

**Week of
October 7, 2024**

**Sparta Head Start
616-735-5327**

**Fredrick Meijer Garden
Field Trips**

October 15 – Rm 2
October 17 – Rm 3

DATES TO REMEMBER

****SCHOOL CLOSED – October 14
** Family Engagement Event –
October 23rd – 3:00 to 4:00**

Did you know that reading to your child for just 20 minutes has many benefits?

- ❖ Children who read 20 minutes a day are exposed to 1.8 million words in one school year. Children who read 5 minutes per day are only exposed to 282,000 words per school year.
- ❖ Reading helps foster empathy
- ❖ Children are exposed to different ideas and cultures
- ❖ Reading also improves critical thinking
- ❖ Students who read 20 minutes per day score significantly higher on standardized tests of reading
- ❖ Reading increases knowledge of correct syntax and grammar, along with robust vocabulary knowledge, resulting in improved writing skills

Here are a few important reminders about attendance

We are here to partner with you. Knowing the reason that your child will be absent is important and we are **required** to reach out to you if we do not have communication with you.

We are required to put in a reason for any child being absent.

There are a few ways to contact us:

Kaymbu

Email – bloper@hs4kc.org

Phone - 616-735-5327 PRESS # 1

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

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 **Head Start
for Kent County**
Connecting Families and Community Resources

 **CFC Start
Readiness Program**
Michigan's Nationally Recognized Pre-K Program

Playing in the Rain:

When the weather is rainy and uncomfortable for us as adults, it doesn't mean that our children feel that way. Rain puddles have an almost magnetic pull for children.

How to explore:

1. Puddle Jumping- What a fun way to develop the gross motor skills of jumping and stomping! Children also experience cause and effect and properties of water through this simple activity.
2. Floating and Sinking- Use a puddle as a natural water table. Let your child explore properties of floating and sinking by experimenting with different items found outside. Does a leaf float in the puddle? What about a stick? Or a rock?
3. Puddle Soup- Provide some buckets and scoops or spoons to use in puddle play. Children practice and build vocabulary and build confidence and self-regulation through imaginative play.

For more information go to: <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/play-in-puddle#:~:text=Developing%20a%20sense%20of%20rhythm,very%20little%20help%20from%20adults.>

Why does my child get sick so much?

Children who go to preschool or childcare get sick a lot, especially during their first year of preschool. Did you know that children who attend preschool or childcare:

- Are two to three times more likely to get sick than children who do not attend preschool or childcare?
- Have illnesses that last longer?
- Have more ear infections and are more likely to have tubes placed in their ears?

The good news is...

- The incidence of illness decreases from 12 per year to 4 per year by the time they turn 5 years old
- 90% of illnesses are mild and require no treatment
- Illness incidences decrease after children's first full year of attendance
- Kindergartners who were previously enrolled in preschool or childcare have fewer illnesses and therefore fewer absences.

If you find that your preschooler is getting sick a lot, please remember that he or she is building their immune system, and it will get better!

Help Your Child Succeed in Preschool and Kindergarten

Build the Habit of Good Attendance

DID YOU KNOW...

Missing 10% of school (1 or 2 days every few weeks) can make it harder to gain early reading and math skills.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Talk about it – sing about it – make it an adventure

Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA**



What is Indigenous Peoples' Day?

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On the second Monday of October, our nation honors Indigenous Peoples' Day, commemorating the heritage of Native American people. Indigenous Peoples' Day recognizes the strength and resilience of Indigenous communities since European ships first arrived in North America in 1492. It's also a time to celebrate the cultures, traditions and contributions of Native people in the U.S. today.

Not yet a federal holiday, Indigenous Peoples' Day has been honored at the national scale since 2021, when President Joe Biden became the first U.S. President to [mark the holiday as Indigenous Peoples' Day via presidential proclamation](#). However, there is ongoing advocacy around making it a federal holiday.

How to talk to kids about Indigenous Peoples' Day

For children with Native American ancestry, Indigenous Peoples' Day is an opportunity to celebrate their heritage. Other kids may only know Native American history from Thanksgiving celebrations and have questions about what Indigenous Peoples' Day is all about.

Who are Indigenous people?

Indigenous people have lived on our nation's land for thousands of years. They have roots in American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and American Samoan ancestries.

Why do we celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day

Indigenous people have made major contributions to our society, from medicine and travel to agriculture and invention (like snow goggles — the predecessor for sunglasses)! However, many of these contributions go unrecognized. This is a result of Native Tribes enduring generations in a nation that stripped away their ancestors' rights, land ownership, livelihoods, health and safety — all inequities that remain very real for American Indian and Alaska Natives representing just 1% of the U.S. population today. By celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day, we highlight their legacy, resilience and ongoing impact on our country.

Is Columbus Day still called Indigenous Peoples' Day?

Columbus Day became an official U.S. holiday in 1972 under President Richard Nixon. In the early 1990s, many U.S. cities, universities and states began observing Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day, recognizing the Native citizens who lived on our country's land before European explorers arrived. Columbus Day is still celebrated in some states, with others celebrating in parallel with Indigenous Peoples' Day or in place of Columbus Day.