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Weekly Update | March 13, 2019

Vol. 3, Issue 2

A Message from Angie



High school students transforming with green fluorescent protein

As a school we are constantly striving to improve and strengthen our curriculum by looking through a number of lenses. Is it rigorous? Is it relevant? Is it cohesive? Are students engaged? Are the skills transferable? Does it prepare students for postsecondary success? The science department has undergone a significant shift as we've moved toward a more active learning approach. This

the ambitious goals set by the [Massachusetts Science Curriculum Framework](#) and the results are evident across our campus.

The [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#) released new standards for Science, Technology, and Engineering in 2016 which led to a significant shift in instruction. Students in grades K-8 now work in all four major science disciplines; Earth and Space Sciences, Life Science, Physical Science, and Technology/Engineering; with a different theme each year in the younger grades. There is a focused progression of knowledge and skills from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Lessons are designed around [Science and Engineering Practices](#) that are integrated at every grade level and serve as the foundation for instruction.

Most importantly, the new standards represent an important change in how science is taught. The focus of the new standards is on conceptual understanding and the application of concepts. They promote higher level thinking skills with an inquiry-based approach. Our students are pushed to use what they learn to solve real problems and evaluate those solutions. Teachers teach students to think like scientists and to view science as an active process as they engage students in hands-on investigations. This work begins in kindergarten.



First graders learning about sound

Earlier this week I watched kindergarten students examine blocks of wood using their five senses to make observations about and find differences between blocks made of maple, plywood, and particle board. Students shared their findings and read a book about how wood is harvested. They asked questions of

sound used a rubber band, a piece of cardboard, and a spoon to feel the vibrations that conduct sound and manipulate them. They explored how different materials changed those vibrations. They classified sounds into categories. In a second grade room students learned about the properties of matter by classifying materials into different categories and using their five senses to describe those materials. Next they will experiment with solids, liquids, and gases. They will explore a non newtonian fluid that breaks all the rules. In all three classrooms students were engaged, excited, and actively involved in the learning process.

These lessons are part of Level I's pilot of the [FOSS \(Full Option Science System\)](#) program that will serve as the backbone of the revised K-2 science curriculum. Level II successfully introduced aspects of the program last year and this year they are refining their work with the curriculum. The philosophy of the program matches the philosophy of our curriculum. Science is discovery activity and by practicing science students are producing new knowledge. We are tapping into the natural curiosity of children by having them experience science by observing, thinking deeply, testing, and generating explanations. Neil DeGrasse Tyson explains this beautifully in this [clip](#).



Second graders exploring materials

Work on the science curriculum is not limited to grades K-4. Our middle school teachers rewrote their curriculum with the arrival of the new standards and continue to enrich the curriculum with opportunities for exploration and investigation. At the high school we are expanding course offerings both of [Advanced Placement](#) courses and of science-based electives while adding lab

post-secondary plans. The science work students and teachers are engaged in across our campus is exciting and further stimulating student interest in STEM.

On a different note, I will be presenting to families about bullying, cyberbullying, and social media use on Tuesday, March 19th. The workshop will take place at 100 Longwater Circle in the Music Room beginning at 6pm. The intended audience for the presentation is K-12 parents. I hope to see many of you there. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and concerns.

Angie Pepin
Principal, South Shore Charter Public School



COMEDY NIGHT!

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH, DOORS OPEN AT 6PM,
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON • 929 HINGHAM ST. ROCKLAND, MA
DINNER WILL BE SERVED AND SHOW BEGINS AT 7:30!
• CASH BAR •**

Featuring



**CAROLYN
PLUMMER**

Headliner



**PAUL
GILLIGAN**

Opener



**EJ
MURPHY**

TICKETS
\$45

**\$35 TICKETS UNTIL MARCH 1ST OR UNTIL
WE SELL OUT! • SPACE IS LIMITED.
TICKET PRICE INCREASES TO \$45
AFTER MARCH 1ST...
SO MAKE SURE TO SIGN UP EARLY!**



**MC/HOST
BILL FARRELL**

**For Tickets: www.sscps.org/comedy
or call Laurie: 781.982.4202, ext 207**

Our 24th Annual Auction and Comedy Night is quickly approaching Friday, March 29th at the Doubletree by Hilton in Rockland. The auction is our largest fundraiser of the year, and all proceeds raised benefit the South Shore Charter Educational Foundation that funds our K-12 community. The per person price is \$45 and will include dinner and show. Space is limited and we have less than 50 tickets left, so please [sign up](#) today!

We will have a wide variety of amazing items that you can bid on to include many fabulous teacher experiences, art work, local restaurant gift certificates, summer camp opportunities, sporting events tickets, spas, overnights and so much more. Additionally, our Level I students are all working on their classroom projects so please keep your eye out from your pod parents.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful community. Reach out please to Laurie Dannison at ldannison@sscps.org if you have access to local businesses or donations, or if you would like to support the event as a corporate sponsor.

Wednesday	03/13	INPAC Meeting at 100 Longwater Circle	6:30pm
Thursday	03/14	Level III Operation Conservation Project to NE Wildlife	
Thursday	03/14	Winter Athletics Banquet at the SSCPS Gym Parents are encouraged to attend. Please park at 100 Longwater Circle or 700 Longwater Drive.	4:00-5:00pm
Thursday	03/14	Board of Trustees Meeting Development Committee Finance Committee Governance Committee All meetings will be held at 100 Longwater Circle	7:30pm 7:00pm 6:30pm 5:00pm
Saturday	03/16	High School Debate Team to Needham	
Tuesday	03/19	Bullying/Cyberbullying Parent Workshop - Music Room at 100	6:00pm
Wednesday	03/20	Professional Development Day – No School for Students	
Thursday	03/21	Strategic Planning Committee Meeting at 700	8:00am



Stomp Dynasty brings home the trophy! On Thursday, March 7, the SSCPS step

wonderful young women and all they have accomplished. Congratulations Ashley Almeda, Marie Audry, Orianeh Byron-Gabelus, Antonia Cote, Shyla Hartgrove, Nyomi Inda, Samantha Jocelyn, Monica Karongo, Keesha Pierre-Louis, Olivia Smith, Nikaya Thomas, Kalina Vilnaigre, Katrina Vilnaigre, and their terrific coach and mentor Stacy Tchouanguem.

SAVE THE DATE!

International Food Night

an SSCPS community pot-luck tradition
celebrating our diverse heritages and cuisines

Thursday, April 11th

6:00-7:30 pm

****New venue: Stetson Hall, 6 South Main Street, Randolph**

Includes a performance by our award-winning
SSCPS Stomp Dynasty team!

Important Links

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website www.sscps.org every Wednesday.

Here are links to upcoming events and other items of interest.

- [Food Service](#) – March and April Order Forms and Menus are available!
- **Order your 2019 Yearbook!** Order online at www.coffeepond.com and use password: **bluejaguar** or complete an order form available at the front desks
- [SSCPS Counseling Department](#) offers workshop information and resources for students and families
- Visit our new online option to [purchase](#) SSCPS apparel
- Please visit our [Giving](#) link for information regarding *The Fund for SSCEF*
- From the Health Office: [March Nutrition Newsletter](#)
- [2019 Annual Parent Survey](#)
- High School Workshop hosting [Movie Afternoon](#) on Wednesday April 3!

Please contact Pam Algera at palgera@sscps.org to submit SSCPS items for publication.

School Documents

[Accountability Plan](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)

[School Improvement Plan](#)

[School Council](#)

Schedules by Level:

- [Level I](#)
- [Level II](#)
- [Level III](#)
- [Level IV](#)

[Pick-up Procedures](#)



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