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Weekly Update | November 23, 2022

Vol. 11. Issue 4



A Message from Mary



The Fall is a very busy time for the high school guidance department. Our Guidance team is made of two counselors, Stephanie Chery who is our grade 9 and 10 counselor and myself as the Director and Grade 11 and 12 counselor. From freshmen to seniors, we have worked hard to help our students transition back to school and prepare for life after high school. The freshman focus has been adjusting to high school both academically and socially. To support that, the freshman class went on a community building trip to Tree Top Adventures. The sophomore class went on a college tour of UMass Dartmouth in October the same day as the Junior class was taking the PSAT Exam at SSCPS.

The Seniors have been working on college applications, graduation requirements and exit standards ... just to name a few things!



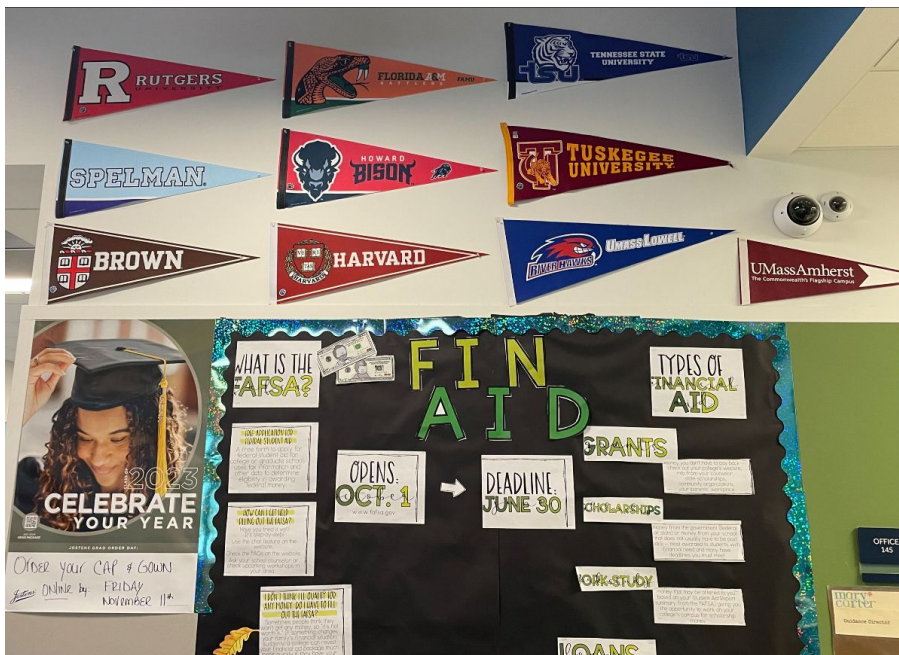
To kick off Senior year, we held a "Senior Bootcamp" in September that included a college panel as well as mini sessions on how to organize Common App, CollegeBoard, and Naviance. College representatives from eight colleges participated in our Senior Bootcamp. Representatives from UMass Amherst, UMass Dartmouth, Fitchburg State University, Bridgewater State, Curry College, Bentley University, Mass Maritime Academy, and Massasoit Community College presented on the application process, new programs at their institutions, and answered questions from the students. This is a wonderful opportunity for Seniors to connect with colleges as the school year starts and get them excited about applying to colleges.

In October, we hosted two "On the Spot" Admission Events before the November 1st deadline. Part of our Early Application initiative is to have "On the Spot" Admission Events throughout the Fall to help students feel comfortable about the admission process. An "On the Spot" Admission Event is when a college Admissions Representative comes to our school and meets with students individually to review the transcript and go over the application process. At the end of the meeting, if the student meets all of the admission criteria, the Admissions Representative offers an acceptance. If the student needs to work on some areas and wants to see mid-year grades, the Admissions Representative will add the student to the regular admission cycle, or work on a plan to have the student eligible for admission at a later date. The decision is never no, but rather, not now.



On October 17th, we had 16 students participate in the Bridgewater State University admission event and on October 21st, we had 11 students participate in the one for Curry College. All 26 students received an acceptance letter! There are two more "On the Spot" events before the end of the year - Massasoit Community College will be here on November 29th and Salem State will be here on December 6th.

November 1st is a major milestone for seniors as it is the first official Early Action deadline for college applications. Early Action is when a student applies early to a college (typically Nov 1 or Nov 15) and hears back from the college before January 2023. This is non binding acceptance, meaning that a student can apply to many different colleges Early Action, get accepted, but not make a decision on a college acceptance until May 1st. *Early Decision* is when a student applies early and if accepted, the student must withdraw applications from other colleges and commit to the Early Decision college.



To date, Guidance has processed over 200 applications with 50% of the senior class applying Early Action. The next application deadline is December 1st. So as you sit around your Thanksgiving table, if you are lucky enough to have a high school senior, make sure you ask them how they are doing and not too much about the application process. They have had a rollercoaster of emotions this Fall and need family support and understanding.

Hope you all have a happy and restful Thanksgiving break!

--

Mary Carter

Director of Guidance

World Literature Class and Cultural Diversity Workshop

Guest Speaker Dr. Ejike Eze



Dr. Ejike Eze gave a presentation on the Igbo Culture on November 18th for students in Mrs. Sullivan's World Literature classes and the Cultural Diversity Workshop. Igbo is one of Nigeria's three official languages. Students were engaged in learning how the culture and customs have evolved as they read the World Literature text *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. Dr. Eze's presentation explained how through his writing, Achebe sheds light on how the Igbo were forced to adopt to Western civilization and the resulting struggle. *Things Fall Apart* provides excellent examples of several Igbo traditional customs.

We are grateful to Dr. Eze for sharing his knowledge with our school community.

World Languages Conference 2022



The World Language Department faculty had the opportunity again to attend the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) on Friday. Teachers took part in workshops on proficiency driven lessons, assessing for proficiency, social justice and critical cultural awareness.

Level IV Science Class



This week 7th grade students were hard at work creating new unknown creatures and placing them in an environment that suits them best. Here is an example of their work on Level IV.

THIS WEEK IN PROJECTS & WORKSHOPS

CULTURAL DIVERSITY WORKSHOP

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!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dear SSCPS community,

Thank you for helping to donate food to the Weymouth Food Pantry. We were able to fill the back of Laura's car and the donations were delivered this past Saturday, just in time for the holiday season. We appreciate your help! Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Rilee and Hafsa (5th grade) and the Level 3 Community Service Project



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



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](#)

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

COVID-19 tests will be sent home this week! The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has provided 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 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	11/23	Early Dismissal	12:00pm
Thurs & Fri	11/24 & 11/25	Thanksgiving Break – No School	
Monday	11/28	Classes Resume	
Tuesday	11/29	1 st Trimester Ends for Grades K-4	
Wednesday	11/30	Executive Committee Meeting	8:00am

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](#)**

School Documents:

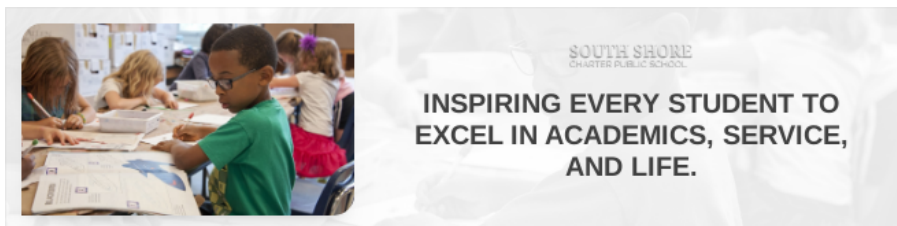
[2022-23 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)

[SSCPS By-Laws](#)

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.



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