

Weekly Update | January 10, 2024

Vol. 1 Issue 2

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IMPORTANT REMINDER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12th

NO SCHOOL Professional Development Day

A Message from Angie

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone enjoyed time with family and friends over the holiday break and has settled into the new year. The weeks after the break are a busy time for teaching and learning as the midpoint of the school year draws close. Students and teachers are hard at work across our campus. The second guarter closes for 5-12 students on Tuesday, January 23rd. Our students in grades 7-12 are not only closing the second quarter but are also preparing for midyear exams. These exams are designed by teachers to test student progress in our curriculum and the results of these exams supply important data about student achievement. They also provide students with practice for the high stakes exams students will sit for over the course of the rest of their academic careers. Midyear exams measure student achievement in their courses and students have been preparing since the start of the year through the work in their classes. This week, students can expect their teachers to give them study guides and more detailed information about test format to help them focus their efforts. The approaching extended Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend is a wonderful opportunity for students to both study and complete any missing assignments as the quarter draws to a close. Some students may need some gentle reminders to take advantage of this time.

Scores on midyear exams account for 10% of a student's final grade, a significant percentage. Knowledge of that significance is motivating for many students and spurs a healthy level of stress that drives achievement. We understand that for some students exams can cause excessive stress and anxiety. This is especially the case for our seventh grade students who are preparing for this type of exam for the first time and do not know what to expect. Taking the time necessary to prepare can help with the stress. If you are concerned about the level of stress your child is exhibiting, please reach out to their advisor or pod teacher so that we can provide support at school.

The schedule for midyear exams is below. All students in grades 7-12 will be dismissed at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, January 24th, Thursday, January 25th, and Friday, January 26th. Please prepare for pickup accordingly. All Level IV students will be dismissed at the front door on those half days. On Friday, January 26th, high school students will be dismissed by 10:00 if they are not taking a make-up exam. Taking exams

is exhausting for students. The early dismissal provides students with a well-deserved break. As a reminder, all students in grades K-6 must be met by an adult at the bus stop in the afternoon. If your K-6 child usually walks home with your older student, please plan for alternative arrangements on the midyear exam dates.

High School Midyear Exam Schedule

	Wednesday 1/24/24	Thursday 1/25/24	Friday 1/26/24	
8:15-8:20	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	
8:25 - 10:00	A Block Exam	C Block Exam	E Block Exam	
10:00 - 10:25	Break	Break	Break	
10:25 - 12:00	B Block Exam	D Block Exam	Makeup Exam Block*	

^{*}Students without a makeup exam will be dismissed at 10:00 on Friday.

Level IV Midyear Exam Schedule

	Wednesday 1/24/24	Thursday 1/25/24	Friday 1/26/24	
8:15-8:30	Pod Time	Pod Time	Pod Time	
8:30 - 10:00	A Block Exam	C Block Exam	E Block Exam	
10:00 - 10:30	Break	Break	Break	
10:30 - 12:00	B Block Exam	D Block Exam	Project Reflection & Make-ups	

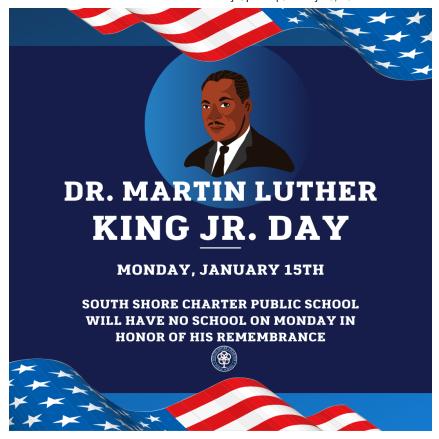
Along with midyear exams, many students at the high school are closing out their first semester Workshops with Exhibitions of Mastery (EOMs) including Thursday's highly anticipated Art Workshop Fashion Show. This year we have semesterised the majority of our high school Workshops, allowing students to switch their Workshop assignments at the midpoint of the year. Students shopped for Workshops and made their choices on Monday and will begin new Workshop courses following midyear exams. This new model will allow students to explore multiple interests over the course of the school year. It also makes it possible for students who may not have gotten their first choice in the fall to participate in that Workshop in the spring.

With the second half of the year come more hours of daylight as we march toward spring. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Angie Pepin

Principal, K-12



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

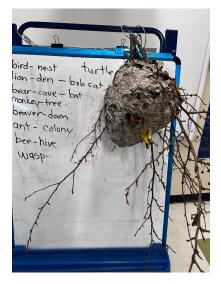
On the Levels

Level I



As part of Level I's architecture assignment, the students looked at animal dwellings and spoke about how they were constructed using natural objects. Next, the students will build nests.







Level IV



The dance will take place from 5pm to 6:30pm in the PE Space.

Counseling Department Newsletter

The Impact of Positive Affirmations

"I can do whatever I focus my mind on. I follow my dreams no matter what."



Positive thinking often starts with positive self-talk or affirmations. Practicing positive affirmations not only strengthens a growth mindset, encouraging resilience and countering negative thinking but also elevates mood and productivity.

Positive self-affirmations are a powerful tool in helping children absorb a positive self-image and redirect negative thoughts of the self. Research suggests children who are positive thinkers and practice positivity are stronger problem solvers, possess better coping skills, have increased creativity, put more effort into schoolwork and are more successful in a school setting. The story we tell ourselves is important in the development of our inner voice, ultimately determining how successful we are in the face of adversity.

Try It At Home!

Below are a few examples of positive affirmations to try at home. These affirmations can be verbally recited and/or listened to.

Create sticky notes or notecards with your child and hang them where your child can see and practice them daily.



- I am perfect just the way I am.
- I am enough.
- I am an amazing person.
- It's okay to make mistakes.
- · I am happy.
- I am grateful for all that I have.
- I can do a lot more than I think.
- I believe in myself.
- I am a kind and caring person.
- I can make a difference.
- I always do my best.

Picture Books K-4

- My Magical Words by Becky Cummings
- I Can Do Hard Things: Mindful Affirmations for Kids
- · A Little SPOT Needs Positive Thinking

Pre-Teen/Teens

• Think-Up App/Free (https://thinkup.me)

Further Reading

https://health.clevelandclinic.org/do-positive-affirmations-work/

https://mentalhealthcenterkids.com/blogs/articles/positive-affirmations-for-kid

https://www.cnbc.com/2018/02/05/stanford-university-study-positivity-makes-kids-smarter.html

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Come cheer on the Jaguars at their upcoming games:

Wednesday | January 10, 2024

JV Boys Basketball v. APR (Home) 3:30 pm Starland Sportsplex & Fun Park



Afterschool Enrichment Program - Session II is here!

Levels II and III



Sarah's Painting Pioneers Club



SSCPS AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



SESSION 2

JANUARY 22 - MARCH 8, 2024

GRADES 3-6 MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY TIME: 3:15 - 4: 15 PM

MONDAY

- SPORTS AND PLAYTIME CLUB
- . CRAFTY CHEMISTS CLUB
- . CLAY AND MIXED-MEDIA
- SCRAPBOOKING
- THEATRE CLUB
- CULTURA Y MÚSICA -

WEDNESDAY

- COMICS CLUB
- THEATRE CLUB
- WEB WARRIORS: CODING AND LOGIC GAMES CLUB
- . SPORTS AND PLAYTIME CLUB
- PAINTING PIONEERS CLUB
- CHEMICAL CREATIONS CLUB
- CREATIVE CHRONICLES BOOK CLUB



CONTACT NADEEN SULLIVAN PHONE: 781-982-4202 EXT. 356 EMAIL: NSULLIVAN@SSCPS.ORG

Dear Families,

We are pleased to announce that registration for Session II of our Afterschool Enrichment Program is now open. Please review our Club Descriptions here and complete the Registration form here. Registration closes on January 12th. We look forward to another great session of learning, adventure and fun! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

Nadeen Sullivan

Afterschool Enrichment Program Coordinator

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.

Morning &



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)



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.

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

High School: School Store Workshop

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

SSCPS SCHOOL APPAREL

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

Upcoming Events

Strategic Planning Family Focus Groups

Save the Date!

Location	Date		
Brockton Public Library Main Street	February 6, 2024 6:00 pm		
Brockton Library West Library	February 15, 2024 6:00 pm		
Tufts Library Weymouth	February 27, 2024 6:00 pm		
Randolph Library	February 28, 2024 6:00 pm		
Thomas Crane Public Library Quincy	February 29, 2024 6:00 pm		
Zoom (2)	February 26, 2024 6:30 pm March 1, 2024 12:30 pm		
South Shore Charter Public School 700 Longwater Drive, Norwell	January 30, 2024 8:30 am February 1, 2024 6:00 pm		

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



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

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

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.

From the Foundation

SUPPORTING SSCPS The Annual Fund



JANUARY FUNDRAISING

PROJECTS & WORKSHOPS

During the month of January, the South Shore Charter Educational Foundation will be raising funds toward the Projects and Workshops at SSCPS. We invite you once again to support our students and staff by investing in our unique educational model. Your contribution, no matter the size, propels us closer to our goal and ensures that these crucial teaching programs continue to flourish at SSCPS.

DONATE TODAY!

Weekly Calendar

Wednesday	01/10	School Council Meeting via <u>Zoom</u>	6:30pm
Thursday	01/11	Grade 8 Field Trip to Edward M. Kennedy Institute	
Thursday	01/11	High School Art Workshop Fashion Show at 104 Longwater	1pm & 2pm
Thursday	01/11	Level IV Winter Dance at 104 Longwater	5:00-6:30pm
Friday	01/12	Professional Development Day – No School for Students	
Monday	01/15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observed – No School	
Tuesday	01/16	Talk to Us Tuesday Enrollment Tours by Reservation	9:00- 10:00am

Important Links

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website 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

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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