

Southborough Village Preschool Newsletter

November 2023

Dear Southborough Village Preschool Families,

How is it possible that it's November already! We've had a wonderful first few months of school and we are really enjoying all of your lovely children. We have enjoyed seeing our new classroom communities come together and new friendships being formed every day. We are grateful to be off to such a terrific start at SVP, and thank you for all that you have done to help us.

We want to take a moment to thank you all for your diligence and support regarding our sick policy this Fall. We know it's been a difficult few weeks as young children are catching many of the colds and viruses that they haven't been exposed to over the past few years, but we feel good knowing that we are working together as a team to keep our students, teachers and their families as safe and healthy as possible this year. We are fortunate to have such a kind and supportive school community.

Below you will find some information regarding upcoming events at the Preschool. We ask that you make note of the calendar at the end of the newsletter, in particular, the registration dates as well as dates that the school will be closed. Please let us know if you have any questions at all, we are always happy to hear from you!

Registration: As you know, registration for the 2024-2025 school year begins this week, on **Wednesday, November 1st at 8:00 AM**, for current families and alumni. We do encourage you to register early, as classes are filled on a first come, first served basis. Let us know if you have any questions regarding your child's class for next year. Please keep in mind that registration for new families will begin on Wednesday, November 15th, at 8:00 AM, so if you wish to register, or make changes to your registration, please let us know before then. We thank you for your continued support.

Tuition Due Date: Are you on the four payment tuition plan? If so, the second payment is due on November 1st. Please reach out to Laura Eppen if you have any questions regarding tuition.

Procure Thoughts... We would like to thank you all for your support with our new school app, Procure. We've had a few questions come our way, regarding some unexpected bills for before or after-school care. We encourage you to reach out to Laura Eppen if you have any questions regarding this, but in the meantime, the following information might be helpful to many of you.

Our Procure billing system is based on your child's school hours, which are either 8:45-11:45, 11:45-2:45, 8:45-2:45, 9:00-12:00, 12-3 or 9-3. If you sign in before or after your child's school hours, our software system will automatically generate a bill. This bill will likely be for a small amount, but if you are not intending to use before or after school care, we suggest that you sign-in or sign-out at the door, as close to your child's start/stop time as possible. You are always welcome to use our before or after-school care program, as we provide this program to make your life easier, whether you are juggling work hours, school bus schedules or even a napping baby at home! For early drop-off, we are always open at 8:00 AM and there is no need to notify us ahead of time if your child will be coming. For after-school care, we are open until 3:30 PM on Mon/Wed/Fri and 4:00 on T/Th. We do ask that you notify us if your child will be staying late. If you realize during the school day that you will be using after-school care, just give us a call in the office and we will let your child know. Please let us know if you have any questions at all regarding Procure, a billing statement or before/after-school care.

Flu Shots: As a reminder, the DEEC, the Department of Health and also the Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommend that all children receive an influenza vaccine as well as an updated COVID-19 vaccine, to protect against the potentially serious outcomes of these illnesses this fall and winter. We appreciate your continued commitment to keeping our preschool students, teachers and families as healthy as possible. Please see your pediatrician for further questions regarding vaccines.

SVP Book Swap Nook: Don't forget to stop by our SVP Book Nook! We'd like to give a big, grateful shout out to Maisie Rys, a former SVP student and current 1st grader at the Finn School. She designed, created and installed some beautiful and very helpful signage on our Book Swap Nook. Thank you Maisie! Please take a look, you'll love it as much as we do! If you haven't visited the Book Swap Nook yet, take a few minutes this week, you'll find this cute, red cabinet to the right of our front door, and it's full of fun books of all genres, free for your children. We encourage the kids to take a few books, and you are also welcome to leave a few books that you are ready to pass along. There is not a limit to the number of books that you can take, and you do not need to return the books if you would like to keep them. We hope you and your kids enjoy the Book Swap Nook.

The SVP Toddler House is Open! As you are probably aware, the SVP Toddler House at 16 East Main Street is open for business and full of the cutest little people you have ever seen! We would like to take a moment to thank our toddler parents for their incredible patience and unwavering support and enthusiasm throughout September, while we waited to be able to move the toddlers into their new home. If you haven't had a chance to see the new space, be sure to come by sometime! You will note that while renovations are finished inside, we are still working on the landscaping around the building and moving through the steps required to begin work on the front porch and garage. Please take care as you come and go from the Toddler House, as some of the ground may be uneven. Thank you for your patience, we are truly appreciative!

Veteran's Day: We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of the Veterans in our community for their service and dedication to our country. Please let us know if you have any veterans or current service members in your family or friend/work circles, who might like to receive some cards from our preschool. We would love that! **Please note that due to the fact that Veterans Day falls on a Saturday this year, we, along with the Southborough/Northborough Public Schools, will be open on Friday, November 10th.**

Illness Reminders: If your child has any illness symptoms, please let us know before school. For any symptoms on the COVID symptom list (fever, sore throat, congestion, coughing, fatigue, etc.), please use a rapid COVID test. If negative and the symptoms are manageable (not excessive coughing or congestion), and no fever for 24 hours without medication, he/she may come to school. We ask that you repeat the rapid test a few days later to ensure your child was not in the early stage of developing COVID when you first tested him/her. Was your child exposed to COVID? He/she is allowed to come to school as long as they remain symptom free and are testing negative.

Fall Food Drive at SVP: A Fall Food Drive is coming to SVP in a few weeks! Everett Richman, our beloved Ms. Linnea's high school son, is organizing a food drive to support the Southborough Food Pantry, as part of his involvement in Project 351, an amazing community service organization. Wishlist items include Capri Sun juice boxes, Oreos and chocolate chip cookies, dish detergent and facial tissues. The food drive will begin the Monday after Thanksgiving break, November 20th. We will send out some reminders in the coming weeks. Thank you in advance for generosity.

Winter Wishes Giving Program: Southborough Village Preschool is delighted once again this year to be partnering with Southborough Youth and Family Services, along with Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission, for their Winter Wishes Program, to support local families throughout the winter months. This year, SYFS and FSYC will be inviting people to support the program in two different ways. Please note that this year, donors are **not being asked to purchase any gifts or gift cards**. Instead, donors are requested to simply make a donation to the program and the organizers will in turn purchase gift cards for the participating families. Donors are offered two options in order to participate in the program.

- **Option 1: Make a tax-deductible donation** to Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission by check or cash donation.
- **Option 2: Donate via Venmo to support a family's requested item.** Tags (with name of requested item and Venmo QR code) will be made available in the coming days. You will find them hanging on our Winter Wishes Giving Tree at the front door.

As a reminder, this program is completely optional. We are aware that our preschool families support the community in a variety of ways. As always, we thank you for your kindness, generosity and thoughtfulness during this holiday season and throughout the year.

Important Dates to Note in November:

- **Wednesday, November 1st:** Registration begins at 8:00 AM, for current families and alumni, for the 2024-25 school year.
- **Wednesday, November 15th:** Registration begins at 8:00 AM, for new families, for the 2024-2025 school year.
- **Monday, November 20st and Tuesday, November 21st:** Classroom Feasts. Students will be preparing and sharing in feasts on these days. There's no need to send anything in for feasts!
- **Wednesday, November 22nd:** Half-day of school (12:00 dismissal). No PM class.
- **Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th:** School Closed for Thanksgiving Break. Classes resume on Monday, November 27th. Happy Thanksgiving!!!
- **Monday and Tuesday, December 4th and 5th:** Gingerbread Houses and Holiday Trees. Volunteers will be needed for these special days, stay tuned for details!
- **Monday, December 18th through Monday, January 1st:** School Closed for winter vacation.
- **Tuesday, January 2nd:** School Re-Opens. Happy New Year to you all!

Please let us know if you have any questions at all, regarding anything in this newsletter, or any upcoming events at SVP. We are always happy to hear from you! We will be sending out another Newsletter in a few weeks with more details regarding our upcoming December events. Stay tuned!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we would like to thank you all for all that you do for us at the Preschool. We have the best parents in the entire world and we are thankful for that, as well as for the opportunity to spend our days with your delightful children. We are also grateful to you all for choosing to send your children to us this year. We wish you all a most wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

~Gretchen, Laura and all of our Teachers at SVP