

August 21, 2020

Dear Southborough Village Preschool,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We are so excited to welcome our students back to school, and begin another year of fun and learning with friends. We thank you for your patience as we have had to modify so many of our typical practices in order to open under the new COVID-19 Regulations for Health and Safety, as required by our licensing with the Department of Early Education and Care. We recognize that it has required you to be flexible and attentive to the changes throughout the summer and we are so appreciative of your cooperation and support. We have always said that we have the best parents at Southborough Village Preschool and this year has been no exception!

**We look forward to seeing you all for our back to school Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences on Thursday and Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.** You have received an email invitation from your child's teacher for your conference date/time. Please let her know if you will be able to attend. When you come, be sure to bring the completed packet that you received this summer, along with a copy of your child's most recent physical (current physicals will be dated after 9/13/2019) and immunizations.

\*Note: If your child has a chronic health condition (allergy/asthma/etc.) all **IHCP paperwork** and medication must be brought to school by **Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**. Please reach out to Gretchen Hartnett and Laura Eppen with any questions.

\*\*Note: The **Mass Department of Public Health** has announced that beginning in the Fall of 2020, the **influenza vaccine will be required** for all children attending preschool who are 6 months of age or older.

**Our plan is to hold conferences outdoors, weather permitting,** on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, in order to create the safest environment possible for these very busy days. We recognize that you all would like to have a peek inside your child's classroom, and we plan to have you do so from your child's external door. Thank you for your understanding.

**When you come to your conference,** please wait in the parking lot until your child's teachers come to welcome you, and be sure to abide by the 6 feet social distancing requirement for public spaces. All adults and teachers will be required to wear masks on school property, and we do recommend that your children bring their masks to the conference as well. We will be excited to see what fun masks they bring!

**As you know, the CDC recommends that all people over the age of 2 wear masks. The DEEC is requiring all teachers to wear masks, but is allowing parents to make the decision about masks for their preschool aged children.** We have been in touch with many area school programs who have found that their preschoolers have done very well wearing masks during their summer programs and we are sure that our students will be successful as well. We will encourage frequent mask breaks and children will be encouraged to take a mask break while playing outside as well. **Regardless of whether or not you are planning to have your child wear a mask at school, all children will be required to always have two labeled masks in his/her backpack every school day,** to be used in cases where social distancing is not possible (lining up closely, receiving bathroom assistance, etc.).

**At SVP, we believe in the science behind mask wearing and want to do everything possible to protect our students, teachers and families.** While we will never force a student to wear a mask, the reality is that, they will see many others wearing them at school. We know we can help the kids become more comfortable wearing and seeing others wearing masks. Trust us - SVP teachers can make anything seem fun! This will be the new normal for a while, so we will make the best of it and we know that our amazing students will adapt quickly. Kids are so very flexible, and of course we all know that they learn

best by watching each other, not just their teachers. We are fully expecting that even children who dislike wearing masks, will grow to find that they are really not too bad. We will practice wearing masks together and hopefully you will be pleasantly surprised at the growth and progress your child makes with us.

**Please bring a change of clothes for your child and/or any toileting products** that you need us to keep on hand throughout the school year, for your child's convenience.

**We ask that you all come to school prepared to make your first tuition payment** (check and/or cash- we do not accept credit cards), and fill out a tuition contract (please consider bringing your own pen). You will find a Tuition Agreement Plan attached (we will have these for you at conferences), with the three payment plans available. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding tuition.

**2020-2021 COVID-19 Cleaning Fees:** As noted in the Summer Newsletter, each family will be assessed a cleaning fee, in order to make it possible to cover the cost of the extensive additional cleaning that must be performed before, during and after our school days. SVP will be cleaning the classrooms/bathroom and playground equipment frequently throughout the day. This is in addition to our regular professional cleaners, who will be doing an intensive cleaning every evening with an increased focus on the recommended COVID-19 sanitizing and disinfecting procedures. The fee for Th/F students is \$110.00, the fee for M/T/W students is \$150.00 and the fee for students who attend 5 days is \$220.00. We are requesting payment of the cleaning fee by October 1<sup>st</sup>. We appreciate your understanding regarding this additional cost.

**We ask that you take a few moments to look at the attached document**, in order to familiarize yourself with the **Daily Screening Questionnaire and Protocol** as well as the **SVP COVID-19 Policies and Procedures**, which we will be following in order to determine if a student may or may not attend school, as well as the quarantining procedures we will be following. Please read through the documents ahead of time, and reach out to us with questions before your conference, in order to maximize the conference time with your child. We will provide all parents with a copy of the **SVP COVID-19 Policies and Procedures** at our September conferences, and ask that you sign it as an additional authorization for our required paperwork.

**The Daily Screening** questions will be asked of teachers and parents each day at drop-off. We ask that you perform a daily screening at home as well, not only for your child, but for all family members. It is critical that we all answer these questions truthfully and with the understanding that we need to work closely as a team to ensure that all of our teachers, students, and family members remain as healthy as possible this year. The COVID situation is difficult but we will all work together to make sure we have the best school year possible. We thank you for your commitment to our school and community.

We look forward to chatting with you at your conference about your child, and what his/her days will look like at SVP. Please use this as a time to share anything with us that you would like us to know as well. We are excited to get to know your child and look forward to a fun and exciting school year. We ask that you please make arrangements for siblings so that we can make this a productive conference.

These last few weeks of summer will surely fly by. We do hope that you are able to find some time to relax and enjoy your family, and the beautiful weather, before school begins. We hope that you are as excited as we are to see each other in September! Please be sure to let us know if you have any questions or concerns as we approach the beginning of our school year.

Sincerely,

Gretchen, Laura and the Entire Staff at SVP