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Updated Weekly Update | October 6th, 2022

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A Message from Alicia

October is upon us and already the school year has been filled with excitement. The normal routines of the school year, farm trips, field trip days, and even school picture day have become jubilant happenings. Fall sports are flourishing. Soccer, cross country, and volleyball are thrilling to watch. Projects and Workshops are pumping with high spirits, and the Back-to-School nights were all well-attended and high energy. Over one month into the school year and we are hearing the same message from students, teachers, and families: this year feels different.



Picture Day Video by Brianna Belizaire

After two and a half years of pandemic learning, we have all earned the right to be hopeful that much from the past will remain in the rearview mirror. Although COVID is still with us, these early weeks have been better than anything we have known in a long time. Last year, one of the most overwhelming challenges was the high absence rate of students and staff brought on by COVID-19 infections. Our school was not alone. Statewide student attendance data is staggering. The DESE reports that statewide 1.7 million days of school were missed because of positive COVID-19 cases in 2022. This number does not even include faculty and staff absences or days missed as a result of being a close contact of someone who tested positive. Add that number to the first, and the days interrupted become seemingly insurmountable.

Last week, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released the Spring 2022 MCAS results. The October 19 Weekly Update will include detailed information on how families can read the report and interpret their child's scores. As a school, we look at MCAS scores individually, in subgroups, by grade, and as a whole. Although we look at many assessments to determine the strengths and areas of growth in learning, the MCAS provides a specific window to help determine if our curriculum aligns with state standards. We look at statewide trends to see where we fall within those trends and make decisions accordingly.

This year there were some statewide trends of particular interest. Math MCAS scores increased from last year. However, MCAS scores were consistently lower throughout the state in ELA, particularly in the areas of writing and early literacy. Statewide science scores increased slightly from 2021. We here at SSCPS noticed similar trends in grades 3-8 and

will continue to work to achieve higher levels of proficiency school wide.

There is some good news coming from grades and levels. At the high school math data for grade 10 has improved 13 % from last year. ELA data for grade 10 indicates improvement since last year as well. Our goal is to have success at all grade levels. This includes a strong focus on social emotional learning schoolwide and, of equal importance, improved attendance rates for students now that pandemic protocols have shifted.

Being present and together matters. Here at SSCPS we seized another opportunity to come together on Saturday morning for the Harvest Run at Wompatuck State Park. This year we called it #TheTogetherRunSSCPS. I would like to thank all of our [event sponsors](#) and everyone who joined us on Saturday morning to support our school. So many braved the impending rain and wind to walk or run side by side with each other. Special thanks to Karl Dreyer and the cross country team who came and ran. Additional thanks to Margaret Bulger and student volunteers from the Mock Trial Workshop who even sponsored a participation contest. A thank you to Christophe Teulet-Cote who bravely volunteered to assist the contest. Thanks also go out to event volunteers Dan Vasconcellos, Bill Tramontana, and Kristine Bingham. Special thanks to our behind the scenes team, Wayne Heuer and Pam Algera. And thank you Abby Bingham and Adriana Diaz for all of the work on race logistics, email marketing, and the social media campaign. And a tremendous thank you to road race coordinator Joe Kay for organizing the outstanding event.

Although we have not been able to host the actual race for three years, the return of this event serves as a symbol of how strong our school community has become. Our ability to come together, to support each other, and to finish the race has been no easy victory. Yet here we are, a school community together again.





In his poem [One Today](#), presidential inaugural poet [Richard Blanco](#) writes of a single day as a human universal and specifically through the eyes of the immigrant and first-generation experience. The poem ends with this stanza.

We head home: through the gloss of rain or weight
of snow, or the plum blush of dusk, but always—home,
always under one sky, our sky. And always one moon
like a silent drum tapping on every rooftop
and every window, of one country—all of us—
facing the stars
hope—a new constellation
waiting for us to map it,
waiting for us to name it—together

[One Today](#), first read aloud at President Obama's inauguration in 2013, has a new relevance today. Despite all that has been asked of us as parents, teachers, and students we know that in the end we are making our way toward that new constellation. Despite hardships endured for over two years, we are on our way home. There is a new found appreciation in the everyday. We are present, we are learning, and we are together.



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Alicia Savage
Executive Director

WISH LEAVES



October ushers in vibrant colors and falling leaves. Some of you may remember the stunningly beautiful wish leaves that graced our campus last year. These leaves were part of an art installation done by SSCPS students in Pam's and Dan's elementary art classes. The project was based on the children's book *Wishtree*. The student art project, *Wish Leaves*, is featured in an article included in this month's edition of *Scholastic School Arts*, [School Arts October 2022](#), beginning on page 36. Art teacher Pam Golden and her sister Catherine wrote about the project which focuses on using the arts as a tool to teach students about empathy. Congratulations to our student artists and to their teachers Pam Golden and Dan Vasconcellos!

STORY OF US SPEAKER SERIES



Special thanks to our guest speaker Alayna Dutcher, MPH for her presentation "Coffee with Milk" on Tuesday evening. Your personal story is an inspiration to us all. Alayna's presentation was the first in the SSCPS Virtual Speaker Series *Story of Us*.

SSCPS ATHLETICS

3 MONDAY	4 TUESDAY	5 WEDNESDAY	6 THURSDAY	7 FRIDAY	8 SATURDAY
3:00 PM Varsity Boys Soccer vs Codman HOME - @ Union Point	3:00 PM Varsity Girls Volleyball vs APR HOME @ Starland	NO EVENTS	3:30 PM Varsity Boys/Girls Soccer Practice @ Union Point		NO EVENTS
Varsity Boys Soccer vs Codman HOME - @ Union Point	3:30 PM Cross Country Practice		3:30 PM Varsity Girls Volleyball Practice (PE SPACE)		
3:00 PM Varsity Girls Volleyball vs Argos HOME @ Starland	4:00 PM Varsity Girls Soccer @ Boston Prep - AWAY		4:00 PM HS Cross Country Meet AWAY @ Franklin Park		
3:30 PM Cross Country Practice @ Union Point	5:30 PM Varsity Boys Soccer @ Boston Prep - AWAY				

VOLLEYBALL



The Jaguars Volleyball team had TWO wins this week, which puts their official record of 3-1 (with one previous game yet to be completed where the Jaguars led 2-1).

On **Monday**, the Jaguars beat Argosy Charter with the following scores:

Set 1: 25-16 SSCPS

Set 2: 25-6 SSCPS

Set 3: 25-12 SSCPS

During Monday's match, co-captain Raeven Charles had 21 serves with 9 aces. Amira Hamam had 5 serves with 3 aces. Natalia Smith continues to improve as a setter. All players were able to get on the court and get game experience!

On **Tuesday**, the Jaguars beat APR (for a 2nd time this season) with the following scores:

Set 1: 25-23 SSCPS

Set 2: 24-14 SSCPS

Set 3: 25-9 SSCPS

During Tuesday's match, Aditi Suryawanshi had 10 attacks with 2 kills. Diana Bazile

showed her incredible effort level and overall skill from start to finish. Jalysa Facey had 2 kills and continues to hone her skills. Gabby Louis was a commanding presence at the net and her encouragement helped lead the team to victory.

Your next opportunity to see a home game is Monday, October 17th vs. Foxboro Charter. Thank you for our continued support! Go Jaguars!

HOLLY HILL FARM





Prior to visiting the farm last Friday, all first graders learned about worms which they enjoyed. While students learned about composting, they also enjoyed seeing worms.





UPCOMING UPDATES



IMPORTANT REMINDER

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MONDAY, OCT. 10TH

NO SCHOOL
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY
COLUMBUS DAY

FROM THE
PARENTS
ASSOCIATION



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!

amazon



wishlist

help our teachers!

VIEW WISHLISTS

PA Meeting Schedule | 2022-2023 School Year

Below you will find the meeting dates for the 2022-2023 school year:

- September 21, 2022
- October 19, 2022
- November 16, 2022
- December 21, 2022
- January 18, 2023
- February 15, 2023
- March 15, 2023
- April 26, 2023
- May 17, 2023
- June 14, 2023 (Transition Meeting)

Be on the lookout for upcoming volunteer opportunities. Information on the Back to School Picnic will be coming soon as well.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out. Our website can be found [here](#).

Cindy Lyons
Parent Council Chair
Cindylyons1337@gmail.com

From the Health Office

All 4th, 7th and 11th graders should have a current physical (within the last 12 months) on file in the appropriate health office. All students playing sports must have a current physical in order to play.

With the colder weather coming there has been an increase in illnesses at school. Please keep your child home if they are not feeling well. Students must stay home if they have a fever, vomiting/diarrhea, uncontrollable cough or runny nose or just not feeling well enough to stay at school for a full day.

Make sure you have emergency contacts listed (other than a parent). If your child needs to go home sick, please make sure to have a plan to have yourself or someone else pick them up within 30 minutes.

As a reminder, the students go outside in all kinds of weather unless below 20 degrees or heavy rain. It is important to have a change of clothes at school and come dressed in appropriate clothing for all weather.

This Week | Up and Coming

Monday	10/10	Indigenous Peoples' Day Observed Columbus Day Observed	No School
Tuesday	10/11	South Shore Charter Educational Foundation Meeting via Zoom	4:00-5:00pm
Wednesday	10/12	PSAT Testing for Grade 11	
Wednesday	10/12	Grade 10 field trip to UMass Dartmouth	
Thursday	10/13	Title I Parent Information Session	
Thursday	10/13	Board of Trustees	7:30pm

	Development Committee	5:30pm
	Governance Committee	6:00pm
	Finance Committee	6:30pm
	All meetings held at 700 Longwater Drive and available via Zoom	

IMPORTANT LINKS

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website www.sscps.org every Wednesday.

- [Back-to-School Information](#)
- [Food Services](#)
- [Health Office](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance](#)
- **Visit the** [Parents Association Website](#)

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:

[2022-23 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)



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