



Spuyten Duyvil

P R E S C H O O L

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Photo Day(we are open Election Day)..... Tuesday Nov.8
PreK 4 Kindergarten Meeting on Zoom..... Thurs Nov 10 6:30 - 8
Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser starts week of Nov. 6 (info to follow)
Veteran's Day SCHOOL CLOSED Friday, Nov. 11
4K Share Luncheon Wed. Nov. 23
Thanksgiving Break..... SCHOOL CLOSED..... Thurs, Fri Nov. 24-25

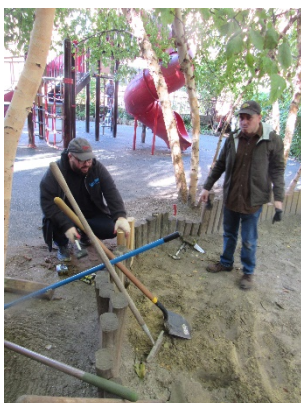
Check your school calendar for dates for the rest of the year.- attached to this email for your reference.

October 25, 2022

Dear Families,

Spuyten Duyvil has eased on into the school year full steam! Beginning of year routines have morphed into fall rituals. Here is what we have been up to –

FALL FAMILY DAY – Many, many thanks to the families who sent in yummys, ran the table that sold all the yummys, repaired the sandbox border, raked and raked and raked and bagged and bagged, weeded, tied, chopped and built. We will do this again in the Spring to wake the place up from winter. Nice little fundraiser too- brought in about \$800 between school sweats, mugs, etc, food and donations.



SCHOOL PHOTO DAY!

What would school be without getting all scrubbed and drubbed for school pictures??? The photographer from Irvin Simon will be here on Tues, Nov. 8. I know public schools are closed for kids that day, but we are open. Please be sure to send your child in as always, even if you are not planning on purchasing any photos. There will also be a class photo taken and no one should be left out.



A few weeks later you will receive the sample shots directly to your own email to decide if you are buying anything. Purchase and delivery is then directly between family and company. But they do give us a small kick-back as fundraising incentive. We have used this company forever. The picture quality is always good as in their customer service. There is no need to dress your child in any particular way- it is up to you. We take our pictures in the front yard so there will lovely greenery as a backdrop.



FALL EVENTS IN SCHOOL: (see article below about holiday celebrations)

• **LOVE MY FUNKY PUMPKIN!** Everyone should have gotten the flier about this new challenge (see attached). How many different kinds of pumpkins (and squashes) can we collect as a school community. Families can go on a “Pumpkin Hunt” to find something distinctive or whatever speaks to them as “best.” Help us build a distinctive pile.



• **FALL FESTIVAL:** Rather than the very large, often chaotic, whole school/family weekend event we did annually before Covid, we are now breaking the fall ritual into 2 parts. Fall Family Day was a few weeks ago. Seasonal activities for the 4K kids will be held this Thurs during the school day. Kids will have a chance to decorate a small pumpkin, make their own candy apple, corn husk doll, paper hat with feathers and pom poms, and break open the pinata so carefully being made in their classrooms. More pictures to follow!



Always connecting to the larger curriculum.... Pout Pout Fish and Llama Llama

COMMUNICATION:

School Directory ATTACHED – Let me know if you would like a hard paper copy and I will send one home also. If there is an error in your contact info, let me know that too. We encourage our families to get together outside of class. It helps the kids a lot in connecting the 2 parts of their lives.

Contact Teachers –

Class 2N	Alda and Michelle	amupksdp@gmail.com
Class 2S	Margaret & Chassity	mv.upk.sdp@gmail.com
Nursery 3K	Brenda & Martha	nursery.sdp@gmail.com
Director	Judi	director.spuytenduyvil@gmail.com

Use these emails for any question you may have about your child or info the teachers should have. Please let us know when you child is going to be absent. We are required to keep accurate attendance records and need this information.

STAFFING CHANGE:

As the 3K families already know, I have had to make a hard decision concerning number of teachers we can afford. Along with its first obligation and responsibility as a safe, engaging and professional preschool program, Spuyten Duyvil is also a business. We need to stay sound to keep addressing our primary work. Our budget as funded through the DOE simply cannot cover 3 teachers in the Nursery. Legally we only are required to have 2. While clearly the 3rd teacher provided some more attention to each child, along with spreading the physical work for the staff, the money just doesn’t make it. Therefore we said our goodbyes to Colleen last Friday. Colleen joined us a year ago as assistant teacher in 4K. SDP was a big pivot for her in terms of cultural norms she was used to back home in Jamaica, but she is a patient and serious learner and became a valued member of our team. We all wish her the best in her next adventure.

Coverage is being supplemented by Crisel in the mornings as needed and Tiara now begins her day at 2 pm rather than 3:00.

About Kindergarten?

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.



If you are planning to apply to any Independent (private) schools Margaret and Alda need to have that request before Dec. 1 in order to reasonably meet the filing deadline. You can send the request directly to them but please also copy me so I can keep track.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS:

For many years I made a big push for our families to use Scholastic as a source of inexpensive, quality books for the home libraries. This is still all true. Nothing inspires an interest and love of reading as getting your own brand new, crisp paper new book, especially if you also had the chance to look through the online catalog and help make the choices.

Over Covid Scholastic was having trouble getting books out in a timely way and families seem to lose interest which was really a shame. It is a wonderful, completely accessible resource. I am not doing the Book Clubs monthly, but rather on an on-going basis.

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

I will get an email that you left an order, I release the order, the books can come directly to your home or the school. You get the books a few weeks later; we get bonus points to keep supplying our library shelves also.

Think ahead now to the holidays (Pete the Cat, Pigeon, Old Lady Who Swallowed a..... for just a few big ideas.)

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: 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.

Popcorn Sale:

DOUBLE GOOD POPCORN FUNDRAISER- the 4-day Pop Up store for this event will begin on Nov. 6-10. I will send that info next week also, along with the brochure form of the popcorn sale. That will be due after Thanksgiving. You can check out the site in the meantime to see what you will be selling and start priming co-workers and unsuspecting friends and family!

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



on it.



THIS AND THAT....

- **LENDING LIBRARY** – 4K children will soon be bringing home a book baggy with 2-3 books they have chosen from our school library for their grown-ups to share with them in the evening. The books will be due back a week later. Every month I add a Reading Tip flyer to the bookbag. These pre-literacy steps are how we approach reading at school and how you can support it at home. We know that many of you already read to your child nightly and don't need more books at home, but this process focuses also on the child taking responsibility for selection and getting the bag back and forth. They need you for the scheduling support. We have books in English and Spanish.

- **COMPOST** – classes all collect food scraps from snack, cooking and lunch.

We hope to get all our families to do the same. It is such an easy way to recycle as well as add to our gardening program. There is a black bin just inside the lower gate to drop your kitchen scraps- no wrappers, rubber bands or cooked food. Just raw veggies, eggshells, tea bags, coffee grounds.

- **RAINBOOTS** – This was mentioned several times earlier in the year but seems to need reminding. Children may wear rainboots to school but if it is not actively raining anymore they will go outside to the playyard. They cannot run in boots- please, please also leave a pair of old sneakers in the cubby so they can fully participate in the playground or aftercare. We have some spare shoes, but not always in your child's size. Without proper footwear we do not let them climb or run. It is just not safe.
- **EXTRA MILK** – Families are invited (no- encouraged!) to take milk from the downstairs refrigerator daily. We always receive more than the kids can possibly drink. Crisel brings a crate outside on Fridays. Whatever is left over I try to bring to the public frig on 242 St. We try hard not to waste it.

- **Did you know we have a HELP YOURSELF BOX?** It is at the bottom of the stairs on the long table. Right now there are floor puzzles, a chess set, a pile of books we can't use- whatever is still there end of week I am taking to the thrift store so take a look. And leave your own outgrown clothes and toys for other families.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH:

Anti- Bias Education and Holidays: Making Thoughtful Decisions

by LOUISE DERMAN-SPARKS JULIE OLSEN EDWARDS

The Fall is chock full of holidays, celebrations, seasonal events. The big one right now is Halloween, which is very exciting for many children, and just as many adults. So why don't we bring Halloween into Spuyten Duyvil classrooms? This month's selection is edited from a longer piece in Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves, put out by the Natl. Assoc. for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Main points to note is that publicly celebrated holidays tend to represent the dominant culture. In the US that would be white Christian. That never has been, and certainly isn't now, representative of society or our classrooms. As an inclusive organization we look to make rituals and celebrations that reflect the work of our mini-society at SDP: Family Days, Family Breakfasts, monthly Town Meetings, Movie Nites this winter. The distinction between commercial and religious holidays isn't as clear as one may think at first glance. Then there is the issue of gender stereotypes often reinforced in these days, such as Mothers and Fathers Days. There is a difference between honoring (which I hope we do) and brining family-based celebrations into the school itself.

Please read this selection for a little more detail.

REMINDER: As is the dress policy all year, no costumes or masks in school.

NEXT MONTH: Family Conferences are coming. Happy Autumn Leaves

Sincerely,

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