



Keep moving, for it may well be that the greatest song has not yet been sung, the greatest book has not been written, the highest mountain has not been climbed. This is your challenge! Reach out and grab it...we must keep moving. If you can't fly, run; if you can't run, walk; if you can't walk, crawl; but by all means keep moving.

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Spelman College, April 1960

Weekly Update | January 15, 2020

Vol. 1, Issue 2

A Message from Alicia

As we look toward the long weekend in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., it seems fitting that today's Weekly Update will address equal opportunity for all students and efforts the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is putting forth to alleviate some of the ongoing disparities that still plague the strongest public education system in the nation. One of the most difficult realities we as educators face is that disparity exists among the student populations we serve. Because we have over 25 sending districts, we are first hand witnesses to the ramifications of unequal opportunity that persist.

The funding formula provides a solid example of inequity. Students who come to us from less affluent towns most often have a lower per-capita tuition rate than the students who come from more affluent towns. As each sending city or town determines local educational funding to be added to the state funds, educational funding is not equal. For us here at SSCPS, the tuition number that follows a student from their sending district seems random. We do not provide one set of educational experiences for students coming from higher paying towns, and another set of educational experiences for students who come from lower paying towns. Yet statewide, unequal funding has been the status quo throughout Massachusetts for years.

Statewide lawmakers and educators have correctly realized that this formula creates disparity. That disparity is reflected in what educators and lawmakers call the achievement gap. This is the measured gap between different groups of students who are placed into categories the state refers to as subgroups. The subgroups that experience the most troubling achievement gaps are made up of students who have the greatest needs. Statewide these subgroups are *Students with Disabilities*,

Economically Disadvantaged, English Learners, and a combination of indicators, *High Needs*. Each of these subgroups require additional educational support to ensure that every student has access to curricula and educational programming so that each child can achieve their full potential. Educational opportunity for all children is a civil right.

Education is more than a funding formula. For over 25 years the state has struggled with the persistent achievement gap. If the objective of public education is to provide equal opportunity for all students, regardless of circumstance or zip code, policy makers have realized that effective remedies must be put in place. The Commonwealth has tried to mandate some remedies, however, in the past these have left schools and districts with unfunded mandates that fall to districts and towns to implement. Unfunded mandates quickly become another well-intentioned initiative where lack of funding takes its toll over time and inevitably falls short of the intended outcome.

Teachers in high needs districts are no strangers to educational initiatives that fizzle out. As professionals, they have learned to ride each wave to the end, holding the integrity of their practice firmly underfoot, ensuring that all students put before them are given the best education they can provide. However Herculean, efforts of individual teachers and district schools are not enough. Left underfunded, teaching and learning has persistently suffered; children fall through the cracks, teachers face defeat, schools suffer from poor accountability data, and the achievement gap persists throughout the state.

At long last, on November 20, 2019, the House and Senate approved the [Student Opportunity Act](#); a bill that will increase public education spending by \$1.5 billion dollars over the next seven years. Governor Charlie Baker signed the act into law on November 26. The landmark education spending bill intends to provide the funding necessary for increasing student achievement for all students, but in particular, those students who fall into one or more subgroup. Although districts and charter schools have yet to see how those funds will be distributed, this is a strong step in the right direction.

Throughout Massachusetts, school districts will be asked to prepare plans on how funds provided by the act will be used to reduce and eliminate the achievement gap. The guidelines on these plans are scheduled to be released to districts over the next few weeks. In the meantime, the Commissioner has asked school leaders to communicate these preliminary stages to our school communities.

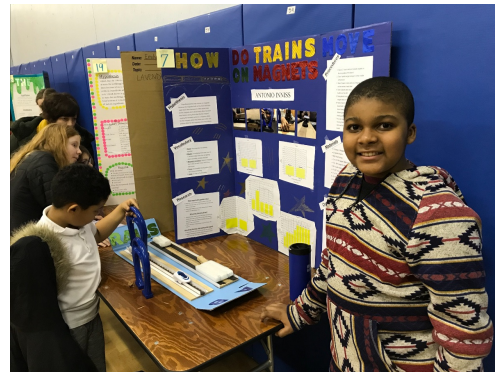
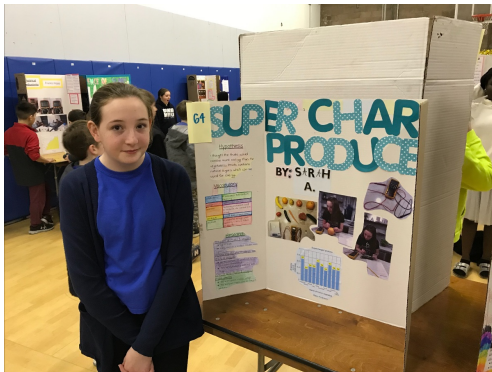
There are some ramifications of the Student Opportunity Act that we know now. Charter schools may also be eligible for additional funding. The Charter School Office at the Department of Education is working on revisions to the Annual Report Guidelines which will reflect the new requirements under the Educational Opportunity Act. As you may know, every year charter schools are required to submit an Annual Report to the state by August 1. We hope to be provided with the revised Annual Report Guidelines by late February or early March which will enable us to get working on our school wide plan as early as possible.

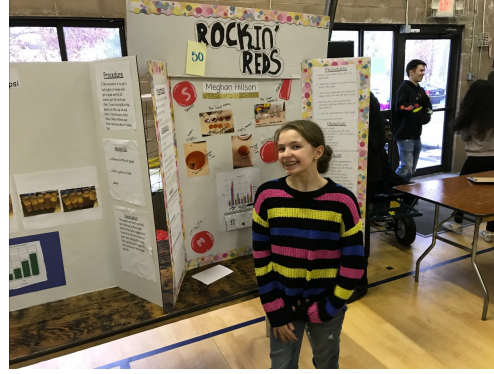
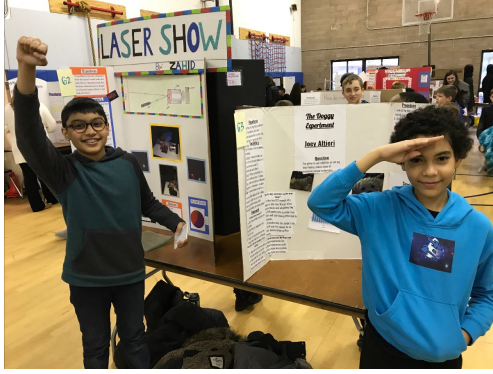
There are some steps we can take before receiving the official guidelines. One of the most important elements of the Student Opportunity Act plan is input from key stakeholders. Here at SSCPS, this includes all families. This year's Family Survey will include some demographic questions to assist us with our plan within the Annual Report. Please mark your calendar and set aside some time to participate in the

survey. The survey will be sent out to families with the Weekly Update on February 12, 2020. As always, if you have any questions about the survey, or need assistance translating the survey in your browser, please contact me directly.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate our sixth grade students and teachers for a terrific science fair yesterday. The exhibits were well researched and highly informative; the display boards beautifully done and carefully presented. We are so proud of all our sixth graders have accomplished, and impressed by our high school science mentors who supported their younger peers at all the right moments. Yesterday was truly a day of wonder and accomplishment, serving as yet another reminder of how fortunate we are to be SSCPS.

Alicia Savage
Executive Director





Congratulations to all of the Level 3 Spelling Bee contestants. The top 5 spellers will compete against the top 5 Level IV spellers on 1/30/20 at 2pm in the PE space.

The top 5 Level III spellers are: Madison Quinn, Abigail Lantigua, Shaelyn Leonard, Prince Gnakou, Anthony Della Rocca, and Ayira Cunningham.

Thanks to Jenn Johnson for working with these students each week during a Spelling Bee FIT to prepare them for the SSCPS Spelling Bee.

High School Midyear Exam Schedule			
	Wednesday 1/22	Thursday 1/23	Friday 1/24
8:15-8:30	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
8:30-10:00	A Block	C Block	E Block
10:00-10:30	Break	Break	Break
10:30-12:00	B Block	D Block	Make-up exams*

*Students without a makeup exam will be dismissed at 10:00 on Friday

Level IV Midyear Exam Schedule			
	Wednesday 1/22	Thursday 1/23	Friday 1/24
8:15-8:30	Pod Time	Pod Time	Pod Time
8:30-10:00	7 th Science 8 th English	7 th Spanish 8 th History	7 th Math 8 th Spanish
10:00-10:30	Break	Break	Break
10:30-12:00	7 th History 8 th Science	7 th English 8 th Math	Project Reflection

From the Health Office

This flu season is shaping up to be challenging. Like many schools, we are seeing an increased number of cases.

Below are a few reminders about our policies regarding viruses. Please follow these guidelines to help limit the transmission of illness.

- **Students must stay home with any vomiting or diarrhea. They may return to school once symptom-free for 24 hours.**
- **Students must stay home if they have a fever >100.4. They may return to school when fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication like Tylenol/ibuprofen.**
- **Students should stay home with severe cold symptoms/cough.**

[Click here](#) some information from the Massachusetts Department of Health regarding the flu virus. Please reach out to any of the nurses with questions. Thank you for your help in keeping everyone in our building healthy!

Darcie, Barbara, and Susan

From the Foundation



January is Support Athletics Month!

Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Cross-Country and Track
SSCPS student athletes are among the best in the league.

Please show your support of our Athletics Program by donating in January.

Thank you!

DONATE

Annual Fund Update

Please make your [contribution](#) to the Annual Fund today! We are hoping for 100% participation from all of our families to reach our \$75,000 goal.



**Norwell Community
Blood Drive**
**Sponsored by South Shore
Charter Public School**

Gym
104 Longwater Drive
Norwell, MA 02061

**Tuesday, February 4, 2020
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: NORWELL to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to schedule an appointment.

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Level IV Project Collecting Donations for [Cradles to Crayons](#)

The Creative Minds Project led by Katie Curry is collecting donations for Cradles to Crayons. Cradles to Crayons is an organization that collects clothing and other items for homeless children ages 0-12. Their goal is to help children have basic necessities. There will be a donation box located near the front desk labelled "Cradles to Crayons Donations." We will be collecting new or like new items such as clothing, shoes, toys, books, baby gear, and other basic necessities beginning January 13 through February 13.

[Click here for a list of items needed.](#)

Thank you!

SSCPS YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

The 2019-2020 Yearbook is now in progress.
To order online go to www.coffeepond.com, to login use school
password: bluejaguar.

Families may submit a special personalized page for their senior that will appear in the back of the book at these rates: Full page \$150, 1/2 pg. \$75, 1/4 pg. \$50. Due date is March 30, 2020. The yearbook staff can help with any design concerns.

Please email Christine at cbodnar@sscps.org with any questions.

Upcoming Events

Adult Trivia Night | January 25, 2020

Registration is open for our January 25th **Adult Trivia Night** at Weston Hall in Weymouth and we hope you will join us! There is a \$25 fee per person and this will include Stump Trivia, a pasta dinner, raffles, and a cash bar. Use the [link](#) to sign up today.

25th Annual Auction | March 27, 2020

Save the date for our **25th Annual Auction** that will take place on Friday, March 27th at the Pembroke Country Club. Reach out to Laurie Dannison at ldannison@sscps.org, or 781-982-4202, ext. 207 if you would like to be part of the Auction committee. We are always looking for new volunteers to help out with the event. Thank you for your support!

Thursday	01/16	Parent/Teacher Conferences by Appointment	3-6pm
Thursday	01/16	Enrollment Open House	6-8pm
Friday	01/17	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm
Monday	01/20	MLK Day Observed – No School	
Tuesday	01/21	2 nd Quarter Ends for Grades 5-12	
Wednesday	01/22	High School Mock Trial to Hingham	
Weds-Fri	01/22-01/24	Midyear Exams for Grades 7-12 - Early Release	See Schedule
Saturday	01/25	Ski Club to Ragged Mountain	
Saturday	01/25	SSCEF Hosting Trivia Night at Weston Hall, Weymouth	

2019-2020 School Calendar Update

Linked below under *School Documents* please find the revised 2019-2020 School Calendar. Calendar revisions have been made to make up for four lost days. Additional snow days will be added to the end of the year. The revised calendar reflects the following:

- The January 17 full day professional development day has been changed to a half day/12:00 dismissal
- The March 18 full day professional development day has been changed to a half day/12:00 dismissal
- Two half days have been added to the end of the school year. The last day for students will be Tuesday, June 16.

Important Links

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

- **January and February Order Forms and Menus are available.** [Breakfast and Lunch Menus and Order Forms](#)
- **After School Enrichment Sign-up:** [Winter Art Class](#)
- Health Office Nutrition Nuggets Issue: [January](#)
- Visit our new online option to [purchase](#) SSCPS apparel
- Community Interest: Click here for information on [Team IMPACT](#)

Here are links to upcoming events and other items of interest. Please contact Pam Algera at palgera@sscps.org to submit SSCPS items for publication.

School Documents

[2019-20 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)

[Pick-up Procedures](#)



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