

# *Southborough Village Preschool*

## **January 2023 Newsletter**

*“Every year you make a resolution to change yourself.  
This year, make a resolution to be yourself.”*

*-Unknown*

Happy New Year to you all! We made it to 2023 and are looking forward to a kind, and gentle 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.

**Staying Healthy at SVP!** As a preschool, we are grateful to be in a much better place than we were a year ago, in terms of masking mandates, travel restrictions, etc. With that said, as you are well aware, there is a lot of illness in our area right now, including Influenza, RSV, COVID and Strep, all of which spread quickly indoors, especially amongst our young population and teachers. In our setting, effective distancing is very challenging, and young children have difficulty managing their symptoms, covering their coughs, keeping their hands away from their faces, etc. Even with the careful measures we take in school, for sanitizing of surfaces, frequent handwashing, air filters, open windows and lots of outdoor time, these illnesses can spread quickly at school.

As such, given the fact that we are coming off of a vacation week likely filled with lots of indoor celebrations and travel, **we are asking our parents to use an abundance of caution when sending symptomatic children to school for the next few weeks.** We ask you to keep in mind the following when assessing if your child is healthy enough to be at school. \*Please let us know if you are in need of rapid COVID tests, we have plenty!

- If your child has tested **positive for COVID** within the past two weeks, or if **someone in your household is positive for COVID**, please reach out to the Directors and your child’s teacher to discuss the details of your child’s situation, before returning to school.
- **If your child is considered to be a close contact of a COVID positive person**, he/she needs to obtain a negative rapid COVID test before returning, should mask while at school and test again on Day 6. Your child will be allowed to attend school as long as he/she remains asymptomatic. Please reach out to the Directors and your child’s teacher if your child is a considered to be a close contact.
- **If your child has any symptoms at all**, including sore throat, headache, congestion, fever, cough, or gastrointestinal symptoms, but is not a close contact and has obtained a negative rapid COVID test, **he/she may attend school as long as you have spoken to a Director and the following criteria are met:**
  - Is fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
  - Does not have an excessively runny nose or cough.
  - Feels well enough to attend school, has good energy and is well rested.
- If your child is symptomatic yet meets the above criteria, **we ask that you consider masking your child to prevent the spread of illness to others in the classroom.** While we recognize that children are catching a variety of illnesses right now, and that most are not harmful, please keep in mind that these illnesses can easily spread to other children/staff, who may have people at home who are immunocompromised, elderly, infants, etc. We know that it can be inconvenient to keep a sick child home, but as a school community, we work hard to consider the effects that our actions and decisions have on all of our school families. We thank you for your consideration and help with this.

**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, waterproof mittens (two pair for full day students) and a hat. As always...be sure all items are labeled with your child’s name, and placed in a Snow Bag (also labeled). Reusable grocery bags work really well for Snow Bags, as they aren’t too bulky when they hang close together in the hallway. And don’t forget...labels, labels, labels!

**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 2023-2024 school year at the Mary Finn School in Southborough begins this month and will likely occur mid-January. We are awaiting information on the date and details and will be sure to share it with you as soon as we receive it. If your child will be turning 5.0 years old by August 31<sup>st</sup>, you should receive a registration packet in the mail soon, but if you don’t receive a packet, or if you have any questions regarding registration, or have 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.

## **Important Upcoming Dates:**

### **January and February 2023:**

- Monday January 2<sup>nd</sup>: SCHOOL CLOSED
- Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>: School Re-opens
- Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>: Music with Miss Alexis
- Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>: School is closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>: Music with Miss Alexis
- February 6-17<sup>th</sup>: Parent Teacher Conference and Progress Reports (details to follow)
- February 20-24<sup>th</sup>: SCHOOL CLOSED for February Vacation

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 tricky times. 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 and every year. As we have said before, we fully recognize that you have other choices for preschools, and we are so glad that you have chosen SVP. We wouldn’t be here without all of you, and it certainly wouldn’t be nearly as much fun without all of you, our amazing families! Here’s to lots of fun together in the new year.

We wish you and your family a very happy and healthy 2023!

~Laura, Gretchen and Teachers at SVP