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Weekly Update | September 22, 2021

Vol. 9, Issue 4



Top Row: Siddharth Monagari, Nathaniel (Than) Inniss, Abhinav Selva, Stella Veissid

Bottom Row: Nikith Monagari, Olivia Veissid, Shresta Rachapudi

We are so very proud to announce, for the second year in a row a number of SSCPS's student participation in the Invent the Summer. Students from grades 1-7 took on the research and design of engineering problems identified and presented to them each week over the course of the summer. SSCPS had 40 entries winning the school a \$1,000 Grand Prize. A highlight reel of some of the students work and awards can be seen here:

[INVENT THE SUMMER SSCPS HIGHLIGHTS](#)

Invent the summer is a non profit organization established by students for students whose mission is to "...inspire creativity, resourcefulness, innovation, problem solving and leadership."

Please join us in congratulating the student participants who had 40 entries, many weekly awards, hall of fame inductees and a junior inventor of the summer as highlighted in the video above.

A Message from Michelle

What they missed and we didn't account for:

It's been almost a month since students have been back in the classroom full time. This is a drastic change from what we saw a year ago. Many students have not physically been in school since March 2020. Getting back into the day-to-day pace is challenging. I know personally as a mother, I did not miss the morning chaos of making sure everyone has what they need, is in the car, on time, ready to go, and now add on the fact that by the time we get in the car, I stop only to realize one of us has forgotten a mask and has to run back in the house!

I don't know about your family but in our house with a teenage girl there are once again, more door slams at 6:30 A.M. than I would like. We are back into the post COVID world exactly where we left off in 2020.

One of the struggles that I am hearing from teachers across grades, school, and subjects is that the students aren't like the students they have taught in the past. I truly believe that we need to reframe how we think about our current students. Although they have advanced two grades since March 2020, developmentally they are still where they were when CoronaVirus started. They may have received the academics they needed through virtual and hybrid classes but they weren't receiving all of the other intangible skills they would normally gain from attending school.

Oftentimes we worry so much about academics we forget that one of the biggest reasons students need to be at school is for socialization, to mature, and to develop all the unspoken and unlabeled skills that they develop by being around peers as they mature. These students have lost so much time in developing these skills. Every year the senior class is proud and the confidence they display just by having earned that role as the oldest in the school is palpable. This year it is not. This group was sophomores when COVID started. They have not had a "normal" school experience since the last third of their Sophomore year. They have not witnessed the senior classes in front of them earn that proud space in the school. They have missed having those role models.

This is just one example of how our students have been impacted by the time out of school. This was also, time out of experiencing all of the social norms that are unspoken. Parents if you see your sixth grader still behaving as if they were in fourth grade, it's not their fault. They are just picking up where they left off without the role models in the grades in front of them to model the behavior and expectations of being in the sixth grade.

I suppose we all need to remind ourselves that this is not their fault, the students certainly did not choose for this to happen, they are doing their best with the skills they have learned. We are asking them to make monumental leaps in their social development without having experienced any of this in a normal time frame. Educators and parents need to be gentle with their approach, model expected behavior, remind students that they never got to observe what a senior acts like or what a sixth-grader is like. If you see students lagging in their social development

have conversations with them and give them explicit examples of what the expectations are for them now. Most of all be kind.

Michelle Gallagher
High School Learning Services Coordinator



**Grade 9 Class Trip to TreeTop Adventures
September 2021**



Opening Week of SSCPS Athletics!

[Click Here to See Highlights from Yesterday](#)

A Message from the SSCPS Health Office

The Health Office is pleased to report a successful start to the school year. Students have come to school ready to learn and have done a wonderful job remaining in compliance with the health and safety protocols outlined in August. We understand this can be a challenging landscape, however, our students have exceeded our expectations and continue to wow us everyday with hard work and positive attitudes.

Adherence to our health and safety protocols has academic benefits, but also social ones as well. This year we are able to begin offering class field trips on a limited basis, after school and morning childcare programs are running again, band and strings have returned, and just this week soccer, cross country, and volleyball have made their way back on campus. We are slowly able to return to normal because we have learned what it is we need to do and we are doing it. One of those protocols is our new **COVID-19 Testing** program.

Thank you all who signed up yesterday for our new **COVID-19 Testing** program. **COVID-19 Testing** has become an essential component to keeping our students in school and learning. We are excited the Massachusetts Department of Education is offering this program free of charge and is in the final stages of full implementation.

As mentioned in yesterday's email to you, **COVID-19 Testing** is being offered in school this year to limit learning disruptions to the greatest extent possible. The program for the 2021-2022 school year has three components: **Symptomatic** for students who show symptoms of COVID-19 at school, **Test and Stay** for students who may have been exposed while in school but are not showing symptoms, **Weekly COVID Safety Testing** to prevent the spread of the virus undetected among students who are not showing symptoms. Each of these is a quick, non-invasive nasal swab that is collected under the supervision of a school nurse or trained health provider. Unlike COVID-19 tests of

the past, these are not uncomfortable and easy to do.

An overview of the three different testing programs we are planning to offer this year is below.

Symptomatic rapid antigen testing for students that become ill while at school. *Students with mild symptoms will be able to remain in school with a negative rapid test. Students with more severe symptoms will need to go home, but may return to school when symptoms have resolved. Students with negative rapid tests will not need a backup PCR test this year.*

Test and Stay rapid antigen testing for unvaccinated students that are deemed close contacts from a school exposure.

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.

Weekly COVID Safety Testing, which will be a grouped weekly PCR test.

This program is similar to last year's pool testing. If students are in a positive pool they will report to school for a backup rapid antigen test the next day. If an antigen test is negative, students may remain in school. Tentative start date TBD.

We are currently up and running for Symptomatic Rapid Antigen Testing and the Test and Stay Rapid Antigen Testing. If you would like to have your student participate in these programs sign up using the link below. Students **MUST** be pre-registered to participate in these programs. If you choose not to have your student participate they will need to remain out of school if they are close contacts or if they are symptomatic for the above COVID-19 symptoms.

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

*****Due to the overwhelming number of schools that have signed up with the state to run COVID-19 testing programs, we have been moved to CIC Project Beacon testing platform. If you had previously registered your student under the CIC consent from the newsletter, you will need to sign them up for this testing platform in order for them to participate.**

If your student has received their COVID-19 vaccine please send in proof of immunization. Vaccinated students will not be required to quarantine if they are considered close contacts unless they become symptomatic.

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

If your child is ill please have the child remain home and reach out to the appropriate Health Office.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our efforts here at the Health Office. What you do every day greatly impacts our school community. We are grateful for all of your kind words and efforts at home. As always, please contact any one of us here at the SSCPS Health Office should you have any questions.

Darcie Edwards, RN (K-8)

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781-981-4202 x104

Jaime Kjelgaard, RN (K-8)

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Barbara Folan, RN (9-12)

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781-982-4202 x182

School Picture Days

Wednesday, September 29, 2021 - All Students in grades K-8

Thursday, September 30, 2021 - All High School Students, Grades 9-12

All students will have their pictures taken, whether families are buying packages or not

Order forms will be sent home on Monday, September 27

We encourage families to order photos online.

To order:

- Go to Coffeepond.com
- Click on "Order School Portraits"
- Select town: Norwell, MA
- Select school: South Shore Charter
 - For K-8 - choose Lower and Middle
 - For 9-12 - choose Upper
- Choose your package and any other items you'd like
- **CONFIRMATION SHEETS DO NOT NEED TO BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL ON PICTURE DAY!**



Save the date for our Back to School Community Picnic and Walk to be held on Saturday, October 2nd from 10am-12 at Wompatuck State Park Visitor Center.

We hope you will gather your family members and join us for a fun morning to connect with other SSCPS families. We will have vendors, games and raffles and will start the One Mile Heart Healthy Walk at 10am. The one mile walk is a beautiful flat course that is stroller and dog friendly.

Suggested family donation is \$10. Sign up and donate [HERE!](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to Laurie Dannison at ldannison@sscps.org.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you next month!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

SSCPS Community Walk & Back to School Picnic

Saturday, October 2

Wompatuck State Park

10:00 – 12:00

Sign up [HERE](#) to help with this fun-filled community event!



SSCPS Level 3-High School Before School Concert Band

SSCPS
Music Room @ 100 Longwater
Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:00-8:00 am

Have you been playing a band instrument for a year or more?
Then Concert band is for you!

If interested please complete [this form](#).

Please direct all questions to : tleonard@sscps.org



SSCPS Level 3-4 After School Strings

South Shore Charter Public School
Music Room
Wednesdays and Fridays 3:00-4:00

Do you have and interest in learning the Violin or Cello? Join the
after school string program.

If interested please complete [this form](#).

Please direct all questions to: tleonard@sscps.org

If interested in the Before School Band or After School Strings
please complete [this form](#).
For more information contact, Theron Leonard at tleonard@sscps.org.

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

All students enrolled at SSCPS qualify for Free Breakfast and Lunch for the 2020-2021 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.

From the Parents Association

The first meeting of the 2021-22 school year will be held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 6:30pm via [Zoom](#). [Click here](#) to preview the agenda. All are welcome to attend!

CARPOOL CONNECT: The Parents Association is collecting information from families interested in carpooling with other local families for the 2021-2022 school year. This information will be available for parents on our website (www.SSCPS-PA.org) to connect with one another in order to set-up their own carpool scheduled.

Wednesday	09/22	Virtual Senior Parent Meeting with Guidance	6:00pm
Wednesday	09/22	Parents Association Meeting via Zoom	6:30pm
Thursday	09/23	Senior Trip to Camp Burgess	
Thursday	09/23	Level III and Level IV Back-to-School Night at 100 Longwater Circle	6:00-7:00pm
Thursday	09/23	Board of Trustees Governance Committee Personnel Committee Development and Facilities Meeting All meetings will be held at 700 Longwater Drive and virtual via Zoom	7:30pm 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm

Tuesday	09/28	Virtual Sophomore Parent Meeting with Guidance	6:00pm
Wednesday	09/29	K-8 Picture Day	
Wednesday	09/29	Level I and Level IV Back-to-School Night at 100 Longwater Circle	6:00-7:00pm
Thursday	09/30	High School Picture Day	
Thursday	09/30	Virtual Junior Parent Meeting with Guidance	6:00pm

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

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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Our website address is:

www.sscps.org

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