

Weekly Update | December 20, 2023

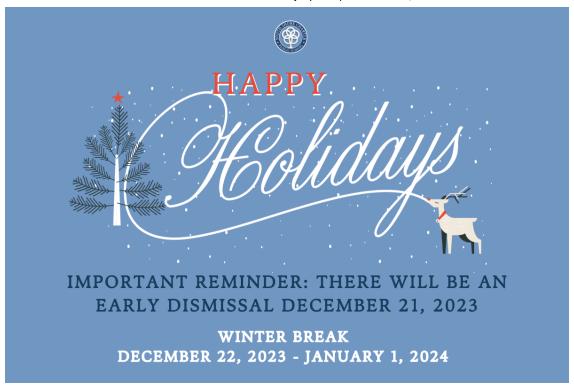
Vol. 12 Issue 3

Use the link below to view the Weekly Update in its entirety:

View this email in your browser

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A Message from Alicia

December is the time to celebrate with school events that mark the season. Daylight may wane, yet the final days of 2023 are bright with student energy. Recent weeks have been brimming with artistry: enchanting student drawings and paintings, holiday door decorations, two phenomenal Winter Concerts, and the pinnacle of festivity for students in grades K-6, Craft Day.

Craft Day is a special tradition at South Shore Charter, and it happens because of the time and talent contributed by our family volunteers. A tremendous thank you to the families and friends who volunteered or donated crafts for tomorrow's Craft Day. Their support, filled with craft supplies and patience, is crucial for the success of the event. Our K-6 students have eagerly awaited this day for weeks and we're excited to host Craft Day once again thanks to the invaluable help of our school community.

As we approach these final days of 2023, I want to express gratitude for all that our school community has achieved together. This year we have been fortunate to bring new focus on community service and the importance of service to others. Over the past few months students have been working hard throughout their communities and reflecting on their experiences. In September we created a new platform for students to use to record their community service hours and meet their grade level expectations. Links where your child can record their community service by Level may be found below.

I was involved in spreading awareness about the upcoming Weymouth municipal election within our neighborhood. Went to multiple houses and talked about the importance of voting. I learnt how important these elections are.

-Riyansh Patnaik

Today in community service, I bought gifts for people in need. I will be donating them at my church and at my mom's gym. I learned that it is important to help other people make their Christmas a good one, as mine will be good. I spent 1.5 hours.

Jack Gould

I helped to hand out the food to the people in need in this service. I learned that it doesn't take a lot of effort to help someone in need. It sometimes only takes a tiny gesture of kindness to help someone out. It was actually really enjoyable to see the people's joy when they got the food. It makes me happy to see people happy.

-Mackenzie Boursiquot

It has been wonderful to read about our students as they work within their communities to make a difference. Whether it's running the Race for Space, working in a food bank, or helping a neighbor, we remain perpetually proud of our students and all they have achieved in academics, service, and life. Community service aligns with our school's mission statement, but more importantly, it aligns with who students are as individuals. By actively participating in community service, students go beyond the realm of academics and the school campus to show what they know in practical and meaningful ways. Through service, our students learn the immeasurable value of contributing to the well-being of others and develop a sense of responsibility for something collectively great. We see so much in our students through community service, empathy, leadership, and a commitment to making a positive impact on the world.

During church, I decorated the church for Christmas. I hung up ornaments. I helped set up for the upcoming Christmas parties that my church was doing and helped make the Christmas season more festive for the people at church.

-Audrey Okey-Igwe

I went shopping for gifts to donate to kids who are less fortunate and then wrapped them and brought them to my church. I hope other kids can have a nice Christmas with the toys we bought.

James Kirkcaldy

I took my elderly neighbor's trash barrels and recycling barrel to and from the street each week. They have a super long driveway. What I learned from this was that something that does not require a lot from me made someone's day a little bit easier.

Jackson Cowen

Thank you for your belief in South Shore Charter and your steadfast support of our mission. Wishing you a joyous winter break and a happy new year.

Alicia Savage

Executive Director

Community Service

Attention Students and Families

Got some community service hours done?

Use the links below to submit your community service hours!

LEVEL I COMMUNITY SERVICE

LEVEL II COMMUNITY SERVICE

LEVEL III COMMUNITY SERVICE

LEVEL IV COMMUNITY SERVICE

HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE

DESE Letter from the Commissioner

Dear Families,

We are writing to invite you to join the South Shore Charter School and the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in a campaign to improve student attendance.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted a lot of routines, including the habit of going to school every day. We know that there are often valid reasons for students to be absent, but, to a troubling extent, students are missing more school now than they did previously. Before the pandemic, 13 percent of students were chronically absent, meaning they had missed 10 percent or more of the school year. Last year, 22 percent of students – close to 1 in 4 statewide – were chronically absent.

Missing that much school – 18 days or more from a typical school year – can cause a child to fall behind in their learning and miss opportunities to build positive relationships with other students and with school staff. These losses may result in increased anxiety and interrupted social and emotional development.

Chronic absenteeism appears in every type of district – urban, suburban, rural, regional, traditional public schools, career technical schools, charter schools, elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools.

Many research studies have concluded that regardless of family income or background, students whose parents are involved in their schooling are more likely to have higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school. We want all our students to have the opportunity to achieve all of these things.

The state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is committed to supporting your district as it works to ensure that every school is safe, welcoming, and supportive, with engaging and creative instruction and joyful classrooms. Your district and schools are committed to partnering with you to find ways to remove any barriers that may be hindering any child from coming to school every day. We are asking you to commit to making daily school attendance part of your family's routine again. As a leader of your family, you are the best and most important influencer of your child. When you make a point of getting them to school every day, they will understand that it is important for their success.

None of us can change chronic absenteeism by ourselves, but we believe that by working together to bring students to school and offering engaging, supportive environments, our students will learn, grow, and thrive.

Wishing you a peaceful holiday season,

Jeffrey Riley, Commissioner

Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education

Counseling Department Newsletter

Executive Functioning and Baking Cookies

Baking can be a fun and delicious way to practice executive functioning skills with your children over the break! Executive function refers to all interrelated processes that guide and manage the cognitions, emotions, and behaviors involved in attaining a goal. Skills like having a goal, making and following a plan, breaking down the steps into manageable chunks, organizing materials, starting a task, and cleaning up after are all good skills to practice. Using tools and strategies can make the process go more smoothly is helpful too! Practicing using a timer, referring back to the recipe, and counting the number of cups of flour out loud can be great strategies to help keep yourself on track.

Have a Goal: Chocolate chip cookies

Make a Plan: Follow the recipe step-by-step

Clear your Workspace: Is the counter/table clear?

Find your Ingredients/Materials: What do you need to complete this task?

 flour, baking soda, salt, butter, sugar, brown sugar, vanilla extract, eggs, chocolate chips, mixing bowls, measuring cups and spoons, cookie sheet, recipe

Follow the Plan:

- Preheat the oven
- Mix flour, baking soda, and salt in a small bowl
- Beat butter, sugars, and vanilla in a large bowl and add eggs one at a time
- Gradually beat in the flour mixture, then stir in the chocolate chips.
- Drop cookie dough onto baking sheets
- Bake in a preheated oven
- Cool on a baking sheet for 2 minutes, then on a wire rack

Clean up: Put ingredients away, wash dishes, and clean the workspace

Enjoy a cookie and celebrate a job well done!

Try a chocolate chip cookie recipe here.

NHS Holiday Rooms















From the Board of Trustees

A Message from Jimmy Juste, Chair of the Board of Trustees PA Focus Group Update

Dear Parents, Faculty, and Staff,

I am pleased to share an update on the recent Parent Focus Group meeting that took place at our charter school. The meeting, held on October 25th, was a success with the participation of 14 dedicated parents who actively engaged in discussions to provide valuable insights and more reaching out through email for other opportunities to contribute.

Their feedback was thoughtful and reflective of the deep commitment our parents have towards building a connected community.

Some key highlights from the discussions include:

Communication and Transparency: Parents expressed gratitude for the efforts taken to keep them informed about their child's progress and school activities while also highlighting the importance of digestible updates.

Community Engagement: Parents were enthusiastic about the opportunities to create genuine connections with other families and demonstrated a need for a strong sense of community within our school. They expressed a feeling of nostalgia for infrastructure and events that existed before the pandemic that made building relationships easier. New families articulated a challenge with feeling integrated into the community's norms and common language.

Parents provided valuable feedback and seemed to appreciate the opportunity to speak their minds to a few listening ears. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the parents who attended the focus group meeting. Your input is invaluable and plays a crucial role in shaping the future of our school.

Because our meeting was in-person, it meant that some families were not able to access the opportunity to participate. Stay tuned for upcoming dates for an additional virtual focus group to increase our reach into the community and make sure all voices have the opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way. We are dedicated to your feedback informing our school's ongoing efforts to build a home away from home.

If you have any further suggestions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. Together, we will continue to make our charter school a thriving and nurturing environment for every child.

Warm regards,

Jimmy Juste

Chair of the Board of Trustees

South Shore Public Charter School

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities



SSCPS Varsity Girls basketball results from last week.

Photo Credit: Instagram Account @sscps_sports

Come Cheer on the Jaguars in their Upcoming Games:

Wednesday | December 20, 2023

Varsity Girls Basketball v. Muniz Academy (Home) 3:30 - 5:00 pm <u>Starland Sportsplex &</u>
<u>Fun Park</u>

Varsity Boys Basketball v. Muniz Academy (Home) 3:30 - 5:00 pm **Starland Sportsplex & Fun Park**



Afterschool Enrichment Program

Levels II and III

As the first session of our afterschool enrichment program comes to a close this week, we are thrilled to have witnessed the enthusiasm and curiosity that each participant brought to this learning space. We're excited about the potential for growth, creativity, and new friendships that will undoubtedly flourish in the upcoming sessions. A sincere thank you to all who contributed to making this first session a success. Get ready for more exciting learning adventures in the new year.

Happy Holidays!!

Nadeen Sullivan
Afterschool Enrichment Coordinator

Storytime Illustrators







Sports and Playtime





Crafty Creators













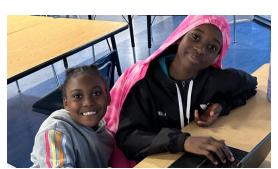


Web Warriors - Coding









Holly Hill Farm - Winter 2024 Educational Enrichment Sessions *Ages 3-12*



Afterschool Sessions!

4:00-6:00 pm



Healthy Cooking

Mondays, Ages 8-12

Create and warm up with us around the masonry oven or farm stove! Children will work with our farm health coach and educator to prepare recipes, which may include winter crops and various root vegetables, flatbreads, soups, baked goods, rice bowls, chips, and more. Children will also learn how to prepare foods safely and healthfully.

(Monday sessions meet 9 weeks)

Outdoor Exploration & Creation Tuesdays, Ages 5-7 or Wednesdays, Ages 8-12

Children will explore and create within the secret areas around the farm, including the woods, meadows, and Ice Pond. Each outing will open their eyes to new places and possibilities as they learn to navigate, observe, and create within the winter settings of the farm. Children may be using compasses, building full-size shelters, creating winter fairy homes, tracking animals, and more. The Wednesday older group will also learn how to cook simple foods over an open fire and build winter tools.

Winter STEAM Thursdays, Ages 5-8

Based on the many science themes of winter, children will experiment, engineer, solve problems, create art, write poems and stories, and more. Some of these themes may include formation of ice and snow, maple sugaring, winter farming, and animal shelters and habits.

Morning & Afternoon Sessions

Mornings: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm (M-F) Afternoons 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm (M,T,W,F)

Explorations, activities, and experiences may include: exploring snowflakes and ice, building nests, finding animal signs, maple sugaring, caring for the farming animals, experimenting with compost, planting in hoop houses, explore the seasons, and create, play and experiment!

Homeschool Sessions!

Thursdays 1:00 - 3:30 pm, Ages 5-12
Program will be modified based on average age group of registrants. You can read descriptions for our 5-12 year old programming to get a sampling of what we could offer)



February Vacation Programs
*Our winter sessions will not meet
during the week of February 19 - 23.
We will be offering fun one-day
programs you can register for soon!

What's New in Projects and Workshops

Cultural Diversity Workshop







The high school Cultural Diversity Workshop created holiday games from around the world and came to the elementary school to play them with some classes. Third graders from Amy's Pod enjoyed learning about traditions and winter holidays while playing fun games and visiting with our high school students!







Donate warm winter coats for children and adults.

Front Desk @100

Nadeen's Classroom @700

All sizes are welcome! Coats only, please.









With your help, we could win up to \$1,000 in School Rewards donated by Jordan's Furniture!

Donated coats are professionally cleaned by Anton's and given free of charge to local families in need.











High School: School Store Workshop

Check out the School Apparel website, created by the High School School Store Workshop!

SSCPS SCHOOL APPAREL

Upcoming Events

Do you know someone who should register for Talk To Us Tuesday?

Share with a friend who wants to become a part of the SSCPS community by taking part in our campus tours starting next month.

Visit us for our upcoming "Talk To Us Tuesday" tours to explore the Norwell campus, meet students and teachers, and learn about our unique educational model!

Tours will be 15 minutes long in time slots from 9:00-10:00am, and will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, January 9
- Tuesday, January 16
- Tuesday, February 6
- Tuesday, February 13

Click the registration links below to sign up!

K-8 SIGN-UP

9-12 SIGN-UP

Parents Association and SEPAC



RSVP to SEPAC@SSCPS.ORG

Lost & Found

Last year we donated over 15 industrial sized trash bags full of Lost & Found items. We know that both students and parents alike spent far too many hours searching for those items before accepting they were gone for good.

We are going to try something slightly different this year. As in past years Lost & Found items will be folded, displayed in hallways at 100 Longwater, and photos will be posted in two parent-run Facebook groups including the **SSCPS Parent/Guardian Information** site.

The major change this year is we will follow a schedule for display/donations:

November

Week of 11/14 - Fold/pics

11/22 - Donate

December

Week of 12/11 - Fold/pic (If needed)

12/21 - Donate

February

Week of 2/5 - Fold/pic

2/13 - Donate

April

Week of 4/1 - Fold/pic

4/9 - Donate

May/June

Week of 5/28 - Fold/pic (if needed)

6/4 - Donate

Help your students (and your wallets!)

LOST & FOUND

LABEL everything that comes to school. We check all clothing for names before donating and 95% of the time there is no name.

OFFER encouragement to your children to keep track of their items.

SAVE your sanity.

TEACH your child/ren that while it is great to donate their used coats, they may want to hold onto it for at least one season.

FOLLOW the FB sites to see pics of lost items.

UNDERSTAND the program is run by volunteers and dates are subject to change.

From the Health Office

Flu Season

Dear Families,

This flu season is shaping up to be challenging. Like many schools, we are seeing an increased number of cases.

Below are a few reminders about our policies regarding viruses. Please follow these guidelines to help limit the transmission of illness.

- Students must stay home with any vomiting or diarrhea. They may return to school once symptom-free for 24 hours.
- Students must stay home if they have a fever >100. They may return to school
 when fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication like
 Tylenol/ibuprofen.
- Students should stay home with severe cold symptoms/cough.

Below please find some information from the <u>Centers for Disease Control regarding the flu virus</u>. Please reach out to either of the nurses with questions. Thank you for your help in keeping everyone in our building healthy!



In January the health office will be starting required screenings. The health office will be doing height and weight screenings and hearing and vision screenings depending on the students grade level. If you would like to opt out of any of these screenings please send and email to jkjelgaard@sscps.org (K-8th) or Bfolan@sscps.org (high school). If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out.

Students on Level I should have a spare set of clothes being left at school. Students go outside in almost all weather. Please make sure your students clothing is weather appropriate.

If your student is sick we ask that you keep them home from school. Absences with a doctor's note will be excused absences. Your student is required to stay home in the following situations:

- **Fever**. Students may return to school once fever has resolved for 24 hours without any medications.
- Vomiting or diarrhea. Students may return to school once vomiting or diarrhea has resolved for 24 hours.
- Contagious illnesses (such as strep or conjunctivitis). Students may return after starting antibiotics for 24 hours and remain fever free for 24 hours.
- Positive for COVID-19. Please contact your school nurse to determine when your student can return.

Students who develop any of these symptoms during the school day will need to be picked up promptly.

Special Announcements

School Picture Orders

Don't Forget to Order This Year's School Pictures

ENJOY 10% OFF your order!

CODE: F2023100FF

EXPIRES: May 1, 2024

Redeem Now

Dear Parents,

As a token of appreciation, Lifetouch is offering discounts on school photography!

- 50% off a purchase of \$50+ with code THANKFUL50
- 40% off a purchase of \$40+ with code THANKFUL40
- 30% off a purchase of \$30+ with code THANKFUL30

Valid through 11/25/23

To order, log in to your account on <u>mylifetouch.com</u> or create an account using your student's school ID number. Don't forget to order your FREE Digital SmileSafe card!

More about the Smilesafe program here.

Weekly Calendar

Thursday	12/21	Craft Day for Grades K-6	
Thursday	12/21	Early Release Day	12:00pm
Friday	12/22	December Vacation Begins – No School	
Tuesday	01/02	Classes Resume	8:15am

Important Links

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

- Afterschool Enrichment Program
- Today's DESE Letter translated:
 Arabic, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese, Haitian
 Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese
- Back-to-School Information
- Food Services
- Health Office
- Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance
- Community Service
- 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:

2023-2024 School
Calendar
Student and Family
Handbook
Arrival and Dismissal
Procedures
SSCPS By-Laws



SOUTH SHORE

INSPIRING EVERY STUDENT TO EXCEL IN ACADEMICS, SERVICE, AND LIFE.











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www.sscps.org

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