

Applevue Elementary ~ October 2023

240 E. Spartan Dr., Sparta, MI 49345

Phone 887-1743 ~ Fax 887-7509 ~ Attendance 887-2091

Mr. Mike Birely, Principal ~ mike.birely@spartaschools.org

Mrs. Beth Lehner, Assistant Principal ~ beth.lehner@spartaschools.org

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Value of the Month ~ **PRIDE**

Dear Applevue Families:

We have had a fantastic start to the school year at Applevue Elementary and we are very excited for the opportunity to support your children as they learn and grow. We can't thank our students, staff, and families enough for their flexibility and understanding as we work to provide an outstanding, but most importantly safe, educational environment for our kids.

Our students have started this school year by learning about our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program themed "Applevue All-STARS". Every week, hundreds of tickets have been turned in by our student body in recognition of their positive behaviors and choices. We are so proud of our students and their desire to be leaders in a positive school environment.

In addition to our PBIS kickoff, students have completed a few benchmark assessments in reading and math to provide teachers with valuable information regarding each student's current level of academic proficiency. These assessments also provide crucial data for our Title I team to identify students who need additional academic support through our extension block. Our staff will use this data to meet each student's academic needs and to measure their growth throughout the school year.

We want to thank everyone in our school community for an outstanding start to the 2023-24 school year. We look forward to working with you and your child to continue toward a standard of excellence in education.

Sincerely,

Mr. Birely & Mrs. Lehner



OCTOBER **CALENDAR**

October 4:

Count Day ~ Please
Avoid Absences
Picture Day

October 6:

Progress Reports
Go Home

October 10:

Flu Shot Clinic

October 16-19:

Hearing and Vision
Screening

October 20:

Half Day for All
Students

October 31:

Halloween Parties

Music Notes

Dear Appleview Families--Hearing your children sing, watching them move creatively, and playing musical games with them has been a gift to me. Some days I can't believe I get paid to listen to kids sing, dance, and play instruments all day! Below is some information on what we are doing and also some important dates.

3rd grade classes are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by dancing to "Los Machetes" sword dance. They are learning about the various pitches and rhythm through a song and game called "Plainsies, Clapsies" where students have to sing and perform tricks with a beanbag. We will be building upon this information in the coming weeks by playing more instruments.

4th Grade: In preparation to play recorders, 4th graders have been learning the Music Staff Rap, as well as singing fun songs in three-part rounds. We will be starting recorders soon, so look for information on recorders in the next month or so!

5th Grade: Ask your 5th grader about Lin Manuel Miranda or Japanese Mochi-making and have your students share with you our fun clapping routine! We have begun preparing for **our music program on 12/7/23**. Look for info soon!

Geers' class has been learning to follow directions through songs, games, and movement. I am amazed at their creativity. This year, our program will be held in May. Details to come!

Music Program Dates: 12/7/23 (5th Grade), 2/27/24 (3rd Grade), 3/21/24 (4th Grade). Performance times will be 6 pm or 7:30 pm for each grade level, depending on class. More info to come.

Musically yours,

Mrs. Adria Van Wyk

News from the Gym

We have had a great start to the school year in the gym! We started out our year playing spikeball. The students did a great job working on the basic skills of the game on our new "Rookie Sets" that have a larger spikeball and a larger net. We worked on spiking, passing, throwing and catching. Each week we have been learning new tag games that we will continue to play throughout the school year. I have spent time talking about our PE social contract, learning the routines for my classroom, and developing a culture of caring for one another.



We will be working on a soccer unit next. This unit will last either four or five weeks and we will be focusing on passing, trapping, dribbling, and scoring. The students will also be playing several different types of soccer skill games and challenges.



Thank you so much for sending your children to Appleview! I am enjoying getting to know our new students and catching up with the students who were here last year.

Mr. Shuneson



ART ROOM NEWS

We've had a great start to our school year and the kids were ready to come back. Students are just finishing up their Art To Remember fundraiser project. This is a fundraiser that Appleview students participate in every year. They turn out quite nice. You will be able to purchase their drawing on over 60 different products provided by Art to Remember. Money from this fundraiser helps support Appleview's art program. **These keepsake products make the perfect gifts for all occasions! Especially Christmas Gifts for family and friends!**

- Personalized order forms will go home on **Tuesday, October 26th**. This is when you may go to their website and start ordering. There are instructions on their personalized order form. You are also able to purchase products with projects from previous years.
- Online orders and payment deadline for parents is **November 10th**. Orders should be done on-line. If this is a problem, please let me know.
- Approximate date products shipped to school is **December 4th**.
- **Late order window closes on December 29 but your purchase(s) will arrive on a different date.**

While creating a picture for Art To Remember, each grade level learned about the seven elements of art with a focus on line, shape, color, space and texture. They also learned strategies on how to color neatly and in one direction.

All students put together an art journal which they will use to draw thumbnail sketches, write reflections and practice some of the strategies and skills taught throughout the school year. They also have a copy of the art rubric that I use to score their projects. The students will also create an art portfolio folder in their google drive. After they complete a project, they will take a picture of it and upload it into the folder. As students complete a project, I record their grade in power school and then display them throughout the building. Once one project is completed, I take down projects that were displayed and send them home.

If you have any questions or concerns you may Email me: sandy.davis@spartaschools.org
Artistically,
Mrs. Sandy Davis



Clothing Closet Donations Needed

Our clothing closet serves our students and families with new and gently used clothing when needed. Sometimes it serves a family in need of clothing as a support. Other times it serves an individual student who took a tumble into a mud puddle. We are now low on boys' clothing and are asking for donations. Our biggest need is for boys' sizes 7-8 and 10-12 pants. Please drop off the donated clothes to the Appleview Office cleaned and ready to wear. Thank you so much.

STEM NEWS

Welcome to the STEM Lab! It has been an exciting start to the school year.

In 3rd Grade we have been using our powers of observation to figure out what kinds of ingredients are in jars. First we used our eyesight then moved on to smell. Students came up with some amazing predictions based on their observations. Next we will be learning about force and motion by launching rockets and making toy cars.

In 4th grade we began the year by making Elephant Toothpaste, and observing what happens when you mix different materials together (dry yeast, hydrogen peroxide, hot water and dish soap). We are now working on building circuits to light up light bulbs and seeing what materials light up light bulbs.

In 5th grade we began the year by figuring out what happens to bubble gum when it is chewed. Students chewed and weighed the bubble gum multiple times and kept track of the data. Currently students are working on creating Stop Motion Animation videos. They have designed a "movie" scene and by using ordinary objects (Legos, M&Ms, Hot Wheels cars) and they animate them using a Stop Motion Animation App.

Geers' Friends have been learning about observation as well. Recently we learned to measure ingredients to make frosting for cupcakes and then decorate them with sprinkles.

Please reach out if you have any questions or even ideas that we could investigate. If you would like to donate to the STEM lab, follow the link. You can send any items in with your child or drop them off at the office. **STEM LAB Donations.**

Thanks
Mr. Oudbier

School Nurse Notes

Flu Shot Clinic – Our annual flu shot clinic will be held Tuesday, October 10 from 2:30-5:30 pm at the administration building. This clinic is open to students and families, staff and families, and the community. Shots are available to anyone 4 years and older. Children 4 -17 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The cost is \$46.99 for people who do not have insurance. Children with Medicaid insurance must go to their doctor for their flu shot.

Immunization Policy – Getting your children immunized is an important way to protect their health. Make sure your child receives regular checkups at your doctor's office or local health clinic and is up to date on their immunizations. Keep a record of your child's vaccinations and please provide the school with a copy of your child's vaccinations. If you wish to waive your child's immunizations, a waiver form is available at the health department.

Nurse Amy and Nurse Elaine

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

Picture Forms

Picture forms
were in your
student's Friday
Folder this past
Friday,
September 29.
Picture Day will
be Wednesday,
October 4, 2023.

Included below is information that may be helpful for you:

Drop off/Pick up- Student drop off is at 8:30am in the morning. A whistle is blown at that time for students to exit their cars. Please continue to have your child remain in the car until this time so that all students are safe when exiting. Kids should only be exiting/entering the side of the car that is nearest the school/curb. Please continue to pull forward as far as possible so that we can make sure all cars are off of 12 Mile Rd. If you need to exit your care to assist your child, please park in our parking lot.

PowerSchool Parent Portal- Please make sure your contact and demographic information is updated in the Parent Portal. You can contact our main office if you need your login information. Our Bright Arrow (formerly School Messenger) system, as well as many others, are connected to your information in the Parent Portal so it's essential that this information is updated. **If you have not received an email from Bright Arrow already this school year then your demographic information needs updating.**

Remind- Please look out for communication from your child's teacher regarding connecting to Remind. This is a newer communication tool we are asking all staff and families in Sparta to utilize so that we can communicate more simply through text messaging at times.

Applevue Elementary School is a non-smoking facility. We ask for all visitors to please be respectful of this law and refrain from smoking on school property, including in our parking lots. Additionally, volunteers should refrain from smoking while on school field trips.

Homework- Applevue Elementary has developed specific guidelines at each grade level for teachers and families regarding homework. Students will have daily math homework from our math program (Math Expressions). The homework sheet is titled "Homework and Remembering" and students should complete this daily. Additionally, students should read independently each night and complete any other homework as assigned by the teacher (word work, science, social studies, etc.). Below are the daily homework time expectations for all Applevue Elementary students. Please communicate with your child's teacher(s) if he/she is struggling to complete their homework within these guidelines.

Sustained homework time:

3rd grade: 30 minutes

4th grade: 40 minutes

5th grade: 50 minutes

Parent Teacher Committee - Every parent of an elementary student is automatically a member of the Parent Teacher Committee. The PTC is made up of dedicated parents, grandparents, teachers, administrators, and many others who continue to work together to support our elementary schools and enhance the educational experiences of our children. Like our Facebook Page at [Facebook.com/SpartaPTC](https://www.facebook.com/SpartaPTC). Sign up for important updates from the PTC for Applevue! On your iPhone or Android type: rmd.at/spartaav. Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app. If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications! Text the message @spartaav to the number 81010.

Applevue Elementary Halloween Party

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Halloween parties at Applevue will begin at 2:30 pm on Tuesday, October 31. Room parents will be able to enter the classrooms at 2:15 pm to assist the teachers. School parties are a great opportunity for you to come to school and celebrate with your child. Please consider alternate arrangements for any non-Applevue children as classroom space for all of our guests will be tight. Students should bring costumes to school (not wear them) and they can change at school. Costumes must follow dress code. As we are a school environment, please note that costumes that depict weapons, skulls, blood, and/or violence are not appropriate.



Preventing Homework Battles

Students at Applevue can expect nightly homework, about 10 minutes per grade level (3rd- 30 min, 4th- 40 min and 5th- 50 mins). Some kids are Ok with just a reminder but others need more support. Here are some suggestions that will help make homework time less stressful for everyone.

1. **Don't ask if they have homework. They do. Ask- have you started your homework?**
2. **Check your student's backpack or binder regularly/nightly** for any communication, papers, work- especially if your child is in the habit of minimizing if he/she has work. Powerschool is also a good source of information.
3. **A place to work** -- adequate lighting, few distractions, ability of an adult to check in whether just a glance to see if the student is working or asking how it's going and answering any questions.
4. **Have a structure** (specific time like after school or before/after supper) especially if your child is resistant to homework. Get your child started- maybe do the first problem together or read the directions. Then let them try on their own. You can leave and check back with them in a few minutes. The goal is to have them do the work on their own. Sometimes they need more support but that should gradually be taken away. This builds confidence! If homework has already been completed, this specific homework time could be a time to practice math facts.
5. **Put first things first.** Have your child do homework before more fun things like screen time. Perhaps instead of being grounded from screen time or a preferred activity, they can earn minutes for positive choices like doing homework and chores.
6. **Use "down time" like riding in the car to practice math facts or if homework has been completed in school.** This can be with flashcards that your child uses or an adult or older child calling out problems and having the other child answer. Making a game out of it, makes it fun and learning still happens! Learning math facts is very important because it makes math assignments go faster. As a result, computation is not a time-consuming process (no counting on fingers, etc.).
7. If your child has a tendency to say they have it completed when it might not be, **ask them to show you.** This lets them know that you are interested and it is important to do it and be honest.
8. **Keep in touch with your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.**

Be prepared that there may be some moaning and groaning. But stand firm and the behavior will lessen as they see that you are not going to give in.

Ellen DeKoster, LMSW, School Social Worker at Applevue

Kim DeGraaf, Counselor at Applevue

Hand2Hand

Hand2Hand is a West Michigan organization that provides backpacks filled with nutritious food for students on the weekend. Applevue Elementary has partnered with Hand2Hand to provide this service in our school. If you are interested in signing your child up for Hand2Hand, please complete the permission form that was previously sent home.

For more information, please contact Cinda Birely at cinda.birely@spartaschools.org or 616-887-1743 ext. 4217.

Strategic Plan

Sparta Area Schools completed an extensive strategic plan at the end of the 2018-19 school year. A group of stakeholders provided critical input that was incorporated by the district core team to develop strategic goals, objectives, and actions for the next five years, creating the 2019-2024 Sparta Area Schools Strategic Plan. Please take some time to review the plan for our schools, and feel free to contact Mr. Birely with any questions.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Format: Parent teacher conferences will be held both in person and virtually. Teachers will communicate with families regarding how to sign up for the preferred format. Virtual conferences will utilize google meet so an internet connection will be needed for this.

Dates: Weeks of November 6 and 13

How to Sign Up: We will communicate times and how parents/guardians can sign up for conferences in the next few weeks.

Applevue is a Community School, in partnership with Kent School Services Network (KSSN).

I am the full time Community School Coordinator, working to meet the needs of our students, families and staff. By partnering with various community partners, we can help bridge the gaps that sometimes come between home, school, and academic/social success.

One of our partners is Mel Trotter Ministries. They generously donate gift cards to coordinators who can then distribute to families who could benefit from shopping at their thrift store! With every donation made in the name of "Sparta Area Schools, KSSN", we accumulate points that will eventually transfer to gift cards. Please consider donating your gently used clothing and household items you no longer need and mention that you'd like the credit to go to us!

If you are in need of any gift cards or any other resources to help you and your family, please reach out to:

Cinda Birely

cinda.birely@spartaschools.org

(616) 887-1743 ext. 4217

EXTRA EXTRAS for Education!

The SEF is excited to announce its Extra Extras for Education Campaign - Be a part of this amazing foundation and help it thrive. Every gift we receive, up to \$100,000, will be matched by a very generous donor.

Check out our new website and donate today!

sparta-education-foundation.givecloud.co

Questions? sef@spartaschools.org

SEF FUNDRAISING EVENT



**Tuesday, November 7, 2023
4:30-7:30 p.m.**

Slices For SEF Pizza Buffet

Angela's Italian Restaurant and Bar
240 E Division St, Sparta, MI 49345 (616) 887-1913

Mention this fundraiser when ordering and Angela's will donate a portion of your purchase to SEF.

The Sparta Education Foundation's mission is to help provide creative, progressive, and innovative educational opportunities for our students and staff, which are beyond the normal operating budget of the school district.

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SpartaEdFoundation?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

THANK YOU! Together, we're "Providing Extras for Education!"

Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Sparta

Please join us for a celebration of our Hispanic and Latin American communities! We will have food, music, community resources, technology help, activities for the kids and more!

**Save the date: October 8, 2023 from 3:00pm - 6:00pm
at Ridgeview Elementary Playground**

[Unidos flyer](#)

KSSN Appreview 2023 Fall Newsletter

FOOD

View the [Mobile Food Pantry](#) schedule through Feeding America.

Sparta Mobile Food Pantry at Early Childhood Center Fall Dates: September 8th, October 13th and November 3rd; distribution begins at 5pm.

Apply for Food Assistance through [MI Bridges](#).

Use your MIBridge card at a nearby [farmer's market](#).

[Click Here](#) to find a food pantry near you. Or visit one of the following during open hours to sign up:

- [North Kent Connect](#)
- [Peace Lutheran Church](#)
- [Mamrelund Lutheran Church](#)

CLOTHING AND HYGIENE

Complete the KSSN Appreview online [Referral Form](#) to get connected to a Community School Coordinator. Fill out this referral form for information on the [Appreview Clothing/Supply Closet](#).

Contact [Lean On Me Ministries](#) for household and clothing needs.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Contact [Cinda Birely](#) at 616-887-1743 ext. 4217 for housing referral support.

Create a housing plan and get connected to a housing crisis specialist at the [Community Housing Connect](#).

UTILITIES

[Consumers Energy Assistance](#)

Call 211 or go to www.mi211.org for information about getting help paying your utility bill.

Visit [Michigan Mortgage Relief](#) for mortgage assistance.

MENTAL HEALTH

Please fill out this [Referral Form](#) if your student would benefit from mental health counseling services.

Connect with [Cinda Birely](#) for more Information.

In crisis? Contact....

- Network 180 24/7 crisis line: (616)336-3909
- Crisis Text Line: Text "HOME" to 741-741
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800) 273-8255