

Southborough Village Preschool Newsletter

December 2020

Well, it's hard to believe it, but December is upon us! While these next few weeks can be busy and stressful for many grownups, we will be having a lot of fun with your little ones at SVP. There is nothing more magical than spending your days with preschoolers during the holiday season, and we certainly enjoy every minute of it! Below you will find some information about upcoming events and things to note at Southborough Village Preschool. Be sure to reach out to us if you have any questions at all. In the meantime, we hope these next few weeks are full of holiday fun for you and your families. We wish you a wonderful holiday season from all of us at Southborough Village Preschool!

Class Placement Letters Due: As you know, registration for the 2021-2022 school year began last month. We thank you all for your dedication to SVP and we look forward to another fun school year with your children! **Class Placement Letters went home a few weeks ago and are due back at school soon. If you haven't already returned your letter, please bring it when we reopen, the week of December 7th.**

Flu Shots: As a reminder, DEEC and Dept. of Health has mandated that all children must receive an influenza vaccine by 12/31/20. Please send us documentation of your child's flu shot, as we are required to report vaccines to the State.

Gingerbread Houses and Holiday Trees: One of our favorite holiday traditions at SVP is the making of gingerbread houses and holiday trees. We are excited to continue this tradition, but unfortunately, due to COVID-19 regulations, we are unable to invite parents in to help assemble these holiday treasures this year. We will be making them with the kids in class though and are excited to send them home to you during the week of December 7th.

***We need butter boxes for our gingerbread houses,** if you have any in your refrigerator/recycling. We use the rectangular boxes that hold 4 sticks of butter.

Clothing Donations: We are in search of gently used clothing donations to be kept on hand in the case of spills/accidents. We could use extra slippers (2T-5T), gender neutral sweatpants/leggings (2T-5T) and long sleeved shirts (2T-5T). Thank you!

Holiday Parties at SVP: We will be celebrating the holidays and the start of vacation with our classroom holiday parties on Wednesday, December 16th and Friday, December 18th. We will keep you posted on details, as the dates get closer. Your child's teacher will be in touch regarding items needed, if you are interested. We thank you in advance for all food donations.

Southborough Youth and Family Services Holiday Giving Program

*While we are closed for the week, we are still collecting gifts for this program. You are welcome to bring gift cards to school next Monday, December 7th, or leave them in the mailbox. We also still have tags available, so please let us know if you are interested in purchasing a gift card and we will let you know what tags are remaining. Thank you very much for your support!

Southborough Village Preschool is delighted once again this year to have the opportunity to participate in the Southborough Youth and Family Services 'Holiday Giving Program'. Please know that this program is completely optional. If you would like to participate in the Giving Program, please select a gift ID tag, or tags, at the entrance to the school, beginning the week before and after Thanksgiving. This year, SYFS is requesting the purchase of gift cards only, and they will be using the gift cards to then purchase the gifts for the recipients. On the ID tag, you will find information about the particular gift card that is requested. Thank you!

- **Please return all Holiday Giving Program gifts by Monday, December 7th.**
- Please place gift cards in an unwrapped, unsealed envelope with the star ID tag.
- **Please, only take a gift tag if you are confident that you can return the gift by Monday, Dec. 7th,** as Southborough Youth and Family Services counts on each and every one of these wonderful gifts for the needy children and families that they provide for.

Thoughts on Warm Clothes: We are doing a great job ventilating our classrooms, but that can result in cooler temperatures indoors. The kids seem fine, but you might want to consider long sleeves throughout the winter, and sleeves that can be pushed up easily for frequent handwashing and messy projects.

Thoughts on Winter Gear: Yes, the cold weather is upon us! Going forth, you can assume we will still be going outside daily. If the temperature is above 20 degrees including wind chill, we will take the kids outside, as the fresh air is so good for us all!

- Please use a **small "snow bag"** to send all of your child's snow gear in every day. This bag will hang on your child's coat hook in the hallway, so please don't send any oversized or wide bags. **The re-usable grocery bags are the perfect size.**
- **Be sure to LABEL ALL ITEMS (even boots).** This is tremendously helpful for us, as many children have the same items and may not recognize what you have sent in.
- **Also, we ask that you send your child to school wearing mittens, not gloves,** unless he/she is able to put the gloves on independently.
- **Please do not send scarves to school, or the hats with very long sides.** They pose a safety hazard on the playground.
- **Try to take some time over the next week or two to help your child practice putting on his/her own coat/mittens/boots, etc.** We are teaching (and helping as well) at school, but practice at home is so helpful.

Winter Weather School Cancellation & Delay Policy for SVP

Southborough Village Preschool's main objective during winter weather is to ensure the safety of our staff members, students and their families.

School Closing: 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 for information regarding school closings. If Southborough Public Schools are closed, Southborough Village Preschool will be closed as well.

Delayed Opening: If Southborough Public Schools announce a weather related delay, then Southborough Village Preschool will also have a weather related delay. If there is a 2-hour delay, all morning classes at the Preschool will be cancelled, PM classes will most likely be held, and Full Day classes will begin at 11:00 AM. In the case of a delay, Full-Day students will still eat lunch at school.

Early Drop-Off: 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 will still be in the process of being cleared.

Early Release: We reserve the right of judgment to close SVP early due to poor weather conditions. In this case, parents/caregivers will be notified as quickly as possible.

Note: Don't forget, that while school may not be cancelled, you can always feel comfortable deciding to keep your child at home, whenever the driving conditions are of concern to you.

Important Dates to Note in December:

- **The Week of December 7th:** Gingerbread Houses and Holiday Trees (stay tuned!)
- **Wednesday/Friday, December 16th and 18th:** Holiday Parties
- **Friday, December 18th:** Last Day of Classes before Winter Vacation
- **Monday, January 4th:** School Re-opens. Happy New Year!

Happy Holidays to you all!

Gretchen, Laura and the Entire Staff at Southborough Village Preschool