



Weekly Update | January 3, 2024

Vol. 1 Issue 1

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A Message from Alicia

Happy New Year! We hope this update finds you and your family in high spirits and looking forward to the events unfolding in the upcoming weeks. January is traditionally a busy month, and with an ongoing focus on strategic planning, this year is no exception. As we begin 2024, we are looking ahead and inviting input from all SSCPS families in two

important ways – focus groups and the SSCPS 2024 Annual Family Survey. The Strategic Planning Committee has been hard at work planning focus groups that will begin January 30 and continue throughout February. We welcome all SSCPS parents, guardians, and caregivers to participate. Participation is voluntary. Listed below are the locations and times so that you may find a focus group meeting most convenient for you should you choose to attend. Additional information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Save the Date | SSCPS Family Focus Group Meetings

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

The SSCPS Annual Family Survey is another 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.

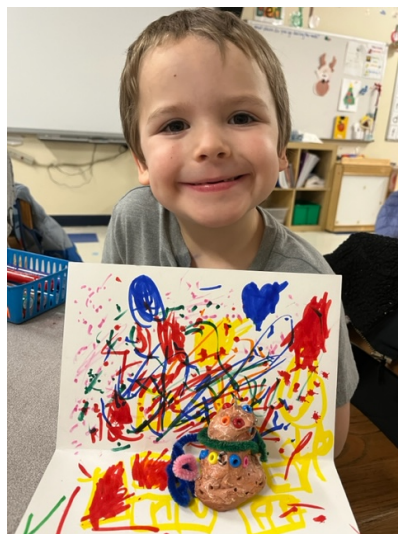
To ensure we capture diverse perspectives, we request the participation of every SSCPS family by Friday, March 1, 2024. Below please find links to the SSCPS 2024 Annual Family Survey. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes. We greatly appreciate your participation and commitment to the South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

SSCPS 2024 Annual Family Survey

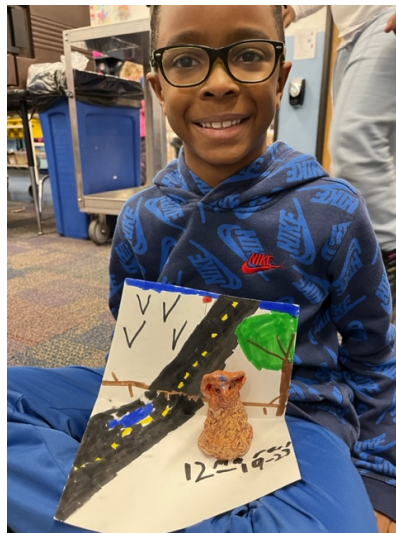
Alicia Savage
Executive Director

On the Levels

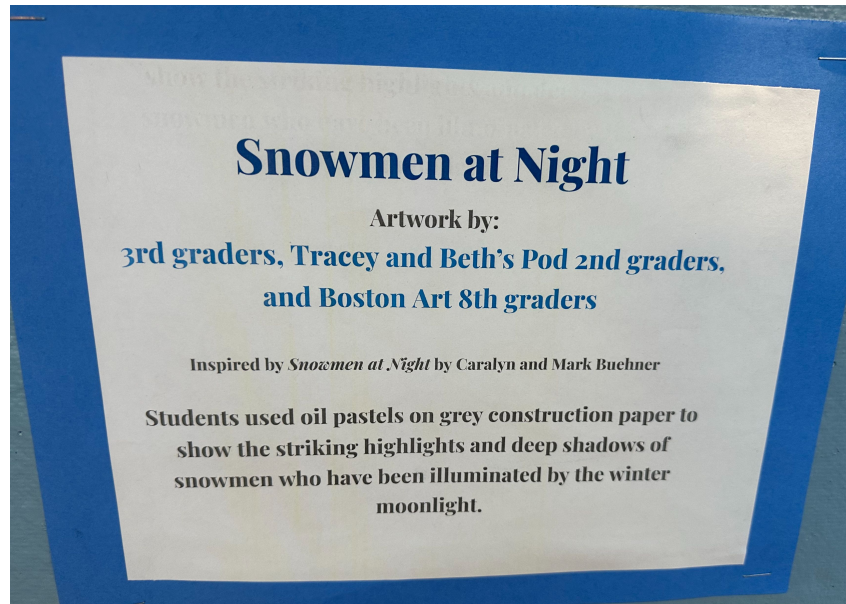
K-12 Clay Finger Puppets



The awesome clay finger puppets made by Pam Golden's Level I students!



Snowmen at Night



Athletics and Extracurricular Activities



Photo and Content Credit to Instagram Account: @sscps_sports

The Jaguar of the Week award goes to Junior guard, Clayden Jean-Baptise. Through 3 games, Clay is averaging 24.6 points a game and has been one of the driving forces behind the Varsity Boys fast start this season. CJB kicked off the season with a 26 point performance on the road in win against divisional rivals, Foxborough Charter. Jean-Baptise then had outputs of 20 points (vs Argosy) and 28 points (vs Boston Collegiate). Clay has also caused just as much chaos on the defensive side of the ball, leading the team in steals. Congratulations to Clay on JOTW!

#GoJaguars 🐾🐾

Afterschool Enrichment Program - Session II is here!
Levels II and III

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 -
SPANISH LANGUAGE ENRICHMENT THROUGH CULTURE AND SONGS



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

Friends of Holly Hill Farm
A Farm for Teaching & Learning

HollyHillFarm.org
236 Jerusalem Road
Cohasset, MA 02025
781-383-6565

January 2 - March 18, 2024

Winter Sessions ...on the Farm

Join us for our 10-week* sessions!
Sessions meet one day per week.
Tiered pricing available.

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)

Visit our website or scan here for details & registration!

hollyhillfarm.org/winter-sessions

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



Donate warm winter coats for children and adults.

Front Desk @100

Nadeen's Classroom @700

All sizes are welcome! Coats only, please.



SCHOOL REWARDS 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

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

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

SSCPS SEPAC Meeting

January 11th 7pm via Zoom

Jessica Gonsalves from Plymouth Country Family Support Inc. will be joining us to talk about her program and the supports and resources they offer

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 [Centers for Disease Control regarding the flu virus](#). Please reach out to either of the nurses with questions. Thank you for your help in keeping everyone in our building healthy!

Flu Information
Flu: A Guide for Parents

Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. Flu is different from cold and usually comes on suddenly. Each year flu causes millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations, and tens of thousands of deaths in the United States.

Flu can be very dangerous for children. CDC estimates that between 2010 - 2019, between 6,000 and 27,000 children younger than 5 years old have been hospitalized from flu, each year in the U.S. Flu vaccine is safe and helps protect children from flu.

What parents should know

How serious is flu?
While flu illness can vary from mild to severe, children often need medical care because of flu. Children younger than 5 years old and children of any age with certain long-term health problems are at increased risk of flu complications like pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus and ear infections. Some health problems that are known to make children more vulnerable to flu include asthma, diabetes and disorder of the brain or nervous system.

How does flu spread?
Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly by droplets made when someone with flu sneezes, coughs or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. A person also can get flu by touching something that has flu virus on it and then touching their mouth, eyes, or nose.

What are flu symptoms?
Flu symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, feeling tired and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children than adults). Some people with flu will not have a fever.

Protect your child

How can I protect my child from flu?
The first and best way to protect against flu is to get a yearly flu vaccine for yourself and your child.

- Flu vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older every year. Flu shots and nasal spray flu vaccines are both options for most children.
- It's especially important that young children and children with certain long-term health problems get vaccinated.
- Caregivers of children at higher risk of flu complications should get a flu vaccine. (Babies younger than 6 months are at higher risk for serious flu complications, but too young to get a flu vaccine.)
- Pregnant people should get a flu vaccine to protect themselves and their baby from flu. Research shows that flu vaccination during pregnancy can protect the baby from flu for several months after birth.
- Flu vaccines are constantly changing so flu vaccines are updated often to protect against the flu viruses that research indicates are most likely to cause illness during the upcoming flu season.

Are flu vaccines safe?
Flu vaccines have an excellent safety record. Millions of people have safely received flu vaccines for decades. Flu shots and nasal spray flu vaccines are both options for vaccination. Different types of flu vaccines are licensed for different ages. Each person should get one that is appropriate for their age. CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend an annual flu vaccine for all children 6 months and older.

What are the benefits of getting a flu vaccine?

- A flu vaccine can keep you and your child from getting sick. When vaccinated and correctly administered, flu vaccine reduced children's risk of related hospitalizations by 74%.
- Flu vaccines can keep your child from being hospitalized for flu in the pediatric intensive care unit. One recent study showed that flu vaccine reduced children's risk of related hospitalizations, care unit admissions by 74%.
- A flu vaccine can keep the flu from leaving in children. A 2019 study data from recent flu seasons found that flu vaccine reduced the risk of flu-associated death by half among children with higher-risk medical conditions and by nearly two-thirds among children without medical conditions.

• Severe muscle pain (child refuses to walk)
• Dehydration (no urinate for 8 hours, dry mouth, no tears when crying)
• Not eat or interesting when awake
• Seizures
• Fever above 104°F
• In children less than 12 weeks, one fever
• Fever or cough that improve but then return to worst
• Worsening of chronic medical conditions

This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptom that is severe or concerning.

Is there a medicine to treat flu?
Yes. Antiviral drugs are prescription medicines that can be used to treat flu illness. They can shorten your illness and make it milder, and they can prevent serious complications that could result in a hospital stay. Antiviral drugs work best when started during the first two days of illness. Antiviral drugs are recommended to treat flu in people who are very sick (for example, people who are in the hospital) or people who are at higher risk of serious flu complications who get flu symptoms. Antivirals can be given to most children and pregnant people.

How long can a sick person spread flu to others?
People with flu may be able to infect others from one day before getting sick to up to five days after. Some may be able to spread the virus for longer, especially if they still have symptoms.

Can my child go to school, day care, or camp if he or she is sick?
No. Your child should stay home to rest and to avoid spreading flu to other children or caregivers.

When can my child go back to school after having flu?
Keep your child home from school, day care, or camp for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medication. A fever is defined as 100°F (38°C) or higher.

What if my child seems very sick?
Keep healthy children safe when sick from flu. If your child is experiencing the following emergency warning signs, you should go to the emergency room:
• Fast breathing or trouble breathing
• Bluish lips or face
• Not waking up or with each breath
• Chest pain

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/children.htm or call 800-CDC-INFO

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: F202310OFF

EXPIRES: May 1, 2024

[Redeem Now](#)

To order, log in to your account on 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

Tuesday	1/09	Talk to Us Tuesday Enrollment Tours by Reservation	9:00-10:00am
Tuesday	1/09	Strategic Planning Meeting via Zoom	10:30am
Wednesday	01/10	School Council Meeting	6:30pm
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	

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](#)

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 to submit SSCPS items for publication.



www.sscps.org

This email was sent to palgera@sscps.org

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