



A new school year and renewing our commitment to SSCPS

Welcome returning and new families. From all accounts, this has been one of the smoothest openings ever for SSCPS. For the first few days of school to go smoothly, it takes the cooperation and collaboration of our families, students, and staff. The first three days have been a great example of everyone working together to ensure a positive start to the school year and bring out the best in our students. For those who have been with the school for some time now, you have heard us on numerous occasions reference the “three legged stool” that was the basis of school’s founding group’s philosophy of schooling and the key to student success. For SSCPS to succeed in realizing its new mission, “inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life,” we definitely will need the legged stool of students, staff and families working in concert!

This July, the Leadership Team was extremely busy finishing up the renewal documents that we were required to submit by July 31st to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Every five years, DESE requires charter schools to apply for another five year extension of their charter. In addition to these documents that included a new Accountability Plan for 2011-2016 and a revised mission statement, an important part of the renewal process is a four-day site visit by a team of educators. We have learned that the site visit will be the week of October 19th. In future Updates, I will share with you more information about the site visit and we will be asking parents/guardians from all Levels to be part of a focus group that will meet with the site visit team to answer their questions about our school and the education that your sons and daughters receive here. Over the next few weeks, our entire staff will be getting ready to be the best hosts ever and to provide the team with an accurate picture of SSCPS and help them to understand why we believe that this is such a special and unique school.

Family involvement– a call for volunteering

Yesterday, I sent out an email to everyone about **volunteering at SSCPS**. When families apply to SSCPS for their child to be admitted, they also agree to commit to doing some volunteer work for the school. Last year, we had a significant increase in the number of individuals volunteering and in the number of volunteer hours. Sixty percent (60%) of the families volunteered! Our goal is to increase that percentage this year. To achieve this goal, the first piece of information that we need from everyone is the survey form that we attached to the email. If you did not get the email with the attachments, please go to our website, www.sscps.org and you can find them on our main page. You can also pick up the information at the front desk. We would like to have the completed **volunteer form and signed confidentiality agreement returned to us by Friday, September 11**. This will give us time to be able to determine the interest areas and volunteer availability and then do the best we can to match up our needs with the skills of our family volunteers!

Parents needed to serve on the School Council and Education Committee.

As we say over and over again, the strength of this school is the wonderful relationship between our families and staff members. One way that parents and guardians can help our school move forward is to volunteer to serve on either the School Council or the Education Committee. We need at least one parent representative for K-6 and one for 7-12 on both of these important committees. However, we would prefer to have at least one representative per Level. Again this year, the School Council will meet on the second Thursday of the month and the Education Committee will meet on the day of the Board of Trustees meeting (usually the third Thursday of the month). For September, however, the meeting dates are later since there are five Thursdays in the month. The first Council meeting of the year will be Thursday, September 17th and the first Education Committee will meet be Thursday, September 23rd. The meetings begin at 3:30 p.m. and all parents are invited to attend.

First Parents Association meeting

The first Parent Association meeting of the year is next **Tuesday, September 8th at 7:00 p.m.** Last year we had a great turn-out for the kick-off meeting of the year and we hope that this year we will have an even better turn-out. We do not know what we would do without our active Parents Association. Although so much is accomplished at each PA meeting and it is a great opportunity to hear from school administrators about goals, academic initiatives, and student activities, the first meeting is very special.

Family Picnic

Wednesday, September 9th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., is the PA's wonderful Family Picnic. This is great opportunity for parents and their children to meet other families and learn more about SSCPS in an informal setting. The picnic is the culmination of a number of special summer events organized and run by members of the PA to provide families from our thirty communities with opportunities to socialize and get to know one another better. Parents organized the June Brockton Rox baseball outing and they organized and "staffed" the morning play group for Level I students and their families that ran every Thursday in July and August. Because so many parents were involved in organizing and running these events, I am not going to name them all because I know that I will most likely overlook someone. Suffice it to say, we don't know what we would do without the PA and the committed parents who volunteer day in and day out to help our students and build community at SSCPS!

Finally, we have some changes planned for the Update this year. As most of you know, like so many schools across the Commonwealth, we had to make some reductions in our budget for this year due to the recession. One of those changes was the decision to have a part-time Executive Director. I am thrilled to return for another year and I know that we will be able to make all of the budget changes work because we have such great administrators, teachers, and support staff. One change that we will be making is my Update reports to you. I will be writing an Update every other week. There will always be a report from one of our two principals in every weekly Update. A new feature that we will be adding is "**Spotlight on SSCPS.**" Beginning this week, there will be a feature story written by one of our staff members. A sample of some of the features will be community service, nutrition, wellness, information about specific workshops and projects, family literacy, the school library, learning services, physical education, and more. Teachers will be the authors of the Spotlight column and I know that you will look forward to the column each week.

Working together, we will make the 2009-2010 school year at SSCPS one for the record books!

Prue Goodale, Executive Director

"The beginning is the most important part of the work." – Plato, Greek philosopher

SSCPS IS PROVIDING A PAPER COPY OF THE 1ST UPDATE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. 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

Friday	9/04	Bus Safety	
Friday	9/04	Early Release Day – Dismissal for all students at Noon	12:00pm
Monday	9/07	Labor Day	No School
Tuesday	9/08	Level IV Field Trip to Camp Burgess	
Tuesday	9/08	Parent Association Meeting – agenda attached	7:00pm
Wednesday	9/09	Welcome Back Family Picnic – see attached flyer for details	5:00pm
Thursday	9/10	Title I Parent Night	6:00pm
Thursday	9/10	Facilities Committee	6:00pm

SPOTLIGHT ON SSCPS

BY JO FELDMAN – LEARNING SERVICES DIRECTOR



When Prue approached me late last year to consider overseeing community service at SSCPS, I was not only delighted by the offer but energized by the possibilities for students of all ages to become involved in their community. Our proposed mission statement we hope to be adopting includes the word “service” as one of three words that distinguishes our school from all the other schools and it is my hope that every student will, over the course of their educational life at SSCPS, will identify a passion for volunteering in an area they care about.

In my new role I hope to serve as a resource to students, teachers and parents for volunteer opportunities in our catchment area by identifying opportunities for volunteering, monitoring the number of hours each student volunteers during the year, holding students and their families accountable for reaching their hourly goals of volunteering set by their Level and arranging a monthly community service opportunity for students to participate in. That said, I am kicking off the year with the following:

COASTSWEEP 2009
Saturday September 19th
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Mary Jeanette Murray Bathhouse
Nantasket Beach, Hull
<http://www.coastswEEP.umb.edu>

CoastswEEP is a state-wide beach clean-up sponsored by the Massachusetts Office for Coastal Zone Management and coordinated by the Urban Harbors Institute of the University of Massachusetts in Boston. Each year, thousands of CoastswEEP volunteers take to local beaches, river banks and seafloors to help remove debris that would otherwise pollute our oceans. This is the 22nd year of CoastswEEP and SSCPS has a long tradition of participating in this worthwhile event.

I urge you and your family members to consider participating in this worthwhile event and hope to see you all there!

LUNCH ORDERS

Enclosed is the September Lunch Menu and Order form. All orders are to be received by Thursday, September 3rd by 3pm.

K-6 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

We are in the middle of the first week of school and there are already established routines. I get a feeling from being in the school this week that this will be a wonderful year of learning and purpose. The kindergarteners are settled in and sitting and working and listening with great poise. The early kindergarten dismissal at noon has gone well. We get a chance to speak with every adult as they pick up the kindergarteners and the children are coming in with joy when we see them again in the morning. At 3:00 the pick-up line is moving better than it ever has in the first week of school and we seem ready for the year.

Every other week in the Update I will write a notice in the Update. The purpose of these paragraphs is to let you know a little bit about what I am thinking about and what is going on here at school. This week town meetings have been held, recess schedules have been refined, students have composed classroom and level rules, classes have begun, and students have made new friends. An exciting change that I have seen is just how clean our students are keeping the school. In this year's school improvement plan, we have new focus on the cleanliness of our school. To help us out please put name tags or label your students' clothes. It is saddening to see the unclaimed clothes in the lost and found. We will work hard to help the students keep track of their clothes but it would help us tremendously if you would label their outer clothes, which on warm fall days are so easy to leave behind.

In writing this update my goal is to be transparent and clear. I also want you to know I want feedback on how we are doing as a school; I want you to tell me: in person, by phone or e-mail, thirsch@sscps.org what is going on for your student at this school.

School has begun and it feels like we have started a rich and full year of study. I hope that every day we have purpose and focus. We are a community that believes in children, in children's learning, in children's happiness, and children's abilities to make this world better. Welcome and help make us better.

7-12 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I want to use this opportunity to welcome everyone back to South Shore Charter for the 2009 – 2010 school year and welcome students and families who are new to our school community. For the month of July a great deal of time and energy was spent writing our Annual Report and completing our charter renewal application. The work required us to complete two major documents. A large part of the work asked that we take time to describe the history of the school, explain the current school program, and project ahead to the direction our school will take in the next five years. Though this was time consuming and often difficult work, the benefits of reflecting on past and current practices and planning ahead will pay huge dividends. One immediate benefit to all of us involved in this work was the realization that our school is a special place, that it always has been and that it will continue to be a school focused on inspiring students to excel in academics, service, and life. A goal for all of us involved in the writing of these two documents is to share the work with you throughout the school year.

As I write this piece for the Update, we are in day three of the new school year. Thus far we are off to a great start. Last week, incoming ninth graders and students new to the high school took part in our second Summer Institute. The goal of the institute is to prepare students for the high school program, engage them in team building activities, and take diagnostic tests to help us better understand the learning needs of each student. From all accounts, the three day Institute was a success.

While the Summer Institute was up and running, Faculty returned for professional development. A variety of opportunities were available for them. One required workshop was designed to create consistency in the way SSCPS teachers plan and deliver lessons. It is expected that this consistency in practice will benefit our students as they move from one class to the next and one grade to the next.

A change all of us in Levels IV and the High School are measuring is the effectiveness of our new schedule. This year we established time in the school day on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons for students to participate in quarter courses including advisories, Directed Study, Town Meetings, Physical Education, and technology offerings. It is expected that building time into our schedule to offer instruction and academic support will help students do the work asked of them, and one critical area all of us will be focusing on is the work before us. This summer I was fortunate to attend an Institute at Harvard University titled Redesigning High Schools for Improved Instruction. A constant mantra echoing throughout the week of classes was "Task Predicts Performance." This year we will be looking at what we teach, how we teach, and are students learning. At the heart of our work will be an examination of the tasks we ask of students.

Finally, one goal in our School Improvement Plan is to develop structures to create a clean school. In conversations with students beginning next week, we will develop strategies to keep our school clean.

I hope everyone is excited as me to begin a new school year. Though the tasks before us are difficult, I am convinced that together we can accomplish anything. Welcome back and have a great year.

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

ON THE LEVELS

SAYING OF THE WEEK:

Level 1: "A place for everything and everything in its place."

Level 2: "Let's break the ice."

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcome Back or WELCOME if you are new to our school family. On Tuesday, September 8th we have our first Parent's Association meeting from 7-9pm at the school. All parents and guardians are welcome and

encouraged to attend our monthly PA meetings. This first meeting will be fairly unstructured and will provide parents and guardians the opportunity to share thoughts and ideas for the coming school year. I look forward to seeing you there.

Longwater Transportation offers a reliable and safe bus service run from Hull, Hingham, and Cohasset to SSCPS. If you are interested in having your child ride the LW Bus either one way or full time, please email AmyLemkin@gmail.com.

REMINDER: to join the online SSCPS Parents Discussion Forum at GoogleGroups which is a great forum for sharing thoughts and ideas related to the school and our community, and for keeping up with Parents Association announcements and news. If you'd like to sign join you can email the group owner at Blaire Schaefer-Flynn (bschaeffe@gmail.com) or log onto <http://www.sscps.org/parents/parents-association/index.cfm>

COMMUNITY NEWS

GIRL SCOUTS - Girls who have not already signed up and would like to participate in Girl Scouts this year can join at the Back To School Picnic on Sept 9 or by contacting a troop leader. Girl Scouts is a leadership experience encouraging girls to discover the world, to connect with each other, and to take action to make the world a better place. Meetings are held at the school twice a month on select Tuesdays beginning in September and running through early June from 3:00-4:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 plus \$4 for each meeting.

Financial assistance is available and no one will be turned away for inability to pay. The first meeting of the year will be on September 15. **Juniors:** Grades 4 and up, Leader Stacey Rousseau: faemoon3@gmail.com, (781) 961-4071; **Brownies:** Grades 2-3, Troop Leaders Maureen Hebert: mhebert@metlife.com, (781) 837-8952 and Stacey Kirves: Kirv4@yahoo.com, (781) 878-1995; **Daisys:** Grades K-1, Troop Leader Kim Beshere: Tessapink1@yahoo.com, (781) 961-2220 and Katie Tierney. There are only 7 openings for Daisy's. Please email Kim Beshere if you are interested. First come first served!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Immediate Part Time Openings:

- Part Time Elementary Teachers Aides (20 hours per week)
- Full Time High School Spanish
- Full Time Elementary Teacher (Grade 5 and 6)

Anticipated 2009-2010 Coaching Vacancies:

- High School Girls basketball
- Cross Country/Running Club Supervisor

On going for 2009-2010

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

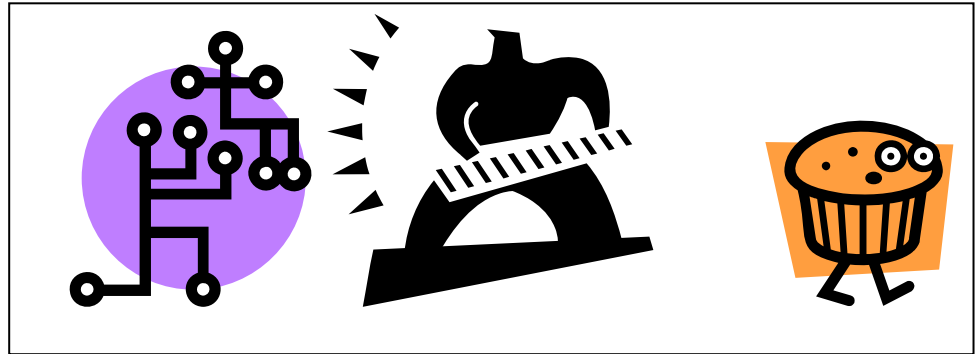
Send cover letter, resume and list of references to Kristine Shipps, Business Manager.

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT'S ASSOCIATION AGENDA

September 8, 2009
7-9pm

7:00	Call Meeting to Order
7:00 – 7:05	Announcements Next PA Meeting & Calendar Items
7:05 – 7:20	Introductions
7:20 – 7:50	School Report Prue Goodale
7:50 – 8:00	Treasurer's Report
8:00 – 9:00	Brainstorming/Open Discussion
9:00	Adjourn

SSCPS Welcome Back Picnic



Who: All members of the SSCPS community

What: An evening of fun, food and friends

When: Wednesday, September 9, 2009 5p.m.-7p.m.

Where: SSCPS 100 Longwater Drive Norwell, MA

Why: See old friends

Meet new friends

Listen to the music of our very talented students

How: Bring your family

Bring a blanket or a chair

Bring a picnic dinner for your family

Bring an appetizer or dessert to share

Bring a smile

**Please contact Kerry Griffin @ 781 878 3762 or
rockgriff@verizon.net if you have any questions.**

Lunch Order Form
 Lunch for the Month of September, 2009
Due to the office by 3:00 pm, Thursday, September 3, 2009

Student Name _____

Pod Teacher/Advisor _____ Grade _____

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

Week of 9/7 – 9/11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monday Labor Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Pizza #_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Pizza #_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Salad
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Week of 9/14– 9/18	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Pizza #_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Pizza #_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Sub ½ sub Wheat
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Week of 9/21– 9/25	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuesday No Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Pizza #_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Salad
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Week of 9/28 – 10/2	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Pizza #_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Pizza #_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Sub ½ sub Wheat
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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 yogurt, fruit bar and Milk will be provided at the cost of \$1.75. **For Level I and II a Lunchable** will be provided for the cost of \$2.75. A note from the office will go home that afternoon for reimbursement.