



Spuyten Duyvil

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MONTHLY CALENDAR DATES ATTACHED TO THIS LETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DROP-OFF FRIDAY 4K ONLY Friday, Oct. 25
Photo Day1/2 Day School noon dismissal Election Day..... Tuesday Nov.5
PreK 4 Kindergarten Meeting on Zoom..... Thurs, Nov., 7 6:30 pm
TOWN MEETING 4K ONLY..... Friday Nov. 8
Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser Mon- Friday, Nov 18-22
DROP-OFF FRIDAY all classes Friday, Nov. 22
4K Share Luncheon Wed. Nov. 27
Thanksgiving Break..... **SCHOOL CLOSED**..... Thurs- Fri Nov 28-29
Fall Family Conferences Week of Dec.2

Check your school calendar for dates for the rest of the year.-

Oct. 22, 2024

Dear Families,

Once again, the school year is flying by. Another crop of funny, independent, eager, engaged little kids! All 3 classes are in full swing, as you should all be seeing from the weekly Bloonz updates the teachers send out. 3K is mixing primary colors, for 2N it is all about Feelings and 2S is focused on where our healthy foods come from. Everyone is going outdoors with Michelle, learning the moves in Chess, hoppin' and boppin' with Mary and making the most of all the special opportunities at Spuyten Duyvil!

This past Saturday was our Fall Garden Work Day. Thank you to the families who joined with their delicious foods and generous time- the vines and invasive trees are cut back, a good start was made with the dying plants to be pulled, the wooden edging in the play yard was reinforced and, with special thanks to Sylvie's dad Paul, the 3K Nursery paint easel is now the right height for the kids to work at!



If you are sorry your family missed it all, we are having our Spring Family Garden Work Day in early May.

Drop-Off Fridays and Town Meetings:

We have held both but only for 4K so far. This year's 3K group is still a little sensitive to parent separation so we will wait til later in November to bring their parents inside the classroom in such a big way. Town Meetings bring all 3 classes together for shared book, song, face to face group. We rotate which classroom we meet in

4K Fall Festival Event -during school hours- next Tuesday, Oct. 29

Another seasonable mainstay for our older children. Both 4K classes spend the morning in our front yard freely taking part in fall-related activities- observational drawings of pumpkins that come home as t-shirts,



PUMPKIN growing in our very own KinderFarm!!

paper hats, candy apples, decorated mini pumpkins, and so on. Each class is now making their own pinata from a class theme. It will be filled with bags of chips to be brought down as part of this special event. Let's hope this lovely weather extends for another week!



FUNKY PUMPKINS! Another Fall event for all 3 classes- each family is asked to go searching supermarkets and farmer's stands for an unusual shaped, colored, bumpy (or smooth) pumpkin that particularly appeals to them. Each class will make a collection and then do compare and contrast activities and observational drawings with them. The different pumpkins encourage a fun range of descriptive language too.

Construction Zone- A HUGE success

Crisel has been taking 2 4K kids each week for a 2-day building immersion. We are amassing an incredible collection of blocks in sizes and shapes. Cardboard tubes add more height. Wooden cars and animals turn different areas into zoos, firehouses, farms, schools.

COMING UP – HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA

I am setting up direct order account for our families with a wonderful small business that I have been buying beautiful blocks and other construction extensions from. We are waiting for the Ball Run kit to arrive now. The company is **Everwood Friends**. Check out their website for now. I will send more info about this soon. These block sets would make unique and valued holiday gifts.



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** -The pop-up online sale will be Nov. 18-22 this year. Not only is the popcorn too tasty for our own good, but the school keeps a full half of the sales. Of course, straight donations to the school are even better since then we keep 100%. More info on all this in a few weeks..

School Directory has gone out by email (several times!) The 3K formatting went rogue; a lot of the addresses were messed up. Double check your child's contact info and let me know if there are still changes to make. One of things you will be hearing from your teachers at the Family Conferences after Thanksgiving is that the kids should be having playdates with their school friends. The Directory will be very useful then. Latest revision is attached to this letter again.

LENDING LIBRARY –

Another 4K activity starting this week. We hope all our families read to their children regularly. This, along with talking to your children in complex sentences, are the main ways children learn language and, in turn, develop healthy reading and writing readiness skills.

Towards that end, and looking forward to the added responsibility families will have in kindergarten, the children will be choosing books to take home from our school's Lending Library. There will be Reading Tip for parents in their book bag every month to give you specific suggestions. The children will learn to take care of the books and their baggie. Your teacher will tell you which day the books are due back so your child can pick out a few new ones for the next week. If they do not bring back the bag, they cannot take books out for that week. Your child is too young to keep track of which day is which so this becomes another parent task in getting ready for school the night before.

We have a growing collection of books in Spanish and English too. It doesn't matter which language you read in. What matters is that there is language being spoken!!



THIS AND THAT:

- Halloween is coming up next week also. This is a big deal for a lot of families and we certainly support that energy but please remember that we keep school a neutral place. No costumes or candy in school on Oct. 31.
- It is a Dept of Health rule that ALL children under 5 receive this season's **FLU SHOT** by Dec. 31. Unless you have a medical exemption in writing from your child's doctor, there are NO exceptions. Be sure to end me the receipt of the shot when your child gets it. Otherwise we cannot admit your child on Jan. 2!
- Also about annual physical exams- The physicals on file at the school cannot be done more than 12 months ago. When your child goes for their annual check-up be sure to send in the current form, including all immunizations that were due. If the current flu shot is listed there, that is enough proof.



ARTICLE OF THE MONTH:

What Does Too Much Screen Time Do to Children's Brains?

This is an on-going mantra of mine that I will easily share with anyone anytime. When my kids were little it was having them choose which half hour sitcom they would watch



before bed. But I also would give in for a little extra if I wanted an extended shower, or had schoolwork to do and needed some quiet. We all understand that occasional need- but it **MUST** be occasional and it is certainly harder now with smartphones and tablets. And it doesn't help that after preschools warn of this danger, as soon as your child gets to kindergarten, DOE hands them an iPad. I leave it to all of you to fight that. Maybe this article will help you.

But, for now, it is on families to stop the incredibly damaging effect of screens on physical, emotional, social and neurological development. And believe me, we are absolutely seeing the results of young children and electronics more and more every year – less focus, lower levels of self regulation, often limited vocabulary and, even for those who do have fluid use of language, they have more trouble predicting, questioning, imagining, listen to the viewpoints of their peers, investigating, wondering, being physically agile. Mary points this out to us when she works with our classes every Thursday. SO- read more about the science here and limit not only your child's screen time, but your own!

Enough preaching—have a great week with this glorious weather.

Sincerely,

Judi

