



Update
January 7, 2009
Vol. 1, Issue 1

Independence ~ Knowledge ~ Community

The challenges of a new year . . .

Many of us believe that one of the reasons that we New Englanders are so determined, resilient, and up to any challenge is our weather. Mother Nature is always full of surprises for us and it is nice to live in a state that truly has four seasons. Many thanks to all members of the school community for adjusting to and putting up with delayed openings, parking problems due to the high snow banks, and the general wear and tear on our nerves that our crazy winter brings this time each year. Just a reminder that the SSCPS community is notified by the Alert Now phone notification system and any SSCPS weather related closings or delays are posted on WBZ Channel 4; WCVB Channel 5, WHDH Channel 7 and Fox News 25.

In addition to the usual weather-related problems that January brings, this year, our school, state and nation face extraordinary domestic and international challenges. For Massachusetts schools, we are looking at possible cuts in THIS year's budget and at least a 10% reduction in next year's budget. While we are optimistic that our state's and nation's budget crises will be short-lived, we will need to be frugal and cut back wherever we can in the weeks and months ahead. During the break, I read many articles and listened to a number of media reports about the "pluses" of cutting back on spending, making gifts rather than buying them, and finding more things to do with family at home. At last night's Parents Association meeting, Ted remarked that SSCPS could benefit by returning to the "good ole" days when parents with carpentering, electrical, computer, and architectural backgrounds volunteered their services to help the school when it was just getting started. Now more than ever, SSCPS needs the support of its community to help us "weather" this latest storm. We would welcome your ideas and suggestions, services that you might offer us during these difficult financial times, and, as always, any contribution that you can make to our Annual Fund – the fundraising activity that directly supports our operating budget.

Academic achievement . . .

Between Thanksgiving and the December break, students of all ages often get caught up in the excitement of the approaching holidays and family events. Unfortunately, sometimes these "outside" distractions result in less time being spent on studying and homework. In my conversations with teachers before the break and this week, I learned that many of them are concerned that their students' grades have gone down since the first marking period. Please check EdLine and contact your son's or daughter's teachers if you have noticed that less time is being spent on school work. For our students in grades 7-12, marks will close for the second quarter on Friday, January 15, and mid-year exams begin on Wednesday, January 21st. Progress Reports for students in grades K-6 will be mailed home on January 20th. So . . . it is time for everyone to "crack the books" and fulfill that New Year's Resolution to get better grades. Parents – we need your support and assistance since there is not much time left before reports go home!

We are how we treat others. . .

As we have been writing in our Updates, there are three key words that best describe us: independence, knowledge and community. This year, at every level, teachers are stressing the importance of respect, tolerance, compassion, and community. In the lower grades, students discuss how we treat and respect one another during Open Circle time. The Open Circle program is out of Wellesley College's Stone Center and it is widely used across the state and the country. Currently, four of our new staff members are participating in the training program that began in the early fall and ends in March. In Level III and IV, our teachers have devoted a great deal of time to the issues of bullying and cyber bullying. In December, Level Coordinators Claire Overlee and Angie Pepin attended a full day workshop sponsored by the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) at Bridgewater State College. Claire and Angie were so moved by the presentation and the steps that parents can take to monitor and oversee what their students are doing on the internet that they wanted to schedule a meeting with Level III and Level IV parents for Thursday, January 15th. More information on this important program appears later in the newsletter.

On Tuesday, December 23rd, our high school students participated in four different workshops on the topics of Nutrition, Bullying, HIV/Aids, and Net-Etiquette. Tomorrow (Thursday, January 8), members of our Student Board and the Advisory Representatives will meet with groups of students in grades 9-12 to discuss school climate and how we can make the high school experience at SSCPS even better!

Prue Goodale

“To read a poem in January is as lovely as going for a walk in June.” Jean-Paul Sartres, French existentialist philosopher and writer

Thursday	01/08	School Council	3:45pm
Friday	01/09	SEPAC	8:30am
Monday	01/12	South Shore Charter Educational Foundation meeting	6:30pm
Tuesday	01/13	Executive Committee – Panera Bread Hingham	7:30am
Tuesday	01/13	Library Committee	8:00-8:30am
Tuesday	01/13	Level II Parent Coffee	8:30am
Wednesday	01/14	Enrollment Open House	5:00-7:00pm
Thursday	01/15	Level II Field Trip to MFA	
Thursday	01/15	Level III and Level IV Parent Workshop	7:00-8:00pm

**WEEKLY UPDATES ARE EMAILED AND POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE
AT WWW.SSCPS.ORG EVERY WEDNESDAY – TO RECEIVE A PAPER COPY PLEASE
CONTACT PAM ALGERA EXT. 103 OR EMAIL PALGERA@SSCPS.ORG**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cyberbullying Informational Meeting for parents of Level III and IV students on Thursday, January 15 from 7pm: Current and valuable information concerning the problem of cyberbullying and internet abuse by middle grade students to be presented by Claire and Angie who recently attended a Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) Conference at Bridgewater State College. The meeting will cover age-appropriate limits on children's use of electronic communications, social networking guidelines (FaceBook, MySpace, etc.), and practical strategies for parents concerning cyberbullying, and confidentiality around cyberbullying issues. .

PARENTS, STUDENTS AND STAFF WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR SSCPS?

The PA has funds to disburse this year and we want you to tell us what you think SSCPS needs! If you know of items or events that are not budgeted for and you think would improve the environment or education at SSCPS let us know! A few examples would be: funding an enrichment program or field trip, purchasing small items such as playground equipment or if the science lab needed a microscope. The PA has been fundraising for SSCPS and we want to hear what we can do for the school financially and hope with your help we will maximize our efforts through this new process we have created. Request forms are available at the front desk and need to be filled out by Tuesday, January 20, 2009 and submitted to the front desk. (There will be an envelope to leave completed request forms.) Requests will be reviewed by a group from the PA, PA Grant Review Task Force (PAGRTF), which consists of a parent from each level, the PA Treasurer, and both Principals. After reviewing the requests we will present them to the PA for discussion during the February PA meeting, voted on at the March PA meeting and funds will be disbursed by the end of April.

LUNCH ORDERS

Enclosed is the Menu and Order Form for the month of January. Orders are due Thursday, December 18th by 3:00pm.

K-6 PRINCIPAL REPORT

First let me welcome all of you back to school. On Monday morning I had a brief conversation with a former student of mine who is now in the fourth grade and we talked about how glad we were to be back at school and he told me that he was rested and ready to learn. From what I have been seeing over the past three days this seems to be the near universal state of almost all of students – rested and ready to learn.

On Tuesday morning I was travelling through Level III when I became entranced by the P.E. class taught by Ashley Lorange. The class was taking place in the Level III Great Room and the middle of the space had been transformed into a dangerous pit of quicksand and the only way to cross this dreadful place was to use rafts and teamwork. There were two sets of students and each set had two rafts (yoga mats). I watched as the students worked together, sometimes smoothly and sometimes with disorder, and I am sad to say with some occasional lost souls temporally trapped in quicksand. Ultimately all of the teams found harmony and nearly perfect passage.

Later in the morning I could not keep myself away and I saw a different Level III P.E. class. Now the challenge was even more difficult with the addition of nearly impenetrable but quite short thorn bushes, (soccer cones). Clearly the new challenge was necessary because the previous task, which at first had seemed impossible, was now too simple. As an adult I had participated in similar trust/teamwork exercises and found them to be fun and helpful. I also remember when I was a high school student being very fond of out of school experiences where the goal was group achievement and not individual success. As I see it the central advantage of workshop/project based learning here at South Shore Charter is this aspect of group achievement and equally important for learning, group failure. It was wonderful to see this kind of learning going on in a P.E. class.

Last night at the Parents' Association Meeting the P.E. Program was on the agenda. There has been interest in the parent community as to how the P.E. Program is working now that it is on site. At the meeting we had a lively discussion and many parents mentioned how pleased they were with P.E. this year. We also presented an outline compiled by Dr. Connolly and me. We had gathered the information for this outline in a meeting with both of our P.E. teachers, Heather Fredette and Ashley Lorange. Both Dr. Connolly and I came away from the meeting feeling very good about what these two fine teachers are teaching our students in P.E. classes this year. Below is the outline that captures the basic goals of our K – 12 P.E. Program here at our school.

PE Program

Level I:

40 minutes per week Tuesdays for 6 pods and Wednesday morning for June's Pod – Teacher, Ashley Lorange

Level II:

35 minutes per week Monday afternoons – Teacher, Ashley Lorange

Level III:

50 minutes per week Monday mornings – Teacher, Ashley Lorange

Level IV:

50 minutes per week, 7th Graders Tuesday afternoons, 8th Graders Thursday afternoons – Teacher, Heather Fredette

High School:

An hour and thirty minutes per week – each grade for one quarter per year – Teacher, Heather Fredette

The P.E. Teachers make two plans for every day one for outdoor work and a different for indoor work.

The four physical components of each out door lesson:

- Warm-ups, cardio fitness, plus stretching
- Hand/eye coordination
- Spatial awareness/ body movement
- Muscle tone and strength

Indoors all of these elements are used except for the cardio.

In every PE lesson there is an emphasis on teamwork and sportsmanship which is directly taught. On Level I all games are of a non-competitive nature and the competition increases gradually as the age of the students increases.

Please contact me if you have any questions about P. E. or any other topic and Happy New Year!

Ted Hirsch - (781) 982-4202 - thirsch@sscps.org

ON THE LEVELS

SAYING OF THE WEEK:

Level 1: "Look before you leap."

Level 2: "On the warpath."

Level II News:

- Craft Day was a big success. Thank you to all who volunteered or donated materials for Craft Day...we all had a great day!
- Exhibition of Mastery contracts were sent home before vacation. The completed and signed contracts are due back by this Thursday, January 8th. There is a schedule that was sent home as well to keep kids and parents updated on what is due and when. Some of the work will happen in school, but most will need to be done at home. If you have questions you can email or call Kendra or your child's Project teacher.
- Next Thursday, January 15th Level II will go to the MFA. Each pod needs two parents chaperones. Call your child's pod teacher to sign up to chaperone.

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT CORNER



FROM LITTLE ACORNS DO MIGHTY OAK TREES GROW

The Annual Fund needs you! Thank you to all who have donated so far, but we are far from our goal and our participation level. As of 12/31/08, we have raised \$16,064. That's with only 21% participation. Just think if we reach 100% participation where that could put us! I know times are tough right now, so we're only asking for what you can give. No donation is too small. For each donation, you will receive a supporter decal for your car.

Thank you letters are still going out. If you have donated & have not received a letter by January 15th, please email me at gcalos@sscps.org Thank you!

EARN MONEY WHILE YOU SHOP

Just because the holidays are over doesn't mean we all stop shopping. If you shop online, please be sure to register at www.onecause.com as a supporter of SSCPS & visit One Cause before you shop so we get credit for all purchases. Just in the past two months, we were able to raise \$172 for SSCPS by shopping through One Cause. It's worth the extra click of the mouse. Not only do you raise funds for the school, but One Cause gives you coupon codes and special deals that you might be missing otherwise. Click here for a recent post holiday flyer: http://www.causeloyalty.com/oc_docs/cause/January_ShoppingFlyer_2009_Cause.pdf

SSCPS GOLF TOURNAMENT & AUCTION – SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, May 28, 2009, Southers Marsh Golf Club, Plymouth, MA

The tournament will consist of a 1pm shot gun start, followed by a dinner & auction at approximately 6:00pm. If you are not a golfer, you can still get in on the fun & attend just the dinner/auction. More information will be forthcoming. We are still in the planning stages & would love more help. If anyone is interested, we are having a meeting of the golf/auction committee today at 5pm, here at the school. Please email Geri Calos at gcalos@sscps.org for more information. If you have a service/item to donate to the auction, please contact Geri as well. We have already received our first item donation – an Xbox 360. Thanks Jo!

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 20th, 2009 7pm SHARP - 8pm

TOPIC: ANNUAL FUND -SSCPS Community needs to come together in these economic times to continue to be able to provide our children the level of education we have all grown so accustomed to. Our goal is to provide transparency to Annual Fund and its inner workings, please bring your questions and/or concerns and let's talk!

What is the Annual Fund?

- Why is it necessary?
- Why should I give to the Annual Fund if I've already given for other events?
- What is the money used for?
- How is the decision made to use the money?
- What has Annual Fund money done to help in the past?

FUNDRAISING VIDEO

Have a special SSCPS story to share? The fundraising committee would like to create a video to use at various fundraising and friendraising events that depicts why the school is so special and what it means to our students, faculty and parents. Email us today if you think you have the goods to help with this very important project or if you have other ideas to share! fundraising@SSCPS.org

SEPAC

SEPAC Workshop – Let's Get Organized

The SEPAC group invites you to join us for "LETS GET ORGANIZED", our free skill-building workshop for families with **children of special needs**. This workshop may just be what you are looking for to answer your questions on how to create a more clutter free environment. This workshop focuses on organizing all of the paperwork and medical related information we receive when raising a child that has a special need. The following provides more information about this workshop that will be offered by Family Ties.

"Children do not come with instructions, and neither do the challenges you face when raising a child with a disability. This workshop will help parents work with their own strengths and successes with concrete written materials to strengthen their organizational skills. "LET'S GET ORGANIZED" With so much paperwork; so many doctors, reports, school papers—how do we keep it all straight?

The focus of this workshop is to:

1. Discuss the importance of developing good organizational skills;
2. Identify methods of organizing records;
3. Recognize the importance of emergency preparedness; and
4. Consider effective ways to build a community for your child.

Participants will bring home a three-ring binder, organizational supplies, and lots of ideas on ways to bring order to the mountains of paperwork that relates to their child's medical and educational needs."

When: Thursday, February 26th at 7:00pm

Where: SSCPS – Music Room

Presented by: Family Ties Organization

RSVP: Beth Toma at JToma85103@aol.com *Note: This workshop is limited to 15 families, pre-enrollment is required*

The focus of this workshop is for parents with **children in special education (students on IEP and 504 plans)** becoming better organized with the tremendous amount of paperwork that is required which can become very overwhelming to keep track of.

You must RSVP by February 9th to attend this workshop as we are inviting another school district to join us and will be opening up enrollment after this date to this outside school. We will not be able to guarantee you a spot in this workshop if you decide to attend after this date.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Parent Volunteers Needed: We all know about the traditional volunteering that takes place at SSCPS. We have parents in the classroom, parents helping to organize events and parents chaperoning field trips. What many people don't know - is that we need parents to help out "behind the scenes" as well. If you, or any parents that you know, are carpenters, plumbers or just all around handy-men (or women), we need you. On occasion - the school needs some work done. Occasionally the school might need someone to install a window into a door, fix a leaky sink, repair a hole in a wall or any other number of things that take away from our custodian's time, which is already stretched too thin.

We would love to compile a list of parents who are willing to be "on call" for some of these smaller tasks. If you would like to be included on this list, please send your name, contact information and what tasks you would be able to help with to me. Just because you might not be in a classroom working with the children, this is a way to help not just the children, but the entire community of SSCPS. Thank you, Melissa Freitas melissafreitas@msn.com

Library Committee Meeting Tuesday January 13th from 8-8:30 am Email bbruce@sccps.org if you have questions

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

2008-2009 Vacancies:

- **On-Call Substitute Teachers**
- **On-Call Substitute Teacher Aides**

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

SSCPS Annual Talent Show

Come to the SSCPS Annual Talent Show on

**January 29th 2009 @ 6:30
@ Hingham High**

AUDITIONS

**Talent Show Auditions for Levels I, II and III Students:
January 12th & 13th @ 3:15pm**

**Level IV and High School "Charter Idol" Auditions:
January 15th @ 3:15pm**

All Auditions held in the High School Village Green

Registrations Due To Room 107 by January 9th

THE SHOW

Admission to show: \$5

6pm-Art Show in Lobby

The Art workshop will display some of their best creations in the lobby just outside the auditorium for display.

6:30pm-Talents Show Begins

7:30pm-Intermission

A short intermission after the Talent show will have a special guest playing alongside a presentation about the upcoming Costa Rica trip.

7:45-Charter Idol Begins

Pre auditioned students from Level IV and the high school will have a singing competition judged by you!

***Taking the part of Randy, Simon, and Paula are:
Tee Smith, James Guerrier, & Olivia Mignosa)***

Registration 2009 American Idol
January 29th, 2009

Students: Level 4 and High School

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone#: _____

Advisory: _____

Song Performing: _____

Estimated time of Performance: _____

- Registration forms are due on January 9th.
- Auditions for American Idol will begin after school on Thursday January 15th from 3:15 to 4:30. We will email or call you with your audition time.

Students: Levels I, II & III

Child Name: _____

Level: _____

Pod: _____

Talent: _____

Estimated Time of Performance: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Phone #: _____

- Registration forms are due on January 9th.
- Auditions for the talent show will begin after school on Monday January 12th and Tuesday January 13th from 3:15 to 4:30. We will email or call you with your audition time.

Registration Preference (please circle one): Monday, January 12th Tuesday, January 13th

If you can't attend either of these days and are wishing to participate in the 2009 talent show, please let us know ASAP.

Lunch Menu – January 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 <i>Chicken Salad</i> With lettuce and tomato	6 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	7 <i>Ham</i> With American cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle and oil	8 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	9 <i>Greek Salad</i> With Greek dressing and pita bread
12 <i>Roast Beef</i> With American cheese and mustard	13 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	14 <i>BLT</i> Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato with mayonnaise	15 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	16 <i>Tuna Salad</i> With lettuce and tomato
19 No School Martin Luther King Day	20 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	21 <i>Turkey</i> With American cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayo	22 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	23 <i>Tossed Salad</i> With Greek dressing and pita bread
26 <i>Italian Cold Cuts</i> With Provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle and oil	27 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	28 <i>BLT</i> Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato with mayonnaise	29 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	30 No Lunch Early Release

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, yogurt, a fruit bar and Milk will be provided at the cost of \$1.75. For Level I and II a Lunchable and Milk will be provided for the cost of 2.75. A note from the office will go home that week for reimbursement.

Lunch Order Form
 Lunch for the Month of January, 2009
Due to the office by 12:00 pm, Thursday, January 8, 2009

Student Name _____

Pod Teacher/Advisor _____ Grade _____

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

Week of	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday
1/12 – 1/16	Sub	Pizza	Sub	Pizza	Sub
	½ Sub	#_____	½ sub	#_____	½ sub
	Wheat		Wheat		Wheat

Week of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday
1/19 – 1/23	No School	Pizza	Sub	Pizza	Salad
		#_____	½ sub	#_____	
			Wheat		

Week of	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Friday
1/26 – 1/30	Sub	Pizza	Sub	Pizza	No Lunch
	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	\$1.75
Number of Salads	_____	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 yogurt, a fruit bar and Milk will be provided at the cost of \$1.75 For Level I and II a Lunchable will be provided at the cost of \$2.75. A note from the office will go home that afternoon for reimbursement.



South Shore YMCA

Teen Fridays In January

Every Friday from 6:30 -9:30 pm the South Shore YMCA offers activities for teens.

- 1/2** **Zumba** 6:30 - 7:30 pm studio 3
4 Square Mania 7:30 - 9:00 pm gym
Bead Surprise 7- 8:30 pm art room
Twister 8:30 - 9:30 pm art room



- 1/9** **NEW** **Definitions** 6:30 - 7:30 pm studio 3
Dodge Ball 7- 8:30 pm gym
Performance Workshop
7:30 - 9:30 pm art room

- 1/16** **Zumba** 6:30 - 7:30 pm studio 3
"Shrinky Dink" 7 - 8:30 pm art room
Wiffle Ball 7- 8:30 pm gym
Poetry Slam 7:30 - 9:30 pm art room
Game Night activity center 8:30 - 9:30

- 1/23** **NEW** **Definitions** 6:30 - 7:30 pm studio 3
Capture the Flag 7- 8:30 pm gym
Performance Workshop
7:30 - 9:30 pm art room

- 1/30** **Zumba** 6:30 - 7:30 pm studio 3
Kick Ball 7 - 8:30 pm gym
Performance Workshop 7:30 - 9:30 pm art room

Every Friday Night:

- NEW** **Cardio & Weight Training**
6:30-8:30 pm
- Mixed Martial Arts ***
7:30-8:30 pm studio 2
- Indoor Cycling**
7:30-8:30 pm
cycling studio
- Open Gym, Swim & Cardio**
6:30-9:30 pm

Teen Friday events are free to Members and \$5 for Non-Members. Participants must be 12 or older. Come 10 times & get a prize. Wear work-out gear to be active.