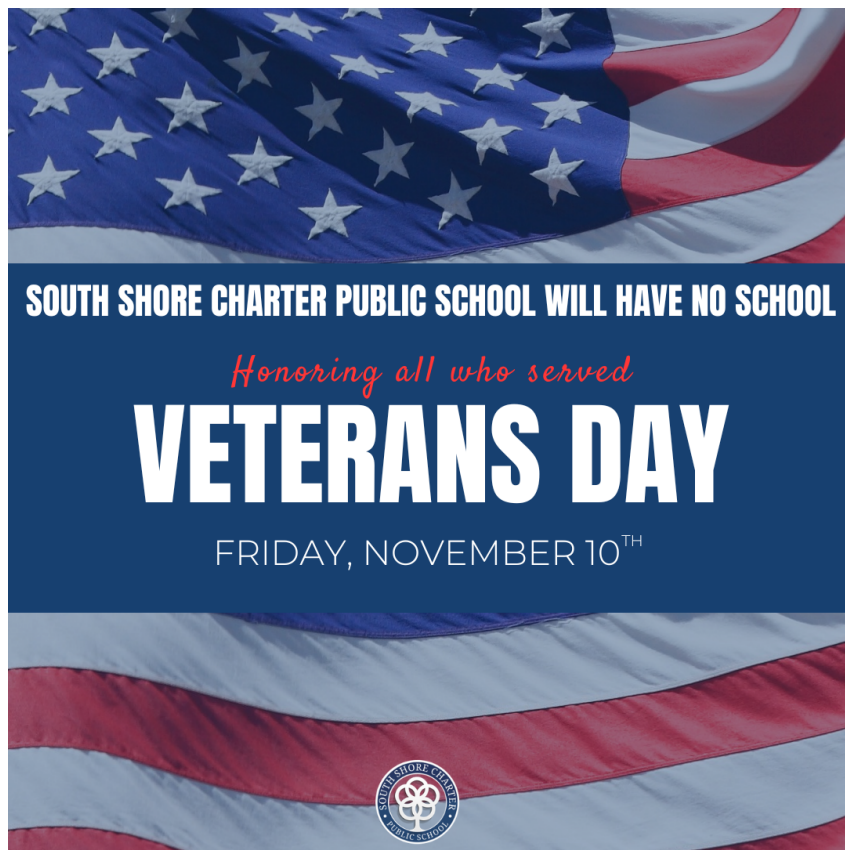




**Weekly Update | November 8, 2023**

Vol. 11 Issue 2



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

[View this email in your browser](#)

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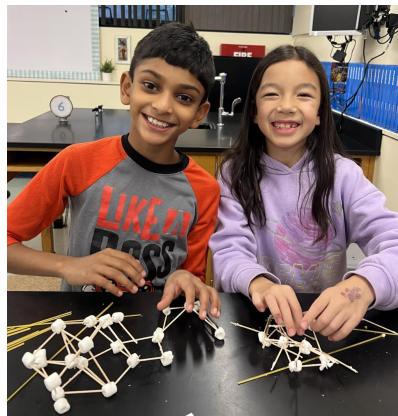
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## A Message from Angie

The South Shore Charter School buzzes with activity long after the last bus pulls off of Longwater Drive at the close of the school day and the dismissal line disappears into the driveway. Athletics, music, enrichment, and academic support programs provide our students with opportunities to engage with peers and develop skills outside of school hours. These programs are expanding in response to student needs and family feedback.

Last week saw the end of the 2023 fall athletic season. Our athletic program has grown tremendously over the past few years both in terms of the number of students participating and the level of competition. Thanks to the hard work of our coaches and our athletic directors, JP Marcellus and Joe Kay, we celebrated the first MIAA tournament bids in SSCPS history.

Our extracurricular music opportunities have expanded to the point where we must take advantage of the time available both before school and after school. Students in grades 3-12 sing and play in extracurricular chorus, beginning strings, concert band, orchestra, and jazz band. For some this supplements music focused Projects and Workshops. For other students, after school opportunities allow for the exploration of different interests during Project and Workshop. We are looking forward to listening to our student musicians at our performance group Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 5th.



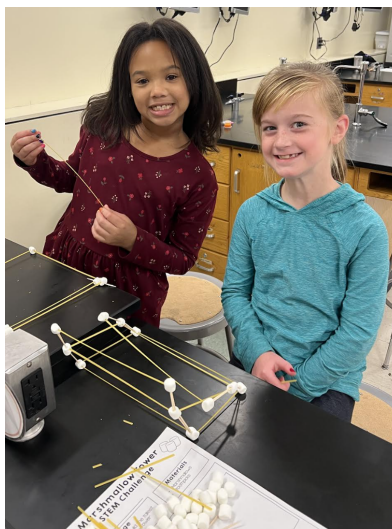
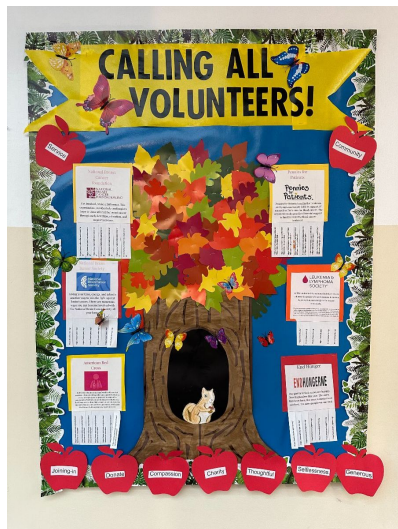
Monday saw the launch of the first session of our pilot after school enrichment program. We have 85 Level II and Level III students engaged in a variety of activities including organized sports, visual arts, STEAM, yoga, theater, and coding after school twice a week. The goal of the program is to provide students with opportunities to collaborate with a variety of peers in a relaxed, social atmosphere that allows them to explore their interests and develop new ones. All of the enrichment activities are run by SSCPS teachers. Many of the clubs include high school student assistants who are in the classrooms supporting students. The first session of the program will end before we leave for the holiday break with a new session set to start late in January. We hope to grow the program over the course of the year.

The enrichment program is running in parallel with both our English Language Learner after school tutoring program that began yesterday and our Title I tutoring program that begins after the Thanksgiving holiday. Tutoring programs allow teachers to provide small group targeted instruction to fill gaps and strengthen foundational skills. The tutoring programs intentionally run on different days than enrichment clubs so that students do not have to choose between extracurricular activities and academics. Both are important to the school experience.

The pilot enrichment program is the direct result of productive conversations that the [School Council](#) had over the course of the 2022-2023 school year. The parents, teachers, and students that served on our School Council identified a need for community building activities outside of the school day. The group also recognized the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic posed for the service element of our mission and developed benchmarks to support a goal to strengthen community service across our campus. The goal for community engagement that created the enrichment pilot and the community service goal are both outlined in the [School Improvement Plan](#) written by the School Council. It was wonderful to see so many parents and last week's School Council meeting. I look forward to another year of conversations that help set meaningful goals.

The enrichment program is possible because of the hard work of Nadeen Sullivan, our Enrichment and Community Service Coordinator. Nadeen started in this newly created role at the start of the school year. Since then she has put systems in place to create programming that both taps into the expertise of our faculty and is tailored to the interests of our students. Any new program is a significant undertaking and requires a thoughtful approach. A new program at a regional school that impacts dismissal and brings students together across two buildings is a logistical behemoth. Nadeen has shown that she is able to tame the beast.





Thank you for supporting our after school programs and our students. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

**Angie Pepin**

Principal, K-9

## On the Levels

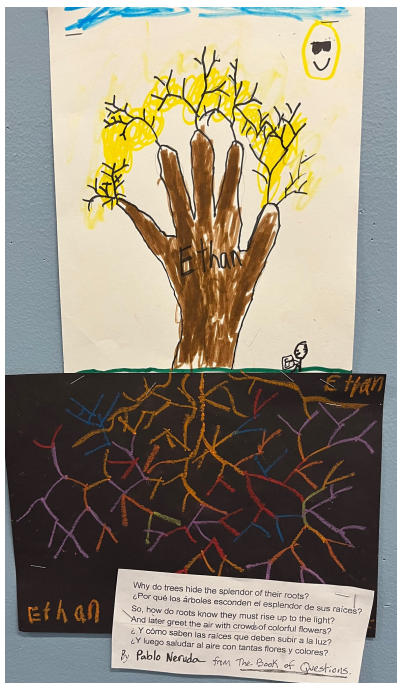
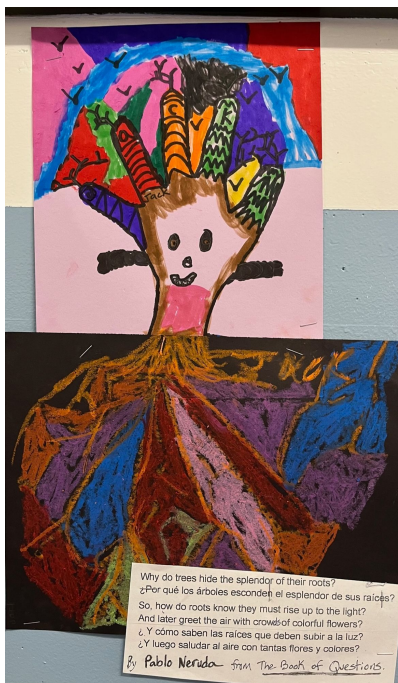
### Levels I and II

During October, Levels I and II were busy honoring Hispanic Heritage month. From lessons in Spanish classes to highlighting the achievements of Hispanic people to lessons within the traditional classroom as well as an interdepartmental project between the art department and the Spanish department we have been off to a great start. In Level I the Spanish and Art department collaborated for Hispanic Heritage month by reading excerpts from the "Questions of Life" by Neruda (Chile) discussing and creating art work as they reflected his questions. It is interesting to see how children reflect on deep questions and put their thoughts into works of art.

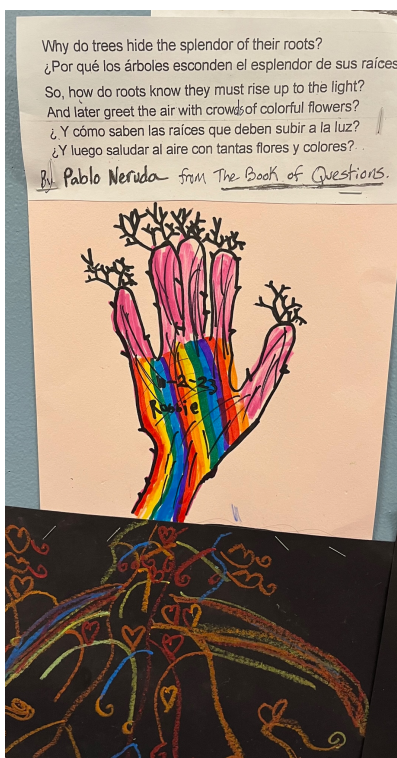


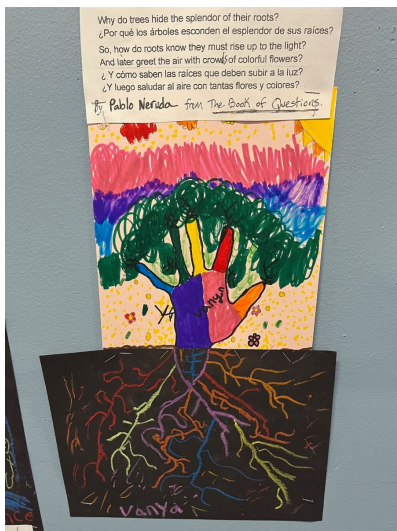
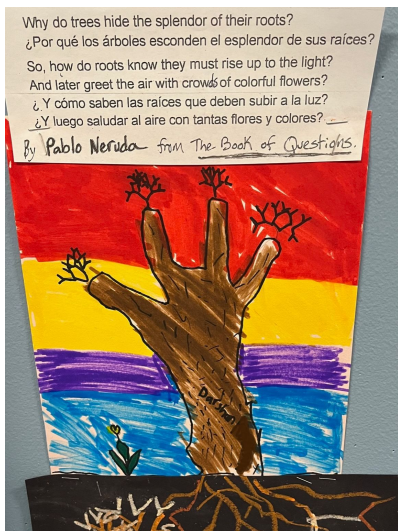
Arianna Guzman, her 2nd grade teacher Niekisha Whitman and Marion the Level I Spanish teacher twinning in their Frida Kahlo t-shirts holding the Frida doll Niekisha crocheted.

Attached are some pictures of their work displayed around the school from when students contemplated the questions "Why do trees hide the splendor of their roots? So, how do roots know they must rise up the light? And later greet the air with crowds of colorful flowers?" The ease in which our students and faculty embrace Hispanic Heritage month clearly demonstrates these lessons go beyond the classroom and month and are incorporating them organically into our daily life. It is exciting to see students and teachers don t-shirts honoring Frida (Mexico), reading books on the "Questions of Life" by Neruda (Chile), even making homemade dolls to use in our classrooms and beyond. The natural way students just grab a beautifully illustrated book by Monica Brown (Peru), proudly wear t-shirts honoring people of Hispanic descent and listen to the popular mainstream beats of Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Mexico demonstrate we are making progress to embrace people for who they are on the inside and what they have to the world.



Students studying Hispanic Heritage display their art throughout the school.





**Athletics and Extracurricular Activities**

**Afterschool Enrichment Program**  
*Levels II and III*

**SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**SSCPS AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

**SESSION 1**

GRADES 3-6

NOV 6, 2023 - DEC 22, 2023

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

TIME: 3:15 - 4:15 PM

**SESSION 1 CLUBS:**

**MONDAY**

- SPORTS AND PLAYTIME CLUB
- CRAFTY CREATORS CLUB
- ART CLUB
- THEATRE CLUB

**WEDNESDAY**

- STORY ILLUSTRATORS CLUB
- THEATRE CLUB
- WEB WARRIORS: CODING AND LOGIC GAMES CLUB
- SPORTS AND PLAYTIME CLUB
- PAINTING PIONEERS CLUB
- YOGA AND QIGONG CLUB

**SESSION 2**  
 COMING SOON!

GET READY FOR MORE EXCITING AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SESSION 2!  
 KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR UPCOMING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLASSES AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS.  
 WE CAN'T WAIT TO SPARK YOUR CHILD'S CURIOSITY AND INSPIRE A LIFELONG PASSION FOR LEARNING.

CONTACT NADEEN SULLIVAN  
 PHONE: 781-982-4302 EXT. 356  
 EMAIL: NSULLIVAN@SSCPS.ORG



BC Splash is a program where middle and high school students can take classes taught by Boston College Students. This semester, we have classes on everything from the history of the Vietnam War to Surfing 101. The program is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore their interests and have a great day on the Boston College campus. This semester, the program will take place on **Sunday, November 19th, from 10 am - 3 pm**, and lunch will be provided. We would love it if you could share this information with your students, teachers, and parents. You can register by visiting our website at <https://bcsplash.learningu.org> or using the QR code in the poster below.

## What's New in Projects and Workshops

### Level I Projects

Carrot Day has been a tradition at SSCPS for many years. Like so many things, the pandemic altered the usual planting and harvesting seasons as we had known them.





Students pulling, scrubbing and enjoying carrots on Carrot Day, 2023

This past spring, carrots were planted by first grade co-teachers Nikiesha Whitman and June Fontaine's first grade students in the Garden Project. The first crop didn't fare too well, due to all the rain, so a second crop was planted in early summer, along with tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant and peppers. Students delighted in harvesting these crops when they came back to school in late August. They knew the rule of the carrots though; they were not to be harvested until after the first frost, as the cold converts the starches to sugar, making them sweet and delicious. Last week we got that first frost and so on Friday, the second grade students in Nikiesha's pod who had planted the carrots, helped the first grade "neighbors" to pull these orange jewels. Watching the students work together was truly gratifying. After scrubbing them on Monday, the students enjoyed the carrots during snack time today. A good 95% of the class ate them! And several had more at lunch time.





Here's hoping that the delicious sweetness of these "frost-kissed" carrots will give them a taste and desire to enjoy this nutritious vegetable in the future. Next year, we plan to plant many more carrot seeds so that a larger community can enjoy Carrot Day together.

The garden offers a peaceful place to sit and relax, eat your lunch, or merely take a few moments to breathe in the heady aroma of mint or wild arugula. If the weather is good, please feel welcome here.





The Cultural Diversity Workshop presents

**COAT DRIVE**

[November 6th 2023 - January 7th 2024]

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](#)

### **TODAY:** National Honor Society Hosting Blood Drive

National Honor Society is hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday, November 8th, from 11:00-4:00 in the public space at 700 Longwater Drive, in front of the faculty bathrooms. Please consider donating and helping us give back to the community. [Here is the link](#) to sign up. Just type in our zip code or the date to find our drive.



**American Red Cross**



**NORWELL COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE**

**SPONSORED BY SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**

700 LONGWATER DRIVE, NORWELL MA 02061

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2023,**  
**11:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

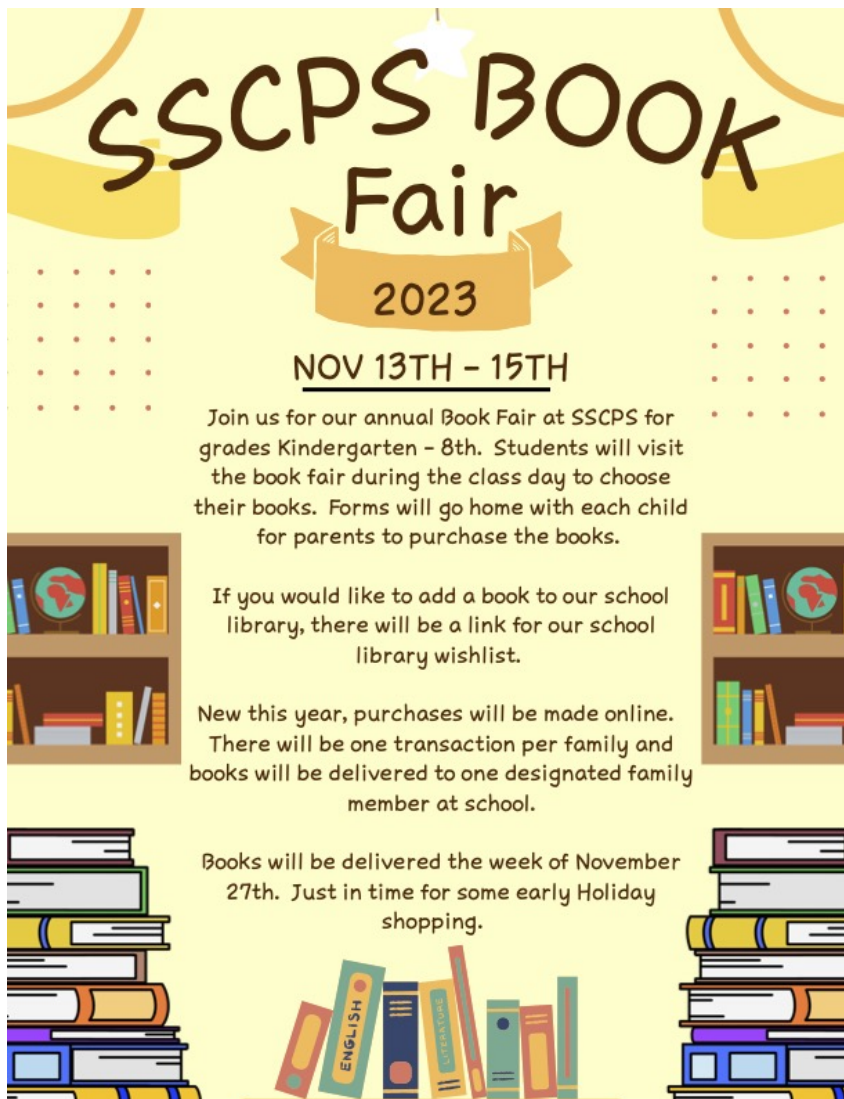
PLEASE CALL 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) OR VISIT REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG AND ENTER NORWELL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

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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### Upcoming Events

A colorful poster for the SSCPS Book Fair 2023. The background is yellow with decorative elements like dotted patterns and bookshelves. The title 'SSCPS BOOK Fair' is written in a large, playful font, with '2023' on a ribbon below it. The dates 'NOV 13TH - 15TH' are underlined. The text describes the event for grades Kindergarten to 8th, mentioning that forms will go home for parents to purchase books. It also notes that books will be added to the school library via a wishlist and that purchases will be made online, with one transaction per family and books delivered to a designated family member at school. Finally, it states that books will be delivered the week of November 27th, just in time for early holiday shopping. The poster is decorated with illustrations of bookshelves and stacks of books.

### Parent Association and SEPAC

**TODAY!**



## 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

Students entering K, 4th, 7th and 12th grade are required to submit a current physical form that is less than 13 months old. All students planning on participating in sports must have a current physical submitted to the health office and uploaded to the SchoolID website when registering the student to participate in sports. Students who do not have a current physical form on file will not be allowed to try out or participate in any sports programs.

<https://students.arbitersports.com/organizations/sscps-athletics>

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

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

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Jaime Kjelgaard, RN (K-8th)

[jkjelgaard@sscps.org](mailto:jkjelgaard@sscps.org), x104

Barbara Folan, RN (High School)

[bfolan@sscps.org](mailto:bfolan@sscps.org) x 182



### Weekly Calendar

Wednesday	11/08	NHS hosting Blood Drive at 700 Main Lobby	11:00 am-4:00pm
Wednesday	11/08	SEPAC Meeting via Zoom – email <a href="mailto:sepac@sscps.org">sepac@sscps.org</a>	7:00pm
Thursday	11/09	MCAS ELA Retest	
Thursday	11/09	Board of Trustees Personnel Committee Governance Committee Finance Committee Development Committee All meetings held at 700 Longwater Drive and via <a href="#">Zoom</a>	7:30pm 5:30pm 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm
Friday	11/10	Veterans Day Observed – No School	
Mon-Wed	11/13-11/15	Book Fair at 100 Longwater Circle	
Tues-Wed	11/14-11/15	MCAS Math Retest	

### 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](#)

### Important Links

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

- [Afterschool Enrichment Program](#)
- [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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