, we will begin researching the events of the disaster described in the books and complete an informational writing research report. The students will learn about the informational writing process, paraphrasing information and citing resources.

Properties and Strategies of One-Digit Division in Math- In our math classes, we are currently exploring the properties and strategies of one-digit division. This unit will help students develop an understanding of how to use the steps of long division to divide with a one-digit divisor. We are also learning how to estimate to see if our quotients are reasonable. And very importantly, we continue to practice our multiplication facts. Encourage your child to practice multiplication facts at home.

The Wisconsin Fur Trade Era- Our Social Studies lessons have been focused on learning about the Wisconsin fur trade. Specifically, what the impact was for Native American life, the purpose behind the economy of the fur trade and the impact on animal life. This unit has been great for our students to understand how the French voyageurs lived and depended on the indigenous people for survival.

Guest Speakers/Presenters:

In January, we welcomed Jean Dowiasch, from UW-L to speak about the earliest indigenous people of Wisconsin. The students were able to handle replica tools from the Paleo, Archaic and Woodland eras and consider what life was like for these ancient people. Currently, we are enjoying an annual appearance from Sue Hulsether. She is an artist in residence teaching the kids about folk dance during their music and PE class times from February 22 to March 1.

Additional Information:

We're grateful for the relationship we have with each one of our families. Your partnership and support play a crucial role in the success of our students. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to us.

-Grade 4 Teachers



The fifth graders did a phenomenal job of showing off their leadership skills this month when Mrs. Buxton and Miss Roberts had subs for an entire week for a training. Bravo, Mustangs! We are preparing for conferences, and both classrooms do student-led conferences in the spring, so your students will be able to share their accomplishments with you.

Our classes have been working hard in their book groups reading about Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Shaquille O'Neal, LeBron James, Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, Michelle Obama or Barack Obama. Once students wrap up their books, they will create a foldable project and writing piece as part of our Black History Month display.

Fifth grade math has taken us to fractions, where we have been adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers and will move into multiplication and division of fractions soon. In content, we have been learning about the Industrial Revolution and how it impacted America. We continue to include bits of test preparation into our subjects as we prepare for the Wisconsin Forward Exam in April.

We loved celebrating Global School Play Day on February 7 and being able to visit many of the classrooms that students attended in their earlier years at Spence, as well as some they didn't! It was a great day for fun, friendship and play! Speaking of friendship, each class created shout-out hats where students wrote down compliments for their classmates. These can be seen at conferences!

Lucky to be a Reader



Spence is hosting a celebration of reading during the month of March! There will be different activities happening throughout the month at school. The calendar that is attached has reading challenges that students can do at home. If students color in and complete all of their challenges up until March 15th, they will be entered to win some reading themed prizes. Calendars should be turned in with the student's classroom teacher by March 18th.




During the week of March 11th-15th, we will have a dress up week. The dress up days are listed on the calendar.

On March 14th, every student at Spence will get to book shop at the Mustang Cafe for a set number of brand new books to keep at home forever!

LUCKY TO BE A READER CALENDAR - March 2024

Name: _____ Parent Initial: _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>*Color in or cross off the days that you complete the challenge at home or at school, have your parent initial above, and return to your teacher.</u></p>					<p>1 Read Across America Day! Reading is “READ-LAXING” Wear pajamas.. Bring a stuffie or blanket that fits in your backpack.</p>	<p>2 Challenge: Read with a family member/friend</p>
<p>3 Challenge: Read in your bed</p>	<p>4 (Conferences) <u>No School!</u> Challenge: Screen time exchange - instead of screen time, read a book</p>	<p>5 Challenge: Reading is creative! Read a book with interesting illustrations.</p>	<p>6 Challenge: Read a magazine</p>	<p>7 Challenge: Read about a holiday you enjoy or celebrate</p>	<p>8 Challenge: Reading can be musical! Read a poem or a song!</p>	<p>9 Challenge: Read a book about an animal</p>
<p>10 Challenge: Read in your favorite room at home</p>	<p>11 Reading “Jogs” the mind – wear exercise clothes Challenge: Reading is active! Read a book about sports</p> 	<p>12 Readers are Leaders – Dress for the job you’d like someday Challenge: Read about different careers</p> 	<p>13 Dress like a Story Book character Challenge: Read your favorite book</p> 	<p>14 <u>Mustang Cafe shopping day!</u> Reading is Fancy! (dress fancy) Mustang Cafe shopping day Cozy up and read Challenge: Read with a flashlight</p> 	<p>15 – Wear Spence Apparel Challenge: Read a fairy tale</p> 	<p>16 Challenge: Read one of your books from the Mustang Cafe</p>



SCHOOL GARDEN NEWS

March 2024



Pollinator Project Workshops

Thursday, March 21st and Tuesday, March 26th

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Horticulture Education Center

624 Vine Street, La Crosse

Engage in hands-on activities and discussions led by Tanner Pettit.
Suggested donation of \$10.

Join us for an immersive workshop on the importance of pollinator patches in gardens! This family-friendly event welcomes beginners and seasoned gardeners alike to learn about the vital role pollinators play in our ecosystem.

To RSVP please visit: GROWLaCrosse.org

The Pollinator Project

Did you know that pollinators are needed for every 1 out of every 3 bites of food you eat? All of GROW's programs this year will focus on the important role pollinators and diversity play in our food systems and communities. We need pollinators and diversity in plant life to make our gardens thrive, just like cultural diversity helps to make our community a vibrant place to live. Students will have the opportunity to enhance or create pollinator habitats through growing native plants in or next to their school gardens during garden lessons this spring.

Summer Offerings

Look for opportunities to participate in GROW garden and farm programs in the Summer Enrichment Course catalogue.



Thank You Garden Sponsors



GROWLaCrosse.org



With **POWER UP
SWEET POTATO**



Select – Choose sweet potatoes that are firm and smooth.

Store – Store in a cool, dark place for 3-5 weeks.

Prepare – Rinse under cool, running water and scrub to remove dirt.

Sweet Potatoes are the Harvest of the Month!

Add sweet potatoes to your favorite family meals:

- Slice, toss with oil and seasonings, and bake to make sweet potato fries.
- Mash with butter and cinnamon for a sweet side dish.
- Bake whole and top with black beans & salsa or maple syrup & toasted pecans.

Make meals and memories together. It's a lesson kids will use for life.

Did you know?

Sometimes people call sweet potatoes yams, but yams and sweet potatoes are different vegetables! Sweet potatoes are root vegetables that came from the tropical regions of Central and South America. Yams are large, starchy roots from Africa and Asia.



Nutritious, Delicious, Wisconsin!
#WIHarvestoftheMonth

This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP. The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is an EEO/AA institution committed to diversity among its employees and in its programs.

Recipe of the month

Chocolate Sweet Potato Pudding

Serves 4

Ingredients:

- 2 medium mashed sweet potatoes
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 3 Tablespoons sweetener (sugar, brown sugar, maple syrup, honey)
- 1 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/4-1/2 cup liquid (milk, water)

Place all ingredients in a blender or food processor and blend until smooth. Chill and serve.

Per serving: 117 calories, 1g fat, 2g protein, 27g carbohydrate, 2g fiber, 37mg sodium

Source: laxf2s.org



LA CROSSE COUNTY
Health Department
Nationally Accredited

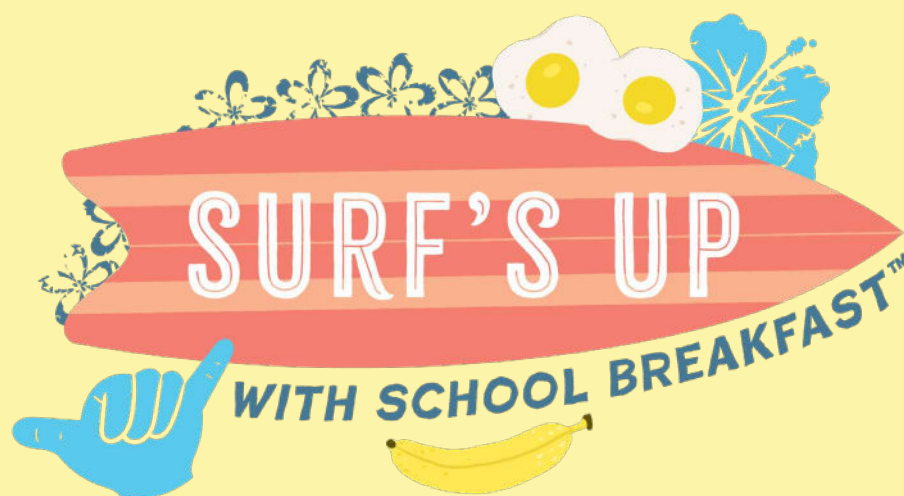


MAYO CLINIC
HEALTH SYSTEM



GUNDERSEN
HEALTH SYSTEM®






MARCH 4-8, 2024 | #NSBW24 | #SURFSUPWITHSCHOOLBREAKFAST

PARENTS, DID YOU KNOW

YOUR CHILD CAN RIDE THE WAVE OF SUCCESS WITH
HEALTHY BREAKFAST OPTIONS AT SCHOOL?

Established in 1989, **National School Breakfast Week (NSBW)** celebrates how school breakfasts can set students up for daily success. By observing this special week every year, we're encouraging all K-12 schools to recognize the importance of a healthy start to the day with breakfast to fuel children's academic success.

CHILDREN WHO EAT BREAKFAST ARE MORE LIKELY TO...



Attain higher levels of
achievement in subjects
such as reading and math

Achieve higher scores
on standardized tests

Maintain a healthy weight

Exhibit improved
concentration, alertness,
comprehension and memory

Have reduced absenteeism
and tardiness

Improve their classroom
behavior

LET'S BUILD A HEALTHY SCHOOL BREAKFAST WITH THESE NUTRITIOUS FOODS:

1 cup fruit

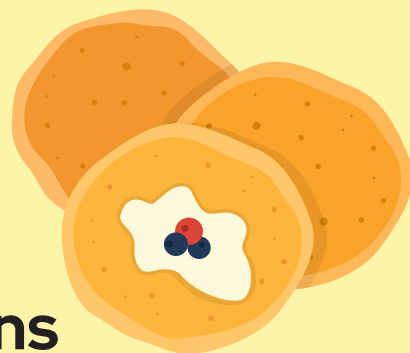


Whole

1 cup fat-free
or 1% milk



Gains



Dive deeper and grab more #NSBW tools and resources at
schoolnutrition.org/nsbw

NSBW resources are supported by:

Kellanova
Away From Home

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

MARCH

2024

Breakfast is served with white milk.
Breakfast choice #2 is always cereal.
Lunch includes fruit, veggie, & choice of milk.

day 6

BREAKFAST

#1 Cinnamon Roll

LUNCH

#1 Mac & Cheese

#2 Turkey & Cheese Sub

1

day 1

BREAKFAST

#1 Pancakes

LUNCH

#1 Beef Nachos

#2 EZ Jammer & Cheese Stick

5

day 2

BREAKFAST#1 Egg, Bacon & Cheese
SandwichLUNCH

#1 Pasta with Meatballs

#2 Yogurt & Cheese Stick

6

day 3

BREAKFAST

#1 Muffin

LUNCH

#1 Cheese Pizza

#2 EZ Jammer & Cheese Stick

7

day 4

BREAKFAST

#1 Breakfast Pizza

LUNCH

#1 Fish Sticks

#2 Chicken, Bacon, Ranch
Wrap

8

NO SCHOOL!

4

day 5

BREAKFAST

#1 Cinnamon French Toast

LUNCH

#1 Orange Chicken

#2 Yogurt & Cheese Stick

11

day 6

BREAKFAST

#1 Chicken Patty on a Biscuit

LUNCH

#1 Walking Taco

#2 EZ Jammer & Cheese Stick

12

day 1

BREAKFAST

#1 Scrambled Eggs

LUNCH

#1 Breaded Ravioli

#2 Yogurt & Cheese Stick

13

day 2

BREAKFAST

#1 Breakfast Burrito

LUNCH

#1 Cheese Pizza Wedge

#2 EZ Jammer & Cheese Stick

14

day 3

BREAKFAST

#1 Cinnamon Roll

LUNCH

#1 Potato Crunch Fish Filet

#2 Hot Ham & Cheese

15

day 4

BREAKFAST#1 Mini Bagels with Cream
CheeseLUNCH

#1 Chicken Patty Sandwich

#2 Yogurt & Cheese Stick

18

day 5

BREAKFAST

#1 Pancakes

LUNCH

#1 Pork Street Taco

#2 EZ Jammer & Cheese Stick

19

day 6

BREAKFAST#1 Egg, Bacon & Cheese
SandwichLUNCH

#1 Meatball Sub

#2 Yogurt & Cheese Stick

20

day 1

BREAKFAST

#1 Muffin

LUNCH

#1 Pepperoni Pizza Wedge

#2 EZ Jammer & Cheese Stick

21

day 2

BREAKFAST

#1 Breakfast Pizza

LUNCH

#1 Mac & Cheese

#2 Ham & Cheese Sub

22

day 3

BREAKFAST

#1 Cinnamon French Toast

LUNCH

#1 Chicken Tenders

#2 Yogurt & Cheese Stick

25

day 4

BREAKFAST

#1 Chicken Patty on a Biscuit

LUNCH

#1 Beef & Cheese Burrito

#2 EZ Jammer & Cheese Stick

26

day 5

BREAKFAST

#1 Scrambled Eggs

LUNCH#1 Cheese Omelet &
Pancakes

#2 Yogurt & Cheese Stick

27

NO SCHOOL!

28

NO SCHOOL!

29