



Thursday	10/15	Grandparents & Special Friends Day – Grades K-4	10:00am
Thursday	10/15	Personnel Committee	8:30am
Thursday	10/15	Professional Development Early Release Day	12:00pm
Friday	10/16	SEPAC	8:30am
Mon-Fri	10/19-23	Charter Renewal Site Visit	
Monday	10/19	Facilities Committee	6:00pm
Wednesday	10/21	Senior Parent Night	6:30pm
Thursday	10/22	Education Committee	3:45pm
Thursday	10/22	Finance Committee	6:00pm
Thursday	10/22	Board of Trustees Meeting	7:00pm
Friday	10/23	Professional Development Day – No School for Students	

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Renewal Site Visit

Next week SSCPS will be hosting four individuals from Class Measures a specialized consultancy firm that audits and inspects public and charter schools. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has hired Class Measures to conduct SSCPS’s charter renewal site visit. Jeanne Simons from Class Measures will be chairing the team. The group will be on site from Monday, October 19th through mid-day on Friday, October 23rd. While their schedule is flexible and may be changed, the first day of the visit is primarily organizational. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday the team will be observing classes and meeting with administrators and Board, teacher, student, and parent focus groups.

For months, teachers, staff, and administrators have been planning and preparing for this visit. The five day site visit is the final phase of the state’s multi-part renewal process. Last March, two members of DESE’s charter school division visited SSCPS to review the school’s federal programs: special education and English language learner services. From March through July, the SSCPS’s twenty member Renewal Accountability Committee reviewed the current mission, Accountability Plan, and K-12 Exit Standards. At the same time, the administrators were working on other components of the renewal documents that the state required as part of the charter renewal process. The Board of Trustees approved the new mission, revised Exit Standards, and the draft Accountability Plan for 2011—2015 at their July meeting. On July 31st, an exhausted Leadership Team submitted the 115 page renewal document via courier to DESE in Malden. The entire renewal

report and our 2008-2009 Annual Report are available for you to download and read in PDF format on our website, www.sscps.org.

Two weeks later, my assistant, Pam Algera, submitted additional documents including the daily schedule, and copies of the 2009-2010 student and faculty handbooks. In late August, several of the professional development workshops focused on lesson design and how to use data to improve instruction.

Since the school year began, administrators have been visiting classrooms and implementing a new model for observations: the ten minute walk-through. We have a one page checklist that we fill out and give back to the teacher immediately. The ten minute walk-through provides teachers with immediate feedback and is an improvement upon the past practice of only one or two formal observations a year. The walk-through also helps to prepare our students and teachers for the classroom visits by Class Measures.

Needless to say, the anxiety level is raised for everyone in anticipation of this all important last phase of the renewal process. We welcome any and all assistance that you can give us during the week. While our teachers will be talking with the students about the importance of the visit and to be good hosts, we would appreciate it if you would also stress upon them how important it is for the inspection team to get an accurate picture of what goes on at our school each and every day.

Approximately two weeks after the visit, Ms. Simons will mail me a draft of the report to review and correct any factual inaccuracies. Once we have had a chance to review the draft, we will report back any factual discrepancies and Ms. Simons will finalize the report and forward it to the Commissioner, Mitchell Chester. Hopefully, sometime in December or January, we will be notified of the renewal decision.

Reminder: Tomorrow is Grandparents and Special Friends Day and an Early Release Day

We would like to remind everyone that we will be hosting the 2nd Annual Grandparents and Special Friends Day for Level I and Level II. Our guests (rsvp closed yesterday) will be arriving about 9:50 a.m. and will be leaving at 11:45 p.m. Special thanks to Jo Loughnane, member of the Board of Trustees, for chairing and overseeing this wonderful event.

Tomorrow is also an early release day with dismissal at noon. The traffic between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. around Longwater Circle is going to be even busier than usual. Please be patient and understanding of our grandparents as they leave the building. Unlike all of us, few of them have had the pleasure of experiencing an SSCPS dismissal, the mass exodus, and the lengthy line of cars waiting to pick up the students.

Prue Goodale, Executive Director

“There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.” Jiddu Krishnamurti quoting an early Indian Theosophist.

SPOTLIGHT ON MEASURING STUDENT PERFORMANCE – TED HIRSCH

As many of you may know we had an exceptional year last year in helping our students show their abilities on the MCAS tests. The chart below is a summary of our performance that is public and listed on the states Department of Education web site. The definitions of the terms in the Improvement Rating from their web site are listed below the chart. What the official definition does not state is that very few schools in the state received the “Above Target” rating in both ELA and Math.

2009 AYP Data - Summary

	<u>NCLB Accountability Status</u>	<u>Performance Rating</u>	<u>Improvement Rating</u>
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	Improvement Year 1	Very High	Above Target
MATHEMATICS	Corrective Action - Subgroups	Moderate	Above Target

Improvement Rating Descriptive term corresponding to the amount of aggregate CPI gain a school or district achieved in 2009 as compared to 2008. The improvement that a school or district is expected to make from one year to the next is expressed not as a single numeric target, but as a target range, also called the "on target range." The size of the target range varies depending on the size and score distribution of the particular group being measured. (The standard target range is plus or minus 2.5 CPI points, but may be as large as plus or minus 4.5 CPI points for groups smaller than 100.) The five improvement rating categories are: Above Target (improved above target range), On Target (improved within target range), Improved Below Target (improved above the baseline but below the target range), No Change (gain was equivalent to baseline plus or minus the target range), and Declined (gain was below baseline and below the target range).

We are proud of our work last year but we are far from satisfied. We have a goal of being a school which *inspires all of our students to excel in academics, service, and life*. We are certainly inspiring many, in many of these three domains of purpose but we know we are not **yet** reaching all students in all three aspects of our school's goal.

So how do we move forward? How do we get even better? First, we are studying the data, looking at it to see where we improved. What did we do and what were the most effective practices and why. There are many things that we did and we plan to continue to pursue those that have worked and modify those that have been less effective. Last year one of our greatest steps forward was in becoming a school where writing is not merely honored but practiced. To help us in this work, we had an outside expert, Jerry Morris, come in and coach us in writing instruction. Years ago SSCPS adopted the Collins Writing Across the Curriculum. As the years passed many of our new teachers were not trained or even told about Collins writing and our work with writing was inconsistent. Last year Jerry Morris came in and helped us train our new teachers and retrain and newly train all of our teachers. Simply stated what Jerry taught us worked. We now have a collective structure through which to give our students more practice in writing and more importantly more effective writing. This year Jerry has been back in school and is again coaching us to improve our instruction of writing. When he was here he commented on how wonderful the change had been in our student's ability to pay attention and focus on writing, all in one short year. He gave us wonderful compliments and we are teaching writing with vigor and common purpose.

As part of the writing instruction in the fall our student's grades 1 – 4 write friendly letters. I have received letters from four different classes and have responded to these 80+ letters with letters back to students. Reading these letters and writing responses to them has been one of the highlights of my year for three reasons. First, these are letters of children happy to be in and excited about school. Second, our children are writing with voice and not just a generic SSCPS voice but their own voice and third, I have learned a great deal about how these individuals think and feel about school. While reading some of these letters I have even gained insight into how these children think. I have been able to learn more about them as individuals. That individual connection was part of our founding vision. We would be a school that was a place where each student and their family would be known to the school and each student would be taught as an individual. We have always been good at that but now we are also getting good at teaching the learning standards delineated in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. We are finding that we can do both. Writing is a great means by which we can reach each individual. Reading and responding to a person one on one as every teacher does with a piece of writing is a wonderful form of feedback and learning for both teacher and student. When all of our students can write with fluidity and voice and when writing improves each of our

deliberative processes we will be doing even more to help our students be inspired. It will help us be a place where our students are not only students of culture (history, science, literature, art, music etc.) but producers of culture. Thanks Jerry, teachers, and students; it was great fun to get to know you better through your writing.

If you have any question please contact me at thirsch@sscps.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Harvest Road Race scheduled for Saturday, October 17th has been postponed until 2010.

Golf Tournament/Auction Theme Contest

The Golf/Auction Committee is seeking suggestions for a theme for this year's Golf/Auction Event to be held in the spring. Last year's theme was "Drive fore the Future" by parent Eric Greene. All suggestions can be left in the Golf/Auction Theme Suggestion Box at the front desk or sent to mhebert@metlife.com. Deadline for submissions is Friday, October 30 at 3:00 p.m. Be sure to include your name so we can acknowledge the winner. There is no limit to the amount of suggestions you can submit. Once the theme is chosen by the committee, we will have a Logo Contest so get your creative juices flowing.

Golf Tournament Sign Contest

The Golf/Auction Committee would like to use the golf tournament as an opportunity to profile great people or things with regard to the school. On each green a sign will be placed that profiles something great about our school. This can both give the golfer something to do while awaiting his/her turn and educate people about SSCPS in a non-intrusive way. If you know someone or know of something regarding the school that should be prominently profiled, please submit a nomination today! A nomination entry sheet is attached to the update and all information should be completed to be considered. Either email your nominations to fundraising@sscps.org or drop them in the Golf Profile Nomination Box at the Front Desk. After the deadline a small team will select and notify the winners. Deadline for nominations is November 30th.

LUNCH ORDERS

Enclosed is the October Menu and Lunch Order form. October orders are due Thursday, October 15th by 3pm.

HEALTH OFFICE

REMINDER:

The flu season is upon us, please remember to:

- Keep your child home if ill with cough, runny nose, sneezing, body aches or chills
- Do not send your child to school with a temperature of 100.0 or above
- Notify health office if your child is diagnosis with the Flu or has Flu-like symptoms.
- Students must be fever- free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication before returning to school
- Remind your child to WASH HANDS frequently through out the day.
- Contact your child's doctor for information on receiving the H1N1 vaccine.
- **MASSACHUSETTS toll- free phone # for H1 N1 information 211(no area code)**

ON THE LEVELS

SAYING OF THE WEEK:

Level 1: "Cold feet."

Level 2: "Haste makes waste."

LEVEL IV LITERARY MAGAZINE PROJECT is looking for student writings. We would like stories and poems from grades K-8. Please put the work in the manila envelopes that are hung up around the school or in Angie Pepin's mailbox. Thank you.

Sincerely, The Literary Magazine

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Fundraising Committee wants your ideas!

Please submit any Fundraising ideas that you might have to fundraising@sscps.org. A meeting will be held soon, but in the meantime if you have a great idea, please don't wait to bring it up!

Welcome back to school and a new year of **Box Tops For Education**. Our school earns cash for each General Mill Box Top that we collect and send. You can help by clipping box tops from the 100s of products that participate, and by signing up to support our school at www.boxtops4education.com. Last year we raised over \$700 with this program. Let's try to make it an even more profitable year. Please bring your box tops to school and leave them in the envelope behind the front desk. Level I students can tape or staple their box tops onto the monthly collection sheets that are distributed to the classrooms. If you have questions about the General Mills Box Tops program, please contact me at bwhitemyer@rcn.com. Thanks. Bethany Whitemyer

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 GoogleGroup. This 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 sscpsparents+subscribe@googlegroups.com

LIBRARY NEWS

The library has become very busy with students and teachers checking out books. All of the Level I, II, III classes have signed up and scheduled library time for their classes.

This past summer sixty-eight new biographies were purchased for the library collection. This was made possible due to an anonymous donation to the library.

This month the library will be putting out boxes of books that students can take for free. These books came from the school library and have outlived their use.

The library has an email address librarian@sscps.org. This email address will be used as a way of communicating to parents and teachers when student's books are overdue. It will also be used to communicate other important library information.

Volunteers are still needed in the following areas:

1. Re-shelving books, straightening book shelves, making sure books are in proper locations.
2. Assisting in other library projects as needed.

Volunteering would be during the school day when the library is not being used by students and teachers. If you are interested email Beth Toma at JToma85103@aol.com.

Book Donations needed

1. Harry Potter Series - (gently used)
2. Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket
3. Spiderwick by Tony Terlizzi
4. Secret Series - by Pseudonymous Bosch
5. June B. Jones

Magazine Donations

1. Kids National Geographic
2. Kids Sports Illustrated
3. Your Big Backyard

Thank you, the Library Committee

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

INVISIBLE CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP!

Kids in Uganda are dying every day because of the ongoing war. They are being abducted by the rebel army and being forced to become soldiers, and if they refuse, then they are killed. Kids who have not been abducted are forced to be night commuters. Night commuters are children who have to walk long distances in rain or shine and sleep away from their homes just to stay alive. They should not have to live in fear every moment of their lives and we can all help to change that. SSCPS is involved in a campaign called "Schools

for Schools” which means schools all over raise money to help fund schools in Uganda for these children. There is also a box labeled “Change for Change” for any loose change or any donation which will go to fund these schools. There is also a bracelet campaign in which you purchase a bracelet and it will be a color and that color represents a child. You will receive a DVD of this child’s life and the money you used to purchase the bracelet, will help that child. Every donation makes a difference, and coming together to help can save a lot of lives. You can visit www.invisiblechildren.com for more information. We can all help, it doesn’t take much.
Thank you, Shanna Sobol

Anton’s Cleaners is sponsoring *Coats for Kids* - Donate quality coats for kids, adults and babies too! SSCPS will accept gently used, warm winter jackets or coats of all sizes.

Please – no rips, holes or tears, broken zippers, permanent stains, vests or spring coats

****SAVE THE DATE**** - The SSCPS Fall Clean-Up has been scheduled Saturday November 7th from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at South Shore Charter Public School. More information will follow in the near future but mark your calendars today!

I am always looking for opportunities where students can earn hours towards their community service requirements and appreciate any and all leads that you send me so I can get the information out to everyone so.... Keep them coming!
Jo Feldman -Director of Learning Services -jofeldman@sscps.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Immediate Part Time Openings:

Part Time Elementary Teachers Aide (20 hours per week)

Stipend Position

Title I Parent Liaison – for job description email thirsch@sscps.org

Anticipated 2009-2010 Coaching Vacancies:

High School Girls Basketball Coach

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.

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

Lunch Menu – October, 2009

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

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 October, 2009
Due to the office by 3:00 pm, Thursday, October 15, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Friday
10/19 – 10/23		Sub		Pizza		Sub		Pizza		No School
		½ sub		#_____		½ sub		#_____		
		Wheat				Wheat				

Week of	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monday	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday
10/26 – 10/30		Sub		Pizza		Sub		Pizza		Salad
		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
<i>Less credit due</i>			_____
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.



We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

**New Session
Starting
Sign-up
NOW!**

SAT Prep Class

**Get ready for the upcoming tests :
November 7th & December 5th**

Ace the test with targeted instruction, full-length practice tests, and proven test-taking strategies designed to help you test with confidence and score higher.

Facilitated by experienced facilitators this is a great opportunity to **help** get those scores up!

Fees for 10 Week Session
\$190 Members
\$285 Non Members
Program Code: MTKS03F9

Tuesdays: 4:30 - 5:45 pm
10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3,
11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8
& 12/ 15

SSYMCA Heritage Room

Contact:

Karen Hirsh
781-829-8585 x335
khirsh@ssymca.org

75 Mill Street
Hanover, MA

Financial Assistance: The South Shore YMCA strives to serve the entire community by providing financial assistance. Assistance is determined based on individual applicant needs. Call Jane at (781) 829-8585 ext. 308 for an application. The money used to fund this program is raised each year by volunteers through the Strong Kids Campaign

TEEN FRIDAY



South Shore YMCA

Every Friday 6:30–9:30 pm

10/2
Zumba 6:30 - 7:30 Studio 3
YArt 7:00 - 9:00 Art Room
Yoga 7:30 - 8:15 Studio 3
Karaoke 8:00 - 9:15 Lounge
Indoor Cycling 7:30 - 8:15 Cycling Room

10/9
Art Night
Definitions 6:30 - 7:30 Studio 3
YArt 7:00 - 9:00 Art Room
Imbecilic Improv 8:00 - 9:15 Lounge
Indoor Cycling 7:30 - 8:15 Cycling Room
Cardio Tennis* 8:30 - 9:30 Tennis Courts

* Racquets available. MUST wear non-scuffing sneakers.

10/16
Zumba 6:30 - 7:30 Studio 3
YArt 7:00 - 9:00 Art Room
Yoga 7:30 - 8:15 Studio 3
YIdol w/Sue 7:30 - 9:15 Lounge
Indoor Cycling 7:30 - 8:15 Cycling Room

10/23
Definitions 6:30 - 7:30 Studio 3
Yoga 7:30 - 8:15 Studio 3
Indoor Cycling 7:30 - 8:15 Cycling Room
Rock Band 7:30 - 9:15 Art Room



10/30 Halloween Extravaganza...Get your costumes ready.



More info
coming soon.

Every Friday:

Open Gym, Swim & Cardio	6:30 - 9:30
Cardio & Weights Training	6:30 - 8:30
Gym Games	6:45 - 9:00
Mixed Martial Arts (starting 10/9)	7:30 - 9:30

Teen Friday is included with membership and just \$7 for non-members. Participants must be 11- 17 years old. Participants register upon arrival and receive a wristband. When participants leave, wristbands are removed with no re-entry. Every 10 times you come get a prize. Activities are subject to change. WEAR WORK-OUT GEAR TO BE ACTIVE.

Contact Karen Hirsh & Caitlin Cavanagh
@ 781-829-8585 x335

khirsh@ssymca.org/ccavanagh@ssymca.org

Find us on facebook: search SSYMCA Teens

Follow us on Twitter.com/SSYMCA_Teen_Dep