



Update
December 10, 2008
Vol. 12, Issue 2

Independence ~ Knowledge ~ Community

Grandparents Day a Huge Success

Kudos to Board of Trustee's member Jo Loughnane, grandparent and spouse of Board of Trustee's member, Nancy Seglin, parent Kerri Griffin, and Development Associate Geri Calos for organizing our first ever Grandparents Day. The turn-out was amazing. We would also like to thank the members of the National Honor Society and the Early Childhood Workshop for guiding the tours and helping out in the Level I, II and III classrooms. Kudos as always to our fantastic teachers. This was a very special day and a good time was had by all! I know that this is going to become an annual event!

Teacher Luncheon

The faculty, staff and administration would like to thank the Parents Association for the sumptuous lunch that they treated us to this afternoon. It was a great follow-up to the Grandparents event and energized our K-6 faculty before the Parent Conferences and our 7-12 faculty before their training on Writing Across the Curriculum.

Winter Concert

Our Winter Concert is next Wednesday, December 17th. The concert will begin at 6:00 p.m. at Hingham High School. Our students have been rehearsing the music for weeks now and they are so excited about performing for their family and friends. This is one of the highlights of the year for SSCPS. We do have a few requests and a reminder. First, we ask that everyone be considerate of our singers and musicians and stay until the end of the program. All ages and grade levels do a fantastic job and we promise you that you will enjoy every performance. It is disconcerting (and disheartening) for the groups performing later in the evening to look out and see that many families have left. Second, our music teachers and staff would appreciate it if families would sit together. Most importantly, we do NOT want students to congregate in front of the stage – it is a distraction for our performers and the audience. Finally, we would like to remind everyone that there are TWO parking lots and that the Hingham police do **ticket cars** on the street. We recommend that you car pool, if possible, arrive early, and be sure to park in the lots. We hope to see everyone at the concert.

How to seek assistance in these troubled times . . .

There is not one of us that is not in some way affected by today's difficult financial climate; some of us more than others. For most of us, this economic downturn is a very new experience and very scary one. And because it is something we have never before experienced, those of us who are in need of assistance are often reluctant to reach out for help. It is important for us to remember that certain resources exist precisely for a time like this. These are resources that we all put into place either through tax dollars or through personal donations. They are meant to be a **safety net** to prevent even greater losses. Among these resources are fuel assistance, free or reduced lunches, financial and legal counseling, food pantries, help with prescription drugs, food stamps, holiday gifts, etc. All of these resources are provided by agencies with complete **confidentiality**. Traveling through these myriad services can be daunting, and many are reluctant to acknowledge that they need help. There are two very important things to remember when one seeks help-- **we are all in this together** and **one day you will once again be on the giving side**. Listed below are services for the various towns on the south shore.

<http://www.sharingweb.org/agencylist.asp>

http://www.doe.mass.edu/cnp/free_red/07/masshealth.pdf

http://www.projectbread.org/site/PageServer?pagename=end_foodsourcehotline

http://www.projectbread.org/site/PageServer?pagename=end_foodstamps

<http://www.mass211.org/Mass211About.html>

If you need some guidance and have some further questions about accessing these services or need a copy of our Free and Reduced Lunch forms, please contact Kristine Shipp, our Human Resources person, or Susan Dupras, our school

nurse. Please come in and see them or me or call if you are in need. Our conversations will be private and confidential.

Prue Goodale, Interim Executive Director

“Do all the good you can and make as little fuss about it as possible.” Charles Dickens

Upcoming events:

- *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*

Thursday	12/11	School Council	3:45pm
Thursday	12/11	Facilities Committee	5:30pm
Tuesday	12/16	7-12 warnings mailed	
Tuesday	12/16	Governance Committee	5:00pm
Tuesday	12/16	Development Committee	6:00pm
Wednesday	12/17	Annual Winter Concert – Hingham High School	6:00pm
Thursday	12/18	Education Committee	3:45pm
Thursday	12/18	Personnel Committee	5:00pm
Thursday	12/18	Finance Committee	6:00pm
Thursday	12/18	Board of Trustees	7:00pm

**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

Buy your ☺ 9 Yearbook!!!

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

LOST & FOUND ITEMS! Thank you to parent Maura Longueil for taking photos of the many lost and found items at the school. If your child has a missing item click on the link to view items that have been found!

<http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreid?uname=mauralongueil&target=ALBUM&id=5266015966413886145&authkey=PQmA59q4DDY&feat=email>

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 Shippis at 781-982-4202x106 to reserve a pass for January. 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 11th by 3:00pm.

K-6 PRINCIPAL REPORT

Typically I write these reports on Wednesday mornings but this week I am composing this report on Tuesday night because tomorrow is Grandparents Day and I want to see every minute of what I know will be a great day. We are expecting about 170 grandparents. I am very grateful to Board members Jo Loughnane and Jeff Seglin for getting this started and all of the many, many others who have prepared for this event. Jo is a founder of the school and a great resource for us as not only a wonderful educator in her own right but a wise consul on many issues of diversity. (The school started in no small part because parents in Hull experienced what a wonderful experience collaborating with a teacher could be in Jo's Loughnane's Kindergarten class. Then these parents were denied that privilege when their students went on to first grade and they helped to create our own school.) Jeff Seglin is not only the vice chair of our board but he is a grandfather and husband to Nancy who along with Jo are hosting this great event.

I see Grandparents' Day as a sign of maturity for us as a school. In the school's first or second year, I had a conversation with Robin Coyne the K – 8 Principal, and my mentor about the idea of having grandparents in to visit the school. Robin, being a wise woman and an experienced educator, told me that we were not ready for grandparents. I am sure she was right then, but I am so glad that we are ready now. The students are excited to see their relatives in the school and many have assembled wonderful questions to ask our visitors. I know I look forward to seeing the school even more full of life than it usually is.

Today (Tuesday) I was walking down the hall when a Level II student told me with great pride about a snow boulder the Level II students had made. He told me I had to go out and see the great snow boulder that the Level II students had constructed. Well I went out and I saw this beautiful gray and white sphere, and well one thing led to another and soon I was going on a "woods walk" with a group of remarkably well behaved Level I students. Many of the students had gone with me last year and the year before into this conservation land behind the school. They knew exactly what we needed to do to be safe and have fun, and they taught the others who were going for the first time. All the students were everything a school or a parent would want in a child: cooperative, independent, caring and observant.

In these woods behind the school there is a stream that has been channelized and that stream meets up with another more natural stream in a beautiful confluence. Every time I go back into the woods (we have to wait for a killing frost because of ticks) I tell the students to stop at the confluence of the two streams. I say this word to the students because it has great resonance for me because I learned this word from the great southern American writer Eudora Welty in a talk that she gave in 1984. I also say it because that is where we stop, at the confluence. It is rare when you can remember how you learned a word as almost all words are learned in a piecemeal fashion and through many, many exposures. Words are almost never learned how I learned this one, through one vivid learning experience. On the way out of the woods a second grade boy said that we had been on "nacherventure" and then he explained what had been to me incomprehensible word by saying we had been on a nature adventure. Nacherventure is a word I learned from one exposure and I may remember it 25 years from now if I find reasons to use it. The main thing is to keep learning and that is what children help us all do. I hope you too can find a few minutes to spend with your children in the woods.

Jim Connolly and I will be taking turns writing this update so that all sectors of the school are represented so my next report will be in the New Year.

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

ON THE LEVELS

SAYING OF THE WEEK:

Level 1: "Don't judge a book by its cover."

Level 2: "It's on its last legs."

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 nations 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.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS:

Red Ribbons for Sale! My name is Jennifer Carmin, and I'm a 12th grader in the high school. I'm a member of the Biology Workshop, and my individual project is HIV/AIDS. December 1st marked the start of HIV/AIDS Awareness month. This month I will be selling red ribbons for a dollar or more donation. You can stop by Tara's Project (Room 107 in the High School) to buy a ribbon. I will also make rounds through the various levels. The money will be going to the Ugandan organization called IDAAC. This is a non profit organization that helps Ugandan men, women, and children with HIV/AIDS. If you any questions please stop by or e-mail us at tturner@sscps.org. Thanks for your support! Jennifer Carmin & Tara Turner - - Biology Workshop

SUPPORTING SSCPS

EARN MONEY FOR SSCPS WHILE YOU SHOP! Here's how:

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

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

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.

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.

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 3:00 pm, Thursday, December 11, 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 type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday
12/15 – 12/19	Sub ½ sub Wheat	Pizza #_____	Sub ½ sub Wheat	Pizza #_____	Sub ½ sub 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 ½ sub Wheat	Early Release	No School	No School	No School

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.

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.



South Shore YMCA

Teens Earth Service Corp

NEW!

**Don't just worry about the environment.
Do something about it.
Join the Earth Service Corp.**

The YMCA's Earth Service Corp. is a club-based, service learning program for teens. Not just any teen, but those who want to be leaders, care about the environment and opt to take action.

Along with the advisor, Dave Corbett a teacher at the South Shore Charter Public School, you decide on the projects the group takes on. Whatever the cause, you examine all sides of the issues. Work on projects here at the Y and around the community in collaboration the South Shore Charter School and the North South River Watershed Association.



Get Involved: NOW

Sign-up on line or Front Desk: MESC01W9

Meet: Mondays 6-7 pm in the art room

Beginning Dec. 15th

Additional days TBD based on projects

Grades: 6-12

\$25 Members

\$50 Non-members

**For more information contact Karen Hirsh at 781-829-8585 x335 or khirsh@ssymca.org.
Financial assistance is available.**



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.