

# *Southborough Village Preschool*

## **January 2021 Newsletter**

*“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering ‘It will be happier.’ ...”*  
*-Alfred Lord Tennyson*

Happy New Year to you all! We made it to 2021 and are looking forward to a kinder, gentler new year for us all. We hope that you had a wonderful holiday vacation and enjoyed plenty of fun and relaxation with your children. We are ready to get back to work and play at SVP! We have a few reminders and updates for you as we head back to school, and as usual, please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for us.

**Tuition Due Date:** If you are on the “2 or 4 payment plan”, please remember that there is a payment due the first week of January, when we return to school. Please see Laura Eppen if you have any questions regarding your tuition, Early Drop-off or Playschool payment. Thank you!

**Cold Weather Play Reminders:** As you prepare for school next week, please remember to send in a snow bag for your child each day, including snow pants and jacket, boots, water proof mittens (two pair for full day students) and a hat. As always...be sure all items are labeled with your child’s name.

**Updated Physicals:** Has your child had a physical, or updated allergy/asthma paperwork since September? Please be sure, as your child has his or her annual physical, to bring us an updated copy for our files. Thank you for your help with this important DEEC student records requirement.

**Kindergarten Registration is here!!** Kindergarten registration for the 2021-2022 school year at the Mary Finn School in Southborough begins this month and will occur **online** between January 13<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. If your child will be turning 5.0 years old by August 31<sup>st</sup>, you will likely receive a registration packet in the mail soon, but if you don’t receive a packet, or have any questions regarding registration, or recently moved to town, you should contact Tracy King at (508) 485-3176 (x63103). Kindergarten Screening will take place on April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. If your child will be attending another school for kindergarten next year, this would be a good time to contact them regarding the registration procedure. When you register your child for kindergarten, you will be given an evaluation form for our Pre-K teachers to fill out, regarding your child’s preschool experience. Please sign this form and bring it to us when you receive it.

**Food Pantry Donation Program:** Each month, we collect items that the Food Pantry tells us they are most in need of. There will be a collection box outside of the front door if you are interested in donating. **The Food Pantry items requested for the months of January and February are:**

- Near East Rice, Rice-A-Roni Rice, Uncle Ben’s Rice
- Ramen Flavored Noodle Soups (not cups)
- Idahoan Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Miracle Whip, Spam, BBQ sauce

## Important Upcoming Dates:

### January:

- 4<sup>th</sup>: School Re-opens
- Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>: School closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## COVID-19 Policy Reminders for Travel and Positive/Close Contact Quarantine

As you may know, the CDC issued updated travel and positive case/close contact guidelines early in December. This week the Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough voted to adopt some of those guidelines into their COVID-19 Policies and Procedures. We will be looking at these new policies in the coming weeks and likely adopting them, in some form, at SVP. However, at this time, and out of an abundance of caution, we will be keeping in place the SVP COVID-19 Safety Policies and Procedures that we put into place in the Fall. We want to be sure to safely guide our school through the predicted COVID-19 surge that is expected to follow the winter holiday break, New Year's celebrations and vacation travel, and feel strongly that loosening our policies at this time is not in the best interest of our school. Being a small school, we have limited resources for substitute teachers and coverage that larger schools have, and as such, we are proceeding with caution into January. We will be sure to let you know how and when we plan to make modifications to our COVID-19 Policies in the future. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together to ensure the health and safety of our teachers, students and families.

**Please remember the following as you enjoy the rest of your vacation week:**

- Families are asked to limit ALL out-of-state travel.
- **IMPORTANT: Please take a few moments to carefully review the Daily Screening Questions that we ask you when you arrive at school.** Be mindful of all of the possible COVID-19 symptoms, ESPECIALLY gastrointestinal issues, headache, congestion and fever.
- All staff /parents must immediately report all positive cases of COVID-19 within your household, as well as close contacts with positive COVID-19 cases, and all illness symptoms to the Directors.
- If your family was social with anyone outside of your household, for 15 minutes or more, within 6 feet, over the New Year holiday, especially indoors, (even with masks) we ask that you consider keeping your child home until it is determined that there were no positive cases within the group you were with.

We thank you for all that you do for us at SVP and your continued support as we work through the challenges involved in safely running a school during a pandemic. We are grateful to you for your hard work, attention to detail, sacrifices, encouragement and understanding. More than anything though, we thank you for the trust you have placed in us this year. As we have said before, we fully recognize that this was and continues to be a decision you haven't made lightly. We wouldn't be here without all of you!

We wish you and your family a very happy and healthy 2021!

~Laura, Gretchen and Teachers at SVP