## SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL UPDATE

November 14, 2007 Vol. 11, Issue 2

Thursday	11/15	SEPAC Workshop	7:00pm
Thursday	11/15	Finance Committee	6:00pm
Thursday	11/15	Board of Trustees	7:00pm
Friday	11/16	SEPAC	8:30am
Monday	11/19	<b>Education Committee</b>	3:30pm
Wednesday	11/21	Early Release	12:00pm
Thurs-Fri	11/22-23	Thanksgiving - No School	
Monday	11/26	Classes Resume	8:15am
Tuesday	11/27	<b>Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying Parent Information Night</b>	7-8:30pm
Wednesday	11/28	Level 2 Parent Coffee	8:30am

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONLINE AUCTION IS AVAILABLE – VISIT <u>WWW.SSCPS.ORG</u> AND CLICK ON THE ONLINE AUCTION LINK UNDER EVENTS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO BID ON ITEMS.

PICK UP / DROP OFF BUS SAFETY - One of the bus companies called the school to report that on several occasions when the bus is in front of the building either loading or unloading students, parents have been driving past the bus to park in front of it as it is loading or unloading students. As you all know, you cannot pass a school bus when it is loading or unloading students. The bus company will begin to take down license plate #'s of the vehicles that are doing this and report vehicle info to the police. Please drive safe and remember that when a school bus is stopped and loading and unloading students, you cannot pass it.

#### **TITLE 1 PARENT PROGRAM**

To: Parents of Title 1 students are invited to:

- Meet Title 1 staff
- Learn about Title 1 and SSCPS tutorial programs
- Learn strategies to strengthen your child's reading and math skills

When: Thursday, November 15 @ 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Where: Large Meeting Room (directions will be given at front desk)

\*Childcare provided. Please call Tania Phillips at 781-982-4202, extension 204 to reserve childcare space.

#### **UPCOMING EVENT...**

#### PRESENTATION AND SURVEY ON BULLYING FOR SSCPS FAMILIES

Dr. Elizabeth Englander, a professor of Psychology at Bridgewater State College, is the founder and director of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) <a href="http://www.bridgew.edu/MARC/">http://www.bridgew.edu/MARC/</a>. As part of a SSCPS comprehensive K-12 anti-bullying program, she will be speaking to parents on **December 11th at 9am** to raise awareness, and to provide support and education about bullying and cyber bullying.

The presentation will last about 1 1\2 hours and will be held in the Music Room. Please enter through the front doors and sign it at the front desk. Please look for parking at the school. If you cannot find a space, please park closest to the school next door at the Weichert Realty lot.

Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey about your perceptions of and experiences with bullying at SSCPS. Your responses will help the school to continue to develop programs and strategies that contribute to a safe and respectful learning environment. Your answers will be kept anonymous.

You can access the survey at the link below:

http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB22738DQ6DB7

Please complete the survey by December 4, 2007.

If you need assistance, or don't have Internet access, Alicia Radl will be available to help families complete the survey. Please contact her at 781-982-4202 ext 206 or aradl@sscps.org to make an appointment.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey!

#### **HEALTH OFFICE**

There is one case of confirmed Pertussis (Whooping Cough) on Level III. Please see Pertussis Fact Sheet and notify the health office if your child develops any of the symptoms associated with this disease.

#### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The High School Speech and Debate team had their second competition this past Saturday in Natick. There were roughly 300 competitors constituting over 20 teams of Public Forum. The topic was "The US Government should prioritize decreased budget deficit over increased domestic spending". Our students did very well, winning two rounds. Thanks to Tara Turner for all of her dedication helping the students prepare for this. What an education they are getting on governmental issues!

Thanks to Tania Phillips, Bev Bruce, Claudia Darrow and Jody Regan for orchestrating and presenting a Title I Informational session to parents Tuesday morning. 10 parents were in attendance, and the areas discussed were Title I Tutorial Programs (Lexia, S.P.I.R.E., Singapore math, and Soliloquy), and strategies to help parents assist their children in the learning process. The second part of this presentation will take place this Thursday, November 15, at 3:30pm in the conference room by Paul's office.

Thanks to all the parents who came to the Level 3 coffee this morning. It was great to get their input. The next coffee will be for Level 2 parents on Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.

K-8 first trimester ends next Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. The reports will go home with the students on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Parent – Teacher Conferences for grades K-8 will be held from 1-4 PM on Wednesday, December 5. This is an early dismissal day for students.

Students will be released for the Thanksgiving weekend on Wednesday, 11/21 at 12:00.

High school and middle school basketball practice began this week. Please contact Will Glennon, Athletic Director, with any questions. The season will open for the high school the first week of December.

Dr. Tom Gorsuch

#### SCHOOL COUNCIL

#### Keeping Our Children Safe - Learn About Internet Use and Safety

Attorney Mary Lee of the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office will make a presentation to the SSCPS parents and guardians on **November 27**<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. about Internet Use and Safety. Attorney Lee's presentation is intended to supplement MARC's anti-bullying presentation scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup> and will not duplicate information! Many of our children have a false sense of security on the Internet so please join Attorney Lee to learn about:

- types of technology;
- anonymity, frauds, scams and privacy issues;

- typical internet activities by children, including MySpace, YouTube, blogging and cheating;
- Internet safety tips for children;
- criminal law and real life consequences for certain on-line activities such as threats; and
- what to do and who to contact if your child has a problem on the Internet.

If you have any questions about this presentation, please direct them to <u>J\_SKaplan@yahoo.com</u>. Thank you.

#### FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

#### SKI/SNOWBOARD CLUB:

Ski/Snowboard Club applications are now available for grades 7-12. Please see Will Glennon for more information.

#### **BASKETBALL:**

High School basketball practice will begin the week of November  $12^{th} - 16^{th}$  Middle School basketball practice will begin the week of December  $10^{th} - 14^{th}$ .

#### **ART NEWS**

Our annual fund raiser from **Original Works** which provides each student with the option of purchasing their art on potholders, tiles, books, mugs, etc. is again available this year. Students will be coming home with their art, order forms and information the week of November 5<sup>th</sup>. Order forms, money and art work is due back to the Pod teacher on November13th. If you have any **questions please call Marianne** @ **x304**. Also, if you have someone at home that would like to participate, extra paper can be sent home with your child.

#### **LUNCH ORDERS**

Enclosed is the Menu and Lunch Order Form for the month of November. Orders for November are due Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

#### ON THE LEVELS

#### **SAYING OF THE WEEK:**

Level 1: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

Level 2: "Once in a blue moon."

#### **LEVEL II NEWS!**

The South Shore Publications Project will be selling its first edition of the Fun Book and Comic Book on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Each book will cost \$.25 and proceeds will go to charity.

Grade 3 Roman Plays will be held on Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. All families are welcome to attend our performances. The play starts at 10:45am for parent and guests. We hope you can join us!

#### HOMEWORK CLUB LEVELS II AND III

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester

- Offered November 27<sup>th</sup> through March 6<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 3:00-3:55
- \$3/session; full scholarships available
- Registration forms available at front desk
- Contact Tania Phillips with questions, ext. 204

**LEVEL IV PROJECT LOOKING FOR RECIPES!** One of the Level IV projects is required to create a product, make it and sell it. Bobby Lehrer, Stacey O'Leary, Josh Sanchez, and Adam Thermitus all agreed on making a school cookbook. The last SSCPS cookbook was produced in 2002. It is time for new families of SSCPS to submit their favorite recipes. In order to create our book, we need your recipes! There will be a drop box at the front desk. Please add your first and last name, the name of the recipe and all the details on how to make your recipe. The box will be out until Thanksgiving break. Breakfast, lunch, snack, dinner and dessert recipes will be accepted. We are looking forward to working with your recipes.

Thank you! Stacey, Bobby, Josh and Adam

#### ATTENTION STUDENTS GRADES 7-12 - SPLASH! 2007: ESP'S LARGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR

Splash <u>Student Registration</u> is now available! The Splash Catalog can be viewed @ <a href="http://esp.mit.edu/">http://esp.mit.edu/</a> What is Splash?

One weekend in November, over one thousand high school and middle school students converge on the MIT campus, where MIT students and community members teach them short classes on just about anything you can think of! During Splash, students can "get their feet wet" with a short introduction to any number of subjects — things they always wanted to learn, or topics they never knew existed. Or they can "dive head first" into an in-depth seminar or intensive workshop. They can even do some of both! Splash runs from Saturday, November 17 (starting in the morning) to Sunday, November 18, around 7 PM.

#### PARENTS ASSOCIATION

**PA MEETING NOTES ONLINE**: Draft, unapproved minutes from last Tuesday's Parents Association meeting are available online for downloading and viewing. <a href="http://www.sscpspa.org">http://www.sscpspa.org</a>

**PROPOSED PA BYLAW AMENDMENTS ONLINE**: Proposed amendments to the PA bylaws are available online for downloading and viewing. At the June 2007 Parents Association meeting an ad hoc committee was created and tasked with reviewing the existing bylaws and presenting any recommended amendments at an autumn 2007 PA meeting. Those recommended amendments were presented and explained at the November 6, 2007 PA meeting. In keeping with the adoption clause of the current bylaws, any revisions to the bylaws must be proposed at a regular meeting at least one month prior to a vote being taken, to allow all SSCPS parents and guardians an opportunity to review them. A motion, discussion, and vote will take place at the December 4, 2007 meeting to amend the existing bylaws: http://www.sscpspa.org

BOX TOPS - Please help our school earn extra money by collecting Box Tops for Education. Thank you to all of the families who have already submitted Box Tops this year. Our school has earned over \$100 since September! Box Tops can be found on hundreds of products, from Ziploc baggies and Kleenex tissues to Cheerios and Gogurt. Our school earns 10 cents for every Box Top we collect. The funds raised this year at our school will help develop our library. There is an envelope at the front desk where you can leave your Box Tops. Visit <a href="www.boxtops4education.com">www.boxtops4education.com</a> for more information about Box Tops, as well as recipes, coupons, and special offers. You can also earn money for our school by starting your online shopping at stores like Kohl's, Land's End, Wal-Mart, and more at the Box Tops website. A percentage of your total will be donated to our school. If you have any questions about the program, please feel to contact Bethany Whitemyer at <a href="mailto:bwhitemyer@rcn.com">bwhitemyer@rcn.com</a>. Thank you.

#### **BOOK FAIR UPDATE**

Book Fair order forms are due **Thursday November 15th**. There is an envelope at the front desk as well as in most classrooms. If you need an additional order form or booklet, they are available at the front desk. Any questions - please contact Melissa Freitas at 781-337-9724 or Pamela Hatch at 781-293-1915.

#### **SEPAC COMMITTEE**

SEPAC Committee will be hosting "Basic Rights" Workshop presented by Carolyn Moore on Thursday, November 15th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at SSCPS in the auditorium. The focus of this workshop is for families who may have a student receiving services under Special Education. This was workshop was presented last year and was very successful. If you did not come last year please join us this year. Please RSVP if you would like to come or if you have any questions regarding the workshop to Beth Toma at <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/JTOMA85103@aol.com">JTOMA85103@aol.com</a>.

#### **SEPAC Committee Workshop #2**

The SEPAC Committee will hold their second Workshop on Thursday, December 6, 2007 from 7 pm to 9 pm.. The title of this workshop will be "The Basics of Encouragement" by Ron Larrivee, Director of Special Education at the SSCPS will present this workshop. Please RSVP or if you have any questions to Beth Toma at <a href="mailto:JToma85103@aol.com">JToma85103@aol.com</a>.

#### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Interim Director of Learning Services Part Time (3 to 4 days per week as needed)

Level I Part time 88% (35 hours per week) Teachers Aide

Part Time Girls High School Basketball Coach

**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**

CLOTHES/COAT DRIVE - This is the time of year that we focus more than ever on all that we have to be thankful for, and so it is a good time to think about ways that we can make someone's winter a little easier. We are again having a clothes/winter coat drive for the Norwell Closet. The Closet is located at the Norwell Town Hall, right on Route 123, and it provides almost anything you can imagine to families who are in need. People are able to go there and "shop" for shoes, clothes, prom dresses, baby items, student desks, just about anything. It is a wonderful resource for people who are having a hard spell financially. Last year we were able to provide the Closet with many bags of clothes and winter coats, and they were very grateful to our school. If your child has outgrown some winter items, and they are gently used, please consider donating them to our clothes drive. You can bring in clean, bagged items to the school lobby on Thursday, November 15th when you drop off your child(ren). I will be there to collect the bags and drive them down to the Closet.

Thank you, Katherine Kardok

"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**

#### ABITIBI PAPER RETRIEVER RECYCLING

SSCPS has joined the Abitibi Paper Recycling Program to raise awareness about the importance of recycling, allowing us to help our environment, and to raise money to support all of our K-12 project/workshops.

Did you know that you can recycle newspaper, magazines, shopping catalogs, paperback books, office & school papers and mail: 24 hours/7 days a week at our school? Did you know also that we earn money for paper dropped off at our green and yellow Abitibi Paper Retriever bin located in the front of our building?

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

Over the next few weeks, we will be gearing up to promote this fundraiser with area businesses in the office park. Hopefully, we will be able to generate a lot of interest in recycling and raising more funds for our projects/workshops.

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 <a href="www.sscps.org">www.sscps.org</a>. If your family would like to receive a paper copy please email a request to <a href="palgera@sscps.org">palgera@sscps.org</a> or contact Kathy at 781-982-4202 ext. 100.

## **Lunch Menu – November, 2007**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 Turkey With American cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayo	6 Cheese Pizza	7  Ham and Salami With Provolone Cheese lettuce, tomato, pickle and oil	8 Cheese Pizza	9 NO SCHOOL Prof. Dev. Day
NO SCHOOL Veterans Day	13 Cheese Pizza	Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato with mayonnaise	15 Cheese Pizza	16 Tossed Salad With Italian dressing and pita bread
Ham  With American cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle and oil	20 Cheese Pizza	No Lunch  Early Release	NO SCHOOL  Thanksgiving Day	NO SCHOOL
26 Italian Cold Cuts With Provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle and oil	27 Cheese Pizza	28 Roast Beef With American cheese and mustard	29 Cheese Pizza	30 Tuna Salad With lettuce and tomato

<sup>2 %</sup> 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. For Level 1 a Lunchable and Milk will be provided for the same cost. A note from the office will go home that week for reimbursement.

## Lunch Order Form Lunch for the Month of November, 2007 Due to the office by 3:00 pm, Thursday, November 15, 2007

Student Name					
Pod Teacher/Adviso	or	Grade			
Please <u>CHECK</u> off	the day lunci	h will be orde	red and <u>CIRCLE</u> y	our selection.	
1	Monday   Sub ½ sub Wheat	Pizza	[ ] Wednesday Early Release	NO	NO
1/	Monday   Sub 2 sub Wheat	Tuesday Pizza #		Pizza	
Number of Subs/Wi Number of ½ subs of Number of Pizza SI Number of Salads of	ordered ices ordered		X X X X X	\$5.00 \$3.00 \$1.50 \$3.00	
Less credit of Total Ame	ount Enclo			\$	_ _

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.

# PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

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

## What is pertussis?

Pertussis, also called "whooping cough," is a disease caused by bacteria (germs) that is easily spread from person to person. Pertussis is usually mild in older children and adults, but it often causes serious problems in very young children.

## What are the symptoms of pertussis?

Pertussis symptoms have three stages. The first stage begins like a cold with a runny nose, sneezing and cough. The cough lasts for a week or two then slowly gets worse. The second stage is marked by uncontrolled coughing spells, vomiting after coughing, and sometimes a whooping noise that you can hear when the person breathes in. During severe coughing spells or spasms, a person may stop breathing or become blue in the face from lack of air. Between spells, the person often appears to be well. This stage lasts for about 2 to 6 weeks. The final stage is when the symptoms begin to gradually lessen. The person still may have coughing spells, but is beginning to get better. The duration of classic pertussis is about 6 to 10 weeks. Adults, teens and vaccinated children often have milder symptoms that can be like bronchitis or some other cough illness.

### How is pertussis spread?

The germs that cause pertussis live in the nose, mouth and throat, and are sprayed into the air when an infected person sneezes, coughs or talks. Other people nearby can then breathe in the germs. Touching a tissue or sharing a cup used by someone with pertussis can also spread the disease. The first symptoms appear about 7 to 10 days after a person is exposed. People with pertussis can spread the disease starting up to 2 weeks before until 3 weeks after the cough starts, or until they have finished 5 days of an appropriate antibiotic treatment.

## Who gets pertussis?

In Massachusetts, pertussis is most common among people 10-20 years old who have lost the protection they got from childhood vaccines. Infants are the next group most likely to get the disease since they are often too young to have full protection from the vaccine. However, anyone can catch pertussis and it can be hard to diagnose because symptoms may resemble a cold, followed by a nagging cough that lasts for weeks or months.

## Is pertussis dangerous?

It can be, especially for infants. Pertussis can cause breathing problems, pneumonia, and swelling of the brain (encephalitis), which can lead to seizures and brain damage. Pertussis can also cause death, especially in very young infants, but this is rare. In older children, teens and adults, the disease is milder but may last for weeks or months.

## How is pertussis diagnosed?

Pertussis can be very hard to diagnose. A doctor may think a patient has pertussis because of the symptoms, but a culture and blood test are the only ways to be sure. The culture is taken by swab from the back of the nose. The blood test can only be used after someone has been coughing for at least 2 weeks. While cultures for pertussis can be performed at any lab, blood tests should be sent to the State Laboratory Institute (SLI) for testing. The SLI does tests for free when asked by a doctor or a board of health.

## How is pertussis treated?

The main treatment is plenty of rest and fluids. Oxygen, medicine to help the patient breathe and mild sedatives are sometimes needed to help control severe coughing spells. Antibiotics can make the disease milder and the person less able to spread the disease if they are started early enough. Anyone who has been exposed to pertussis should see a doctor for antibiotics to prevent the disease, even if they were vaccinated.

March 2006

### If I had pertussis in the past, can I get it again?

Although pertussis disease is likely to provide immunity against pertussis, the duration of such immunity decreases over time. For this reason, people exposed to pertussis should see their doctor for antibiotics, even if they had the disease in the past. Children less than 7 years old should have their immunization record reviewed by their doctor, in case they need more DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis) shots. Adolescents and adults who have never received a single booster dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis) vaccine should talk to their doctor about getting a Tdap shot.

#### Can pertussis be prevented?

Vaccination is the best way to protect against pertussis. Pertussis vaccine is given with diphtheria and tetanus vaccines in the same shot. The shot that is currently used for children less than 7 years old is called DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis). Older children or adults may have received the DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, whole cell pertussis) vaccine, which was used prior to 1996 in the U.S. Both kinds of shots work very well to prevent all three diseases. Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) is a vaccine for adolescents and adults used mostly as a booster shot. Currently only 1 dose of Tdap is recommended. Before the Tdap vaccine was available, adolescents and adults did not have a good way to prevent pertussis because immunity to pertussis from childhood vaccines decreases over time.

#### What are the risks from these vaccines?

All vaccines, like other medicines, can cause side effects in some people. The DTaP vaccine can cause redness, swelling, fever, drowsiness, or fretfulness. More serious reactions, including seizures and persistent crying lasting for more than 3 hours, are very rare. Getting the DTaP vaccine is much safer than getting pertussis, and most people do not have any problems with the vaccine. Many more young children will get pertussis if parents stop getting them vaccinated. The Tdap vaccine can cause pain, redness, swelling, fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and other mild problems. More serious reactions are very rare. Getting the Tdap vaccine is much safer than getting pertussis, and most people do not have any problems with the vaccine.

## Who should get DTaP vaccine?

All children younger than 7 years old should get this vaccine unless they have a history of seizures or other brain problem or had a serious health problem after getting DTaP before. If not, your child should get DTaP when he or she is: 2 months old, 4 months old, 6 months old, 12–15 months old, and 4–6 years old.

## Who should get Tdap vaccine?

Adolescents and adults should get one shot of Tdap instead of a regular tetanus shot (Td). Adolescents usually get the Tdap shot at their 11-12 year old visit. It is especially important for adults in contact with young infants, such as parents, health care workers and child care providers, to get a single Tdap shot.

## Where can I get more information?

Your doctor, nurse or clinic, or your local board of health (listed in the phone book under local government). The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Immunization Program (617) 983-6800 or toll-free at

(888) 658-2850, or on the MDPH website at www.mass.gov/dph/.

Northeast Regional Office Tewksbury (978) 851-7261

Central Regional Office West Boylston (508) 792-7880

Southeast Regional Office Taunton (508) 977-3709

Metro/Boston\* Regional Office Jamaica Plain (617) 983-6860

Western Regional Office Amherst (413) 545-6600

\*Boston providers and residents may also call the Boston Public Health Commission at (617) 534-5611.

#### **CDC National Immunization Information Hotline**

English: 1-800-232-2522 (Mon – Fri, 8am – 11pm) or Spanish: 1-800-232-0233 (Mon – Fri, 8am – 11pm)

TTY: 1-800-243-7889 (Mon – Fri, 10am – 10pm)