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Weekly Update | January 5, 2022

Vol. 1, Issue 1

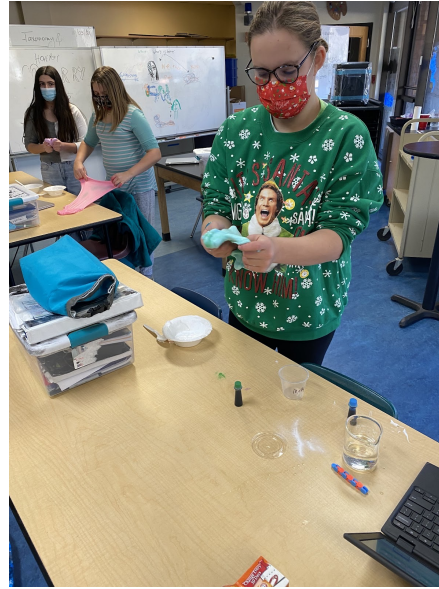
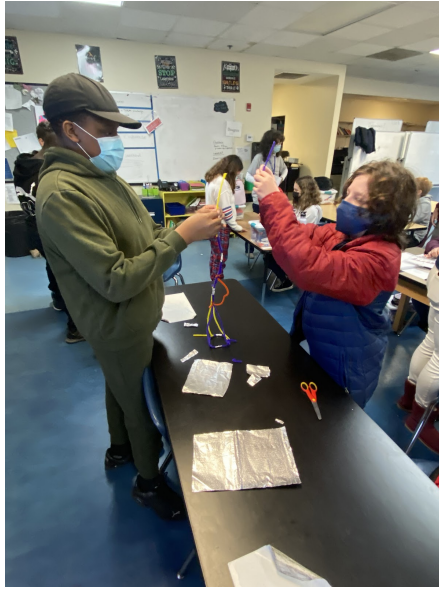


A Message from Jamie

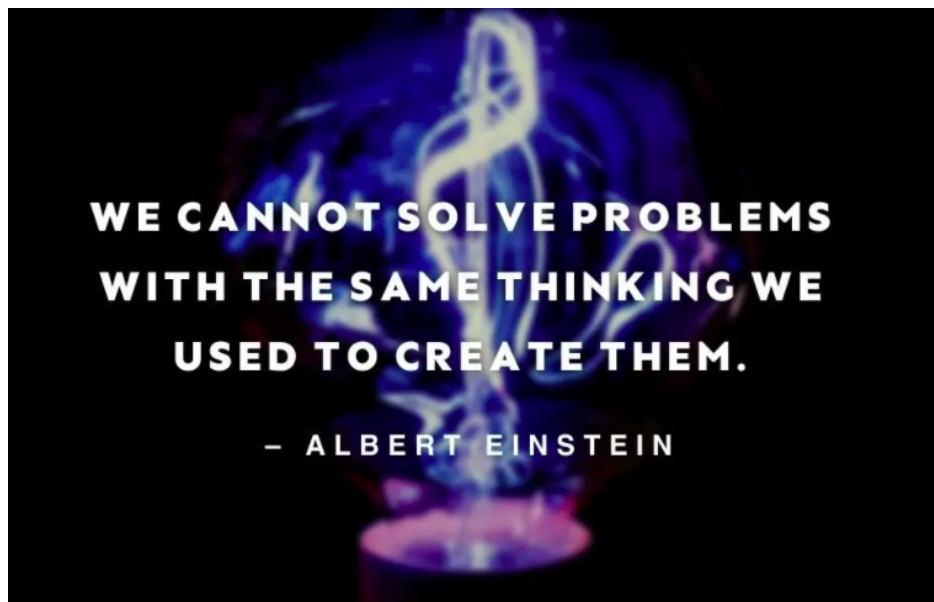
2021 was a year unlike any other. It had many ups and downs; a still lingering global pandemic, new ways to connect to people, struggling businesses, school disruptions, advancements in biotechnology, a country divided, an uptake in collaboration, and society with significant trauma. We continue to remember those that have passed on, still looking for answers and signs, and celebrating hard work and success. For many, it has been a time for personal growth, transitions and changes. For some, it has been an uphill struggle. The year gave us means to value life and all it has to offer. More so now than ever, we are all thankful for those around us; for our family and friends, for our jobs, for our school community. Look back on 2021 and be thankful for what you have and who has been by your side, don't look at it for what you thought it failed to deliver.

2022 is a fresh new start; a clean slate; a rebirth. We need to emphasize to our students to live each day. To look for the good each day. To learn each day. As we all settle into routines of the new year, we have so much to be thankful for as well as so much to look forward to in the new year. As we return from break, it is important to remind our students the importance of establishing routines and maintaining good habits. Oftentimes at the midpoint of the school year, things can feel stagnant and

motivation can slide. Now more than ever, enrichment opportunities are crucial to keeping the audience captivated and engaged.



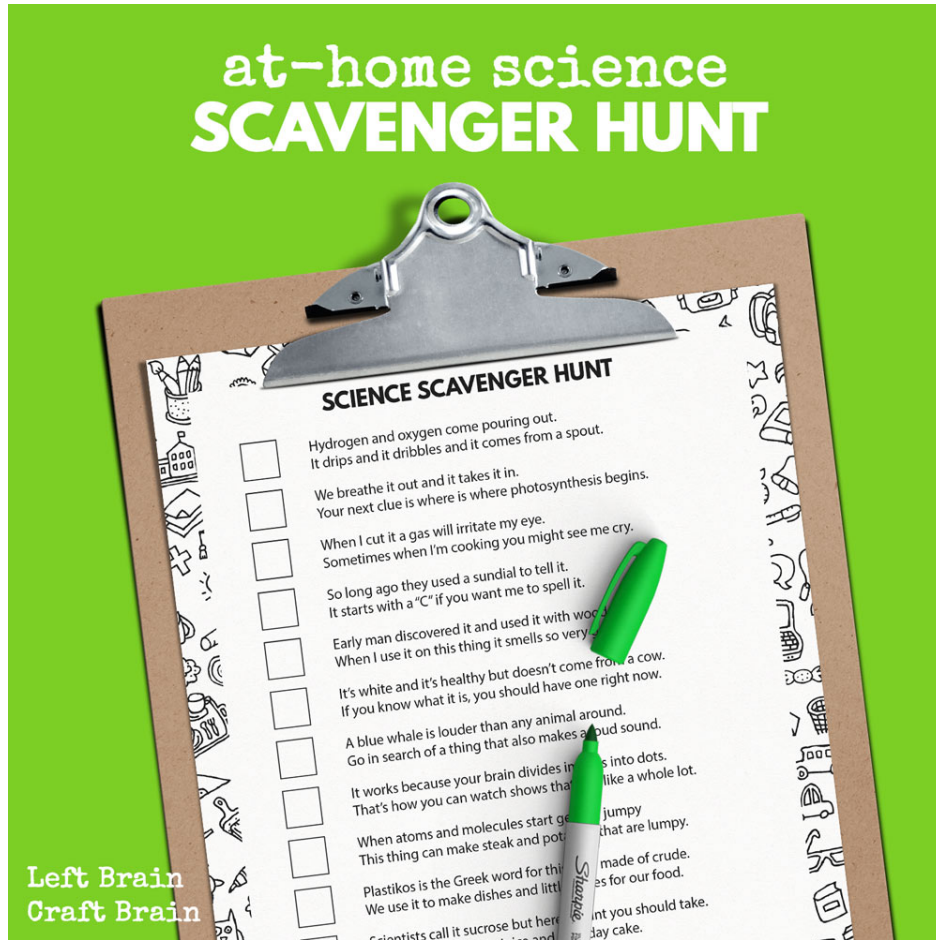
The science department has been working diligently to create opportunities for enrichment so that our students stay engaged. In our classrooms, we have been working on facilitating fun, weekly activities, such as STEM challenge Friday, science trivia, or fun hands-on activities like making Borax crystals or creating slime from scratch. Many of our teachers have incorporated enrichment opportunities into daily postings on Google Classroom, especially for students who are wanting to learn more or for those that finish in-class work early. Our goal is to inspire creative thought and promote learning through inquiry, while creating enrichment opportunities and making connections to instruction and state standards. We strongly encourage our families to support STEM at home.



What would STEM enrichment look at home?

At home, you can encourage your students to get outside more – for example, they could make observations about seasonal changes. Our younger students can

participate in an at home [BINGO](#) or scavenger hunt. There are many sites that offer creative indoor and outdoor scavenger hunts, as well as tips on how to make your own. This year, our middle school students in grades 6-8 can participate in the science fair, but with all components being completed at home instead of in school, and as part of science class. If you need more information about this opportunity, please check out the link for the event [here](#). You can also contact me (jallen@sscps.org) for more information about registration and to be added to a list for an information night. At the middle school and high school level, your teachers can provide opportunities including book suggestions, current events, and extension activities. I encourage you or your student to reach out if you are interested in looking at a list of titles that our science teachers have compiled for free choice books that are focused on STEM.



With the winter solstice behind us, the longest and darkest day of the year, we look forward to the light. May your 2022 be filled with all the Universe has to offer. Wishing the entire South Shore Charter Public School community a new year filled with good health, happiness, and peace.

Sincerely,

Jamie Allen
 Science Curriculum Coordinator
 7th Grade Science Teacher

High School Midyear Schedule 2021-2022

	Monday (24th)	Tuesday (25th)	Wednesday (26th)
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-ups
12:00-12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30-3:00	Study in Advisory	Study in Advisory	Study in Advisory

Level IV Midyear Schedule 2021-2022

	Monday (24th)	Tuesday (25th)	Wednesday (26th)
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	Project Reflection & Make-ups
12:00-12:30	Recess	Recess	Recess
12:30-1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00-1:20	Recess	Recess	Recess
1:20-3:00	Study in Advisory	Study in Advisory	Study in Advisory



SSCPS High School's Model UN in front of their *Human Rights Day* bulletin board.

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS

Our Level III Community Service Project is conducting a donation drive for the Scituate Animal Shelter.

Visit their website below to learn how you can help!

SCITUATE ANIMAL SHELTER

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

On December 9th, the SSCPS Board of Trustees held the December meeting which included two votes on the school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. The Board voted to approve the calendar with some modifications to accommodate the mid-year exam schedule on the first vote. A copy of the approved calendar may be found below.

The second calendar vote concerned the name of the October holiday.

After reviewing survey results from students, families, teachers, and school staff, the Board discussed the choices presented in the survey. Following review and discussion, the Board approved and voted for the third choice in the school wide survey, "SSCPS will continue to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day, celebrate it with Columbus Day, and support student efforts to advocate for two bills currently in the Massachusetts Legislature, H.3191 and S.2027 which are acts to establish an Indigenous Peoples' Day at the statewide level." Thank you to all who participated in the survey.

The following information from the December Board of Trustees meeting is linked below.

1. [SSCPS 2022-2023 School Calendar](#)
2. [Executive Director Report 2021](#) and [Slides](#)
3. [October Holiday Family Survey Results](#)

FY22 School Calendar Modifications

On Thursday, November 1, the SSCPS Board of Trustees voted to modify the FY22 School Calendar due to instructional days

missed. Changes are as follows:

- January 14, 2022 is a Professional Development Day. Due to the need for 180 days in the school year, that day will now be the following:
 - Grades K-6 - Full Day of Classes for Students
 - Grades 7-12 - No School for Students | Level and Department Meetings for Faculty and Staff

Unless there is a snow day(s), this leaves one day to make up for students in grades 1 and 2 which is now a half day on June 21, 2022.

There will be no school on June 20, the state holiday Juneteenth.

ATTN PARENTS: COVID Test Information for Students

In order for your student to receive a COVID BinaxNOW test at school, or to participate in the Test and Stay program, **they MUST be pre-registered**. Please take a moment and sign up now. This allows your student to be able to stay in school if the test is negative.

If students are not signed up and are a close contact or develop symptoms at school, they will be required to be picked up immediately. Register with your students' information with the following link:

<https://pbcovid.cic-health.com/register/with-code?code=KDHEHV>

If you are setting up a secondary account, Please put the code: **KDHEHV** under the organization code.

COVID vaccine: If your student has or is getting the COVID vaccine, please send in a copy of the vaccine card or proof after receiving the second vaccine. You only need to send a copy after the second dose is given.

STUDENT MASK REQUIREMENTS

With the rise in COVID cases, we are asking that you make sure your student comes to school each day with a properly fitting mask that covers both the mouth and nose. Properly fitting masks are crucial in reducing the risk of in-school transmission of COVID. Students

should also have a back-up mask in their backpacks in case their mask becomes dirty or ruined throughout the day.

From the Health Office:

NEW – Meningococcal Requirements

7th GRADERS:

All 7th grade students need a current physical on file. They are required to have the first doses of the Meningococcal Vaccine and the Tdap vaccine.

11th GRADERS:

Please send in your 11th graders updated physical as soon as possible. There is a new requirement for the Meningococcal vaccine.

SPECIFICS:

2 doses; second dose MenACWY (formerly MCV4) must be given on or after the 16th birthday and ≥ 8 weeks after the previous dose. 1 dose is acceptable if it was given on or after the 16th birthday.

Update from the Health Office Regarding Weekly Testing

COVID-19 cases are rising within the state and within our school community. If your student is sick please have them remain home. If they are experiencing COVID symptoms they will need a negative PCR test or Molecular NAAT test to return to school. Please contact the health office if your student is home from school due to illness. COVID symptoms are very similar to common cold symptoms and it is important to rule out COVID before your student returns to school. Please keep your student home if there is a positive household member and contact the health office about the next steps.

Your student must stay home if you are waiting for COVID test results, whether they are symptomatic or asymptomatic. Please send a copy of the test results to the appropriate health office.

With the increase of COVID cases throughout Massachusetts, we are going to be starting Weekly Safety COVID testing at school. The tentative start date for this testing is January 4th and the plan is to test weekly on Tuesdays. This is a shallow nasal swab that most students will be able to do by themselves. About 10 swabs are put in the same pool test and a PCR test is run. This takes about 24 hours. You will only be notified if your student is in a positive pool test. If this happens, all individuals will be tested separately using the Rapid BinaxNOW test at school to try to identify the positive individual. If your student is negative, then they can return to class and learn. If your child is positive, then we will ask you to come pick them up and quarantine. Please sign up for COVID testing below.

SIGN UP NOW

Please enter the student's information when registering. When creating a secondary profile please remember to include the school's organization code: **KDHEHV**

If you have a student currently signed up for COVID testing and would like to opt out of the Weekly Safety Testing, Please email Jaime at jkjelgaard@sscps.org to opt out in writing or send a note to the health office.

We understand that these are very challenging times for our families. Please remember that the Health Staff at SSCPS is doing it's best to keep everyone in our school system safe so we can continue to have in person learning.

Darcie Edwards, RN
(she/her/hers)
SSCPS School Nurse
781-982-4202 x104
dedwards@sscps.org

Important Notice from DESE:

Extension of DESE Mask Requirement Through At Least January 15, 2022

Extension of Mask Requirement: On Tuesday, October 26, DESE announced that after consulting with medical experts and state health officials, the mask requirement in all K-12 public schools is extended through at least January 15, 2022. [Guidance](#) and a [press release](#) are available online.

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

Residential Energy Assistance Program

The Attorney General's Office is pleased to announce the Residential Energy Assistance Grant (REAG) program. The program is designed to provide additional funding to programs that aid Massachusetts families currently receiving heating assistance and to expand assistance to more eligible households.

For full details please review the attached RFP. The grant announcement website, which includes a link to the application portal, can be found here:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/fy2022-fy2024-residential-energy-assistance-grant>

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to AGOGrants@mass.gov.

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

January 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](#)



Sabbatical Clothing Bank and Lions Club Food Pantry

Sabbatical Clothing Bank is still open (by appointment only) for donations and for those in need of clothing. Visit their website below for forms and more information.

Sabbatical Clothing Bank:

<https://www.sabbaticalclothingbank.com/>

The Lions Club Food Pantry is also still hosting their "No Questions Asked Food Pantry", open on Mondays from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM and Fridays from 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM.

Lions Club Food Pantry:

<https://duxburylionsclub.org/about-us>

**Both organizations are located at:
136 Summer St, Duxbury MA**

This Week | Up and Coming

Friday	01/07	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm
Thursday	01/13	School Council Meeting via Zoom	4:30pm
Friday	01/14	Full day of classes for students in Grades K-6 No classes for students in Grades 9-12	
Monday	01/17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observed – No School	

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:

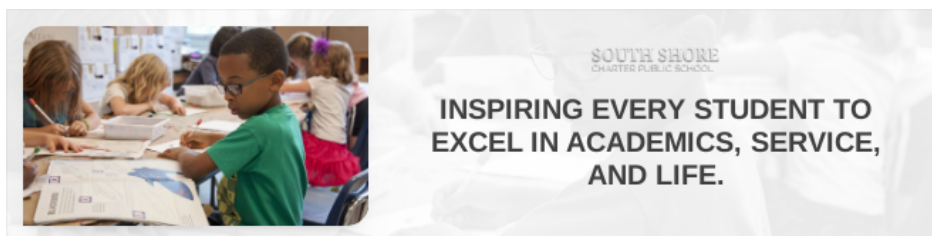
[2021-22 School Calendar](#)

[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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