

# Southborough Village Preschool

## October 2024 Newsletter

What an amazing few weeks we have had at SVP! As the weather is finally cooling and the leaves are turning, we are looking forward to a busy and exciting few weeks at the Preschool and want to fill you in on a few things that might be helpful for you to know. As usual, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about anything. We are always happy to hear from you.

**School Portrait Days:** We are excited to welcome our favorite photographer, Jennifer MacNeil, back for school portraits on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> (rain dates 10/24 and 10/25). School portraits are completely optional, but please know that she will take a quick photo of each student, regardless of whether or not you purchase a session/package, for teacher use in the classroom. Please see the Google School Photo order form that was posted on ProCare this week, to order and pay for a portrait session/package for your child. We do ask that you fill the form out even if you are not planning on having a portrait session for your child, so we know what your plan is for that day. If your child attends school all five days, you may choose which day to have your child's portrait taken on. All children will be included in all group class photos regardless of your decision to purchase a session/package. Please note that Jennifer will not be printing photos this year, but she has made a few suggestions for photo printing if you are interested. See the order form for more details and don't hesitate to reach out to Jennifer if you have any further questions. Thank you!

**You're invited to our Family Open House!** We are excited to be looking forward to one of our favorite annual school events, our SVP Family Open House. We hope that you are able to attend this fun evening on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. This will be a wonderful opportunity for your child to show you around the classroom and for you to see some of the fun things that we have been working on. You will also be able to meet your child's classmates and families. Please see the open house schedule below and let us know if you have any questions at all, we look forward to seeing you on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Southborough Village Preschool Family Open-House Schedule

**Please join us on Thursday, October 24, 2024**

	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Toddler House
5:00 - 5:45 PM	<b>T/Th AM &amp; PM</b> Kara/Nina	<b>T/Th Full Day</b> Lindsey/Michelle V./Angie	<b>MWF Full Day &amp; T/Th Full Day</b> Michele K./Jenn/Ruth	<b>Toddlers</b> Laura/Linnea
6:00 - 6:45 PM	<b>MWF AM &amp; PM</b> Kara/Ruth/Linnea	<b>MWF Full Day</b> Gretchen/Angie/Kathryn		

**Registration for the 2025-2026 School Year:** It's hard to believe that it's here already! It is time for us to begin the registration process for our next school year. Please note these important dates as we approach the first day of the registration process.

- **Registration will begin at 8:00 AM on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> for current students and their families, siblings and alumni families.**
- **Registration for new families will begin at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Please keep this date in mind, as we would like you all to have the opportunity to register for the class that you would like. You will be receiving registration documents in your child's backpack in the next few weeks, and they will be available on our website as well. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions as to what might be the best class for your child for next year.

**Halloween is upon us!!!** We love this exciting time of the year and so do our students. Each class will be having a fun Halloween party on Wednesday, 10/30 and Thursday, 10/31. Your child's teacher will let you know what is needed if you are interested in sending in a snack or paper goods. While it is fun to have some sweets at our parties, we work hard to make sure that our small treats are balanced with healthy fruits and vegetables. **Please either send the food in ahead of the party, or simply send us a photo of the ingredient label before the day of the party. We do not allow homemade treats to be served at school, so as to avoid possible cross-contamination with allergens. Thank you for your understanding with this important safety policy.**

- Note: At SVP, **we do not allow children to wear costumes to school during Halloween parties.** Costumes can be overwhelming for our younger students, and there is always the risk that costume pieces could become lost/misplaced. Thank you for your understanding.

**Don't forget to sign-in and sign-out at the door every day.** It's hard to believe that just a few weeks into the start of school, drop-off is already going so smoothly. We thank you for your support as we greet your children and take them into the building, we know this can be a stressful time. We do ask that you **always remember to take the time to digitally sign your child in and out**, on your ProCare app, each day. If you will be having a family member or babysitter drop-off or pick-up your child, please ask them to bring their phone and let them know your child's four digit access code. We are happy to assist them as they sign your child in or out. Thank you!

**Thoughts on Adjusting to School:** This is the time of year that we marvel at how far our students have come in one short month, and how quickly they have adapted to a new setting, new routines, new friends and teachers. Kids really are amazing! With that said, you may have a child who is struggling or seems reluctant to come to school, or separate at the front door, or even to use the preschool bathroom. This is all very normal for preschoolers, but we assure you, your little one will adjust before you know it, and make tremendous strides over the coming weeks. Please let us know if you would like to talk with us at any point about any aspect of your child's adjustment to school. We are always interested in working with you to make your little one's preschool experience as positive and stress-free as possible.

**In the meantime, we do have some suggestions that can help your little one acclimate to a new school, new teachers and new friends.**

- **In the morning, try to be as positive and reassuring as possible**, reminding your child that they will have a good day and that you are excited to see them soon.
- **Draw on their past success**, by reminding them that they were nervous before but they ended up having a wonderful and successful day and that they will be able to do that again.

- **If your little one is struggling at drop-off, try to be brief and cheerful with your goodbye** and if you have concerns, feel free to message us or call the office to see how your little one is doing.
- For young “toileters”, we suggest **that you send your child to school in outfits that are easy to get on and off quickly, especially while your child is working to become comfortable using a bathroom in a new setting.** We suggest avoiding tights, long dresses/skirts, belts, skinny jeans or overalls for young toilet trainers. It’s common for a teacher to have more than one child in the bathroom at a time and outfits that are easy to get on/off are always a welcome bonus on our end!
- **For lunch,** try to include your child in food selection so they know what to expect when they sit down to eat with friends. Also try putting a little tear in food packets and then show your child how to open the package by pulling it apart at the tear. Children love to be able to show how independent they are during mealtimes.

**Illnesses at SVP...** as we expected this time of year, there are already a lot of illnesses going around school settings. If your child develops illness symptoms, we ask that you email both your child’s teachers and the Directors, so we can be in touch regarding your child’s particular situation and so that we can inform the class about any highly contagious illness cases that are present at SVP, if need be.

- If your child develops **symptoms**, i.e. congestion, cough, sore throat, headache, fever, etc., we suggest that you use a rapid test to **test for COVID** and reach out to the teachers and directors if your child tests positive.
- **If positive**, your child may return to school once he/she has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication, AND symptoms are improving, mild and manageable (not coughing a lot or a very runny nose), and if your child has good energy.
- **If negative**, your child may attend school unless they have symptoms, in which case, he/she must be fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication, AND your child’s symptoms are improving, mild and manageable (not coughing a lot or a very runny nose), and if your child has good energy.
- If your child has a known COVID exposure, but tests negative, it is suggested to retest on Day 5.
- **If your child has non-COVID related symptoms** (ear infection, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) he/she must be fever free for 24 hours, on antibiotics for 24 hours, and not vomiting or diarrhea **for at least 24 hours before returning to school.** We also ask that you contact both of your child’s teachers and the Directors, so we can be in touch regarding your child’s particular situation and so that we can inform the class about any highly contagious illness cases that are present if need be.
- We do reserve the right to ask you to pick your child up if we feel as though he/she is too sick to be at school, (coughing a lot, lots of congestion, tired, etc.).
- We can be reached at [directors@southboroughvillagepreschool.com](mailto:directors@southboroughvillagepreschool.com), or feel free to call the office.

**Will your child be staying home?** Please reach out to us, through ProCare before 9:00 AM or by calling us at the office (508-485-3109) to let us know if your child will not be attending school. We account for every student each day. Thank you!

**We’re always in search of...** We love to reuse and recycle when we can at SVP! There are a few items that we are always in need of if you find yourself recycling **paper towel rolls and/or disposable plastic grocery bags.** We use the paper towel rolls for a variety of projects and the plastic bags come in handy for sending wet clothes or other things home. We truly appreciate your donations!

**Toys from Home...** While we always understand that a child might need a transitional object to make the trek into school feel a little more comfortable, we do strongly suggest, when possible, leaving all toys and special objects at home. It's very difficult to keep track of a child's personal items in the classroom, and even more so when it's a toy that is very appealing to other students. We thank you for your help with this!

**The SVP Book Nook Swap Box!** Do you have some children's books at home that you are finished with, but that you enjoyed so much you'd like to see someone else enjoy them? You are invited to bring them to school and donate them to our SVP Book Swap Box. We encourage you and your children to bring any type of children's book that you think will be of interest to others - fiction, non-fiction, board books, etc. Please allow your child to take home any books that they find to be of interest, as frequently as they wish. When your child is finished with the books, you are welcome to keep them or return them for another child to enjoy. Thank you for participating in our Book Nook Swap Box Project!

**Labels, Labels, Labels!** Please take care to label every item that you send to school with your child, including backpacks, lunchboxes, food containers, water bottles, jackets, hats, etc. Labels really do help us to ensure that all items are returned to the correct families at the end of each day.

### **Important Dates to Note this Fall**

- **Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>:** School closed for Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day
- **Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, October 31<sup>th</sup>:** Classroom Halloween Parties
- **Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>:** First day of Registration for the 2025-2026 school year (8:00 AM).
- **Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>:** Registration opens for new families for the 2025-26 school year.
- **Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>:** Half-day (school closes at 12:00 noon- no PM session). School will remain closed on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving break.
- **Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>:** School re-opens after Thanksgiving break.
- **Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>:** School Closed for Holiday Vacation
- **Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>:** School re-opens after Holiday Vacation

We are grateful to you all for your support on these, and all school matters. We have the best parents and families in the world, and we appreciate your attention and thoughtfulness every day! We hope that you and your families find plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy the wonderful fresh air and beautiful colors in the coming weeks!

Sincerely,

Gretchen, Laura and the Entire Staff at Southborough Village Preschool