

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

UPDATE

June 13, 2007 Vol. 6, Issue 2

From the Executive Director

The Fundraising Dinner the other night at 53 South Restaurant was a wonderful evening of celebrating the school and its accomplishments and bringing together Charter parents, Trustees and supporters from various backgrounds. Christine and Clark Bowker-Kelly and their 11th grade charter son, Rob did an outstanding job of making us all feel welcome at their restaurant and preparing a sumptuous five-course meal. The Bowker-Kelly's raised \$2,000 for the school and an additional \$500 was raised at the dinner in large part to the Zahr family. When next year's dinner comes around in early May, be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to support the School and connect with Charter supporters.



The other day a charter mom told me that her son asked: "Mom, is Mike leaving because people park in his spot all the time?" I wish major life decisions were so easy to justify. There have been many things to which I have devoted considerable time during my years here: bringing the faculty and students together as a unit, initiating the restructuring of the parents into the Parent Association, finding the new campus in Norwell and completing its purchase, increasing the enrollment by 50%, increasing faculty salaries by 23% over three years, unifying the professional development program, changing the perception in the public and the media of the charter school. But most of all creating a school that when you walk in the front door you feel like you're in a special place. As I sit here writing this, Daniel Alexandre is in the lobby playing *Elijah's Amazing Grace* on the baby grand; what other school has that going on?

I know many in the community have speculated about my departure beyond my parking situation; I know people on the staff and in the parent body like to speak for me. But, I am leaving for the reason I stated in my letter to the Board. SSCPS needs someone who can raise money. The financial challenges ahead for the school are sort of like global warming, it's here to some extent now but it will get worse unless something isn't done soon to address the problem. In order to keep faculty salaries at a decent level there will have to be an effort by the entire community to raise at least four times what is currently being raised. It would be easy to say it's the Board's job, which ultimately it is, but the Board is comprised of you, parents (for the most part). SSCPS is a public school, but it also carries expenses that a district school doesn't, namely a rent. The payments on this rent impact the largest segment of the budget, salaries and benefits. While I would love to stay and watch the renovation of the school completed, I am keenly aware that there are others more equipped to do that.

This school has some unique things going on inside of it; those need to be preserved. It also has areas that need improving. But SSCPS is a work in progress. I have said that our school is in much better shape that it was in 2002 when I started here; it is, but it also has more to do. South Shore Charter Public School is organic, it is growing and maturing and finding its way. While student talent and creativity needs to be combined with diligent work in math class, it allows Charter kids to express themselves. It is the academic side of the school that needs attention too. MCAS scores, graduation rates, attendance rates all go into the state's assessment of the school; they all need to be improved. As a member of the SSCPS community I encourage each family to be as involved in the school as possible. Your school needs you and your ideas to make it as strong as it can be. I encourage the faculty and parents to work with and support Kristine Shippis as she serves as Acting Executive Director and work with the new interim and final permanent Executive Director in a collegial manner, you are in this together.

As I leave I must give a word of thanks to many who have helped me move the school ahead. First would be two women who hold things together and without whose counsel, support and trust my job would have been much more difficult if not impossible: Kristine Shipps and Pam Alger. Being a Trustee of the Charter School is a volunteer job and one that asks a lot of those who take on that role. Three Trustees have been with me from the start and have helped to set priorities for the school and given me advice that has helped the school to accomplish all it has in the last five years: Kathy Arthur Tyler, Miriam Brownwall and Eric Greene. While there have been many parent volunteers who have contributed much over the years a few have been special in their dedication to what has happened here: David Whitemyer, Debbie Shepherd, Teri Otis, Denise Demaggio, Debbie Cerilli, Cassie Proude, KT Leary, Nanci Jaye and David Kellem. I thank Julia Silzer for being my traveling companion in Central American and fundamentally changing the way I look at the world. Last, but certainly not least is Bev Bruce. The grace and joy she brings to her work here and involvement as a parent is an example for all. No doubt I have left out others but I thank you all for the many kindnesses and support you have given me during my time here.

So now that I am leaving, who gets my parking spot?

Mike Munhall

**Take the
Annual Satisfaction Survey
on the SSCPS website at:
www.sscps.org**

Weds-Fri	6/13-15	High School Final Exams – Early Release for High School Students Only	
Thursday	6/14	Beach Day Level 4	
Friday	6/15	8th Grade Move Up Ceremony 6th Grade Ceremony 4th Grade Ceremony	10:30am 10:30am 10:00am
Friday	6/15	Last Day of Classes – Early Release	12:00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOST YEARBOOK – Maris Kaplan, a Level II Student in Alice’s Pod lost her yearbook. If found please return to Alice or Maris – No questions asked – Thank you!

SSCPS has posted the 2006 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) School Report Card on our website. Visit www.sscps.org to view.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Please make every effort to pick up your child’s medication by the last day of school. Any leftover medication is appropriately disposed of or destroyed. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Dupras at extension 104.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The rewrite of the Strategic Plan is now posted on the SSCPS website. If you have any comments or questions contact Bob Gass, Board of Trustees Chair, at boardoftrustees@sscps.org.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Each year it seems as if the school year goes by faster. It seems like only yesterday we began and now we come to the end. This has been a wonderful year at SSCPS. I would like to thank the teachers, parents, and especially the students for contributing to a great year. Each year we continue to grow and strengthen our program. It is all due to the hard work of our community. Next year will bring changes in teachers, administration, schedule, and program – these are some of what we will be working on over the summer. Students will have summer reading to complete to get them ready for next year. Enjoy the summer. Take time to relax and reconnect with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you all in August.

We would like to say goodbye and thank you to the faculty who will be leaving us this year – Alice Leung, John Costanzo, Jessica Engebretson, Scott Saposnik, Linda Goggin, and Megan Stoehr. You have contributed so much to the life of the school and to the students. We wish you all the best in your new ventures.

We also say good bye and thank you to Barbara Gladstone, Title I teacher, Cynthia Chapman, and Rosie Woodard. Thank you for all you've done for the Level I students.

Thank you to Melissa Freitas and Pam Hatch for their help the past few months filling in as Velma's aides.

New teachers have been hired for Level I, II, IV and the high school. We continue to interview for Level III, IV, Middle School Spanish, and aides for Level I. During the summer mailing we will introduce the new faculty to everyone.

Finals for the high school students are this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and the schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, June 13 8:30-10:00; Block A 10:30-12:00; Block B

Thursday, June 14 8:30-10:00; Block C 10:30-12:00; Block D

Friday, June 15 8:30-10:00; Block E

Attendance will be taken during morning meeting at 8:15. Students will then proceed to their appropriate classroom for their first exam. Students who do not have a first exam may report to school at 10:15 for the second exam. They must sign into the school at that time. Students who do not have a second exam may leave at 10:00 following the first exam. They must sign out at this time. Students must remain in the exam room until all students have completed the exam. Students should bring something to work on if they finish the exam early. All high school students are expected to leave the building at 12:00.

Beach Day is this Thursday for Level IV.

Friday at 10:30 move-up ceremonies will take place for grades 4, 6 & 8. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Friday's last day of the 2006-2007 school year is an early release day, 12:00pm. . *Dr. Tom Gorsuch*

ON THE LEVELS

SAYING OF THE WEEK:

Level 1: "Two heads are better than one".

Level 2: "Bury the hatchet".

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS GRADES K, 1, 2, & 3 JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT on Monday, June 18th 5-7 PM at **SCALLIWAGS** (330-350 Corporate Park, Pembroke 781-826-WAGS) Tickets are \$8.00 per child. If you have any questions about this event please contact Denise Demaggio at ykeeclpr@verizon.net or (781) 826-5632. or Debbie Cerilli at debcerilli@beld.net or (781) 843-0173.

THE SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROM WEBSITE IS UP! Please visit the web gallery of these pictures, where you can view and order prints that will be delivered directly to the school if ordered before May 25, or directly to you after the May 25th date. For log in information, please see Mary Carter or email mcarter@sscps.org.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

SSCPS ANNUAL FALL AUCTION – the auction committee is in full gear and is looking for donations of planters – terra cotta pots, ceramic pots, wooden salad bowls/plates/platters. Students will be decorating

these items to be sold at the Auction. If you have one of these items and would like to donate it please contact Lizanne Moffatt at loveshack@realtor.com or Kerry Griffin at rockgriff@earthlink.net

FCC TRANSPORTATION accepting application for next year school covering select areas of Randolph/Avon line, Randolph to Oak St., Braintree, Braintree/Quincy line and Weymouth (not Route 18). Transportation available to Braintree Commuter T and Randolph/Holbrook Commuter T. Many MBTA and BAT bus lines available.

A preliminary route can be viewed at <http://www.webspawner.com/users/fcctransportation/index.html>. Please call 781-267-1246 for a recorded message.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Openings for the 2007-2008 School Year

Level III Elementary Teacher Full Time
Level IV Middle School Math and Science Full Time
Part Time Spanish Teacher (75% FTE)
Learning Support (Sped) Elementary K-6 Teacher Full Time
4 Part Time Level I Teacher Aides (50% FTE)
1 Full Time Level I Teacher Aide (100% FTE)
Part Time Level III Teacher Aide (50% FTE)
Part Time Level IV Teacher Aide (50% FTE)
Part Time Title I Tutor/Aide (FTE TBD)
Part Time Title I Reading Specialist (FTE TBD)
Part Time Math Tutor (80% FTE)
On-Call Substitute Teachers
On-Call Substitute Nurse
On-Call Substitute Teacher Aides

Send cover letter, resume and list of references to Kristine Shipps, Business Manager.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

The June 1st **5th Annual Big Haircut** benefiting Locks of Love, was a great success due to the greatest turnout ever-14 participants, for over 140 inches of hair to be made into wigs for young cancer survivors. Former SSCPS teacher **Jen DuLong** returned to us this year to once more have Cassie Noncent cut her hair. SSCPS parent -**Anne Marie Webber** joined us -cut by daughter Julianne.

Level IV

Austin Matthews cut by Taylor Gorman

Level III

Casey Hague cut by Zach Johnston

Isabelle Seal cut by Gracie Ryan and Kelsey Long

Ashley Shephard cut by Becca Otis

Kayleigh Wright cut by Carlee Russell and teacher Angie Pepin

Mathew Algera cut by mom Pam and siblings Kyle & Alyse

Level II

Shane Webber cut by sister Molly

Jake Hague cut by Paul Sullivan

Greg, Joe, and Phil Frederick cut by mom Cathy

Level I

Caitlin Bowman cut by mom Cathy

Thanks also go to Level III photographers-Katie Aucella, Jena Doyle, and Amanda Toma, to the High school workshop - Design Engineering - for room set up, to Jody Regan and Tania Phillips for organization support, to Keith Barry for drumming, and to Grace Moore as Registrar.

AND *special* thanks to 7th graders Jackie Perry and Sarah Walzer who are producing a special **Show Your Smarts Benefit for Locks of Love** on Level II this week which they will be taping to share with the rest of us.

Ask them for a special viewing! Eat healthy, keep those split ends trimmed, and see you next year with your 10 inches of hair! -Thanks - Claudia

A BIG THANK YOU TO SSCPS STUDENTS! Taffy Northnagle, Chairperson for the Scituate Special Olympics Team, would like to thank SSCPS 9th grade students Mercer Casey, Kristin Cheney, Erin Dentler, Alana Greene and Shawn O'Leary who served 60 athletes and their families at the Annual Banquet this past Monday evening in Cohasset. The students served roughly 175 attendees, cleared the tables, and prepared the dance floor by removing the tables and chairs after dinner. The students worked very hard, and were told that the process has never run so smoothly. They felt that the experience was very rewarding.

“CARTRIDGES FOR KIDS” – Thank you for all of the cartridge and cell phone donations made to Cartridges for Kids this year. We were able to package and send off many boxes in return for money for our school. We will continue to collect again next year and would be happy to pick up any donations over the summer. Thanks again, Luke, John and Grace Ryan (781) 925-9541

COMMUNITY INTEREST

The Museum of Science has just received new funding from **Microsoft** to establish the **Microsoft Young Innovators Scholarship Fund**. Beginning with the Museum's summer program, this generous financial support provides course scholarships to students with a passion for science and technology. **Do you know a student who might qualify for this program?** With more than 80 hands-on, interactive courses, the Museum lets students in grades 1 - 10 dive into marine biology, tinker with robots, matriculate to mini-med school, and much more. The Microsoft Young Innovators Scholarship Fund is a need-based scholarship opportunity, targeting children and youth who would otherwise lack the resources to participate in the Museum's summer program. Please encourage your interested students to apply. Scholarship aid is available for 75 - 90% of tuition. (Families are asked to contribute the balance — although exceptions may be made for cases of extreme need.)

Summer Courses: July 5 - August 24, 2007

Morning, afternoon, and full-day weekly programs are available as well as extended-day and early-arrival programs.

For more information, contact Courses Scholarships: courses@mos.org, 617-589-0300, 617-589-0308 (fax).

[Learn more about Museum courses, and download an application online.](#)

WEEKLY UPDATES ARE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SSCPS.ORG

**SOUTH SHORE
CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Night at the
Brockton Rox!**

Take me out to the ball game!



Please join us on July 27, 2007.
The game starts at 7:00.

Don't miss the fireworks.

Tickets are \$5.00 per person

Contact Kerry Griffin @ 781878-3762