



Spuyten Duyvil

P R E S C H O O L

3041 KINGSBRIDGE AVENUE BRONX, NY 10463 TEL. 718 549 1525 FAX 718 884 0667
director.spuytenduyvil@gmail.com

MONTHLY CALENDAR DATES ATTACHED TO THIS LETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Violin Class begins Tues Sept 30
Jewish Holiday... Yom Kipper..... SCHOOL CLOSED..... Thurs Oct 2
Fall Family Garden Work Day Saturday, Oct4
Raindate.... Sun Oct 5
Indigenous Peoples Day SCHOOL CLOSED Monday, Oct. 3
Photo Day1/2 Day School noon dismissal Election Day..... Tuesday Nov.4
PreK 4 Kindergarten Meeting on Zoom..... Thurs, Nov 6 6:30 pm

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



Sept 25, 2025

Dear Families,

So glad to report another low-key, smoothy transition back into the school year. A few bumps for a few kids; that is completely normal. The crying bursts don't necessarily follow a timeline that makes sense to the adults- like everything is fine for a week and then from nowhere on a random Tuesday there are tears. But the adult response needs to be consistent: You are fine, I will see you later, Have a good day. Then off the caregiver goes, the teacher calmly brings the child into the group and all is quiet and busy again.

All 3 Back to School nites were well attended. We were glad to be able to offer Pizza N' Play for childcare which hopefully was a help for families. It was also great fun for the kids. If anyone has other questions about our program or anything concerning their child's development, do not hesitate to contact your teachers or me. Family Conferences will be the week after Thanksgiving break but it isn't necessary to wait until then to consult with each other.

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

All our favorite programs are back again- Chess, Movement with Mary, and Art Club with Grazia return in their regular weekly timeslots. Chess started today with a new instructor, Julia Reidbord. Julia is new to us but an experienced Chess@3 tutor; the kids loved her.

Chess@3 has changed its name to StoryTime Chess. Here is their link if you want to learn more about this program. <https://storytimechess.com/contact-us>.

What we so liked about this program was the complete lack of commercialism. It was so authentic, active participation and so developmentally spot on. But since we met the founder about 10 years ago when he demonstrated his program out of a brown shopping bag, they have exploded into a global, high-end business. Nevertheless, the work they do here with our kids is just as unique and enriching as always. I am attaching a reading going over the benefits of teaching chess to young children.



Now that I have praised our Chess instruction, I have to let 3K families know that their kids will not have Chess this year. The pay structure went from per class to per child and became unsustainable for us. Their typical school model is that interested (or financially able) families sign their kids up so the school does not incur the cost.

But we want all the kids to benefit as part of our overall curriculum so we carry the cost for everyone. Since the 3K kids will get the program next year this seemed to be a reasonable compromise for us.

Happily all our staff have returned for another year. We are very proud of our very low staff turnover. Not only does that mean we maintain a very experienced staff, but our professional group has been able to grow together in our understanding of each other and how children learn and work within our classrooms.

This might not look like what you expect a chess lesson to look like, but this was today taking giant steps like King Chomper, the character that stands for the King on the chessboard.



Due to the increase in numbers of children using SDY+, our free aftercare program, Winifer Baez joined our after 3pm staff last December. Winifer continues coming in from 3-6 every day. Thanks to the additional funding this program will bring in, Joselyn Vazquez, occasional substitute last Spring, is also coming in from 3-6 every day. The children are getting plenty of supervision, along with lots of games, dance, and joy.

Cathy Matos was a part-timer for the past 2 years, also supporting the aftercare kids. She is now full time and spread all over, all day. Those of you using Early Drop off have met Cathy welcoming your child in the morning; she is also the one wishing you all a good evening at 6 pm. In-between she is helping me with administrative tasks, like medical forms and enrollment documentation. You will receive calls and emails from her directly when we need more of those requirements. You can also reach her directly at cathy.spuytenduyvil@gmail.com.

Again, thanks to the added SDY+ funds, we could extend the afterschool add-on classes with virtually no cost to families. Now in addition to outdoor time, children also have smaller group classes- KinderGym with Tiara started last Friday. Other specials will come back over the next few weeks. I am sending home the write-up of them again too. I will let everyone know their child's schedule so you can plan earlier pick-up days doctor appts, etc. accordingly. Be sure to have let me know if your child has a regular afterschool class outside of school so I don't double book them.



3K Morning Meeting



Class 2N Sensory activity



Class 2S Dramatic Play

CONSTRUCTION ZONE-



So happy to share that we are continuing using the Annex (the extra room we have behind the glass doors you may have seen to the right of our "tunnel" entrance) as our wonderful block room, something usually only available in much larger (and wealthier) schools! Crisel, who works supporting 3K, 4K, Aftercare and many of our other specialized classes, started Construction Zone last year to great success. While all students work with wooden blocks as a regular class activity, it is not possible to keep structures up overnight as we need all available floor space for other work and naps. She takes 2 children from each 4K class from 2-3 pm Thursday and Fridays to build collaboratively using a much larger and more varied collection of blocks than each classroom can offer. The privacy of this space, the specialness of being chosen and her natural skill in gently directing and

extending kids’ imagination was at work again last week as the first group had their turn. You can see pictures of the work from last year still displayed ionthe stairway wall coming to the second floor.

DROP-OFF FRIDAYS:/ TOWN MEETINGS: As soon as the kids are a little more settled into class and separated from their caregivers, we will start these regular parent visits into the building. Every other Friday will be either Drop-off Friday where the adult is invited into Morning Meeting along with their child at drop-off, or, once a month, Town Meeting which brings together all 3 classes in one very close group in one of the classrooms to share stories, sing and have face to face time with our whole community. More details on this in October.

LUNCH and SNACK:

- 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.
- October Lunch Menu is attached to this letter. We re thrilled with our new lunch vendor, Regina Caterers. Ask your child about the Mac N’ Cheese- it was as good as any good restaurant serving! 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 attached here. Let me know if you would like a hard copy. .We are still working on a Spanish translation version.

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.

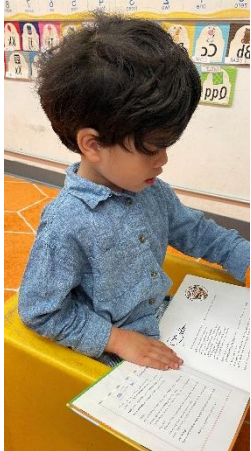


Margaret & Chassity 4K- class 2S mv.upk.sdp@gmail.com	Alda & Michelle 4K- class 2N amupksdp@gmail.com
Martha, Brenda & Colleen 3K Nursery Nursery.sdp@gmail.com	Judith, Director Director.spuytenduyvil@gmail.com
Michelle Byron Outdoor Educator Kinderfarm.sdp@gmail.com	Cathy Matos Admin. Assistant Cathy.spuytenduyvil@gmail.com

Class weekly Newsletters. Teachers use Bloomz to send weekly updates and pictures of the kids. I send my monthly newsletter like this through email and use Bloomz for shorter notices and reminders. If there are other parents/guardians that should be receiving these emails please be sure I have that contact info.

PARKING:

There is no dedicated school parking but there are a few spots in front of the school under the School Only sign. No one is quite sure how that got there and who it covers. If you do park there for a brief time, I have Courtesy Cards from the school to let traffic officers know you will be right back. This is not a guarantee but tickets are rare. 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 freebies 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 on the large sharing bulleting board downstairs 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 4

Whole school event- parents donate lunch and baked goods, work on garden maintenance, kids play in backyard- see attached flyer

4K VIOLIN CLASS STARTS TUES, SEPT 30- enrollment sheet attached. Must hear from interested families NOW.

TIDBITS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- Please remember to close all gates coming in and out of the property.
- We make a big deal about arriving on time. If Morning Meeting in your class has begun, the door will be closed with a sign asking you to wait with your child til the door opens. Do NOT leave your child on their own, even if school adults are around.
- There have been some updates to our school calendar- latest version is attached.
- As the weather starts to change, SDY+ Aftercare children will be indoors, often in the upstairs classrooms. Come on up, sign your child out and then open the door. Please do not let your child run across the room to you or leave with you without one of the teachers calling your child over. Otherwise we may not know he has been picked up and go looking for him.
- Our new caterers are great and the kids are eating very well but there is often a lot of food left over. Families are welcome to take it home. Check on the stovetop upstairs at pick-up. Any aluminum trays are free for the taking. You may want to bring plastic containers with you. Any milk still in the downstairs refrigerator Friday afternoon can also be taken home. Ask any of us if you are not sure where to look.

ARTICLE OF 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,

Judi

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.