

## The Family Connection

### Important Dates

Dec. 22-Jan. 6	Winter Recess
January 7	Classes Resume
January 11	Extra Care Deadline for January 25 <sup>th</sup> Half-Day
January 21	All Programs Closed
January 25	Half-Day for K-12 <i>Extra Care Available</i>
February 1	3 <sup>rd</sup> Payment Due Half-Day Pre-K / Pre-K PLUS / Parent/Child
February 1	Extra Care Deadline for February 15 <sup>th</sup> Half-Day



*With warmest  
regards  
of the season*

~

*Early Childhood  
Education  
and Extended Day  
Programs*

The Early Childhood office  
will close at 4:00 p.m. on  
Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Our office will be closed on  
Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Payment Due . . .**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> installment and  
payment for Half-Day Pre-K,  
Pre-K PLUS & Parent/Child  
classes is due by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **From the Program Coordinator**

Hello Families!

My name is Chelsea Simons and I am the new Program Coordinator for NPS Early Childhood and Extended Day Programs. I will be replacing Eileen Freeman, who will be retiring after 18 years of service in the position. Eileen and I have had the opportunity to work together this month, reviewing the programs and processes that are in place that make this program so exceptional. With the program being so large it is going to take some time for me to get acclimated, but it is very important to me to build a relationship with all of you and your children. I will be making visits at all of the different locations throughout the next couple of months and I hope to get the opportunity to meet many of you.

Please also feel free to reach out to me if you have anything you would like to share. I am looking forward to the remainder of the school year, and would like to wish Eileen the best as she begins her retirement. I know she will be greatly missed!

[simonsch@northvilleschools.org](mailto:simonsch@northvilleschools.org)

~Chelsea Simons



*Chelsea Simons,  
Program Coordinator*



### **Kids' Club Extra Care Available. . .**

Extra Care is available for Kids' Club on the Half-Days of school on **January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup>**. Register through our website: [earlychildhood.northvilleschools.org](http://earlychildhood.northvilleschools.org). The deadline to register for January 24<sup>th</sup> Extra Care is Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to register for February 15<sup>th</sup> Extra Care is Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Early Childhood Education and Extended Day Programs

Ridge Wood Elementary School  
on Six Mile Road west of Ridge Road.  
Phone: 248-465-2550  
Fax: 248-465-2561  
Email: [ECTeam@northvilleschools.org](mailto:ECTeam@northvilleschools.org)  
Website:  
[earlychildhood.northvilleschools.org](http://earlychildhood.northvilleschools.org)

## Pre-K Parent Night Open Houses

Our **Pre-K Parent Night Open Houses** will once again be held at each of our four Pre-K locations – Old Village School, Thornton Creek, Ridge Wood and Winchester. These Open Houses are intended for potential **new** families to our programs and are designed for parents/guardians only. Videos are available on our website for program overviews, curriculum information and the registration process. More detailed information will be forthcoming via the Family Connection and ListServ.

## Parking Lot Safety . . .

To ensure the safety of everyone, we are asking parents to please use the **crosswalks** in the parking lot when dropping off or picking up students during elementary school arrival/dismissal times. This applies to ALL programs: Half-Day Pre-K, Pre-K PLUS, School-Day, Full-Day Pre-K & Kids' Club. As the temperature drops, it may be tempting to leave younger siblings in your vehicle while dropping off and picking up your child from one of our programs. It is a great feeling to live in a community that is safe, however, this is a very dangerous and unsafe practice. Young children left unattended in a vehicle are at risk. Please take the time to bundle them up and bring them with you or network with other families to help you with the drop-off and pick-up of your EC child.

## Choose games and tools that enhance preschooler's and kindergartener's real world experiences.

~naeyc

Preschoolers and kindergarteners are developing a sense of initiative and creativity. They are curious about the world around them and create and communicate using a variety of materials (crayons, felt-tip markers, paints and other art materials, blocks, dolls, dress up clothing, miniature animals). Screen media is one more outlet for them to express their creativity and explore learning. Think about games and tools that allow your child to explore an interest (like animals), make connections to the non-digital world and learn about the world (like monitoring bird migration or the weather), create something new (like a tool for musical exploration) and tell stories using photos and words (with a storytelling tool or app). Also look for media and tools that allows children to work together with friends and siblings.

## Accreditation Pre-K Family Survey . . .

As we begin to prepare for the reaccreditation process for NAEYC we will be emailing our Family Survey to Pre-K families in January. We would appreciate your response to this survey as the results will be used for improvement purposes.

## New Class Offering for 2019-2020 . . .

We will be offering a new class starting in September, 2019. It will be a **School-Day Five-Day** class. It will run Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. and will be held at Ridge Wood. We will still offer our **School-Day Three-Day** class at Old Village School. We hope this new class option serves both parents and children's needs.

## Head Teacher Credentials. .

This fall NAEYC rolled out new streamlined Accreditation standards. We sent a group of staff to the national conference in Washington D.C. to learn more about the changes. These new standards allow for Head Teachers to have any advanced degree which includes an Associate's degree or higher in Early Childhood, Elementary Education, or Preschool Special Education. Our postings now indicate that a Bachelor's Degree is preferred with a minimum requirement of an Associates and experience as a Head Teacher in a Pre-K setting.

