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Weekly Update | October 20, 2021

Vol. 10, Issue 3

A Message from Sheina

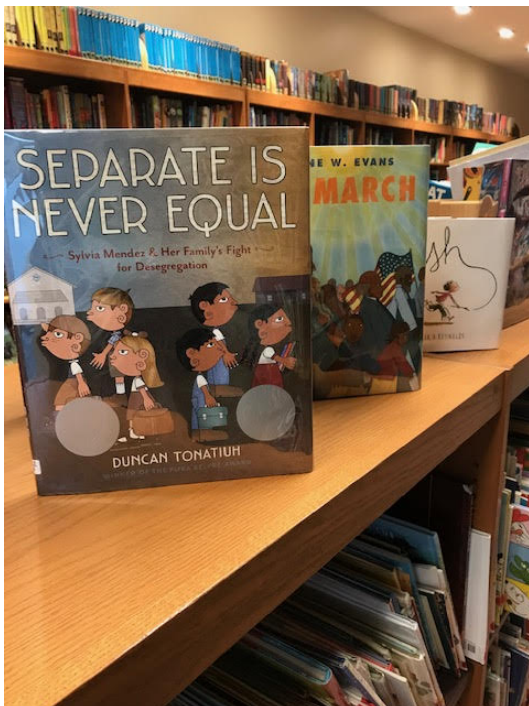
Multi-colored leaves are falling to the ground, pumpkins decorate front walkways, and the morning chill is reminding us all to grab a jacket. Autumn is here in full swing.

So what does that mean for us? I have noticed that we are all getting back into the swing of things this school year. We have students involved in activities from fall sports to farm trips. I must commend our faculty and staff for going above and beyond to ensure that not only the academic success of our student body is being achieved, but that the enrichment and social emotional aspect of each student is being considered. With students getting organic ways to socialize, they learn rich skills for life such as: learning to be part of a team, problem solving, as well as language skills. This has been a point of interest for our school.





We are also pleased that our library is now open to students thanks to the hard work and dedication of Nora Broderick, our ELA Curriculum Coordinator. This gives students yet another space to freely interact with each other while picking out their next literary adventure.



The next few months will be filled with many familiar traditions and while we are making steps towards some semblance of normalcy, we will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our students. It is wonderful to see that the community we have worked so hard to build has held strong through virtual gatherings and made it out on the other side.

Sheina Prince-Eugene
K-4 Assistant Principal





Last night we celebrated the induction of Ayah Abouyoussef, Zachary Dehner, Brady Doe, Isabel Everson, Isabelle Every, Daniella Eze, Rohit Kumar Gandhari, Nahlya Hall, Michael Maccarrone, Faith Oji, Rida Osman, Kyle Ozturk, Ava Polito, Avery Stout, Tadhg Sullivan, and Afrin Zafar into the South Shore Charter Public School chapter of the National Honor Society.

Congratulations to our 2021 National Honor Society inductees!



Congratulations to all members of the SSCPS community who ran or participated in the 125th running of the Boston Marathon. Teachers do amazing things: Derik Noland completed the Boston Marathon with a fantastic time of 2:36:10 and placed 181 overall. Siobhan Daly also ran as a charity runner with a terrific time of 5:30:17. Siobhan will be running in the upcoming New York City Marathon on November 3. First grader Lily Naggie completed the [Boston Marathon Youth Jamboree](#) and was there to cheer on the runners. Great job all!

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 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 Kjølgaard, RN jkjolgaard@sscps.org

**Important Notice from DESE
Extension of DESE Mask Requirement
Through at Least November 1, 2021**

At the special meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) on August 24, 2021, the Board voted to declare "exigent circumstances" pursuant to the Student Learning Time (SLT) regulations, 603 CMR 27.08 (1), and authorized the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to require masks for public school students (age 5 and above) and staff in all grades through at least October 1, 2021. The mask requirement is an important

additional measure to keep students safe in school at this time.

Consistent with the authority provided by the Board, and after consulting with medical experts and state health officials, the Commissioner is extending the mask requirement through at least November 1, 2021.

Requirements and the full notice may be found [here](#).

As of October 15, 2021, if a school demonstrates a vaccination rate of 80 percent or more of all students and staff in the school through an attestation form submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), then vaccinated individuals in that school would no longer be subject to the mask requirement. In alignment with [statewide guidance](#), unvaccinated students and staff would be required to continue wearing masks. Additional information about the Vaccination Rate Threshold is available [here](#). DESE will continue to work with medical experts and state health officials to review and consider additional metrics to determine when individuals in schools would no longer be subject to the mask requirement.

Art Department News

Original Works is Back!

In a couple of weeks, your students will be bringing home a packet with their special art creations and information about the Original Works Program that the High School Art Workshop coordinates for the school.

You will have the opportunity to reproduce this art on items that can be purchased through the program. Anything ordered and returned by November 5th will be created and returned to school by the beginning of December.

We have worked with this program for 15 years and are pleased with their results.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Marianne F. Buckley Curran at mbuckleycurran@sscps.org or call 781-982-4202 x 304.

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 questions please contact Sheina sprince@sscps.org



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 go to www.mass.gov/covidhousinghelp for more information.

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 or at 781-982-4202 x156.

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

Wednesday	10/20	Parents Association Meeting via Zoom	6:30pm
Friday	10/22	Title I Information Meeting via Zoom	9:30am
Friday	10/22	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm
		November Breakfast and Lunch Order Form is Available!	

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

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.

School Documents

[2021-22 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)



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www.sscps.org

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