

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

Week of  
April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Comstock Park Head Start  
(616) 493-0744

## Cultural Competency & Inclusion (CCI) Critical Friends or Advisory Group

The Cultural Competency & Inclusion (CCI) Critical Friends and Advisory Group includes a collection of Head Start for Kent County (HS4KC) employees, parents, and community members for the purpose of ensuring cultural competency and inclusion is intentionally merged into HS4KC's program, services, processes, and policies. All parents are welcome. RSVP's are requested. Please contact NaTasha Brown at [nbrown@hs4kc.org](mailto:nbrown@hs4kc.org) or 616-453-4145 ex. 2247.

**CCI Critical Friends meets:**  
Monthly (every third Friday) – virtually for 90 minutes (10:30a-12p)

**CCI Advisory Group meets:**  
Monthly (every third Thursday) – virtually for 60 minutes (2:30-3:30p)

April 5<sup>th</sup> – April 11<sup>th</sup> - Spring Break Week

April 12<sup>th</sup> – Children Return

May 29<sup>th</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup> Closed for Memorial Day

June 15<sup>th</sup> - Last Day for Students

Please Remember that a mask must be worn by you and your child when dropping off, picking up, or taking your child to the bus. It is also important to listen to the screener questions and answer each one truthfully ☺

## Room 6 exploring dough



<https://www.facebook.com/pg/hs4kc/events>

# Kent District Library- Reading Resources

While the month of March is ending, reading with your family and children shouldn't. The Kent District Library has some great resources to help continue your families excitement about reading and learning!

You can check out their:

- 2021 Early Literacy Calendar
  - Printable activities
- Simple crafts and activities for early literacy skills
  - Activities to do around the house
  - AND MUCH MORE!

Research shows that 0-5 is such an important time for children's brains to develop towards reading and learning!

KDL Website:

<https://kdl.org/young-children/ready-to-read>

## Vegetable/ Fruit of the Month:

### ***Sweet Potatoes***



Sweet potatoes are a great source of vitamins A, C, and B<sub>6</sub>. They are also high in potassium, manganese, and fiber! Sweet potatoes can be enjoyable by grilling, baking, or steaming. Try them mashed or in wedges with dip!



Funding for this survey is provided by:



In partnership with:



**Let Your Voice  
Be Heard**

If you have children between birth and age 5, we want to hear from you!

## Our Vision

The Literacy Center of West Michigan in partnership with KConnect and Western Michigan University is surveying families, caregivers, and community-based organizations to better understand current early childhood literacy practices and where opportunities exist to provide additional resources and support for families.

**Our goal is to ensure all children read at grade level by third grade.**

## How to Participate

You can access the survey online with your tablet, computer, or smartphone. Just scan the QR code on the bottom of this page or go to: [www.k-connect.org/literacysurvey](http://www.k-connect.org/literacysurvey)

**The survey is designed to be quick and easy to take.**

If you know other families or caregivers with children between birth and five years, share the survey link or QR code with them.

## How the Data will be Used

To inform, promote, and strengthen literacy practices in your home and in our community.

To inform new early childhood literacy programming and enhance existing early childhood literacy programming for young children in Kent County.

All survey data is confidential.

## Go to the Survey



HS4KC is saddened by the loss of multiple lives in Atlanta, including six Asian women. This is yet another act of racial violence in our country that also intersects with violence against women and immigrant populations. This directly impacts many of the communities, families, children, and staff we serve. We stand against all acts of hate, violence, and terrorism.

We understand there's more to be uncovered from this specific incident, but we do know that there has been a rise in anti-Asian racism, violence against women, and many other incidents of hate in this country. We want to humanize and value these marginalized groups and are actively living out our core value of Humanitarianism as an agency through our service to the community, collective conversations, professional development, and equity challenges.

Due to several recent events, we also want to ensure HS4KC staff working with persons of the Burmese culture are aware of what our families may be experiencing during these tumultuous times.



We are committed to the support of our staff and families in any way we can. We invite you to take a look at the Racial & Social Equity Toolkit available on our website's Resource page (<https://hs4kc.org/resources/racial-social-equity-toolkit/>) to help engage in these crucial conversations.

We've also listed additional resources, and an upcoming event this Wednesday, to bring awareness and advocacy for Asian Americans and those of the Burmese culture.

[Asian Americans reported being targeted at least 500 times in the last two months - CNN](#)

[Policy 101: What's Happening in Burma | Bush Center](#)

[Myanmar coup: What is happening and why? - BBC News](#)

Sincerely,

**MaDonna J Princer**

*Executive Director*

**NaTasha Brown**

*Cultural Competency & Inclusion Manager*