

# SPENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER • APRIL 2024

The Place to Succeed!  
Every Student ~ Every Day



Spence Families –

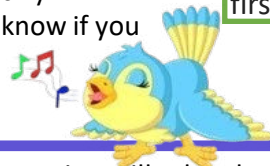
Having healthy and happy children is a goal here at Harry Spence Elementary School. Eating a healthy breakfast and lunch, exercising well in PE class, wearing clothes that are right for the weather, and getting enough sleep are all ways our children can be physically healthy. It is important for our children to be socially and emotionally healthy, too. One way we strengthen children's social and emotional health is by helping them grow a growth mindset. Growth mindset researcher, Carol Dweck, tells us that people with a growth mindset believe that they can develop skills through dedication and hard work. People with a growth mindset love challenges, try again when they have setbacks, know that hard work will pay off, and learn from feedback from others. These folks develop a love of learning.

When I was in a kindergarten classroom earlier this year, I watched the teacher explain a new task to students letting them know that they might make mistakes when trying this new task. One student immediately responded, "It is okay to make mistakes." And another added, "We just try, try again." These students have learned that we don't always get it right the first time, but we don't give up. This is an important skill for all of us to have as we all continue to learn and grow.

Speaking of continued learning and growing, you can help your child continue to learn and grow academically and socially by signing them up for summer school. There are so many interesting classes and other opportunities available. Your child could dig into science, produce beautiful art, or participate in a number of different sports, just to name a few. Sign your child up for classes by going to your Skyward Family Access account soon! Classes fill up quickly.

**Registration ends on April 12th.** Please let us know if you need help registering your child for classes.

-Mrs. Eide, Spence Principal



## APRIL

1-2 – **NO SCHOOL**

4 – ASYD Session 3 Clubs, 2:40 pm to 4 pm

6-12 – naeyc Week of the Young Child

11 – ASYD Session 3 Clubs, 2:40 pm to 4 pm

11 – Title 1 Family Night, 5:30 pm to 7 pm

12 – Deadline for 2024-25 Teacher Requests

19 – **NO SCHOOL**

22 – Earth Day

24 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade to Exploratorium

25 – ASYD Session 3 Clubs, 2:40 pm to 4 pm

25 – Artist's Reception, 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

30 – Concert Rehearsal – students at Central

30 – K and 1<sup>st</sup> Concert at Central, 5:30 pm

30 – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Concert at Central, 6 pm

30 – 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Concert at Central, 6:45 pm

## SPENCE MUSIC CONCERTS

Tuesday, April 30

Central High School Auditorium

5:30 pm K and 1<sup>st</sup>

"The Three Piggy Opera"

6:00 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

"Feelin' Good"

6:45 pm 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

"School House Rock"



This is the first year that the kindergarten and first grade concert will be performed at Central!

## save the date

# ALL SCHOOL ART SHOW

begins April 25



HUGE THANKS to Mr.  
Holman for  
organizing FAMILY  
PLAY CATCH NIGHTS  
throughout  
fall and winter!

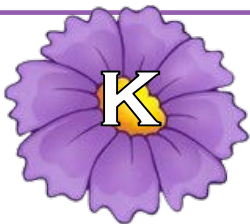


**REMINDER:** The Wisconsin Forward State testing will take place April 3 - 18 for students in grades 3-5. Please help your child do their best by making sure they are in school on time and have a good breakfast either at home or school. Children not present will need to make up missed test sessions before the window closes toward the end of April. We do many things to help make sure they 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!

# UPDATES BY GRADE



The month of March was busy, busy, busy, for our Spence 4K crew. We kicked off the month with Read Across America and enjoyed the classics: Nursery Rhymes! We had such a blast retelling and acting out our favorite Nursery Rhymes. Despite our best efforts of trying to trap that leprechaun, we fell short this year, but had so much fun building traps, searching for gold, and measuring leprechauns. Some major highlights of this month were: Lucky to Be a Reader Week and shopping at the Mustang Cafe, our first field trip to the Children's Museum, our All Abilities Family Day at Central, opening our class yoga studio to practice mindfulness, a great yellow food challenge of YUMMY VS YUCKY for our letter Y unit, and of course the end of the quarter movie! We are gearing up for our big animal unit and are excited to see what the last few months bring.



**Literacy-** In March we continued to focus on letter sounds, sight words, rhyming, syllables, letter formation and word dictation. We also continued working on CVC words. These are words with the vowel in the middle of two consonants. The students can “pound and tap” to hear the three sounds. Have your child “pound and tap” these words for you: pit, ham, mop, nut, net

**Math-** Students have been learning about numbers 11-20. They are using a variety of different ways to show these numbers as a group of ten with extra ones.

**Science/Social Studies-** Our Science and Social Studies themes have included: trees and weather.

**Writing-** We finished our opinion writing unit. The next writing topic we will focus on is sentence writing. We will work on using an uppercase letter in the beginning of the sentence, spaces between words, sounding out the words and writing the sounds we hear, and putting an ending mark.





April will be filled with new experiences and learning in first grade. We are excited to be having a guest speaker, Blueberry Jack, joining us on Earth Day for a hands-on experience learning about the environment. We will learn about ecosystems, how living things are connected, and how to show kindness to the earth. In reading we will be practicing words with soft and hard c and g and also words that have "ed" endings. Students continue to have small group reading with groups of four where they are reading with kids at similar reading levels. Our science / social studies units are continuing sound and light and then learning about money and jobs. In math, we will be working on adding and subtracting tens and ones and also measurement.



Throughout the month of March, our students have made wonderful progress. In Math this month, our focus has been on understanding place value up to 1000. They have practiced reading and writing three-digit numbers and have learned how to express them in various forms. This foundational understanding of numbers sets groundwork for future mathematics. In Language Arts, we have explored informational writing. The students have learned to gather information from various sources and write facts to create an informational report. Furthermore, our studies on identifying main ideas and details in reading have intertwined with our writing tasks. This has given the children a deeper understanding of content and helped them write detailed reports. As we move forward into Spring, we encourage you to continue fostering a love of reading at home. Reading 20 minutes each night will be very beneficial for your child.



Spring has sprung - or so we thought! The 3rd graders have been quite busy this month practicing for the WI Forward State Test. This test begins the week of April 8th. They've shown great perseverance during our test prep! All 3rd grade classes have rotated through content teachers learning about Water/Climate, Motion/Energy, and Structures of Life. Math has been all about GEOMETRY. Students have been investigating the attributes of quadrilaterals and learning about perimeter/area. For writing, we have been reviewing how to write a strong paragraph using descriptive language/details and topic/closing sentences. Students will celebrate the 3rd Quarter with an all-school movie at Central High School! Go Mustangs!



**Reading/Writing Unit:** We have finished reading titles from the "I Survived" book series and are now researching the events of the disaster described in the books and completing an informational writing research report. The students will be presenting their writing projects to their classmates.

**Math:** We are currently exploring Fraction Equivalence and Ordering. This unit will help students develop an understanding of fraction equivalence, ordering fractions and comparing fractions to a benchmark of one half.

**Social Studies:** *The Revolutionary War* – we began studying about the several causes of the war including the idea of taxation without representation. Now we are learning about the various battles and how the styles of warfare contributed to the Patriots winning the war.

**Additional Information:**  
After our Spring Break on April 4th, we begin the FORWARD exam. We appreciate efforts to avoid absences unrelated to illness during the exam window from April 4 through April 18. Plenty of nightly rest and breakfast from home or at school will also help students do their best.

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

-Grade 4 Teachers

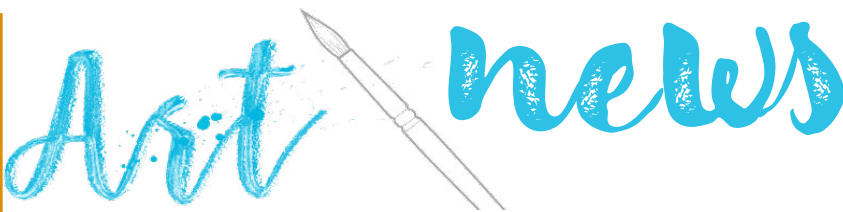


We cannot believe we have only a few months left with our amazing fifth grade class! Topic eight math tests went home recently to conclude our most recent math unit. Students were assessed on multiplying a fraction by a whole number, multiplying fractions by fractions, and converting fractions greater than one to mixed numbers. We will now be starting our next unit, topic nine, which focuses on division of fractions. After break, students will show off their imaginative writing pieces during a roam and read session in their classrooms. They will be sent home after for your enjoyment! The Great War (WWI) is our next unit of study in content as we just wrapped up our last science units. April means WI Forward testing is upon us. As Mrs. Eide stated in the letter home to families- good attendance, a good breakfast, and a good night's sleep before each day of testing will help your child do their best. We have a special secret themed-day to celebrate the end of testing afterwards! Be sure to keep your eye out on information sent home about it closer to the middle of April. Thank you for your support!

save the Date

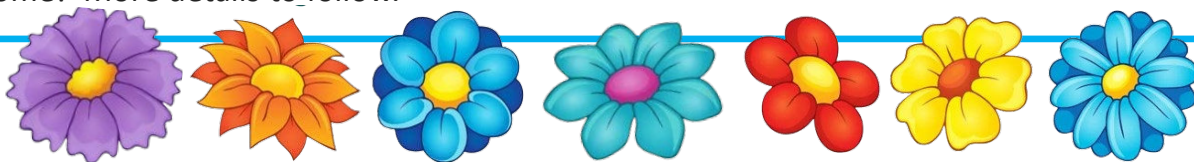
ALL SCHOOL ART SHOW

BEGINS April 25



Fifth graders enjoyed a field trip to the Longfellow Art Department to help make ceramic pieces for an upcoming Empty Bowls project. Stay tuned for more information about how you can be a part of this fundraiser that helps district food pantries.

The Spence Elementary All School Art Show will be April 25 through May 10. Artwork from every kindergarten through fifth-grade art student will be on display throughout our school. Artist's Reception will be on Thursday, April 25 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. All are welcome! More details to follow.



**The National Association for the Education of Young Children  
Week of the Young Child will celebrate our littlest Mustangs!  
For more information, visit [naeyc.org/events/woyc](http://naeyc.org/events/woyc)**

#WOYC24



**A Week of Fun!**

**April 6-12, 2024**

**LAST  
CHANCE!**

**Deadline for 2024-25 teacher requests is April 12, 2024.**

If you have a teacher request for the 2024-2025 school year, please write a short letter (do NOT send via email) of request, including your rationale. Return it to the Spence office, addressed to Mrs. Eide. **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.

SPENCE

**PTO**

MANY HANDS,  
ONE VISION

**NEXT PTO MEETING**

**May 14** in Spence LMC

6:00 pm, pizza provided

Children are welcome to attend.

**2023-2024 PTO Officers**

Emily Vien, *President*

Sierra Branson, *Vice President*

Tricia George, *Secretary*

Christie Lindberg, *Treasurer*

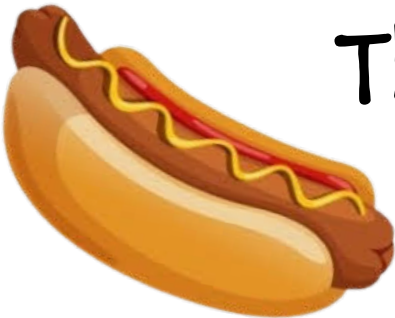
EVERY  
**CHILD** IS A  
*different* KIND OF *flower,*  
AND ALL TOGETHER,  
MAKE THIS WORLD  
A *Beautiful*  
GARDEN.



# 2024 Family Night

Thursday, April 11

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm



Join us for a FREE hot dog dinner!

Enjoy storyteller TERRY VISGER, prize drawings & lots of fun!

Please bring a blanket to sit on while listening to our storyteller.



# Thank YOU

Thank you to the Spence PTO, our Title I program, our family volunteers, everyone that donated gently-used books, and the

Spence teachers that went above and beyond to make our March LUCKY TO BE A READER program and Mustang Café Book Store a huge success! After visiting our café, each student was able to take home THREE new or like-new books, and we had 19 lucky prize winners of our March reading calendar drawing!



## PBIS SCHOOL-TO-HOME CONNECTION

One way to help improve our children's behavior is to make sure they are getting enough high-quality sleep. Many of the symptoms associated with behavior issues at home and at school are actually the same symptoms of sleep deprivation. These include impulsivity, hyperactivity, and inattention. Children who do not get enough sleep have a harder time maintaining good behavior during the day.

How can I help my child sleep?

- Turn off all screens an hour before bedtime, and keep screens out of the bedroom
- Try calming activities such as warm baths, guided meditation, and bedtime stories
- Make sure the child gets enough physical activity during the day
- Have a set bedtime and a regular bedtime routine
- Avoid all caffeine for children

How much sleep does my child need?

- Preschool aged children need 10-13 hours
- School aged children need between 9-11 hours

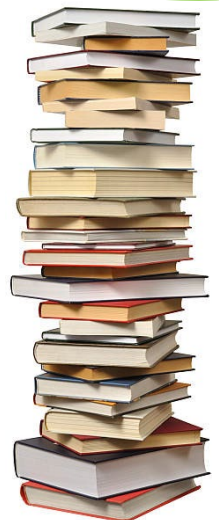
-Spence PBIS Team

Positive Behavior Interventions & Support



## SPOTLIGHT ON LMC

Did you know that the La Crosse Public Library has multiple events every single week for preschool and elementary-age students? These range from a Pokémon Club to Maker Events to a Comics Club, and more are added and swapped out every month. You can view all the events, and filter them by age range, at: <https://www.lacrosselibrary.org/events/upcoming>. There are events at both the Main Branch Library (800 Main Street) and the North Branch (1552 Kane Street).



Scan me



# SEL-EBRATIONS

Social Emotional Learning at Spence

## CONFLICT RESOLUTION - APRIL 2024

### Handling Conflict

Conflicts arise daily for elementary-aged students. It's so easy for adults to want to solve problems for our young children, but doing so, prevents students from learning essential problem-solving skills. It is best to manage conflict by coaching children through conflict and empowering them to practice and improve their own skills.

#### Types of Conflicts

**Disagreement:** When people have different ideas about something

**Rude Behavior:** Hurting someone's body or feelings *on accident*

**Mean Behavior:** Hurting someone's body or feelings *on purpose*

#### Handling Conflict

During guidance, students have been learning different strategies to handle conflict. Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students have learned and practiced, "A Bug and A Wish" and 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students have learned how to use an "I-Message" to help problem-solve.

- **Bug and Wish:** It bugs me when \_\_\_\_\_, I wish you would \_\_\_\_\_.
- **I-Message:** I feel \_\_\_\_\_, when you \_\_\_\_\_. Could you please \_\_\_\_\_.

### A Note about Bullying

As parents and educators, we want to protect and advocate for our children, and parents can play a key role in preventing and responding to bullying.

#### What is Bullying?

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. (stopbullying.gov)

#### Handling a Bullying Situation:

- **Talk to your child:** "What happened? How did that make you feel?"
- **Problem-Solve Together:** "What do you think you can say next time? What do you think might work?"
- **Contact School:** We need to know if your child is being bullied at school. Please reach out to your child's teacher, Mrs. Eide or Mrs. Jeseritz.

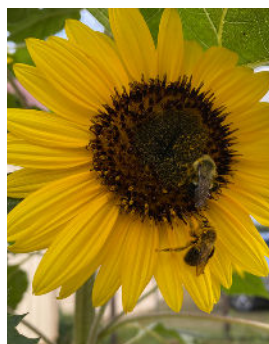




### Exploring Community In Our Gardens

In this growing season we will be diving into pollinators and diversity in plants and cultures, bringing it all together to illustrate a sense of community in our gardens, classrooms, and surrounding neighborhoods.

Did you know that pollinators are needed for every 1 out of every 3 bites of food you eat? 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.





## Plant Sale

GROW YOUR GARDEN

### STARTING MAY 15<sup>th</sup>

Plant sale is ongoing while supplies last.

<b>LOCATION:</b> Habitat ReStore 3181 Berlin Drive La Crosse, WI 54601	<b>HOURS:</b> Wednesday-Saturday 10 am to 6 pm
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This event is a Habitat for Humanity and GROW collaboration. Funds raised will support the ReNew The Block project & GROW.



Sponsored by:



GROWLaCrosse.org • HabitatLaCrosse.org

### Family Volunteer Opportunity

Your school garden needs a lot of attention during the summer to make sure it's a place for classes to learn in and harvest from in the fall. Garden volunteers are provided all the tools and training needed to help keep the garden thriving, and volunteer times are flexible to work with your busy schedule. Sign up to receive more information at [GROWLaCrosse.org/volunteer-2/](http://GROWLaCrosse.org/volunteer-2/).



### Farm Camp

Registration is open for our fee-based farm camps to be held the week of August 5th.

### Thank You Garden Sponsors







## Greens are the Harvest of the Month!

### Add greens to your favorite family meals:

- Add fresh spinach to your smoothie.
- Use fresh or frozen spinach in lasagna, casseroles, or soups.
- Saute Swiss chard with garlic and add to eggs or top a pizza.

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

### Did you know?

"Super green" refers to dark green vegetables that contain extra amounts of key nutrients like vitamins A and C, potassium, and dietary fiber. These dark green vegetables are important to eat often to grow and stay healthy. Try a variety of "super green" vegetables including spinach, Swiss chard, kale, collard greens, romaine lettuce, watercress, bok choy, and mustard greens.



Nutritious, Delicious, Wisconsin!  
#WIHarvestofTheMonth



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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

### Seared Greens

Serves 6

#### Ingredients:

- 8 cups kale or collard greens
- 2 Tbsp oil
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground pepper
- 2 Tbsp cider vinegar

#### Directions:

Clean the greens thoroughly and cut stems away. Dry well and tear into salad pieces or slice across leaf into 1/2 inch pieces. In a large deep pot or skillet with a cover, sauté garlic in oil. Add greens in pan with 1 cup water. Cover pan and steam for 4 minutes. Uncover, stir constantly until greens shrink. Add salt and pepper and continue to stir on high until mixture is thoroughly wet. Sprinkle cider vinegar on mixture. Cover. Turn off heat. Let stand until ready to serve.

Per serving: 89 calories, 5g fat, 4g protein, 9g carbohydrate, 2g fiber, 133mg sodium

Source: laxf2s.org





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

**MONDAY**                      **TUESDAY**                      **WEDNESDAY**                      **THURSDAY**                      **FRIDAY**

<p><b>1</b>  <b>NO SCHOOL!</b></p>	<p><b>2</b>  <b>NO SCHOOL!</b></p>	<p>day 6                      <b>3</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Egg, Bacon &amp; Cheese Sandwich  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Lasagna Roll-up          #2 Yogurt &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 1                      <b>4</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Muffin  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Garlic Cheese Bread          #2 EZ Jammer &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 2                      <b>5</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Breakfast Pizza  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Sloppy Joe Sandwich          #2 Hot Ham &amp; Cheese Flatbread</p>
<p>day 3                      <b>8</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Cinnamon French Toast  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Grilled Chicken Burger          #2 Yogurt &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 4                      <b>9</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Chicken Patty on a Biscuit  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Chicken Taco          #2 EZ Jammer &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 5                      <b>10</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Scrambled Eggs  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 BBQ Pork Sandwich          #2 Yogurt &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 6                      <b>11</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Breakfast Burrito  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Personal Cheese Pizza          #2 EZ Jammer &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 1                      <b>12</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Cinnamon Roll  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Fish Filet          #2 Turkey &amp; Cheese Sub</p>
<p>day 2                      <b>15</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Mini Bagel + Cream Cheese  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Orange Chicken          #2 Yogurt &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 3                      <b>16</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Pancakes  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Walking Taco          #2 EZ Jammer &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 4                      <b>17</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Egg, Bacon &amp; Cheese Sandwich  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Breaded Ravioli          #2 Yogurt &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 5                      <b>18</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Muffin  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Pepperoni Pizza Wedge          #2 EZ Jammer &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p><b>19</b>  <b>NO SCHOOL!</b></p>
<p>day 6                      <b>22</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Cinnamon French Toast  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Chicken Patty Sandwich          #2 Yogurt &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 1                      <b>23</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Chicken Patty on a Biscuit  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Pork Street Taco          #2 EZ Jammer &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 2                      <b>24</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Scrambled Eggs  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Meatball Sub          #2 Yogurt &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 3                      <b>25</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Breakfast Burrito  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Pepperoni Pizza          #2 EZ Jammer &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 4                      <b>26</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Cinnamon Roll  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Cheeseburger          #2 Ham &amp; Cheese Sandwich</p>
<p>day 5                      <b>29</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Mini Bagel + Cream Cheese  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Chicken Tenders          #2 Yogurt &amp; Cheese Stick</p>	<p>day 6                      <b>30</b>  <u>BREAKFAST</u>          #1 Pancakes  <u>LUNCH</u>          #1 Beef &amp; Cheese Burrito          #2 EZ Jammer &amp; Cheese Stick</p>			