

Southborough Village Preschool

January 2022 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 2022 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 important reminders and updates for you as we head back to school, and as usual, please let us know if you have any questions.

Travel Restrictions and COVID-19 Precautions for Returning to School:

You may have heard by now that the CDC has updated their COVID policies by shortening the isolation and quarantine policies to 5 days following a positive test or close contact with a positive person. We are also aware that the Public Schools of Southborough and Northborough sent out information today, letting families know that they are adopting these shortened isolation and quarantine policies.

PLEASE NOTE: After careful consideration, **we have made the decision to NOT make these changes to our SVP COVID-19 isolation and quarantine policies at this time.** We made this decision out of an abundance of caution, for the following reasons, in order to best protect our SVP community at this time.

- We are coming off a holiday season and weekend that likely saw families traveling and socializing with families outside of their immediate household.
- Our student population (with the exception of a handful of our 5 year olds) remains unvaccinated and at high risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19.
- The Omicron variant is known to spread incredibly easily and quickly.
- COVID-19 testing is difficult to schedule at this time, due to the recent COVID surge, and results are taking many days to return.
- As our students are very young, it can be difficult to distance them during play.
- We have a small staff and need to keep them healthy during this time, as substitute teachers are difficult to come by, and we prefer to not unnecessarily move teachers around to different classrooms during a spike in community cases.
- Finally, we have not received any guidance or directives, prompting us to modify our policies, from our licensing body, the DEEC.

As a result, we will be maintaining the policies that we have had in place throughout the Fall (see below). Of course we are always monitoring the ever changing COVID-19 situation, and are in constant touch with the DEEC and our local Board of Health. We will be sure to let you know if we will be making any changes to our policies as soon as possible. Please let us know if you have any questions at all.

IMPORTANT: Due to the situation detailed above regarding transmissibility and high levels of community spread, **we ask that you review and adhere to the following as we return to school.**

- At this time, we will not be allowing any students or staff members to enter the building if they have **ANY COVID-19 symptoms AT ALL.** Please see the attached screening document.
- If your child, or anyone in your immediate household has tested positive within the past 2 weeks, you must contact us before sending your child to school. At that time, we will be able to discuss your family’s specific isolation/quarantine details.

- If your child is considered to be a close contact, or even suspected to be a close contact, you will not be able to send him/her to school at this time. Please call us and we'll review your situation.
- Out of an abundance of caution, even if you have not been made aware that your family has been exposed to COVID, if you have been traveling, in large groups or social with other families or children outside of your house, **we ask that you strongly consider obtaining a negative test result before sending your child to school.** We thank you for your commitment to keeping our staff, students and their families safe during this challenging time.

SVP COVID-19 Travel Guidelines and Quarantine Policies

- When traveling outside of Massachusetts, **unvaccinated** individuals (most all of our students) may return to school, but you are required to
 - Notify the Directors of travel.
 - Have a PCR test on or after Day 5 after return (Day 0 is date of arrival in MA).
 - Monitor for symptoms.
 - Remain fully masked
 - Students may not return to school if they have had any contact with a COVID-19 positive individual, or suspected positive individual.
 - **Vaccinated students** may return to school, masked, and must just monitor for symptoms.
- If your child **had, over the past ten days, any of the symptoms** on the COVID-19 symptom list, he/she may not return to school until:
 - You have obtained a negative PCR test result.
 - Symptoms are improving.
 - Your child has not had a fever for 24 hours without the use of medication.
 - Your child is feeling energetic.

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 2022-2023 school year at the Mary Finn School in Southborough begins this month and will occur online, beginning Wednesday, January 12th. If your child will be turning 5.0 years old by August 31st, you will 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 the Finn School at (508) 485-3176 (x63103). 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, regardless of the town, you may 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: This month, we will be resuming our optional participation in supporting the Southborough (and surrounding community) Food Pantry. The items that are requested this month are listed below. There will be a collection box outside of the front door of the school if you are interested in donating. We thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

The Food Pantry items requested for the month of January:

- Chex Cereals, any type
- Tissues
- Green Olives, cans or jars

Important Upcoming Dates:

January:

- Monday January 3rd: School Re-opens
- Monday, January 17th: School is closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Wednesday, January 12th: Kindergarten Registration begins at Mary Finn School, Southborough.

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 2022!

~Laura, Gretchen and Teachers at SVP