

Southborough Village Preschool

October 2019 Newsletter

What a beautiful Fall season we are enjoying! We hope that you and your families find the opportunity to get out and enjoy the wonderful fresh air and beautiful colors in the coming weeks! We are looking forward to a busy and exciting few weeks at the Preschool and want to fill you in on a few things that might be helpful for you to know. As usual, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about anything. We are always happy to hear from you!

Family Open House: We look forward to welcoming you to our annual Family Open House on Monday, October 28th. We hope that you are able to join us for this fun opportunity where your child can show you around the classroom and introduce you to new friends! Please see the chart below for your child's scheduled Open House time.

Southborough Village Preschool *Open-House Schedule*

Please join us on Monday, October 28, 2019

	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3
5:00 - 5:30 PM	Toddlers Eppen/Bergeron		T/Th AM & PM Henderson/Shaw
5:45 - 6:15 PM	MWF PM Bergeron/Poutre	T/Th Full Day Michas/DiStefano	
6:30 - 7:00 PM	MWF AM Bergeron/Poutre	Full Day Pre-K Hartnett/Arpino	Full Day Pre-K Henderson/Kostiw

Registration for the 2020-2021 School Year: It's hard to believe that it's here already! It is time for us to begin the registration process for our next school year. Please note these important dates as we approach the first day of the registration process.

- **Registration will begin at 8:00 AM on Monday, November 4th, for current students and their families, siblings and alumni families.**
- **Registration for new families will begin at 8:00 AM on Monday, November 18th.**

Please keep this date in mind, as we would like you all to have the opportunity to register for the class that you would like. You will be receiving these documents in your child's backpack in the next few weeks, and they will be available at Open House as well. If your child is "graduating" from SVP, we welcome you to pass the information/application on to friends or neighbors who might be interested in registering. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions as to what might be the best class for your child for next year.

***Allergy and Food Policy at SVP:** Statistically, most of us are fortunate enough to not have a child with allergies. Food allergies can be very dangerous for students, and oftentimes life threatening. At SVP we take our commitment to our student's health and safety very seriously, especially when it comes to potential allergens coming into the school through shared food and birthday treats. We ask all of our families to keep in mind the following VERY important details regarding food safety.

- All treats (in all classes) **MUST** be completely NUT-SAFE. Many food item labels will say "peanut free" but **we need all items coming into the school to be "peanut free AND tree nut free"**.
- In addition to this designation on the ingredient label, please be sure that even if the item is completely nut-safe (no peanuts **or** tree nuts), **it was not made or manufactured in a facility or on equipment that also processes nut products**. This is the tricky part and we are here to help! Companies are required to state the information on the label if equipment is shared and cross-contamination is a possibility, but some companies are better than others at making this clear.
- We always feel uncomfortable having to turn away items that are not completely safe in terms of ingredients and manufacturing processes. **Please consider sending us a photo of the ingredient (and packaging) labels before sending in a treat if you have any concerns about its safety.** We are really good at reading labels! Sometimes the information is very tricky to find.
- Typically, we find that **bakeries cannot ensure that baked goods have not been produced on equipment that is completely nut-safe.** Grocery stores are the best source of nut-safe (often called 'school safe') baked goods.
- **Fruit and Vegetables?** If you are kind enough to send in fresh fruit/vegetables for a healthy snack, please note that we are now asking that **we wash and prepare the fruit at school**, to ensure that no cross contamination can occur with kitchen equipment in a house that is not completely nut-safe. We always thank you for sending in fruits and vegetables. We love them!

Staying Healthy at SVP: Of course the health of our students and teachers at SVP is always a big concern for us. As we are heading into the cooler months and "cold and flu" season, here are just a few things that we ask you to keep in mind.

- We account for each student every day. **If your child will not be coming to school, please be sure to call the office to let us know.** Teachers are unable to check email during the day, so it is best to call us at 508-485-3109. If you get our voicemail, rest assured that we will get the message.
- **Does your child have a cold?** As you know, colds are common throughout the school year. Children are allowed to attend school with a cold, but not a fever! Children must be fever free for at least 24 hours **without the use of any fever-reducing medication** (this is key).
- **IMPORTANT:** While your child may simply have a cold, if he/she is uncomfortable, coughing heavily, has a very runny nose, or has had a bad night's sleep, please keep him/her home. Preschool is not fun when you feel terrible. Also, this is the best way for us to keep our students (and teachers) as healthy as possible. Thank you for your help with this. We greatly appreciate it!

Parking Reminders: Due to the difficult parking situation at SVP, we ask that when you pull up to the fence during drop-off and pick-up, **please pull all the way up to the fence**, to allow for another car to pull up behind you. If you have pulled in behind another car, we ask that you return to your car as quickly as possible to allow the person in front of you to pull out. If we all work together, there should be plenty of opportunities for parents to pull in and out with minimal wait times.

- We also want to thank our incredibly patient and understanding neighbors and ask that you take care not to ever block their driveways or mailboxes.
- Please park only on the side of the street that the preschool is located on. Thank you!

Labels: Just a reminder, as the weather gets cooler and you start to send your children in with jackets and sweatshirts, **please be sure that they have labels in them!** We always have permanent markers available at school if you need to label something last minute. We do have a few items already in our lost and found, which can usually be found on the table to the left of the front door.

Food Pantry Donation Program: We are excited to continue participating in a donation program for the Southborough Food Pantry. 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 bin outside of the front door and we encourage you to drop the requested items in there, if you are interested in donating. Please know that this program is completely optional.

The Food Pantry items requested for the months of October/November are:

- School Snacks (nut-safe!)
- Toothpaste
- Baggies of all sizes

Boo!! Halloween is upon us!!! We love this exciting time of the year and so do our students. Each class will be having a fun Halloween party on either Wednesday, 10/30 or Thursday, 10/31. Your child's teacher will let you know what is needed if you are interested in sending in a treat or paper goods. While it is fun to have some sweets at our parties, we work hard to make sure that our small treats are balanced with some healthy fruits and vegetables.

- Note: At SVP, **we do not allow children to wear their costumes to school.** We find that costumes can be overwhelming for our younger students, and of course there is always the risk that costume pieces could become lost/misplaced. We promise to find lots of other ways to have fun during this fun holiday!

Safety Month at SVP: October is Safety Month at SVP! We are excited to be planning a visit from the Southborough firefighters this month, as we begin to learn about fire and general safety. Our topics will include safety in the home/kitchen as well as safety in public. We will talk about fire fighters (and police officers) and how they work hard to keep us safe. We will begin our monthly fire drill practices, focusing on how to get out of (and into) a building quickly, quietly and safely. We work hard to make sure the children are comfortable with the sound of an alarm ringing (ours is more like a bell), and that they get really good at stopping what they are doing, listening to directions and moving quickly and safely to a new location. If your child has any concerns or issues with the idea of a fire drill, please do let us know. Our goal is to make sure fire drills are not a scary experience at all!

Important Dates to Note in October and November

*As a reminder, we always follow the holiday/professional development/snow cancellation schedule that Southborough Public Schools follows. Please be sure to note the following dates on your calendar.

- **Wednesday, October 9th:** School closed for Yom Kippur
- **Monday, October 14th:** School closed for Columbus Day
- **Monday, October 28th:** SVP Family Open House (see schedule for times)
- **Wednesday, October 30th and Thursday, October 31st:** Classroom Halloween Parties
- **Monday, November 4th:** First day of Registration for the 2020-2021 school year (8:00 AM)
- **Tuesday, November 5th:** School closed for town wide professional development day/election day
- **Monday, November 11th:** School closed for Veterans Day.
- **Monday, November 18th:** Registration opens for new families for the 2020-21 school year.
- **Wednesday, November 27th:** Half-day (school closes at 12:00 noon-no PM session). School will remain closed on Friday, November 29th for Thanksgiving break.
- **School re-opens Monday, December 2nd.**

We are grateful to you all for your support on these, and all school matters. We have the best parents and families in the world, and we appreciate your attention and thoughtfulness every day! We look forward to seeing you soon at our Family Open House on October 28th. Have a great week!

Sincerely,

Gretchen, Laura and the Entire Staff at Southborough Village Preschool