



# The Village at Ames

## October 2018 Family Newsletter

### Upcoming Dates

- Oct 3/4, Wednesday/Thursday – Individual School Picture Days!
- Oct 4, Thursday -- PBIS/Literacy Night; 6:30 pm in Ames Gym
- Oct 18, Thursday – No School; Preschool In-Service Day
- Oct 19, Friday – No School; LPS Fall Break
- Oct 23, Tuesday – Ames Family Partnership Meeting; 6:30 pm
- Oct 31, Wednesday – Class Fall Celebrations (No Costumes)
- Nov 8, Thursday– No School; Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov 9, Friday – No School
- Nov 19 – 23 – Thanksgiving Break

### Important Phone Numbers To Keep:

Attendance  
Line  
303-347-4410

Preschool Office  
303-347-4409

Health Assistant  
(Megan Anderson)  
303-734-3025

Ames Facility  
303-347-4411

We hope your families are enjoying a wonderful start to the fall!



We have truly enjoyed getting to know your children!

### PBIS/Literacy Family Night October 4th @ 6:30 pm

Please join us for this fun-filled family night at Ames!

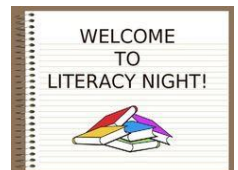
Each day at preschool, your children are learning important skills that are helping them build a solid foundation for school success. We have carefully planned fun family activities for the evening to help develop and reinforce these skills.

Please sign-up with your classroom teacher, in person or by email, and plan on enjoying some fun learning with your student. Take home materials will also be made available that night.

### Special Appearance!!

In partnership with Tattered Cover Book Store, students will hear a special presentation by **Heather Preusser**, author of *A Symphony of Cowbells*. Additionally, copies of *A Symphony of Cowbells* are available to purchase in the office and will also be available during the event with cash or check, or online at [Tatteredcover.com](http://Tatteredcover.com) by credit card. Get your book before the visit and ask the author to sign it at the event!

**We want to give a shout out and special thank you to:**  
Guest Author Heather Preusser, Tattered Cover Bookstore, and to Bevin Rolfs Spencer, ECSE, for arranging our special author visit!



# Preschool Picture Day!

Studio 5 Portraits will be at our school Wednesday, October 3rd, and Thursday, October 4th for individual student pictures.



The majority of students will have their pictures taken on **Wednesday**.

Thursday pictures will be our Tuesday/Thursday students and any students that were missed on Wednesday. If needed, picture retake day is scheduled for November 13th.

Order forms with portrait options were sent home last week. Additional order forms are available in the Preschool Office.

## LPS 2019/2020 Open Enrollment Forms for Kindergarten:

As an FYI, Littleton Public Schools begin accepting open enrollment applications for the upcoming school year on October 1<sup>st</sup>. **Applications should be returned directly to the elementary school(s) being requested.** All open enrollment requests must be approved before students can be registered.

As a reminder, out-of-district families that would like to open enroll their child into an LPS kindergarten are required to complete an "Application for Admission of Nonresident Student" form.

Likewise, any In-District students who wish to attend an LPS school other than their assigned school will need to complete an "Application for In-District Student Open Enrollment" form.

Forms will be found on the LPS District website under "Enrollment".



## Ames Family Partnership



We will be having our first volunteer meeting for the Ames Family Partnership on **Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** We would love for anyone who is interested to be able to participate, so please plan to attend the meeting!

We established our Ames Family Partnership to help support the needs within our early childhood community and classrooms. We truly value the importance of connecting families in addition to supporting the needs of the program.

There are opportunities to help such as volunteering to be The Family Liaison ("room parent") for your child's classroom. Additionally, volunteers are also needed to support our Restaurant Night and Fundraising Opportunities, help with Teacher Conference Day Potlucks, and support Teacher Appreciation activities.

We want to thank you in advance for your time and for volunteering. You are a valued part of the Ames community!



## Getting Ready for Kindergarten!

*Is this your student's last year  
in a Preschool classroom?*

**Join us for a panel discussion with Principals  
from LPS Elementary Schools :**

- ❖ Learn about registration and the open enrollment process
- ❖ Get ideas to help you prepare for the Kindergarten Transition

Date: Wednesday, October 24th, 2018

Time: 5:30 pm–6:30 pm- Principal Panel

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Information about the transition process for Elementary Special Education Services

Place: The Village at North Gym

1907 West Powers Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120

**If you need childcare, please call The Village Office at North 303.347.6985 or Ames 303.347.4409 to sign up !**

## **King Soopers Reward Program Grocery Cards Now Available!**

Preloaded King Soopers Grocery Cards are now available through the Village at Ames Preschool.

This fundraiser provides our school with much needed funds, and can be a convenient and easy way to support our program by simply shopping for groceries as you already do!

### Follow these Easy Steps:

- Purchase a \$5 King Soopers gift card from the Preschool Office
- Shop at King Soopers
- Add your grocery funds to your grocery gift card BEFORE you pay,
- Pay with your grocery gift card.

You can reload your grocery card (add more funds) at the register, or at Customer Service. Cards can be used for groceries, for gasoline, or even for pharmacy purchases. Please consider supporting this effort if possible. Thank you!

**The Village at Ames will receive 5% of all grocery card purchases!**

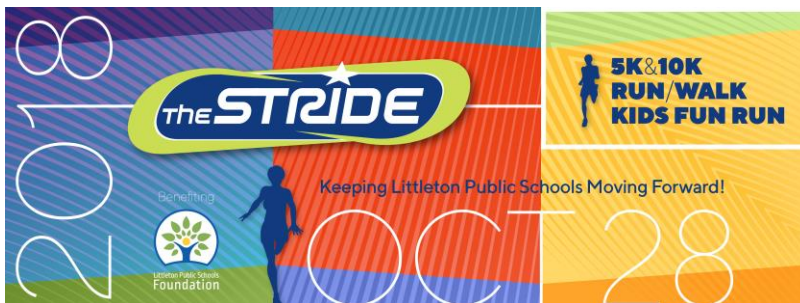
---

# ABC LITERACY IS FUN!

With September coming to a close, we want to share just a little bit about what your children have been doing with literacy. When your child independently selects his/her name tag every day when arriving at school, they are learning to recognize their name in print. Some of your children have also begun to recognize some of the names of their friends in the classroom.

We are also focusing on the first letter in our names and the first letter in the names of their classmates and the sounds each of those letters make. It's so fun to watch the children as they begin to understand about letters -- that they make sounds, and when put together, they make words, and that words are what we use when we talk and read. Pre-reading skills are being developed through these and a variety of other activities, many times throughout the preschool day, at all levels.

At home, talk about the first letters of the names of various family members and the sounds that they make. Can they think of other words that begin with that same letter/sound? In the car, can they see the first letter of their name on a sign or building? Can they find one independently? You can also make a family book of names with the name of each family member on a page and read this with your child. Have fun exploring letters at home together. Literacy is fun!



A community event to promote a healthy and active lifestyle while building support for Littleton Public Schools.

For more information and to register, visit: [RunTheStride.com](http://RunTheStride.com)

All proceeds from this event benefit the LPS Foundation.

## Practice Makes Perfect...

### Fire, Lock-Down, Tornado Drills for Preschool

The Village at Ames Preschool conducts monthly fire drills, three tornado drills per year, and one lock-down drill per semester.

As part of the Littleton Public Schools Basic Emergency Action Plan, and as educators, we must ensure that all students have an understanding of different emergency procedures. The drills will be explained to the children at an age-appropriate level and are incorporated into our Village program for staying safe.

Your child may want to discuss the drills with you and we encourage you to reassure them that it's important to have these drills to "practice being safe". Students will depend on teachers and supervising staff to provide direction in an emergency situation.

Our first lockdown drill will be during the week of October 22nd. If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email our Director, Tracey Hansen.

# Play-based learning doesn't come home in a backpack

by Deborah Stewart, M.Ed.

My students have been with me for two weeks now and yet everyday, their back packs have gone home pretty much empty.

If my parents didn't know me well, they might think that their child isn't learning anything.

The reason it is hard to send home anything in the back pack is because nothing fits.

I can't send home how we learned to find our own name at the sign-in table. I can't send home how we learned to serve our own snack. And I can't send home how we are getting more comfortable and confident in our daily routines every single day.

I can't send home the beautiful castle four of the children built together. And I can't send home the large canvas all the children painted so beautifully together as a community.

I can't send home the giggles of the children when our puppet comes out to speak to us. And I can't send home the vinegar and baking soda experiments my students have been exploring since the first day of school.

No, the things we have been learning are WAY TOO BIG for our back packs.

Yes, if you looked inside our backpacks, it would seem like we haven't been learning but if you look outside of the backpack...

However, I have been sending home a few things like wet sleeves from the water table, sandy rocks in pockets, paint speckles on faces, and a few worms have made their way home here and there.

Oh, and I suspect that a few songs are being sung on the car ride home along with the story of how we saw a huge spiderweb in the tree outside.

Yes, if you looked inside our backpacks, it would seem like we haven't been learning but if you look outside of the backpack, you will see cooperation, friendship, independence, collaboration, discovery, testing, questioning, trial and error, confidence, exploration, and play.

