

Southborough Village Preschool Newsletter

October & November 2025

Dear Southborough Village Preschool Families,

How is it possible that we are cruising into November already! We've had a wonderful first few months of school and we are really having fun with all of your amazing children. It's exciting for us to see our new classroom communities coming together and new friendships being formed every day. We're so grateful to be off to such a terrific start at SVP, and thank you for all that you have done to support us.

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.

A Special Fall Gratitude Note: Thank you to one of our toddler parent, Torie Bonham for her incredible fall decorations on the front porch of the Toddler House! Torie does beautiful work in the community, through her home décor business, called Torie B. Designs. We appreciate and certainly are enjoying her thoughtfulness and seasonal, creative genius! Thank you, Torie!

Family Open House: We are so excited to welcome you all to our Family Open House, this coming Thursday, October 23rd. This is a wonderful time for your child to show you around their classroom and to meet their new friends. Feel free to bring additional family members, all are welcome!

Classroom Halloween Parties! We will be celebrating Halloween this year with our classroom Halloween parties on Thursday and Friday, October 30th and 31st. As such we wanted to take a moment to remind you of our nut-safe school policy. You will find sign-up sheets, posted on our clipboards, for our upcoming parties. There's no pressure to send anything in, there will be plenty of opportunities in the future. If you do send in a food item though, please remember that all items must be store bought with an ingredient label attached and manufactured in a nut-safe facility. Most grocery stores carry food items that are labeled "school safe" which means their manufacturing facilities are entirely nut-free, or products containing nuts are not made on the same equipment. If you will be sending a party donation in, we ask that you send us a photo of the ingredient label at least the day before, so we can make sure the food is safe for all students. Thank you!

Registration for Next Year: As you know, registration for the 2026-2027 school year begins in two weeks, on Monday, November 3rd at 8:00 AM, for current families and alumni. We 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 Monday, November 17th, 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 at SVP!

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.

Opening and Enrollment Options at SVP: While several of our classes are full, we do have a few classes with openings. Our young preschooler T/Th AM class has availability, as does our MWF Toddler class. Also, if your child attends preschool (2.9 and up) during the mornings and you would like to add afternoons, please reach out to us to discuss availability. You might consider adding additional time for your child, or you might have a neighbor or friend who is interested. Let us know!

Veterans Day: We will be closed on Tuesday, November 11th, in observance of Veterans 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.

Labels and Gear! As we are heading into consistently cool weather, we ask that you double check your child's outdoor clothing, including hats, mittens, jackets, etc., for name labels. **We also ask that you show your child each morning what you are sending in for them to wear outside.** Not only do many of our students have the same outdoor gear, but they don't always recognize their own things, especially if they are new to them. We try to work as quickly as possible to get the kids dressed to go outdoors several times per day and it saves us a tremendous amount of time if every item has a name on it.

It's also a great idea to give your child practice putting on their outdoor clothes, *to the best of their ability*. We assist the kids with this, of course, but it's important and helpful for the kids to be learning how to help themselves, especially as they oftentimes have to wait for help from a teacher. Also, the kids really love to be independent as often as possible.

Finally, this is a good time to think about switching out the extra clothes that you have at school or in your child's backpack, in the case of a spill or accident. If you send in a long sleeve shirt, pants, socks and underwear, we'll be sure to send home your child's hot weather clothes. Thank you!

Illnesses at SVP: As we expect at this time of year, there soon will be plenty of illnesses going around all 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 becomes ill and develops **symptoms**, i.e. congestion, cough, sore throat, headache, fever over 100 F, etc., please keep your child home and notify us as soon as possible.
- **Regardless of what illness your child has developed, the rules for attending school remain the same.** Your child may return to school once he/she has been fever-free (100 F) 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 and stamina.
- **If your child has an illness other than a cold/COVID, such as an 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 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, runny nose, fever, tired, etc.).
- Please keep in mind that not only is it not fun to be at school while sick, but young children play and eat in very close contact with one another and oftentimes have their hands in their mouths and on items in the classroom. **Germs spread quickly and easily at school, despite our best efforts.**
- **We thank you for keeping your sick child at home** as we work hard to keep our students, teachers and families as healthy as possible, while keeping in mind that many of our SVP families have members who are immunocompromised and more at risk from common preschool illnesses.
- If you are on the fence as to whether or not you should be sending your child to school due to illness, we always suggest that you err on the side of caution and keep him/her home.

- **As a reminder, the Massachusetts Department of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommend that all children receive annual influenza/COVID vaccines,** to protect against the potentially serious outcomes of these illnesses this fall and winter (HealthyChildren.org). In school settings, these vaccines can not only decrease the spread of these illnesses, but also minimizes the symptoms and decreases the risk to infant siblings/pregnant mothers/elderly family members. We appreciate your continued commitment to keeping our preschool students, teachers and families as healthy as possible. Please consult your pediatrician for further questions regarding vaccines.

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. We are awaiting details and instructions for this year's program and will pass this along to you as soon as we receive word from SYFS and FSYC. Please note that 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 October, November and December

- **Monday, October 20th:** School closed in observance of Diwali (district-wide holiday)
- **Thursday, October 30th and Friday, October 31st:** Classroom Halloween Parties
- **Monday, November 3rd:** Registration begins at 8:00 AM, for current families and alumni, for the 2026-27 school year. Registration paperwork will be sent home in the coming days.
- **Tuesday, November 11th:** NO SCHOOL in observance of Veterans Day.
- **Monday, November 17th:** Registration begins at 8:00 AM, for new families, for the 2026-2027 school year.
- **Monday, November 24th and Tuesday, November 25th:** Classroom Feasts. Students will be preparing and sharing in feasts on these days. There's no need to send anything in for the feasts!
- **Wednesday, November 26th:** HALF-DAY OF SCHOOL (12:00 dismissal). No PM class.
- **Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th:** SCHOOL CLOSED for Thanksgiving Break. Classes resume on Monday, December 1st. Happy Thanksgiving!
- **Thursday, December 11th and Friday December 12th:** Gingerbread Houses and Holiday Trees. Volunteers will be needed for these special days, stay tuned for details!
- **Thursday, December 18th and Friday, December 19th:** Holiday Parties. Stay tuned for details.
- **Monday, December 22nd through Friday, January 2nd:** SCHOOL CLOSED for winter vacation.
- **Monday, January 5th:** SCHOOL RE-OPENS. Happy New Year to you all!

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