



over the past week sorting our extra blocks not used in the classrooms with additional planks, ramps and tubes. The whole room will be available for these groups to construct collaboratively and BIG. In time we will also keep the structures up over night so another group can build on the next afternoon. Will keep you posted.

- **3K Block Area-** has also been reconfigured with more accessible storage and a slightly larger building area. As you can see, our youngest kids are very adept in this kind of construction as well.
- **DROP-OFF FRIDAYS:/ TOWN MEETINGS:** We started this practice last year to give families more access to their child's classroom and our general environment. It was very successful, so much so that the large attendance began to take more and more from the school day each Friday. Town Meetings were long standing and we do want to continue this get-together. The change is that these 2 larger meetings will be alternate weeks- every 2 Fridays is either Drop Off Friday for you to join Morning Meeting OR Town Meeting. See the attached monthly calendar for which date will be which. 4K will start next Friday; we are waiting until later in October for 3K. The Littles are still working on separation from caregivers and we want to keep that consistency for now.



#### 4K AFTERSCHOOL ADD-ONS:

We are continuing with Drum Circle with Mary on Thursdays which started yesterday and Suzuki Violin with Janet Rose on either Tues or Wed, beginning this coming week. If you have not signed up yet and are interested, please do not wait to contact me. Violin groups cannot be more than 4 or maybe 5 kids and we just about at those numbers.

Be patient with me til I get the invoices out for this. I generally do 2 months at a time. The priority now was to just get the classes started.

#### LUNCH and SNACK:

- NO nut foods at all – this includes almond butter. Sunflower butter is fine but needs to be labeled as such or cannot be allowed.
- Early Drop-off Breakfast-Children may bring breakfast from home if they arrive before 8 am.
- The school supplies snack.- milk/water, cheese sticks, pretzels, fresh fruit, goldfish crackers. We are happy to accept snacks for the class from home- remember to send enough for the whole class- we can never get enough fresh fruit- grapes, bananas, seasonal berries, peaches.
- Weekly Lunch Menu is attached to this letter. I will send it home weekly as Lunch Runners gets it to us. Your children are responsible for serving themselves, pouring their own drink, clearing their own place when done eating. Have them do this at home too- THEY CAN! Setting the table for the family is also as easy and very effective numeracy activity- they do it at school too.

#### FUNDRAISING:

- **School Store:** not much of a fundraiser, more of a school spirit kind of thing. We have t-shirts, hoodies, coffee mugs, tote bags- all with our unique little blue house logo- attached flyer with prices.
- **DOUBLE GOOD POPCORN** -We will do our annual pop-up shop in November. More info in a few weeks.

#### COMMUNICATION:

**Family Handbook:** We have a very complete Family Handbook which is on our website and will be sent out again to families next week. .If you would prefer it in hard copy, let me know.

**School Directory** will go home to every family shortly so that families can easily reach out to each other for playdates and other community interests. If you do NOT want your contact info included you should have indicated this on the permission form you turned in at the beginning of the year.

**Contact Teachers** – Every class has their own email account to reach their own families or for you to direct questions to them. They do not check it during school hours so do not use that to let us know of same day pick-up



changes. Use the school phone or my email for that. You can also use your class Bloomz account. Just be sure to use the private mode when writing to your teacher.

<p>Margaret &amp; Chassity 4K- class 2S <a href="mailto:mv.upk.sdp@gmail.com">mv.upk.sdp@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>Alda &amp; Michelle 4K- class 2N <a href="mailto:amupksdp@gmail.com">amupksdp@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>Martha, Brenda &amp; Colleen 3K Nursery <a href="mailto:Nursery.sdp@gmail.com">Nursery.sdp@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>Judith, Director <a href="mailto:Director.spuytenduyvil@gmail.com">Director.spuytenduyvil@gmail.com</a></p>

**Class weekly Newsletters.** We will only be emailing or using Bloomz to send these letters, accompanying articles and notices to families. If there are other parents/guardians that should be receiving these emails please be sure I have that contact info. Teachers will be sending shorter weekly reviews along with photos of your kids at work.

**PRIVATE PAYMENTS:**

I am still catching up on contracts and invoices.. Private bills will come automatically the 1st of the month and due within 10 days. We accepted VENMO or direct payment through your Quickbooks, invoice; paying through Venmo helps us avoid the Quickbooks fees, but do whatever is easier for you. Of course you can always pay by check, money order or cash if you prefer.. We appreciate payment by the first of the month, but also understand that families have a lot to cover. If there is particular issue, just let me know. Otherwise, any payment not made in the month due will be charged a late fee.

**PARKING:**

One problem that has taken care of itself is parking at the school. Since most drop off and pick-up happens at the gate your cars are not left unmonitored. However, I do have Courtesy Cards from the school to let traffic officers know you will be right back. Be sure to leave your blinkers on and do NOT park in front of the church. That is much more likely to generate a ticket.

**Scholastic Book Club – SCHOOL CODE LH6ZW**

Everyone who went to grade school must know about Scholastic Books. That is the company that did the Book Fairs in the schools along with the flyers that used to go home monthly.. The books are a wide range of subjects, lots of them high quality literature by established authors. This is also a great way to find out about new authors. Think Mo Willems and all the Pigeon and Elephant books as a great example. Many of the hundreds of books we have in our classrooms and our shared libraries came as freebees or at these low prices.

I no longer send home the monthly flyers and families can order anytime- I will always leave the latest ones hanging in the back entrance so you can take a look. But there are many, many more categories on the Scholastic site. Be sure to use our school code when ordering. There is nothing stronger to encourage eager readers than the gift of a shiny new book-

**SAVE THE DATE--- FALL FAMILY GARDEN DAY OCT 19**

Whole school event- parents donate lunch and baked goods for sale, work on garden maintenance, kids play in backyard- More info closer to the date.

**ARTICLE OF THE MONTH: more of a thought for the month –**

I usually add an article on either a progressive educational practice, a parenting perspective I think might be helpful, something relevant to young children, preK, etc. from the news, but our brains are all a bit stretched already so I will just leave you with this short poem, and the reminder that these young years are fleeting. Put down your phone when your child is present, take the iPad away. Go for a walk, read a book, watch her playing in the bath. You will be glad you did.

Sincerely,



*A Lazy Thought*

by Eve Merriam

There go the  
grownups  
To the office,  
To the store.  
Subway rush,  
Traffic crush;  
Hurry, scurry,  
Worry, flurry.  
No wonder  
Grownups  
Don't grow up  
Any more.  
It takes a lot  
Of slow  
To grow.