



# Spuyten Duyvil

## P R E S C H O O L

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Family Breakfasts ..... class 2N Dec. 14.... 3k Dec. 15 .....class 2N Dec. 16

Family Drumming Circle ..... Thurs, Dec. 22 \*

Winter Break ..... NO SCHOOL ..... Monday, Dec. 26 thru Mon, Jan 2  
Return Tues, Jan 3, 2023

SOMOS ARTISTAS .....program begins Fri, Jan. 6 \*

Noon Dismissal for Staff Development ..... Friday, Jan. 13

MLK Day ..... NO SCHOOL ..... Monday, Jan. 20

Movie Nite ..... Friday, Jan. 27 \*

**SAVE THE DATE ..... Fri, Feb 10 Whiskey & Chocolate Tasting Event --- adults ONLY**

\*  
**More info below**

*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.**

December 9, 2022

Dear Families,

I know the world is going off its axis in so many ways out there, but in our little building everything is as smooth and calm as can be. Yes, we have had a few Covid pop-ups, plenty of flu, a dash of RSV and a sprinkle of Cixsackie virus, along with the steady coughing and dripping, but there is always something spreading in preschool. Even with this (and thank you to all the parents that have been so respectful of the larger group in letting us know when their child is sick), life at Spuyten Duyvil is as normal as can be.

So that leaves us in great shape to keep expanding what we can offer you and your kids. Here is what is going on now:

### SCHOOL PHOTOS –

Everyone should have received an email from Irvin Simon Photographers and a flyer through your teacher with a sample proof of your child's picture and ordering instructions. The pictures all came out beautifully- and why not? They are all beautiful children!



### FAMILY CONFERENCES:

Nearly every family participated in this very important piece of school life. I like to think we do this ritual in our own way, more of a conversation than a report. As much as teachers have a list of interests, behaviors, goals they want to share with the families, they are just as interested with what you have to share with them. Between both groups a more complete picture of your child as his/her own person comes into view. You will be getting a

copy of those conference notes now to look over. The second round of conferences is right after Spring Break in late April, but we are here to confer with you before that as well if necessary.

Several families have included us in their confidence to share important, but very private, family information. We know this is not always easy, but it makes such a big difference in how we can be there for your child every day

Reminders again about **SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS**. I left flyers for parents to pick up inside the back entrance to help families see what this is all about. Suggestions- check out any Jan Brett books. I see *The Mitten* is included for only \$3. The classes always use that book in the winter. All her books are beautiful to look at too. The kids all love The Old Lady Swallowed a....” series. So exciting for your child to open the package of new books when it is delivered directly to your home. **Our school code is LH6ZW.**



**VISION TESTING:**

All 4K students had the vision screened by Dept of Health. If your child did not pass this simple test, you were given a letter asking you to take your child to the eye doctor. Please do not delay in this important health piece. Children do not know if they are not seeing well; they have no frame of reference for this.

While on the topic of health, every child should have been to the dentist, Don't wait until there is pain. There are other things that dentists can recognize from the mouth in addition to teeth health.

**FAMILY BREAKFASTS:**

It has been 3 years since we were last able to hold this event and we really missed it. Please join your child and him/her class for shared meal and socializing. We ask every family to send a small plate of breakfast food (please no Dunkin Donuts or other sweet). Offerings have already been yucca, blueberry pancakes, avena. We will supply paper goods and coffee.

For safety we are limiting visitors to one adult per student. Adults will wear face masks except for when eating.

<b>Class 2S Margaret/Chassity</b>	<b>Wed, Dec. 14</b>	<b>8:40- 9:30</b>
<b>3K Nursery</b>	<b>Thurs Dec. 15</b>	<b>8:30- 9:20</b>
<b>Class 2N Alda /Michelle</b>	<b>Fri Dec. 16</b>	<b>8 :50- 9 ;40</b>

**FAMILY DRUMMING CIRCLE:**

Why should I be the only one who gets to jump around with the kids? If your child takes Drumming with Mary on Thursday afternoons you are invited to join in with your child on Dec. 22. But you can't just be the audience- you need to drum along with the kids. One adult per child please and wear a face mask.

**ABOUT KINDERGARTEN?**

All 4K families should have received notice from DOE Enrollment that the Kindergarten Application lottery process is now open. Deadline to apply for Sept 2023 is Jan. 20. You will not get an offer until April. THERE IS NO AUTOMATIC KG ASSIGNMENT You also cannot enroll directly at any school. You must enter the lottery for a spot. These are the highlights that were sent to everyone.

- Families can list Kindergarten **AND gifted and talented programs** on the **SAME application**.
- Any family who lists a G&T program anywhere on their application will then be considered for eligibility.



- Families who submit an application will receive a single Kindergarten offer in April to either a Kindergarten or G&T program.
- Schools will know who received offers to general Kindergarten and G&T programs at their school at the same time in April
- Waitlist will become available at the same time for both Kindergarten and G&T. Families will only be able to accept one offer at a time.

If you have any questions, please email [ESenrollment@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ESenrollment@schools.nyc.gov). Charter schools are a separate application process.



Please note that as our school policy we do not recommend Gifted and Talented class placements for any child. Not only are we committed to the belief that not only are all children “gifted” in their own ways, but it is the responsibility of all schools to find that interest/strength in each child and build an educational program from that point, one that takes every learner to the next level of understanding and appreciation. Having said that, it is the family choice to mark that option on your lottery application.

Families should already be busy visiting programs. We sent home the DOE guide to assist. Let us know if you need more assistance or have specific questions about a school or the process.

**FUNDRAISING: Remember to use AMAZON SMILE for your online purchases.**

### **DOUBLE GOOD POPCORN FUNDRAISER –**

Thank you to the families who participated in either the Pop-up Store or the Brochure Sales. Our final profit from the direct sales was \$3092. There was an additional \$1340 in donations. That gave us a modest, but much appreciated total of \$4402. Top seller was Simone Chin and family.

### **END YEAR APPEAL -**

As a small business, Spuyten Duyvil is always looking for ways to build up our financial health. We try to keep fees for childcare low and also want to offer so many extras to our kids every day- Chess, Music, Gardening and a rich, varied and ample supply of materials. DOE funding does not cover all that. Be on the lookout for a letter from Emily Gertz, Board of Directors chairperson, on behalf of the whole Board (fellow parents) asking our families to consider making an end year donation to the school. As a not-for-profit these donations can be used on your taxes as a charitable gift; I will happily give you (or the grandparent who ask for a donation too) a tax letter with our thanks.

Ways to donate: VENMO @spuytenduyvil, plain old check and soon a link on our website to Quickbooks.



### **NEW SCHOOL FRIENDS:**

You are not seeing double! Our previous guinea pigs had been with us for a long while, probably the full 6 years that is their lifespan. Despite the good care we give them, and lots of love, age caught up with them both over the past few months. The guinea pig against the back wall came to us in September. Her name is Olive. The closer one is our new baby. After discussion with both 4K classes, she was named Peppa. They are very similar in coloring but when they stand still long enough you can see the subtle differences. I am sure kids will quickly be able to tell the difference.

Stop by when you are in the building to say hi to them.

### **COMING IN JANUARY:**

**SOMOS ARTISTAS –** met a wonderful woman this past week and am thrilled that she is joining our program. Dolores Zorreguieta is an artist in her own right, has worked in schools through Studio in a School, is a community resident AND an absolutely charming person. In the few minutes she spent visiting the classrooms she immediately connected with the kids at work. Her art approach is whole child and body, focused on process, creativity and joy. SO- she will come Mondays during aftercare. All children in afterschool will work with her in 2 groups as part of your regular tuition already, mixing 3 and 4-year olds. That should be able 12 kids in a group. Crisel will assist. But here is the special kicker- Both Dolores and Crisel will ONLY be speaking in Spanish, complete language immersion. We actually did this some years ago under similar circumstances and it was a huge success.



If your child is not already in afterschool and you would like him/her to join *Somos Artistas*, you can sign up. Cost then is \$25/week. When Monday is a holiday, Dolores will come on Friday so we don't have too long a break between sessions. First class will be Friday, Jan. 6 since we are closed Jan. 2.

Here is her YouTube link- check it out! <https://www.youtube.com/123lamanartist>

**4K MOVIE NITE** – Part fundraiser, part family event, totally fun. We did this just once before Covid shutdown and it is time to try again. For this first nite we are limiting the numbers to 1 adult with your child. Depending on response (and what the world is like flu and covid-wise by then) maybe in March we can invite more family members. There is a \$20 cover charge and then will be popcorn, franks and snacks for sale!! Suggestions for what movie to see are welcome. Last time we saw Toy Story 4. I am thinking Secret Life of Pets??? Only our 4's please; goes too late for the nursery kiddies.

**DANCE & MOVEMENT Saturday classes** - I am sending out the flyer for Mary's own Saturday series again. This is her program; we are hosting the space. Feel free to share this with friends. It is starting right after the break so it not a lot of time to get the word out. We put together the plan together but she is the expert so get in touch with her directly if you have questions or are interested.

#### THIS AND THAT....

- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**- next meeting Monday, Dec. 12 at 7 pm. If you would like to sit in on the Zoom session I can send the link out to you again. Our Board is a legal requirement of our state charter but it is also an important philosophical piece for us- parent input and involvement in a meaningful way.
- **4K SHARING LUNCHEON** – Yes, it was just that lovely. Thanks for the yummy foods. Your kids were so proud to share.
- **FLU SHOT** – I will keep hammering at this and there will still be kids turned away on Jan. 3 because they did not get their shot. Be sure to send me the proof once done. We have seen how sick some adults and kids are getting this year- another good reason to take care of this for your whole family now.



#### ARTICLE OF THE MONTH –

##### **The City's Gifted Education System Needs to Shift, One School at a Time**

I am not the only one who feels this way. Take a read.

Sincerely,

Judi