



*Update*  
October 29, 2008  
Vol. 10, Issue 5

*Independence ~ Knowledge ~ Community*

### ***What a wonderful week for SSCPS!***

Have you ever noticed that good news often comes in bunches or in threes? For SSCPS, we have four wonderful announcements to share with you. First, Dr. James (Jim) Connolly has accepted the position of 7-12 principal. Jim is very excited about becoming part of our community and is looking forward to getting to know and working with our parents. Jim has thirteen years of experience as a secondary school administrator and holds a doctorate in School Leadership and School Administration from Boston College. Although his official start date is Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, he will be here for some special events before his start date. This Saturday is the second Board Retreat and we have invited Jim to attend and meet all of the Board members. Jim will also be at the two Open Houses for future students scheduled for Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Saturday Open House is for entering students in grades K-11 and the one on Tuesday is for students entering grades 7-11 next year. We would also like to schedule a reception for Jim for parents and faculty to welcome him officially into our "family". I will keep you posted on a date and time that works for Jim.

Our second piece of good news was the great press coverage of the art work that our students exhibited at the John Kilroy Fine Art Academy in Rockland over the weekend. The theme for the exhibit was "If I could change the world." Community Newspaper reporter Mikaela Slaney, along with photographer Robin Chan, visited our students in the Art classroom. Their story was on the front page of the Norwell Mariner and the Rockland Standard weekly edition (there was also a webcast interview). To access the story on-line, please go to [www.wickedlocal.com](http://www.wickedlocal.com) and then click on Norwell or Rockland. Way to go, art teacher, Marianne Buckley Curran and the Art Workshop students!

Next on the good news front is the notification from the Executive Department of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Secretary of Education, Paul Reville, that five members of the Class of 2009 have qualified to receive the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. Their eligibility is based upon their scoring in the advanced and high proficient levels on their 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Math MCAS. The Adams Scholarship entitles students to four years of FREE tuition at a University Massachusetts campus or participating state or community college. Congratulations Alyse Algera, Ryan Brenner, Kelly Garber, Jordan Kelleem, and Andrew Tyler! This is the fifth year that the state has awarded these scholarships for high academic achievement. Our state college and university system is highly regarded across the country and performing well on the MCAS and getting a four year tuition scholarship are more reasons why our students need to take the high stakes MCAS tests seriously. Well done, Alyse, Ryan, Kelly, Jordan, and Andrew.

Our last announcement also comes from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Last June we applied for a federal Charter School Dissemination Grant. We have learned that we are one of two Charter Schools to be awarded this grant in the amount of \$72,500. The funds from this grant will be used to provide on-going training for kindergarten and first grade teachers at the John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Holbrook. SSCPS has been meeting with administrators from Holbrook since last November and when the opportunity presented itself for us to apply for a Dissemination grant, we jumped at it. Bev Bruce, our Title I ELA tutor, will be released to work with Holbrook and our kindergarten and first grade teachers on the new Core Knowledge Reading Pilot. Since we received a tentative go ahead to apply for the grant in late June, Bev, Ted Hirsch and I have met with Holbrook staff over the summer and into the fall to plan how to best implement our "partnership". Please see Ted's K-6 Principal's Report for more details.

### ***Fundraising Committee Update***

It's a pleasure to report that, after being vacant since last spring, the Fundraising Committee has new leadership. Dottie Kennedy-Brooks and Paul Carberry, both new parents, have agreed to take on this important committee. They've met several times and been in contact extensively with me, Deidre Lamoureux, PA chair, and Geri Calos, our Development Associate. Their first priority is to define and focus the mission of the committee more clearly and to gather all the necessary information on past events. They also want to collaborate closely with the Development Committee of the

Board of Trustees. And, of course, they'll need your help and will be reaching out for volunteers and support. We'll report on their **activities regularly** in the Update. Thank you Dottie and Paul for volunteering to serve as the co-chairs. Your expertise with fundraising, planning, coordinating, and executing successful events is a blessing for this school, especially at this time when we need to raise more funds than ever to support SSCPS because of the downturn in the economy and state budget cuts.

*Prue Goodale, Interim Executive Director*

*"I feel that the greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more." – Dr. Jonas Salk 1914-1995, Virologist, Discovered the First Vaccine Against Poliomyelitis*

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10/29</b>	<b>Senior Parent and Financial Aid Night</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10/31</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Ends – Grades 7-12</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11/01</b>	<b>Board of Trustees Retreat</b>	<b>8:30am</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>11/03</b>	<b>Level I Parent Coffee</b>	<b>8:30am</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>11/03</b>	<b>Eco Committee</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>11/04</b>	<b>Election Day – Professional Development – No classes for students</b>	

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EARN MONEY WHILE YOU SHOP

SSCPS have partnered with One Cause to help raise money for our school while doing what we do every day. Please visit the following link & register as a supporter of the South Shore Charter Public School. <http://www.onecause.com/b1a173082>. SSCPS will earn up to 20% from your online shopping, as well as \$20 per One Cause Visa approval. With your One Cause Visa, SSCPS will continue to earn an additional 1% on all purchases made. The holidays are coming, so please register with One Cause today!

**REMINDER:** If you have not completed and returned an emergency form **your child will not be permitted to participate in field trips.**

## LUNCH ORDERS

Enclosed is the November Order Form and Menu. Orders are due Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> by 3pm.

## ART NEWS

**Thank you** to any students, parents and staff that supported and attended the **If Could Change the World Art Show**. It was a great and productive experience for the art students as to hosting and the inner workings of putting together a real world art show. Thank you to our hosts, **John and Adele Kilroy** who planned this event. We look forward to the photos and videos they took of our students in action.

Congratulations to **Art and SSCPS alumni, Sammy Wholley**, whose art was chosen as the design for the Harvest Road Race last weekend. Sammy continues to represent us while she is attending **Boston University, School for the Visual Arts**.

**Original Works** art has gone home. Please return that and any orders by Halloween to your students Pod. **Adult drawing and Painting class** will start this Thursday, 3:45pm-5:45pm. If you are interested, please see Marianne or call x 304.

## ATHLETICS

It's almost that time! **The Ski Club** forms are being distributed through out the school. They are due back to Athletics by November 1st in order to be eligible to participate.

## **K-6 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Three years ago the Core Knowledge Foundation came to visit our school. During this visit the head of Professional Development at Core Knowledge asked us if we would consider piloting Core Knowledge's new reading program. We agreed as long as they understood that we were a non traditional school and would be implementing the program in our own singular way. The Foundation agreed. Two summers ago many of the Level I teachers went to Virginia and were trained. Last year our Kindergarteners were among the first students in the nation to use the program. It was a wonderful success with our students' phonics ability off the charts with a median and mean score of the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile. This year we are piloting the First Grade Program and again many of our teachers went to Virginia for intensive training and we are well on our way to piloting the first grade program. The Core Knowledge Foundation was so eager for us to pilot the program because they saw the great skill and inventiveness of our faculty. This year as we use the first grade materials we see many things that could be improved as we did with the kindergarten materials last year, but one of the pieces that keeps our teachers motivated is the changes that we see in the Kindergarten program this year in the 2.0 version. It is wonderful to see the impact of our ideas on curriculum materials that will be used by so many children including one thousand kindergarteners in New York City this year.

Last spring our administrative team met with Holbrook Public Schools' administrative team and agreed to put together a Dissemination Grant proposal to share the Core Knowledge Reading Pilot with the Holbrook for their first graders and kindergarteners. We have just received notification that we have been awarded the grant. This \$72,500 grant is the largest educational grant our school has ever received and it is federal money so it is unaffected by the state's current fiscal difficulties. Bev will be working with our teachers and Holbrook's teachers to support this important reading initiative. We are all so pleased to have Bev's clarity of thought and organizational skill behind this project and I am confident that Bev's skills will help students not just in our school but in many schools in Massachusetts to learn to read with accuracy and with understanding.

In the past week we have had 14 teachers and administrators from Holbrook receiving Professional Development from Bev and our Kindergarten Teams. They have been visiting classes and have been uniformly excited about our school. It is so uplifting to hear other educational professionals see the quality of our students' work. This morning I went in the Velma Begley's Pod to work with her on an agenda for the November 4<sup>th</sup> Professional Development. All of Velma's students were working independently and Velma and I completed our planning. I then had the joy of staying in Velma's Pod and teaching a First Grade Core Knowledge Lesson. The quality that the Holbrook teachers talked about was evident in Velma's students. The children were focused on their work and when they showed their work to a teacher for feedback they received the feedback on how to make it better with eagerness and pride. What was even more impressive to me was to see their follow through as they went back and made the suggested changes.

In Velma's Pod the first graders read with concentration and thought, while the second graders wrote with focus and pride. The first graders worked in pairs and each pair knew how to support their partners and how to get adult support when it was needed. There were two moments in the half hour that stood out for me. The first moment was when a student saw a squirrel at the bird feeder. He impulsively called out to everyone in the class. My first instinct as a teacher was to quiet the child down and tell everyone to get back to work. That was not what Velma choose to do she had a much better reaction to the situation. What Velma did was to turn this situation into a teaching moment. She had everyone look at the squirrel for a short period of time. There was a discussion of how the squirrels presents explained why the feeder had once fallen down and how all animals needed to eat. Soon all of the students were back hard at work and they knew their teacher cared about many of the things that they cared about and that she cared about them. The second event that was memorable for me was when a first grader came up to me to ask about a question in the First Grade Core Knowledge Workbook that had confused him. He wanted to know what to do as his memory of what had happened in the story did not match the question. Soon he was taking my advice to reread the story and making this learning strategy his own. I thought about how much pride he had in his work and how the suggestion to reread a text seemed to be already so much a part of his typical working methods. It was not yet an independent skill but it was part of his learning repertoire. This kind of teaching and learning is going on in every classroom in our school and I am sure that is why we have been honored with this Dissemination Grant. We look forward to our collaboration with Holbrook and the fulfilling of the goal of having the lessons learned in charter schools being an engine that helps all children in all schools.

Ted Hirsch, 781-982-4202 ext. 108 [thirsch@sseps.org](mailto:thirsch@sseps.org)

## ON THE LEVELS

### Collins Writing

Included in this Update is an explanation of the five “types” of writing outlined by the Collins program. Teachers at all grade levels have been trained and are implementing the Collins writing program. Our goal is to foster a culture of writing at SSCPS. Central to the philosophy of the program is providing students with targeted areas for improvement. These are called Focus Correction Areas (FCAs). The result is realistic goals for students and increased fluency. Parents and students may notice that writing is not evaluated in the way they are used to as not every student error is corrected every time students write. For example, in a "type 1" piece of writing spelling is not corrected. As a general rule the higher the Collins' type the more exacting are the requirements. While some pieces of writing will go through several stages of editing, others are used for brainstorming or to check for factual information. The Collins program believes that frequent writing of all types in all subject areas especially the lower "types" are critical in developing skilled writers.

### Collins Writing Program Five Types of Writing

#### **Type 1: Capture Ideas**

Type 1 writing gets ideas on paper -- it's brainstorming. Type 1 is timed and requires a minimum number of items or lines to be generated. Questions and/or guesses are permitted. Evaluated with a check (✓) or a minus (-).

#### **Type 2: Respond Correctly**

Type 2 writing shows that the writer knows something about a topic or has thought about the topic. It is a correct answer to a specific question. One draft.

#### **Type 3: Edit for FCAs**

Type 3 writing has substantive content and meets up to three specific standards called "focus correction areas" (FCA). It is read out loud and reviewed to see if the draft completes the assignment, is easy to read and meets standards set for the focus correction areas. Revision and editing are done on the original. One draft.

#### **Type 4: Peer Edit for FCAs**

Type 4 writing is Type 3 writing that is read aloud and critiqued by another. Two drafts.

#### **Type 5: Publish**

Type 5 writing is a publishable quality. Multiple drafts.

#### **For All Types**

For all types, skip lines. For Types 1 and 2, label the type on the top left-hand side of paper. For Types 3 and 4, list focus correction areas on top left-hand side. Type 3 and 4 papers should be saved and used to practice editing skills.

### SAYING OF THE WEEK:

Level 1: “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.”

Level 2: “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.”

**LEVEL IV LITERARY MAGAZINE PROJECT** has decided to take part in Trick or Treat for UNICEF this year. UNICEF is a charity that raises money for many different fundraisers. One of them is raising money to provide school supplies for classrooms of children around the world. We are going to be sending out the boxes to the students on Level I and Level II along with a letter explaining to parents what the charity is about. There items will be distributed to you on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October in time for Halloween. We would appreciate it if the students give these boxes to their homeroom teacher by Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> for our project to gather them that afternoon so we can send them to the UNICEF Corporation. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Rossy Herrera and Carlee Russell from Level IV. Thank you!

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION

We will be offering childcare at our November 8th PA meeting. The baby-sitting will be provided by the students in the Early Childhood Project and they will accept a maximum of 15 children. All children must be potty-trained. If you're interested in using the baby-sitting service please contact me via phone (781-335-5014) or email ([jcalamoureux@comcast.net](mailto:jcalamoureux@comcast.net)) to register. All children must be registered prior to the meeting.  
Deidre Lamoureux, Chair, Parents Association.

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** - Thank you to everyone who has submitted Box Tops for Education this year. We have already earned over \$200 this school year. Please keep them coming! Most Level One students received a Box Top collection sheet a few weeks ago. Remember to return them to school by October 31. A new collection sheet will be given out next month to help you save your Box Tops. If you have any questions about the Box Top program please email Bethany Whitemyer at [bwhitemyer@rcn.com](mailto:bwhitemyer@rcn.com).

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### 2008-2009 Vacancies:

Part time (28 hour) Title 1 Reading Tutor (reading certified)  
Middle School Boys basketball  
Middle School Girls basketball  
On-Call Substitute Teachers  
On-Call Substitute Teacher Aides

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

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## Buy your ☺ 9 Yearbook!!!

- Go to [Jostensyearbook.com](http://Jostensyearbook.com) to purchase
- \$40.00 pre-sale till December 11<sup>th</sup>
- For more information and questions contact Jared in room 303 or ext. 316.

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*Walk and Run Safely at Night*

*Harvest Run*

*Reflective Vests on Sale Now*

*\$15*

*All proceeds go toward the 2008 Harvest Road Race*



If you're interested in purchasing a reflective vest, please contact Geri Calos at (781) 982-4202 ext. 362 ,  
via email [gcalos@sscps.org](mailto:gcalos@sscps.org) or visit Geri in her office.

The vests come in adult sizes S-2X - Vests donated by SporTobin

## Lunch Menu – November, 2008

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
3 <b><i>Chicken Salad</i></b> With lettuce and tomato	4 <b>Prof. Dev. Day</b>  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	5 <b><i>BLT</i></b> Bacon, lettuce and tomato with mayo	6 <b><i>Cheese Pizza</i></b>	7 <b><i>Tossed Salad</i></b> With Italian dressing and pita bread Tossed Salad
10 <b><i>Turkey and American Cheese</i></b> With lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise	11 <b>Veterans Day</b>  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	12 <b><i>Roast Beef</i></b> With American cheese and mustard	13 <b><i>Cheese Pizza</i></b>	14 <b><i>Tuna Salad</i></b>  With lettuce and tomato
17 <b><i>Italian Cold Cuts</i></b> With Provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle and oil	18 <b><i>Cheese Pizza</i></b>	19 <b><i>BLT</i></b> Bacon, lettuce and tomato with mayo	20 <b><i>Cheese Pizza</i></b>	21 <b><i>Greek Salad</i></b> With Greek dressing and pita bread
24 <b><i>Ham</i></b> With American cheese and mustard	25 <b><i>Cheese Pizza</i></b>	26 <b>Early Release</b>  <b>No Lunch</b>	27  <b>Thanksgiving</b>	28  <b>No School</b>

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 \$2.75. **Level I and II will be provided with a Lunchable.** A note from the office will go home that week for reimbursement.

Lunch Order Form  
 Lunch for the Month of November, 2008  
**Due to the office by 3:00 pm, Thursday, October 30, 2008**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday
11/3 – 11/7	Sub	<b>No School</b>	Sub	Pizza	Salad
	½ sub		½ sub	#_____	
	Wheat		Wheat		

Week of	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday
11/10 – 11/14	Sub	<b>No School</b>	Sub	Pizza	Sub
	½ Sub		½ sub	#_____	½ sub
	Wheat		Wheat		Wheat

Week of	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday
11/17 – 11/21	Sub	Pizza	Sub	Pizza	Salad
	½ sub	#_____	½ sub	#_____	
	Wheat		Wheat		

Week of	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thursday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Friday
11/24 – 11/28	Sub	Pizza	<b>Early Release</b>	<b>No School</b>	<b>No School</b>
	½ sub	#_____			
	Wheat				

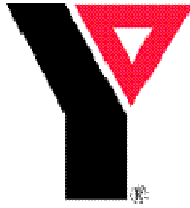
Number of Subs/Wheat ordered	_____	X	\$5.00
Number of ½ subs ordered	_____	X	\$3.00
Number of Pizza Slices ordered	_____	X	\$1.75
Number of Salads ordered	_____	X	\$3.00
<i>Less credit due</i>			_____
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>			<b>\$_____</b>

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 \$2.75. For Level I and II a Lunchable will be provided. A note from the office will go home that afternoon for reimbursement.*

**We build strength, strong families, strong communities.**



**South Shore YMCA**

**Teens**



**Leaders Club**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**Wednesday, October 29, 2008**

**6:30-8 PM**

**South Shore YMCA Art Room**

**Come See What All The Talk Is About!!!!**

Community Service

Rallies

Fundraising

Day Trips

Leaders Club is a national program of the YMCA that provide club members with opportunities for leadership training, personal growth, service to others, and social development. By connecting with adult advisors, teens have role models and mentors who can have a positive impact on their lives. And, by the way, they have lots of fun! The SSYMCA group meets every Wednesday here from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcomed.

For more information contact Karen Hirsh at 781-829-8585 x 335 or [khirsh@ssymca.org](mailto:khirsh@ssymca.org). Check us out on Facebook SSYMCA Teens.

South Shore YMCA at Mill Pond, 75 Mill St. Hanover Ma 02339 (781) 829-8585 [www.ssymca.org](http://www.ssymca.org) Financial assistance available.