



Weekly Update | March 6, 2024

Vol. 3 Issue 1

SSCPS CELEBRATES
WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH



We are stronger together



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

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A Message from Alicia



Here we are in the first full week of March and celebrations abound. On Level I there are stunning student art displays commemorating the Year of the Dragon. We are looking

forward to African Diaspora Night tomorrow night following a month-long celebration of Black History. March is Women's History Month and it seems that everywhere you look there are tributes and recognitions of women who have contributed to the nation and the world.

Celebrations include achievements. Here at school all members of the Class of 2024 completed their Senior Debates, bringing this talented group of students together in one room and one step closer to graduation. The Senior Debates are a graduation requirement as well as a storied school tradition. We could not be more proud of this class and all they have accomplished here at South Shore Charter.

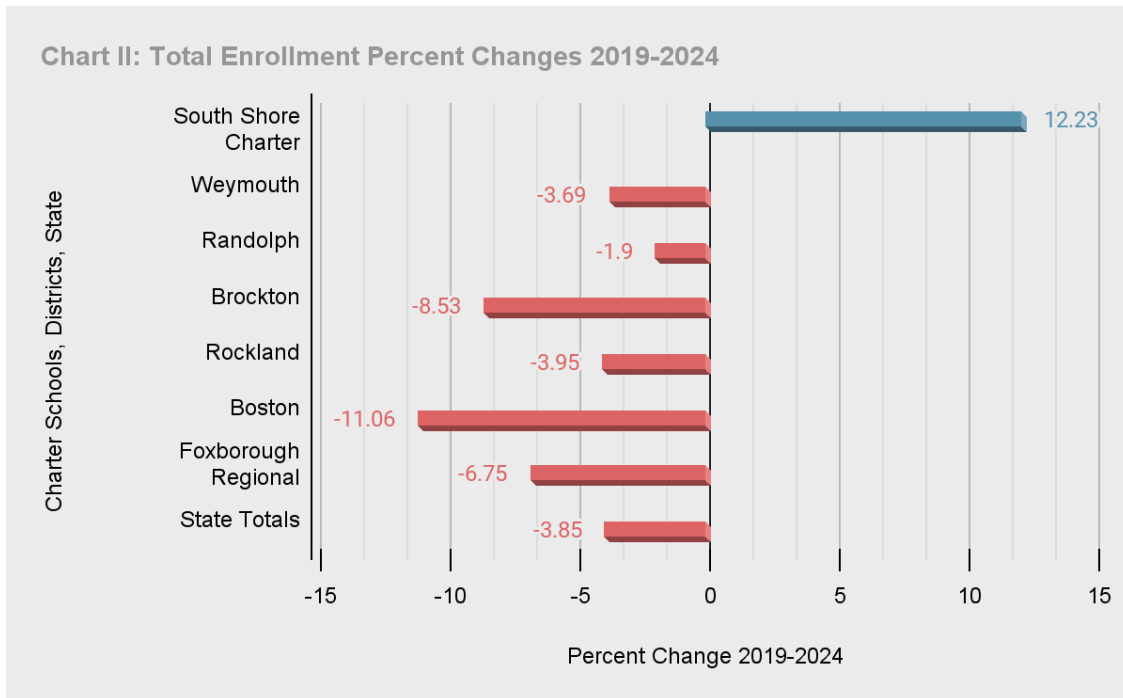
This year has been one of ongoing strategic planning as we map our direction for the next five years. Our school community has been engaged with and immersed in Strategic Planning Focus Groups. In January we held eleven Faculty and Staff Focus Groups. Last week we held family focus groups throughout our sending districts, Brockton, Randolph, and Weymouth, in addition to holding Family Focus Groups on campus and by Zoom. Through these focus groups, we are learning why families seek out our educational model and what they envision for the future of South Shore Charter. Next week we will host Student Focus Groups and later in March, two additional Family Focus Groups by Zoom. The Strategic Planning Focus Groups have been an important initiative to hear multiple voices and perspectives. We have been pleased with the commitment and participation from our families. On behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee, I would like to thank all school community members who have participated thus far.

In addition to Strategic Planning, student enrollment is another important element of our school's development. As a public charter school in Massachusetts we would be remiss if we did not pay attention to statewide enrollment trends. According to data provided by DESE, Massachusetts has shown a significant decline in student enrollment by 3.85% over the past six years; approximately 36,672 fewer students statewide. It seems that schools everywhere are feeling the impact of declining enrollment. As we look to the future, it is important to consider the impact these trends may have on South Shore Charter.

Despite statewide trends, enrollment at South Shore Charter has continued to grow over the past six years. In early February the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released student enrollment data for public review. Data presented includes enrollment trends in charter schools, public school districts, and statewide over a six year period. *Table 1: Comparative Enrollment Trends 2019-2024*, has been generated from data provided by the Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign. This table provides data used to compare SSCPS student enrollment, the student enrollment of our top four sending districts, as well as statewide enrollment over a six year period.

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 2019 to 2024	# Change 2019 to 2024
South Shore Charter Public School	Total Enrollment	940	1001	1009	1050	1054	1055	12.23%	115
	Pre-enrollment	980	1075	1075	1075	1075	1075	9.69%	95
Weymouth	Total Enrollment	5857	5763	5585	5560	5599	5641	-3.69%	-216
Randolph	Total Enrollment	2737	2742	2660	2571	2563	2685	-1.90%	-52
Brockton	Total Enrollment	16349	16024	15384	15265	14906	14954	-8.53%	-1395
Rockland	Total Enrollment	2228	2273	2179	2118	2163	2140	-3.95%	-88
State Totals	Total Enrollment	951631	948828	911465	911529	913735	914959	-3.85%	-36672

Chart II: Total Enrollment Percent Changes 2019-2024 was created from available data which allows school districts and charter schools to analyze enrollment trends, make comparisons, and use data-driven decision making for institutional planning. For comparative purposes, we additionally review Boston Public Schools and Foxborough Regional Charter School each year. South Shore Charter has been able to grow and maintain consistent enrollment by comparison.



We remain grateful for the families who believe in our mission of inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life. Through the strategic planning process and focus group feedback we have reaffirmed that we are college preparatory for everyone. Despite nationwide discussions regarding the costs versus value of a college education, we hold fast to the belief that higher education is the best route for our students. College preparatory is what we offer to carve out a path towards a successful life outcome for our students beginning on Level I and continuing all the way to high school. This is the vision that guides our mission.

We are not alone in our beliefs. Throughout the South Shore we are fortunate to have continuously strong interest in our school. This year, we received 784 applications for 95 anticipated openings; reminding us all how our school’s impact is widening. We remain grateful for our school community and our current families who have shared their

experiences at the South Shore Charter Public School with others, spreading the word and supporting our mission.

The Enrollment Lottery will be held this upcoming Friday, March 8, 2024. This will be a half day for students. With 784 applications to be sorted, it is a tremendous undertaking. The months leading up to Friday have been filled with admissions events and community outreach. Beginning on November 1, we actively recruit new families throughout the South Shore for the upcoming school year. This year we were able to host an enrollment Open House on November 2 at both buildings. We hosted 225 visitors at 100 Longwater Circle and 71 visitors at 700 Longwater Drive. During *Talk to us Tuesday* sessions in January and February prospective students and families were able to visit the campus during the day, tour the hallways and classrooms while classes were in session, and meet students and teachers.

Applications Received for Lottery

Grade	Received	Sibling	Grade	Received	Sibling
K	178	29	7	48	3
1	51		8	25	
2	47	2	9	79	4
3	51	3	10	35	1
4	69	1	11	18	1
5	63	4	12	5	
6	88	2	Total	757	50

Note: 27 additional applications were received however are ineligible due to: applicant too young for kindergarten, applicant already enrolled, or request to withdraw.

Anticipated openings are determined by the number of students currently enrolled, the number of students graduating in June, and the number of students who have indicated they will be returning next year on the *Intent to Return* form. To determine optimal class size, taken into consideration are the number of available seats at each grade level, academic programming, student social/emotional health, and reaching all students in the classroom. Anticipated openings are posted above and on the day of the Enrollment Lottery.

2024-2025 Enrollment Lottery

Accepting the following for anticipated openings:

Kindergarten	72	Grade 7	0
Grade 1	0	Grade 8	0
Grade 2	0	Grade 9	23
Grade 3	0	Grade 10	0
Grade 4	0	Grade 11	0
Grade 5	0	Grade 12	0
Grade 6	0	<u>Total</u>	<u>95</u>

In addition to posting anticipated openings and the number of applications received, we post the number of applications received from each sending district. This year we received the highest number of applications from Brockton (165), the second highest number of applications from Weymouth (155), and the third highest number of applications from Randolph (100).

Applications by Town

Abington	15	Marshfield	18
Braintree	26	Norwell	6
Brockton	165	Pembroke	20
Cohasset	3	Plymouth	9
Duxbury	4	Plympton	0
E. Bridgewater	4	Quincy	57
Halifax	1	Randolph *	100
Hanover	10	Rockland	51
Hanson	9	Scituate	6
Hingham	11	Weymouth	155
Holbrook	34	Whitman	20
Hull	9	Out of district	38
Kingston	13	Total	784

* DESE requires 93 Randolph applicants be skipped over due to NSS. See attachment.

We are eagerly anticipating the Enrollment Lottery and the opportunity to welcome new students and families to our school community. We are excited to host accepted student events in March and we cannot wait to meet the newest members of our school community.

Thank you for your ongoing enthusiasm and support as we define and embrace the future of South Shore Charter Public School.

Alicia Savage

Executive Director



IMPORTANT REMINDER

FRIDAY, MARCH 8th

EARLY RELEASE AT 12
Professional Development Day

Important School Calendar Notice

Pending Board approval, there will be a change on the school calendar for April 10, 2024. In order to make up for the snow day on February 13, there will be a half day of school for students instead of a full day off on April 10. Families may request an excused absence for religious observance in advance at attendance@sscps.org.

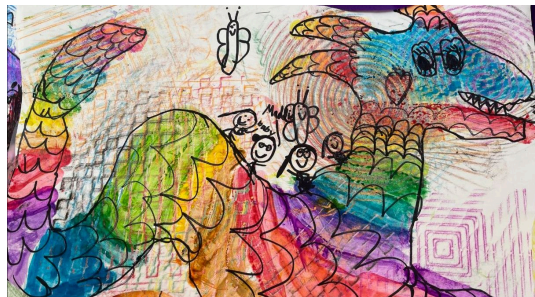
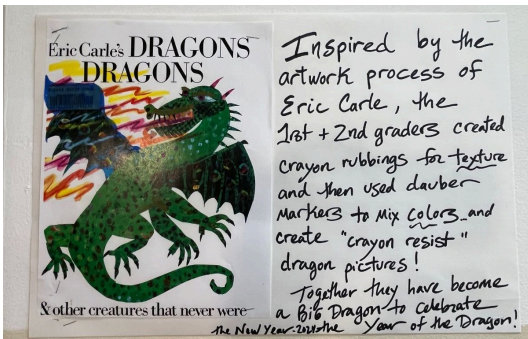
On the Levels

LEVEL I

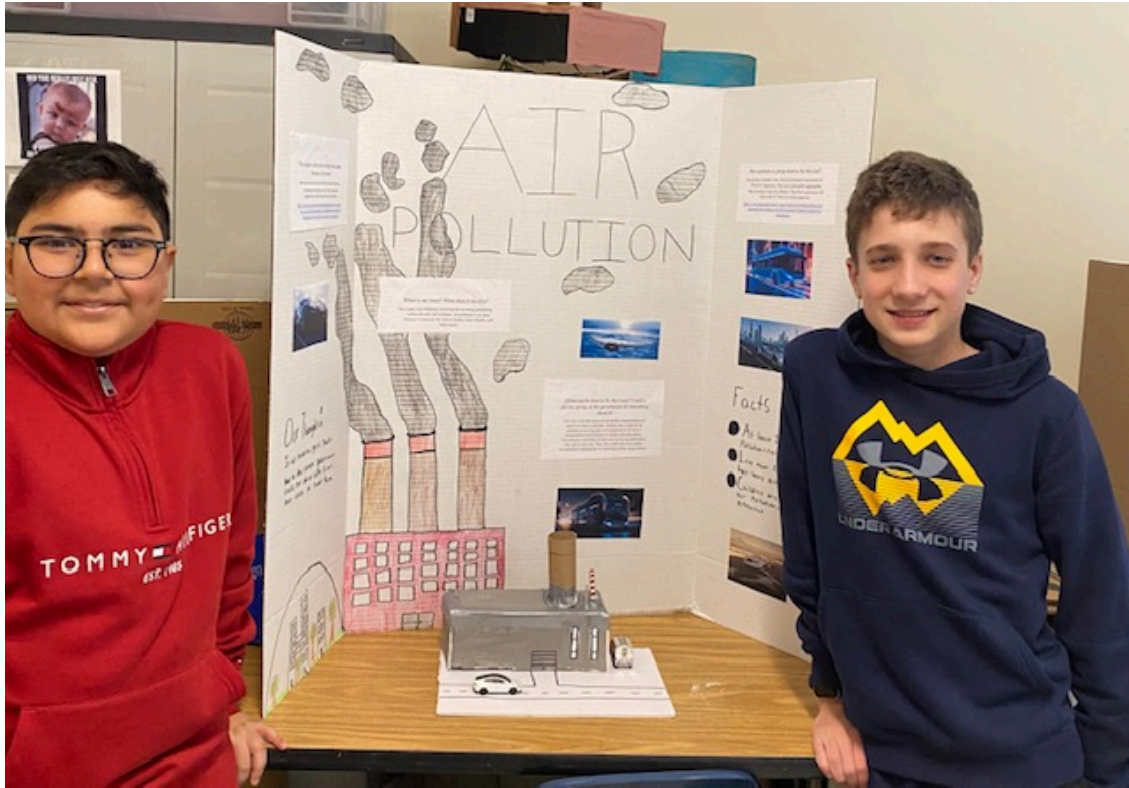


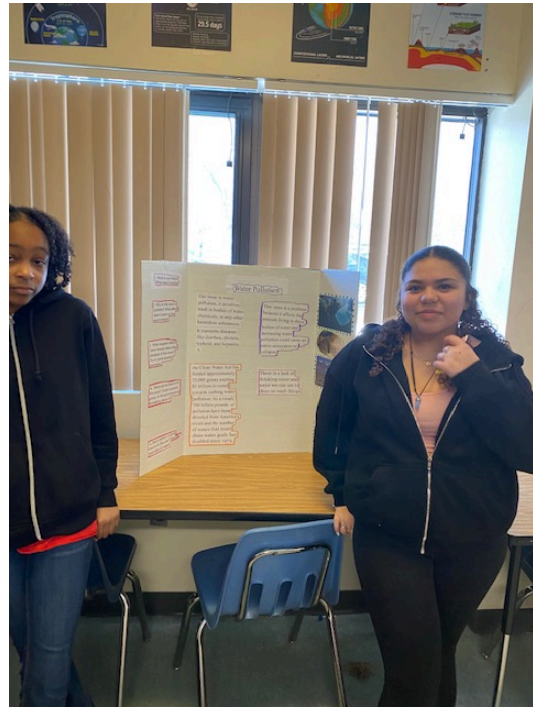
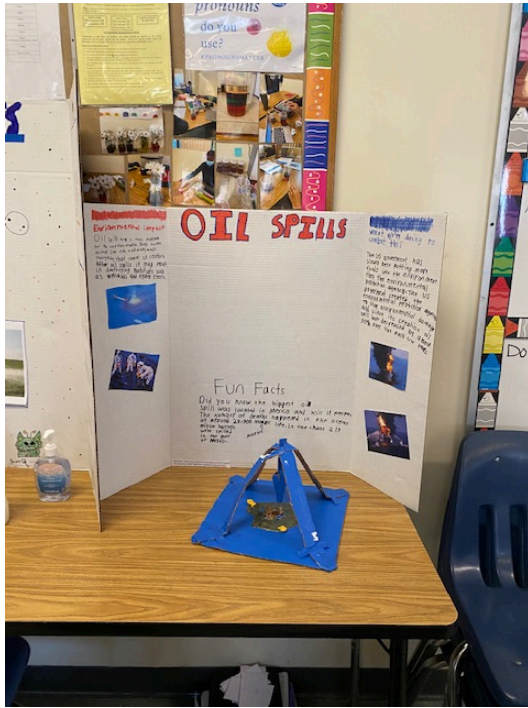
Students in Level I drew dragons that were influenced by Eric Carle's artwork. Initially, students created crayon rubbings using texture plates and crayons. After that, they added dauber markers on top, creating wonderfully colored "crayon resist" images! These were built and displayed at SSCPS to commemorate 2024 as the Year of the Dragon! Many thanks to Wayne and David for their assistance with the installation of everything.



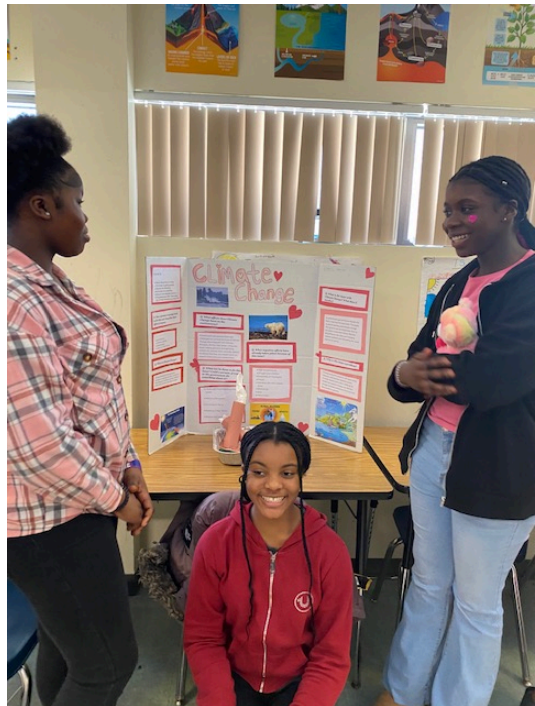
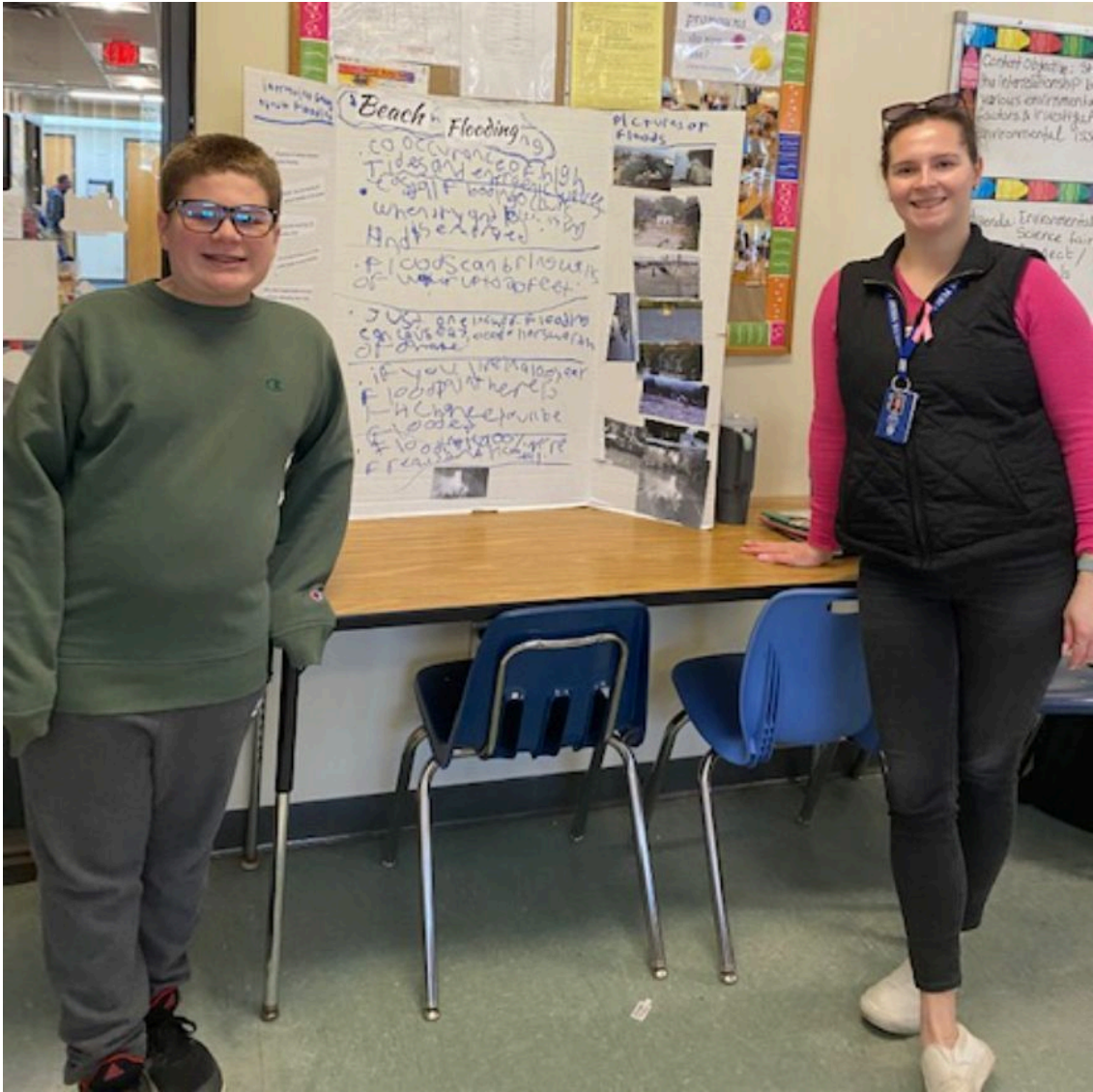


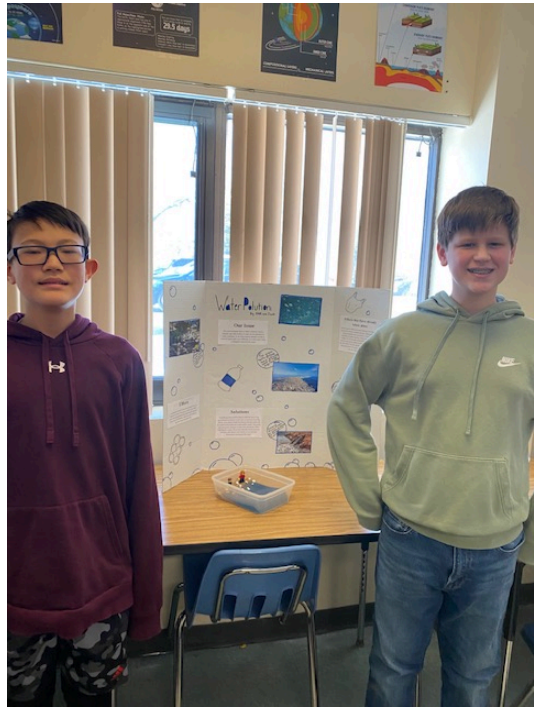
LEVEL IV

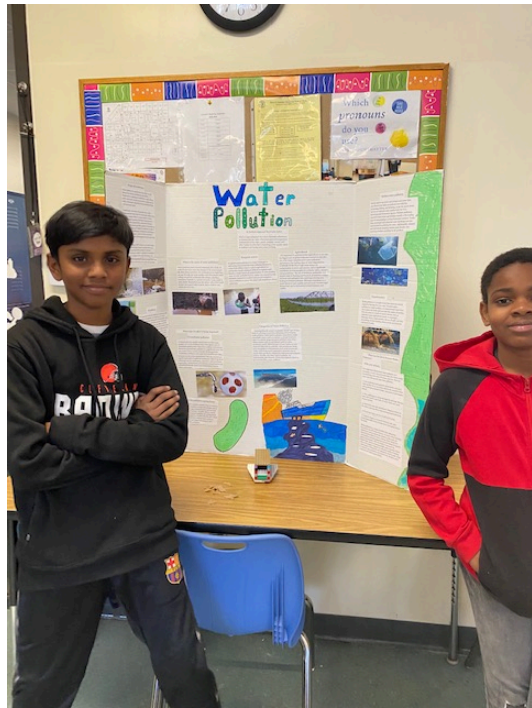
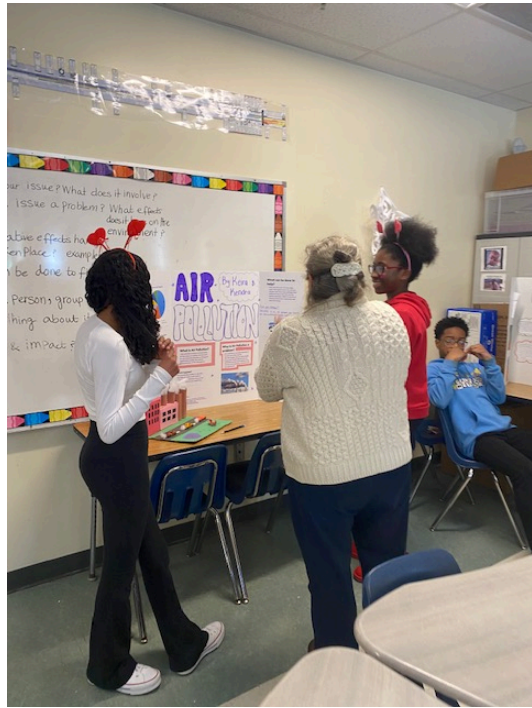
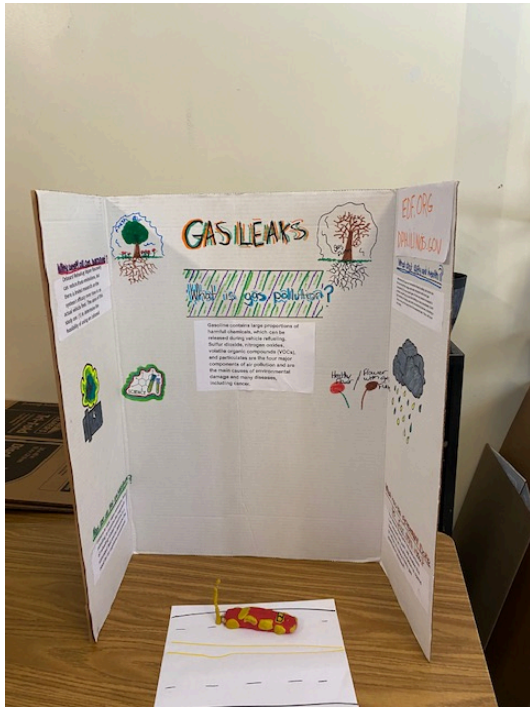


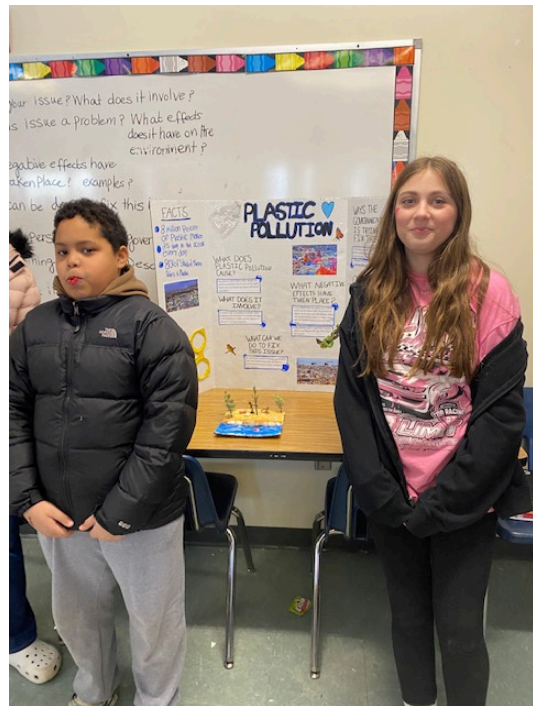
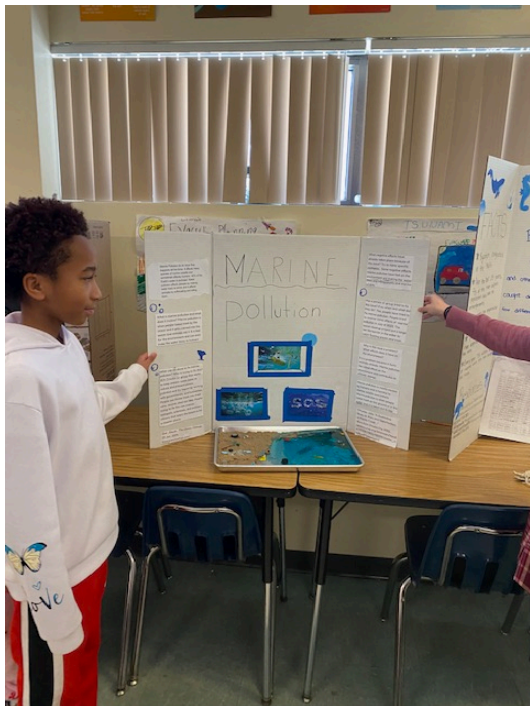


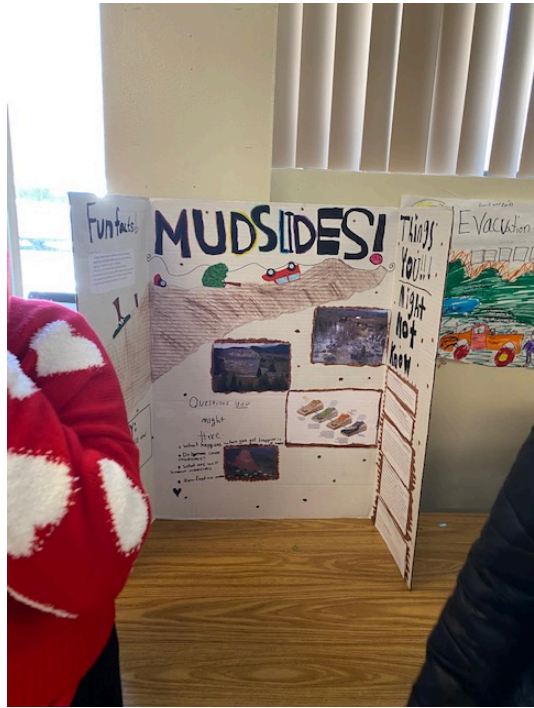
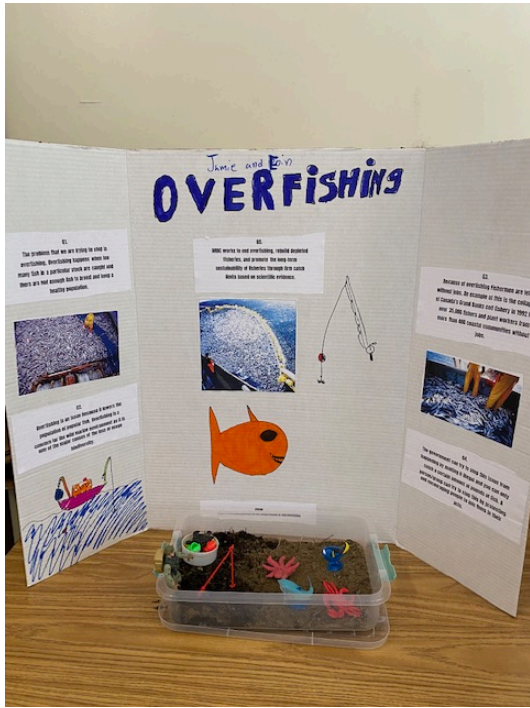
7th Grade Environmental Fair Exhibitions of Mastery (EOM)

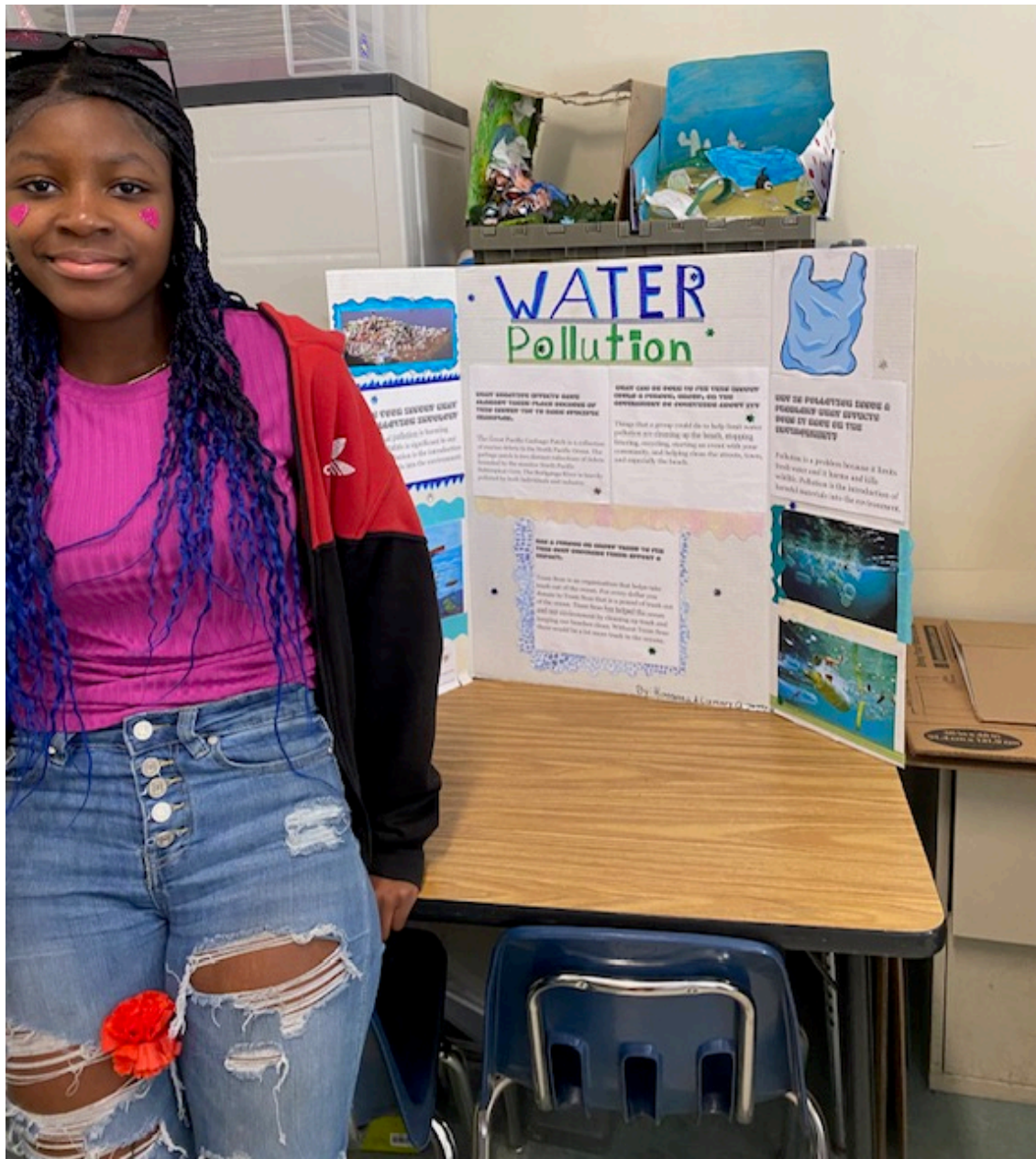


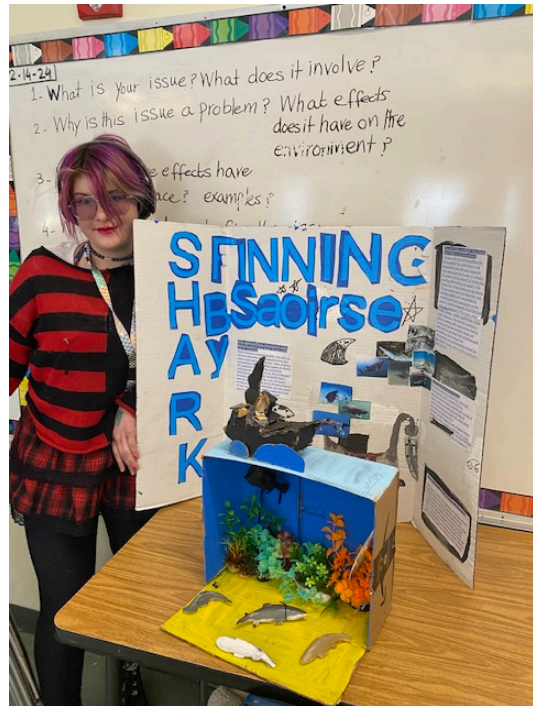
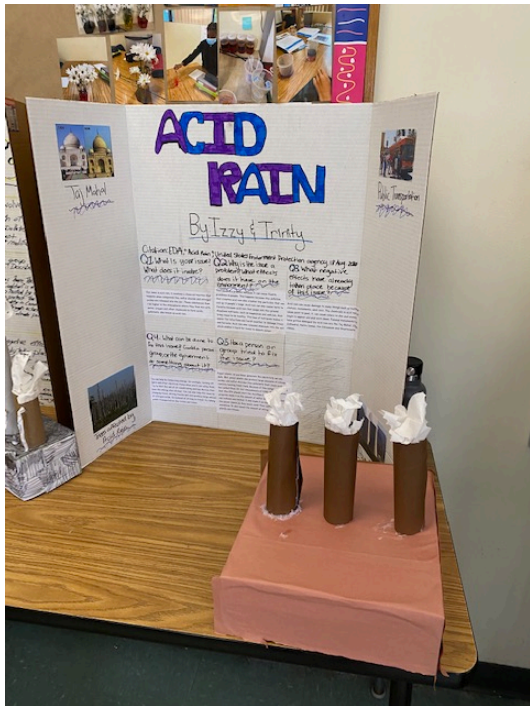
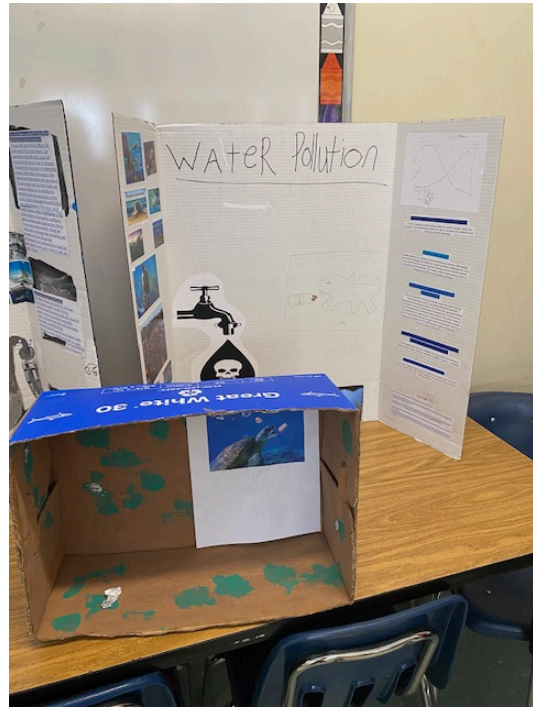
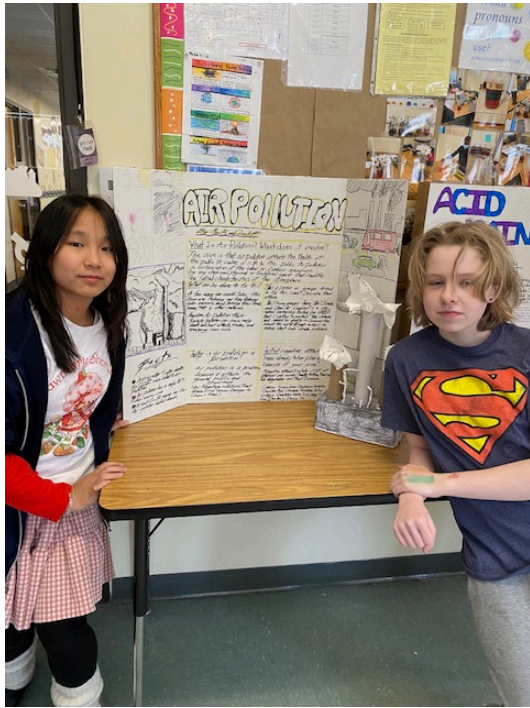












Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Athletics

2023-2024 MCSAO All-Star Selections

(Content and Photo Credit: Instagram Account @sscps_sports)



Sophomore Devyn Bowden had an impressive sophomore campaign this season. Devyn was a key contributor to key victories this season - including an upset win over state ranked Calvary Chapel Academy. The two year Varsity player was a standard of consistency for the Lady Jaguars program and remains a core part of the promising group returning next season.



Varsity newcomer Austin McRae made an impact all over the court this season. As the season progressed, the more the Brockton wing player found his footing while eventually finding his way into the starting lineup. McRae lead the boys side in blocked shots and rebounds but also displayed his versatility with his playmaking for himself and his teammates.



Junior guard Clay Jean-Baptiste made his name known throughout the league this year. CJB caused havoc for opponents on both sides of the ball and was a major contributor to the success of the Varsity Boys basketball season. Jean-Baptiste constantly applied pressure on ball this season, which lead to transition buckets and eye popping finishes at the rim.

2023-2024 MCSAO South Division MVP



Junior Guard Khai Francis not only had a breakout individual season but also emerged as the heart and soul of this year’s team. Khai’s leadership on and off the court was instrumental in the team’s success throughout the season. Francis was the definition of reliable, as he did not miss a single game or practice this season

Khai’s standout performances were notable through the season, including a 30-point outburst against Calvary Chapel. Francis intensity on the defensive side also helped propel him and his teammates in big moments on the court. The Junior guard’s trajectory only continues to rise.

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 MCSAO South Division MVP, Khai Francis.

**2023-2024 MCSAO South Division
Coach Of The Year**



Coach JP Marcellus has been named and recognized as the 2023-24 MCSAO South Division Coach Of The Year. This impressive achievement marks his second time winning the award in three years. Coach Marcellus guided the Varsity Boys to their second divisional title and secured a coveted appearance in the MIAA tournament in their inaugural season as members. Coach Marcellus continues to invest in developing his student athletes and fostering a winning culture within the program and school.

Afterschool Enrichment Program

Levels II and III

Afterschool Enrichment Program: Session III (Grades 3-8)



SSCPS AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

SESSION 3
APRIL 1 - MAY 17, 2024

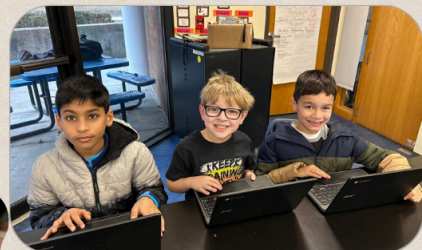
GRADES 3 - 8
MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY
TIME: 3:15 - 4: 15 PM

MONDAY

- **SPORTS AND PLAYTIME CLUB**
- **STEAM EXPLORERS**
- **SCRAPBOOKING**
- **THEATRE CLUB**
- **SPORTS FUSION SQUAD**
- **CHEMICAL CREATIONS CLUB**

WEDNESDAY

- **THEATRE CLUB**
- **ZUMBA KIDS CLUB**
- **STEAM EXPLORERS**
- **NATURAL ARTISTS**
- **WEB WARRIORS: CODING AND LOGIC GAMES CLUB**
- **SPORTS AND PLAYTIME CLUB**
- **PAINTING PIONEERS CLUB**
- **CHEMICAL CREATIONS 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 III of our Afterschool Enrichment Program is now open to students in Grades 3-8. Please review our Club Descriptions and complete the Registration form. Registration closes on March 22nd. 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

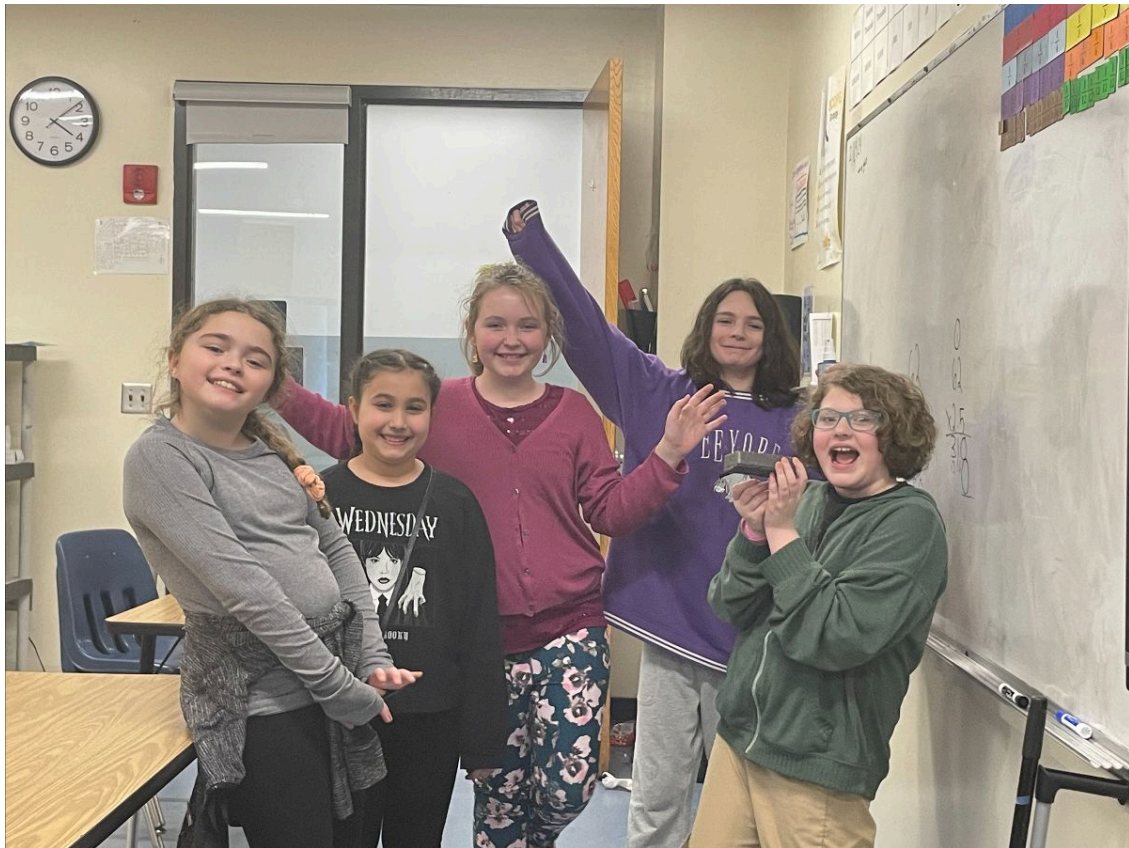
[Grades 3-6: Club Descriptions](#)

[Grades 7-8: Club Descriptions](#)

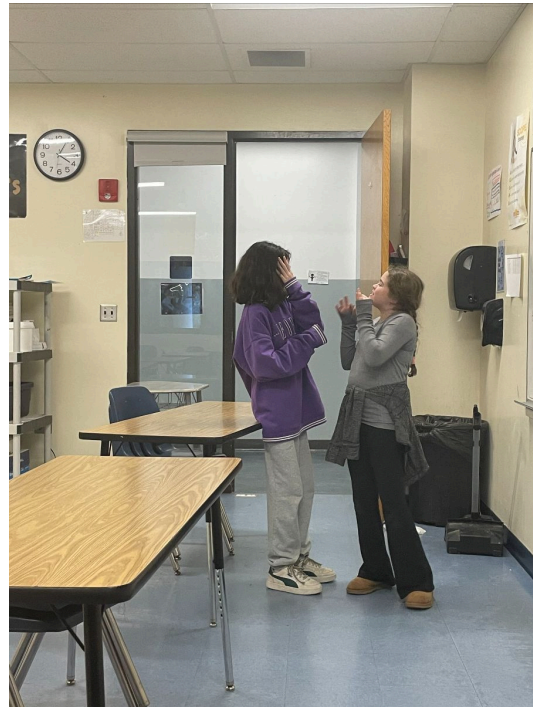
[Grades 3-6: Club Registration Form](#)

[Grades 7-8: Club Registration Form](#)

Theater Club



Students have been engaged in prop exploration and improvisational games. Through hands-on activities, students showcased their creativity, teamwork, and adaptability. Students got the opportunity to enhance their performance skills and foster camaraderie within the group.



Clay and Mixed Media Club





Chemical Creations Club



In week 5, students explored two engaging science experiments. The first experiment involved using colorful Skittles to create a captivating rainbow swirl when placed in water. Through this activity, students observed the fascinating process of diffusion, where the sugar and coloring in the Skittles' shells dissolved into the water.

The second experiment built upon our previous discussions about acids and bases. Students eagerly participated in creating a mini-volcanic eruption by combining citric acid and baking soda in a flask. Students had fun and can't wait for our last meeting next Wednesday where we will make oobleck. They can also take home their lab kit that day so they can continue doing fun labs at home.





From the Physical Education Department



The Kids Heart Challenge has almost reached its goal!

In the month of February, the Physical Education department has been partnering with the American Heart Association by hosting the Kids Heart Challenge in grades K-4. Throughout the month, we thoroughly enjoyed teaching lessons on the function of the heart, the importance of heart health and how a healthy lifestyle can positively impact us socially, emotionally, and physically. Students participated in fun heart healthy fitness activities in class and got a chance to reflect on their own health. Every student in K-4 wrote how they kept their hearts healthy. With their efforts, they displayed that SSCPS has heart. We are almost at our goal of raising \$5000, which goes to the American Heart Association and the PE Department. Thank you to all the families and friends of SSCPS that have donated and to the students that have raised money for this great cause. We are currently at 89% of our goal and need a few more donations to get there! It is not too late! Follow this [link](#) to learn more.

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



17th Annual

- **Collect pajamas**
- **Support local children**
- **Win prizes**

Cradles to Crayons
END CLOTHING INSECURITY

February 1 – March 15

SIGN UP TODAY

Cradles to Crayons is kicking off the 17th 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](#)

From the Foundation



During the month of March, the South Shore Charter Educational Foundation will be holding our first ever **March Magnet Madness** fundraiser!

All donations of \$25 or higher will receive an SSCPS magnet, and funds will be used toward the area of greatest need at SSCPS. Display your magnet on your car, your fridge, your locker at school, or anywhere else you'd like to share your SSCPS pride!

Show your support for the SSCPS community and donate today to get your magnet!

Make a Donation

Parents Association, SEPAC, and ELPAC



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

SSCPS SEPAC- Let's Chat!

**Coffee
Talk**

3/13
9am



**Panera Bread
1401 Washington St
Hanover**



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



Save the Date!

**Next PA meeting will be held on March 19, 2024 at 6:30pm.
Meeting Location: 700 Longwater Drive and Zoom**

Zoom Meeting Link

Hello SSCPS Parents/Guardians,

The first Parents Association (PA) meeting of the school year was held on February 12th. The schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows; March 19, April 8, May 14, and June 11th. Meetings will be held in person at 700 and online via Zoom @ 6:30PM (in-person offering is dependent on attendance). Please join us @6:15PM for attendee introductions so we can start the official PA meeting on time.

February's meeting had a good turnout of 37 parents/guardians; however we need more of you if we are going to officially revive the PA with elections in May and position announcements and first planning meeting for the next school year in June.

Additionally, I have two new items to share:

- **[SSCPS Connect](#)** – Do you want to contribute to the SSCPS community but not sure how your skills/experience can be utilized beyond a classroom helper? As the Chair of the Development Committee on the Board of Trustees I am building a volunteer network database so SSCPS leaders (Faculty, Staff, Board of Trustees, Parents Association officers, etc.) can find you. Please complete this **[form](#)** to tell us more about the opportunities or skills you are interested in offering the school.
- **[SSCPS Volunteering](#)** – Have you volunteered in any way for the SSCPS community? First of all, thank you! Secondly, please log your hours in this **[form](#)** and let us know how you have contributed.

Thanks,

Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst

(Parent to 5th, 8th, and 11th Graders)

Meeting Agenda

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:

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.

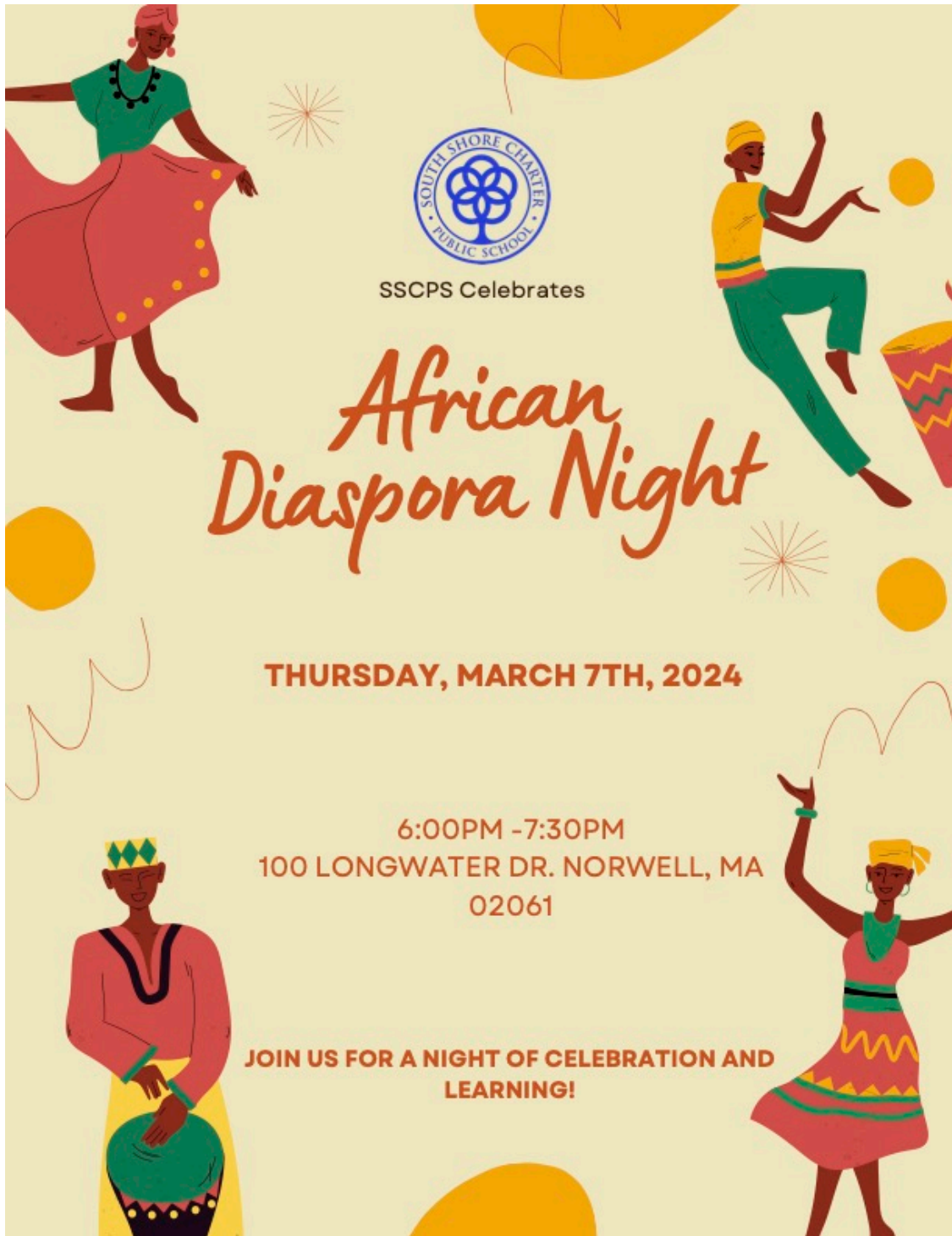
SAVE your sanity.

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.

Upcoming Events



From the Health Office

COVID-19 Guidelines for Massachusetts

Although the CDC has lifted the COVID-19 guidelines, Massachusetts DPH has not changed the COVID-19 guidelines and still requires at least 5 days of quarantine following a positive test or from the beginning of symptoms. Please see the link below for further information on COVID-19 and quarantining requirements in Massachusetts.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-isolation-and-exposure-guidance-for-children-and-staff-in-child-care-k-12-out-of-school-time-ost-and-recreational-camp-program-settings>

The health office will let you know if this policy changes in the future.

Strategic Planning | Family Focus Group Update

Registration for the final two Family Focus Groups below!

Focus Group	Location	Date
Focus Group 7/ <i>Kreyòl Ayisyen</i>	Virtual via Zoom	Tuesday, March 12, 2024 6:00 pm
Focus Group 9	Virtual via Zoom	Tuesday, March 12, 2024 6:00 pm

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

For those who would like to still participate you are invited to join us at any one of the two virtual sessions. Session 7 will be conducted in Haitian Creole. We welcome all who can attend. Please find the upcoming schedule and registration for Family Focus Groups 7 and 9 below.

[Register for Focus Group 7 or 9](#)

Special School 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

Wednesday	03/06	Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom	6:00pm
Thursday	03/07	African Diaspora Night at 100 Longwater Circle	6:00pm
Friday	03/08	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm
Friday	03/08	2024-2025 Enrollment Lottery at 100 Longwater Drive and Zoom	1:00pm
Tuesday	03/12	Strategic Planning Family Focus Group Zoom Link	6:00pm
Tuesday	03/12	Gwoup Konsantre 7 Kreyòl Ayisyen Zoom Link	6:00pm
Wednesday	03/13	SSCPS ELPAC Meeting via Zoom	6:00pm
Wednesday	03/13	School Council Meeting Via Zoom	6:30pm
Thursday	03/14	Board of Trustees and Committee Meetings Board Meeting	7:30pm
		Board Meeting	5:30pm
		Personnel Meeting	6:00pm
		Governance Meeting	6:30pm
		Finance Meeting	7:00pm

	Development Meeting All meetings held at 700 Longwater Drive and via Zoom	
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Community Events

Check the links below for updates on community events!

- [-PYD Inclusive Music Program](#)
- [-Holly Hill Farm - Spring Programs](#)
- [-Black History Month - Community Events](#)
- [-Girls Who Code Summer Program](#)
- [-gbSTEM - Free STEM Courses](#)

Important Links

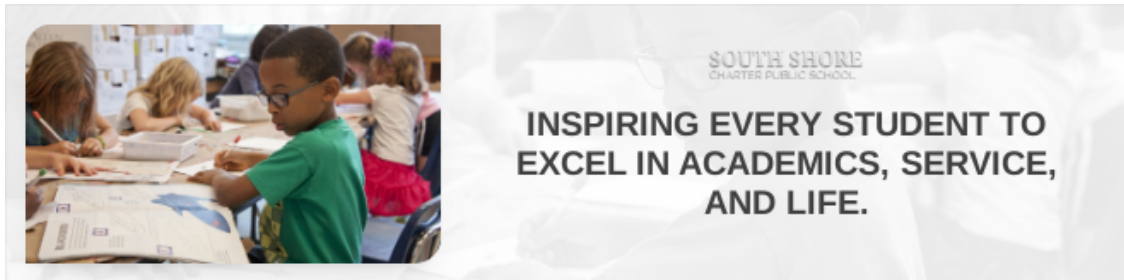
Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website www.sscps.org every Wednesday.

- [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.



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