

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

UPDATE

February 13, 2008 Vol. 2, Issue 2



BROADWAY BOUND? WE HOPE NOT . .

Congratulations to Kassandra Grant, Level I teacher, for a terrific performance in Bay Colony Productions' stage adaptation of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*! Last Thursday, Kassandra's entire pod traveled to the Orpheum Theatre in Foxboro to watch their beloved teacher perform in several different roles. As you can see in the picture, the children were enchanted by their talented teacher. Kudos to Kassandra and special thanks to our parent chaperones. Thursday was a very special day.

UPDATE ON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH . . .

On Tuesday, February 26th there will be two parent forums: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The purpose of these two forums is to provide parents with the opportunity to meet with members of the Executive Director Search Committee and discuss the personal strengths and leadership qualities that they are looking for in the next Executive Director. In addition to these meetings, there will be a Executive Director Leadership survey attachment in the February 27th Weekly Update for parents to complete and turn in to the front desk by Monday, March 3rd. This week, there is a faculty/staff focus group meeting and there will be a student focus group as well after the vacation. SSCPS is a very special place and for it to continue to succeed, especially during a tight economy, it is essential that the next Executive Director be the right "fit" for the school.

A note from the Hayes family . . .

Thank you to the students, families and staff at the South Shore Charter School.

When the school opened its doors in 1995, it was the start of many wonderful friendships for our entire family. We are extremely thankful to the community that is the South Shore Charter School for your continuing support and generosity. Since our daughter Alison's diagnosis of Cancer in February of 2004 the SSCPS community has touched our lives in numerous ways. Alison lost her courageous battle on December 9, 2007. Our lives are changed forever. Somehow, being surrounded by people that are a part of many happy memories created and shared together gives us strength to move forward. God Bless You. With great appreciation, Cathe, Doug, Carly and Hannah Hayes

Important dates to put on your calendar:

Thursday, April 3: Gourmet Dinner and Fundraiser at **53 South** – back by popular demand!

From all accounts, last year's multi-course meal was divine! 53 South is owned by an SSCPS family, the Bowker-Kellys, and the proceeds (after subtracting the preparation costs) will support the Foundation and the school's operating budget. More information to follow after the break.

Thursday, May 8: **Second Annual SSCPS Student Walk-A-Thon.**

Building upon last year's successful Walk-A-Thon, our parent organizers have decided to expand their horizons and include a nature walk as part of the Walk-A-Thon. On May 8th, students will travel to Great Esker Park in Weymouth and choose to walk from one of four short hiking trails. Joanne Keegan, Level II parent, is coordinating the Walk-A-Thon, a fundraiser for the school. Look for more details and information in the March Updates.

Also included in this UPDATE is information provided by the Safety and Security Team addressing Internet Safety. We know that during the upcoming vacation many of our students will be using the internet and this letter is intended to provide helpful tips for parents and students. These tips will be posted on the SSCPS website for the remainder of the school year.

Happy Valentine's Day and February Break!

Prue Goodale

Little Time: "Everybody today seems to be in such a terrible rush; anxious for greater developments and greater wishes and so on; so that children have very little time for their parents; Parents have very little time for each other; and at home begins the disruption of the peace of the world."
--Mother Teresa

Friday	2/15	SEPAC	8:30am
Friday	2/15	Daffodil Days order due	
Mon-Fri	2/18-2/22	Winter Break	
Monday	2/25	Classes Resume	8:15am
Monday	2/25	Level I Exhibition of Mastery Week	
Thursday	2/28	Finance Committee	6:00pm
Thursday	2/28	Board of Trustees	7:00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUPPORT THE AMERICAN CANER SOCIETY! This week is the last week to place an order for daffodils to benefit the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days campaign. ORders are due on Friday, February 15th. FLOWers will be delivered in early March. Please contact Angie Pepin at ext. 305 with any questions.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the fantastic participants in the Annual SSCPS Talent Show on January 31st! It was a spectacular show of wonderful talent. The choice was difficult but congratulations go to:

- 1st Place: Megan Bateman
- 2nd Place: Julia Griffin
- 3rd Place: Van & Nella Harting

Thanks to everyone for a great, entertaining show!

SEEKING HIGH SCHOOL SAILORS FOR SPRING SEASON. Sail Nantasket, a non- profit sailing organization, is focused on starting a joint sailing team between South Shore Charter and Hull Public schools this spring. Anyone who is interested in participating and can already sail should contact Andrew Tyler (atyler33@comcast.net), Kathy Arthur-Tyler (ktyler32@comcast.net) and Nick Sisson. Committed sailors are needed to make this happen. There will be courses at Hull Yacht Club this summer (for students who want to learn to sail).

LUNCH ORDERS

Enclosed is the order form for the remainder of February which is due Thursday, February 14th by 3pm. Also enclosed is the March Order Form and Menu. March orders are due Thursday, February 28th by 3pm.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

The high school students and level II will be participating in the Pennies for Patients program. This program raises money to support research and patient programs for those affected by leukemia and lymphoma. Our program will raise money in honor of Alison Hayes. The campaign will run for three weeks from March 3rd thru March 21st. The class which collects the most pennies/ money will be rewarded with a pizza party. Please support and encourage your children to participate in this fundraising effort.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Thanks to Pam and Kathy for all of their tireless efforts on the enrollment lottery. It is a tremendous amount of work hunting down "intent to continue" forms, and recording the new applicants. We are all thankful for the dedication they have to this process.

News from the Debate Team; Ryan Brenner and Nick Sisson won two of their four rounds at Saturday's competition in Shrewsbury. Adriana Perry and Kelly Barber (a novice) won one of their rounds. This was an all day event; the group left SSCPS at 6:15 AM and returned at 9:00 PM. Tara says "the team just keeps getting better". She is proud of their accomplishments, and we are thankful for her efforts.

The South Shore Natural Science Center has asked me to inform you all of an event for adults that they have coming up. It's a Trivia Tournament on February 29th at the Science Center. Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit and expand their educational programs. If you have any questions, please call Judy at 781-659-2559, ext 203. It does sound like a fun evening.

Thanks to Lisa Cooper for organizing the professional development activity on Tuesday. The information Bob Ross supplied on the implications for teaching and learning for students with learning disabilities and are on the Autism spectrum was most helpful.

Thanks to Beth Toma, Sandra Somerville, Claire Overlee, Tania Phillips, Joan Manchester, and Ted Cheney for their work on the search committee for the new Learning Services Director. We were able to complete our task and put two names forward to the Prue Goodale for consideration. The finalists will be interviewed on Thursday, February 14 and we hope to have a decision before vacation.

Level 4 Science Fair ongoing this week. Thanks to the students for their diligence in preparing for this and thanks to all who have volunteered to judge!

NEXT WEEK Vacation! Everyone enjoy!

Dr. Tom Gorsuch

ON THE LEVELS

SAYING OF THE WEEK:

Level I: "A dog is a man's best friend."

Level II: "When it rains it pours."

LEVEL I CLOTHING DRIVE – June's Pod is having a clothing drive. It is January 9th – February 14th. We need hats, gloves, mittens, boots, snow pants, scarves and coats. The box will be in Level 1 next to the stage. Thank you, Matt Freitas & Harrison Carter, Project Journalists.

LEVEL II NEWS:

Level 2 is looking for families to donate healthy snacks. Often students forget their lunches or snacks at home and don't have much to eat. While we do have some extra snacks on hand, donations of extra snacks would be very helpful. Donations can be given to Kendra or the child's pod teacher.

Community Service reminder...several students have started some excellent community service projects. We applaud their great efforts and want to remind all students to continue working toward completing their 10 acts of community service.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes from last Tuesday's PA meeting are now available on the PA website: <http://www.sscpspa.org>. The next meeting will be March 4. Enjoy school vacation week.

LOOKING AHEAD: The SSCPS Parents Association is looking for volunteers to serve on 2008-2009 PA. All PA positions are open to volunteers: officers, committee chairs, and grade representatives. Of great need are volunteers for the following

3 slots: PA Chair, PA Secretary, and Fundraising Committee Chair. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the positions, please get in touch with David Whitemyer (dwhitemyer@rcn.com), or contact the current volunteer of a position about which you're curious (see the PA website for a complete list).

Serving on the PA is a terrific way to be involved in your child's education and to help the school. Please step up.

TOUCH A TRUCK FUNDRAISER

Our first Touch-A-Truck fundraiser will be held on Sunday, May 18th, 2008 at the Abington town office park from 10:00 – 2:00. We are looking for people who have or known businesses that have trucks to use that day. The trucks/equipment must be clean and accompanied by a driver for the entire time. Trucks must show up between the hours of 8:00 to 9:00 am the day of the event and cannot leave until 2:30 pm for safety precautions. Some examples of trucks/cars would be a police car/motorcycle, fire engine, ambulance, cherry picker, dump truck, mail truck, back hoe, skip truck, garbage truck, 18 wheeler –cab only, steam roller, and many others. We are also looking for volunteers the day of the event to help position trucks, direct traffic, take tickets, etc. More details will be forthcoming in future updates and flyers. Coordinators are needed as well to help plan this event. If you know someone willing to donate their truck and time please contact Kirsten Mullen at kirstenmullen19@hotmail.com or call 781-982-4094.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Full Time Director of Learning Services - Start date July 1, 2008

Responsible for overseeing Sped, Title I, ELL and Academic Support Services.

Cover letter, resumes and three references due by January 29, 2008.

Learning Services Teacher's Aide 88% FTE 35 hours per week

On-Call Substitute Teachers

On-Call Substitute Teacher Aides

Email cover letter, resume and list of references to Kristine Shipps, Business Manager, kshipps@sscps.org

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE is holding a work day on Thursday, February 28th from 3-4pm. This is open to students of all ages. You **MUST** register your child by Monday, February 25th so that we can be sure to have enough adult supervision. Please email Bev Bruce at bbruce@sscps.org or sign up on the form that is hanging outside of the library. ***Please note*** All students must be picked up **at the library** (which is located across from Andre's music room) promptly at 4pm. Children in the after school program that participate will be escorted back to the after school program at 4pm. If you have any questions, contact Melissa Freitas at 781-337-9724.

"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

CHOO-CHOO TRANS – Livery service currently transporting students to and from SSCPS to the Plymouth area has seats available. For more information or a quote for transportation, visit www.choochootrans.com or email choochootrans@gmail.com.

ABITIBI PAPER RETRIEVER RECYCLING

This is an easy way for you to recycle your paper every week and help us raise money for projects/workshops.

What Can Be Placed in the Retriever Bin?

Newspapers, Magazines, Office Paper, School Paper, Catalogs, Mail, Paperback books, Shredded Paper (must be in clear plastic bag & tied with holes poked into it)

Please Do Not Place these items in the Retriever Bin:

Plastic, Glass, Metals, Trash, Cardboard, Phonebooks

The **UPDATE** is published on a weekly basis and is distributed on Wednesdays through email to the entire community and is posted on our website at www.sscps.org. If your family would like to receive a paper copy please email a request to palgera@sscps.org or contact Kathy at 781-982-4202 ext. 100.

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Internet Safety and Cyberbullying

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Safe use of the internet has become a real concern for families and school personnel. It is well publicized that predators use the 'net' as a tool. Children are by nature innocent and trusting. These wonderful qualities also make them vulnerable, so adults need to help them protect themselves, make good decisions, and use the net safely.

Kids have for years used "Instant Messaging" as a primary tool. Now open "chat lines" like MySpace are popular. These multi-user cyberspaces allow individuals to communicate with others regardless of their age, situation, or location. Unfortunately the varieties of misrepresentations of motive and circumstance are endless and so too the dangers. Adults can represent themselves as peers or in various other ways misrepresent and manipulate children and teens.

Peers can also use the internet improperly. You have probably heard about harassment via email or in chat rooms, tampering with the personal information of others on line, and various kinds of fraud and misrepresentation. Cyberbullying is emerging as one of the more challenging issues facing educators and parents as young people embrace the Internet and other mobile communication technologies.

Cyberthreats are a related concern. A cyberthreat is online material that threatens or raises concerns about violence against others, suicide, or other self-harm. There are two kinds: Direct threats are actual threats to hurt someone or commit suicide. Distressing material provides clues that the person is emotionally upset and may be considering hurting someone, hurting him or herself or committing suicide.

To help you immediately, we have included here a list of internet safety tips from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Office of the Plymouth Country District Attorney:

INTERNET SAFETY TIPS

- Clear, simple, easy-to-read house rules should be posted on or near the monitor. Create your own computer rules or print the Internet safety pledge that can be found on the NetSmartz.org website. We recommend that the pledge can be signed by adults and children and that you review it periodically.
- Look into safeguarding programs or options your online service provider might offer. These may include monitoring or filtering capabilities.
- Always read a web site's privacy policy before giving any personal

information. Also make sure that a web site offers a secure connection before giving credit-card information.

- Web sites for children are not permitted to request personal information without a parent's permission. Talk to children about what personal information is and why you should never give it to people online.
- If children use chat or E-mail, talk to them about never meeting in person with anyone they first "met" online.
- Talk to children about not responding to offensive or dangerous E-mail, chat, or other communications. Report any such communication to local law enforcement. Do not delete the offensive or dangerous E-mail; turn off the monitor, and contact local law enforcement.
- Keep the computer in the family room or another open area of your home.
- Get informed about computers and the Internet. Visit the resources section to find additional information on Internet safety.
- Let children show you what they can do online and visit their favorite sites.
- Have children use child-friendly search engines when completing homework.
- Know who children are exchanging E-mail with, and only let them use chat areas when you can supervise. NetSmartz recommends limiting chatroom access to child-friendly chat sites
- Be aware of any other computers your child may be using.
- Internet accounts should be in the parent's name with parents having the primary screenname, controlling passwords, and using blocking and/or filtering devices.
- Children should not complete a profile for a service provider and children's screennames should be nondescript so as not to identify that the user is a child.
- Talk to children about what to do if they see something that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. Show them how to turn off the monitor and emphasize that it's not their fault if they see something upsetting. Remind children to tell a trusted adult if they see something that bothers them online.
- Consider using filtering or monitoring software for your computer. Filtering products that use whitelisting, which only allows a child access to a preapproved list of sites, are recommended for children in this age group. NetSmartz does not advocate using filters only; education is a key part of prevention.

• If you suspect online "stalking" or sexual exploitation of a child, report it to your local law-enforcement agency. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) has a system for identifying online predators and child pornographers and contributing to law-enforcement investigations. It's called the CyberTipline®. Leads forwarded to the site will be acknowledged and shared with the appropriate law-enforcement agency for investigation.

Signs that your child may be at risk

- Your child spends large amounts of time online, especially at night.
- You find pornography on your child's computer
- Your child turns the computer off quickly or changes the screen on the monitor when you come into the room.
- Your child receives mail, gifts, packages, or phone calls from people that you do not know, or your child is making phone calls, sometimes long distance, to numbers that you do not recognize.
- Your child is using an online account that belongs to someone else.
- Your child becomes withdrawn from the family.

In addition to netsmartz.org, another helpful website is cyberbully.org maintained by The Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use.

We have also been working with Plymouth County District Attorney's Office on matters pertaining to safety and security. Please contact us if you have any questions relating to internet safety and the wise use of the internet.

Sincerely,

Alicia Scafidi
Safety and Security Team

Lunch Menu – March, 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 <i>Turkey</i> With American cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise	4 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	5 <i>Ham and Salami</i> With Provolone Cheese lettuce, tomato, pickle and oil	6 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	7 <i>Tuna Salad</i> With lettuce and tomato
10 <i>Roast Beef</i> With American cheese and mustard	11 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	12 <i>BLT</i> Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato with mayonnaise	13 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	14 NO SCHOOL
17 <i>Ham</i> With American cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle and oil	18 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	19 <i>Chicken Salad</i> With lettuce and tomato	20 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	21 <i>Greek Salad</i> With Greek dressing and pita bread
24 <i>Italian Cold Cuts</i> With Provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle and oil	25 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	26 <i>Turkey</i> With American cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise	27 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	28 <i>Tuna Salad</i> With lettuce and tomato
31 <i>BLT</i> Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato with mayonnaise	4/1 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	4/2 <i>Roast Beef</i> With American cheese and mustard	4/3 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	4/4 <i>Tossed Salad</i> With Italian dressing and pita bread

2 % 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 March, 2008

Due to the office by 3:00 pm, Thursday, February 28, 2008

Student Name _____

Pod Teacher/Advisor _____ Grade _____

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

Week of 3/3 – 3/7	<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 Sub ½ sub Wheat
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Week of 3/10 – 3/14	<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 No School
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Week of 3/17 – 3/21	<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 Salad
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Week of 3/24 – 3/28	<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 Sub ½ sub Wheat
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Week of 3/31 – 4/4	<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 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 ordered	_____	X	\$3.00

Less credit due _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$_____

Cash or Checks may be made out to SSCPS.

Choice of 2% 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.

Lunch Order Form

Lunch for the Month of February, 2008

Due to the office by 3:00 pm, Thursday, February 14, 2008

Student Name _____

Pod Teacher/Advisor _____ Grade _____

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

Week of Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

2/18 – 2/22

----- V A C A T I O N -----

Week of Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

2/25 – 2/29

Sub	Pizza	Sub	Pizza	Salad
½ sub	# _____	½ sub	# _____	
Wheat		Wheat		

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 ordered	_____	X	\$3.00

Less credit due

Total Amount Enclosed

\$ _____

Cash or Checks may be made out to SSCPS.

Choice of 2% 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.