



# Spuyten Duyvil

## P R E S C H O O L

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**Spuyten Duyvil Preschool Federal Tax ID 13-1858180**

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Spring Break .....No School..... Friday, April 15 – Friday, April 22**

**Arts Camp ..... Friday, April 15 - Friday April 22**

**Family Conferences ..... starting Mon, April 25 –**

**\*\*\* children must have negative covid test upon return to school \*\*\*\*\***

**Garden Party and Potluck Brunch ..... Sunday, May 1**

*Check your school calendar for dates for the rest of the year.-*

April 7, 2022

Dear Families,

While I always love to share all the tidbits happening here, this month will be just the facts- and there are enough of those.

- I am taking some time away from school next week for a family travel opportunity that we have been waiting for the past 3 years. Alda will oversee the day to day. If you have anything that needs immediate response please email her at [ajupkannex@gmail.com](mailto:ajupkannex@gmail.com).
- 3K and 4K families have been asked to complete a School Survey from the Dept of Education. If you have misplaced the paper copy we sent home you can access your unique code at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/reports/school-quality/nyc-school-survey>. The deadline is April 18. We like seeing high participation numbers!
- The weather is changing and your kids keep growing – please update the extra clothes you sent for your child back in Sept. Accidents still happen but the clothes are not fitting them anymore. Also please remember to return school clothes that we lend out as needed.
- Lots of rainy days lately- kids cannot play outdoors in rainboots so make sure there are appropriate outdoor shoes here as well for when the rain stops and they go to the playground.
- I sent a reminder home earlier this week about mask wearing policy. NYC reconsidered their dropping the mask mandate for preschool. We had already said we will continue with the masks through June. We are



all used to it, and after having to close last week we want to minimize the chances of having to do that again. This is also true for all adults coming to our gate, and especially onto our grounds.

- We need to know immediately if one of our students is exposed at home to Covid. The child needs to stay home and if testing negative still 5 days after exposure can return. But it is very important that you keep us in the loop. Let's just get through the next 3 months together.



**Elliot and Zeke enjoying school lunch during "Nursery Covid Free Camp" last week!**

**VACATION CAMP:** – ART CAMP is all set under Alda's wonderful planning. Grazia is assisting in the curriculum design. The 5 artists being focused on are Jackson Pollack, Vincent Van Gogh, Henri Matisse, Frieda Kahlo and Pablo Picasso. If you have not signed your child up yet and would like to, just write to Alda- [ajupkannex@gmail.com](mailto:ajupkannex@gmail.com). I will invoice later.

## SPRING FAMILY CONFERENCES:

4K students will bring home a written on Monday. The teachers are all sending out a your Zoom conference starting April 25. Please be next week. We take this joint sharing and feedback family is expected to fully participate.



report from your teacher Google Doc to sign up for on the look out for it all very seriously; every

## MOVEMENT WITH MARY –

Marty Cartales, our therapeutic movement teacher, is holding a series of specialized classes for preschoolers on Saturday mornings at Mosholu Montfiore Community Center. It is called FOUR ON THE FLOOR. If you are looking for a schedule activity to supplement your child's weekend, you could not do better than this. Check out [www.mmcc.org](http://www.mmcc.org) for more info. Also check out Mary's work at her site, [www.yourmovementresource.com](http://www.yourmovementresource.com).



## SIGNS OF SPRING!

There are 2 sure signs at Spuyten Duyvil- first is that the chicks have hatched! Be sure to ask your child about this. Unfortunately this year every class had the sad experience of having had at least one chick die after hatching. I visited 2 of them to talk about this natural process, connecting it to the conversations they

have been all having about life cycle, how you know when something is alive, what are the conditions a living thing must have to survive. I read The Dead Bird, where a group of children find a dead bird on the ground. They bury it in



the woods. I did not add that part, just that they put out flowers and sang about the bird in memory. And then they went back to their playing. Very matter-of-fact. While we try hard to protect the eggs- and our kids- losing some is part of what makes this curriculum so important

## **GARDEN PARTY and POTLUCK BRUNCH Sunday, May1**

This is a much more fun sign of spring and after cancelling all family events for the past 2 years, we are ready to hold this one on site. It will all be outdoors- kids play in back, volunteer parents assist in yard work building trellises, spreading mulch., rebuilding sidewalk tree pits- Chelsea and I are putting together a healthy TO DO list for that day.

Each family is asked to bring a Brunch dish to share. We will supply coffee, tea, water and paper goods. I will send reminders the last week of April but be sure to mark your calendars now- it has been so long since we have had a whole school event like this!

## **ARTICLE OF THE MONTH- Kids Can Learn From Guided Play Than Direct Instruction -**

Thanks to Chantall Lowe (Matteo's mom and our Board treasurer) for this article. Always nice when we official science corroborating what we as progressive educators have long known- our kids know it too.

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REMINDER- All children must return on April 25 with a negative covid test taken either April 24 or 25. Let's hope this is the last time!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judi".