



October 2026

Principal's Note

Happy October! There is something truly magical about October and November. Sitting right between the whirlwind of "back-to-school" and the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, these two months are our golden window. Routines are set, children and families are settled in with a renewed excitement for school, and the energy around learning is at an all-time high.

Historically, this is the time of year when we see the most significant academic growth in our students. Having just wrapped up our fall math and literacy screenings, our staff is feeling refreshed, clear on every child's needs, and ready to roll! Let's take full advantage of this wonderful momentum together and really go for it. Thank you for your partnerships! We can't wait to see all the growth this fall will bring!

Principal Steenhoek

At-Home Reading Program

49 PK-5 students participated in the September At-Home Reading Program. They each received a prize. Three of the students' names were drawn so they chose a brand new book from Amazon! A new reading log came home for the month of October.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are almost here!

Parent-Teacher conferences are on October 13 and 15. Typically over 90% of our families attend conferences so we hope to maintain that high rate of participation this year! Remember that we have an early 11:35 dismissal on Thursday, October 15 and we do not have school on October 16 and 19. Sign up for conferences here- <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/6nmcm>.

Four Mile Elementary Golf Ball Drop Fundraiser

Four Mile Elementary, the Four Mile PTA, and the Southeast Polk Kiwanis Club are excited to team up for our Golf Ball Drop Fundraiser to raise money for new, accessible playground equipment! Our goal is to

purchase a piece of playground equipment, featuring integrated seating, safety rails, and a ramp-free level entry designed for children of all physical abilities. With your help, we can make our playground a fun and inclusive space for every student!

How It Works & Pricing

Cost: \$5.00 per ball, or 5 balls for \$20.00. Ball tickets are purchased online.

Prize: The ball dropped closest to the pin wins \$1,000!

Event Details: The Golf Ball Drop takes place on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at Terrace Hills Golf Course in Altoona, IA. (Winners do not need to be present to win).

Class Competition & Pizza Party!

Our goal is for every student to sell 20 golf balls. To add to the excitement, the class that sells the most golf balls will win a Kiwanis-sponsored Pizza Party!

How to Participate

Purchase Golf Balls Online: Sales officially start today and go through Thursday, October 8. Buy your balls online through the QR code on the flyer that is coming home with your child.

Track Your Sales: Use your child's Golf Ball Drop recording sheet to keep track of sales.

Turn In Recording Sheets: Have your student return their completed paper recording sheet to their teacher by Thursday, October 8 so their class gets credit for the pizza party!

Thank you for your continued support in making Four Mile Elementary an incredible place for our students. Let's get selling and win that pizza party!



Fall Party Information

Four Mile Fall Parties will be on Friday, October 30. Grade level teaching teams will decide on the party time for each grade level. We are asking some families to make monetary cash donations to help teachers pay for the games/activities. We are also asking that families consider donating snacks, drinks or paper products. Donations are due to the school office by 8:45am on Friday, October 30th. Please label them with your student's teacher's name. These parties are for students and staff to celebrate together. We are looking forward to a fall day celebration with your children!

Sign up here- <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/4mprt>

Lighthouse Keepers

Our Watch DOGS program has a new name and a new invitation! We are looking for moms, dads, grandparents and other guardians to volunteer to help make Four Mile a safe and supportive place for

our students. These volunteers will be referred to as Lighthouse Keepers. By volunteering just one half-day each semester (October 1 - April 1), you can lend a hand by listening to students read, practicing sight words or math facts, playing small-group games, and/or assisting teachers in their classrooms. *Please note that a background check is required for all volunteers.* Please contact Michele Simpson, our Instructional Coach, to sign up. Her e-mail address is michele.simpson@southeastpolk.org or school phone number: 515.265.1972 ext 5452.

Veterans Day Assembly Information

Our annual Veterans Day Assembly is on Wednesday, November 11 at 9:30am. We invite all Four Mile students, staff, and family members or close friends of Veterans to join us as we recognize and honor those who have served our country.

To show our patriotic spirit, students and staff are encouraged to wear red, white, and blue on this special day.

This meaningful event provides both an educational opportunity for our students and a celebration of service and sacrifice. We are proud to continue this Four Mile tradition and look forward to making it our best assembly yet!

If a student or staff member would like a friend or family member who is a Veteran to be announced in the program- please complete the form at this QR code.



Fun Run Information

We have kicked off the annual Fun Run fundraiser today! This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, and helps fund our general PTA budget (estimated at \$30,000 for this school year), which includes: field trips; Scholastic book giveaway; reimbursements for teachers' classrooms; Staff Appreciation; 5th Grade celebrations; classroom snacks; Fall and Spring dinners during parent/teacher conferences; and more!

The Fun Run will be held on Friday, October 23rd (rain date is Monday, October 26th). [Here is the schedule of when each grade level will participate.](#)

Every student will get a FREE t-shirt to wear on the day of the Fun Run! [Please fill out this form ASAP](#) to let us know what size to order for your child(ren).

Students are asked to collect donations from family, friends, and others who they know to help support Four Mile and our community. By collecting donations, students are pledging to do their best on the day of the event by completing laps around our Fun Run "track" in the grassy area to the south of the school

building. Family members and friends are encouraged to come and cheer on their student(s)!

[This is our Fun Run website](#) that can be shared and used to collect donations via a credit card. Students may also collect cash, checks (made out to "Four Mile Elementary PTA"), and Venmo payments (@FourMileElementary-PTA).

Please label all cash, check, and Venmo donations with your child's name and their teacher's name.
Donations can be submitted or sent to the Four Mile main office at any time!

Fun incentives will be provided for students, classes and the whole school when various fundraising milestones are met.

Please reach out if you have any questions: fourmilepta@gmail.com

From Four Mile PTA

We'd love for you to join us at our next PTA meeting on Tuesday, October 6th at 6:00 pm in the Four Mile Library. We also offer a virtual option. Our meetings are casual, and we never pressure anyone to volunteer - YOU DECIDE how involved you want to be! There will be free snacks and free childcare! [Click here for a link to our agenda.](#)

Upcoming dates:

- Friday, October 23rd: Four Mile Fun Run during the school day (rain date: Monday, October 26th)
- Saturday, October 31st: Four Mile Vendor Show 10:00am-3:00pm
- Tuesday, November 10th: Four Mile PTA meeting at 6:00pm
- November 19th: Nothing Bundt Cake sales begin
- No December PTA meeting
- Tuesday, January 12th: Four Mile PTA meeting at 6:00pm
- Friday, January 22nd: Family Bingo Night at Four Mile (rain date: Friday, January 29th)
- Tuesday, February 9th: Four Mile PTA meeting at 6:00pm
- Tuesday, March 2nd: Four Mile PTA meeting at 6:00pm
- Saturday, March 6th: Pancake Breakfast and Spring Fundraiser

We know that families are busy, so we don't expect you to be involved or attend every event. Come when you can, volunteer if you want, and contribute however is best for you! We appreciate ANY and ALL help you're willing to offer!

[Here is a link if you'd like to follow us on Facebook](#) to stay up to date on what's going on with the Four Mile PTA! Also, feel free to reach out to us at any time via email: fourmilepta@gmail.com.

Upcoming Dates

Thursday, October 2- National Custodian/maintenance appreciation day

Friday, October 2- Homecoming game

Friday, October 2- National School Custodian Day
 Monday, October 5- Level 3 Spec. Ed field trip to Mitchellville Pumpkin Patch
 Tuesday, October 6- 3rd graders Fire Safety House with PH Fire Dept.
 Tuesday, October 6- National coaches & Instructional coaches day
 Tuesday, October 6- PTA meeting, 6pm
 Saturday, October 10- Kiwanis Ball Drop at Terrace Hills Golf Course- big fundraiser for Four Mile Elementary. 10am
 Tuesday, October 13- Parent teacher conferences and Scholastic Book Fair
 Thursday, October 15- Parent teacher conferences and Scholastic Book Fair
 Friday, October 16- No school.
 Monday, October 19- No school- Staff development day
 Monday, October 21- Unity day- wear orange (Bullying prevention)
 Thursday, October 22- Picture retakes, PK-5 (8:00am-12pm)
 Friday, October 23-PTA Fun Run
 Monday, October 26- PTA Fun run (Raindate)
 Thursday, October 29-Kindergarten field trip to Howell's Pumpkin Patch
 Friday, October 30- 1st Grade ELC field trip
 Friday, October 30- Fall Party Day
 Saturday, October 31- PTA Vendor Fair at Four Mile

Financial Assistance for Students' Breakfast and Lunch

Families can apply for Free/Reduced price meal benefits at any time throughout the school year. If you need assistance paying for meals, please submit an application. If you have a change in income, you can always reapply.

2 ways to submit:

1. Online from a computer at schoolcafe.com
2. Download the SchoolCafe by PrimeroEdge app for your smartphone *

**We recommend the phone app as the app also allows you to see your child(ren)'s meal purchases, set low balance alerts and set spending limits. You can also see instantly what your child(ren)'s meal eligibility is. After submittal, click on Eligibility Info on the left panel.*

A few items you will need to help make the process easy and have a successful submittal:

1. Your child(ren)'s name and date of birth. Helpful information would be your child(ren)'s school ID and the school they will be attending this Fall. This can be found on your Campus Portal. Most students grades 6 – 12th grade know this number as it is their lunch PIN number.
2. You must register for SchoolCafe. [Here are step-by-step instructions to complete your registration.](#)
3. Here are step-by-step instructions on how to complete the application. [English Instructions](#) and [Spanish Instructions](#).

*If you are not able to complete the online application and are needing a paper version, please email school.nutrition@southeastpolk.org or call 515-957-3432.

	Breakfast	Lunch
Student Meal	\$1.90	\$3.00
Reduced Eligible Student Meal	\$0.30	\$0.40
2nd Full Meal	\$2.75	\$5.25
Extra Entrée		\$2.70
Adult or guest meal	\$2.75	\$5.25
Milk	\$0.50	\$0.50