



## VACATION ARTS CAMP will be April 10-14. You can sign up now!

**4K MOVIE NITE – MARCH 24** - As promised we are all set for another special night of snuggles, popcorn and good feelings all around. I am taking suggestions for what film to show- how about an oldie like UP? Again we will visit and eat from 6-7 pm with film to start at 7. One adult per child (we ask that adults be COVID vaccinated- no one is checking but it is for the common good of us all). Cost is \$15 per family plus whatever you spend in Crisel's Concession Stand. Dress Code is PJs for everyone!



### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

- **4K has their own little bathrooms upstairs!** Construction is done! We are now hanging original kids' art on the walls, along with unstuffing little toilets regularly, but it is a wonderful improvement on building the children's independence along with saving the teachers' knees with less stairs to manage every day.



- **CHESS CLASS** – McKenna, our regular instructor, has had a hard time coming out of Covid a few months ago and had to take a leave for a while. Corina filled in for her and was just as terrific. She wrote up 2 newsletters for the weeks she was here which I am attaching. This will give you a better idea of what your kids' are working on in chess class. McKenna is returning this Friday and everyone will be glad to see her smiling face again.

### OFFICIAL BUSINESS:

- **4K application process – VERY IMPORTANT!** Even though all current 3K students will be placed into Spuyten Duyvil's 4K class since they are current students, you **MUST** still go through the DOE lottery application process. The deadline is Friday, March 10. You do the same thing you did to apply for this year. Indicate **CURRENT STUDENT**. You only need to put down Spuyten Duyvil. I will then confirm- I already did that for those that put in their applications. If you do not apply you will not have a 4K space.
- **Board of Directors** - next SDP Bd. Meeting is March 9 on Zoom. Parents are invited to sit in to hear what we talk about. The financial and institutional health of the school is the responsibility of the Board. The more input of energy, expertise and historical record we can gather, the stronger for everyone.
- **Anyone a lawyer??** There are a few questions that have popped up that we really need some more definite advise on. Not necessarily enough to get a lawyer on retainer, but would be good to have someone to run things by. An example would be what documents we should require from potential renters of our space over the summer.
- **DOE SCHOOL SURVEY** – DOE runs a survey for families to give feedback on the quality of their child's school experience. That is coming out now; I will forward the information to our families when it is clarified. In the past the survey was not necessarily aligned to preschool setting or a community-based program like ours. Questions like the friendliest of the security guard are not relevant. Don't know what it will be this year. But the results are posted on the DOE site, including percentage of families that responded. While our future is not dependent on these results, everyone likes to read good things about themselves, so please try to follow up when you get the info on what to do. At the same time, if there is feedback you think we should have on any part of you or your child's experience at Spuyten Duyvil I would hope you know you can and should bring it to our attention any time.

### THIS AND THAT:

- **TOWN MEETING** – Reminder we meet as a school family the last Friday of every month – since Feb was broken up by vacation, we will have Town Meeting this Friday at 9 and again on Friday, March 31. If you come for Drop-In Fridays anyway, please join us at 9. This week we are all meeting in the 3K classroom.



- **March Lunch Menu attached.** Lunches are now being sent Family Style, meaning rather than individual boxes, the food comes in trays and children can serve themselves what they most want to eat. They are able to make choices and are eating much more.
- **Scholastic Books** – you can order anytime. March flyers and our school code hanging right inside the back door entrance.
- **Photos of your kids at work from the past 3 months are now posted in the backyard entrance.** Take a look!
- **HELP YOURSELF BOX** - Did you know we have one? Outgrown snow suits, summer reading novels, toys your kids are no longer interested in? Leave it in the box in the downstairs entrance and someone will think they found a treasure!
- **CHANGE OF CLOTHES** – we had a little guy walking around in shorts inside the other day because there were no long pants in his extra clothes and we were out of extras to give him. SO- 2 things- please update your child's change of clothes' supply and send back the borrowed clothes we share when there are more accidents in one day than the amount of clothes in their cubby.



## SUMMER PLANS?

Spuyten Duyvil does not have our own summer program, but we are glad to share information about the programs we are renting to this summer. Each one does their own enrollment and programming but we feel their work is compatible with the kind of instruction and philosophy at work for your kids the rest of the year. If you are interested in any, contact them directly-

- **Second Nature Summer Program**, Hannah Saunders – July 17- August 18  
<https://sites.google.com/nyu.edu/secondnature/summer-camp?>
- **Scribble Art** - Aug 21 – Sept 1  
<https://www.scribbleartworkshop.com/upcoming-classes/summer-camp-nyc>
- **Music Camp** run by Val Fleeer and Ben Covey (Bella's parents) August 21 – Sept 1  
201 741 6131      vfleeer@gmail.com

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH:

### OUTDOOR WINTER PLAY –

We generally don't have to convince our families of this. Most of you chose Spuyten Duyvil specifically for this kind of developmentally appropriate (and encouraged) activities. But just in case you sometimes wonder, there is good research and science behind our philosophical and practical decisions. The key piece is that children are dressed appropriately, which has gone pretty well this year.

Have you heard the old saying, "What is a sweater? Something a child has to put on when his mother is cold." Well, we do make them put on their sweaters, but we also know that not only are healthy children fine being out in cold weather (the cold itself does not cause illness), but being out in the cold strengthens the body's healthy defenses.

Speaking of weather, and as a last shout-out this month, thank you to parents who assist clearing ice and snow when needed from our entranceways. While we do have an arrangement for clearing more than 2" of snowfall, the on-going upkeep from the weather falls to us at school. It is much appreciated when parents step up and assist with shoveling and icing. I would add thanks to those of you who also just pick up trash when it is left on our sidewalk too.

Sincerely,

Judi