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Weekly Update | March 2, 2022

Vol. 3, Issue 1

A Message from Alicia

Welcome back. We return to school from February break following a week of difficult world news. The war in the Ukraine reminds us all that we are world citizens. As news streams in from Kyiv the wish for peace grows each day. Our thoughts remain with the people of the Ukraine who are suffering.

Here at SSCPS we are reminded of how fortunate we are to be back together once again. With the arrival of spring just around the corner, March begins an important time. Every year our school community looks forward to welcoming new families to the South Shore Charter Public School. This year we welcome the return to many of our old norms. Last year we were unable to host an on site Open House for the first time in the history of our school. Yet, despite not being able to visit the campus, interest in our school remained strong.

This year has been even better. We were able to host our first in-person Open House in December; 118 guests visited 100 Longwater, and 39 guests visited 700 Longwater. In February we hosted new *Talk to us Tuesday* sessions where prospective students and their families visited campus during the day, toured the hallways and classrooms, and met students and teachers. After a year away, in-person admissions events were a welcome addition to our school year.

We are fortunate. Even when admissions events were virtual, interest in our school remained strong. High interest remains perpetual, this year we received 669 applications for 123 openings. We plan to offer admission seats to students K-12. The number of families seeking admission demonstrates both how our school has grown over the past 27 years as well as the resilience of our educational model. We are grateful for our school community and for our families who have spread the word, supported our mission, and have spoken positively about their family's experience here at SSCPS.

Applications Received for Lottery

Grade	Received	Sibling	Grade	Received	Sibling
K	143	31	7	51	4
1	66	1	8	53	4
2	48	2	9	55	2
3	50	2	10	18	1
4	64	3	11	8	0
5	52	2	12	3	0
6	58	0	Total	669	52

Note: 16 additional applications were received however are ineligible due to: applicant too young for kindergarten, applicant already enrolled, or applicant out of state.

On Friday, March 4, we will hold our annual Enrollment Lottery. This will be a half day for students. With 669 applications to be sorted, it is a tremendous undertaking. The weeks leading up to this one are busy. When determining the number of available seats at each grade level, class size, academic programming, student mental health and emotional well being remain at the forefront of all school-wide planning.

Each year we review the School's *Growth Plan*, found in the [Enrollment Policy](#), to determine the approximate number of students to be enrolled on each level. Another number we review is what the Department of Education refers to as the School's Steady State. We determine anticipated openings by the number of students currently enrolled, the number of students who have indicated they will be returning next year on the Intent to Return form, and the impact on academic programming for each grade level. Anticipated openings are posted on the day of the Enrollment Lottery.

2022-2023 Enrollment Lottery

Accepting the following for anticipated openings:

Kindergarten	56	Grade 7	4
Grade 1	1	Grade 8	4
Grade 2	2	Grade 9	31
Grade 3	2	Grade 10	14
Grade 4	3	Grade 11	0
Grade 5	2	<u>Grade 12</u>	<u>0</u>
Grade 6	4	Total	123

In addition to posting anticipated openings and the number of applications received, we post the number of applications received from each sending district. This year we received the highest number of applications from Weymouth (134), the second highest number from Brockton (117), and the third highest number of applications from Randolph (83).

Applications by Town

Abington	19	Marshfield	13
Braintree	24	Norwell	5
Brockton	117	Pembroke	15
Cohasset	2	Plymouth	9
Duxbury	4	Plympton	0
E. Bridgewater	3	Quincy	41
Halifax	5	Randolph *	83
Hanover	11	Rockland	53
Hanson	9	Scituate	12
Hingham	17	Weymouth	134
Holbrook	25	Whitman	13
Hull	11	Out of district	34
Kingston	10	Total	669

** DESE requires 81 Randolph applicants be skipped over due to NSS. See attachment

We look forward to the upcoming Enrollment Lottery and welcoming our new students and families over the next few weeks. Thank you for your ongoing enthusiasm and support as we look to the future.

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Alicia Savage

Executive Director

MASK MANDATE LIFTED FEBRUARY 28TH, 2022

Last week, Governor Baker announced that the Massachusetts mask mandate for school districts will expire on February 28th and will not be extended. The DESE memorandum, sent by Commissioner Jeff Riley on February 9, 2022, states the following:

"After consulting with medical experts and state health officials, the Commissioner will not renew the state mask requirement after it expires on February 28, 2022. Effective Monday, February 28, the DESE mask requirement will be lifted statewide. The Commonwealth's high vaccination rates and widespread availability of COVID-19 testing for school personnel and students supports this decision."

The South Shore Charter Public School will continue to follow DESE and DPH recommendations and will adopt the mask optional policy for students and staff beginning on February 22, 2022.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) strongly recommend that unvaccinated individuals continue to wear masks in school settings. In line with DESE and DPH recommendations, **mask wearing will continue to be required in three scenarios:**

1. In compliance with the DESE-DPH Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios, mask wearing is required for all students and staff returning from quarantine for up to five days, inside and outside while attending school or work to align with quarantine timelines and guidance.
2. The SSCPS Health Office will continue to require students and staff to wear a mask while in the Health Office in compliance with the DPH order.
3. Masks must be worn on all school buses and school transportation per federal mandate.

Please remember that individual students and staff members retain the right to wear a mask on campus at any time regardless of health protocols or immunization status. The decision to continue to wear a mask in the school setting is a personal one and will be supported by our school community.

Family Survey Reminder

Please remember to complete the 2022 **Annual Family Survey by Friday, March 4, 2022.**

Survey data is used for the Annual Report and for institutional planning during the July Board of Trustees meeting. During the July meeting, the Board of Trustees reviews key measures which help define student achievement and institutional strength. Data gleaned from this year's survey is an essential component of school-wide planning as we continue to hone our vision of the SSCPS student experience. We will be relying on data provided by families as we establish programs, design next year's schedule, and work to enhance the day to day life of an SSCPS student. Maintaining school culture and student life continues to be a priority. Over the past two years, family participation has been high. **Please be sure your voice is heard by completing the survey linked below.**

SURVEY LINK

The Transition Years: A Mini Series

DDS 101 Training

This free workshop will provide need to know information about the Department of Developmental Services as the transition from high school to life after high school approaches.

You will learn about:

- **ELIGIBILITY:** *How do I become eligible for DDS Services?*
- **AREA OFFICE:** *What is the role of the DDS Area office?*
- **FAMILY SUPPORT:** *What can Family Support provide to my family, and what are the limitations?*
- **SELF-DIRECTION:** *What are Self-Directed Services and how do they differ from Traditional Services?*
- **AUTISM SERVICES:** *What support is available to my family member with autism, and how do we access it?*

When: Monday, March 14th, 6:00pm -7:30pm

Where: Virtually via WEBEX

Follow This Link To Register: <https://conta.cc/33j29l4>

In Our Words: Navigating the Transition Years

This free presentation will introduce you to 3 women who currently receive supports from DDS. They will discuss their experiences navigating their transition years, relationships, and Agency with Choice.



Celia Walsh



Shelby Richardi



Lauren Richardi

When: Monday, March 21st, 6:00pm -7:30pm

Where: Virtually via WebEx

Follow This Link To Register: <https://conta.cc/3gNB9xe>

Real Talk: HBCU Edition



Real Talk: HBCU Edition RSVP

Following Black History Month, College Board is kicking off their spring events with **Real Talk: HBCU Edition**.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities play a critical role in providing Black college students with an affirming environment and a unique campus experience that instills pride and confidence needed to pursue their dreams.

In this two-night event, you'll get to hear from 15 HBCU reps and get insider info about what makes these campuses truly unique. By the end, you and your students will be better able to decide which schools should make the cut onto their college lists.

Night One: Wednesday, March 2nd - 7:00pm EST

Night Two: Thursday, March 3rd - 4:00pm EST

RSVP using the button below!

RSVP: Real Talk

FREE VIRTUAL CONCERT - BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Boston Symphony Orchestra is offering free access to a Family Concert until March 19th, 2022. Click the button below to view!

VIEW CONCERT

COMMUNITY SERVICE OUTREACH

The SSCPS community is accepting donations in order to provide "Kindness Bundles" to those in need. In this colder weather, some items in higher demand are hats, gloves, socks, and the like. Both new and gently used items are welcomed.

Donations are being collected through the month of March—please feel free to visit the link below to view the list of desired items. All donations can be delivered directly to SSCPS in the bin front or the bin in room 101.

[Donation Website](#)

Traffic Reminder

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.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

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
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dedwards@sscps.org

More from the Health Office

Per Massachusetts guidelines, all students in Grades 1, 4, 7, 10 are to have a height and weight done at school. We will be starting this after February vacation week. Please contact the appropriate health office if you would like to opt your student out of this.

You can still sign up for the opt-in at home weekly COVID testing. Please have your student drop off the signed paperwork to the health office. You only need to report a positive COVID test result.

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.

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

FY22 School Calendar Modifications

On December 9th, the SSCPS Board of Trustees voted to modify the FY22 School Calendar due to instructional days missed.

Changes are as follows:

On April 15th, there will be a half-day to make up for the snow day on January 7th. Religious exemptions will be granted.

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

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

March 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.

amazon

wishlist

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

SSCPS National Honor Society Blood Drive



American Red Cross

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

[Redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS

SSCPS Blood Drive

PE Space- 104 Longwater Dr.

Wednesday March 16, 2022

1:00– 6:00pm

Sign up through the following Red Cross link and type in zip code, 02061:

[CLICK HERE](#)

This Week | Up and Coming

Wednesday	03/02	Executive Committee Meeting	8:00am
Friday	03/04	Professional Development Early Dismissal	12:00pm
Friday	03/04	2022-23 Enrollment Lottery via Zoom	1:00pm

Monday	03/07	Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom	6:30pm
Wednesday	03/09	Junior Parent Night via Zoom	6:00pm
Thursday	03/10	School Council via Zoom	4:30pm
Thursday	03/10	Board of Trustees	7:30pm
		Governance Committee	6:00pm
		Personnel Committee	6:30pm
		Development Committee	7:00pm
All meetings held at 700 Longwater Drive and via Zoom			

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:

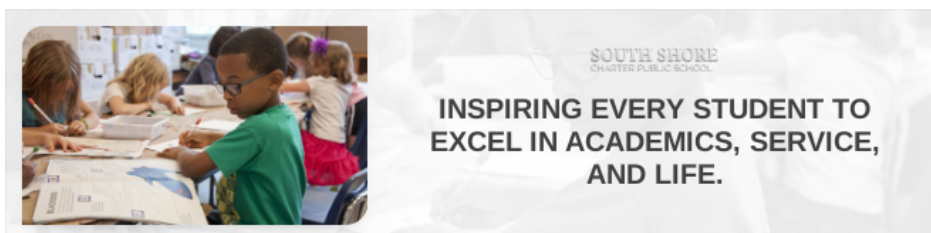
[2021-22 School Calendar](#)

[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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