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## Weekly Update | December 14, 2022

Vol. 12. Issue 2

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### A Message from Matt

When asked what makes the charter school a special place the first thing that comes to my mind is the diversity. You would be hard pressed to find a school on the south shore that is more diverse than SSCPS. There are many areas in which the SSCPS community is diverse but one area that always impresses me is the linguistic diversity. SSCPS families speak 42 different languages! That translates into 45% of our SSCPS community having a language other than English spoken at home. There are so many amazing benefits of students being exposed to more than one language, it improves memory, critical thinking and problem solving skills, and enhances their listening skills. In a student's first few years of education, while all these wonderful benefits are taking place, they may need some support to acquire English language proficiency.

At SSCPS the responsibility of providing this support falls on the English Language Learner (ELL) department. The department is very small. Only four staff members make up this amazing team. Laurie Hogan is the Title III Coordinator and teacher, Sam Kiesel, and Julia Tramontana teach at the lower levels, and Karen Boyle is the administrative assistant for the EL department. This department is responsible for about 207 students that either receive or previously received EL support.



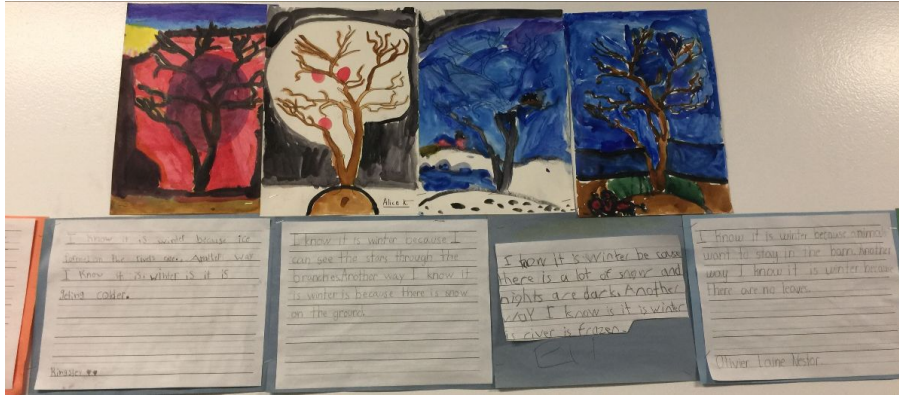
### What is EL support and how do you know what students are entitled to the support?

The EL team provides support to students that require ELL support in two different ways. At SSCPS the EL teachers may go into the classrooms to assist the classroom teacher in supporting EL students or a FIT block may be created to provide more intensive language support. Additionally, the EL program has expanded over the last few years to offer after school tutoring and a 4 week summer school program. All EL students at SSCPS have access to all educational program opportunities and instructional programs. Their level of English proficiency does not change their class placement or remove them from any general education classes. Currently SSCPS has 92 students that receive EL support.

At the time of enrollment parents fill out a home language survey. This survey indicates whether or not another language is spoken at home or if another language is the first language that the student learned. The State of Massachusetts defines an English Language Learner as a student not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English, or a student who comes from a home where a language other than English has an impact on the student's level of English language proficiency. It is important for families to understand that your child doesn't have to speak another language in order to receive EL support. If a student is exposed to a language other than English in the home they may qualify for EL support.

After the EL team determines through the home language survey that a child may qualify for EL support, the child will be screened in the areas of writing, reading, speaking, and listening. These screenings will give the EL team the information they need to recommend EL support. The EL team will reach out to families to let them know that EL support is being

recommended. The EL team will monitor the student and provide the recommended support based on their screening scores.



Each year in January and February, all students that are identified as EL will take the ACCESS for ELLs test. The ACCESS for ELLs test is based on the WIDA English Language Development standards. It is a standards-based, criterion-referenced English language proficiency test designed to measure ELs’ social and academic proficiency in English. It assesses social and instructional English used within the school context as well as the language associated with language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies across the four language domains; reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The scores produced by ACCESS for ELLs will identify which proficiency level an EL has achieved at the time of the assessment in each of domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing and the composite areas of literacy, oral language and overall. The EL team receives the results of those tests in June and reviews them to determine the level of support a student will need for the next school year.

If a student is able to obtain proficiency then the EL team will reclassify the student as a former English learner (FEL). Once the student becomes a FEL student, the EL department will monitor that student for the next four years to make sure that they are able to maintain their proficiency. If at any time a FEL student requires support the EL team is able to recommend more support. Currently SSCPS has 110 students that are former English learners.

We look forward to the upcoming ACCESS for ELLs test so our students can show how their English language proficiency has improved over this past year.

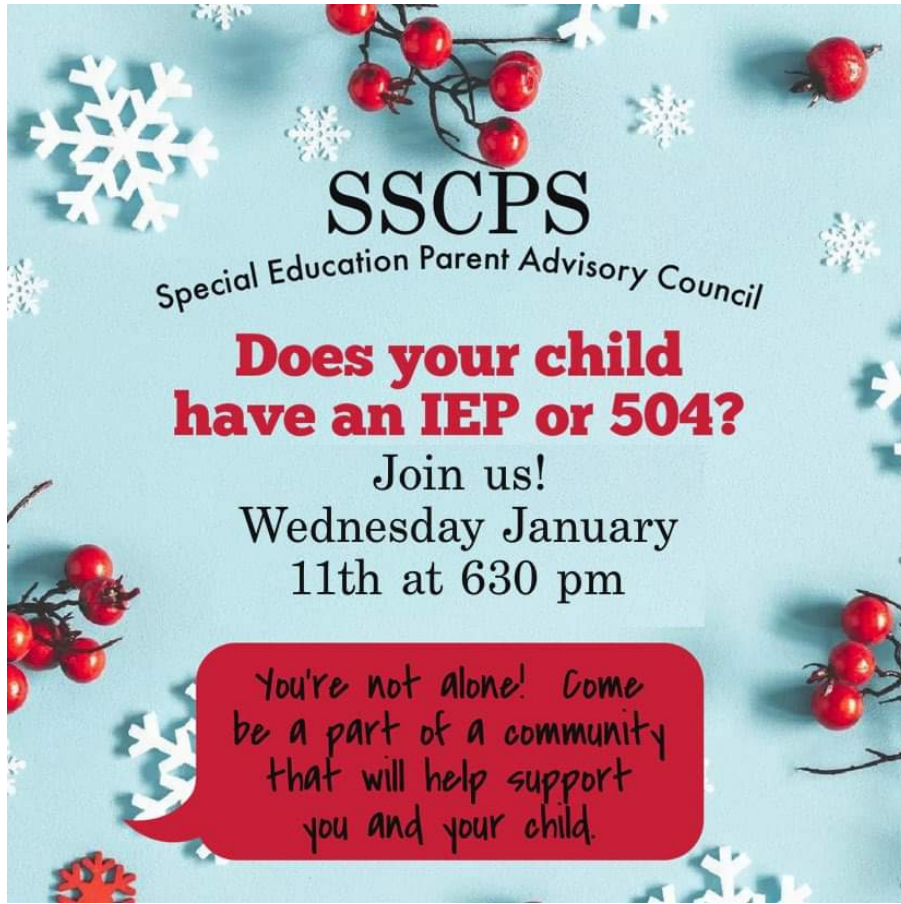
Most families that require translation of this Mailchimp have it already in their browser. However, if you would like to translate this or any other information sent by SSCPS, click the extension button on the top right of this browser and select translation. It will then allow you to choose the language you would like it translated to.

Sincerely,

**Matthew Tondorf**  
Director of Learning Services

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# MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION



**MSA Founders**

Left to right (Ayah Abouyoussef, Sawdah Osman, Hajar Abouyoussef, Kainat Ghuman,



At the start of the school year, five SSCPS high school students created a new club: a Muslim Student Association (MSA). They decided to start this new club in hopes of providing a safe space for all students, Muslim or not. With the help of the assistant principal TC and their MSA advisor, Alicia Dupuis, the first meeting took place on October 14th marking a new beginning.

MSA is a student-initiated and student-led club that promotes unity, encourages and enables Muslims and non-Muslims with the basic knowledge of humanity, equity, and service to others. MSA is open to everyone who is interested in learning about Islam and embraces the concepts of harmony in diversity, peace and fellowship. As a whole, this club aims to educate and spread awareness about Islam, partake in fun activities, and make good memories.



MSA Group Picture

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# ATHLETICS

## BASKETBALL

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Varsity Boys basketball team playing against MATCH Charter last Friday.

Photo Credit @sscps\_sports Instagram

The 2022 winter athletic season kicked off last Friday with the SSCPS Varsity Boys basketball team traveling to MATCH charter. The game was a contested one until the Jaguars pulled away in the 4th quarter with key defensive stops, securing a 61-48 win.

*Note: MATCH Charter was not able to field a Varsity Girls team and forfeited their 2022/23 season.*

The SSCPS Boys JV and Varsity Basketball teams took the road on Tuesday evening, as they traveled to Boston Prep for divisional games. The young and promising JV Jaguars struggled to settle in early on but gathered their bearings in the second half to cut the deficit. In the end, the experienced Boston Prep JV team proved to be too much on the night and took down a double digit win. The **JV Jaguars** look to bounce back tonight against *Neighborhood Charter* (6:30 PM - Archdale Community Center).



Varsity Boys Basketball team playing against Boston Prep last night.

Photo Credit @sscps\_sports Instagram

The Varsity Boys teams took the court following the JV game. This night marked the first official MIAA game for South Shore Charter. The Jaguars pulled out early in front, led by Louis Fuentes' defensive efforts. The sophomore had 3 steals in the first quarter alone and gave his team a 5 point cushion at half time. The start of the second half told a different tale. Boston Prep came out firing on all cylinders and went on a run of their own, taking a 30-26 lead with 4 minutes remaining in the contest. Sophomore Khai Francis led the comeback, scoring 7 of his game high 16 points in the 4th quarter. The Jaguars weathered the storm and regained a 1 point lead on a putback by senior Eden Dorvilier. Fellow senior Isiah Desrosiers made two timely free throws to secure the first ever MIAA win for South Shore Charter, 39-36. The Boys are now 2-0 on the season. Varsity Girls will make their season debut tonight as they take on Community Charter School of Cambridge @ MIT (7:30 PM). The Varsity Boys teams will suit up and play following the girls game.

Let's go Jaguars 🐾🐾

## THIS WEEK IN PROJECTS & WORKSHOPS

### CRICUT PROJECT



## American Red Cross Clothing Donation



Hello, we're from the Cricut Project on Level 4. We are doing a clothing donation for the American Red Cross. The location is in a bin at the front desk at the 100 Longwater Drive building. We're looking for donations of clothing and shoes. The drive will start on 11-30-22 and end on 12-14-22.

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## CULTURAL DIVERSITY WORKSHOP

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Cultural Diversity Workshop designed holiday cultural games that are played in different countries and presented those games to 4th graders.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

*Winter Concerts*

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2022 AT 6:00 PM**

PERFORMING ENSEMBLE WINTER CONCERT IS COMING UP! STUDENTS SHOULD ARRIVE AT 5:30 PM. THE CONCERT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE GYM. THE SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- LEVEL II CHORUS*
- LEVEL III & IV COMBINED CHORUS*
- BEGINNING STRINGS*
- CONCERT STRINGS*
- INSTRUMENTAL PROJECT*
- CONCERT BAND*
- JAZZ BAND (HIGH SCHOOL)*
- HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC WORKSHOP*

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21, 2022 AT 10:30 AM**

JOIN US FOR THE LEVEL I PERFORMANCE! THE CONCERT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE GYM. THE SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- 10:00-12:20 KINDERGARTEN*
- 10:20-10:50 FIRST GRADE*
- 11:00-11:20 SECOND GRADE*

PARENTS WILL NEED TO PARK AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AND NOT THE GYM.

## CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Dear Parents,

The students have made great progress in learning the fundamentals of playing their string instrument. They are so excited to perform for you and friends! As this may be the first time they have ever performed in a formal concert setting, please help them prepare by reviewing these guidelines together for proper concert etiquette. These also include suggestions for audience behavior expectations to help you.

Date of the first Winter concert: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 6:00pm

- Students should arrive early enough before the concert begins for tuning and warm-up.
- Students should arrive at the **PE space at 5:30**
- Students should arrive at the concert site in proper concert attire. Clothes should be neat and clean. The concert attire is: **Black and White (please no pictures or logos)**.
- Be sure your child brings his/her music, instrument, and bow to the concert. The students will be excited, so it will be easy for them to forget.
- Students should sit quietly on stage during the concert and acknowledge applause of the audience as directed by the teacher. During the concert the students should focus their attention on their director. They should avoid looking at the audience. Students should especially watch the director closely for all starting and stopping cues.
- Remind students that it is inappropriate for them to eat, drink, or chew gum during a concert.
- During the concert students should maintain good posture and a positive stage presence at all times when on stage. They are not only representing themselves, but also the entire orchestra.
- Encourage your child to play with his/her best effort. One purpose of a concert is to show the audience the great progress made. Of course, students should enjoy making beautiful music!

Thanks so much for letting me teach your child. The children have worked very hard and are eager to perform for and your family and friends. Maybe your child has already played for you some of the music that will be performed. I look forward to seeing you at the concert!

Sincerely,

**Theron Leonard**  
**Paul Barrett**

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**MassHire South Shore Information**





Have you ever considered a career in **Carpentry, Culinary and Entrepreneurship, HVAC, or Manufacturing?**

**Free Classes Start February 13th!**

Monday -Thursday 4-8pm

**SOUTH SHORE Technical Institute**

476 Webster Street,  
Hanover, MA 02339

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Must be 18+ years old
  - Must have HS Diploma or equivalent
  - Unemployed/ Underemployed
  - Be able to commit to completion of program hours
- Actively recruiting Veterans & Military Personnel

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Michael Santos, Upskilling Navigator  
MassHire South Shore  
MSantos@Masshires.com



Scan to apply!

**Carpentry**

This 220 hour introductory course is designed to prepare students for entry-level jobs in Carpentry. Students will have opportunities to learn residential, commercial, and industrial construction. This training will give proper use of hand tools and equipment, framing, small projects on a work site and so much more.

- OSHA 10
- Certified Lead Carpenter Credential

**Culinary and Entrepreneurship**

This 220 hour introductory course is designed to prepare students for the culinary arts industry with a dash of food truck entrepreneurship. The student will learn the art of culinary in a state of the art industrial kitchen and a new food trailer. This will allow the student to start with the essential skills needed for the culinary industry.

- OSHA 10
- Serve Safe
- Food Allergen Certified
- Food Truck Permitting

**HVAC**

This 220 hour introductory course is designed to prepare students for entry-level jobs in HVAC. Learn to install and service HVAC and refrigeration systems. After completing this course students will be able to torch, braze, and solder pipes and fittings to install or repair compressors, condensers, chillers, and pumps in a wide range of environments.

- OSHA 10
- EPA - 608

**Manufacturing**

This 220 hour introductory course is designed to prepare students for entry-level jobs in Manufacturing. The student will learn in a real machine shop environment that will provide essential skills to secure employment in one of the fastest growing industries in Massachusetts.

- OSHA 10
- MACWIC level -1



**Interested in working?  
Need help getting started?**

MassHire South Shore Youth Services introduces

**BOOST**  
Building Our Occupational Skills for Tomorrow







**Participants receive:**

- Individualized assessment & action plan
- Career readiness coaching
- Financial literacy workshop
- Nationally recognized industry credentials
- 80-hour paid internship

\*Applicants must be 16-24 years old and meet eligibility requirements.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Taylor Fry, Youth Career Counselor  
MassHire South Shore  
1515 Hancock St., Quincy MA  
617-657-4973



# 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!



[VIEW WISHLISTS](#)

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## 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](mailto:Cindylyons1337@gmail.com)

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## FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

With the winter season upon us we wanted to send out some reminders from the Health office. We are seeing an increase in viral illness in our school community and would like to remind everyone of the policy about staying home when ill.

Please keep students home from school for the following:

- Fever greater than 100.0
- Vomiting/diarrhea in last 24 hours
- Not able to manage cough/nasal congestion
- Test positive for COVID

When can my student return to school

- Fever free for 24 hours without medication (if you give tylenol or motrin in the morning, please keep student home from school)
- No vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours
- Well enough to stay at school for the day

If your student becomes ill at school, please pick your student up within 45 minutes. If it important to pick up your student

Home COVID tests were sent home with every student prior to Thanksgiving break. Please do an at home COVID test if your student has cold like symptoms (sore throat, headache, cough, runny nose, or fever)

The school does not provide masks. If you would like your student to wear a mask at school, please send them to school with one on and extras

Kids are going out in all weather, please make sure your student has appropriate winter clothing. It is also important to have a change of clothes at school for days they get wet or need to change clothes for other reasons.

All students should be bringing a water bottle to school every day and can refill at the water refill station.

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## From the Department of Elementary



## and Secondary Education

Please see the [attached letter](#) from the Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics about steps families can take to prevent illness and stay healthy this season.

You can also find the Spanish version [here](#). These letters will also be posted [online](#).



### Massachusetts Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MASSACHUSETTS

American Academy of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

November 1, 2022

Dear Families,

The Commonwealth, the Northeast and much of the US are seeing increases in respiratory illness in infants and children. Some of these infants and children are requiring hospitalization for support with breathing and hydration. Emergency departments and other acute care health facilities have been managing significant increases in the number of patients requiring care.

Most of these illnesses are caused by respiratory viral infections, including common seasonal viruses like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), rhinovirus and enterovirus, and influenza. Infants and children may be particularly susceptible to seasonal respiratory viral infections during the 2022-2023 fall and winter because they have had limited previous exposure to these respiratory viruses. We anticipate that there could be more respiratory illnesses as RSV continues to spread and influenza season ramps up.

The Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics want to remind parents and families about steps to take to prevent illness and stay healthy this season:

1. **Vaccinate your children ages 6 months and older against influenza** as soon as possible.
2. **Vaccinate your children ages 6 months and older against COVID-19**; children 5 and older who had their primary series more than 2 months ago should receive an updated COVID-19 booster as soon as possible.
3. **Remember, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine and flu shot at the same time.**
4. **If your infant has been offered treatment with protective antibodies** due to their prematurity or another condition, keep on schedule with their monthly treatments.
5. **Practice hand hygiene** frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer. **Cover coughs and sneezes** with a tissue, or if a tissue is not available, cover them with an elbow, not a hand.
6. **Clean high touch surfaces** in your home frequently with household disinfectants.
7. **Keep children home from daycare or school** who have fever, especially with a cough, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, congestion, runny nose, or sore throat, until they are fever-free for 24 hours without medications that reduce fever.
8. **Avoid social gatherings if you or your children are ill.**
9. **Contact your pediatrician or healthcare provider if you believe your child needs medical care.** Your provider can offer advice on whether your child needs to be evaluated in person, tested for COVID or flu, and the best location (doctor's office, urgent care, emergency room) for care.

Thank you for doing all you can to keep you and your family healthy during this fall and winter season.

Dr. Estevan Garcia, Chief Medical Officer  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Dr. Mary Beth Miotto, President  
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

## This Week | Up and Coming

Wednesday	12/14	Performing Ensemble Concert SSCPS PE Space- 104 Longwater Drive	6:00pm
Wednesday	12/21	Winter Concert for Grades K, 1, and 2 SSCPS PE Space- 104 Longwater Drive	10:00-11:20am
Friday	12/23	Craft Day for Grades K-6	
Friday	12/23	Early Release – Dismissal	12:00pm
Mon-Fri	12/26- 12/30	Vacation Week – No School	
Monday	01/02	New Year Observed – No School	
Tuesday	01/03	Classes Resume	8:15am

## 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 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](mailto: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](#)



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

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