



Spuyten Duyvil

P R E S C H O O L

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Spuyten Duyvil Preschool Fed Tax ID 13-1858180

If you need a tax letter or form signed to verify childcare costs for 2022, just let me know.

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

- **Mid-Winter Break** No regular school schedule..... Mon, Feb 20- Fri, Feb 24
- **Science Camp** Private enrollment Feb 20-24
- **SDP Board of Directors Zoom meeting**Thurs, March 9
- **Deadline to apply to DOE for 3K and 4K** March 10
- **4K Movie Nite** Fri, March 24

Revised School Calendar attached

January 30, 2023

Dear Families,

It feels like a lifetime since my last letter. Obviously, the big news was the sudden and unexpected (also unwarranted in our opinion) school closure just before holiday break. The concerns the Dept of Health inspector listed were resolved by the following morning. We have our own concerns about how this inspection was conducted which the Board of Directors is pursuing. But what I most want to reassure all our families yet again is that your children were never in unsafe conditions. The most basic commitment we make as a school and as individual caretakers of your children is to their absolute physical and emotional safety at all times.

The other important piece I want to add is how much our families' incredible flexibility and patience meant. As many families already know, I was going through a very difficult personal situation these same weeks. Clearly the closing was at the least, an inconvenience for our families and, for many, a major disruption, but everyone just handled it. Once again, the SDP community just pulled together, forming playgroups to help each other and always trusting that the school was still a great match for your child.



DIRECT APPEAL CAMPAIGN

Thanks to the efforts of the SDP Board of Directors, led by Emily Gertz, past Board Chairperson, outreach was made to all current SDP families and many from previous years. There wasn't much turn-around time before the end of the year, but we still received \$855 in donations, not bad for a first try. We are using Zeffy as a donation platform which does not charge any fees for the service. If you donated you should have been able to get a tax receipt directly from that site. If not, let me know and I will send you one.

Families who made donations during Popcorn Sale month, I can also get you a tax letter if needed.

So now we are back. So what is going on?

NEW CALENDAR – With the holiday week being the first week the school was closed, we actually lost 10 days of school which our contract with the Dept of Ed requires us to make up; there must be at least 180 days of schools. There our year is extended to June 29. We had originally scheduled a half day for staff development in March which we are cancelling. These additional school days also include whatever early and late childcare families had already contracted for. However, the billing cycles will stay as set up. If you had already paid the one month deposit you should be paid up for the year with the May payment. See attached revised calendar for the rest of the year.

VACATION CAMP- Alda runs 2 amazing vacation camps every year; February is Science and April is Art. This is a private program, 3K and 4K are mixed together. The days are full of theme-related activities- for Science it is batteries and bulbs, using a microscope, building volcanoes that erupt at the end of the week! Enrollment form attached. You can choose 2, 3 or 5 days. Early care and after care til 4 is also available



SOMOS ARTISTAS – If your child already stays for aftercare, or you contracted to add this class, you should already have heard reports of how wonderful Dolores is. If you want a peak, here is a Youtube link from the first week- remember *solamente espanol en la clase!*

<https://youtu.be/XJVT1C Bxlo>

FAMILY EVENTS:

DEC BREAKFASTS – Each class was very well attended, we ate well and had a lovely time. Had to push families out the door! It was a nice break in an already escalating month.

4K MOVIE NITE – **Now THAT was fun!** Along with being a tidy little fundraiser, it was just so nice to be altogether, snuggled in close, laughing with friends. We are doing it again on March 24. Sorry, Nursery kids- you have to wait til next year to join us biggies!

DROP-OFF FRIDAYS - We added another treat to the last Friday of every month. Town Meeting was a monthly event with all 3 classes coming together in one classroom, sharing birthday wishes, news of each class, having a read aloud, singing a new song. We were doing it at the end of the day. But we have reshuffled our daily schedule to better accommodate the specials (Chess, Gardening, Movement) so it made more sense to do Town Meeting at 9 am. That's what we did last Friday and invited the parents here to stay. Mark you calendars now for Feb 17 which is the last Friday we will be together if you want to stay a little longer after drop-off visits.



APPLICATIONS FOR SEPT 2023

Kindergarten applications should have all been submitted; deadline was Jan. 20. Charter schools run on a different application system so you have some time yet for those. Schools families have been interested in are: Amber Charter School (there is one around the corner on Corlear and a new one in Inwood), Dos Amigos (open to all districts), Bronx Community Charter (district 10)

Success Academy and Zeta also reached out to us to make families aware of them too.

TO current 3K families: DOE has opened 3K application process. Current students are still given priority placement in the same school 4K, but you **MUST** still do the application. You do not need to put any other school as a choice besides Spuyten Duyvil if you plan on staying with us.



Concerning **Gifted & Talented**- if you self-nominated your child for this special service program, teachers followed a list of criteria around approaches to learning taken from NYState Standards. Based on those results, the school either nominated the child for an offer or not. Please remember that G&T programs are scattered around the city, not necessarily in your area. There is no posted curriculum for training for what such a program would offer a child. Based on the priorities for offers DOE sets, applications are also run through a lottery before offers are made.



THIS AND THAT:

- **February Lunch Menu** attached. Green Top Farms is switched from individual portion servings (started during Covid protocols) to family style. This means that kids can choose which foods they prefer, how much, whether or not the foods touch each other. I think meal time will look much more like dining, especially if we push again for tablecloths, flower centerpieces to civilize the experience.
- **Scholastic Books** – you can order anytime. Sample flyers and our school code hanging right inside the back door entrance.
- **4K Lending Library**- back in action. Look for your child's Book Bag, check out the Monthly Reading Tip for parents, share the books at home, return all a week later.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH:

Crisscross-Applesauce: It's Time to Move on From This Tradition

Well, maybe not exactly no more “crisscross-applesauce,” but maybe a rethinking of everyone sitting, moving, listening, reacting, LEARNING in all the same ways! We like to think that our program honors every child in their own manner of learning and being, but it is also good to get a reminder to make sure that always happens. The pull of keeping order (not a bad thing) sometimes can come up against individual need to break ranks. How far is that OK, for you, why, when? Who is being served by that order? Worth a read. Recognize your child in there?

Sincerely,

Judi