



## Weekly Update | February 7, 2024

Vol. 2 Issue 1



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### A Message from the SSCPS Board of Trustees

Hello Parents/Guardians,

As the former Vice Chair of the Parents Association (PA) and a current member of the Board of Trustees I am returning for a brief period to serve as the Interim Chair for the remainder of the school year in the hope of reviving this vital component of our school community. If you are not aware the PA has been on pause due to a lack of interest by parents to serve on its leadership team. For the next 4 months I will be hosting PA meetings (in person and on Zoom) to discuss grant requests from teachers and staff, provide an update from the School Council, Strategic Planning Group, and the Board of

Trustees, and provide an open forum for school event planners (parents, teachers, and faculty) to provide upcoming parent engagement opportunities. I will also reserve the last 20 minutes of each meeting to collect (understand and document) recommendations for school improvement and general concerns you have about the school in general.

Our first meeting will be held at 700 (and on Zoom) on February 12th @6:30PM. I hope you will join me. At this first meeting I would like to hear your ideas for how the PA should look going forward. I think it is time for us to evolve as a group and figure out the best ways to build our school.

Sincerely,

**Alisha C Uhlenbrock-Furst**

Parent of 5th, 8th, and 11th graders

[PA Meeting Agenda and Zoom Link](#)

**Happy Lunar New Year!**



Dear SSCPS School Community,

As we stand on the threshold of the Lunar New Year, I am filled with excitement to extend my warmest greetings to each and every one of you. This year, we usher in the Year of the Dragon, a symbol of strength, courage, and good fortune. The Dragon, revered for its nobility and vibrant spirit, invites us to embrace the promise of new beginnings and boundless possibilities.

Lunar New Year, also known as Spring Festival, is a time of joyous celebration and deep reflection, observed by millions around the globe. It is a moment to gather with family and friends, to honor traditions, and to look forward with hope. For our diverse SSCPS community, it presents a wonderful opportunity to deepen our understanding of cultural traditions and to celebrate the rich tapestry of backgrounds that enrich our school.

The Year of the Dragon calls on us to harness our inner strength and to approach the coming year with courage and determination. It encourages us to dream big, to persevere through challenges, and to support one another with kindness and empathy.

As we celebrate this auspicious occasion, let us also take a moment to appreciate the beauty of diversity and the strength of our community. May the Year of the Dragon bring you and your loved ones happiness, health, and prosperity. Let us move forward together, with the spirit of the Dragon guiding us toward a year filled with achievements, learning, and growth.

Wishing you all a joyful and vibrant Lunar New Year!

**Sheina Pierce**

Reading Teacher and Civil Rights Coordinator

## Strategic Planning | Family Focus Group Update

### Registration for the Next Series of Family Focus Groups is Now Open!

Thank you all who participated in our first Family Focus Groups last week! It was wonderful to see so many of our families ready to help as we chart our course over the next five years.

You are invited to join us at any one of the next sessions. We welcome all who can attend. Although preregistration is not necessary, it will help our planning. Please find the upcoming schedule and registration for Family Focus Groups 3-8 below.

South Shore Charter Public School Family Focus Groups

Focus Group	Location	Date
Focus Group 3	Tufts Library   Weymouth	Tuesday, February 27, 2024 6:00 pm
Focus Group 4	Main Library   Brockton Public Library	Monday, February 26, 2024 6:00 pm
Focus Group 5	Turner Free Library   Randolph	Wednesday, February 28, 2024 6:00 pm
Focus Group 6	Thomas Crane Public Library   Quincy	Thursday, February 29, 2024 6:00 pm
Focus Group 7/ <i>Kreyòl Ayisyen</i>	Virtual via Zoom	Tuesday, March 12, 2024 6:00 pm
Focus Group 8	Virtual via Zoom	Friday, March 1, 2024 12:30 pm

[Register for Focus Group 3](#)

[Register for Focus Group 4-8](#)

## Annual Family Survey

The SSCPS Annual Family Survey is a pivotal tool for strategic planning. Over the past four years we have experienced strong family participation in the survey, and we hope to achieve and surpass the high level of engagement this year. We are asking each SSCPS family to participate in the survey by reflecting on the first half of the academic year, as well as your overall SSCPS experience, to give us more insight during the strategic planning process.

Your feedback is invaluable as we strive for continuous improvement and work to provide the best possible educational experience for our students. Your input contributes significantly to maintaining a positive school culture and enriching student life, which are top priorities for our school. In addition to the strategic plan, data collected will be reviewed by the SSCPS Board of Trustees during the July meeting. During this meeting, the Board will assess key measures defining student achievement, institutional strength, and areas of growth. It is in this way that survey data collected will not only inform day-to-day enhancements, but will also play a crucial role in institutional planning for the future.

**To ensure we capture diverse perspectives, we request the participation of every SSCPS family by Friday, March 1, 2024.** Below please find links to the SSCPS 2024 Annual Family Survey. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes. We greatly appreciate your participation and commitment to the South Shore Charter Public School.

[SSCPS 2024 Annual Family Survey](#)

## Black History Month



To explore the history of African Americans, this board is a journey through resilience, achievement, and cultural influence. From trailblazing leaders and visionaries, we wanted to present Black Individuals we aspire to. This board stands as a tribute to the strength, courage, and indelible legacy of Black history that continues to inspire and shape our world. ~ Soraya Nicolas '25, and the SSCPS Cultural Diversity Workshop

Black History Month is a vital celebration for our school community. This month-long observance allows us to delve into the depth of Black history, culture, and achievements, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation among our students, families and staff. It serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience, creativity, and enduring spirit of a large part of our community, and their pivotal role in shaping our history. By celebrating Black History Month, we are not only educating our students about an integral part of history but also reinforcing our commitment to inclusivity, equity, and respect for all cultures. This celebration aids in building a more empathetic, informed, and united school community, where every individual's heritage and story is valued and recognized.

### From the Physical Education Department

#### SAVE THE DATE!



**The Kids Heart Challenge is coming to South Shore Charter Public School!**

**Event Week: February 12-16**

Each year, the Physical Education Department partners with the American Heart Association to participate in the Kids Heart Challenge. During this week, all students K-4 will be participating by joining in heart health discussions and engaging in fun games and activities during their Phys. Ed. classes.

The Kids Heart Challenge provides a great opportunity to deliver heart healthy focused lessons while raising funds for the American Heart Association and our Physical Education department.

Visit <http://www2.heart.org/goto/SouthShoreCharterPublicSchool> to get started!

### Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Come cheer on the Jaguars at their upcoming games:

Wednesday | February 7, 2024

Varsity Girls Basketball vs Maimonides (Home) 3:30 - 5:00 pm @Starland Sportsplex

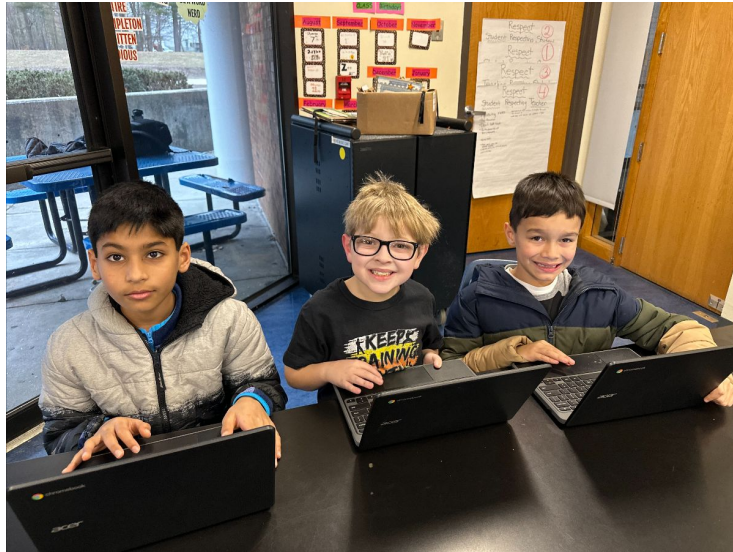
#GoJaguars 🐾

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### Afterschool Enrichment Program - Session II

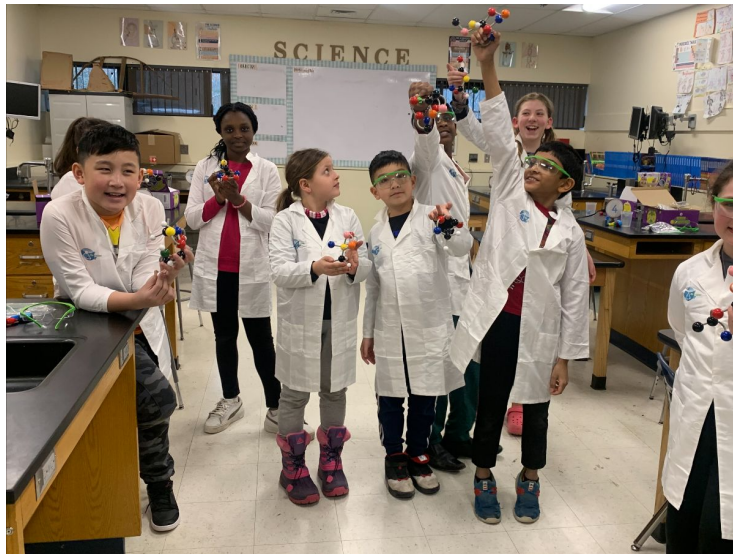
*Levels II and III*

#### Web Warriors Club





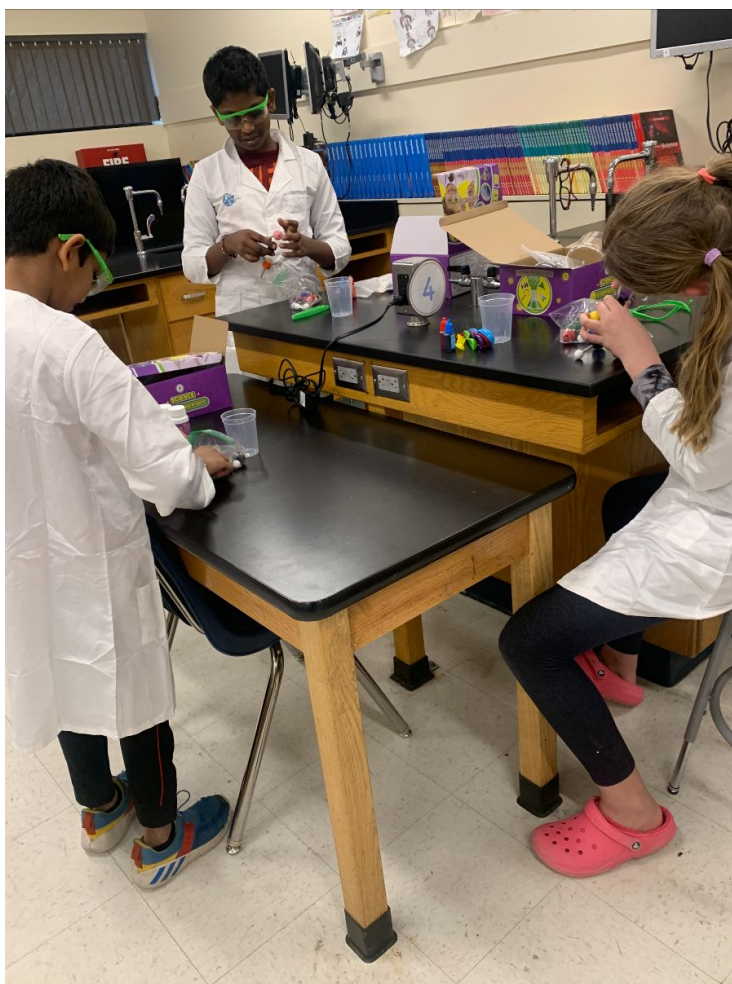
Chemical Creations Club





For week 2, students explored the fascinating world of polymers by engaging with sodium polyacrylate, a super absorbent polymer known to absorb 300 times its weight – the same material found in diapers. Using a 3D molecule building kit, students initially learned that polymers are formed when molecules are interconnected or linked together.

Students then conducted hands-on experiments with sodium polyacrylate, witnessing first hand its remarkable water-absorbing abilities. They not only observed the absorption process but also had fun manipulating the polymer, incorporating colorful dye to create an engaging and enjoyable learning experience.





### Music Department - Student Spotlight

#### VICTORIA DIBB



**What first got you into playing the viola and singing in choir?**

I've liked music from a young age but especially singing. So when I saw a poster for after school choir I was eager to join. I have a good singing voice but at the time I had no concept of notes, I only tried to sound like whoever was singing. To me it was an opportunity to take something I loved, singing, and develop it into something greater. I got into the viola purely by chance, I went to the school's instrument night to choose an instrument because I wanted to play music not just sing it.

I chose the viola because I couldn't join the band so I had to choose between cello, violin and viola. I wanted to play the viola because I had never heard of it before but it seemed cool.

**What challenges did you face when you first started to play and sing and how did you overcome them?**

Both the drums and guitar are painful instruments. One of the hardest parts starting out on the drums is developing the muscles in your forearms and calves. This is especially the case when playing faster. You would think that it's easy, but as a beginner, if you try to play



for more than 10 minutes, you will start to feel the burn and would have to stop to take a break. The next day, muscles you didn't even know existed will be sore. The guitar is kind of similar. The strings will really hurt your fingers until you build callouses. Unlike drums, the cycle of pain won't end because those callouses will eventually fall off and you will have to develop new ones. It's great.

**What is one piece of advice you have for someone who chooses to start?**

If you decide to start playing an instrument make sure you practice outside of school. Even if you just practice a little every once in a while it really helps. It helped prevent me from getting lost in the music and makes me feel more confident when playing. If you join the choir just try your best and enjoy.

**What other extracurricular activities do you enjoy doing?**

I enjoy doing a mix of athletic and creative activities. I play basketball for the middle school girls team, I like playing football, and I rock climb. I enjoy drawing, painting, sculpting, and carving. I am also beginning to learn piano.

## What's New in Projects and Workshops

### High School: School Store Workshop

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

SSCPS SCHOOL APPAREL

## Community Service



**17<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**PJ DRIVE**

• Collect pajamas  
• Support local children  
• Win prizes

February 1 – March 15  
**SIGN UP TODAY**

Cradles to Crayons  
END CLOTHING INSECURITY

Cradles to Crayons is kicking off the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Bruins PJ Drive, in partnership with the [Boston Bruins](#), the [Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners](#), and [Wonderfund](#)! Their goal is to collect 10,000 pairs of brand-new pajamas between now and March 15 to benefit children in need.

**Register to host a PJ Drive using the button** below. You can register as a group or as an individual, and we encourage you to engage friends, neighbors, classmates, colleagues, and others to help collect pajamas and increase your impact. If you would like to support the Bruins PJ Drive by simply donating pajamas directly, you can do so through our [Amazon Wish List](#).

[HOST A PJ DRIVE](#)

[PJ DRIVE WISH LIST](#)

You can register to host a PJ Drive at any point until the program concludes on March 15, at which point prizes will be awarded to the three groups that have collected the most pairs of pajamas!

**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](#)

**Upcoming Events**



**Parent Volunteers**

**Event Date:** Thursday, March 7th, 2024 6:00pm-7:30pm

**Location:** SSCPS 100 Longwater Dr, Norwell, Ma 02061

**Welcome Parents!**

We are excited to organize an African Diaspora Night at SSCPS! This event aims to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of Africa and the African diaspora. We invite parents to share their heritage, traditions, and experiences. Please fill out this form if you would like to volunteer for a presentation. If interested please respond to this email or email Sprince@sscps.org with the following info.

**Name:**

**Country Representing:**

**Email Address:**

**Child's Name & Grade:**

Parents can present anything from their culture such as dance, music, storytelling or history. Parents should be prepared to run through their presentation at least three times for the evening

Thank you for your interest in contributing to our African Diaspora Night! We will contact you shortly to discuss your participation and provide further details.



**Register here!**

### SSCPS ADMISSIONS

**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](#)




**NORWELL COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE**

**SPONSORED BY SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
 700 LONGWATER DRIVE, NORWELL MA 02061  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 2024,**  
**11:00 AM - 4:00 PM**  
 PLEASE CALL 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) OR VISIT REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG AND ENTER NORWELL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

STREAMLINE YOUR DONATION EXPERIENCE AND SAVE UP TO 15 MINUTES BY VISITING RED CROSS BLOOD.ORG/RAPIDPASS TO COMPLETE YOUR PRE-DONATION READING AND HEALTH HISTORY QUESTIONS ON THE DAY OF YOUR APPOINTMENT

GIVE SOMETHING THAT MEANS SOMETHING® | RED CROSS BLOOD.ORG | 1-800-RED-CROSS

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Did you know that currently, it is National Blood Donor Month? It's a time to honor blood donors all over as well as a time to spread awareness and donate blood yourself. And although it is Blood Donor month, blood donations are the lowest they've been in the last 20 years. Hospitals are severely in shortage of blood products, and patients that desperately need blood aren't getting any due to the shortage. Good news, you can help with this problem! **SSCPS High School is hosting a Blood Drive on February 12th,**

from 11AM to 4PM! By just signing up at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and searching using zip code 02061, you can sign up to donate blood, and help save lives. Students 16+ can also donate blood with parental consent, and they will also gain volunteer credit for doing so. For inquiries, please contact Maheen ([mchowdh101@student.sscps.org](mailto:mchowdh101@student.sscps.org)) or Katie ([kcianelli@sscps.org](mailto:kcianelli@sscps.org)). With just a little time, you can help save lives in dire need of help.

**NHS PRESENTS**  
**NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

## Grades 1-4 Movie Night!

**"The Super Mario Bros. Movie"**  
 We would appreciate any donations of toys, toiletries, school supplies, etc. to support our fundraiser!

<b>DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: 3/1 (OR WHEN 150 STUDENT LIMIT REACHED)</b>	<b>PRICE</b>
	\$10.00 per child (ONLY Grades 1-4, *NO OLDER SIBLINGS*) <small>*Snacks and Drinks provided*</small>

**Note:** Permission Slips **MUST** include payment when returned to school

**Date:**  
 March 8, 2024: (12pm to 3pm)

**Contact NHS Advisor, Katie Cianelli w/ Any Questions**  
[kcianelli@sscps.org](mailto:kcianelli@sscps.org)

The NHS would like to invite you to our showing of 'The Super Mario Bros Movie' on March 8. We are raising money for St. Mary's Women and Children's Home in Boston. The event is reserved for Grades 1-4 and the cost is \$10 per student.

Parents Association, SEPAC, and ELPAC

*SSCPS SEPAC MEETING*

**Thursday February 15th**  
**7pm via Zoom**



**All are welcome**

let's chat about planning more  
community events, trainings and more!

*We need to hear from you!*

*SSCPS SEPAC*

**Family Movie Day**

**Kung Fu Panda 4 at The Cameo in South Weymouth**



**Sunday March 10th**

**Doors open at 10:30am, movie starts at 11am**

Tickets are \$9 each.  
Venmo preferred: Rachel-Brodeur-5

**ALL ARE WELCOME** Made With Flyerwiz.app

**South Shore Charter Public School**

# ELPAC MEETING

ZOOM MEETING ID: 874 8193 7020  
PASSCODE: 983709

WEDNESDAY  
**13**  
MARCH  
6:PM

Join us for an engaging discussion at the English Learner Parent Advisory Committee (ELPAC) meeting. Your participation is crucial in supporting our English Learners' success. We will discuss upcoming events, share valuable information for our multilingual families, and provide a platform for your input.

- ✓ Meet other parents
- ✓ Learn about our mission
- ✓ Discuss important information

**For More Information**  
Contact: Sheina Prince-Eugene or Matt Tondorf

## 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:

### 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

#### Cold Weather Reminder

Dear Parents,

This is just a friendly reminder that students need to come to school properly dressed for the weather. As the weather gets colder, students need to have on warm clothes and a proper winter jacket. Despite the cold weather students can go outside for lunch. There are also scheduled and unscheduled fire drills. All students will need to be outside until the fire department allows all back into the building. Please inform the Health Office if your child is in need of a coat.

### Special School Announcements

#### Parking Reminder

**Reminder: Please do not park across the street on Longwater Circle. Thank you.**



### School Picture Orders

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

**ENJOY 10% OFF  
your order!**

**CODE: F202310OFF**

**EXPIRES: May 1, 2024**

[Redeem Now](#)

To order, log in to your account on [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com) 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

Wednesday	02/07	School Council Meeting via <a href="#">Zoom</a>	6:30pm
Thursday	02/08	Board of Trustees	7:30pm
		Personnel Committee	5:30pm
		Governance Committee	6:00pm
		Finance Committee	6:30pm
		Development Committee	7:00pm
		All meeting held at 700 Longwater Drive and via <a href="#">Zoom</a>	
Friday	02/09	High School Communications Class Field Trip to Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum	
Monday	02/12	NHS hosting Blood Drive at 700 Longwater Drive	11am-4pm
Monday	02/12	Parents Association Meeting at 700 Longwater Drive and via <a href="#">Zoom</a>	6:30pm
Tuesday	02/13	Enrollment Event – Talk to Us Tuesday by Registration	9:00-10:00am
Wednesday	02/14	NHS Volunteer Field Trip to Prison Book Program, Quincy	

### Community Events

- [PYD Inclusive Music Program](#)
- [Holly Hill Farm - Winter 2024 Educational Enrichment Sessions](#)
- [Black History Month - Community Events](#)
- [Lunar New Year - Community Events](#)

### Important Links

*Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website [www.sscps.org](http://www.sscps.org) every Wednesday.*

- [Afterschool Enrichment Program](#)
- DESE Student Attendance 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](#)

#### School

##### Documents:

- 2023-2024 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](mailto:palgera@sscps.org) to submit SSCPS items for publication.





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

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