



Update
December 3, 2008
Vol. 12, Issue 4

Independence ~ Knowledge ~ Community

Welcome, Jim Connolly

This Monday was Jim Connolly's first official day as our new 7-12 principal. Jim has been busy the past two days, introducing himself to staff and students during the day and to parents at drop-off and pick-up. Jim also attended last evening's Parents Association meeting. Some morning or afternoon when you have a minute to spare, drop into his office and introduce yourself. A great opportunity to get to know Jim better is next Tuesday's **Level IV and High School Quarterly Coffee Hour**. The **December 9th** coffee hour will begin at 8:30 a.m. Please come and join the Level Coordinators, Jo Feldman, Jim, and me for some lively discussion next Tuesday morning.

This is **Spirit Week** for the high school and every day is themed --- we did tell Jim that not every week at SSCPS will be as wild, crazy and fun as this one. It certainly is a great way to introduce Jim to our great high school students and for him to understand better the meaning of our expression "that is so charter"! **Friday is Blue and White Day** and the Student Board has planned SSCPS' special version of a Pep Rally for that day. In the spirit of the week, we would like to encourage students in Kindergarten through grade eight to join in the fun and show their colors (and spirit) for SSCPS by wearing blue and white on Friday. The culmination of Spirit Week is a semi-formal dance for the high school students at the Cushing Center in Norwell – something for our younger students to look forward to in the years to come.

December 10th – a special and busy day at SSCPS (and an Early Release)

Next Wednesday, December 10th, is an early release day. It is also SSCPS's first **Grandparents and Special Friends Day**. Yesterday, you received an email blast reminder that today is the last day for you to sign-up a grandparent, godparent, or a special friend for this fun event. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. with introductions, refreshments and a tour of the building followed by classroom visits and activities.

While the K-6 classes will be welcoming our special guests, Jerry Morris, our Writing Across the Curriculum consultant, will be modeling how to write open response questions in middle and high school classrooms. At 12:15 p.m. our teachers and staff will be treated to a special luncheon put on by the best Parents Association in the Commonwealth! After a very busy morning, I know that our staff will have developed a big appetite and will be so thrilled to be treated to lunch. We are blessed so have so many dedicated and appreciative parents (and, of course, their students!).

After the sumptuous lunch, our K-6 teachers will be available to meet with parents to discuss the son's and/or daughter's progress reports. The progress reports come out this Friday. The parent conferences are **OPTIONAL** and you do need to contact Mariclare Cheney to schedule an appointment with your child's teacher(s). While the Level I-III staff will be meeting with parents, Mr. Morris will be doing the second session of the Writing Across the Curriculum training with our Level IV and high school teachers.

Annual Fund Reminder

For those who have not yet made a donation to our **most important** fundraising event, the **Annual Fund**, you will be receiving a postcard reminder in the mail this week. December is the month that many families make donations to their favorite causes and charities. We hope that SSCPS is at the top of your list. To borrow a phrase from the MasterCard ad, "an education at SSCPS – priceless." In these difficult financial times, now more than ever, we need your participation in our Annual Fund – and it is tax deductible! The funds that are raised for the Annual Fund go directly to support our fantastic art, music, environmental science, theater, physical education and athletic programs. Without the \$50,000 that we **COUNT** on to support these important programs, we would have to make difficult decisions about whether we could continue to offer all of the programs and activities that make SSCPS so special and

different from the local public school districts. Remember: we appreciate a donation in any amount and our goal is to go from 46% participation to 75% this year. Please help us reach our participation goal. Also, as an added “bonus” and thank you for your donation, you will receive a special SSCPS supporter window sticker with our new logo to put on your car or refrigerator. If you would like an extra one, just ask Geri Calos and she would be happy to give you additional ones for your cars.

As always, thank you for all that you do to support the students, faculty and staff at SSCPS.

Prue Goodale, Interim Executive Director

“People who ask our advice almost never take it. Yet we should never refuse to give it, upon request, for it often helps us to see our own way more clearly.” --Brendan Francis

Upcoming events:

- *Monthly School Council meeting, Thursday, December 11 at 3:40 p.m.*
- *Winter Concert, December 17, Hingham High School at 6:00 p.m.*
- *Education Committee, Thursday, December 18 at 3:40 p.m.*
- *Board of Trustee’s Meeting, Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.*
- *Craft Day, Tuesday, December 23rd, Levels I-III (More information to follow)*

Friday	12/05	SEPAC	8:30am
Friday	12/05	K-6 Progress Reports distributed	
Friday	12/05	High School Semi-Formal – Cushing Center Norwell	7:00-10:00pm
Tuesday	12/09	Executive Committee – Panera Bread Hingham	7:30am
Tuesday	12/09	Level IV and High School Parent Coffee	8:30am
Wednesday	12/10	Grandparents Day	10:00am-12:00pm
Wednesday	12/10	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm
Wednesday	12/10	K-6 Parent/Teacher Conferences – by appointment	1:00-3:00pm
Thursday	12/11	School Council	3:45pm
Thursday	12/11	Facilities Committee	5:30pm

**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

CALLING ALL CHEFS, BAKERS AND PURCHASERS!!!!

The PA will be having a Holiday Luncheon for the teachers on December 10. This is a half day for the students. They will be dismissed at 12:00 pm.

We need main dishes, appetizers, salads, desserts, drinks and paper products. The items can be dropped off when you pick up your child or I can make arrangements with you. If something needs to be warmed, we can make arrangement for that also. If you would like to donate any of these items or have any questions, please let me know at klb.rjc@verizon.net.

The teacher’s really enjoy these luncheons and are very excited about it. They love all kinds of different foods and appreciate the wonderful dishes that SSCPS parents bring.

Karen Boyle, Parent of Caroline (K), Jonathan and Richie (level IV)

MBTA STUDENT PASSES - Starting in January 2009 the school can offer discounted MBTA Student Passes for \$20 per month. There is a 5 student minimum in order to place an order with the MBTA. These passes will need to be pre-ordered and pre-paid through the Business Office at SSCPS by Dec. 15th. If you would like your child to receive a pass, please call Kristine Shipps at 781-982-4202x106 to reserve a pass for January by the end of the day on December 5th. All checks should be made payable to SSCPS in the amount of \$20.00 and due by Dec.15th.

LUNCH ORDERS

Enclosed is the Menu and Order Form for the month of December. Orders are due Thursday, December 4th by 3:00pm.

ATHLETICS

THE JAGUARS BASKETBALL SEASON HAS OFFICIALLY STARTED! The High School teams will kick off their season with their first game at home on December 14th, girls playing at 6:15pm and the boys' game will follow. All home games will be played at the Hingham Middle School. The Middle School Basketball team will start off their season with an away game at Smith Leadership on Monday, December 15th. Best of luck to all the Jaguar teams this season. Come support your school!

All those participating in basketball must make sure they have their permission forms in to Heather Fredette at athletics as well as an updated physical to the nurse.

K-6 PRINCIPAL REPORT

December is upon us and the days are shortening and the night is lengthening. We have a new President and now I am so pleased to have a new partner here at school, Dr. Jim Connolly who is our 7 – 12 Principal. Dr. Connolly brings to us years of worldly and school experience and I am sure that in the course of time he will help us make this school not only the wonderful school that it is but the school of our visions.

Two weeks ago I was off to the Core Knowledge Annual Conference and I heard one thing that many of us have always known but is of great importance to a school – that is the importance of stories and story structure. At the conference I went to hear a presentation by cognitive psychologist, Dan Willingham titled, “Why Don’t Students Like School More?” One of the disappointing things about education reform is how little schools have been influenced by break throughs in cognitive psychology. The field of cognitive psychology now knows a great deal about how we learn and how we might teach more effectively. Dr. Willingham is a rare exception because he is a cognitive psychologist who has entered the fray of education reform. His message at this presentation to the teachers and administrators was why humans tend to dislike academic situations. He distills the situation into the following list:

- a. *We (humans) are good at vision and movement.*
- b. *In contrast to these functions, thinking is unreliable, slow and effortful.*
- c. *Given the opportunity we will usually avoid thought.*
- d. *Instead of thinking we rely on memory.*
- e. *But this is not the whole story because **sometimes** we do like to think.*

Dr. Willingham suggested ways to increase the times that learning and thinking can be pleasurable to people. His idea is to present learning in ways that make the solution or the learning solve problems, or to present learning in the same way that a story is traditional presented with characters, problems and solutions. We as a school have much to learn from Dr. Willingham but we are a place where students, for the most part, want to be. Most of our students do like school.

Part of the reason that this is such a wonderful place is that we are often in that *sometimes* position, *where we do like to think*. Yesterday I was taking a teacher from another school on a tour of our school. The goal of her visit was to learn more about us so she could tell parents who were thinking of applying here about us. While on that tour I saw a Level III student who was in tears because her mother was picking her up early and she had to leave in the middle of “Project.” The mother promised her daughter that she would do her best to never pick her up early again. I was proud to see this love of school and the visitor and I took the opportunity to see what the girl was missing. We went into Dan Falkner’s Drama Project where they were rehearsing a scene that was written by the students and contained two songs. The group was being led by one of our fabulous music teacher Lucille Butler. The students took the opportunity to perform for us as we represented

a live audience. There were two things that I noticed while the students did their run through. The first was just how expressive they were, their personalities shown through in their every word and gesture. The second was how clear Lucille was as a teacher. Twice during the performance, Lucille stopped to work with the students on their attention and focus. Both times she stopped them, the students understood what was wrong and quickly corrected their work. I thought how that is wonderful communication and that it was thinking and learning in action. Lucille and Dan had created a situation where thinking and learning made purpose for the students; it was something the students liked.

These students and many others will be performing in the upcoming Winter Concert at 6:00 in Hingham High School on December 17. Please come and please stay for the whole show. Please put it on your calendars and I look forward to seeing you there.

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

7-12 PRINCIPAL REPORT

In my new position as 7 – 12 Principal at SSCPS, I am pleased to write my first piece for the Update. This has been a very busy week for me, as I work to understand the machinations of our school. One thing is very clear, SSCPS is no ordinary school.

My previous experiences were in traditional public school settings, where my focus was to engage a school community in working to bring about changes to improve learning experiences for all students. As I study the philosophy behind SSCPS and look at the programs and structures that exist here, I am struck by how close this school mirrors the school I was working to create in the traditional public schools in which I worked. At my previous school, I formed a committee, the Future Directions Committee, and charged them with brainstorming on ways our school should look in five years in order to better prepare students for the 21st Century.

This standing committee was open to everyone. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, and citizens from the community at large met weekly for two years to study research and develop proposals. The committee designed seven proposals for the school: an advisory program, a personal education plan for each child, divisions (two grades per division), a demonstration of mastery requirement, senior projects, internships and mentorships, and improved school, parent, and community relations. After two years of work, we had put in place two of the proposals and had plans for two more. I am pleased to see that variations of these seven proposals exist at SSCPS now, and the school offers so much more.

From the eyes of an educator new to SSCPS, I can attest to the uniqueness of this school. All of us, students, parents, and educators, have a responsibility to act as caretakers of our school in order to nurture and ensure the continued growth of this special educational institution.

As we work to prepare students for this rapidly changing world that requires, among many skills and abilities, that individuals are able to think creatively, work collaboratively, and use technology to find solutions to complex problems, it is clear that schools must change. SSCPS is a very different school, because, since its founding in 1995, it has attracted students, parents, and educators who understand this need for change. I am very excited to be part of the SSCPS extended family, and I look forward to working with all of you.

Jim Connolly/Dr. C. – (781) 982-4202 – jconnolly@sscps.org

ON THE LEVELS

SAYING OF THE WEEK:

Level 1: “Let the cat out of the bag.”

Level 2: “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

LEVEL IV TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE! The Literary Magazine of Level IV is taking part in the 2008 Toys for Tots Foundation toy drive. We are asking for donations of new, unopened toys, no stuffed animals or pillows. The drop off location will be in Angie’s Room #202 on Level IV. The toys will be given to underprivileged children in the state of Massachusetts. The Toys for Tots program wishes to play an active role in the development of one of our nation’s most valuable natural resources – our children; to unite all members of local communities in a common cause for three months each year during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign; and to contribute to better communities in the future. We would

appreciate it very much if you contributed to our drive from December 5th -19th. Thank you! If you have any questions please contact either Carlee Russell or Rossy Herrera in the Literary Magazine Project.

The ENGINEERING THE FUTURE CLASS is building model sustainable cities of the future. If you could help us by donating some of the following materials found around your house, we would all be very appreciative!

- *Blue and green paint
- *Glue sticks
- *Game pieces from games missing parts such as small cars, trees etc
- *Aluminum foil
- *markers of various colors
- *Cardboard paper towel rolls
- *Small paint brushes
- *Construction paper (various colors)
- *Other small odds and ends

Thank you, Joan and the Block A Engineering the Future Class

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS:

The National Honor Society took over stewardship of the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" program, and has sent a number of old cell phones to our soldiers in Iraq. Also, the NHS is using Marianne Buckley-Curran's military connection to send holiday cards and baked goods to her son's unit, also in Iraq. Future projects of our NHS chapter include helping the lower school with Grandparents and special friend's day, a fundraiser in concert with the Community Service Club, and the Pennies for Patients program.

SUPPORTING SSCPS

A SHOPPING CHALLENGE FOR EVERYONE! \$235 worth of local restaurant gift certificates for \$18.60!!

Here's how:

Register at www.onecause.com and choose South Shore Charter Public School as your designated school.

Click on "shop" and find Restaurant.com

Go to Restaurant.com and enter your zip code.

Choose your gift certificates & at checkout, enter "SURPRISE" for 80% off.

*Be sure to check out the special requirements for each. They usually require a minimum purchase or may be only certain days/nights.

And the best part. 12.5% of each purchase goes to SSCPS! Alright, so 12.5% of \$18 may not be huge, but if many of us do it, it will certainly add up!

Here's a peak at what I got: \$50 Alfredo's GC, \$25 Hajjar's Bar & Grille GC, \$50 Generations GC, \$25 GC to the Jury Room, Cela's \$50 GC, \$10 Mandarin King GC, Main Street Grille \$25 GC. All for \$18.60! I have used gift certificates from Restaurant.com in the past & have had great success. If, for some reason, a restaurant closes or is no longer honoring the gift certificate, they will contact Restaurant.com, who will give you a credit for another gift certificate.

Remember to tell family & friends to shop through www.onecause.com and choose SSCPS to support. If you have any questions about the One Cause program, please contact me: gcalos@sscps.org

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE held its 1st meeting of the year. Present were the two co-chairs, Executive Director, two members of the board, Development Coordinator, PA Chair and several parents. The meeting focused heavily on how SSCPS can structure fundraising the in coming years to ensure continued and elevated success. The emerging strategy will focus and streamline fundraising, enhance communications and promote collaboration.

Thank you all for taking the time out of your busy schedules to show your support!

If you were not present at the meeting but would like to learn more about the discussion that was held please visit the Fundraising page of SSCPS.org and download the PowerPoint presentation and meeting minutes.

Golf Tournament & Auction is planned for May 28, 2009

We NEED your help!

Here's how you can help without giving up your time/money!

- Do you play golf? Can you put together a foursome?
- Do you own a business or know someone who does? We need green and hole sponsors! It's a tax write off and can help your business gain some exposure!
- Do you have connections that you could use to obtain items for the auction?
- Can you spare time & energy to help run the event?

Please respond to fundraising@sscps.org if you can help in any way, whether it is mentioned above or you have an idea all your own to share that might help us make this event more successful.

Please note that by volunteering you are not signing up to donate hours or days of your time. We also need help that may mean no more than a phone call or conversation with acquaintances from the comfort of your home or office.

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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

2008-2009 Vacancies:

- **Part time** (16 hour) Special Education (Learning Services) Elementary Teacher. Candidate must be certified to teach as an Elementary Special Education Teacher in Massachusetts and possess NCLB Highly Qualified Status in order to be considered for the position.
- **Part time (28 hour)** Title 1 Reading Tutor (reading certified)
- **On-Call Substitute Teachers**
- **On-Call Substitute Teacher Aides**

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

Buy your ☺ 9 Yearbook!!!

- Go to Jostensyearbook.com to purchase
 - \$40.00 pre-sale till December 11th
 - For more information and questions contact Jared in room 303 or ext. 316.
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Veggie Van Update

The Animal and Environmental Workshop has finally received the converted vegetable van! Cape Green Auto finished the conversion and returned it to our school on Wednesday, November 12. We have clocked 103 miles on the van as of November 22. We have spent the last few months giving numerous presentations and implementing all the necessary steps to have our van. Our shed, in which we will store our filtration system, will arrive this week. Then we will build our filtration system. Although we currently have enough oil to last a few months, we are in need of a regular source. We are looking for restaurants to donate used vegetable oil to run our van on, please contact the workshop or Tara Turner with any suggestions. The oil must be high quality cooking oil, such as soy, often found at Asian or high quality restaurants. We have set up a presentation to give restaurants information on what our project does and how they benefit from helping our workshop. Thanks again to Evan Whitemeyer from Summits For My School for funding our project.



Lunch Menu – December, 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <i>Chicken Salad</i> With lettuce and tomato	2 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	3 <i>BLT</i> Bacon, lettuce and tomato with mayo	4 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	5 <i>Tuna Salad</i> With lettuce and tomato
8 <i>Turkey and American Cheese</i> With lettuce, tomato and mayo	9 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	10 Early Release No Lunch Prof. Dev. Day	11 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	12 <i>Tossed Salad</i> With Italian dressing and pita bread
15 <i>Italian Cold Cuts</i> With Provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle and oil	16 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	17 <i>Roast Beef</i> With American cheese and mustard	18 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	19 <i>Tuna Salad</i> With lettuce and tomato
22 <i>Ham</i> With American cheese and mustard	23 Early Release No Lunch Vacation Begins	24 No School	25 No School	26 No School

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 December, 2008
Due to the office by 12:00 pm, Thursday, December 4, 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 type="checkbox"/> Tuesday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday
12/8 – 12/12	Sub	Pizza	No Lunch	Pizza	Salad
	½ Sub	# _____		# _____	
	Wheat				

Week of	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday
12/15 – 12/19	Sub	Pizza	Sub	Pizza	Sub
	½ sub	# _____	½ sub	# _____	½ sub
	Wheat		Wheat		Wheat

Week of	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuesday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thursday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Friday
12/22 – 12/26	Sub	Early	No School	No School	No School
	½ sub	Release			
	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>			_____
Total Amount Enclosed			\$ _____

Cash or Checks may be made out to SSCPS.

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

Please note: If your child has forgotten lunch, a lunch of 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 December

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



Spotlight Events:

- 12/5** Zumba 6:30 - 7:30 pm studio 3
- Kick Ball 7- 8:30 pm gym
- Pizza & Game Night 7- 8 pm art room
- Performance Workshop 7:30 - 9:30 pm art room
- Twister 8:30 - 9:30 pm activity center

- 12/12** Wiffle Ball 7- 8:30 pm gym
- Open Mic with Kim 8:30- 9:30 pm art room

- 12/19** Zumba 6:30 - 7:30 pm studio 3
- "Make A Gift" 6:30 - 8 pm art room
- Ultimate Frisbee 7 - 8:30 pm gym
- Performance Workshop 8- 9:30 pm art room

- 12/26** Dodge Ball 7 - 8:30 pm gym

Free
Pizza
12/5

Giving Back: 12/12
Bring in a new, unwrapped toy for a child or clothing for a teen. Items will be donated to local families. For helping out, you'll get an extra Teen Friday Reward

Find What Moves You

Every Friday Night:

- Free Weights 7-8 pm "Ask Sean"
- 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 if trying the active stuff.