



# VILLAGE GREEN PRESCHOOL PATTTER & CHATTER

» September 2024 «



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❖ **PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:** Karen Ormsbee

**MWF Teaching Team:**

- ❖ Jillian McAlevey: Lead Teacher & Curriculum Director
- ❖ Lori Schoolcraft: Co-Teacher
- ❖ Kaiya Correia: Co-Teacher & Deputy Director

**TuTh Teaching Team:**

- ❖ Caitlyn Candiello: Lead Teacher
- ❖ Amanda Stevens: Co-Teacher
- ❖ Lori Schoolcraft: Co-Teacher

Hello Preschool Parents & Friends—Welcome to VGP 2024-25  
 Please take the time to review this edition of our “Patter & Chatter” as it addresses many frequently asked questions. Please keep a copy handy for reference during the fun-filled & ever-busy months ahead!

## QUESTIONS ☆ COMMENTS ☆ CONCERNS

★ **PLEASE ASK!**: Please don't hesitate to bring questions, comments or concerns to the attention of the director or teachers throughout the year: in person or by phone & e-mail address listed above. ▶ A “Home-School Connection” is very important to us at VGP and we encourage on-going communication to help ensure the most successful early-education experience for our little learners!

★ **WHEN IS A GOOD TIME?:** Quick issues can always be addressed at Drop off or Pick up, but please understand that our primary focus during school hours is the preschoolers. Therefore, we request that any lengthy or involved conversations be reserved for outside of class time when the children are not present. The Teachers are always willing to make themselves available for parents who wish a private one-on-one meeting (in person or by phone) when class is not in session.

★ **DIRECTOR'S HOURS:** Karen Ormsbee can usually be found in the preschool office during most preschool sessions, generally 8AM to 4 or 5 PM. It is always best to set up a meeting to be certain of availability outside of regular hours.

★ **CLASS HOURS:**

Morning session

Drop-off 9:00 AM  
Pick-up 11:30 AM

Afternoon session

Drop-off 12:30 PM  
Pick-up 3:00 PM

Early Drop-off\*

8:00-9:00 or 8:30-9AM  
(\$60/\$30 or \$80/\$40/mo.)

Late Pick-up\*

3:00-4:00 or 3:00-3:30 PM  
(\$60/\$30 or \$80/\$40/mo.)

Lunch Bunch\*\*

11:30-12:30  
(\$60 or \$80/mo.)  
(no fee for full day)

\*Early Drop-off and Late Pick-up requires a commitment from Sept.-Dec. and/or Jan.-May. Parents are asked to drop off and pick up at a consistent time each day.

\*\*Lunch Bunch (11:30-12:30) is included for students attending all day (meals are not provided) but is optional depending on space available for others. Students enrolled all day and families with siblings attending an AM + PM class the same day are given priority.

★ **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES:** We strive to provide a safe and supportive learning environment, and we believe it can only happen with open communication between families and the school. Conferences are held during class hours in November & May (see dates on School Calendar.) These 10-minute meetings are held so

we can discuss your child's adjustment & progress up to that point. Additional conference time can be scheduled at any time, if desired.

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### **CUBBIES & HOOKS & BACKPACKS, TOO!**

Every child at Village Green is assigned a Mail Cubby and a Coat Hook at the beginning of the year. Since all 4 preschool classes share these spaces, we use a color-coding system for the children's names: **TuTh AM is RED // TuTh PM is BLUE // MWF AM is GREEN // MWF PM is YELLOW**

★ **CUBBIES:** A cubby is each child's special place to keep the day's artwork, projects, and to place removed articles of clothing (barrettes, sweaters, etc.) Cubbies are also used to communicate important notices or notes from teachers. At Dismissal Time, the rolling cart of cubbies will be moved into the foyer so that parents may retrieve all articles from the day. Art that is wet &/or messy will be left to dry in the classroom & can be found in the cubby at the next class, but you're welcome to also take it home or leave art that has been placed into the cubby when wet!

★ **COAT HOOKS:** Coat hooks are located in the foyer, and for safety reasons, they may **NOT** be accessed by preschoolers during the day. Children only access them under teacher supervision when it is time to get ready for the playground. Our Coat Hook Guideline is as easy as 1 – 2 – 3:

- #1. **SMALL BOTTOM HOOK: for Backpack or Tote Bag**
- #2. **LARGE TOP HOOK: Jacket goes on top hook for easy removal by small hands!**  
**During winter months: Hats & Mittens should get tucked into a coat sleeve or placed in winter gear bag!**
- #3. **BELOW HOOKS: Boots & winter gear bag (when needed) should be placed on floor directly below coat**

★ **BACKPACKS:** It is **ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL** that each child bring a backpack or tote bag containing a complete set of spare clothing every day -- **including underwear, socks, shirt & pants or dress.** Extra shoes are helpful but not required. We recommend storing items in a zippered plastic bag to help keep them fresh. Teachers must frequently access extra clothing: toileting accidents, excessive wetness/messiness at art & the sensory table, "oops!" spills at snack, etc. *Please remember to replace the clothing as seasons & sizes change during the year!*

▶ **VERY IMPORTANT NOTE:** Teachers **DO NOT** open backpacks unless there is a need to access spare clothing, so **DO NOT** place important teacher notes & paperwork – **OR** – outdoor gear that you wish your child to wear for outdoor play inside the backpack/tote bag!

★ **BRRR! COLD-WEATHER GEAR:** As you know, it gets quite blustery in Sterling for many months of the school year, but weather permitting; we try to get out to the playground each day to exercise our large motor muscles and big voices! Every day when you enter the building, please take a peek at our VGP Weather Watcher traffic light to see whether or not we intend to go outside to the playground:

**GREEN LIGHT = Yes! // RED LIGHT = Not Today! // YELLOW LIGHT = Maybe?**

★ **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE:** We strongly recommend **practicing independent dressing at home!** It not only helps to foster a strong sense of "I Can Do It!" in the children, but also ensures additional time spent outside on the playground instead of inside the classroom waiting for assistance!  
With 20 preschool children, +40 mittens, +40 boots, +20 hats, +20 snow pants, +20 coats, and other misc. gear inside 1 classroom with 3 teachers, it is **SO VERY IMPORTANT** that we have a consistent policy in place otherwise tears & frustration are maximized, and beloved playground time is thereby minimized!

**VGP SUGGESTION TO PARENTS OF ALL PRESCHOOLERS:**  
**😊 Practice independent "Outer Gear" dressing at home as much as possible! 😊**

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**LABEL LABEL LABEL LABEL LABEL LABEL LABEL**

We cannot stress enough the importance of labeling ALL removable items that come to preschool with your child (don't forget Mabel's Labels: [www.villagegreenps.mabelslabels.com](http://www.villagegreenps.mabelslabels.com)!) Not only does uncertainty over ownership complicate the flow of our classroom routine, but unmarked items can be more difficult to retrieve









\$80/mo. for MWF. There is no additional charge for students who attend all day.) Lunch Bunch is a great time to chat, enter discussions in a smaller group setting and allows for 'down time' before the afternoon class begins.

Please prepare your child by explaining that they will be practicing some quiet time after they finish eating. Students attending all day will be provided with a rest/nap mat with a sheet – parents need to bring a lightweight blanket and/or lovey (please do not bring large pillows or pillows as each child has limited space to store them.) Each child will have a cubby in the rest space downstairs to keep their sheet, blanket/lovey. Teachers wash sheets weekly and we will periodically send home their personal items to be washed and returned at the next class. They will be encouraged to participate in some mindfulness with a teacher but will be allowed to quietly look at books until they join the afternoon session. We will not hold Lunch Bunch on the days of our Holiday Programs (December 19 & 20) and our Recognition Day Programs (May 29 & 30) because those programs are in the morning only for all students. If an afternoon student participates in Lunch Bunch, please bring them to school at 11:30 and if a morning student participates in Lunch Bunch, we ask that you meet your child in the foyer at 12:25 or so.

★ **Procedure:** For afternoon students attending lunch bunch, please have your child drop off their backpack and jacket in the foyer at 11:30AM. If the coat hook your child uses still holds belongings from the AM Class, you may bring jacket and backpack directly into the classroom and put them near the door - we will hang them up later. Then you should bring your child downstairs to Room B1 where you will be greeted by a teacher. If there is inside dismissal for the morning class, we ask that you go around to the door off the back hallway to alleviate congestion in the foyer (go down the hallway to the left of the main entrance door.)

▶▶ For children attending school all day, please have your child place their lunch on the shelf above their hook. Blankets and lovies should be brought down to their cubby in the Chapel.

★ **The following guidelines will make the Lunch Bunch transition go smoothly:**

- Name needs to be CLEARLY visible on the front or top outside of the lunch box/bag and on drink bottles (Mabel's Labels work great! [www.villagegreenps.mabelslabels.com](http://www.villagegreenps.mabelslabels.com))
- Choose foods from a variety of food groups (we talk about fruits, vegetables, proteins every day)
- We cannot reheat food, and ice packs should be used to keep items cold (for all-day friends)
- Include any utensils needed to eat their food (spoon, fork)
- Water is always available, but you are welcome to provide a drink (please label their bottle.)
- We encourage children to rinse out their fruit cups, yogurt bottles, etc. to be recycled.
- Please observe our nut-free policy, which means **no nuts or nut butters are allowed.**

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### 2023-2024 PRESCHOOL FOCUS AREAS

We utilize weekly focus areas to aid in curriculum planning and education goals. The possibilities are endless, but we try to mix creative new ideas with old favorites. Your feedback is always appreciated! As indicated below, the focus areas incorporate seasons, holidays and areas of interest. Calendars outlining the theme's schedule & plans are typically emailed home at the end of each month. Here's a Sneak Preview for 2024-25:

★ **SEPTEMBER:**

All About Me  
Friendships/Kindness  
Fall/Apples

★ **OCTOBER:**

Emotions  
Construction  
Flowers/Leaves  
Dinosaurs

★ **NOVEMBER:**

Fall/Pumpkins/Halloween  
Fairy Tales  
Kindness  
Thanksgiving/Turkeys

★ **DECEMBER:**

Five Senses  
Families  
Holidays

★ **JANUARY:**

Hibernation  
Community Helpers  
Music  
Sports

★ **FEBRUARY:**

Groundhog Day  
Valentine's Day  
Dental

★ **MARCH:**

Rainbows  
Transportation  
St. Patrick's  
Rainforest

★ **APRIL:**

Insects  
Pets  
Easter/Spring  
Farm

★ **MAY:**

Ocean Animals  
Summer  
Ice Cream  
America the Beautiful







