



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As this school year comes to a close, I would like to acknowledge a very specific group of people who have worked hard every day to ensure the academic success of our student population. I would like to thank the entire faculty of the South Shore Charter Public School for an amazing year of teaching and learning. Every day of teaching and learning was one of excitement and challenge. Watching our students explore with Latin roots, Greek mythology and Singapore Math; it is easy to find the common denominator of success – an outstanding teacher. At the South Shore Charter Public School we are very fortunate to have such an excellent faculty who is committed to our students in every way. Thank you for a wonderful year.

I would also like to thank everyone who came out for the Drive For the Future Golf Tournament and Auction. It was great to see our school community so focused and driven on supporting our school. Thank you to our event sponsors whose generosity made the day possible. Thank you to our event chairpersons, Kerry Benjamin, Mark Stevenson, and Kristine Shipp; and to Denise Demaggio and members of the event committee who worked tirelessly all year to support this event and our school. It was a great event.

And finally, please take the time to complete the 2010-2011 Annual Satisfaction Survey. We use data gleaned from your responses to inform the design and implementation of learning programs within our school. Your voice is needed and is an essential component of our planning.

Thank you and have a fantastic summer!

Alicia Savage, asavage@sspcs.org

2010-2011 ANNUAL SATISFACTION SURVEY

Please complete your survey no later than Thursday, June 30th

Parents/Guardian: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011SSCSPSParentSurvey>

Students: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011SSCPSStudentSurvey>

Board of Trustees: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011BOTSURVEY>

Faculty and Staff: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011SSCPSFacStaffSurvey>

Weds & Thurs	06/15 & 06/16	Grades 7-11 Year End Exams continue – see schedule below	
Friday	06/17	Last day of School – Early Release	12:00pm
Thursday	06/23	Finance Committee	5:30pm
Thursday	06/23	Board of Trustees	7:00pm
Friday	06/24	Brockton Rox	

THE 2011-2012 SSCPS CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.SSCPS.ORG

Level IV Final Exam Schedule June 14-16

	Tuesday 6/14	Wednesday 6/15	Thursday 6/16
8:15-8:30	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting
8:30-10:00	7 th Math 8 th English	7 th English 8 th History	7 th Science 8 th Spanish
10:00-10:30	Break	Break	Break
10:30-12:00	7 th History 8 th Science	7 th Spanish 8 th Math	Project (10:30-11:30)

High School Final Exam Schedule June 14-16

	Tuesday 6/14	Wednesday 6/15	Thursday 6/16
8:15-8:30	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting
8:30-10:00	Block A	Block C	Block E
10:00-10:30	Break	Break	Break
10:30-12:00	Block B	Block D	Make up Exams

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Please remember to pick up your child's medication by the last day of school, any medication left in the health office will be disposed of or destroyed after this date. State mandated law requires new medication orders to be written by your child's PCP at the beginning of every school year, all current medication orders will expire on the last day of the school year. The August school mailing will contain the current forms necessary for prescription medication administration at school for the 2011-12 year.

FROM THE K-6 PRINCIPAL

When I taught writing to second graders I always tried to get their pieces to be "round." I aspire to that in my own writing and at an attempt to round out my Updates I have included below a passage from every month this year. These words help me remember a wonderful year. Thank you for your children, for reading these accounts, and for believing in my favorite school in the world The South Shore Charter Public School.

September: I have also been talking to the children and they have told me that they like their new levels, but they have also acknowledged some longing for their past classrooms. To me the students sounded just the right mix of nostalgia for the past and excitement about their new positions and status. You have given us very composed and capable children and we are grateful.

October: The weather is turning cooler and it is coat season and I was reprimanded this morning by a Level I student for not wearing a coat as I did my daily sweeping. There are two parts of my day that are like anchors. In the morning the greeting of the students while I sweep, and the calling of names in the afternoon at dismissal. They both have to do with names and acknowledgment and while neither interaction is profound it can let me know how children are doing.

November: Yesterday our teachers were busy in professional development workshops. Professional development days can be a challenge for families as work schedules and routines are altered. We take our responsibility to use the professional development time wisely and as a school to assure that the learning and work that goes on during professional development days make our students' lives and education better.

December: Another thing that has come to an end is autumn and today is the first full day of winter. It is and has been winter from midnight last night until midnight tonight and there will be about ninety more days that meet that description before we have a day that is part winter and part spring. It really looks and feels like winter. The children have been enjoying the snow. Thanks for knowing the rules about snow clothing and what is required for the weather but do not forget to label your child's clothes with names as snow pants and hats look a lot alike. The snow is not only a thing that makes child's play more fun but it also adds refracted sun light that makes up for the shortness of the day and the acute angle of the sun. Snow is downright pretty.

January: Yesterday was the one-year anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti. At SSCPS we have many families with relatives in Haiti and the earthquake touched us all. Today in school we took a moment of silence to honor the spirit, courage, and perseverance which are helping to pull the families of Haiti through this horrible natural

disaster. The pain and suffering is unimaginable but from what can be seen of the Haitian strength, the will of people is stronger than any disaster and with time and continued support things will get better. We must not forget. May this year be a better year for the people of Haiti and for all of us who know and therefore love Haitians.

February: We have a wonderful building which is in good shape and is unscathed. Thanks go out to:

- Mark Flanagan, our maintenance director, who worked and works tirelessly to make sure that building is and will always be safe,
- Our students who were ready for an adventure and cooperated and somehow knew that last Thursday was a time for following directions no matter how unusual they were,
- Our teachers who seized the moment to read stories, direct student learning and respond to all situations with professionalism and grace,
- Our parents who allowed the unusualness of the situation to be yet another chance to respect and support us here at school,
- The folks who manned the phones at the front desk that day Pam Alger, Kathy Sobol, Dee Delaney and Jo Feldman,
- Alicia Savage who led us all with decisiveness and thoughtfulness,
- The firefighters and police of the Town of Norwell who took charge and treated us well and made excellent decisions,
- The Public Schools of Norwell, which took us in and gave us great digs and showed us kindness and generosity,
- There is one more person to thank and that is Mark Flanagan because I could not just thank him once.

"You hear so often how things don't work, but this thing, to me, worked like clockwork, almost like it was rehearsed," said Norwell Fire Chief, Andy Reardon. "I'm very pleased with the charter school and school district for being so cooperative."

March: Tradition and charter school in the same sentence. Sixteen years ago we were trying to break free from tradition and in fact we often refer to non charter public schools as traditional public schools. We are now sixteen years old and we have many traditions that have evolved and changed over time but their pattern has become very important to us. An important tradition that is going on right now are Exhibitions of Mastery, as our students work earnestly and bravely to present for their classmates, families and teachers. I have seen some and the teachers have told me how proud they are of their students and I could not agree more!

April: On my way to school yesterday I looked for my friends the skunk cabbage on the edge of the Hingham Town Forest. I drove the back way to school in the hopes of seeing them and I was rewarded by a patch I have been watching over the last seven years. Skunk cabbage is a perennial that grows in wet places and is particularly apparent in the early spring as green leaves seemingly appear out of the brown of winter. I first became aware of skunk cabbage when I was 20 and living on a farm in the mountains of Virginia. It is a beautiful plant that is an indicator of spring as it rises out of the ground with great rapidity. You can see it change from day to day.

May: On Monday May 2nd I saw the future of the South Shore Charter School – and it is bright. It happens every year here, we got a new crop of Kindergartners and we send out a group of seniors. It is part of a cycle that repeats itself year after year because we have the privilege of being a K – 12 school. On Monday a group of twelve incoming Kindergartners came to visit and we welcomed them and their families into the school. More than half of our incoming K's are siblings of enrolled students and many of these children and families know us and we know them but it was great to spend two hours together. Last year for the first time we had spring intake sessions with families. These sessions help us welcome our new students, complete a state mandated screening, and begin planning for next year, but most importantly they are a chance to meet our future seniors and begin the remarkable journey that is a South Shore Charter School education.

June: The big event is on Saturday. All graduation ceremonies are important events but SSCPS graduation is my favorite graduation ceremony. I have been to almost all of the first fifteen and I am excited to be at the sixteenth. What makes these events so significant for me is the chance to hear the stories of the graduates told by the graduates themselves in their own distinct voices. We are a small school and there were many years where our graduation class was very small and all of the graduates spoke. The tradition of seniors telling their own story, because they had voice not because they were selected by the school, is an important tradition here at SSCPS.

Any senior who wants to share their own story with the guests got up and told us all. I am excited to hear the stories of maturation and appreciation that I know I will hear on Saturday. When the seniors talk on Saturday they deliver the most powerful message as to why our school is here, why the work of its teachers, founding families, and graduates is worth it. They tell the stories of their lives. Please come on Saturday and I believe your commitment to our school will be redoubled. I know mine is every year.

Thank you for your children and for all of the faith that you put in us. I love my job, your children and our school.
Ted Hirsch

ON THE LEVELS

SAYING OF THE WEEK:

Level 1: "Two heads are better than one."

Level 2: "Bury the hatchet."

The Level IV Literary Magazine Project organized and finished a fundraiser for Japan. Our goal was \$600, and we made \$604. There was a contest in every level except the high school, and the winners for each level are Nora's Pod (\$41), Donovan's Pod (\$93), Mac's Pod (\$64), and Haley's Project (\$23). Level II raised the most money total. Each winning class won fudgesicles for each student. All proceeds will go to American Red Cross.

LIBRARY UPDATE

The Library is now closed for the school year. All students' library books must be returned before the last of school. **The library return policy for overdue books for the end of the year is the following:**

All library books must be returned by Friday, June 3rd for a student to be considered in good standing. Students not in good standing will have their report cards withheld until the library books are returned or until the school is reimbursed for the cost of replacement.

An overdue list will be given to the school administration on the last day of school. If a student's name is on this list their report card will be held. If you are concerned that your student may have an overdue library book email the Library Committee at librarian@sscps.org and we will let you know. Also each Pod teacher will receive a list of over due books for their classes. You can check with your child's teacher if you are concerned if your student has an over due book.

The Library Committee would like to thank all of the volunteers that gave their time in helping out in the library. Your time made the library the success that it was this past year. We would also like to thank the families that donated pencils, tape, book marks this past year. These supplies are very important to the running of the library.

As I will be resigning as Chair of the Library Committee and also from the Library Committee I would like to personally thank the Library Committee members Bev Bruce, Beth Farmer, Melissa Freitas, Mickey Ciambriello and Donna Walsh for all of our help and support these past two years. I could not have done this job without any of you. Each one of year have contributed so much to making the library the success that it is and will continue to be. I know that I am leaving the running of the library in great hands.

Beth Toma Chair, Library Committee

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

To subscribe to the SSCPS Parents Google Group, simply send email to sscpsparents+@googlegroups.com

COMMUNITY INTEREST

Girl Scout Registration for next year has begun! Meetings for all grades will be held on select Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Daisies (grades K-1); Brownies (grades 2-3), and Juniors/Cadettes/Seniors (grades 4 and up). Meetings run from the end of September/early October through the end of May/early June. Dues are \$32 per semester. Financial aid is available. No one will be turned away for inability to pay. To register or for further information contact a troop leader. Registration forms are also available on the Brownie website, www.sscpsbrownies.homestead.com For Registration information, contact (Daisy's): Heather Dans, heatherdans@yahoo.com, (781) 319-7750; (Brownies): Heidi Alyward, (508) 685-3718, summer_skies@msn.com; Junior/Cadette/Seniors Troop Leaders: Stacy Rousseau (781) 961-4071 or (781) 727-9784; faemoon3@gmail.com; Beth Farmer, bfarmer12@verizon.net, (781) 826-2025. If you are willing to help out as a troop leader next year, please let us know. Troop leaders are needed for all levels. Older students who are willing to help out are greatly appreciated and it is a fun way to earn community service. Registration is first

come, first served. Please note that we expect to be filled to capacity next year so the sooner you let us know the sooner you can secure your daughter a spot.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

SSCPS Students participating in RELAY FOR LIFE - Jared and Abbey Farmer, Kaitlin and Courtney Morin and Ryan and Sean Gallagher will be participating in the **RELAY FOR LIFE** on June 17th (the last day of school). They will be walking for team **HEART and SOLE**. The Relay For Life raises money for the American Cancer Society. We are always looking for new team members. Please contact **Cindy Morin at 508-468-5715** if you are interested in joining the team or have any questions. Donations can be left at the front desk in an envelope marked RELAY FOR LIFE. Checks can be made out to the *American Cancer Society*. Thank you.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Anticipated Openings 2011-2012

High School Chemistry Teacher

High School Biology Teacher

High School Special Education Teacher-Math

History Teacher grades 7-12

English Teacher grades 7-12

Level IV Teaching Intern

Speech & Language Pathologist

Part Time Music Teacher

Part Time Receptionist

On-Call Substitutes

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

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- Go to www.Jostensyearbook.com to purchase
 - \$45.00 online or make check to SSCPS
 - For more information and questions contact Jared in room 103 or ext. 324.
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