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Weekly Update | November 16, 2022

Vol. 11. Issue 3



A Message from John

"The Earth is what we all have in common"

Wendell Berry



"This tastes like soap!" exclaimed a boy as different herbs were passed around for tasting. Calmly, the teacher at Holly Hill Farm, Tom, informed the boy that it was cilantro, a divisive herb that people either love or hate to eat. Some agreed with the first child, but a few other students said it tasted great and another mentioned that it was something you put on

tacos. I was instantly overcome with jealousy of the age and setting in which these students were learning about the world around them.

As the new Interim Assistant Principal at SSCPS, I have spent the past two and a half months providing numerous tours to new and prospective students. During these interactions, I have made it a point to highlight the outdoor education that is happening on Grades 1 & 2 at the Holly Hill Farm in Cohasset, despite the fact that I hadn't been there on a trip myself. Last Tuesday, I was finally able to join Tracey and Beth's second grade class during a visit to the Farm. It is with great excitement that I can now share a first hand account of the learning happening during these trips.



On the bus ride, I was fortunate to sit next to Beth, who spoke of her years of visiting the farm with great warmth and affection. In fact, she talked about the animals with the same fondness one uses when speaking of their own kids. Beth reminisced about a goat named, Auggie, being so small and adorable at 3 months old and commented on how much he's grown in the 6 years since. Then all of the students sitting near us named all of the animals on the farm, ranging from hens, goats, a donkey, and a pony named Pumpkin. This was clearly a second grade class that had spent more than a year with a front row seat to experiencing and learning about agriculture.

Our trip was the last of the season for these students who will not be returning until February of 2023. We spent the first part of the day exploring the gardens while smelling and tasting thyme, dinosaur kale, spring onions and cilantro. All of the animals were visited with varying levels of interaction depending on the kindness of the goats and donkey, or the orneriness of the rooster and pony. The students took turns planting garlic in the SSCPS raised garden beds by measuring, digging, placing, and lightly covering with dirt a garlic clove in straight rows.

Next, there was a tasting of the season's harvest. Potatoes grown on the farm were cooked in an outside brick kiln with olive oil, salt and pepper. In addition to the potatoes, everyone was able to enjoy some freshly made garlic bread. Students were clamoring for more and had to be reminded that this was just a sampling of their harvest, but more importantly an opportunity to taste the rewards of hard work. As a child, I don't remember ever hearing the words cilantro, dinosaur kale, or the benefits of composting. It would be years before I was exposed to the vocabulary of a farm.



Wendell Berry has been quoted as saying, "Eating is an agricultural act." For students to be outside of the classroom, learning how to tend to gardens, care for the animals, and eat food from the farm they visit is a priceless endeavor that few will forget as they grow older. The last activity of the day was a hike on the grounds behind the farm. Students were given questions of inquiry to determine the causes of water increasing or decreasing in the brook, to look for squirrel and bird nests in the recently bare trees, to awaken all their senses to the world around them, and lastly, to hug a tree goodbye for the winter.


I spent the bus ride home feeling such gratitude for having been invited on the trip. More importantly, I felt even more proud to be working at a school that values what can be learned both inside and outside of the classroom. I went home that day with some fresh cilantro and asked my own daughters, "What does this taste like to you?"



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John Toland
Interim K-4 Assistant Principal

Special Guest Speaker Today! Dr. Englander




**SOUTH SHORE
CHARTER PUBLIC
SCHOOL PRESENTS
DR. ELIZABETH
ENGLANDER**

**Bullying,
Cyberbullying,
and the
Social Impact
of the Pandemic**

**DR. ELIZABETH
ENGLANDER**

**NOVEMBER 16
6:30 PM
ZOOM**



Join us today at 6:30pm for Dr. Elizabeth Englander's virtual presentation *Bullying, Cyberbullying, and the Social Impact of the Pandemic*. Dr. Englander will be discussing concerns surrounding bullying and cyberbullying and how families may best support children and adolescents as they navigate the world around them. Focusing on how the pandemic has impacted students, Dr. Englander will discuss social relationships, the impact of screen use, how to help children recover emotionally and socially, and the importance of developing meaningful peer relationships.

Dr. Elizabeth Englander is the Founder and Executive Director of the [Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center](#) at Bridgewater State University. As a researcher and a professor of psychology for 25 years, Dr. Englander is a nationally recognized expert in the area of bullying and cyberbullying, childhood causes of aggression and abuse, and children's use of technology. During the pandemic, her work has focused on helping children and schools promote strong mental health and social relationships.

The Zoom link is now available [here](#). We hope you are able to join us this evening for this important and timely presentation.

Playground Communication Board

We are thrilled to announce the official launch of our playground communication board! South Shore Charter Public School was the fortunate recipient of this board from the Doug Flutie Foundation, and we are thrilled to have yet another way to help our students



The students helped in the Big Sort, where they sorted donations into bins, and then organized those donations into categories, such as t-shirts, pants, sweatshirts, etc. It was the first step in the process, and they were fascinated by how big of an operation it is. They ended up sorting and filling five bins worth of clothes.





Trip to Plimoth Patuxet Museums





Grades 3 and 5 on the field trip to Plimoth Patuxet Museums.





THIS WEEK IN PROJECTS & WORKSHOPS

CULTURAL DIVERSITY WORKSHOP



Cultural Diversity Workshop in celebration of Native American Heritage Month.

*Cultural Diversity Workshop
Fundraiser*

**HANDMADE
BEADED BRACELET
AND NECKLACES
FROM HAITI**

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|
|  | Bracelets \$5.00 |  |
| | Necklaces \$20.00 | |

When: *Tuesdays & Thursdays during Lunch*
Where: *In Great Room*
Come Support the Children of Haiti!

ATHLETICS



SSCPS would like to congratulate the recipients of our 2022–23 Fall MCSAO athletic award winners. We are grateful for the unwavering support our student athletes and coaches receive from the SSCPS community.

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

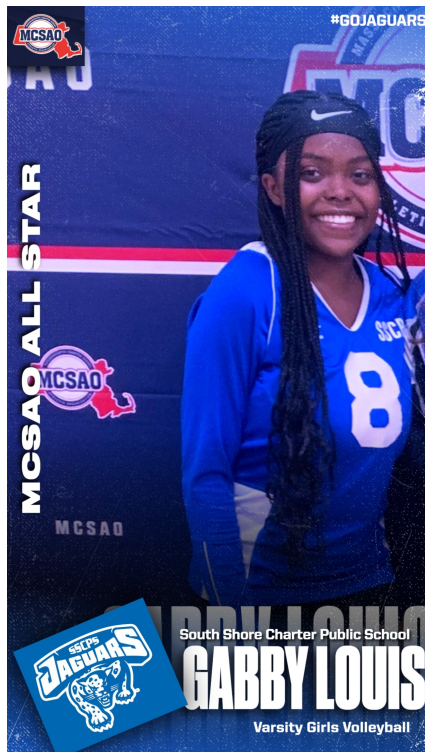


Coach Karl Dreyer and the HS Cross Country team had a great fall season and placed 3rd in the MCSAO Championship Meet. This was notably one of the best seasons in program history. Congratulations to Coach Karl and the Cross Country team on the successful season.

VARSITY GIRLS VOLLEYBALL



Congratulations to Coach Jenn Johnson for winning her 2nd Coach of the Year award since becoming the SSCPS volleyball coach back in 2013. Coach Jenn has been the standard for consistency and leadership for our volleyball program, year in and year out.



Congratulations to Gabby Louis and Aditi Suryawanshi were named MCSAO All Stars, as the girls team finished with a 5-3 record and a MCSAO playoff berth.

VARSIY GIRLS SOCCER



Coach Matt Goodell and the SSCPS Girls Varsity soccer team sported a 5-2 record, while producing two MCSAO All-Stars in the process. Daniella Eze and Sarah Paul led the way with great performances and another playoff appearance for the team.

VARSIY BOYS SOCCER



Coach John Oliva had a phenomenal first season as Head Coach of our Boys soccer team. The team went 6-1 and finished at the top of the MCSAO South Division. JJ Facey, Ali Bouih and Nat Jocelyn played the part of the "Big 3" and were all named MCSAO All Stars.



COMMUNITY SERVICE



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Dear Parents,



Community Service Project is collecting non-perishable food for the Weymouth Food Pantry. We are looking forward to receiving:

- Canned soup
- Cereal
- White tuna
- Ground coffee & tea
- Pasta
- Side dishes
- Condiments
- Jam & jelly

There are bins at the front door and in room 101 for your child to drop off!

Food Drive is Ending 11/18!

THANK YOU!



UPCOMING EVENTS

SSCPS presents...

Winter Wonderland

Date: December 8, 2022
 Time: 7-10:30
 Location: Canoe Club Ballroom
 2 South St, West Bridgewater, MA
 02379



SSCPS High School Students ONLY!!!

**Unlimited Drinks | Delicious food | Great Music
 Most importantly... A great time!!!**

DJ JUUKES
 insta @dj.juukes

\$40 entry
 Starting sales October 24th
 in the Great Room at lunch



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

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

NEWEST UPDATE

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is providing each student with a total of four COVID-19 tests to bring home. This is free of charge and you can use the tests at your discretion. This will be a onetime program that DESE is offering. You do not have to do anything to participate, but if you would like to opt out please send an email to jkjelgaard@sscps.org. The test kits will go home with students next week.

The health office will begin doing vision and hearing screens on students in 1st through 5th grade and also 7th graders. We will also begin doing height and weight screenings on 1st, 4th, 7th, and 10th graders. If you would like to opt your student out of the screenings please send an email to Jaime Kjelgaard, RN at jkjelgaard@sscps.org for 1st through 8th grade students or Barbara Folan, RN at bfolan@sscps.org for high school students.

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.

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 | 11/16 | Parents Association Meeting – Presentation via Zoom Dr. Elizabeth Englander / Bullying, Cyberbullying, and the Social Impact of the Pandemic | 6:30pm |
| Thursday | 11/17 | School Council via Zoom | 4:30pm |
| Thursday | 11/18 | Board of Trustees Personnel Committee | 7:30pm 5:30pm |

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|--|----------------------------|
| | | Governance Committee Finance Committee Development Committee All meetings will be held at 700 Longwater Drive and via Zoom | 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm |
| Wednesday | 11/23 | Early Dismissal | 12:00pm |
| Thurs & Fri | 11/24 & 11/25 | Thanksgiving Break – No School | |

IMPORTANT LINKS

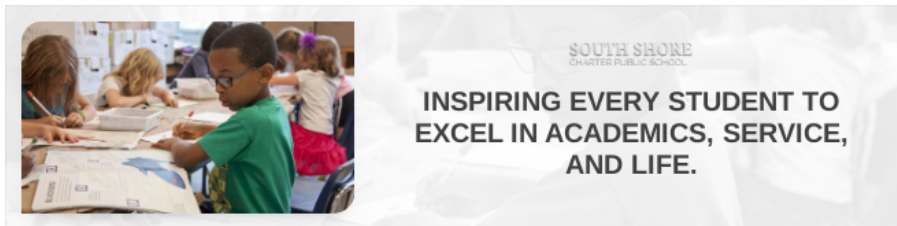
Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website www.sscps.org every Wednesday.

- [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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www.sscps.org

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South Shore Charter Public School · 100 Longwater Cir · Norwell, MA 02061-1650 · USA