

Southborough Village Preschool

January 2024 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 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, we are always happy to help.

Staying Healthy at SVP! Sadly, but as expected, cold and flu season has settled in for the next few months, **and we ask that you all take care to keep your children home if they are sick.** This is the best way for us to prevent the spread of germs to other students, staff and family members. As a reminder, if your child has had a fever, gastrointestinal illness, vomiting or has begun an antibiotic, you must keep him/her home for AT LEAST 24 hours. If your child meets the 24 hour criteria, but is still not feeling well, is fatigued or very symptomatic, we ask that you keep him/her home for a bit longer. It’s not fun to be at preschool when you aren’t feeling well and children play in very close contact with others. We have plenty of COVID tests available at the preschool. If your child has any of the symptoms on the list of COVID symptoms, please test him/her before sending them to school. Possible COVID symptoms include, but are not limited to **fever/chills, cough, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting and diarrhea.** Please let us know if your child or a household member has tested positive for COVID in the past two weeks, and for the remainder of the school year. Thank you!

Please remember, if your child will be out sick (or absent for any reason), we ask that you call the office or send us an email to let us know the nature of the illness and symptoms. We work hard to track illnesses and are required to notify families if their child is in a class with a highly contagious illness like Influenza, Strep Throat, Conjunctivitis, Norovirus, Hand Foot Mouth, COVID, etc. We thank you for your support as we partner together to keep our school community as healthy as possible.

Tuition Due Date: If you are on the “two or four 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: The weather looks fairly mild again this week, we’ve really been lucky so far this, year! As a reminder, **please select a snow gear bag to send back and forth every day** for the remainder of the winter. We ask that you always place in the bag, a warm hat, two pairs of mittens, and slippers or sneakers for the classroom, if your child will be wearing boots to school. It doesn’t look like you will need to send snow pants in yet, but please start sending the snow gear bag for all of the other items, it really helps the kids to stay organized when they are getting dressed and undressed for outdoor play each day. Reusable cloth grocery bags work really well for snow gear bags, as they aren’t too bulky when they hang close together in the hallway. You will want to check the snow gear items when your child gets home to see if they need to be dried for the next day. And finally, don’t forget to label the bag and all of the snow gear items, including boots and slippers, so we can get everything back to you at the end of the day!

Book Swap Nook Update: The kids have been having so much fun with our SVP Book Swap Nook! It’s great to see them selecting books to take home and sharing books with each other. The book shelves are looking a bit bare though, so if you have any books at home that your children are finished reading, feel free to bring them in to add to our book stock. Thank you!

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 2024-2025 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 31st, 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.

Assessments and Progress Reports: It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the halfway point for the school year. The old adage certainly rings true for us at SVP...Time flies when you are having fun! While the fun will absolutely continue, we do change gears just a little bit in January, to make time for our mid-year assessments. Teachers are constantly assessing students throughout each school day, all year long, but in a more observation based, informal manner. It's important periodically, though, to sit down with each student in a one-on-one setting, to see how they are doing in different areas of development. Over the next month, we will be meeting individually with each student for assessments. Your child might not even report this to you because we always work hard to make sure this simply feels like fun time with their teacher! At the beginning of February, we will be sending our progress reports home. We welcome you to read them over and if you are interested in coming in for a conference, you are welcome to come in person, or even have a Facetime or phone call conference. Teachers will be available for conferences during the two weeks before February vacation, in the afternoons and evenings and will be sending out their conference schedules, to their classes, at the end of January. Parent Conferences are optional, there's no need to come in if you are comfortable with your child's progress at school. If you would like to talk though, we are always available and happy to meet.

Important Upcoming Dates for January and February 2024:

- Tuesday, January 2nd: School Re-opens
- January 11th and 12th: Music Classes
- Monday, January 15th: School is closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 25th and 26th: Music Classes
- February 8th and 9th: Music Classes
- February 5-16th: Parent Teacher Conference and Progress Reports (details to follow)
- February 19-23rd: SCHOOL CLOSED for February Vacation

We thank you for all that you do for us at SVP, and your continued support throughout the year. We are grateful to you for your hard work, attention to detail, kindness and partnership. More than anything though, we thank you for the trust you have placed in us this year and every year. 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 2024!

~Laura, Gretchen and Teachers at SVP