

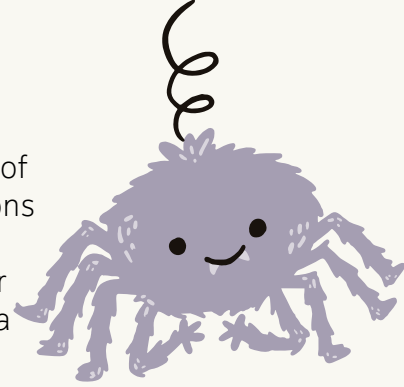
# Spencer Trail Times OCTOBER Newsletter



## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPALS...

Spencer Trail Families,

October is a busy and exciting time in kindergarten!! We learn about the changing of the seasons and observe the falling leaves and seasonal harvests. While the seasons are shifting, it is also a time for big changes and growth in our students. We are settled into our new classrooms, and are working hard to gain independence in our routines and make connections with friends and staff. We are also building stamina as learners as we dive into our kindergarten curriculum!



Consider ways to challenge your kindergartener to grow at home as well! You can assign a new "chore" like feeding a pet or setting the table OR increase independence in home routines like brushing teeth or hanging up their coats and backpacks!

It is amazing what our little ones can do when high expectations are set for them! We cannot wait to see what this year has in store for all our Spencer Trail Wildcats!

Jenny Christophersen, Principal

Jen Pender, Assistant Principal

## OFFICE

Superintendent- Dr. Lori Motsch

Principal- Mrs. Jennifer Christophersen

Assistant Principal- Mrs. Jen Pender

Secretary- Mrs. Jamie Key

Secretary- Mrs. Jill Foytik

Office hours- 7:20AM- 3:50PM

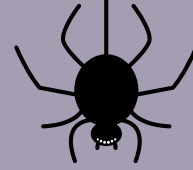
Phone Number- (815) 462-7007





# October

October 2<sup>nd</sup>– Picture Day



October 6<sup>th</sup>– October 24<sup>th</sup>– PTO Read-A-Thon

It's a time to get your kid excited to read with fun themes and prizes!

October 9<sup>th</sup>– Spencer Trail Breast Cancer Walk

October 13<sup>th</sup>– No School– Holiday

October 16<sup>th</sup>– Character Counts Assembly

Wear **Yellow** for Respect  
PTO Meeting

October 21<sup>st</sup>– School Board Meeting @ 6PM

October 30<sup>th</sup>– Halloween Parties

October 31<sup>st</sup>– Half Day for PM & DK Students

**No school for the AM students.**

PM students attend school from 8:25AM until 11:25AM.

Happy Halloween!

\*Throughout the month of October, our social worker, Mrs. H, will be visiting the kindergarten classrooms to do the Erin's Law presentations.





# A Note from Nurse Cami

Spencer Trail families:

Thank you for helping us meet the state requirements by returning your physical and immunization information. If you still have not uploaded your child's physical and immunizations, please do so ASAP and no later than October 15th to avoid having your child excluded from school. Public Act 95-0671 became effective January 1, 2008 requiring all children enrolling in kindergarten, or any student enrolling for the first time in a public or parochial school on or after this date to have an eye examination by a physician or an optometrist within one year prior to entering school. This exam is to be completed and the form turned in by October 15th. Proof of dental evaluation is needed by May 1st so please remember at your child's next visit to have the dentist complete the dental examination form. Copies of all health related forms are available on [www.nlsd122.org](http://www.nlsd122.org) website, just click on registration forms and you will see a list of all related health forms you might need.

Thank you.

If your child is sick and will be absent from school, please call the office to let them know.

815-462-7007



# Important Information

## Halloween at Spencer Trail

We will celebrate Halloween on October 30th!  
Teachers will plan their own classroom celebrations.  
Have your student come dressed in their costume for the day. Please don't send weapons or accessories to school. We don't want anything to get lost.

## Preschool Screenings

New Lenox School District will be screening children from ages three to five in the areas of motor, cognitive, and speech/language development. Early childhood educators will present “game like” activities to your child which assess various development skills. All preschoolers who reside in our district are eligible to attend free of charge. This is a preschool screening, *not* a kindergarten readiness screening. This year the screenings will be held at Cherry Hill Elementary and Early Childhood Center.

### *2025-2026 Screening Dates*

November 21st      March 13th      May 8th

Call Cherry Hill School at 815-462-7831 to schedule an appointment.



# Specialist Spotlight

## Art & Music News from Mrs. Tinny

The kindergarten artists have done a wonderful job practicing their fine motor skills this past month! We have practiced scissor skills, including how to properly and safely use scissors. They learned the phrase “just a dot, not a lot!” in regards to using bottled glue.

We have discussed caring for our art supplies and ensuring that we “snap that cap!” when using glue sticks and markers. We have worked in small groups, rotating through different fine motor centers, strengthening our little hands! Next month we will explore texture, line, and shape.

In music, we have introduced basic percussion instruments. Students have been able to try the instruments and learn about the history of each one, and how to carefully use them. We talked about keeping a steady beat with instruments. Soon, we will move towards exploring string instruments and how they work.

The students have done a great job, and I am looking forward to our October learning and exploring!



## P.E. News from Mr Lundborg (Mr L)

Since the beginning of the school year, I have been teaching your child equipment names and obstacle courses. As the school year continues, over the next few weeks, I will be teaching your child the above mentioned, as well as, different locomotor movements like hopping, jumping and soccer.

Please remember to dress your child in proper clothing and shoes. (When selecting your child's gym shoes, please stay away from black soled shoes as they tend to mark up the gym floor.







## **Library News from Mrs Ozbolt**



Hello from the library! I am happy to be seeing your child's class each week. The students are working hard on whole body listening, following directions and learning our library routines. As the kindergarteners continue to bring books home:

### **PLEASE REMEMBER THESE "BOOK CARE" RULES:**

- 1. Please do not scribble or write in your books.**
- 2. Remember to not eat and drink while reading your books.**
- 3. Do not leave your books outside.**
- 4. Clean fingers are appreciated!**
- 5. Please return your library book when you are finished reading it. You do not need to wait until your next library visit. There is a library cart in the hallway of every neighborhood. When it is not library day, students can return their books to that cart.**

**Thanks so much for returning library books on time**

**! \*\* I always stress to the students that accidents happen. If something happened to their book, it's important that I know about it, so I can decide if the book can be repaired or a new one needs to be ordered.**

**We always start our library time with a read aloud followed by an activity or lesson and then end with check out time. We have been working on lots of library skills and new library terms. We are learning book care and different parts of a book. We even built a pretend book together in class! I love getting to see the students explore all the different types of books we have available and helping them choose the one they will check out that week. We thank you for the huge role you play in fostering a love of reading in your child.**



### Calling Your Student OFF of School

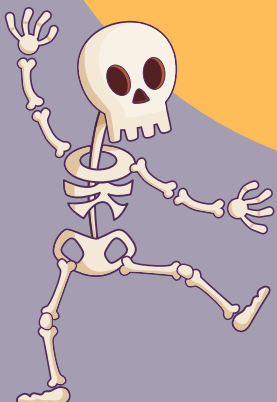
If your child will be absent from school, please call 815-462-7007. Leave your child's name, teacher, session, and the reason for the absence. This is a 24 hour line, so you can call anytime. If your child is NOT in school and we have not received a call within 35 minutes after the start of the student's session, one of our secretaries will call you to verify his/her absence. To ensure the safety of our students, if we cannot make contact with the parent/guardian, we will call the New Lenox Police Department to perform a non-emergency wellness check at your residence.



### Transportation Department

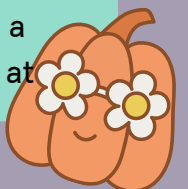
If you have an absence, or any questions or concerns regarding bus transportation, please contact the Transportation Department at 815-717-3100.

This includes late buses or buses that missed your stop.



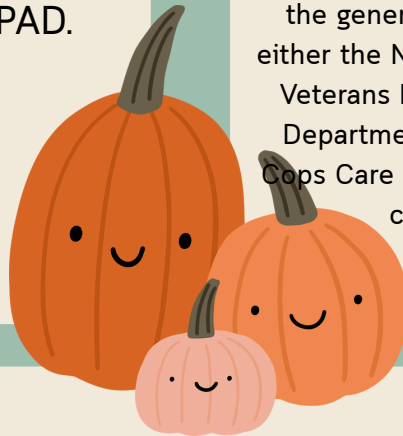
### Social Worker News from Mrs. Hamaker

In 2011, the state of Illinois passed Erin's Law, which requires all public schools from grades Pre-K through 12th grade to receive age-appropriate curriculum to address sexual abuse and how to identify trusted adults. As stated in our New Lenox School District 122 Student Handbook, I will be visiting each classroom to deliver our age-appropriate Erin's Law presentation to our Kindergarteners. This will occur throughout the month of October. This conversation will emphasize the importance of safety, understanding personal space, and how to identify a trusted adult at home and at school.



## Sign Out Procedure

When coming to pick up your student during the school day, please bring your photo ID. You will be buzzed into the office where you will sign out your student on the office IPAD.



## Coat Drive with NLPD

New Lenox Police Department proudly announce the department's 15th annual "Cops Care" coat drive benefiting the Lincoln Way area community. In partnership with New Lenox School District 122, the coat drive allows for residents to donate gently used coats and utilizes a voucher system to allow anyone in need to receive a coat, free of charge. School

District 122 students and families are encouraged to donate at their schools, while the general public are asked to donate at either the New Lenox Village Hall located at 1 Veterans Parkway or the New Lenox Police Department at 200 Veterans Parkway. The Cops Care coat drive begins October 1st and concludes October 31st.

See handout below!

## Visual Information from the Occupational Therapist

Vision information related to school functioning:

**Visual acuity.** A person's ability to see clearly both close up and at a distance. When there is a deficit in acuity a child may struggle with: tasks up close, such as reading, coloring, printing, and/or cutting or tasks at a distance, such as copying from the board.

**Focusing.** A person's ability to change focus quickly between tasks. When there is a deficit in focusing a child may struggle with shifting visually between the board and their work.

**Visual efficiency/Oculomotor skills.** A person's ability to coordinate movement of their eyes together.

The ability to use both eyes as a 'team', is what allows our brain to fuse the two separate pictures coming in from each eye into a single image with depth perception. This skill is called binocularity. When the eyes do not 'team' a child may see double or they may struggle to visually track across midline. When there is a deficit in oculomotor skills a child may struggle with: aligning scissors to a page or line, following a line when cutting, using lines while printing, tracking a line of print when reading, catching a ball, and navigating chances in surfaces. Some research shows that up to 75% of children who struggle with reading have deficits in oculomotor skills. Other signs that there may be a visual difficulty includes: rubbing eyes, looking at things from the side, tilting head while doing close work, avoiding fine motor tasks, and/or saying things are hard to see. Many vision exams only evaluate visual acuity. If you see your child struggling with any of the above skills it may be best to share that information with your eye doctor to see if they would evaluate oculomotor skills.



# October Birthdays

Alexandra U.

Anne P.

Brielle H.

Tuleen B.

Soren A.

Kane E.

Blake C.

Quentin S.

Emily B.

Leo F.

Aubree K.

Dylan S.

Hunter H.

Jacob W.

Emma R.

Olivia R.

Ashe S.

Brody J.

Bennett P.

Addison P.

Everly F.

Carter G.

Kenzie R.



# Spencer Trail Picture Day



Spencer Trail's Picture Day will be held on **October 2, 2025.**

Parents: All orders will be completed online. There is nothing your student needs to bring in that day except for a SMILE.

**VIEW & ORDER PHOTOS FROM**  
**PICTURE DAY!**

You'll receive an email when your images are ready to view online. Or, you can search for your gallery at [vipis.com](http://vipis.com) shortly after photos are taken.

If you need further assistance, contact us at [support@vipis.com](mailto:support@vipis.com)

 **vip**  
visual image photography

## How to Order School Portraits:

Picture proofs should be available within two weeks of picture day. All proofs and ordering of pictures will be completed through PowerSchool.

- Parents will log on to PowerSchool:
  - \*Select your student
  - \*Click the 'Student Photo' option on the left-hand navigation menu
  - \*This will lead you to VIP's individual website photo proof page for the student

You'll be able to select which photo you want used in the memory book (head-and-shoulders crop only) Please take a moment to do this or VIP will pick the best one for you. You can then place an order. All orders will be delivered to the home address you enter at checkout.

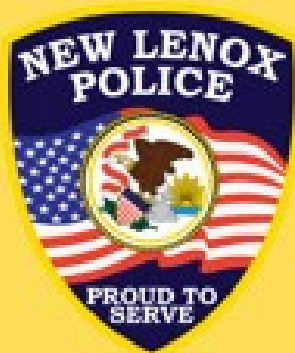
- Questions regarding ordering or photo options can be emailed to [support@vipis.com](mailto:support@vipis.com) or through calling VIP at 262-375-9633. The VIP website is [www.vipis.com](http://www.vipis.com).
- Any other questions can be directed to the Spencer Trail office or through emailing Mrs. Pender: [jpender@nlsd122.org](mailto:jpender@nlsd122.org).

**Absent on picture day? No Worries! Retake Day is November 3rd!**



# **NEW LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENT COAT DRIVE**

(October 1st through 31st)



## **DROP OFF LOCATIONS:**

**NEW LENOX SCHOOLS, NEW  
LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENT,  
OR NEW LENOX VILLAGE HALL.**

## **COAT VOUCHERS ARE AVAILABLE AT:**

**NEW LENOX SCHOOLS, NEW  
LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENT,  
NEW LENOX VILLAGE HALL,  
OR NEW LENOX TOWNSHIP**





# NEWS + EVENTS

2025-2026

## WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back, families! 🌈 Thank you for all the ways you supported our schools last year. The PTO is excited for another great year ahead and we rely on amazing volunteers like you to make it happen. Watch for event sign-ups in your email and join us at a meeting to get involved. We would love to hear your ideas about making a difference for the kids!

## ABOUT PTO MEETINGS

Join us at the District Office (102 S. Cedar Rd) for all PTO meetings this year. Parents, neighbors, and local businesses are all welcome—we'll kick things off by giving community businesses and partners a chance to share ideas and explore ways to make a difference together.

## EVENT SCHEDULE

- Oct 6-24th** Read-A-Thon
- Feb 21** Family Dance
- Spring TBD** Family Fun Bowling Bash
- Spring TBD** PTO Restaurant Week
- April 25** 5K Kids Dash for Mental Health/Wellness Fair
- May 4-8** Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

## PTO MEETING DATES

- 9/18/25 -- 9:30 am
- 10/16/25 -- 9:30 am
- 11/20/25 -- 9:30 am
- 12/18/25 -- 6:30 pm
- 1/15/26 -- 9:30 am
- 2/19/26 -- 6:30 pm
- 3/19/26 -- 9:30 am
- 4/16/26 -- 6:30 pm
- 5/21/26 -- 9:30 am

All meetings held at NLSD122 District Office  
102 S. Cedar Road

## QUESTIONS?

We'd love to hear from you! If you can't join a meeting, email us at:

[nlzd122pto@gmail.com](mailto:nlzd122pto@gmail.com)



# NLSD 122 IS HIRING!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN  
WORKING IN THE DISTRICT YOUR  
CHILD ATTENDS? DO YOU NEED  
TO WORK THE SAME DAYS YOUR  
CHILD IS IN SCHOOL? IF SO,  
APPLY NOW TO BE A  
PARAPROFESSIONAL!



With a short-term approval,  
paraprofessionals need only to be  
19 years of age with a high school  
diploma (or equivalent), or higher.

Interested applicants can apply on  
our website linked [HERE](#).

