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Weekly Update | December 23, 2020

Vol. 12, Issue 4



Happy Holidays from the Kindergarten Smile Project!

A Message from Angie...

This week teachers in grades 5-12 released Quarter 2 Progress Reports through [PlusPortals](#). These Progress Reports have replaced the Warnings of prior years. While in the past Warnings only went home if a student was struggling, this year teachers are creating Progress Reports for all of their students. For each core academic subject, families can expect to see an updated course average as well as missing assignments. Directions explaining how to access Progress Reports through PlusPortals can be found [here](#). If you have questions about your child's Progress Reports please contact [teachers](#) following the holiday break.

Once again, thanks to the hard work of our teachers, faculty, and students, our school has made a smooth transition to remote learning this week. We are looking forward to returning to our hybrid model in January. In the meantime, we are asking that our families continue to do their part. The start of a new year and news of a vaccine bring hope, but the data is pointing to a difficult January to come. You can help by avoiding out-of-state travel and in-home gatherings with anyone outside of your household. Continue to wear masks, wash your hands, and keep your distance from others. Our students and their teachers are working so hard. As the COVID-19 surge continues in Massachusetts, our school needs everybody to work together to ensure a swift and safe return to school.

December is usually marked by concerts, theme days, and crafts; this year was no different. Our school community has adapted traditions and found new ways to celebrate this special time of year. We appreciate the incredible parent support that has made this possible.

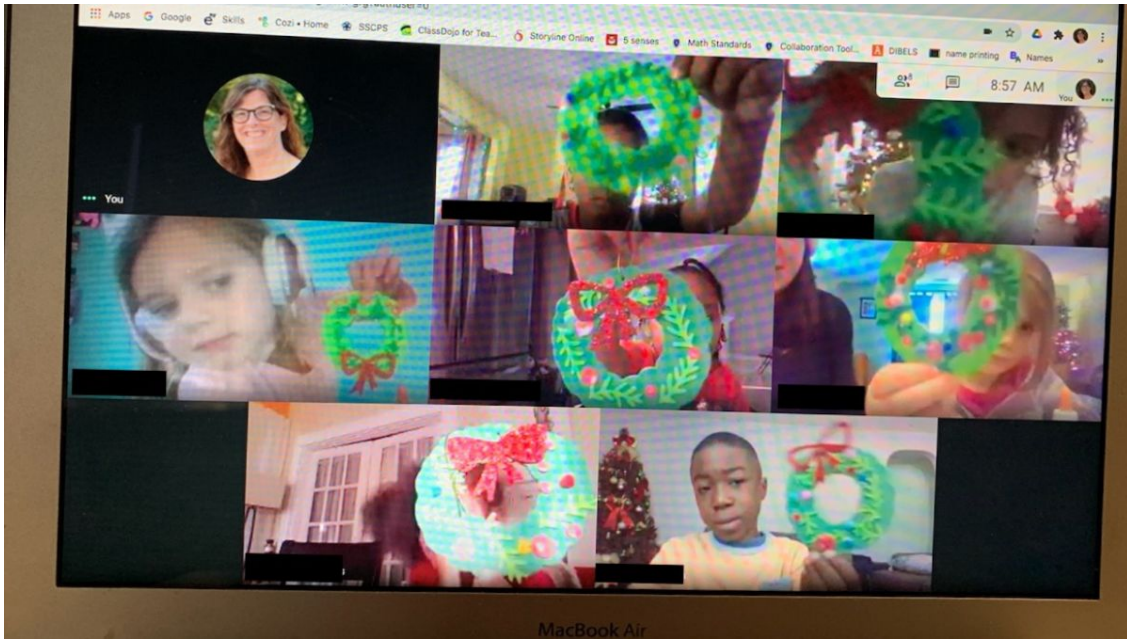
Our students in grades K-4 were able to participate in our much anticipated annual Craft Day this morning. Parents donated craft materials and remotely instructed students as they worked on crafts with their peers. Students enjoyed social time with their classmates as they ushered in the holiday break. Thank you to all of the parents who donated crafts and took the time to meet with classes this morning. I'd especially like to thank PA Vice Chair Andrea Poudrier, Kindergarten Representative Brittany Lofstrand, Level I Representative Laura Foley, and Level II Representative Rich Ahern for their work organizing this morning's event. You have kept a beloved tradition alive for our youngest learners.

New takes on school rituals could be seen throughout our building this month. At the high school students and teachers participated in a series of spirit days ending in today's celebration of the ugly sweater. Students on Levels III and IV participated in Jeopardy games, scavenger hunts, and minute to win it challenges with their classmates. Our kindergarten students moved their caroling tradition online. If you're looking for some holiday cheer, take a minute to watch their video above.

As we close the book on 2020 and look forward to a brighter 2021, I'd like to thank our families for your continued support of our school. To say that this has been an extraordinary year full of challenges is an understatement. Take some time over this vacation to reflect, take a break from screens, and enjoy time with family. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Angie Pepin
Principal, K-12



Kindergarten Craft Day 2020



High School Faculty and Staff Ugly Sweater Day

IMPORTANT
Weekly COVID-19 Health Report
Released on Thursday

The [Massachusetts Department of Public Health Weekly COVID-19 Report](#), including the city/town data and map, will be posted on Thursday evening. The last report was on December 17, 2020. The next report is scheduled for tomorrow, December 24, 2020.

The weekly report provides the count and rate of confirmed COVID-19 cases and tests, including the daily incidence rate in Massachusetts cities and towns. We use this data as one way to determine if our school needs to transition learning models. Because over 25 percent of our student population municipalities turned red for **the third consecutive week last week**, the school has transitioned to full remote learning. The transition to full remote learning instruction is for all K-12 students, including students in Cohort C.

The report on December 17 placed 91.6 of communities where our students reside in the red category. Those 21 districts include Abington, Braintree, Bridgewater, Brockton, Carver, Cohasset, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Holbrook, Hull, Marshfield, Middleboro, Pembroke, Plymouth, Quincy, Randolph, Rockland, Weymouth, and Whitman.

We are asking all families to do their part so that we may reopen safely in January. This includes avoiding out-of-state travel, including traveling anywhere by airplane, and refraining from in-home gatherings with anyone outside of your immediate family.

Thank you for your support.

From the Health Office

If your child has received the flu vaccine or other vaccines, please send a copy to the appropriate health office. Governor Baker has issued a flu shot mandate for all Massachusetts schoolchildren. Forms can be mailed, faxed or emailed to the appropriate nurse.

High school: sdupras@sscps.org or bfolan@sscps.org

K-8 school: dedwards@sscps.org or jkelgaard@sscps.org

Fax # 781-982-4201

SSCPS has an email address to use when your child will be absent. This email address should be used for both In-Person and Remote students. The email is sent to the Health Office as well as both Front Desks.

Email: Attendance@sscps.org

Please include the following information:

- Your student's name and grade
- Reason for Absence
- Contact phone number

If the absence is due to illness the nurse will call you back and ask you questions about symptoms.

COVID-19 Check

Please remember to check your child for COVID-19 symptoms including temperature before arriving at school or getting on the bus. Wellness checks should be completed on School Pass. If your child is absent with symptoms or has been tested, even if negative you must **notify the health office** before your child returns to school. Please use the **attendance email** that is found on the SSCPS website to report a student absence even if your child is not ill but will be working remotely that day. If it is not reported you will receive a phone call from the school regarding the your child's absence.

Visit the school's [Health Office](#) page for additional information.

The nursing team here at the South Shore Charter Public School Health Office has compiled this COVID-19 FAQ sheet to provide families with information pertaining to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and school-wide procedures.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- **Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills**
- **Cough (not due to other know cause, such as chronic cough)**
- **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Sore throat**
- **Headache, when in combination with other symptoms**
- **Muscle aches or body aches**
- **Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea**
- **Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms**
- **Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms**

What should I do every morning before my child goes to school?

Perform a wellness check every morning before your student arrives at school. Please check temperatures and check to see if your student has any of the above mentioned symptoms. Please fill out the questionnaire on the School Pass app before sending your child to school.

What happens if my student is sent home from school with COVID-like symptoms?

If your child develops COVID-like symptoms at school they will be sent to the CARE room. They will be sent home and will not be able to return to school until they have a negative PCR COVID-19 test, a medical note clearing them to return, or your student will need to remain home for 10 days. Symptoms need to be resolved and students will need to be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication before they can return.

What is the CARE room?

The CARE room is a separate room where students with any COVID-like symptoms are brought until they are picked up from school. The CARE room is a separate room from the health office. The students will remain in the CARE room with a nurse until they leave school.

If my child is sent home from school with COVID-like symptoms can their siblings be at school?

No, if a student is sent home with COVID-like symptoms all siblings and household members will also be sent home and cannot return until the symptomatic child is cleared to return to school.

My child has COVID-like symptoms and I am keeping them home, can I send my other children to school?

No, all siblings and household members will need to remain out of school until the child with symptoms is cleared to return to school by a negative PCR COVID-19 test, a medical note clearing them to return, or all household members will need to stay home for 10 days.

My child has COVID-like symptoms and I took them for a rapid antigen COVID-19 test that was negative, can they return to school?

No, a rapid negative antigen COVID test is not accepted as a substitute for the PCR test due to a higher rate of incorrect test results. The student may not return to school until they have a negative PCR test.

A household member has COVID-like symptoms, may my children go to school?

No, the student must remain out of school until the household member has a negative PCR COVID-19 test or is medically cleared by a doctor stating that the

symptoms are not due to COVID-19. No student can return to school if a household member has a pending COVID-19 test due to having COVID-like symptoms.

Where can my child or household member get COVID-19 PCR testing?

[Massachusetts COVID-19 Testing Sites](#)

[Mass.gov | Stop the Spread](#)

What should I do if my student is positive for COVID-19?

Please keep your student home and contact the school's Health Office immediately. The student will need to isolate for 14 days. The student will need to be cleared by the school Health Office before returning to in-person school and the student will need to have had a negative PCR COVID-19 test, or a doctor's note clearing them to return. They will also need to have resolved/improved symptoms and be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

[Mass.gov | COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Information](#)

Do I report my COVID-19 test results?

Yes, both negative and positive test results should be reported to the appropriate Health Office.

Do I need to report a positive COVID-19 test if my student is fully remote?

Yes, the school is required to report all positive cases to DESE, even fully remote students.

How do I contact the school if my student will be absent from school?

Please use the email: attendance@sscps.org or contact the appropriate school health office. If your student has any COVID-like symptoms, please speak to the nurse directly.

HS: 781-982-4202 X 182 or email: sdupras@sscps.org or bfolan@sscps.org

K-8: 781-982-4202 x104 or email: dedwards@sscps.org or jkjelgaard@sscps.org

Why is it important for me to call my student's school nurse when they are home sick?

Keeping communication with your child's school nurse about your student's illness allows for the nurses to track illnesses in the school community and to maximize the health and safety of all students and staff.

What is a close contact?

Per the CDC, a close contact is someone who has been within 6 feet of a person positive for COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes in the previous 48 hours of the onset of symptoms or from a positive COVID-19 result of an asymptomatic person.

What should I do if my student is a close contact to a person positive for COVID-19?

If your student is a close contact to a positive person they will need to quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure. It is recommended that they have a PCR COVID-19 test on day 5 of being exposed. Regardless of the results they will need to remain in quarantine for a full 14 days from the exposure.

What should we do if a household member is a close contact?

If a household member is a close contact to a person positive with COVID-19 and asymptomatic the student may remain in school. If the household member is symptomatic the student will need to remain home until the close contact has a negative PCR COVID-19 test. If the household member is positive, the student will need to quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure or 48 hours prior from the date of the test if the person is asymptomatic.

Can my student do remote learning if they are not able to be in person due to quarantining or having COVID-like symptoms?

Yes, students are expected to continue remote learning while in quarantine or are unable to be in school due to the student or family members having COVID-like symptoms. Please reach out to your child's administrators and teachers.

We are traveling to a high risk (red) state. Can my student return to in-person school if they have a negative COVID-19 test?

No, our school policy is that all students who have traveled to a state that Massachusetts has deemed as non low risk need to quarantine for 14 days starting the day after they return from traveling.

[Mass.gov | COVID-19 Travel Order](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order)

What supplies does my child need from home for school?

- Water bottle with straw
- 2 face masks
- Chromebook
- School bin (can stay at school for the week)
- Change of seasonal clothing (kids go outside for most weather for recess, mask breaks, snack and specialist classes)
- Warm clothing (students go outside for snack, mask breaks, lunch at the high school and specialist classes)

Should my student bring warm clothing (jacket/hat/gloves) in the cold weather?

Yes, students at the high school have lunch outside in all weather conditions. Specialist classes and snack breaks are also held outside. Windows at 100 will be kept open to improve air ventilation. Students should bring warm clothing.

Why does my child have to wear a face mask?

Face masks are an important measure to take to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Face masks help reduce the spread by containing the infected person's respiratory droplets from traveling to other people.

What type of mask should my student wear to school?

All students and staff are required to wear a mask at school. Appropriate masks are two-ply face masks that stay up around the nose. Masks should be washed daily and students should have an extra mask in their bag. There are disposable masks available if one becomes dirty or breaks while at school. Gaiters, and bandanas, and masks with a valve are not acceptable for school.

What if my student is having difficulty wearing a mask at school?

Masks are required at school for all students and staff. Students will be given mask breaks during the day. If a student is not wearing their mask appropriately at the middle and high school students will be given a warning and a phone call home for the first offense. The second offense will result in the student being sent home.

How do I contact the school if I have questions about COVID-19 or need to report a positive case?

Should your child test positive for COVID-19, have symptoms, or if you have any questions, please contact the appropriate school health office and speak to one of our nurses directly.

High School: 781-982-4202 X 182 or email:

Susan Dupras, sdupras@sscps.org or Barbara Folan, bfolan@sscps.org

K-8: 781-982-4202 x104 or email:

Darcie Edwards, dedwards@sscps.org or Jaime Kjelgaard, jkjelgaard@sscps.org

Thank you for your ongoing support and for your assistance keeping our school community safe.

Susan Dupras, RN

Darcie Edwards, RN

Barbara Folan, RN

Jaime Kjelgaard, RN

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

Guidance Office Winter Break Policy

Please be aware that the Guidance Office will be closed on Wednesday, December 23rd at noon for winter break. The Guidance Office will reopen on

Monday, January 4, 2021. The Guidance Office will not be sending any materials to colleges during the break.

Please see Mary Carter this week if you would like to add any schools to Naviance.

FROM THE SSCPS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

SSCPS Homeless Shelter Outreach

As we all know, because of COVID-19 times have been hard. If you would like to help others this winter check out the charities listed below.

*only accepts new items

Items needed:

- Winter gear (coats, hats, gloves, blankets, socks, scarfs...)
- Hygiene products (toiletries, feminine products...)
- Clothing (adult & childrens)
- Water/Food items
- Baby products
- Kitchen supplies
- Masks
- Books/Children's toys
- Monetary donations



Shelters and Organizations:

- *Carolina Hill Shelter: 728 Main St, Marshfield
 - (781) 837-1377
 - <http://www.carolinahill.org/donate.html>
- Father Bill's & MainSpring: 38 Broad St, Quincy/54 N Main St, Brockton
 - (617) 770-3314; <https://helpfbms.org/donate/>
- Conway House Shelter: 14 East Grove Street, Middleboro
 - (508) 946-8505; Mondays-Fridays 8am-5pm
- Rosie's Place: 889 Harrison Ave, Boston
 - (617) 442-9322; <http://rosiesplace.org/give>
- Dorchester Community Fridge: 1471 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester
 - Accepting all food donations, will take homemade meals as long as they're labeled with ingredients and date made
 - Instagram: @dotcommunityfridge
- Catie's Closet: 63 Sprague Street, Boston
 - <https://www.catiescloset.org/donate-items>

In order to keep track of all items donated from those a part of the SSCPS community, please send an email to dominique_childs@student.sscps.org or jhought101@student.sscps.org stating that you donated and which organization you donated to.

If you have any questions or would like more information please email either email listed above, Thank you!

Holiday Travel Advisory

With the holiday season approaching, we would like to remind families of the health and safety guidelines put forward by Governor Baker and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in the recently updated [COVID-19 Travel Order](#). The South Shore Charter Public School has enacted a strict travel protocol which requires that all students who return from traveling to high risk states or countries, or students who have been on a plane, must quarantine for fourteen (14) days. Students in grades 2-12 are expected to learn remotely during the 14-day quarantine period. Students in grades K-1 are expected to utilize their learning bins.

Our school policy regarding voluntary travel is stricter than the Massachusetts Travel Order. There is no exemption from quarantine if your child tests negative **prior** to returning to Massachusetts. Because of the nature of COVID-19 transmission, and the chance of exposure within the 72-hour period prior to returning to Massachusetts, the school does not consider the described testing measure to be adequately preventative. A 14-day quarantine is required by our school's [Health Office](#).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Housing Help

Paying rent or a mortgage can be especially challenging during a pandemic. The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development has centralized information about resources for families struggling to make rent or mortgage payments due to COVID-19. If you or another family you know needs assistance, please go to www.mass.gov/covidhousinghelp for more information.

WiFi Assistance

Please use the buttons below for information regarding low cost internet services in your area.



Low Cost Internet Services**NDIA Free and Low Cost Internet Plans****Lifeline Cell Phone Service Provider**

FROM THE YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

The 2021 yearbook is now in progress and all the memories of the 2021 school year will be published forever in print. To order online go to www.coffeepond.com, to login use school password: bluejaguar. **Early ordering at discount price of 37.00 by Dec. 31st.** Parents may submit a special personalized page that will appear in the back of the book for their senior at these rates: Full page \$150, 1/2 pg. \$75, 1/4 pg. \$50. Due date is March 30, 2021. Please email Christine at cbodnar@sscps.org with any questions.

From the SSCPS Board of Trustees**Call for Applications or Nominations to Serve on the Board of Trustees**

This June the terms of several members of the Board of Trustees will end. The Governance Sub-committee anticipates that there will be several openings for the three-year terms that will begin on July 1, 2021.

The Board is the governing body for SSCPS: it sets policy, creates committees, and acts as fiduciaries. As the governing body of the school, trustees play an important role in advancing the school and helping its administrators and teachers achieve the goals for our students.

Why apply (or nominate someone) to serve on the Board and what are the Board's needs and expectations? We are looking for candidates who

- are collaborative, active listeners, and problem-solvers
- are willing to contribute their time and share their expertise to help SSCPS achieve its academic, social, and emotional goals for all students and to secure adequate funding to accomplish them

- will work with other members of the BOT and the school to foster stronger ties with parents, businesses, non-profit foundations, and sending communities

How do I apply (or nominate someone)?

Application materials are available on the [SSCPS website](#).

Questions regarding application materials

Please contact Prue Goodale, Chair of the Governance Sub-committee at pgoodale@board.sscps.org if you have questions or need additional information

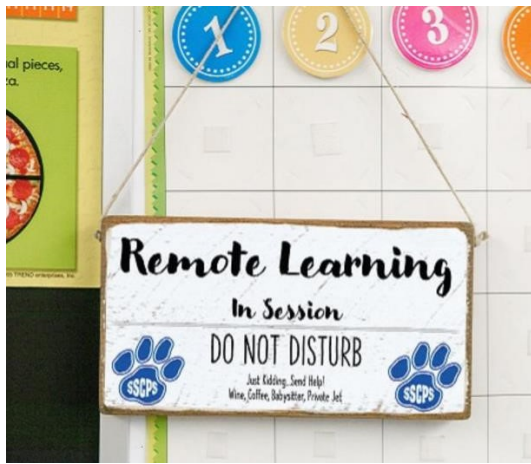
Submit materials by email to pgoodale@board.sscps.org



From the Parents Association

School Spirit Sign are in and available to order! SSCPS Magnets and Stickers also available for purchase. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

[Purchase your School Spirit Signs HERE!](#)



Wednesday	12/23	Remote Learning for All Students	8:15a-12:05p
December 24-January 1		Holiday Vacation Break – No Classes	
Monday	01/04	Classes Resume	
Mon-Thurs	01/04-01/07	Remote Learning for All Students	
Wednesday	01/06	Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84970294758? pwd=TVlia1NlZHoyT2plckhXTlFQbUNxZz09 Meeting ID: 849 7029 4758 Passcode: 572877	8:00am
Thursday	01/07	School Council Meeting via Zoom Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84889839314? pwd=b01XUW9qUFdhL0RCUjRxsSIVtWGX4QT09 Meeting ID: 848 8983 9314 Passcode: 112189	4:15pm
Friday	01/08	Remote Learning for All Students	8:15a-12:05p

Important Links

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

- [Food Service](#)
- [Health Office](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance](#)
- Visit the [Parents Association Website](#)
- Visit our new online option to [purchase](#) SSCPS apparel

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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

[2020-21 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)



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Our website address is:
www.sscps.org

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