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Weekly Update | April 27, 2022

Vol. 4. Issue 3

A Message from Nora

April: National Poetry Month

Following the success of Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March), it was decided in 1996 to declare April National Poetry Month.

Picture this scene in Level I: twenty of our Grade 1 students, excitedly standing in front of all their fellow Level I students ready to perform a poem they've loved for months. The poem is short so they know all the words, they know when to wave their hands or swing them in the air at just the right time. Families, teachers, and invited guests are watching. It's a moment that families will remember long after report cards, misdemeanors, and skinned knees are forgotten. The students recite these words:

April Rain Song

Let the rain kiss you
Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops
Let the rain sing you a lullaby
The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk
The rain makes running pools in the gutter
The rain plays a little sleep song on our roof at night
And I love the rain.

-- Langston Hughes

In our day-to-day lives, poetry appears in times of celebration, crisis, tragedy, and remembrance. In our school, the ELA curriculum is imbued with poetry in every grade. Level II students read the novel by Sharon Creech written in free verse, *Love That Dog*. The poetry of William Carlos Williams figures prominently. It is a student favorite! While celebrating Black History Month, 6th Grade students looked closely at the poetry of Walt Whitman, felt strongly that the voices of Black people were excluded, and wrote their own poems in the style of Langston Hughes' "I, Too."

Look at the skill, intensity, and joy they wrote into their own poems which appeared prominently in our hallways:



Literacy is at its best when it expresses profoundly felt beliefs that need to be read, seen, and understood. Our school understands that.

We set the stage for literacy education in Kindergarten. Our kindergarteners may not

be writing poems, but when I visited Melissa's class recently and asked her students if they knew any rhymes, they responded: "joy/toy, my/sigh, and Spain/rain." In the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness program, they work on rhyming as a precursor to phonics and reading instruction. Rhyming skill is an acknowledged indicator of later reading success. It also builds in an understanding of the music in language.

In the High School, our 10th graders recently sent submissions to the [Seventh Annual Narrative High School Writing Contest](#). The topic was "Blind Spots." Here are some of the poems they wrote:

Cops and Rocks

To look around from people all near
Dropped down and out
Tied from wrist to wrist, to ear

Being a wealthy colored
In a place "not to be"
From being judged by your skin
They all seem to flee

You pay your fines, debts, and wishes
Called way out of your name
Yet
you can't be thrown
off your well played
game

For anyone not on the lists
Will forever be dismissed
And could never be a thought
Of just a little bit
Of fame
But always with ought

This is our life
Which some
May not even see

-- Tatiana Lambert

Peripheral Vision

is seen by the human eye, it's always there,
even if it disappears.

People use that peripheral view to their advantage,
they have a blind spot that can be used with excuses.

People push away facts, they push away opinions,
on topics that they may be uncomfortable with, they choose to be blind.

Uncomfortable topics never go away even if they disappear.

Blind spots my shield for a bit, but they'll always come back, maybe just in little bits.

You'll have to face them someday,
even if you don't want to, it'll always come back.

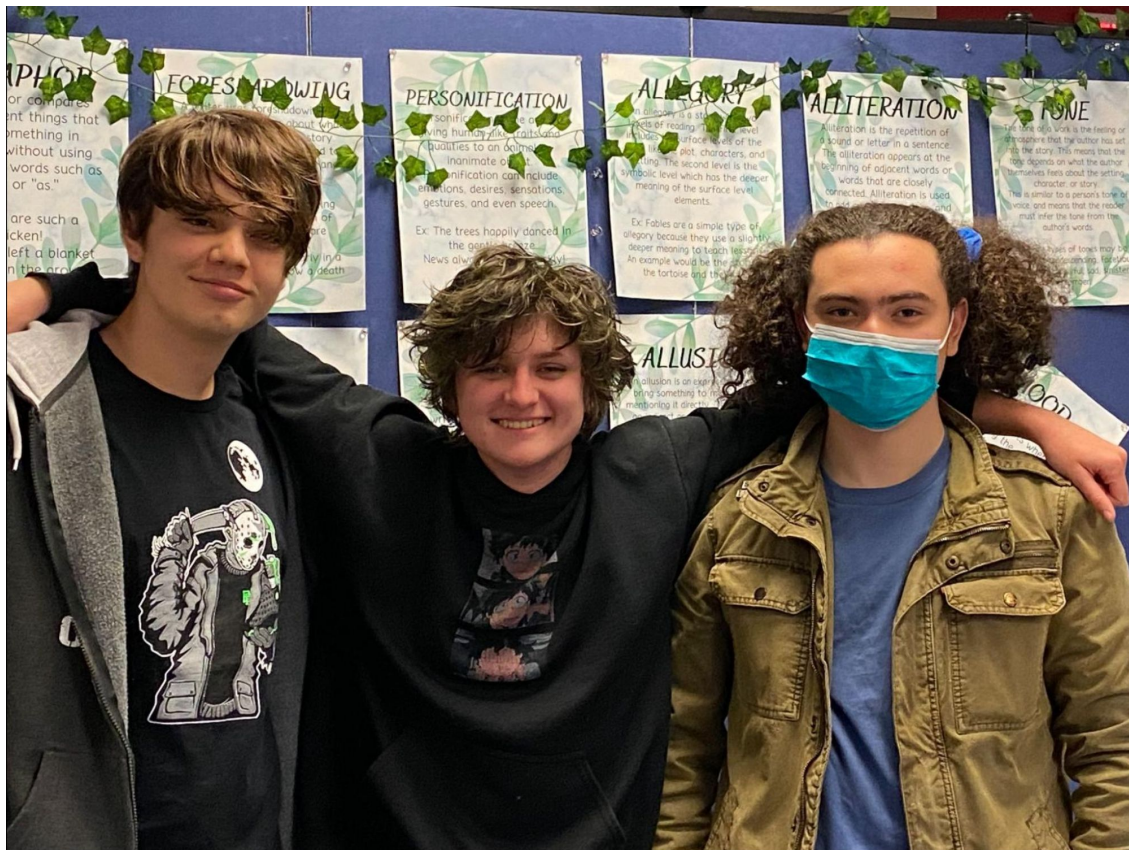
Having blind spots in the first place is not good.

It may feel good to be blind in the moment.

It won't be in the long run.

-- Tea Johnston

Here are some more of the students who made submissions to the Narrative Writing Contest:



Coleman Joyce, Tea Johnston, and Caleb Pimental

A poem uses words to create pictures. The best poems do it with intensity. April is a month in our school when literacy lessons in kindergarten and the intensely felt beliefs of 10th graders can help our students to find their voices in a world that attempts to reduce them to algorithms. South Shore Charter Public School is doing everything it can to teach and celebrate our students.

Francisco X. Alarcón, a poet included in our 6th grade curriculum, said it beautifully in his poem, "A Blank White Page."

A Blank White Page

is a meadow
after a snowfall
that a poem
hopes to cross

-- [Francisco X. Alarcón](#)

Hanora Broderick

K-12 ELA Curriculum Coordinator

APRIL GIVING AT SSCPS

PROJECTS AND WORKSHOPS

During the month of April, the South Shore Charter Educational Fund will be raising funds to use toward the different Projects and Workshops held every year for students at SSCPS. Teachers throughout our school have taken on the responsibility of creating and overseeing different interactive Projects for our Level I-IV students, as well as developmental and educational Workshops for our high schoolers.

From its inception in 1995 to present day in 2022, SSCPS has been striving to provide students with engaging teachers and valuable opportunities in

experiential learning—this has continued to be achieved through our project-based learning framework for all students at all levels. Our teachers design Projects and Workshops for our students based on their interests and passions, and incorporate both academic and entrepreneurial aspects into the work the students complete, ending each Project and Workshop with an EOM, or Exhibition of Mastery. These public presentations are performed by each and every student to exemplify their success in learning as well as their ability to teach classmates and peers about their research and work.

DONATE NOW

Healthy You Project





On Thursday, April 14th, the Level IV Healthy You Project visited Gillette Stadium to take part in the Nutrition and Performance learning module and explore the Patriots Hall of Fame. The students took on the role of a sports nutritionist and designed a meal plan for Patriots players that met their daily dietary needs. Following the learning module, the students had the opportunity to explore the Patriots Hall of Fame and demonstrate their physical abilities while basking in the glory of the six-time super bowl champions. It was a great day!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SSCPS and the Diversity Committee invites you to...



When: Thursday, April 28th, 2022

Where: Our school (SSCPS) and your community

Why: April has been designated as Autism Acceptance month by individuals who are on the Autism Spectrum and their community. In the past, certain organizations have encouraged people to “light it up blue,” but recently people with Autism have come forward stating that they would rather wear red instead, because it’s more their choice and represents them more accurately.

We are challenging ALL members of our community to “Wear Red” on Thursday in an effort to demonstrate solidarity with all the amazing individuals with Autism who are a vital part of our school :)

#RedInstead



Literacy Night is coming!

Thursday, May 26th, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Families of grades K-4 students, please join us for Literacy Night! Your children will hear stories read or told aloud to them in English and other languages by teachers and volunteers.

Pajamas and slippers are appropriate dress!

If you would like to volunteer to be a reader (especially to read in your home language), please contact:

Kristen Gale (kgale@sscps.org) 781-982-4202 x344

This is not a drop off event. Please plan for an adult to attend with your child.

From the Parents Association

Reminder: meeting tonight April 27th at 6:30 p.m.

Location: 100 Longwater Circle or via Zoom (Link found below in calendar).

FAMILY PORTRAIT DAY!

SPONSORED BY SSCPS PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Saturday, May 14th
Webb Memorial Park

371 River St
North Weymouth, MA 02191



Photo sessions are 15-minutes.
The fee is \$80 and includes ~20 final
edit digital files. Pets, immediate
and extended family welcome.

Rain date is Saturday May, 21.

Sign up at:

<https://calendly.com/photosbyjaq/sscps2022spring?month=2022-05>

Venmo \$80 session fee to SSCPSPA





PA Nominations for 2022-2023 Self-nominating closes Friday (5/13)

It's that time of year! While every parent is automatically a member of the Parents Association (PA), we have a few positions that require a vote! We are opening nominations for the 2022-2023 school year and invite you to consider YOURSELF!

Are you interested in being more involved? Care to hang out with a group of SSCPS parents and guardians once a month to make our school better? Want to be part of keeping families and school connected?

Well...joining PA might be for you! We're an integral part of engaging families to support our school. **All positions are up for nomination!**

We're kicking off the election process by inviting you to self-nominate for a position. Nominations will be accepted until 5/13/22. Please consider nominating yourself.

Once nominations have been collected, we will send another email with a survey link for you to vote for all PA officers, committee chairs and level/grade representatives.

We plan to close the voting by 6/3/22 and announce in the 6/8/22 weekly

If you are interested in running for a position, we invite you to self-nominate here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PANominations2022-2023>

Thank you for your continued support of our children and their school. Questions can be sent to sscpspaelection@gmail.com, or you can contact any member of the PA.

Traffic Reminders

We appreciate your efforts to be a good neighbor to our surrounding office buildings. We are asking that all cars waiting in line not use neighboring properties as places to park or drive through when dropping off or picking up your students. Please do not block our neighbors' driveways and entrances during drop off or pick up.

Please do not drop off or pick up students from 104 Longwater Drive. There is a daycare center in two sections and multiple rooms of the building in addition to two playgrounds adjacent to the parking lot, rendering this area unable to safely accommodate additional traffic.

Today we received unconfirmed reports from our neighbors at 120 Longwater Drive that cars from our lines were pulling into their entrance and doing U-turns while not paying attention and using cell phones. If this is the case, we are asking those responsible to cease this practice. The driveway and parking lot at 120 Longwater Drive is not a public parking lot or road. Our neighbors at 120 Longwater Drive have raised concerns in the past and we do not want to give them any reason to report our families to the Norwell Police Department.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



Seniors: college is right around the corner, and that means it's time to start applying for scholarships! Click the link below to view the scholarships and resources available at our school's website:

- SSCPS scholarships, including the Jacquelyn Marie Brock Memorial Scholarship and the Karen Alice Yelin Scholarship
- Town scholarships
- General scholarships and resources for applying

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

From the Health Office

With the warmer weather, kids will be spending more time outside. Please remember to check your student daily for ticks. Some ticks can be very small. Please remember to apply sunscreen and bug spray before your student

comes to school. Staff is not allowed to apply any sunscreen or bug spray to students. Don't forget to pack water bottles daily, hydration is very important.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>

At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing (NEW opt-in form)

1. **At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing** on Sunday (NEW opt-in form)
2. **Routine COVID Safety Checks** every week (If you have not yet signed up, [click here](#). If you are setting up a secondary account, please put the code: **KDHEHV** under the organization code.)
3. **Symptomatic Testing** (If you have not yet signed up, [click here](#))

Overview: At-Home Rapid Testing Program

- **About the Test:** [iHealth](#) is a 15-minute at-home FDA-approved rapid antigen test
- **Opt-In:** To participate, you must opt in by completing the form. By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test results to your student's school, and administer the tests according to SSCPS Health Office guidelines.
- **Weekly:** Every two weeks you will receive an iHealth at-home rapid test kit. Each kit contains two individual tests. Your student will administer one test each week on Sunday.
- **Reporting Positive Test Results:** If your student tests positive on an at-home antigen test, you will inform their school of the positive result using the [Positive Test Result Notification form]. The school will keep the results confidential and will not make individual results public. In addition, it is strongly recommended that you inform your healthcare professional of the positive result.
- **Easy, Free, and Flexible:** This test is administered at home (not at school), reducing the burden on school staff and time to administer tests and increasing a family's flexibility to do testing in the home for free.

How do I administer the test?

- [Click here](#) for a **full "how to"** written guide in various languages
- [Click here](#) for a **video** of an individual self-testing

How do I submit results?

- **Submit Results:** You must submit positive test results to your student's school. [Click here](#) to submit positive test results.
- **Confidentiality:** Positive test results are shared with your school district for informational purposes only. Individual results will remain confidential, and they will never be made public.

Darcie Edwards, RN

(she/her/hers)

SSCPS School Nurse

781-982-4202 x104

dedwards@sscps.org

Free COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic & Test Site

Beginning on Tuesday February 8, 2022, the Town of Marshfield is offering a COVID 19 vaccine and testing site at the Marshfield Fairgrounds 61 South River Street in Marshfield. The clinic is open for all Plymouth County residents on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9am-3pm. Appointments can be made by logging onto www.marshfieldcares.com or the service is also available for walk-ins. The clinic has all 3 vaccines and boosters, if you have your vaccination card, please bring it with you. The vaccinations and test are done through a drive-thru operation that is free and convenient.

From the Yearbook Committee:

The 2022 yearbook is coming - now is your chance to order yours! Yearbooks are back to their normal pricing of \$40 each.

To order yours, head to the [Coffee Pond website](#) and enter the password "bluejaguar".

Parents of seniors can have a personalized page in the yearbook as well.

SENIOR AD PRICING:**-full page: \$150****-half page: \$75****-1/4 page: \$50**

Home Energy Assistance Programs

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) - Known commonly as Fuel Assistance, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides eligible households with help in paying a portion of winter heating bills.

Heating System Repair & Replacement Program (HEARTWAP) - The Heating System Repair and Replacement Program provides emergency heating system repair and replacement services to low-income households.

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) - Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program provides eligible households with full-scale home energy conservation services.

For full details please review the link here:

<https://www.mass.gov/home-energy-assistance-programs>

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 click below for more information.

HOUSING HELP

Food Service - Breakfast and Lunch Program

April Breakfast and Lunch Order Forms are now available!

All students enrolled at SSCPS qualify for Free Breakfast and Lunch for the 2021-2022 academic year. Please click on this link - [FamilyID Online Registration](#) - and register for meals. If you have any questions, contact me at csalamone@sscps.org or at 781-982-4202 x156.



help our teachers!

The Parents Association is working to ensure teachers can fill their classrooms with the items they need. To help support our teachers and their classrooms, please view the wishlists below.

Thank you!

[VIEW WISHLISTS](#)

This Week | **Up and Coming**

Wednesday	04/27	Level IV ELA MCAS	
Weds-Fri	04/27-04/29	Senior Debates	
Wednesday	04/27	Parents Association Meeting at 100 Longwater Circle and via Zoom Click here to view the meeting Agenda	6:30pm
Monday	05/02	AP Chemistry Exam AP Governance Exam	
Wednesday	05/04	Executive Committee Meeting at 100 Longwater Circle	8:00am
Wednesday	05/04	HS Theater Workshop Improv Fundraiser at the SSCPS Gym, 104 Longwater Drive	4:00-5:00pm
Friday	05/06	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm
Friday	05/20	Junior / Senior Prom at the Quincy Marriott Tickets sales start May 2 - \$60 per student See Mary Carter for more information	7:00-11:00pm

IMPORTANT LINKS

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

- [Back-to-School Information](#)
- [Food Service](#)
- [COVID-19 Protocols 2021-22](#)
- [Health Office](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance](#)
- **Visit the [Parents Association Website](#)**
- **Visit our new online option to [purchase SSCPS apparel!](#)**

School Documents:

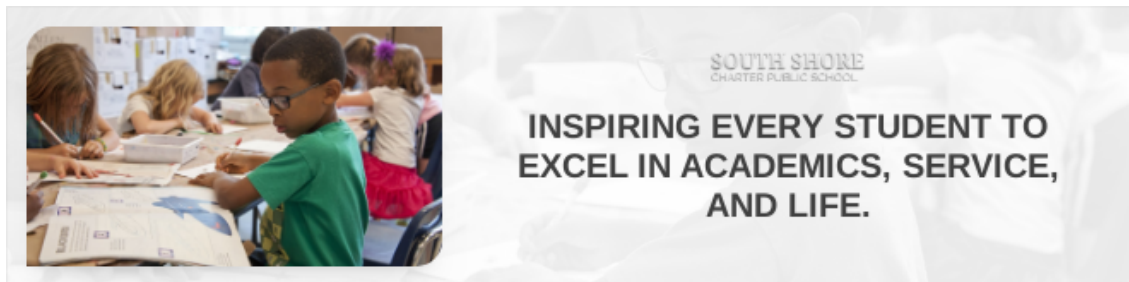
[2021-22 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)

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.



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