

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

UPDATE

September 13, 2006 Vol. 9, Issue 2

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Monday's *Wall Street Journal* told its readers, "Make sure students learn the basics." That is the basics of math. A new report from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics out today is reversing its stand on what students should be learning in math classes. With US students lagging in 15th place in the world in math testing the Council looked at who was ahead of the United States...mostly Asian countries. And at the top of the heap is Singapore. The Council, representing over 100,000 math teachers across the country feel that US students need to have the basic skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division firmly in place by 5th grade.

Why would I mention this? Those of you who have been with SSCPS for a few years know that we underwent a major conversion in our math curriculum in 2005-2006. We adopted the Singapore Math program for our entire math curriculum. While it is still early to see much in the way of data regarding the Singapore Math instruction, it is important to know that students who before struggled mightily with math are beginning to see the patterns necessary to perform more advanced math computations. This can be attributed to Singapore.

As we begin our new school year, we can take a sense of confidence as we move ahead with our curriculum review process. We have a staff that is looking ahead for the best and most promising ways to teach and learn. While we saw the need to move in this direction with math instruction the rest of the math establishment has come up behind us. Tom Gorsuch, our mathematician, turned principal encouraged us to move in this direction, thank you Dr. G.

Mike Munhall

Thursday	9/14	Level 1 and High School Parent Night	6:00- 7:30pm
Friday	9/15	Sally Foster Sale begins	
Sunday	9/17	Marine Biology hosts Car Wash at Firestone Rt. 53 Hingham	11:00am-2:00pm
Tuesday	9/19	Professional Development Early Release Day	12:00 NOON
Wednesday	9/20	SEPAC	8:30am
Thursday	9/21	1 st Soccer game of season at Codman Academy	5:00pm
Thursday	9/21	Board of Trustees	7:00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WALK-A-THON! The Parents Association is hosting a school wide community based walk-a-thon with proceeds going to the further development of the School. Look for information and sponsor forms in backpacks this week. Any questions, call Denise Demaggio at 781-826-5632.

AFTERNOON CHILDCARE-The South Shore YMCA is providing afternoon daycare in our facility for students in grades K through 6. Currently, there are spots available. The after school program features homework time, gross motor activities, arts & crafts activities, developmentally appropriate educational activities, healthy snacks, and team building activities. If you are interested in the program, please call Steve Litcoff at 781-829-8585 x262 or via email steven@ssymca.org.

LUNCH ORDERS

Enclosed please find the Menu and Lunch Order Form for the month of September. This is due to the office by 3:00pm on Thursday, September 14, 2006. Thank you.

FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

- **SOCCER** – The 1st game of the season will be on Thursday, September 21st with Codman Academy at the Roxbury YMCA beginning at 5pm. (Please note: the September 18th home game will be rescheduled to a later date in October).
- **ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL** is scheduled for September 30th rain or shine from 11-2 at the school. Proceeds from this event will benefit the School's sports teams.
- **GOLF** registration will begin on Thursday for a 5 week course at Ridder CC. See Will Glennon for details.

ON THE LEVELS

SAYING OF THE WEEK:

Level 1: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."

Level 2: "Beauty is only skin deep."

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION:

On Monday the high school students and faculty met on the Village Green to view a screening of United 93 in commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the September 11th attacks. They went to their workshops immediately following the film's end for a discussion.

New England Association of College Admissions Counselor's (NEACAC) and UMass Dartmouth are hosting a College Fair on Sunday, Sept 17, 2006 from 2:00-4:30pm at the Tripp Athletic Center at UMass-Dartmouth. . A list of participating colleges can be found at www.explore.umassd.edu

PSAT mailing was sent to all parents and guardians of sophomores and juniors from Summit Educational Group. Summit has worked with the SSCPS for the past three years on PSAT and SAT prep. Summit will assist Mary Carter, Guidance Counselor with the PSAT information night. Any questions please call Mary Carter at x306 or email mcarter@sscps.org

PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

Thank you, to everyone who attended last Tuesday's Parents Association meeting. At the meeting, the parents voted and approved to allow unapproved draft meeting minutes to be available online. The meeting minutes can be viewed at the PA's website: www.sscpspa.org. Monthly meeting minutes are always approved and/or amended at the following month's meeting. David Whitemyer

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Full Time Development Director
Part Time Level I Teachers Aide
Part Time Level III Teachers Aide
Part Time Learning Services Teachers Aide
Part Time Speech/Debate Coach
High School & Middle School Boys & Girls Basketball Coaches
On-Call Substitute Teachers
On-Call Substitute Teacher Aides
On-Call Substitute Nurse

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

COMMUNITY INTEREST

AFTER SCHOOL LATIN CLASSES – John McVarish is offering a fee based after school Latin class. For more information please contact John at 339-788-0156.

GIRL SCOUTS There will be a Parent Information Meeting on girl scouts at the school on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A few of the leaders will be at a table set up in the Level 1

hallway area. This will be an information meeting for any parents who have already signed up their children or new parents wanting some more information and availability of space still left in the troops. If you need more information and are not able to come talk with us at this time, please contact either Michelle Amicangelo at (781) 878-7710 at home or cell (781) 799-8098 or by e-mail at michelleamicangelo@verizon.net or Stacy Rousseau at home at (781) 961-4071 at home or cell (781) 727-9784 or by e-mail at SLARLOCK@hotmail.com.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

COAST SWEEP - There will be a community service opportunity on September 23rd at 9:00 a.m. We will be meeting at Nantasket Beach in Hull and participating in Coast Sweep. Coast Sweep is a state wide beach cleanup sponsored by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management. We will be cleaning the beach and cataloging our trash finds for this organization. They supply the trash bags, gloves, pencils and forms, we supply the volunteers. They will notify us of the exact location on Nantasket Beach after their first clean up on the 16th, so stay tuned for information on exactly where we will all be meeting.

NORWELL COUNCIL ON AGING - Willing students, ages middle school and up, who would like to add their names to a job listing for the Norwell Council on Aging should contact me to put their names on this list. This list will be used by elderly citizens of Norwell who need someone to help them with jobs that they can no longer do themselves, such as garden clean-ups or snow shoveling. This is a very meaningful way to perform your community service hours. To add your name to this list, call Katherine Kardok at 781-659-7540 or email me at kardoks@juno.com.

EYEGLASS COLLECTION – Level 2 student, Maris, is collecting eyeglasses to donate to the Hull Lions Club’s Recycle for Sight Program. Bring used eyeglasses. There will be a box for the glasses in the lobby for the next 4 weeks. Thank you!

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

Lunch Menu – September, 2006

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
18 Ham, Salami & Provolone Cheese With lettuce, tomato, pickle and oil	19 Early Release NO LUNCH	20 B L T Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato with mayonnaise	21 Cheese Pizza	22 Tuna Salad With lettuce and tomato
25 Ham With American cheese and mustard	26 Cheese Pizza	27 Turkey and American Cheese With lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise	28 Cheese Pizza	29 PB&J Lunch -or- Greek Salad With Greek dressing and pita bread

Whole milk, chocolate milk, strawberry milk or orange juice is included with the purchase of lunch or may be purchased for 25 cents. If your child has forgotten a lunch, a Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich and Milk will be provided at the cost of \$2.00. A note from the office will go home that week for reimbursement.

Lunch Order Form
 Lunch for the Month of September, 2006
Due to the office by 3:00 pm, Thursday, September 14, 2006

Student Name _____

Pod Teacher/Advisor _____ Grade _____

Please **CHECK** off the day lunch will be ordered and **CIRCLE** your selection.

Week of 9/18 – 9/22	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday Sub ½ sub Wheat	Early Release No Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Pizza # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Sub ½ sub Wheat
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Week of 9/25 – 9/29	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Pizza # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Pizza # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday PB&J Lunch - or - Salad
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Number of Subs/Wheat ordered	_____	X	\$5.00
Number of ½ subs ordered	_____	X	\$3.00
Number of Pizza Slices ordered	_____	X	\$1.50
Number of Salads/PB&J Lunches ordered	_____	X	\$3.00
<i>Less credit due</i>			_____
Total Amount Enclosed			\$ _____

Cash or Checks may be made out to SSCPS.

Choice of whole milk, chocolate milk, strawberry milk or orange juice is included with the purchase of a meal or can be purchased separately for 25 cents.

Please note: If your child has forgotten lunch, a lunch of Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich and Milk will be provided at the cost of \$2.00. A note from the office will go home that afternoon for reimbursement.

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

Eastern Equine Encephalitis

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), 305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

What is Eastern Equine Encephalitis?

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) is a rare but serious disease caused by a virus. The virus infects birds that live in freshwater swamps and is spread from bird to bird by infected mosquitoes. If a mosquito infected with the virus bites a horse or human, the animal or person can become sick. The risk of getting EEE is highest from late July through September.

What are the symptoms of EEE?

The first symptoms of EEE are high fever (103° to 106°F), stiff neck, headache, and lack of energy. These symptoms show up three to ten days after someone is bitten by an infected mosquito. Inflammation and swelling of the brain, called encephalitis, is the most dangerous symptom. The disease gets worse quickly and some patients may go into a coma within a week.

What is the treatment for EEE?

There is no cure for EEE, and three of every ten people who get the disease die from it. All doctors can do is lower the fever and ease the pressure on the brain. Some people who survive this disease will be permanently disabled. Few people recover completely.

How is EEE spread?

The virus that causes EEE is spread only by mosquitoes. People and horses with EEE do not spread the disease.

How common is EEE in Massachusetts?

EEE is very rare. Since it was first described in 1938, through 2005, 84 cases have been reported in Massachusetts. Fifty one of the cases occurred during outbreaks in 1938-39 and 1955-56. Over half of the cases have been from Plymouth or Norfolk counties in southeastern Massachusetts. Rare cases have occurred outside of eastern Massachusetts.

What can you do to protect yourself from EEE?

There is an EEE vaccine for horses, but not for people. The best way to protect yourself is to keep mosquitoes from biting you. Follow these steps every summer to reduce your risk of being bitten by mosquitoes, particularly if you live near natural wetlands.

- If you must be outdoors at dusk or dawn, when mosquitoes that carry EEE are most active, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. Take special care to cover up the arms and legs of children playing outdoors.
- Repair any holes in your screens and make sure they are tightly attached to all your doors and windows.
- Use a repellent containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide) or Picaridin (KBR 3023). Oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-menthane 3,8-diol (PMD)] has been found to provide protection similar to repellents with low concentrations of DEET. In addition, products that contain permethrin are recommended for use only on clothing, shoes, bed nets, and camping gear. Note that the label for products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus specifies that they should not be used on children under the age of three years. Also, the American Academy of Pediatrics does not recommend any repellent use on children younger than two months of age.

The following precautions are recommended when using insect repellents:

- Always apply repellents according to the instructions on the product label.
- Apply repellents only to exposed skin and/or clothing as indicated on the label. Do not use repellents under clothing.
- Never use repellents over cuts, wounds or irritated skin.
- Do not apply repellents to the eyes or mouth, and apply them sparingly around the ears. When using repellent sprays, do not spray directly on the face—spray the product on your hands first and then apply it to the face.
- Do not allow children to handle the product. When using repellents on children, apply to your hands first and then put it on the child. You should not apply repellent to children’s hands.
- Use just enough repellent to cover exposed skin and/or clothing. Heavy application and saturation are generally unnecessary for effectiveness. If biting insects do not respond to a thin film of repellent, then apply a bit more.
- After returning indoors, wash treated skin with soap and water. Also, wash treated clothing before wearing it again.
- If you or your child get a rash or other bad reaction from an insect repellent, stop using the repellent, wash the repellent off with mild soap and water, and call a local poison control center for further guidance. If you go to a doctor because of the repellent, take the repellent with you to show the doctor.

What can you do to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and neighborhood?

To reduce mosquito populations around your home and neighborhood, get rid of any standing water that is available for mosquito breeding. Mosquitoes will begin to breed in any puddle or standing water that lasts for more than four days. Here are some simple steps you can take:

- Dispose of or regularly empty any metal cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, and other water holding containers (including trash cans) on your property.
- Pay special attention to discarded tires that may have collected on your property. Stagnant water in tires is a common place for mosquitoes to breed.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outdoors, so that water can drain out.
- Clean clogged roof gutters; remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of rainwater.
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Do not allow water to stagnate in birdbaths; aerate ornamental ponds or stock them with fish.
- Keep swimming pools clean and properly chlorinated; remove standing water from pool covers.
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.

What does the state do to protect people from EEE?

Massachusetts developed a Surveillance and Response Plan that coordinates efforts of local officials and state agencies to reduce the risk of EEE. The plan involves checking for the virus in mosquitoes, reducing the number of mosquitoes in the environment, and educating people on ways to avoid mosquito bites. Every year from May until the first hard frost, the MDPH and local mosquito control projects collect mosquitoes from various locations around the state and send them to the State Laboratory for testing. If the virus that causes EEE is found in mosquitoes, MDPH will tell local boards of health and mosquito control projects and ask them to increase their education and mosquito control activities. MDPH provides educational materials for physicians, veterinarians, local public health officials, and the public along with updates on EEE activity in mosquitoes, horses and humans online.

For more information:

- For general questions about EEE: MDPH, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at 617-983-6800 or toll free at 1-888-658-2850 or online at www.mass.gov/dph/wnv/wnv1.htm. You may also contact your local board of health (listed in the telephone directory under “government”)
- For questions about health effects of pesticides: MDPH, Center for Environmental Health at (617) 624-5757
- For general information about mosquito control: visit the following webpage www.mass.gov/agr/mosquito/index.htm or contact the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board within the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources at (617) 626-1777.
- For questions about mosquito control in your city or town: Contact your local board of health (listed in the telephone directory under “government”)