

Southborough Village Preschool

January 2018 Newsletter

Happy New Year to you all! We hope that you had a wonderful holiday vacation and enjoyed plenty of fun and relaxation with your children. We are ready to get back to work and play at SVP! We have a few reminders and updates for you as we get back to school, and as usual, please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for us.

Although we put this information in the December newsletter, with snow in the forecast, we thought it might be helpful to send out again!

SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY:

Southborough Village Preschool's main objective during bad weather is to ensure the safety of our staff and children. If the Southborough Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, Southborough Village Preschool will always be closed as well. While we will make an effort to email you in the case of a closing, there is always the chance that due to power outages, this will not be possible. We strongly recommend that you rely on the news/radio/websites to hear of a school closing in Southborough. If Southborough Public Schools are closed, Southborough Village Preschool will be closed as well.

If there is a delay to the start of the public school opening, we will most likely open Southborough Village Preschool with a delay as well, at the discretion of the Directors. If there is a 2-hour delay, all morning classes at the SVP will be cancelled, but PM classes will most likely be held (12:00 noon), and Full Day classes will likely begin at 11:00 AM (and will eat lunch at school). We do reserve the right of judgment to close the Preschool early due to poor weather conditions. In this case, parents and caregivers will be notified.

In the case of a 2-hour delay, we will make every attempt to be open by 10:30 AM if you are in need of early Drop-off (Full Day students only-this is not available for PM classes). However, we ask that you call the office that morning to be certain that we are indeed able to open at 10:30 AM, as there is always a chance that our parking lot and sidewalks are still being cleared at that time.

Food Pantry Donation Program: Each month, we will be collecting a few particular items that the Food Pantry tells us they are most in need of. There will be a collection box outside of the front door if you are interested in donating. Thank you for your support!

The Food Pantry items requested for the month of January are:

- Pump Hand Soap
- Ritz Crackers (or any crackers)

Parent Teacher Conferences: Parent Teacher Conferences will be held the first few weeks of February, between the 1st and the 17th. Your child's teacher will be contacting you regarding your conference date and time options. Written progress reports will be sent home prior to the conferences. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this procedure.

Updated Physicals: Has your child had a physical since September? Please be sure, as your child has his or her annual physical, to bring us an updated copy for our files. We are always required to have a current (within one year) physical on file for each student.

Kindergarten Registration is here!! Hopefully, all Pre-K parents know this by now, but Kindergarten registration for the next school year starts this month. **Registration will occur at the Mary Finn School on Thursday, January 11th, from 8:00 AM-2:30 PM.** If your child will be turning 5.0 years old by August 31st, you should have received a packet by now. If you have not received a packet, or if you have any questions regarding registration at the Finn School, you can contact Linda Brandt at (508) 485-3176. If your child will be attending another school for Kindergarten next year, this would be a good time to contact them regarding the registration procedure. When you register your child for kindergarten, you will all be given an evaluation form for our Pre-K teachers to fill out, regarding your child's preschool experience. **Please be sure to bring these forms to us as soon as you receive them. Thank you!**

BRRRRRRRRRR..... It's really cold out there! We would like to take this opportunity to remind you what our policy is on cold weather and outdoor play here at Southborough Village Preschool. As you may already know, we are required by law to bring preschoolers outside for fresh air and exercise every day. (30 minutes for half-day students and 60 minutes for full-day students). We know that children have fun and learn best when getting regular exercise and they certainly develop their muscles, coordination and social play skills during this time outside. With this said, there will be some days when it is simply too cold to be outside!

COLD WEATHER POLICY: At Southborough Village Preschool, we follow the public school policy when it comes to deciding whether or not it's too cold to go outside. The elementary/preschools monitor the air temperature and wind chill factor on weather websites (we use WeatherBug among other sites.) and if the temperature, including the wind chill is 20 degrees or above, the children will likely go outside to play. We follow the same policy at SVP, however, if it seems very cold, we often times will only go out to play for a short period of time (perhaps 10 or 15 minutes). It is our goal to always get outside for exercise and fresh air, but we do use reason and caution when dealing with our young students. **As a general rule, please always send your child to school prepared to play outside.** Although it may be too cold to play at 9:00, often times it is warm enough to play at 11:30 AM, or 2:30 PM. We make our decision regarding outdoor play, right before the scheduled recess time.

Things to remember when you send your child prepared to play outside EVERY DAY!

- **Snow Gear Bag!** Please send your child's snow gear to school in a labeled bag that can be hung on his/her hook in the hallway. This really helps us to keep the gear organized. The "cloth reusable grocery bags" are usually a great size, but no bigger than that please.
- Please always send your child to school in a very warm winter **jacket, hat and mittens.**
- **Mittens are much easier** for children-please only send gloves if your child can put them on independently.
- We can't allow students to wear **scarves on the playground**, due to safety issues.
- We suggest, even if there is no snow, sending snow boots and **snow pants** if you think your child would be warmer in them.
- It is also always helpful if you could spend a few minutes helping your child practice how to dress for recess. We recommend snow pants first, then boots, then jacket, then hat and mittens.
- **Slippers?** When sending your child to school in boots, please be sure that he/she has something else to wear in the classroom. Slippers, sneakers, Crocs, etc. Not only does this help us to keep our classrooms dry and clean but we also find that students can be quite uncomfortable wearing snow boots inside all day.
- **Labels, labels, labels...**Please take the time to write your child's name in all items.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- **Miss Shannon will be coming for our music classes** on January 9th/10th and again on the 23rd/24th.
- Please remember that we will be **closed on Monday, January 15th and Tuesday, January 16th**, in observance of Martin Luther King Day and a town-wide teacher professional development day.
- School will also be **closed for February vacation from Monday, February 19th through Friday, February 23rd**.

We thank you for all that you do for us! We realize that we have the best parents (and students!) in the world, and we are immensely grateful to you all for your hard work, attention to detail, and for your consistent support. We wish you a wonderful 2018! ~Laura, Gretchen and Teachers at SVP