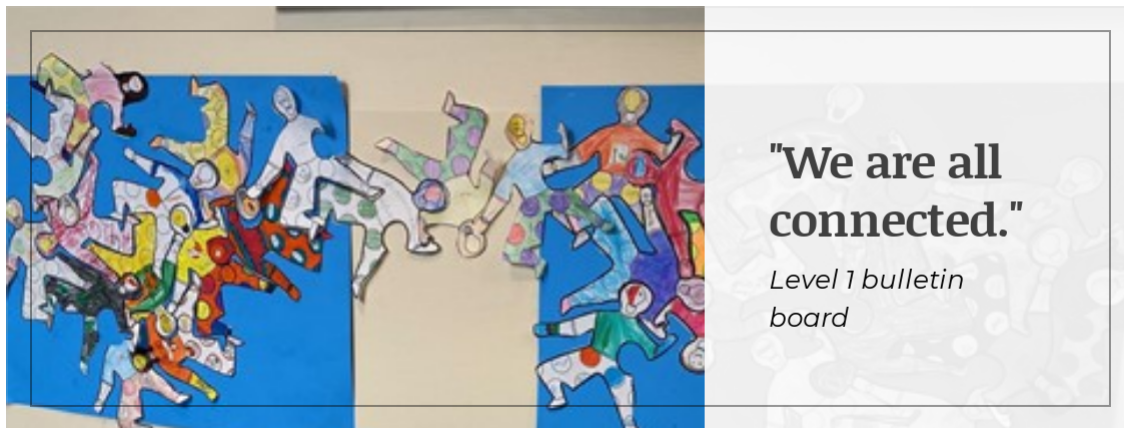


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## Weekly Update | November 3, 2021

Vol. 11, Issue 1

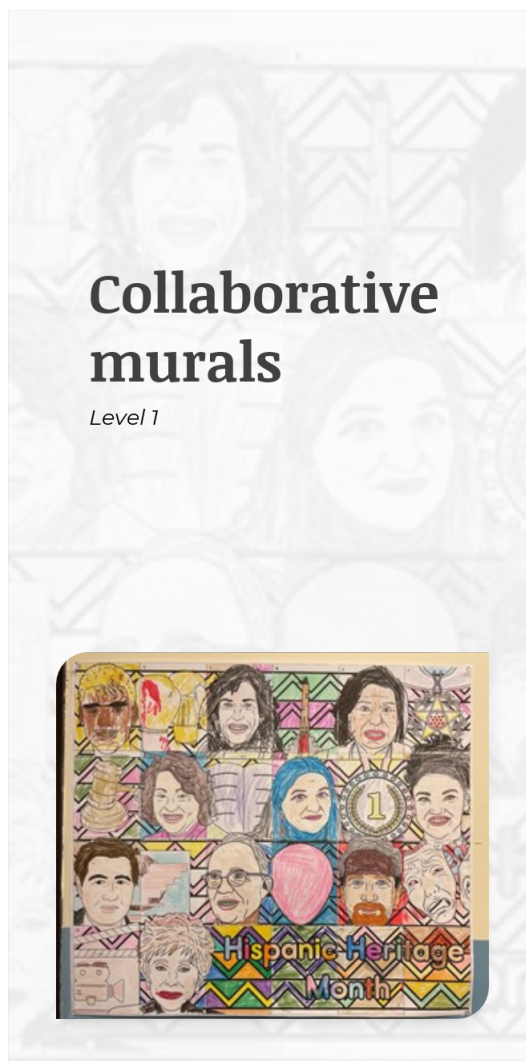


## A Message from Haley:

### Hispanic Heritage Month

Each year, Americans observe **National Hispanic Heritage Month** from September 15 to October 15 by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

This observation began as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and was expanded by Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15. The date of September 15 is significant because it is Independence Day for the Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.



In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18. Columbus Day, or **Día de la Raza** ("Day of the Race"), are also observed in October.

Here at SSCPS, we have proudly celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month in our kindergarten through high school classrooms in a variety of ways.



## Collaborative murals

*Level 2*

Students in **Level I and II** learned why Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated and read books highlighting famous and impactful Hispanic people. Students appreciated listening to the sounds of different Spanish-speaking countries while they worked in class. They were introduced to Peruvian flute music, Mexican Mariachi, and the sweet sounds of salsa, which originated in Cuba and has made its way into mainstream American culture.

In Level II, the Spanish Department teamed up with the Health Department for Hispanic Heritage Month. The Health Department started with a unit that involved creating a display entitled "**We are all connected.**" The Spanish teacher expanded upon this concept by teaching students about the different flags that represent various Spanish-speaking countries in the world. This will expand further into a cross-cultural representation of flags that represent all our students on Level II. Students also collaborated on a mural of influential people within the Spanish-speaking world that is proudly displayed outside their classrooms.



## Bottle Biography Project

*Level III*

## Bulletin of Spanish-speaking places, people and flags

*Level III*



## Bulletin of Spanish-speaking flags and countries

*Level IV*

**Level III** features a bulletin board with a variety of places, famous Hispanic people, and flags that represent the different Spanish-speaking countries. Students heard firsthand accounts about what it means to be Hispanic, and the pride people feel who identify this way. In sixth grade, students participated in a gallery walk where they read and took notes on different biographies. They also completed a Bottle Biography Project, in which they had to research and present on a significant Hispanic figure. They also included a 3D model of their person using a plastic bottle.

In the **Level IV Spanish classroom**, students undertook the task of learning about Hispanic Heritage Month and shared what they learned with their peers. They dug deep into the history and cultures of Hispanic countries and created rich group projects. Their projects shared pertinent information about each country and included hand-illustrated maps and flags. Students learned about the Spanish-speaking countries and listened to a music clip from different Hispanic artists at the beginning of each class.



Students in the **high school** dove into the study of what Hispanic heritage encompassed by looking at its diverse range of cultures, nationalities, histories, and identities. Students researched and presented on famous Hispanic authors, athletes, scientists, social activists, actors, singers, and more. Salsa, merengue, rock, and pop from various countries played throughout the classrooms.

Collaboration amongst levels and disciplines allowed members of the SSCPS community to honor and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in dynamic ways.

### **Haley Edmondson**

World Language Curriculum Coordinator

[hedmondson@sscps.org](mailto:hedmondson@sscps.org)



Level III continued their years-long tradition of pumpkin carving on Tuesday, 10/26/2021! 80 pumpkins were carved and decorated in teams of 2-3 students. The week prior, the teams planned and designed in preparation for carving. This event continues to be a terrific example of collaboration and community service. Pumpkins were donated by several local markets (Big Y Norwell, Roche Bros. Marshfield, Shaws Hanover, Super Stop & Shop Pembroke, Trader Joe's Hanover). Pumpkins were used by the New England Wildlife Center for their Night of a Thousand Faces webcast.



Congratulations to the SSCPS High School Varsity Soccer Teams for a wonderful season, qualifying for the MCSAO playoffs, and ending the season on a high note despite a loss. Special thanks to our Seniors for leading the way!



Hats off to the Varsity Volleyball Team who made it to Round 2 of the playoffs this week! After winning on Monday's playoff games, the team lost to PHA in a very close match on Tuesday. We are proud of the grace and skill exemplified throughout an excellent season. Congratulations Jaguars!

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Special thank you to our teachers and staff, and of course our amazing facilities team, for weathering the storm and being so flexible during water mitigation. Here our sixth grade team moves bins from 100 to 700 on Monday getting sixth grade classrooms ready for the next day.

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## From the Health Office:

### 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](mailto:attendance@sscps.org) or contact the appropriate school health office

HS: 781-982-4202 X 182 or email: [bfolan@sscps.org](mailto:bfolan@sscps.org)

K-8: 781-982-4202 x104 or email: [dedwards@sscps.org](mailto:dedwards@sscps.org) or [jkjelgaard@sscps.org](mailto: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](mailto:bfolan@sscps.org)

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

Darcie Edwards, RN [dedwards@sscps.org](mailto:dedwards@sscps.org) or Jaime Kjelgaard, RN [jkjelgaard@sscps.org](mailto:jkjelgaard@sscps.org)

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## **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.

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## **Art Department News:**

### ***Original Works orders due Wednesday, November 10!***

*Deadline Extended*

If you are interested in purchasing any pieces please send your child back with the artwork, order form in duplicate and check made out to SSCPS by Wednesday, November 10, 2021

All orders can be put in the envelope marked **Original Works** in your student's cohort or at the front desk.

If you have any questions, ask your child's Art Teacher.

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

So many people urgently need our help.

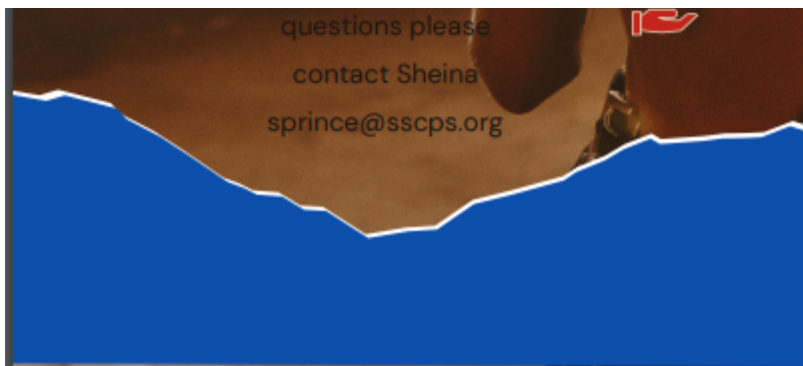
Now that pathways are clearing we are hoping to be able to send supplies to the people of South Haiti still struggling to survive.

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

Boxes will be located in the Great Room of each level.

If you have any

PLEASE DONATE AT



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## Housing Help

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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

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## Food Service - Breakfast and Lunch Program

### **November 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](mailto:csalamone@sscps.org) or at 781-982-4202 x156.

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## From the Parents Association

**There are two vacant positions on the PA: Treasurer and Level 3 Rep.**

Any parent or guardian interested should please contact the PA  
at: [sscpspa20.21@gmail.com](mailto:sscpspa20.21@gmail.com) before November 16th.

Elections will take place at the PA next meeting on November 17, 2021.

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**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**

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**COMMUNITY INTEREST**





## Elks National Hoop Shoot® Free-Throw Contest

**Compete. Connect. Succeed**

**Contests Location:** Weymouth High School Gym – 1 Wildcat Way, Weymouth, 02190

**Date:** November 20, 2021 - **Start Time:** 9:30 **Registration – Contest at, 10AM to 12:00PM**

**Hosted By Elks Lodge:** Weymouth/Braintree Lodge for local Community Towns

**Lodge Hoop Shoot Director:** John MacDonald, 617-827-0889

**Fast Facts:**

- The Elks Hoop Shoot is free to boys and girls who will be between ages of 8-13 on April 1, 2022. All Kids from our local South Shore Community Towns are welcome to participate.
- Winners advance through District, State and Regional Hoop Shoot contests
- Regional winners qualify for a free trip to compete at the Hoop Shoot National Finals held April 30, 2022, in Chicago, IL
- National Champions will have their names permanently inscribed on a plaque in the Basketball Hall of Fame

Learn more at [www.elks.org/hoopshoot](http://www.elks.org/hoopshoot)

## This Week | Up and Coming

Thursday	11/04	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Ends for Grades 5-12	
Friday	11/5	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm
Tuesday	11/09	MCAS – Math Retest	
Wednesday	11/10	MCAS – Math Retest	
Thursday	11/11	Veteran’s Day – No School	

## IMPORTANT LINKS

**Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website [www.sscps.org](http://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](mailto:palgera@sscps.org) to submit SSCPS items for publication.**



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[www.sscps.org](http://www.sscps.org)

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