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Weekly Update | November 24, 2021

Vol. 11, Issue 4

A Thanksgiving banner with a brown background and white text. The top and bottom edges are decorated with line-art illustrations of autumn leaves, pumpkins, and acorns. The main text is in a large, white, cursive font. Below the main text is a smaller line of text in a blue, sans-serif font. The bottom section of the banner has a white background with a blue star on each side.

Happy Thanksgiving!

FROM SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

✦ A quick reminder that today, November 24th, is an Early Release day with dismissal at 12:00pm. ✦
Wishing you all a wonderful holiday and vacation!

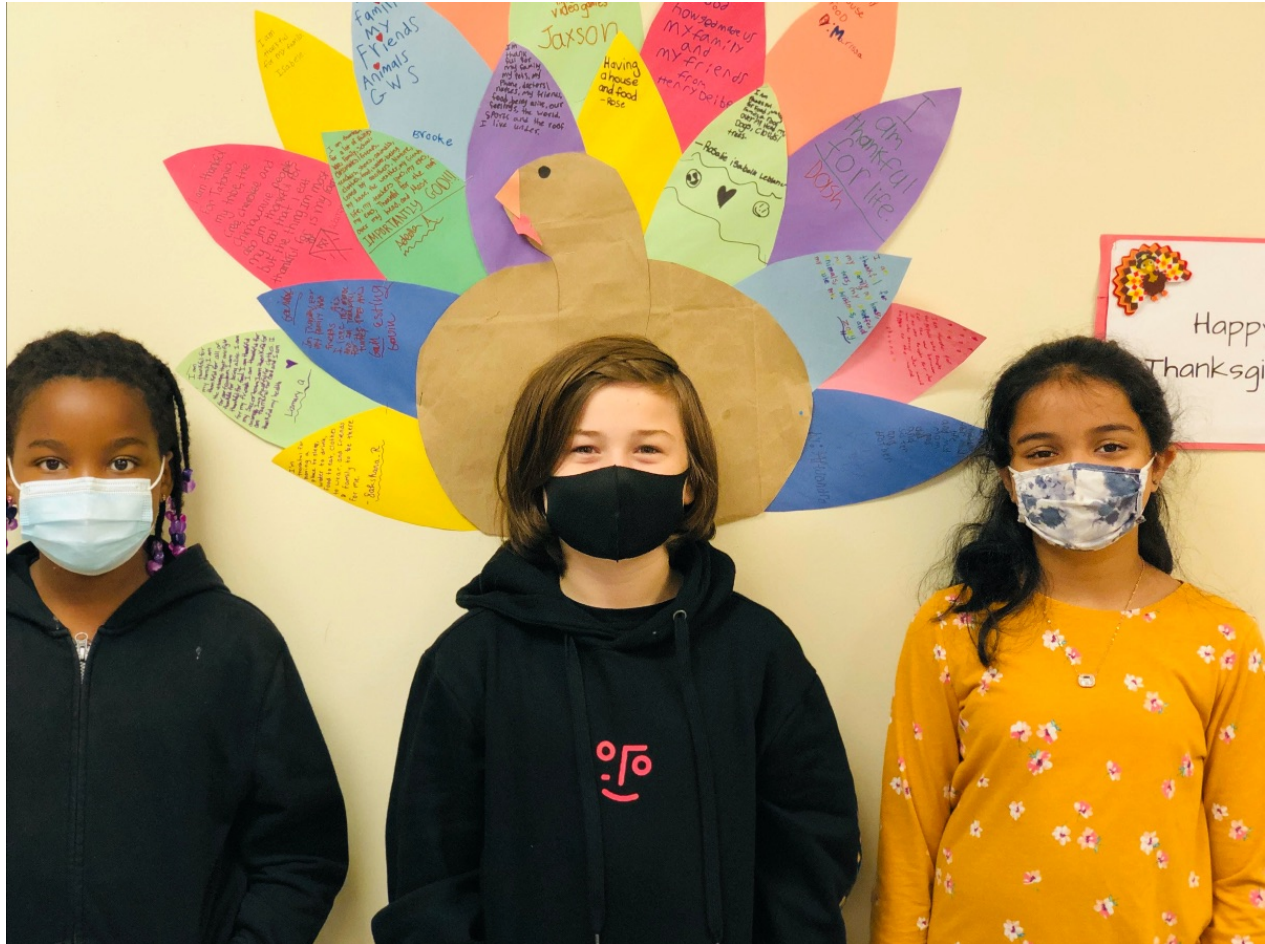
www.sscps.org

A Message from Alicia

Without question, the 2021-2022 school year has provided much for which to be grateful. Although we remain in the midst of a pandemic, we are miles from where we were at this same time last year. Classrooms are full and remote learning is gone. Students and teachers are sharing real classroom experiences under the same roof and sky. The school library is open. We are together enjoying the little things, which as Kurt Vonnegut once

pointed out, are what we now realize are the big things. There's nothing inappreciable about an aspiring basketball team meeting together at lunch, a van full of young women joyfully headed to a volleyball game, the controlled chaos of pumpkin carving, and laughing through the fun of school spirit days. Even MCAS Prep FIT, once perceived as a drudgery, now serves as a welcome back to the rhythm of our daily life here at SSCPS.

I, for one, could not be more thankful.



Yet for many of us, November did not begin with inordinate feelings of gratitude. Our school community may now list a bombogenetic cyclone to our list of shared experiences. The nor'easter that we saw in October ended the month with three days of school closure due to inclement weather and power outages that lasted longer than three days at our school and in many of our sending districts. On a critical Saturday morning walkthrough, Wayne Heurer, Director of Facilities, discovered a flood caused by a broken water heater valve that had flooded large numbers of classrooms, particularly on Levels I and III. The damage was so extensive that it could have taken months to repair, further interrupting learning following a year of so much loss.



So many people in our school community came together to mitigate and minimize damage and disruption. I remain thankful for all the teachers and staff who were able to move their classrooms and office spaces quickly and efficiently to accommodate new learning environments, be those classrooms in tents, in PE or art rooms, or in a completely different building.

Heather Brems
 Jhonneris Mendez
 Derek Noland
 JP Marcellus
 Peter Luizzi
 Deana Tondorf
 Christine Bodnar
 Rachel Ciambriello
 Aujané Stewart
 Dan Vasconcellos
 Laurie Hogan
 Crystal Nunes
 Pam Golden

Kristen Edwards
 Kristen Gale
 Marie Cetoute
 Marion Whalen Finn
 Nikiesha Whitman
 Julie Bonney
 Siobhan Daly
 Kayla Shaw
 Jessica Everett
 Chynna Pires
 Karen Foy
 Cindy Clark
 Cindy Lyons

Sam Kiesel
Jessica Woods
Theron Leonard
June Fontaine
Kassandra Sullivan
Paul Barrett
Kelley McDonald
Kelsey Gilmore
Theresa Breen

Lily Ferguson
Abby Riddell
Meredith Deegan
Stephanie Small
Drew Farrar
Allison Goff
Pam Algera
Nicole Talbot
Molly McDonough



Special thanks to our grade six team who crossed Longwater Drive venturing to 700 Longwater with little more than bins and planbooks. Thank you Dan Roberts, Ben Anderson, Laura Bosse, Maria Lappas, Megan Fernando, Kelly Rafferty-Brulport, Lauren Mullen, Joyce Dandrow, and Bill Tramontana. These teachers expeditiously set up their classrooms in one day and shepherded students from one building to another and back daily. Special thanks to Susan Knineh, from FCC transportation for providing a shuttle service for our sixth graders while they waited for their classrooms at 100 to be ready.



Not enough can be said about the organizational ability of the SSCPS administration. For days on end they organized, moved classrooms, reorganized, and planned again, pointing students in the right direction to their changing classrooms daily. Thank you Angie Pepin, Matt Tondorf, Joe Kay, Krista Cafourek, Sheina Prince Eugene, Donika Darabus, Haley Edmonson, Kristen Mullin-Connolly, Nora Broderick, Haley Edmonson, Jamie Allen, Pam Algera, Michelle Gallagher, and Kristine Bingham.

Another thank you to our Learning Services team who worked hard to fill in the gaps and support students throughout the transition, Jess Zitaut, Tanya Ames, Alicia Scafidi, Brittany Motley, and Annie Plummer. Also helping tremendously with drop off and pick up has been Dee Delaney, Karen Boyle, and Krista Kelley. Special thanks to Charlene Evans for moving meals so quickly from one building to another, to Tanya Maniscalco for assisting with logistics, and to Kerri Doble for her unrelenting attention to detail and paperwork.

Much appreciation to so many members of our parent community for all of the emails of support and understanding. Special thanks to Andrea Poudrier, Katie Vecchione, Amy Kelly, Liz Sweeney, and SSCPS trustee Ken Poudrier for all of the support and expertise demonstrated over the past few weeks.

Not enough may be said about our wonderful Facilities Director, Wayne Heuer, and his team, David Griffith and Harry Jones who have worked exceptionally hard around the clock to oversee the cleaning and reconstruction of our classrooms and hallways. With the construction almost complete, we are now able to look forward to continuing the school year and remain thankful for all of the important work that lies ahead.

Wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

Alicia Savage
Executive Director
asavage@sscps.org

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
 - Grades 7-12 - Level and Department Meetings

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.



On Saturday, 11/20, at Weymouth High School, the Braintree/Weymouth Elks held their annual Hoop Shoot competition. SSCPS had TEN students in attendance! Enjoy the picture where you'll see FIVE SSCPS students holding respective trophies for their performance!

Pictured from left to right, top to bottom - Aaron Fordjour (7th), Stevenson Gabelus (7th), Jenn Johnon (7th Grade Teacher), Hasana Agbaje (5th), Sarah Arcene (5th), Kendra Anyanwu (5th), Olivia Byron-Gabelus (5th - finished 1st in her age group and goes on to regionals!), Makayla Boursiquot (6th), David Anyanwu (7th), Conor Egerton (2nd), and Liam Egerton (6th)

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.

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.

COVID-19 FAQ 2021-2022

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

COVID-19 Symptoms List

- **Fever (100.0°F or higher), chills, or shaking chills**
- **Difficulty breathing or Shortness of breath**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Muscle aches or body aches**
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, when in combination of other symptoms
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, when in combination of other symptoms
- Headache, when in combination with other symptoms
- 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.

What happens if my student develops COVID-like symptoms in school?

If your child develops COVID-like symptoms at school they will be sent to the CARE room. If they have been registered for in school COVID-19 testing they will be tested at school. If the symptoms are minor they can remain in school with a negative test, for more severe symptoms they will be sent home and may return when they are fever free for 24 hours without meds and symptoms have improved. If students are not registered for COVID testing they will be sent home if they have any of the above bolded COVID symptoms or if they have multiple symptoms on the list and will need a COVID test before returning to school.

My student has a pending a COVID-19 Test but feels better. Can they return to school while we wait for results?

No, students cannot return to school unless the health office has received a copy of the students negative results.

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 or outside 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?

Yes, siblings may remain in school as long as they remain symptom free.

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

Yes, if a household member has symptoms but the student has no symptoms they may be in school. If the household member was to test positive for COVID-19 the student would need to be picked up immediately.

Can I test my student using an over the counter rapid COVID-19 test?

No, we cannot accept OTC tests. Only tests administered through a healthcare facility are accepted.

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 be isolated for 10 days. The students will need to be cleared through the health office before returning. They will also need to have resolved/improved symptoms and be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication. All siblings will need to remain home and quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated and have provided the appropriate Health Office with a copy of their vaccination card.

Do I report my COVID-19 test results?

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

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

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

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

If your student has any COVID like symptoms please speak to the nurse directly.

A household member tested positive COVID, can my student be in school?

Students must quarantine if a family member is positive unless they are fully vaccinated and remain symptom free. Students who are not vaccinated will need to quarantine. Please contact the health office to discuss when students may return to school.

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 a 24 hour period in the previous 48 hours of the onset of symptoms or from a positive COVID-19 result of an asymptomatic person.

The following close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols:

- Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts: Individuals who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Classroom close contacts: An individual who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom while both individuals were masked, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Bus close contacts: Individuals on buses must be masked according to federal requirements. As such, individuals who are masked on buses when windows are open are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days: An individual who has been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:
 - The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness AND
 - The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.

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 outside of school or if they choose not to participate in Test & Stay if they are school close contact (within 3' of a positive student) they will need to be quarantined. If students remain symptom free they can test on day 5 after exposure and if they continue to remain symptom free may return to school on day 8 after exposure. If students opt not to test they will need to quarantine for 10 full days and may return on day 11 as long as they remain symptom free. Students will need to monitor for symptoms for a full 14 days and return to quarantine and retest if they develop any symptoms.

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

If a household member is in close contact with a person positive with COVID-19 and asymptomatic, the student may remain in school, unless the household member tests positive for COVID-19.

What is Test & Stay?

Students deemed close contacts (within 3' of a positive student in the classroom) will report to school each morning and have a rapid antigen test performed for 7 days. Students may remain in school if they continue to have negative tests and remain symptom free. Parents must remain close to the school for 15 minutes, until the results are in. Results will be sent via text message or the health office will call you if positive and you must immediately come pick up your student. Students who are close contacts due to outside of school exposure can not participate in this program. Your student will have to wear a mask during outside time, like recess or specialist, except for snack and lunch while participating in Test & Stay.

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, bandanas, and masks with a valve are not acceptable for school.

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.

Testing Programs

For more information on the testing programs, please visit the [SSCPS Health Office](#) webpage.

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

Barbara Folan, RN bfolan@sscps.org

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

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

FAMILY SURVEY: OCTOBER HOLIDAY

The SSCPS Board of Trustees will be voting on the 2022-2023 School Calendar in December. Up for vote during that meeting is the name of the October 10, 2022 holiday.

During the October meeting, the Board of Trustees was presented with some varying perspectives and a student presentation. **Students from the Social and Racial Justice workshop presented arguments for removing the name Columbus from the October holiday and instead referring to the day as Indigenous Peoples' Day.** Currently the School recognizes Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day as an observance for the second Monday in October. Members of the Board asked Faculty Representatives to survey the school community on their thoughts as to how that day should be recognized on the school calendar.

We are asking all members of the SSCPS community, students, families, faculty and staff, to participate in the survey. **Please fill out one form per family by November 30, 2021. Data gleaned will be non-binding, but will be used to inform the discussion at the Board of Trustees vote in December.** Thank you!

TAKE THE SURVEY

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.

REGARDING SCHOOL PICTURE ORDERS:

Parents who have any questions about their school picture orders (such as order forms; late orders; missing orders & refunds etc.) should contact our dedicated Lifeguards:

By phone:

1-800-632-2323 ext '0'

By email:

Lifeguards@coffeepond.com

By US Mail:

Lifeguards Coffee Pond Photography
3 Speen Street, Suite 200
Framingham, MA 01701

From the Yearbook Committee:

The 2022 yearbook is coming - now is your chance to order yours! The normal yearbook price is \$40, but if you order before January 1st, you can get yours for **\$37!**

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

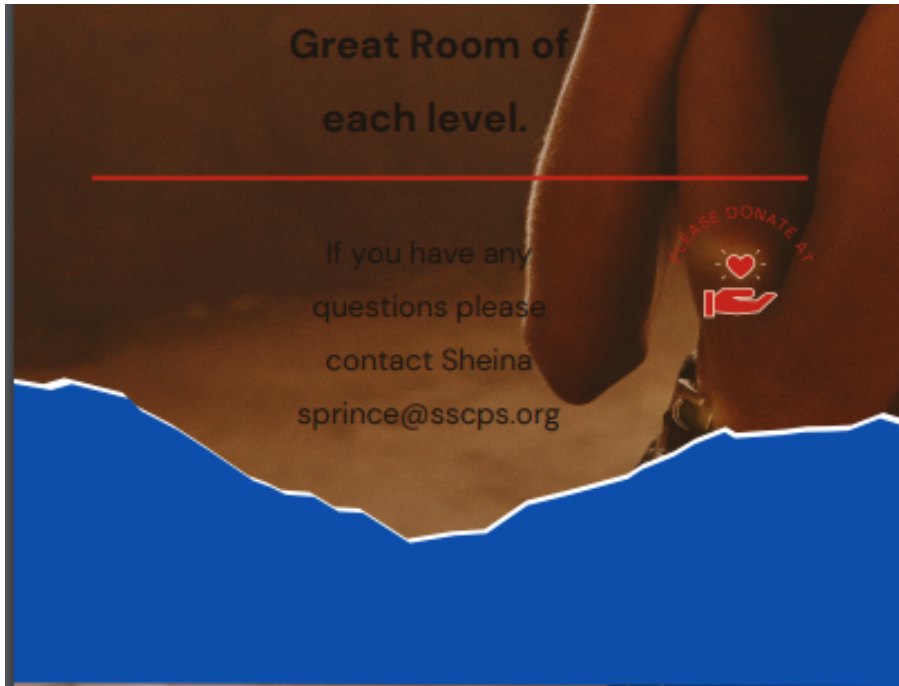
**THE RECENT
EARTHQUAKE AND
HURRICANE HAS LEFT
HAITI DEVASTATED.**

So many people urgently need our help.

Now that pathways are clearing we are hoping to be able to send supplies to the people of South Haiti still struggling to survive.

- HYGIENIC SUPPLIES
- CLOTHES
- WATER
- MEDICAL SUPPLIES
- BLANKETS
- SHELTER

Boxes will be located in the



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

December 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.



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

This Week | Up and Coming

Wednesday	11/24	Early Release – Dismissal at 12:00pm	12:00pm
Thurs/Fri	11/25-11/26	Thanksgiving Break – No School	
Tuesday	11/30	1 st Trimester Ends for Grades K-4	

Wednesday	12/01	Board of Trustees Executive Committee Meeting	8:00am
Friday	12/03	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm

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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www.sscps.org

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