

Southborough Village Preschool Newsletter

November 2020

Dear Southborough Village Preschool Families,

Below you will find some information regarding upcoming events at the Preschool. Be certain to read through the full newsletter as we have some important reminders and clarification regarding our COVID-19 travel policy at the end. Please let us know if you need any clarification or have any further questions.

Registration: As you know, registration for the 2021-2022 school year will begin next week, Monday, November 2nd at 8:00 AM, for current families and alumni. We do encourage you to register early, as classes are filled on a first come, first served basis. Let us know if you have any questions regarding your child's class for next year. Please keep in mind that registration for new families will begin on Monday, November 16th, at 8:00 AM, so if you wish to register, or make changes to your registration, please let us know before then. We thank you for your continued support at SVP!

Pick up/Drop off Procedures: We have been amazed with how well our pick-up and drop-off procedures have been going, and we want to thank you all for your assistance with this new normal at SVP. As a reminder, please be sure to keep your child close to you after you pick up and proceed as soon as possible to your car, so as to allow for time for families who might be waiting to approach the school, while maintaining social distance. If you need to pick up outside of your child's scheduled pick up time, just let us know ahead of time, so that we can plan accordingly. Thank you!

Also, please do remember that you are required to read through the list of COVID-19 screening questions each morning upon your arrival at school. You will find the Screening Questionnaire posted along the walkway, on the table, or available on our website. We suggest taking a screen shot of the questions and keeping them on your phone, perhaps under your "favorites". Thank you for your diligence with this, as we work hard to stay as healthy as possible this winter.

Flu Shots: As a reminder, the DEEC and Department of Health has mandated that all children must receive an influenza vaccine by December 31st. Please be sure to send us documentation of your child's flu shot when he/she receives it, as we are required to report vaccines to the State.

Tuition Due Date: Are you on the four payment tuition plan? If so, the second payment will be due on November 1st. You will receive an email reminder in the coming week. Thank you!

National Election Day: Don't forget, school will be closed next Tuesday, November 3rd, for a town-wide professional development day. We encourage all to be sure to get out and vote!

Veteran's Day: School will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th, in recognition of Veteran's Day. We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of the veterans in our community for their service and dedication to our country. **Please let us know if you have any veterans or current service members in your family or friend/work circles, who might like to receive some cards from our preschool.** We would love that!

Scholastic Book Clubs: This week you will receive information in your child's backpack regarding Scholastic Book Clubs. Please know that the purchasing of Scholastic Books is ENTIRELY optional so only consider purchasing books if you are interested. If you would like to take a look online now, visit scholastic.com/readingclub. Our class **activation code is K3CFL**. On the website, you will see that you have access to all Scholastic Book catalogs. The deadline for ordering books will be Thursday, November 5th, and we are anticipating delivery before Thanksgiving.

It's Getting Cold! As the cool weather has finally come our way, we have some requests for you to consider as you begin to gather your child's cold weather gear. Going forth, please send in a warm jacket, hat and mittens (not gloves, unless your child can put them on independently) (no scarves please-safety hazard), every day as it is always our goal to get outside for play. Be sure to show your child what you are sending in for warm gear. Often times children don't recognize the hats, mittens or boots that have been sent in for them to wear. Also, as always, please be sure to label everything that you send in so we can be certain to return all items to you! We will continue taking the kids outside throughout the winter, unless the temperature, including the wind chill, is below 20 degrees. On very cold days, we don't go out for long, but we do like to get the kids out for a little fresh air. They love to get outside, and the exercise, fresh air and fun is beneficial to us all!

Food Pantry Donation Program: As you may know, we support the local Southborough Food Pantry by collecting a few different items each month, based on their greatest needs. For the months of November and December, the Food Pantry has requested that we ask families to consider donations of crackers, cookies and unflavored coffee, although all donations are greatly appreciated!

Holiday Giving Tree...Southborough Village Preschool is delighted once again this year to be able to participate in the Southborough Youth and Family Services "Holiday Giving Program". While this program is completely optional, **if you would like to participate in the Giving Program, please select a gift ID tag (or tags) and directions, at the entrance to the school, the week before Thanksgiving.** This year, SYFS has modified the shopping guidelines in order to promote safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, and are requesting gift cards in place of actual gifts (SYFS will be purchasing the family gifts with the gift card donations). We will be sending out more information for this program in the coming weeks. We thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness during this holiday season.

Important Dates to Note in November:

- **Monday, November 2nd:** Registration begins at 8:00 AM for the 2021-22 school year.
- **Tuesday, November 3rd:** School closed for town-wide professional development day. VOTE!
- **Wednesday, November 11th:** School closed for Veteran's Day
- **Monday, November 16th:** First day of registration for new families.
- **Friday, November 20th and Tuesday, November 24th:** Classroom Feasts. Students will be preparing and sharing in feasts on these days (in our own classrooms). More news to come!
- **Wednesday, November 25th:** Half-day of school (12:00 dismissal). No PM classes.
- **Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th:** Thanksgiving Break. Classes resume on Monday, November 30th. Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Travel Restrictions and COVID-19 Concerns for the Holidays: It's hard to believe that we are already talking about the holidays, while still managing the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, we are asking all members our SVP community to take precautions not only with travel, but unnecessary gatherings. We are understandably concerned about potential exposures at SVP after Thanksgiving and ask that you consider the health of our students and staff when making your holiday plans. We are asking all staff and SVP families to take precautions for the holidays this year, in order to keep our school open. This is a time when we all need to work together for the sake of our community, school and loved ones. Thank you for your support and consideration. When making your plans, please remember the following, according to our SVP COVID-19 Policy.

- In keeping with the COVID-19 policies in place at SVP as well as the Northborough Southborough Public Schools, **if you travel from Massachusetts to a higher risk state, you and your child are required to quarantine for 14 days upon your return, regardless of a negative test result.** When traveling outside of your home community to an area of higher community spread, your risk of coming into contact with COVID-19 increases. By enforcing the 14 day quarantine for travel outside of the lower risk states, we are promoting a lower risk environment for our students and staff. After exposure, a person can develop COVID-19 for up to 14 days, which is why a negative test result is not sufficient and quarantine is still required.
- For the most up to date list of restricted and lower risk states, please visit [mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#lower-risk-states](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#lower-risk-states)
- You may have heard that there have been some cases of COVID-19 in the public schools over the past few weeks. Contact tracing at the schools has determined that these are **not** “in-school transmissions”. They are cases that have been transmitted outside of school, likely in social settings. The good news is that the schools are doing very well and the policies that are in place are working. The cases appear to be occurring in settings where people are being less cautious. Please remember this as we head into these colder months as you make decisions about prolonged contact (cumulative total of 15 minutes within 6 feet of distance) with **individuals outside of your household (even with masks on).**
- We encourage the adherence of safety protocols to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19, such as mask wearing, hand washing, maintaining physical distancing, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting strategies, self-screening, and staying home when experiencing symptoms that may be consistent with COVID-19.

Please let us know if you have any questions at all, regarding anything in this newsletter, or any upcoming events at SVP. We are always happy to hear from you! We will be sending out another Newsletter in a few weeks with more details regarding our upcoming December events. Stay tuned!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we would like to thank you all for all that you do for us at the Preschool. We have the best parents in the entire world and we are thankful for that, as well as for the opportunity to spend our days with your delightful children. We are also grateful to you all for choosing to send your children to us this year. We wish you all a most wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

~Gretchen, Laura and all of our Teachers at SVP