



VILLAGE GREEN gazette

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Town-wide Spooky Walk & Spooky Block

We had an AMAZING turnout for our 16th Annual Spooky Walk! The weather was beautiful on Monday, October 21st for Minions, Creepers, Elsa's and many other costumed friends to stroll Sterling's Main Street led by Joey the Kangaroo from Launch. With an estimated 1,000 children gathering candy, the exceptional Spooky Block street party and the return of crafts & facepainting inside with the GIANT inflatable slide - it was an overwhelming success! More than forty different businesses, groups and organizations delighted our young trick-or-treaters. We were thrilled to see so many familiar smiling faces!

Spooky Walk is both a community outreach and a fundraising event - proceeds will go toward Yoga, radKIDS, Music & Movement and ongoing playground improvements.

Thank you to the Parent Advisory Board for organizing such a fun event and a special thanks to event co-chairs Annemarie James, Carlina Arsenault, Alicia Ciancola, Karen Castagna and Elizabeth Vokes! What an amazing job by all - thank you!!

Whether you are new to Spooky Walk or a seasoned veteran, we greatly appreciate your support and participation - this would not be a beloved Sterling tradition without you! We hope you'll consider joining us again in the future! We look forward to next year!



Thank You Spooky Walk Volunteers

The Spooky Walk was made possible through the combined efforts and support from the town offices, businesses and organizations, and the police, light, public works, and fire departments, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, the Mt. Witchusett Witches of Sterling, Jenn Colburn and Pizza Church youths & our VGP parents for an amazing array of baked treats.



Winter Approaches

Shorter days and cooler temperatures are surely a sign that winter weather will be here before we know it. During these upcoming winter months our plan is to take the children outdoors to the playground **every day that the weather permits**. We feel it is very important for preschool children to have a frequent opportunity to run, jump, climb and use big voices! Therefore, we ask that you dress your child appropriately. Hats and mittens or gloves are a MUST. If there is snow on the ground, ski pants and boots will be needed. If the daytime temperature is below 28° (wind chill and air temp considered) we will stay inside and incorporate a variety of large muscle activities into our free play and choice times. We hope you encourage your child to dress himself/herself as much as possible. We know it's often quicker (and easier) to just help your child get into their winter gear but allowing them to do it themselves provides many opportunities for "I can do it" accomplishments!



mabel's labels

With so many children with so many items, it quickly becomes frustrating for children and teachers when an item is misplaced or sitting on the floor waiting for an owner, with none to be found! So, be sure to LABEL all hats*, mittens*, boots, etc. with your child's name or initials. Also, school tote bags and back packs should be labeled to avoid confusion. Don't forget Mabel's Labels for all of your labeling needs!

*Hats and mittens need to be put in coat sleeves or pockets, not backpacks, to make it easier for the children to find them.

Cold & Flu Season Is Upon Us

All parents are asked to keep sick children home for their own comfort and for the health and well-being of their classmates and teachers. Children with runny noses and deep coughs are highly contagious in a preschool setting and if your child has either vomited or had diarrhea within 24 hours of school, they should stay home to recoup. Watch for draining, bloodshot eyes (conjunctivitis), temperatures greater than 100 (indicative of the onset of illness) or an unexplained rash – all conditions that warrant doctor evaluation before coming to school. With the cooperation of all parents, we hope to keep the spread of illness in our classroom to a minimum. If a child should become ill while at school, a parent will be called. Please make sure we have your current contact information!

First Church Hosts Diaper Drive

The First Church is collecting diapers throughout the month of November. The sizes 3-5 are the most needed, but all diaper sizes and brands are welcome.

First Church in Sterling
NOVEMBER
DIAPER DRIVE
to support migrant families
in Worcester area shelters

Diapers are expensive!

We can help our new neighbors by providing essential diapers for the children.

Ways to contribute:

- Drop diapers off at the **First Church office**
6 Meetinghouse Hill Rd, Sterling Mon - Thurs • 9am-3pm
- Order online:
* CUTIES Skin Smart Absorbent Diapers in sizes 3, 4, 5, or 6
Ship to: Erin O'Connor
75 Redstone Hill Road, Sterling, MA 01564
- Send a check marked DIAPER DRIVE in memo line to:
First Church in Sterling, PO Box 40, Sterling, MA 01564
- Bring diapers or a monetary gift to Sunday worship in Nov.

Questions? contact: Becki at Becki.Gray@gmail.com

What are VGPlay Days?

Check for these circled dates on the school calendar. We are offering relaxed preschool programming on Mon. Nov. 25/ Tu. 26 as well as Th. Jan. 2/Fri. 3. We are hosting these Play Days to help families who need care for their child when older siblings are still in school. We do this so that parents have optional care on the days when older siblings are still in school.

It is open to everyone on both days regardless of the class/es your child is enrolled. Your child can attend on one or both days. Children can attend only in the morning; only in the afternoon; or all day with a minimum of 6 students/day and max of 20 students/day. Extended day options are also available for an additional \$10 for each option (min. 3.) Pricing for half-day (9-11:30 OR 12:30-3:00) is \$30 and full day (9-3) is \$60 and you MUST sign up [here](#) - first-come; first-served.

Yoga & Mindfulness

We are excited to introduce yoga to our preschoolers. Ms. Schoolcraft (MWF & TuTh Teacher) will lead children through four sessions of yoga on Oct. 31& Nov. 1, Nov. 7&8, 14&15, and 21&22. Lori is a yoga alliance certified instructor and reiki master. She will focus on mindfulness, breathing techniques and gentle yoga – all important tools to help children (and adults) manage stress and calm their minds when faced with overstimulation and/or difficult situations. Because preschool children's minds and bodies are developing so rapidly, it is important to teach coordination, balance, discipline and instill value systems like trust, love, sharing, friendship and caring. We hope that the techniques they learn here will carry over into their everyday lives and help them to slow down and manage their big emotions in a healthy way.



Invitations at Preschool

We ask parents to bring party invitations, gift thank you notes, etc. for distribution via the children's cubbies, only if there is one for each child in the class. Children are very perceptive and selective notes and invitations can lead to hurt feelings. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Backpack Reminder

If possible, every child should bring a bag to preschool for their papers, notices and other belongings. Also, don't forget a change of clothes (& pull-up if needed) should be in each child's bag EVERY DAY and appropriate for the current season!

Winter gear should be brought to school in a separate bag labeled as well. Boots, snow pants, hats, mittens/gloves can all go into this bag and be placed on the floor beneath their coat hook.

Parent Bookshelf

Our "Parent Bookshelf" is on a rolling cart in the foyer for your use at any time. We ask that you use the notebook to sign out the borrowed titles and when returned. The collection of books is modest but comprehensive. We welcome donations of used favorite parenting books and/or suggestions for future purchases.

Emergency Contact Info

It is important that the preschool be notified of any changes in address, cell phone #, place of employment etc. for our families. Please put new information in writing (email ok) and get it to Mrs. Ormsbee. The class list includes the primary contact number, but if we should be using a different number instead, please let us know ASAP. During preschool hours, we ask that you turn your cell phone ON, with volume, so we can reach you if needed.

Amazon Wish List Thanks to...

Supporting VGP

Our preschool greatly benefits from the generosity of our VGP families and community. If you are interested in donating items to our classroom, please see the [Amazon wishlist](#) our teachers have put together for the 2024-25 school year. Thank you for your support!

the Lefebvre family	for the Halloween treat bags
the Bunnell family	for the dinosaur puzzle

Upcoming Events

- Nov. 1..... Second Quarterly Tuition Due
- Nov. 5,6,7,8 Parent Conferences held
- Nov. 11.....Veteran's Day -no preschool
- Nov. 25-29.....Thanksgiving Holiday break
- Nov. 25&26..... VGPlay Days (optional)
- Dec. 21&22Holiday Program – all invited!

2nd Quarterly Tuition Payment Due Nov. 1

Session	Cash or Check		Venmo	
	Monthly	Quarterly	Monthly	Quarterly
TuTh AM or PM	\$255	\$745	\$260.20	\$760.20
MWF AM or PM	\$340	\$995	\$346.94	\$1,015.31
M-F AM or PM	\$595	\$1,725	\$607.14	\$1,760.20
TuTh All Day	\$510	\$1,490	\$520.41	\$1,520.41
MWF All Day	\$685	\$1,995	\$698.98	\$2,035.71
M-F All Day	\$1,195	\$3,480	\$1,219.39	\$3,551.02

Tuition is paid in equal installments independent of the number of school days in a month. All tuition is non-refundable

Special Thanks to...

- All Preschool Board members for making the Spooky Walk & Spooky Block a success!
- A special shout-out to Kaiya Corriea, Annemarie James and family, Carlina Arsenault and family, Alicia Cianciola, Ryan Guilfoyle, Caitlin Katisch, Meghan Tinsley, Karen Castagna and family, Gonzalo Inostroza, Elizabeth Vokes and family, Mandy Roberts-Crowley, and Patty O'Keefe for help with Spooky Walk set up and clean up
- The Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Pizza Church and WRHS Nation Honor Society volunteers
- The Benzie, Smith, Castagna, Arsenault, Papagno, Ruggiero, Rodgers, Towle, Coes, Tinsley, Marquez, Steere, Fedeli, Cleveland, Persson and Narris families for providing snacks, water, juice boxes and/or baked goods for the Spooky Walk
- Our Spooky Walk Sponsors, Donors & Volunteers
- The Castagna, Katisch, Gaw, Clark (Amy Kelly) and O'Connor families for the large pumpkins for our sensory table & Jack-o-Lanterns
- The Lima, Mayou, Brodmerkle and Williams families for their help baking pumpkin chocolate chip muffins and the Brodmerkle, Steere, Kiley, Papagno and James families for the apple cider for our Halloween celebrations
- Our amazing teachers for all the work they do each day to provide a loving, nurturing, dynamic learning environment!

