

Applevue Elementary ~ May-June 2023

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Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Dear Applevue Families,

As we begin the month of May, please be aware of the various communications you receive from your child's classroom teacher over the next few weeks. May is typically a busy month in the school and time will likely fly by with the various activities and celebrations that take place as we close out the 2022-23 school year.

May 8 – 12 is known nationally as **Staff Appreciation Week** in schools, and we ask for your help in making this a special week for our staff by finding small ways to acknowledge them for their hard work and dedication to our kids. Small acts of recognition go a long way..... and we thank you in advance for helping us find ways to say "Thank You" to our Applevue staff. We are proud to be working alongside this staff on a daily basis – We see the time and effort that they put into making Applevue a great place for Sparta students and families – and it is always great to see these efforts recognized by our community.

Also, all Sparta Area Schools will have a half day of school on Friday, May 12. Families can anticipate students to be dismissed at approximately 11:45 am that day. All Sparta Area Schools will be closed on Monday, May 29, for Memorial Day.

In closing, we want each of you to know how much we care for your kids and their success, both personally and academically. We look forward to a great finish to this school year and to the promise that lies ahead with the start of another one.

Take Care,
Mike Birely
Beth Lehner

M-STEP Update

Our Applevue Allstars have begun M-Step testing. We want to recognize our students for the perseverance they have shown in preparing for and taking their state assessments. Please remember that you can help your scholar by making sure they get good sleep and an adequate breakfast before they test. Please also minimize late drop offs and early pickups during this testing season. Thanks in advance for your patience and support with this.

MAY/JUNE CALENDAR

May 12: Half-day of school

May 29: No School ~
Memorial Day

June 7: Half-day of school

June 8: Half-day of school,
last day of school

5th Grade Transition News

Fifth Grade Parent Night will be held on Monday, May 22, from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the Sparta Middle School Cafeteria.

Music Notes

Third Grade: We are busy learning songs, dances, and singing games from all over the world. Ask a 3rd grader about Maludeje, Stella Ella Ola, or El Floron, and they will teach you a song and game! And on the side, we are learning about the music staff so we can jump right into recorder next year.

Fourth Grade: Our 4th graders will be taking a field trip to the Frauenthal Center in Muskegon on May 9 during the school day. There we will watch and participate with the West Michigan Symphony in a performance. After that performance is done, we will focus on movement activities and a fun technique for playing xylophones called "Mallet Madness".

Fifth Grade: Our 5th graders are in the middle of a unit on Rap and Hip Hop music. Ask your 5th grader about DJ Kool Herc and the birth of rap music. Very soon, the students will be working in groups to compose and perform their own rap songs!

Geers: We are having a ball playing "Kitchen Land" instruments--pots, pans, spatulas, graters, colanders, etc. The students particularly enjoy musical games such as "Grizzly Bear," "Three Old Pigeons", and "Naughty Kitty Cat".

Sparta Education Foundation

The SEF fundraisers have concluded for this school year but that doesn't mean your opportunities to donate to the SEF have ended.

You may donate online through our [Paypal account](#). A receipt for your donation will be mailed to you for your tax records.

Thank you for helping us provide the "Extras for Education!".

STEM Blasts Off into Outer Space

As we wrap up our second year of STEM at Appleview, each grade level has been engaging in something a little different to hone their STEM Skills.

Our 3rd Graders have been learning about coding using Ozobots and a program called Ozoblockly. They were given the task of creating a path or maze for the bot to travel along and then had to code the bot to get through this. The last month of the year had them creating space landers and trying to get them to land safely on the earth. They had to use their engineering and problem-solving skills to make this happen.

Our 4th graders learned about light and how we see. We connected this to one of their units in science. We played with lasers, prisms and mirrors. We also learned about the eye and dissected a Sheep's eyeball.

Finally, 5th graders had the task of creating a contraption to land a rover (ping pong ball) in the center of a crater on the moon. We talked about NASA and how they build the Mars Rover and watched a video explaining how they landed that on Mars. We also learned about chemical reactions and what happens when butter, marshmallows and Rice Krispies are combined.

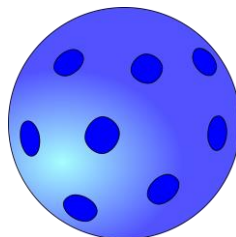
David "Mr. STEM" Oudbier

News From the Gym

Our focus in April was the baseball/softball unit. The students and I spent some time working on our overhand throw, fielding ground balls and fly balls, and some time batting. I'm so encouraged by how many of my students are playing a spring sport. It is so good for them to be outside and exercising!



May's focus will be on racket skills. We will work with some pickleball paddles to work on our hand eye coordination and then we will practice striking the ball and hitting it over a net. We will be playing some lead up games to help prepare kids who would like to play pickleball with their families over the summer.



Counselor's Corner

Welcome to May— flowers, warmer temperatures, and the winding down of school activities. Children may have mixed feelings about school ending. The daily life and structure that a child has grown used to is coming to an end. They won't see friends every day or adults they have gotten to know, and now will also be leaving Toast! Fifth graders will be moving to a new building which brings up anxiety. These mixed feelings are normal during transition times. Children don't always communicate what is bothering them, but may have physical complaints, moodiness, and sleep disturbances. If you see these changes, start having some conversations with your child about the things they like about school ending and the things they will miss. Here are some additional ideas to ease this transition.

- Celebrations/rituals at school are important. They can help ease some of these feelings - remembering the good times and celebrating the accomplishments of students. Encourage your child to participate. At AV we make grade level slideshows that are shown to each grade level at the end of the year. Parents can purchase these for a small fee. Consider this as a way of helping your child transition - like looking at a family photo album.
- Take note of accomplishments and growth. This growth can be academic or qualities like increased patience, being a good friend, or persistence with a task that is difficult, etc.
- Ask questions and give support. Often just acknowledging the feeling or situation is helpful.
- Make sleep a priority. Lack of sleep can also lead to moodiness.
- Think about fun things to do during the summer. Making a list with your child can be fun and help you to actually do some of those things. Navigating these life transitions can be difficult, but with support children can manage it successfully. You can't take all the difficulties of life away but you can be there to help them through it.

School Nurse Notes

As we are approaching the end of the school year, please remember to pick up from the nurse's office any medication your child may have at the school. As stated in our parent handbook, all medication left at school at the end of the school year will be disposed of properly by our school nurse. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our school nurse. Thank you and have a wonderful and safe summer.

Summer Safety Tips –

- Always wear helmets and protective gear while riding bikes, skateboards, rollerblades, etc.
- Always obey the rules of the road while riding your bike. It is as important for you to watch out for cars as it is for cars to watch out for you.
- Always wear sunscreen while you are outside. Your skin is your first line of defense against infections so you want to keep it as healthy as possible. You can get a sunburn in the shade or in cloudy weather too.
- If you are traveling, please remember to stop and walk around for a few minutes every couple of hours. This will help to increase your circulation and prevent long distance travel complications.
- Never climb, dive, hike, or swim alone. You should always have a partner while climbing, diving, hiking, or swimming just in case of emergency.
- Remember to drink plenty of fluids to stay well hydrated.
- Have a safe and fun summer!

Nurse Amy and Nurse Elaine

<http://spartaschools.org/other/nurseinformation/>

KSSN/ Sparta Schools
Mobile Food Pantry
Early Childhood Center
480 S. State St.
Sparta, MI 49345

Food for People in Need
June 2, July 14 and August 11 at 5pm
This is a drive-through model
Check in starts at 4:30 pm

Summer STEM Camps!

Below you will find info about
summer STEM camp.

[Camp link](#)

SPARTA PTC NEWS 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR

PTC@spartaschools.org

The Sparta PTC strives to:

- Develop a closer connection between school and home by encouraging parent involvement.
- Enhance the educational experience by supporting academic and enrichment activities.
- Improve the environment at our school by providing volunteer and financial support.
- Create a supportive partnership with the school district.

Because of your support, the Sparta PTC was able to provide the following to our schools and community this school year. Thank You:

- The Sparta Spirit Walk raised over \$60,000.00 - these funds were used for PBIS, Field Trips, Educational Materials and Programs, Assemblies, Teacher Appreciation and much more.
- The Scholastic Bookfair funds have provided both Ridgeview and Appleview with new library books, adding and building classroom libraries and the RIF program (free books for kids).
- The Penguin Patch Holiday Shop brings many smiles and holiday cheer to the students.
- The Princess Ball brought our community and schools together for a night of dancing and a very successful fundraiser.
- The Mother/Son Event at Chuck E' Cheese was a great event and fundraiser.
- With the help of volunteers and parent donations we provided dinner for teachers and staff during conferences at both elementary schools.
- So much more comes from your support!

As always, the Sparta PTC could not do what we do without YOU! Please consider joining the Sparta PTC so you can be involved in making a Positive Difference in Sparta!