



Spuyten Duyvil

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

4K Share Luncheon Wed. Nov. 23
Thanksgiving Break..... SCHOOL CLOSED..... Thurs, Fri Nov. 24-25
Family Conferencesweek of Nov 28- Dec. 2.....
Family Breakfastsweek of Dec. 12

Check your school calendar for dates for the rest of the year.- attached to this email for your reference.

IMPORTANT: It is a requirement of the NYC Dept of Health that all enrolled students have a current flu shot by Dec. 31. You are urged to take care of this now. Be sure to send me the proof. Children will NOT be allowed into school January 3, 2023 without this. Don't let that happen.

November 15, 2022

Dear Families,

We were just beginning to enjoy the autumn colors and soft breezes and today we woke up to only 30 degrees!!



IMPORTANT: Remember all 3 classes go outdoors year-round. Please, please dress your children appropriately. Sometimes when families drive to school they do not think about what the air is like outdoors for their kids. Children should have pull on hats (hoods do not stay on). Be sure the winter jacket from last year still fits (we have been squeezing some uncomfortable little ones into zippers), and mittens, mittens, mittens. We have a limited supply of extras of all clothing as needed, but not enough for as many children as did not come dressed for the weather yesterday and today. Mittens are easier to put on. Suggest getting a supply at a discount store. Despite best efforts they will go missing.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY! Went very smoothly. You should be getting an email from Irvin Simon Photographers in a few weeks with the samples and a chance to order pictures.



STAFFING CHANGE:

It is with very heavy heart that I have to announce that Chelsea, our wonderfully gifted nature teacher, has left Spuyten Duyvil for personal/health reasons. It was sudden and a terribly disappointing. I had to cancel our private Urban Explorers for the 2-year olds and find ourselves with a hydroponics set-up and a bag of daffodil bulbs and no one to manage them! But there have been 2 bright spots.

Simone C’s parents, Lizza Weir and Nic Chin, have volunteered to take on the hydroponics (god bless you tube!). And we do have a new garden teacher on board. Liana Castillo was also recommended by our friend and former parent who is a Bronx Botanical Gardens director. Liana has to finish her apprenticeship there and wrap up her school work at Lehman for this term, so cannot be here that much until January. But she already started organizing the greenhouse and will spend some time visiting classrooms to get to know the kids and the “SDP way.” We welcome Liana with open arms and very grateful to Lizza and Nic for taking on their challenge.

FAMILY CONFERENCES:

This is an important event in our annual calendar. Teachers are all completing Goals for your child over the next few months. You will have a choice of in-person or Zoom meeting during the week after Thanksgiving. It is an expectation of enrollment at our school that every family set up such a conference time. We will send home a sign-up form to all our families this week. Please look for it.

ABOUT KINDERGARTEN?

Nearly half our 4K families attended our parent panel last week. I think attendees found it very helpful to know what their choices and the process is all about. Kindergarten Panel Zoom date has been changed to Thurs, Nov. 13 from 6:30- 8. I have lined up a group of parents with a child in different district 10 and 6 schools to share their experiences and choices. I will send a sheet with an overview of them all shortly. The DOE application process will not happen until this winter.

I have also started on-site Open Houses for Sept 23 applicants as well as Zoom tours, so if you know people who may be interested, have them check our website for more info.

Use the links below to share this letter in any way that you communicate with families.

Dear Family,

With a \$25 order, you can pick a FREE \$5 Book (use code: READS).

Class Order Due Date: [SET DUE DATE](#)

Shop Our Class Page:
<https://orders.scholastic.com/LH6ZW>

Shop Digital Flyers for Our Grade with Your Child:
<https://clubs.scholastic.com/kindergarten>

Please share the Class Page link to extended family and friends. All orders also earn FREE Books for our class.

Thank you for your support!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS:

Check out all the choices at [CLUBS.SCHOLASTIC.COM/HOME](https://clubs.scholastic.com/home). Our school code is **LH6ZW**.

Scholastic is running \$2 sales, lots of wonderful opportunities to get brand new favorite books into your child’s hands. Use these links to go directly to the digital flyers. Books can be sent directly to your home or to school. Everyone is concerned about emerging literacy, well this is an easy way in- go through the fliers with your child, choose favorite authors, make choices together, put in order, wait for delivery surprise in a few weeks. Nice choice for birthday gifts for little friends too.

FUNDRAISING:

In addition to the bonus points we earn from the Scholastic orders, there are a few other ways you can help our school:

Amazon Smile Foundation: With holiday spending coming up, please be sure to register under Spuyten Duyvil for the little extra that kicks back to us.

Something to note when using this link in Amazon. It seems that even though I log in under Amazon Smile, when I put through my order it goes through without the Smile donation piece. You can tell by whether there is a pop-up after announcing a donation has been made to your charity. So I always reopen in on Smile before I complete my cart, just to be sure. We now get about \$80-\$100 each quarter from this source. I know there are more Amazon sales out there we could capitalize on.

DOUBLE GOOD POPCORN FUNDRAISER

The 4-day pop-up stores our families set up sold \$5639, which sent \$2819.50 straight to our checking account. Not too bad, huh? Now comes the rest of the fundraiser- our families selling through the brochure which went home last week. I am attaching another copy so no excuses for not selling! We also received several nice direct donations, also appreciated. Just let me know if your donator would like a tax credit letter.

School Store- Sweatshirts, t-shirts, mugs, water bottles- all with our little  on it.

THIS AND THAT....

- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING-** See chairperson Emily Gertz's note to families attached. Next meeting is Thur. Dec. 8. We need more parent volunteers to step up. Having a functioning Board is a requirement of our status as a not-for-profit organization. The time input is really minimal, unless you
- choose to take on a specific project and your interest matters to us all. For the past 95 years we have been making the same plea and somehow managed to get this far. Help us keep going.
- **LENDING LIBRARY** – all 4K students should have had 2 rounds with their borrowed books. I will put in another reading tip for November; look for it in the book bag. Again, another way to build literacy- choosing books based on topic, interest in the pictures, favorite authors or characters. You are also putting in the foundation of good work habits for older grades in this "homework."
- **SERVICES FOR FAMILIES- BRONXWORKS OFFERS FREE TAX PREP ASSISTANCE** – see attached flier for more info
- **4K SHARING LUNCHEON** – 4K families should all have gotten the word about sending a small home-made (with your child) lunch food to share with all 34 friends on Nov. 23. We decorate a large table for both classes to sit together and share home food. We are bringing in pizza for 3K so no one gets cheated!


ARTICLE OF THE MONTH: *A Silicon Valley School That Doesn't Compute* Oct. 2011

I can't believe how many years it has been since I first sent this article home to families, but it is as relevant as ever. Technology has definitely added some ease to our lives (no more running off notices to families anymore; it is nearly all by email, as a simple example). But we all know the risks and challenges of the universality of technology in our lives. Responsible adults have to make choices about how they engage, with whom, when, etc. But kids cannot make those choices themselves; they are dependent on us.

Spuyten Duyvil Preschool has no screens in use in our classrooms by design; children need to be actively engaged with authentic, concrete work, modeling skills for each other, negotiating social relationships, developing strong small and large muscles in fingers, arms, legs, core.

I am sending this article again even though our families generally understand this; it is why they chose SDP for their child's preschool experience. But we are seeing many more kids struggling with clear speech and productive use of language. This is an observation teachers are sharing everywhere. How much of this pattern is due to increased screen time which limits all of the desired behaviors outlined above. Don't know, but there is a strong suggestion that it is a factor. Another example, children who cannot grip a pencil; they are adept though at flipping their wrist, as in swiping a screen.

This article is not to push Waldorf schools, which are highlighted here, although there are some practices (like indoor/outdoor shoes) we have adopted in our practice too. But I think there are good points made about what we want for our learners, today and through their lives.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with whoever your family chooses to spend it with and in whatever way.



Sincerely,

Judi