

Southborough Village Preschool

February 2024 Newsletter

Happy February to you all! We don't have a lot of news for you this month, but below you will find just a few reminders about upcoming events at SVP. Please let us know if you have any questions at all.

It looks as though we have some more messy, winter weather heading our way! Please take a moment to read through the **Winter Weather School Cancellation & Delay Policy for SVP**. You'll find it at the bottom of this newsletter. Be sure to let us know if you have any questions.

Kindergarten Registration is here!! Kindergarten registration for the 2024-2025 school year at the Mary Finn School in Southborough has begun. To register your child, you can use the following link and then scroll down to "Registration Instructions for PowerSchool".

<https://www.nsboro.k12.ma.us/families/new-student-registration>

There is also a link to "Incoming Kindergarten Information" on the Mary Finn School website, and it can be found under "Quick Links" on the home page. If you have any questions, or if you 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 provided 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.

Will your child be out of school? Please remember to call us or send an email if your child will not be in school. We do account for each student every day and appreciate the communication. If your child is home sick, please let us know what symptoms he/she is experiencing, as it's helpful for us to track illnesses in classrooms. Thank you!

We have openings! Are you thinking your child might be ready for a little more time in school? Or do you have a friend or neighbor whose child is now old enough for preschool? Let us know, we'd be happy to talk about our availability. **For next year, we have a few openings as well**, so spread the word to your friends and neighbors and have them reach out to us for more information. Thank you!

Parent Teacher Conferences: We are looking forward to our Parent Teacher Conferences, during the second two weeks of February. Your child's teachers will be in touch regarding the schedule for their conferences. Please remember that conferences are not required, so if you feel comfortable with your child's progress, feel free to skip a conference at this point. We are available at any point in the year to discuss your child's progress in school. Progress reports will be sent home on February 1st and 2nd.

Valentine's Day at SVP: At school, we look upon this fun holiday as an opportunity to celebrate friendship, respect and kindness. We will celebrate Valentine's Day by making valentines and enjoying some fun parties in our classrooms. **Our parties will be held on Tuesday, February 13th and Wednesday, February 14th.** Your children are invited to bring in and distribute valentines on those days. Details will follow from your child's teachers, regarding party details and food sign-up. ***Note: Please do not attach any candy or food to valentines, in order to protect our students with allergies.** We thank you for your help with this important safety regulation.

During Valentine's Day week, as we do all weeks, we will celebrate how kind, loving and friendly our students are. At the preschool, we love the fact that children are so open to new and surprising friendships.

As adults, we can learn a great deal from our children's openness, generosity, natural empathy and kindness. As teachers, we love that research continues to support the fact that much of a child's cognitive development depends on the strength of their social and emotional development and skills. The State of Massachusetts even has a Social and Emotional Standard for education, as school success stems from a strong social and emotional foundation. We embrace this part of our curriculum and love to help children learn how to feel good about themselves as individuals, as friends, as peers, and as a part of our school and global community.

You will see that our progress reports reflect the educational focus on social and emotional development. At SVP, we are grateful for the opportunity to play such a critical role in helping children find success socially as well as emotionally. We truly believe that without this foundation, academic success means very little. In this increasingly complex world, we recognize and respect the need for young people to develop strong social and emotional health **through learning and play**. We really love this part of our jobs!

Nut Free Policy: We are excited to begin plans for our Valentine's Day Parties on February 13th and 14th. We thank you in advance for food donations for our parties (you will hear from teachers shortly as to what their party needs are). As a reminder, we are a **nut-free school**.

- However, not only must food be completely nut-free for us to serve it at SVP, but it also must be **made in a nut-safe facility, and on nut-safe equipment**. This designation is usually listed under the ingredients on the label, but it can be tricky to find. If you are sending food in, we ask that you **send us a photo of the ingredient label at least one day before your child's party**, so that we can ensure that it can be served to all students.
- Also, please remember that we are unable to serve any home baked items, so as to avoid potential cross-contamination with any nut products or baking materials.
- On a similar note, if you are sending in fruit or vegetables, there's no need to wash and cut at home, we will take care of that for you in the classroom.
- We thank you for your support as we work hard to ensure the health and safety of all of our students who have allergies, and of course those who are potentially developing unknown allergies.

Book Swap Nook: Don't forget to stop by our SVP Book Swap Nook, located in the little red cabinet just to the right of the front door. Feel free to take books OR leave books that you are finished with. These books don't have to just be preschool aged books, any children's book donations are appreciated!

Stay warm and have a wonderful week! ~Gretchen and Laura

Upcoming Events: Please make note of the following dates over the next few months.

February:

13th and 14th: Classroom Valentine's Day Parties

5th through 16th: Parent Teacher Conferences (Your child's teacher will schedule with you.)

19th through 23rd: School Closed for February Vacation

March:

5th: School Closed for Town wide Professional Development Day

29th: School closed for Good Friday

April:

15th through 19th: School closed for April Vacation

Winter Weather School Cancellation & Delay Policy for SVP

We ask that you take a few moments to read through our Winter Weather School Cancellation and Delay Policy. Southborough Village Preschool's main objective during winter weather is to ensure the safety of our staff members, students and their families. Please let us know if you have any question at all.

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 also be closed.

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 Southborough Village Preschool early due to poor weather conditions. In this case, parents and caregivers will be notified as quickly as possible.

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