

Southborough Village Preschool

February and March 2019 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: As you know, it is officially influenza season, but we are working hard here to stay healthy! We've been careful to wash hands frequently, 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!

- **Just a reminder, if your child will be out sick, please call the office to let us know.**
- 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. The same applies for vomiting/diarrhea.
- **Even without a fever, if your child has a really persistent or bad cough**, please consider keeping him/her home. Kids are really unable to avoid coughing on others, and despite reminders, they frequently have their hands in their mouths at school (and then they touch toys, door knobs, etc.). Sometimes, a day at home to get over the hump of a bad cold can be a wonderful thing. This is the best way for us to protect our students and staff from illness. Thank you!

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

Art Appreciation in March! Stay tuned for a really exciting whole school Art Appreciation unit coming to SVP in March. If you have a particular interest or passion in a particular style of art, or even an artist, consider coming in to share with us! We will celebrate art from March 18th through April 12th.

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 **corned beef hash and paper towels**. Thank you!

Valentine's Day at SVP: At school, we look upon this fun holiday as an opportunity to celebrate friendship, respect and kindness. We will celebrate Valentine's Day by making valentines and enjoying some fun parties in our classrooms! Our parties will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, February 13th and 14th. Your children are invited to bring in and distribute valentines on those days, details to follow from teachers.

***Note: Please do not attach candy to valentines, in order to protect our student with allergies.**

During Valentine's Day week, as we do all weeks, we will celebrate how kind, loving and friendly our students are. At the Preschool, we love the fact that children are so open to new, unlikely and surprising friendships and we celebrate how good they are at embracing people from all walks of life.

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, positive 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 our school community.

Social and Emotional Educational Standards: On a related note, you might be interested to know that 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! We feel strongly that all school success, throughout the years, stems from a strong social and emotional foundation. In order to perform well in school, students need to first learn how to feel good about themselves as individuals, as friends, as members of a classroom community, and then of course, as members of their local and global community.

You may have noticed that we updated our progress reports this year, to reflect this new educational focus on social and emotional development. At SVP, we are grateful for the opportunity to play such a critical role in helping children find success socially as well as emotionally. We truly believe that without this foundation, academic success means very little. In this increasingly complex world, we recognize and respect the need for young people to develop strong social and emotional health through learning and play. We really enjoy this part of our jobs!

"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:

12th and 13th: Music with Miss Shannon
13th and 14th: Valentine's Day Parties
18th through 22nd: School Closed for February Vacation
26th and 27th: Music with Miss Shannon

March:

7th and 8th: Pajama and Pancake Days! (More details to follow.)
12th and 13th: Music with Miss Shannon
14th and 15th: Green Days (More details to follow.)
26th and 27th: Music with Miss Shannon

April:

15th through 19th: School closed for April Vacation

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