

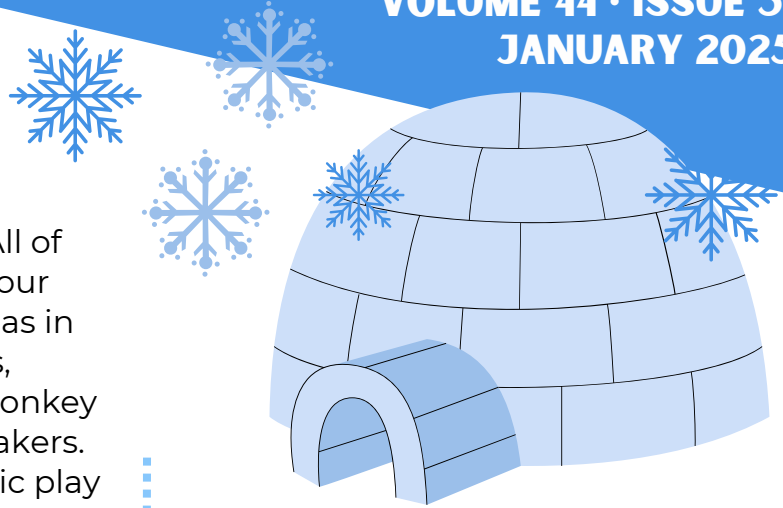
Happy New Year!

We hope that you all enjoyed the holiday break! All of us at Village Green are looking forward to seeing our many preschool friends once again! The focus areas in January include Hibernation, Community Helpers, Music, and Sports. We look forward to enjoying Monkey Bread together for snack; made by our student bakers. Then the following week, our VGP Bakery dramatic play center will open. We will also be participating in many seasonal winter-related activities together. It is our hope that January brings a fantastic start for 2025!!

****Just a reminder**** Parents are always encouraged to add anything they feel would be of relevance to focus areas we are covering at preschool. Books, pictures, artifacts, activities, even personal experiences are welcome. Plan to speak to either Karen or one of the lead teachers regarding any ideas you might have. If you feel you have nothing specific to contribute, then why not sign up to be a parent volunteer in your child's class? It's a great way to spend a winter morning or afternoon and a very special opportunity for your child to have you be a part of their preschool program!

Keep Your Class Calendar(s) Handy

We make every effort to email class calendars on the last school day before each new theme begins. Activities and projects are likely different each day, but not always, so be sure to look at each of your child's calendars every day to check current activities and participation items (show & tell, dress-up days, etc.) Calendars include weekly language, math, science activities and concepts to be covered, arts & crafts and special events - be sure to read yours and keep it handy. A printed copy of the parent calendar can be found in your child's cubby and under the 'Resources' tab on the website.



Preschool Open House

We ask our present preschool parents to please help spread the word to friends and neighbors about our upcoming Open House for new prospective parents. It will be held on Monday evening, January 13th from 7 – 8 PM. The Open House gives parents who are not familiar with VGP a chance to meet the staff, hear about the program and see the classroom space for themselves. We recommend that parents leave children at home, but we know that this is not always possible.

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! (5oz. paper cups & Boxes of tissues are always needed!)

Music & Movement Enrichment Program

We're excited that our popular Music & Movement enrichment program will begin soon for our morning classes! Mrs. Stevens (TuTh Co-Teacher) developed the program which incorporates her dance instruction experience and introduces various music styles and real musical instruments! Mrs. Stevens has been teaching dance to 2–8-year-olds at MEM Dance Studio for the past twelve years. This program will run for eight weeks and begins on Thursday, January 16 and Friday, January 17. Each Thursday or Friday morning your child will dance and play to the beat and learn more about music & movement as they go! Parents are welcome to participate – please check with your lead teacher to confirm your child's group.

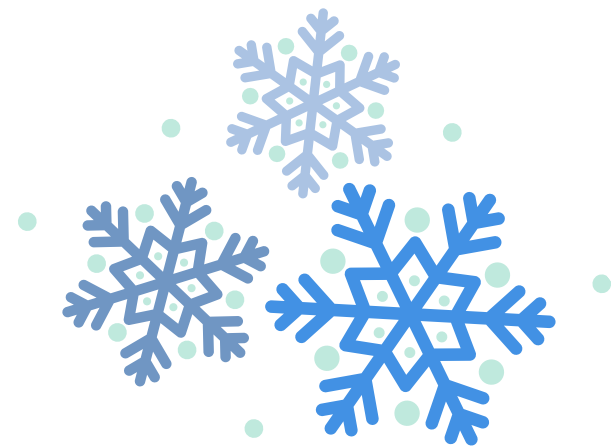
radKIDS Enrichment Program

Afternoon students will enjoy ten radKIDS enrichment sessions, which teaches personal safety and self-empowerment - children learn techniques to be safe in and outside their home. Our program has been tailored for the preschool-aged child by the instructors, Mike and Sue Sonia. Permission forms will be given to our afternoon students and parents can opt out. The program will be on Thursday and Friday afternoons (except the first two weeks) and each class will have one half-hour session a week for ten weeks starting on Tuesday, January 14 and Friday, January 17. Parents are encouraged to participate (optional) – please check with your lead teacher to confirm your child's group time (you do not need to volunteer in the class or sign up ahead.)

We have had the pleasure to host Sue and Mike Sonia for radKIDS personal safety and self-empowerment sessions for our afternoon preschoolers for many years. Mike & Sue have been leading the radKIDS program at the Sterling Gym for over 18 years. They started teaching the preschool version at VGP over 13 years ago and it has been a wonderful enrichment program for the children! You can check out the [website](#) for Sterling Martial Arts and the [radKIDS website](#) has some excellent resources and information to check out as well.

Todorov Toy Drive

Thank you all so much for your generous contributions to the Elizabeth Todorov Toy Drive. The toy and monetary contributions have made a lasting impact on the lives of children who endure hospital stays during the holidays and throughout the year. Several of our parents have first-hand experience with this program and can vouch for its ability to provide support for the children and parents well beyond toys. Village Green Preschool is honored to serve as a yearly toy collection location.



radKIDS Attire & Simulation

Please have your afternoon child wear comfortable clothing (pants, sweats, etc.) and sturdy footwear on radKIDS days.

On April 10 and 11, the children will demonstrate what they have learned at the end of the ten-week period with a parent audience simulation. A sign-up sheet will be posted, and reminders provided. An added bonus to participating in radKIDS now, is that any child who completes this program will be able to take a future radKIDS class at any time free of charge!

What Does “Nut Free” Mean?

When we say that VGP is a ‘nut-free’ school, it means that ALL food brought to school needs to be free of all nuts, including nut butters (peanut, almond, hazelnut, etc.) Please check labels on all store-bought snacks to see if they contain nut meal, nuts, or nut flour, or “may contain nuts” or “are made on the same equipment as products that contain nuts.” If you see any of these warnings on a snack, please do not bring it to school. It can be a struggle for families to keep an allergic child safe, but a little sensitivity on the part of others can go a long way to making an allergic/food sensitive child feel included.

We focus on nut allergies because a nut or peanut allergy can cause difficulty breathing and other very serious health problems, including anaphylaxis, which is a sudden, life-threatening allergic reaction. **The nut-free policy at VGP also includes Lunch Bunch.** At Lunch Bunch, even though a child may not eat nuts themselves, it can be hazardous to a nut-allergic child when nut residue is transferred to surfaces. It is our intention that this policy will eliminate any potential for allergic reactions due to nut products in our school environment. Thank you for your sensitivity to this matter.

Holiday Gift to Teachers

The teachers sincerely appreciate each donation made to support the Community Love and Support Project Inc. Especially during these Winter months, we know that many families struggle with homelessness, financial instability and food insecurity. Supporting this worthy cause helps many families in their time of need. This organization does wonderful work and we hope to continue to support them in their efforts!

La Romana Medical Mission Trip

As mentioned in the December newsletter, this important trip is taking place in March and help is still needed to make it a success! It takes a lot of effort and fundraising to support all that they do and Village Green is proud to offer assistance. These are some additional ways you can help:

- Monetary donations are always needed with 100% of donated funds going directly to the mission instead of to travel expenses
- Provide high-demand medications by taking a donation bag and returning to the collection box at school
- Donating directly through their [Amazon registry](#)
-

Please visit <https://centralmalaromana.org/> to find out more and you can [watch a video showing their direct impact](#). No donation is too small!

Save the Date – VGP Annual Art Show and Fundraising Night

This extended-family event is sure to be tons of fun! It is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 22. There will be raffle prizes and on-line auction items on display, plus a phenomenal art show featuring the children's talents! More information will be included in the February newsletter; however, we want parents to know that we will be keeping your child's artwork on certain days at preschool in preparation for the art show. We will also be asking for auction and raffle basket donations as well – stay tuned!

Parent Reminders

- We will not go to the playground if all children do not have outdoor play gear including snow pants and boots when there is snow/mud on the ground.
- Please send waterproof mittens with your child for outdoor play

Remember to cut all grapes in half for snack and to send in snacks ready to eat (i.e. large bag of dry snack mix instead of individual baggies; cups of mixed fruit with spoons, etc.)

Parent Input Welcome

Your ideas, comments, critiques and suggestions are always welcome. We would like to hear from you as to what we're doing right and what can be improved! Feel free to drop in and speak with Karen at any time. Many of the policies and practices at Village Green originated with a parent suggestion!

Amazon Wish List Thanks to...

the Ruggiero family	the many Halloween party favors
the Martineau family	Halloween treat bags
the Katisch family	Halloween treat bags, space puzzle
the Clark-Sykes family	washable ink pads, magnetic building blocks and magnetic animals

Special Thanks To...

- All of our preschoolers and their families for your generous donations to the Elizabeth Todorov Toy Drive on behalf of the UMass Memorial Pediatrics Unit
- The Arsenault, Barry, Castagna, Coes, Hatch, Howard, James, Katisch, Martineau, McNally-Pultorak, Marquez, Narris, O'Connor, Rodgers, Ruggiero, Steere, Towle and Williams families for the yummy baked treats served at our holiday programs!
- All the families who made generous donations to the Community Love and Support Project on behalf of the teachers

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 6, 7 Preschool resumes
- Jan. 13 Open House for prospective preschool parents from 7–8 PM
- Jan. 16, 17 Music & Movement Enrichment Program begins for morning classes
- Jan. 14, 17 radKIDS Enrichment Program begins for afternoon classes
- Jan. 16 Full Day, Sibling & First Church member registration for Sept. 2025 @ 8:30 AM
- Jan. 17 Open registration for Sept. 2025 @ 8:30 AM
- Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day observed – no preschool
- Feb. 1 Final quarterly tuition payment due or monthly payment due

