



# Spuyten Duyvil P R E S C H O O L

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**DOUBLE GOOD POPCORN FUNDRAISER – orders due back to school with payment by Mon, Nov. 29. Who will be the biggest earner?? In the end the kids all win when the school is well funded!**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

4K Share Luncheon .....	Wed, Nov 24
Thanksgiving Break .....	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> .....
Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser .....	Thurs- Fri, Nov. 25 and 26
Family Conferences .....	deadline Nov. 29
Winter Holiday Vacation .....	Nov 29- Dec. 7
	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> .....
	Friday, Dec. 24 – Fri Dec. 31
	<b>Return to school Monday, Jan. 3, 2022</b>

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

November 19, 2021

Dear Families,



### FALL FESTIVALS-

Covid precautions prevented us from making this seasonal event a family/community event, but that didn't mean your kids couldn't enjoy. On 3 separate mornings in late Oct. each of the 4K classes came to the front yard for sand painting, pumpkin design and paper hats. We heard a story together, posed for pictures behind the scarecrow and, then (so sad!) took whacks at the beautiful, class-made original pinatas! Chips came raining down. If possible we will go back to a weekend family celebration next year but the kids did have a wonderful time this year too.



**COMPOST** – Several families are already using our wooden compost bins behind the greenhouse. Everyone is encouraged to bring in their collected raw food scraps- just be sure to remove all rubber bands, labels and staples beforehand. Do not leave scraps in even paper bags as everything needs to be chopped up as well once in the bin to encourage quick composting.

In addition, SDP is now a community collecting site on Friday mornings. You may have seen the Info table set up this morning. We are pulling out the large plastic bin on Fridays for scrap donations, then will put it back inside our gate later that day. Big ReUse collects the scrap the following Mondays. During the week our families can leave their composting scraps either in our bin or, if too full, in the plastic bin inside the gate. All our classrooms have

Food Scrap jars to collect fruit scraps from snack, lunch and cooking. Kids love doing this- encourage them to continue at home. It is an easy way to model environmental and community responsibility, and allows you to come inside our gates with your child to look around at all the planting spaces. See the attached for more info on what can be composted.

**FRONT YARD FACELIFT-**



I don't want to list the volunteer parents from Nov. 6 by name in case I miss someone, but endless thanks to the 8 parents who did make the time- and to Chelsea and her partner David and Hannah Saunders- for their time and commitment. After 10 years the old boxes didn't owe us any service so now we are all rebuilt, new soil and a beautiful floral or sun design depending on your perspective.

Thanks to Renata Ohore (Maxx's mom) for spreading mulch all around the beds in the front. There are still many bags of mulch to be spread all around the back yard planting areas if anyone has a few hours any day. The cold frame bed was not completed that day. A few hours with a drill will put those boards together if someone has time. Chelsea is here with the kids on Tuesdays so that would be great for a volunteer to come in to finish the construction.

Chelsea will now put in some winter and cover crops and settle it all end for the cold weather. In no time we will be starting seedlings under lights again.



**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS:** Apparently Scholastic is suffering from the same supply delays as all other businesses. There are serious delays in books coming so I am hesitant to encourage family ordering. But if you don't mind when the deliveries come, this is still a great way to put the joy of a fresh new book and reading into your child's hands.

[www.scholastic.com/parentordering](http://www.scholastic.com/parentordering) activation code **LH6ZW**

**FAMILY CONFERENCES-**

This is a very important piece of our mission- to directly connect with family and partner with them in supporting each child's development. One way we do this is with conferences (Zoom again this year) twice a year. I have sent out appointment times for each class (Alda does the Annex herself) for a 20 minute appointment starting Mon, Nov. 29. Please let me know what times work for you. Teacher are preparing notes for each child to guide the conversation; please bring your thoughts and questions as well.

**WHAT ABOUT KINDERGARTEN?**

The Zoom Info meeting was very well attended. I do not have any further info about when DOE will set up their lottery—certainly not til the new year. Meanwhile cast a wide net when you go visit different programs and report back to the rest of our families.

**FUNDRAISING: In addition to the popcorn sales-**

Not everyone wants to sell, or buy, popcorn. We are also glad to accept straight donations now if you have family who wants to pass on the popcorn (then we get to keep 100% of the sale!) As a 501c3 all donations are tax deductible; I am glad to provide a tax letter for donations.

**School Photos** – Pictures went very well- it was cool out but the kids were great sports and everyone found their special smiles. The company contacts you directly for orders; we have no connection with that. All



questions should be directed to Irvin Simon Photographers, 800 540 4701. But if you run into any problems please let me know.

**Amazon Smile Foundation:** This is a parallel site to Amazon- uses exact same catalog of items, same personal account. However, when you sign up you are asked to pick a donation site. You enter Spuyten Duyvil Preschool and all your purchases earn a small percentage from Amazon to our school. It is not a lot but the more our families log into this, and send the word to their extended family and friends, the pennies build.

**School Store:**



**Here are some gift ideas that won't have a problem being delivered on time!!!**

**4K Share Luncheon –** We don't formally celebrate any outside holidays but we do support the feeling of inclusion and sharing that

goes with Thanksgiving for every ethnicity. Pre Covid the 4-year olds came together in one room and shared foods from home for their lunch. Now to avoid mixing groups en masse, each class will again do their own Shares.. We

don't want to inconvenience any family- just a small home-made plate of food your child helped make. A separate notice is coming with more information for our older kids



**HEALTH –** Dept of Health requires every student to receive a current flu shot by Dec. 31, 2021. Please send me confirmation of this as soon as your child receives this vaccination. Otherwise I will have to chase everyone down in January- unpleasant for all of us. Remember that continued enrollment is dependent on your child getting this proactive medication.

**THANKS TO –** Oona's mom Maeve had built us shelves all over the school which help so much in using our space better and Marlowe's dad Jeremy makes sure our sinks don't leak and our light fixtures actually work! There are many ways to support the school- and we deeply appreciate every one of them.

Sincerely,

**ARTICLE OF THE MONTH: Cognitive Benefits of Learning Language**

Dual Language as a program choice was a big discussion during our Kindergarten meeting; there are so many such schools now in District 6, and for good reason. This article lays out the benefits of second language learning well beyond the obvious of being able to communicate to more of the world. Again, providing elasticity to the brain and encouraging development in other parts of learning and thinking.