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Weekly Update | October 3, 2018

Vol. 10, Issue 1

A Message from Angie



Level IV Presentation

Yesterday students in grades 8-12 had the opportunity to hear [Dashka Slater](#) speak about her work as a storyteller, author, and journalist. Dashka is the author of several books for children and adults, including *The Antlered Ship*, *Escargot* and *The 57 Bus*. She is the recipient of a Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and an award-winning journalist. Her articles have appeared in *Newsweek*, *Salon*, *The New York Times Magazine* and *Mother Jones*.

different audiences. She began the day speaking to our eighth grade students. In this talk Dashka focused on her work as a writer, relating her own career trajectory to her interests when she was in school. She shared her love of books and writing and described the interesting places that journalism has taken her including into the jaws of a lion and under the weight of a suit of medieval armor. Dashka also gave our eighth graders a window into the detailed work that is investigative journalism as she touched briefly on her latest book, *The 57 Bus*, a book that dives deep into an incident on a bus in Oakland, California that left one teenager severely burned and another facing life in adult prison after being charged with two hate crimes.



High School Presentation

Dashka's presentations to our high school students went deeper into the challenging themes presented in *The 57 Bus*. The crime that the book describes raises questions about race, gender, and fairness in our criminal justice system. At the start of her talk, Dashka asked our students about their concept of justice. She then took our students through the journey that she took in her reporting and helped paint a clearer picture of both the offender and the victim in the case. Dashka ended with a quote from Howard Zehr, the founder of Restorative Justice, "If crime is a wound, justice should be healing." She left our students wondering if justice was served in the case described by her book.

This discussion could not have taken place at a better time. The news over the past couple of weeks has many across the country discussing the behavior of teenagers, what their actions say about their values, and the implications that

teenagers about their feelings surrounding the allegations against Brett Kavanaugh. One teen, Maycee Wieczorek, a 17-year-old in Rapid City, S.D, phrased it perfectly when she said, “For me and my friends his past is our now.” This is what I am hearing from our students. It is critically important that we provide our students with the time and space to think about and discuss difficult topics as they process how these issues apply to them. This happens regularly in our high school classrooms and we routinely seek out opportunities for our students to hear from other voices.

Yesterday while listening to Dashka Slater, our students thought hard about how a bad decision made by an adolescent changed two lives forever. They thought about the long-term implications of something that might have started as a joke. They thought about what justice is and how someone’s race or gender might impact outcomes in our country’s criminal justice system. The discussions continued in the hallways following her talk. These conversations will continue in classes as students reflect on literature and current events.

I’d like to thank Level II parent Jacqueline Veissid for putting us in touch with Dashka Slater and helping to bring her to SSCPS. Yesterday’s talks were important for our oldest students as they pushed them to tackle challenging issues and helped open the door for continued discussion. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Angie Pepin

Principal, South Shore Charter Public School

Tune in tonight, Wednesday, October 3rd from 5-7pm to hear SSCPS students Fionn Pina-Parker, grade 12, and Larkin Tanner, grade 9, playing bass and lead guitar with their band Not Today live on The Underbelly on WEMF Radio!

Find them at: www.wemfradio.com/live, on their [Facebook page](#) and via the [TuneIn App](#).

Wednesday	10/03	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm
Thursday	10/04	School Council	3:30pm
Thursday	10/04	1 st Quarter Warnings Mailed	
Monday	10/08	Columbus Day Observed – No School	
Wednesday	10/10	11 th Grade PSAT’s	
Wednesday	10/10	Game Change Summit at Gillette Stadium	
Thursday	10/11	FASFA Workshop at 700 Longwater Drive	6:00pm
Thursday	10/11	Board of Trustees	7:30pm
		Governance Committee	6:00pm

		Upcoming Event	
Saturday	10/13	SSCEF 10th Annual Harvest Road Race	

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.

- Register today for the [SSCEF 10th Annual Harvest Road Race](#)
- News from the [Physical Education Department](#)
- [Food Service](#) – **October** Order Forms and Menus are available!
- [BoxTop for Education](#) volunteer opportunity
- Visit our new online option to [purchase](#) SSCPS apparel
- Please visit our [Giving](#) link for information regarding The Fund for SSCEF and the Harvest Run registration and sponsorship information
- [Interested in International Travel](#) in April 2019!
- Check out the weekly newsletter for [Holly Hill Farm](#)
- FCC Transportation has additional seats available on existing routes. Call Sue or email for more information. 781-267-1388
FCCTransportation@comcast.net

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

School Documents

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)

[School Improvement Plan](#)

[School Council](#)

Schedules by Level:

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



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