

# Southborough Village Preschool

## February and March 2018 Newsletter

**Happy February to you all!** We don't have a lot of news for you this month, so we are combining this with our March Newsletter. We are just working hard at play here at SVP! Below, you will find just a few notes regarding upcoming events and reminders at the Preschool. Please let us know if you have any questions at all regarding these items.

**Illness at SVP:** New England, all of our local schools, (and the country) have been hit hard with influenza, as you know, but we are working hard here to stay healthy! ☺ We've been careful to frequently wash hands, clean surfaces, etc., but likely most of our success comes from the fact that you all have done a really great job of notifying us when your children are ill and keeping them home during their contagious period. We are so appreciative of your diligence. Thank you! Spring will be here before you know it!

- **Just a reminder, if your child will be out sick, please call the office.** We account for each child, every morning, and need to know if your child will be out. Please let us know what your child's symptoms are so we can try to track trends in illnesses as well as in classes. 508-485-3109.
- If your child's illness has included a fever, he/she must be **fever free for at least 24 hours WITHOUT THE USE OF MEDICATION**, before returning to school.
- **Even without a fever, if your child has a really persistent or bad cough**, please consider keeping him/her home, in order to help us try to prevent the spread of illness. Kids are really unable to avoid coughing on others, and despite reminders, they frequently have their hands in their mouths at school (and then on toys, door knobs, etc.). Sometimes, a day at home to get over the hump of a bad cold can be a wonderful thing

**Tuition Due:** Please remember that if you are on the 5 payment plan for tuition, the 4<sup>th</sup> payment is due on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> and last payment for that plan will be due on April 1<sup>st</sup>. All tuition payments, for all plans, are due in full by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please email Laura Eppen if you have any questions about your tuition/Playschool bill. Thank you!

**Simple Machines in March!** Stay tuned for a really exciting whole school Science/Technology/Math unit coming to SVP in March! If you have a particular interest or passion in simple machines, and would consider coming in for some science fun, please let us know!

**Class Availability at SVP: Looking for a 5 day option or a longer day for your child?** We wanted to let you know that we do have a few openings in a couple of classes for this current 2017-2018 school year. Please let us know if you are interested in another class or if you know someone who might be interested. Thank you for helping us to spread the word!

**Has your child had a physical lately?** Please remember that, if your child has recently had a physical, or will have a physical in the next 3 months, we **MUST** have an updated copy for our records.

**Food Pantry:** As you know, we are collecting items for the local Food Pantry. For the next two months, they are in need of **laundry detergent, boil in bag white rice, vegetable and olive oil.** Thank you!

**Valentine's Day at SVP:** At school, we look upon this fun holiday as an opportunity to celebrate friendship, respect and kindness. During Valentine's Day week, as we do all weeks, we will celebrate how kind, loving and friendly our students are. We will also celebrate by making Valentines and enjoying some fun parties in our classrooms!

While there are many wonderful children's books out there that reinforce what it means to be a friend, one of our favorites, and one that we often think of during the month of "Friendship" is a book called, Owen and Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship, by Isabella and Craig Hatkoss and Dr. Paula Kahumbu. This book tells the story of an amazing friendship that developed in the wake of the horrible tsunami that occurred in the Indian Ocean in December of 2004. A rescued/orphaned baby hippo, later named Owen, was placed in an animal sanctuary in Kenya, with a 130-year-old tortoise named Mzee. While the pairing was an odd one, as these two animals would not normally become friends, the story of friendship and bonding that ensued is heartwarming and remarkable. At the Preschool, we love the fact that children are so open to "unlikely friendships" and we celebrate how good they are at embracing people from all walks of life. For this reason, Owen and Mzee would make excellent preschoolers and we can all learn quite a bit from their story.

**As adults, we can learn a great deal from our children's openness, generosity, natural empathy and kindness. As teachers, we love that recent research has strongly supported the fact that so much of a child's cognitive development depends on the strength of their social and emotional development and skills.** In fact, rich social and emotional development is critical to cognitive development. We embrace this part of our curriculum and love to help children learn how to feel good about themselves as individuals, as friends, as peers, and as a part of their school community.

**Great News!** On a related note, you might be interested to know that last year the Department of Early Education and Care has updated the State's required Learning Standards and Frameworks to include a Social and Emotional Standard. We encourage you to explore the link below for more information. This is very exciting for teachers, and reinforces what we have known all along!

"The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is pleased to announce new Massachusetts Standards for Preschool and Kindergarten in the Domains of Social and Emotional Learning, and Approaches to Play and Learning. These Standards bring attention to these critical areas of development and learning, and further support a learning continuum from birth through school age and give the early childhood field a framework for best practices to support the development of these important competencies."

<http://www.mass.gov/edu/birth-grade-12/early-education-and-care/curriculum-and-learning/pre-school-and-kindergarten-standards.html>

**Fun Upcoming Events:** Please make note of the following dates for the next few months.

**February:**

6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>: Music with Miss Shannon

13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>: Valentine's Day Parties

19<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>: School Closed for February Vacation

27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>: Music with Miss Shannon

**March:**

8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>: Pajama and Pancake Days! (More details to follow.)

13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>: Music with Miss Shannon

15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>: Green Days (More details to follow.)

27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>: Music with Miss Shannon

We wish you all a terrific February vacation. If you are traveling, be safe, and if you are home, enjoy the time off with your children. Be sure to let us know if you have any questions, comments or suggestions!

Take care,

Gretchen and Laura