EAU CLAIRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT FEBRUARY 2024

# CONNECTIONS Early Learning Program Eau Claire 4 Tomorrow, Head Start, & Special Education

Linking Home and School for Success



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715-852-3555

Si desea que alguien le traduzca esta carta o si tiene preguntas, (715) 852-3614



## Sweetened Beverages: Rethink Your Drink

DRINKING SWEETENED BEVERAGES DAMAGE YOUR TEETH

Rethink Your Drink | Healthy Weight, Nutrition, and Physical Activity | CDC

- Tooth decay is caused by bacteria in the mouth combines with sugar from foods and drinks to
  produce acids that dissolve and damage teeth.
- Sugar sweetened beverages can significantly contribute to tooth decay.
- Regular and 'diet' soft drinks, sports drinks, energy drinks, fruit juices, and fruit drinks have high acid levels that can cause tooth erosion.
- Tooth erosion occurs when acid attacks teeth & dissolves the outer surface of tooth enamel.
- Regular loss of enamel can lead to cavities and cause the inner layers of teeth to be exposed.
- Prevention of enamel loss is very important for the long term health of your teeth.

#### HOW TO FIGHT TOOTH DECAY AND EROSION

- Drink soft drinks only in moderation, if at all. Drink water instead.
- Use a straw so your teeth are less exposed to the sugar & acid in the drink.
- Take a drink of water after a sugary/acidic drink to help rinse your mouth and dilute the sugars.
- Protect your teeth by using fluoride toothpaste. Also, after drinking sugary or acidic beverages, don't brush your teeth right away. Wait at least one hour so your teeth can recover and the enamel can re-harden before your brush them.
  - Do not sip sugary or acidic drinks slowly or over a long duration. Doing so exposes your teeth to sugar and acid attacks for longer.
- Never drink sugary or acidic drinks before you to bed—if you do so, the liquid will pool in your mouth, coating your teeth with sugar and acid.



4 grams = 1 teaspoon of sugar

# **Contact Information**

Prairie Ridge Early Learning School 3031 Epiphany Lane, Eau Claire, WI 54703 Main Phone Number & Attendance Line 715-852-3600



Name	Position	Email	Phone
Michael Johnson	Eau Claire Area School District Superintendent	<u>mjohnson@ecasd.us</u>	715-852-3006
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Doni Peterson	Head Start Secretary	<u>dpeterson1@ecasd.us</u>	715-852-3630
Missy Devine	EC4T Secretary	mdevine@ecasd.us	715-852-3608
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Kellie Holliday	Family Services Facilitator	<u>kholliday@ecasd.us</u>	715-852-3677
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Amanda Bennett	Early Learning Counselor	<u>abennett@ecasd.us</u>	715-852-3612
Morgan Deering	Early Learning Social Worker	mdeering@ecasd.us	715-852-3240
April Krall	Special Education Program Support	akrall@ecasd.us	715-852-3628
Student Transit	715-839-5116	ECASD Central Office	715-852-3000

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!! ECASD | Home Click on Schools; Click on Early Learning

If you would like someone to help you with this newsletter for you or if you have questions, <u>call Jill Italiano at (715) 852-3607.</u>

Lus Hmoob \* Yog koj xav tau tus neeg Hmoob txhais daim ntawv no ua lus Hmoob rau koj los yog koj muaj lus nug txog daim ntawv no, <u>hu rau Blia Schwahn (715) 852-6850.</u>

En Espanol \* Si desea que alguien le traduzca esta carta o si tiene preguntas, **llame a Anna Grosman al (715) 852-3614.** 

# **Note from Principal Laurie Haus**

### Dear Families,

Our February character focus is on perseverance. Perseverance is pushing yourself to work through challenges and obstacles. Staff are working with your children to develop this character trait. Using these words at home in an encouraging way can help support this growth in your child. Thank you for your partnership!

During the week of February 12-15, all classrooms are participating in Kindness Week. We work on building kindness skills all year long, but it will be special to celebrate together! The dress up days are optional.

## February 12-15 Kindness Week Dress Up Days:

Monday 2/12: Team Up with Kindness: Wear your favorite team shirt/ jersey or team colors.

Tuesday 2/13: Shine Bright with Kindness: Wear bright colors.

Wednesday 2/14: Peace, Love, & Kindness Day: Wear tie dye, hearts, or peace signs.

Thursday 2/15: Hats Off to Kindness: Crazy hair or hat day.

Wishing you well, Laurie Haus Early Learning Principal



Eau Claire 4 Tomorrow



Prairie Ridge Early Learning School

# **Family Events**

UPCOMING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS IN FEBRUARY

- February 9th ~ Play Group
- February 12th ~ Triple P & Parent Meeting
- February 17th ~ Mommy and Me "Tea Party"
- February 20th ~ Debunking the Myth of Stranger Danger and Internet Safety



ECASD Early Learning offers many ways for families to get involved. Family events are FREE and open to any preschool age children and their families, unless specified. If ECASD schools are closed due to the weather, event is cancelled.

Register for any of the events online at this link:









Phone: 715-852-3601

ECASD | Monthly Newsletters



# Play N' Learn Play Group

**Friday,** February 9th, 2024 9:30-11:00 am

> Prairie Ridge Early Learning School 3031 Epiphany Lane Eau Claire, WI 54703

All are welcome! Join this fun, free, and interactive play group for pre-school aged children. You and your child will experience story time, hands on activities, and lots of learning through play! Snack will be provided.

#### WAYS TO REGISTER: CALL 715-852-3677

EMAIL <u>Kholliday@ecasd.us</u>

SCAN QR CODE TO Register on-line

**REGISTER BY CLICKING** 

**Click Here** 

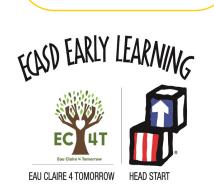


**Future Play N' Learns** 

March 15th April 26th

May 10th

**Location:** Prairie Ridge EL School





# ECASD Early Learning & Head Start **Parent MEETING** Connect with Other Families and

Connect with Other Families and Learn How to Support Your Child's Growth! As parents, we all want the best for our children. Free dinner and child care provided.

Training Topic: Triple P "Raising Confident, Competent Children"

5:00-5:30 Dinner & Parent Meeting 5:30-7:00 Triple P Presentation Located at Prairie Ridge; 3031 Epiphany Lane

# REGISTER TODAY!



Ways to Register: Call 715-852-3630 jitaliano@ecasd.us

**Click Here** 



FEBRUARY

You are Cordially Invited to a

# Mommy & Me Royal-tea Tarty!

Date: Saturday February 17, 2024

Time: 9:30am - 11:30am

Place: Moose Lodge

3606 Curvue Road Eau Claire, WI

## **RSVF:** Kellie Holliday

715-852-3677 or <u>kholliday@ecasd.us</u> or <u>Click Here</u> Royal activities: Ballroom dancing, flower craft, story time with tea and crumpets.

Mommy and Me is open to all preschool age children along with moms, guardians, grandmothers, aunts, etc., or <u>any</u> positive role model in the child's life.

Sponsored by the Eau Claire Area School District's Early Learning Program

SPONSORED BY THE EAU CLAIRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT'S EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

# DEBUNKING THE MARK SCHOOL DISTRICT'S EARCH LEARNING PROGRAM STRANGER DANGER STRANGER DANGER

We all want kids to be aware of their surroundings, to be able to identify which adults are safe and trustworthy adults, and to understand boundaries. One of the best ways we can prevent abuse is to educate, inform, and share the key knowledge that everybody should know- even with our kids.



## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2024 5:00-7:00 PM @ PRAIRIE RIDGE 3031 EPIPHANY LANE

JOIN THIS FREE INFORMATIVE SESSION LED BY SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER, MORGAN DEERING & SCHOOL COUNSELOR, AMANDA BENNETT ON KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE. INFORMATION COVERED WILL ALSO INCLUDE INTERNET SAFETY. DINNER & CHILDCARE PROVIDED.

REGISTER TODAY! JITALIANO@ECASD.US 715-852-3607 <u>Click Here</u>







# February 2024 School Days Calendar & Menu's

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
			Breakfast	
			Fresh Orange & Yogurt	. 6
			Berry Breakfast Bread	
			<u>Lunch</u>	
			Hamburger on a Bun	HDH
			Bush's Baked Beans	
			Broccoli Buds	
			Mandarin Oranges	
5	6	7	8	9
Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	A AF
Mixed Fruit	Lemon Breakfast Bread	Pancakes	Seedless Grapes	
Assorted Cereal, String Cheese	Yogurt, Banana <b>Lunch</b>	Applesauce	Cheese Omelet w/Toast	H H
Lunch	Baked Mini Corn Dogs	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	HDH
Cheesy Breadstick	Sweet Potato Fries	Cheeseburger on a bun	Turkey Gravy w/Dinner Roll	
Steamed Broccoli	Cucumber Slices Applesauce	Bush's Baked Beans	Whipped Potatoes	
Baby Carrots		Cauliflower Florets	Celery Sticks	
Chilled Pears		Pineapple Tidbits	Strawberry Cup	
12	13		15	16
Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	G
Chilled Pears	Mixed Fruit & Yogurt	Scrambled Eggs w/Ham	Pancake & Sausage on a Stick	<u>ک</u> ې
Assorted Cereal, String Cheese	Banana Breakfast Bread	Applesauce & Toast	Seedless Grapes	
Lunch	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	Lunch	
Fish Sticks w/Breadstick	Soft Shell Taco	Grilled Cheese Sandwich	Hot Dog on a Bun	HDH
Green Beans	Whole Kernel Corn	Tomato Soup	Bush's Baked Beans	
Baby Carrots	Tossed Green Salad	Broccoli Buds, Goldfish	Cauliflower Florets	
Fresh Orange	Mixed Fruit	Crackers, Valentine Slushie	Chilled Peaches	
19 Breakfast	20 Breakfast	21 Breakfast	22 Breakfast	23
Pineapple Tidbits	Mandarin Oranges	Chilled Peaches	Fresh Apple, String Cheese	
Assorted Cereal, String Cheese	Cheese Omelets w/Toast	French Toast	Berry Breakfast Bread	. 6
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
Crispy Chicken Sandwich	Cheeseburger Macaroni	Cheese Quesadilla	Chicken Waffle Bites	
Green Beans	Breadstick	Bush's Texas Ranchero Beans	Whole Kernel Corn	田口田
Baby Carrots	Green Peas, Banana	Cucumber Slices	Broccoli Buds	
Fresh Orange	Tossed Green Salad	Seedless Grapes	Chilled Pears	
26 <b>J=====</b>	27 <b>J=====</b>	28	29	1 March
Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast		
Assorted Cereal & Yogurt	Breakfast Pizza	Mandarin Oranges	6	6
Applesauce	Chilled Peaches	Waffles	A Contraction of the second se	<u>ک</u> رک
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
Baked Chicken Strips w/	Cheese Omelet & Pancakes	Cheese Pizza		
Breadstick, Mixed Fruit	Hashbrowns	Mixed Vegetables	HDH	HIFE
Bush's Baked Beans	Broccoli Buds	Cherry Tomatoes	``	
Baby Carrots	Fresh Apple	Chilled Pears		
Class Times (Monday—Thursday) If Your Child is Going to Miss School:				
-		Call Eau Claire Student Transit 715-839-5116		
				0
PM Session Start: 12:45 PM—End 4:15 PM Call ECASD Early Learning Attendance Line 715-852-3600				

### Attendance MATTERS! Every student, EVERY DAY!

## **District News**

#### Open Enrollment is February 5 through April 30, 2024

What is Public School Open Enrollment? Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows students and families who don't live in our district to open enroll into the Eau Claire Area School District.

**Who May Participate?** Wisconsin residents in grades K-12 may apply to participate in open enrollment. Students in pre-kindergarten may participate in limited circumstances; parents should call the Executive Director of Business Services at 715-852-3010 to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify.

**How and When May Parents Apply?** The regular open enrollment application window will be February 5, 2024, through April 30, 2024, for the 2024-2025 school year. Parents may submit online applications beginning February 5, 2024, at the Wisconsin Department of Instruction website at <a href="https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment">https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment</a>. Please call 715-852-3127 or email <a href="https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment">districtadministration@ecasd.us</a> for more information.

Have you moved out of the district during the 2023-2024 school year? If so, you must apply for a Tuition Waiver to continue attending the Eau Claire Area School District for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. Contact the Enrollment Office at 715-852-3127 or email <u>districtadministration@ecasd.us</u> for an application.

**Students Currently Attending the ECASD Through a Tuition Waiver:** Students who have moved outside of the district during the 2023-2024 school year and are currently attending school under a Tuition Waiver <u>must</u> apply for open enrollment during the regular application window, February 5, 2024, through April 30, 2024, to continue attending during the 2024-2025 school year.

**Current Open Enrollment Students:** Students currently attending the Eau Claire Area School District under the open enrollment law do not need to reapply.

**Other Information:** Students who move into the district after January 2024 and anticipate moving out of the district before the 2024-2025 school year will not be eligible for a Tuition Waiver. Students <u>must</u> apply for open enrollment during either the regular open enrollment or alternative open enrollment period to be eligible to attend the Eau Claire Area School District during the 2024-2025 school year.

**School Placement:** By completing an open enrollment application, you are applying to attend the Eau Claire Area School District. You have the opportunity to indicate which school your child would prefer to attend; however, the district will determine placement based on space availability.

**Questions?** If you have any questions about open enrollment or the application process, please contact the Enrollment Office at 715-852-3127 or email <u>districtadministration@ecasd.us</u>.

2024-2025 School Year Calendar Approved by School Board

Our School Board approved the 2024-2025 School Year Calendar at the January 22, 2024, School Board meeting. Please go to <u>2024-2025</u> <u>School Year Calendar (pdf)</u> for details.



## **District News**



# Do you have children ages 3 or 4?

The Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD) Early Learning Program will begin accepting online applications for incoming 3 and 4 year old students for the 2024-25 school year on February 1st, 2024. The ECASD Early Learning Program includes our Eau Claire 4 Tomorrow (EC4T/4K) and Head Start program, as well as Western Dairyland Head Start. For additional information, visit our website at: <u>www.ecasd.us</u>, Click Schools, Click on ECASD Early Learning Program.

#### If your child turns 3 on or before September 1, 2024

Applications for Head Start will be accepted. Please note: there are limited spots and income/eligibility guidelines apply. Please apply online.

#### \*If you are applying for Head Start....

Once your application is received, you will be contacted to complete the enrollment process and verify your income/ eligibility.

#### If your child turns 4 on or before September 1, 2024

Applications for EC4T(4K) and/or Head Start will be accepted. Please enroll your child online.

#### \*If you are applying for EC4T(4K) and/or Head Start...

Once your application has been received, you will be contacted via letter or phone call confirming receipt of the application & determine if your family also qualifies for Head Start.

Any questions, contact the Eau Claire Area School District Early Learning Office

## 715-852-3600

Apply online at <u>www.ecasd.us/enrollment</u>

Click the *blue* 'Early Learning Program' icon, then click the *blue* 'Click Here to Enroll' icon.









# **District News**

# FAMILIES - JOIN US FOR FAMILY SERVICES AFTER HOURS



Wisconsin Educational Opportunities Representative available to:

- Help with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Provide information on WI TIP and Gear Up Grants - available to ALL students

Information about Youth Substance Misuse:

 Stop by the Eau Claire City-County Health Department resource table to learn more about new and emerging cannabis products sold in Wisconsin, e-cigarettes and vaping, youth substance misuse in Eau Claire County, youth resources, and more!

Representatives from CVTC and UWEC:

 Stop by their resource tables to chat and get information

★ SKYWARD Assistance

### ★ SNACKS

#### Yog koj xav tau tus neeg txhais daim ntawv no ua lus Hmoob rau koj los yog koj muaj lus nug txog daim ntawv no, hu rau Blia ntawm (715) 852-6850

# MONDAY, February 5

# 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

ECASD Administration Building 500 Main St.



# **Family Information-Mental Health**

#### News from our School Based Mental Health Coordinator

Everyone feels stressed from time to time, but what is stress? How does it affect your overall health? And what can you do to manage your stress? Stress is how the brain and body respond to any demand. Any type of challenge—such as performance at work or school, a significant life change, or a traumatic event—can be stressful. Stress can affect your health. It is important to pay attention to how you deal with minor and major stressors, so you know when to seek help.

Here are five things you should know about stress.

Stress Catcher Activity

#### **Winter Blues**

It's not uncommon to feel down or unmotivated in the winter. Decreased social activities, time outdoors, and sunlight exposure can affect mental health. While feeling down can be normal, sometimes it can turn into something more serious.

Watch for symptoms such as:

Feeling sad or down most of the time

Losing interest in activities once enjoyed

Having low energy or difficulty concentrating

Changes in eating and sleeping patterns



If you or someone you know are experiencing any of these symptoms, help is available. Call or text the 988 Lifeline for support 24/7 or go to <u>988lifeline.org</u>.

This information is provided by The Alliance for Substance Misuse Prevention coalition, which works to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug misuse. For more information or to sign up for the Alliance's Parent/Guardian Newsletter, visit www.GetInvolvedAsap.org



# Navigating Mental Health Services in the Chippewa Valley

Getting access to mental health services can be challenging and confusing to do on your own.

The "<u>Navigating Mental Health Services</u>" packet makes it easier to find help. The packet includes phone numbers for local services, commonly asked questions, & a mental health wellness check tool.

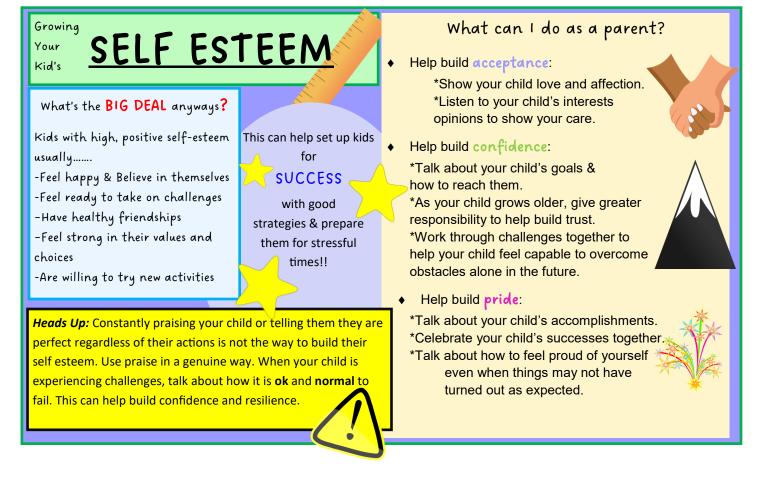
This information is provided by The Alliance for Substance Misuse Prevention coalition, which works to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug misuse. For more information or to sign up for the Alliance's Parent/Guardian Newsletter, visit www.getinvolvedasap.org

### Family Information—Mental Health February is International Boost Self-Esteem Month

International Boost Self-Esteem Month Resource Guide (counselingschools.com)

It's common to struggle with self-esteem at some point in our lives. However, turning our thoughts around and thinking positively about ourselves has significant benefits. This month, join us in boosting self-esteem by following these tips:

- 1. Avoid negative self-talk. When you spend your days thinking about everything you have done wrong or everything you have failed to do, those thoughts become a part of your internal narrative. They influence your level of self-esteem and the more it continues, the worse you feel. When you catch yourself mulling over every flaw, pause, recognize what you're doing, and work to let it go. Reframe your internal conversation by thinking about a strength.
- 2. **Stop comparing yourself to others.** Former President Theodore Roosevelt said, "Comparison is the thief of joy." The achievement of someone else don't take away from your own. Instead of letting comparison make you feel bad about yourself, take a step back and reflect on how far you have come.
- 3. **Exercise.** When you exercise, your body releases endorphins. These chemicals trigger a positive feeling. Something as simple as taking a short walk each day can improve your mood.
- 4. Celebrate your strengths. Take a few minutes each day to think about something you did that you liked. This can be anything from a joke you told to friends, to a meal you helped provide for loved ones, or a skill that helped a client or colleague. Not only will this improve your current mood, but looking back on your thoughts can help improve your self-esteem in the long run.



# **Family Information-Health**

# Making the Connection: Tobacco, Alcohol, and Cancer

National Cancer Prevention Month

February is National Cancer Prevention Month. Take this time to prevent cancer by learning how to talk to your children about the dangers of tobacco and alcohol. You don't have to be an expert. Just let your kids know how you feel and make sure they have the facts they need to make healthy decisions on their own.

The long-term effects of e-cigarettes are still unknown. However, they still pose health risks.	Alcohol can increase the risk of at least seven types of cancer.	
Vaping can expose one to cancer-causing chem- icals and metals that are toxic to lungs.	The more a person drinks over their lifetime, the higher their risk for cancer.	
Tobacco products cause almost 9 of every 10 cases of lung cancer.	Around 20,000 cancer deaths in the U.S. each year attributed to alcohol use.	

#### Go to <u>www.tobaccoischanging.org</u> and <u>www.smalltalkswi.org</u> for more information.

This information is provided by The Alliance for Substance Misuse Prevention coalition, which works to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug misuse. For more information visit <u>www.getinvolvedasap.org</u>



# **Family Information-Nutrition & Oral Health**





#### Did you know it's recommended that a child visits the dentist by age one?

WHY? Eau Claire County has seen an increase in the



If under age 3, use the size of a "grain of rice"



For age 3 and up, use the size of a "pea"

To help prevent cavities, BRUSH: ✓ <u>As soon as teeth appear</u>

- √ <u>2 times</u> a day
- $\sqrt{\text{With}}$  fluoride toothpaste

# PRAIRIE RIDGE— LOST AND FOUND

# Please contact your child's teacher or call 715-852-3607 to claim an item from our lost and found.



