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Weekly Update | October 25, 2023

Vol. 10 Issue 4

A Message from Michelle

Dear Parents,

You've probably heard this question countless times: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" It's a question we ask our kids from a young age, and it continues all the way through high school. It's heartwarming to see their imaginative answers when they're little because they're still discovering the world. Their choices are influenced by their knowledge and exposure to the world.



High School Students Explore Careers in Law Enforcement

As our children grow, the question takes on a more practical tone in high school. They become young adults with interests that are maturing and often are forced to begin narrowing down their options. They start to think about things like, "What will I study in college?" or "What if college isn't for me?" These are important questions they have to face.

Our students with disabilities have a unique path. Transition Planning begins at age 14 and is part of their IEPs to help them prepare for the future. For those with mild disabilities, their path is often similar to other students. But those with more complex challenges need extra support, and so do their parents as they explore post-high school options.

This is where "self-determination" comes in as a big deal. Studies have shown that students who can make decisions for themselves are more likely to find jobs and earn more money, even if they have learning or cognitive disabilities (Field & Hoffman, 2002, Journal of Disability Policy Studies, 13, 113-118). Self-determination is a skill students must start learning early. It's as simple as letting them make choices and encouraging them to do so. We sometimes focus too much on telling them what to do. Focusing on teaching compliance sometimes leaves little room for empowerment in their formative years.

A self-determined person is someone who knows what they want. Knowing what you want leads to the ability to self-advocate, ask for help, and not be afraid to express your wants

and needs. Also tied into these concepts is disability awareness; a person must understand their own limitations and how to overcome obstacles. They must learn to find unique ways to go around the barriers that impede their journey.

These skills are something our students can learn. At the high school level, we have developed a class that teaches exactly these skills. Students are learning by doing. Recently, we took this class out into the community to make a purchase for a snack, and for some students, this task was hard. They were allowed to choose anything they wanted, and some of our students really struggled with that freedom.

Planning for life after high school for students with disabilities needs to start early. They need to figure out who they are, what they're good at, how their disability affects them, what they like, and what they want for the future. It's a journey that takes time, guidance, and a big effort from both students and parents.

As we think about our roles as parents and educators, let's consider the importance of helping our children become more independent. It's a gift that will give them confidence and strength as they become adults. By letting them make choices, stand up for themselves, and overcome challenges, we're giving them the skills they need to reach their goals.

Michelle Gallagher

High School Learning Services Coordinator

LITERACY LANE

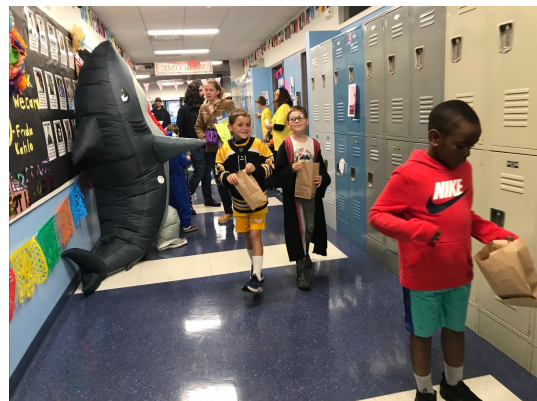


Thanks for joining us at Literacy Lane!

On behalf of the South Shore Charter Public School, we'd like to thank everyone who participated in and attended Literacy Lane last Saturday. We had a wonderful turnout of over 250 guests and saw some amazing literary displays, costumes, and performances! We are grateful to all of student and family volunteers who made the day one of adventure.

Special thanks to our event planners Mary Binda, Rachel Brodeur, and Elizabeth Sweeney. If you attended Literacy Lane, please take a few moments to complete this feedback survey. It will help us continue providing the best possible experiences and events for the SSCPS community!

TAKE THE SURVEY





PARENTS ASSOCIATION

TONIGHT: PARENTS ASSOCIATION UPCOMING FOCUS GROUP

Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds you in good spirits. As the Chair of our dedicated Board of Trustees and the help of Alisha Uhlenbrock Furst, I am thrilled to invite you to an important in-person focus group meeting aimed at revamping our parent association to make it more engaging and easier for everyone to participate in.

Date: Oct 25, 2023

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: 100 Longwater Circle (Level IV Great Room)

At our upcoming focus group meeting, we will gather to discuss and brainstorm ideas on how we can enhance the parent association experience for everyone involved. Your valuable input and insights are essential in shaping the future of our association, ensuring that it meets the needs and expectations of all parents.

During this session, we will focus on several key areas, including:

Identifying Challenges: What makes it hard to participate and how can parents spend more time being a part of the community?

Engaging Activities: Brainstorming fun and interactive activities that will encourage more parents to participate actively.

Effective Communication: Exploring new communication methods and platforms to keep everyone informed about upcoming events, meetings, and important updates.

Volunteer Opportunities: Identifying volunteer roles and tasks that match different skill sets and time constraints, making it easier for everyone to contribute meaningfully.

Inclusivity: Discussing ways to ensure that every parent feels welcome and valued within our association, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Fundraising Strategies: Brainstorming creative and effective fundraising ideas to support our school and its various initiatives.

Your presence and input are highly valued. Diverse voices make for smarter choices! So mark your calendars and make every effort to attend this focus group meeting. Together, we can create a more vibrant, inclusive, and engaging parent association that benefits not only our children but also our entire school community.

If you have any specific topics or suggestions you would like to address during the meeting, please feel free to reply to reach out to me directly at jjuste@board.sscps.org. Your ideas are crucial in shaping our discussion.

I look forward to seeing you all there and working collaboratively to make our parent association the best it can be. Thank you for your continued support, and let's make a positive difference together!

Warm regards,

Jimmy Juste

Chair, SSCPS Board of Trustees

WHAT'S NEW IN PROJECTS AND WORKSHOPS

CULTURAL DIVERSITY WORKSHOP





To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15th to Oct. 15th, students researched Hispanic Cultural Games and brought the games over to teach students in the lower level. Students met with Amy and Darlene's classes.





High School: School Store Workshop

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

SSCPS SCHOOL APPAREL

VISIT FROM THE NORWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT



Students on Levels I & II at the South Shore Charter Public School were visited this week by firefighters from the Norwell Fire Department. As part of National Fire Prevention Month, students were reminded about what to do in the event of a fire both at school and at home. The students reviewed strategies such as "Get Out, Stay Out," "Stop, Drop & Roll," and the importance of a Meeting Spot at both school and home. As a culmination of this month, The Norwell Fire Department is inviting everyone to an Open House event this Sunday, October 29th from 11am-2pm. Please see the flyer for more information.



LEVEL III PUMPKIN CARVING



90 pumpkins were carved by Level III students this week! These transformed pumpkins will be used to line a woody trail at the New England Wildlife Center (NEWC) in Weymouth for their [Night of a Thousand Faces](#) event on Friday, 10/27 and Saturday, 10/28. Pumpkins of all sizes were donated by Super Stop & Shop in Pembroke, WalMart in Halifax, and the NEWC (who received them from a local farm). This event has been a community outreach between Level III and the NEWC for more than 10 years. Last week, in teams of 2-3, students planned ahead by collaborating on their design and strategy as part of their Advisory program. Thank you to all of Level III for participating and to Wayne Heuer and Dave Griffith for their help.









MASSACHUSETTS STEM WEEK



5th grade students in Krista's Math class had their turn during STEM week to create marble runs. On Friday, students were given paper, tape, scissors and one marble to create the longest marble run course. Students worked in groups of 3 or 4 to complete this challenge. Students were engaged and had a lot of fun with this project!



AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



Dear Families,

Unlock your child's potential with our dynamic afterschool enrichment program, tailored for students in grades 3-6! Our engaging activities and expert instructors provide the perfect

blend of learning and fun. Your child will have the opportunity to explore their interests, develop new skills and make lasting friendships in a safe and supportive environment. By offering students a range of enrichment classes, they can grow their skills and improve their social emotional learning. The program will run throughout the year in 3 sessions. Session I runs from November 6th - December 22nd 2023 on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please note that there are limited spots available. If your student is not selected for Session I, there will be other opportunities to attend an enrichment class in Sessions II and III.

Enroll today to spark your child's curiosity and inspire a lifelong passion for learning!

Please find a description of the enrichment clubs running during Session 1 [here](#) on our website. Use [this form](#) to register your child.

We are excited to get started!

Sincerely,

Nadeen

nsullivan@sscps.org

ATHLETICS

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY



Photo Credit: Instagram Account @sscps_sports

Excellent season for the Cross Country team! The high school boys finished third overall with assistance from the middle school boys. The high school girls finished second overall and took home some hardware with assistance from the middle school girls!

Wishing the middle school cross country team well as they compete this weekend for the championship!



Photo Credit: Instagram Account @sscps_sports

VOLLEYBALL

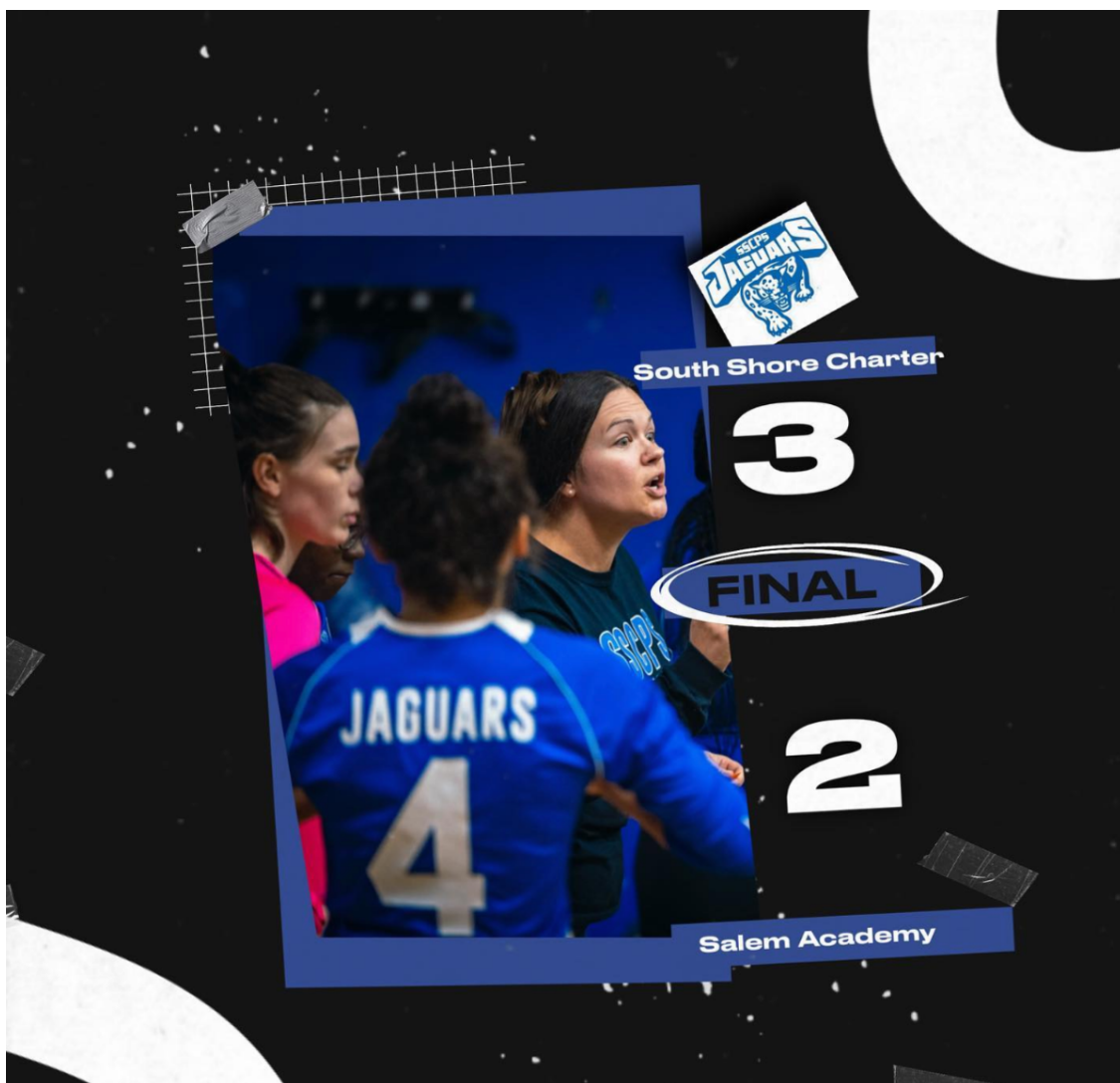


Photo Credit: Instagram Account @sscps_sports

Monday night, the Jaguars beat Salem Charter in Salem in the quarter-final round of MCSAO playoffs. It was a hard-fought, incredible match to witness.

The scores were as follows:

Set 1: 25-17 Salem

Set 2: 25-20 SSCPS

Set 3: 25-15 SSCPS

Set 4: 25-19 Salem

Set 5: 15-7 SSCPS

Highlights include:

Aditi S. - 16 made serves, 3 aces, 14 attacks, and 6 kills

Gabby L. - 17 made serves, 2 aces, 1 huge block, and 3 digs

Raeven C. - 17 made serves, 3 aces, 8 attacks and 5 kills (one of those spikes being the

game winning spike!)

Amira H. - 7 mades serves, 3 aces, and 4 digs

Emily H. - 14 mades erves, 4 aces, and 3 digs



SOCCER

After a hard-fought 3-2 win at Wareham High last night, the girls' soccer team is back at it today in the MCSAO playoffs at home against Salem Academy Charter. The game kicks off at 2:30 at Union Point in Weymouth.

Come cheer on the Jaguars in their upcoming games:

Wednesday | October 25, 2023

Varsity Girls Soccer v. Salem Academy (Home) 2:30 pm **Union Point Sports Complex**

#GoJaguars 🐾🐾

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](#)

National Honor Society Hosting Blood Drive



**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

© 2023 THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS

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.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Public Safety Open House

Including Norwell Fire,
Police, DPW and CERT

Join us for: pizza, popcorn, an auto extrication demonstration, the smoke trailer and NFD T-Shirts!



Fun for everyone!

Open House 10/29/23 11am-2pm
Norwell Fire Headquarters 300 Washington St Norwell

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](#)

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

If your student takes prescription medication during the school day, including epipens or inhalers, the medication will need to be dropped off to the school nurse by an adult. Medication cannot be sent on the bus with students. All medication needs to be accompanied by a prescription medication form. Your doctor may fill out their own medication form, an Asthma Action Plan, Allergy Action Plan, or the school's [Prescription Drug Form](#). No medication can be accepted without the proper paperwork. Parents/guardians will also need to sign the form to give permission for medication to be administered in school. Students can not bring in over the counter medication. All medication needed at school must be held in the Health Office and have the proper paperwork in order for it to be administered at school.

If your student is planning on playing a school sport in the fall they must have a current physical dated within the past 13 months. Students who do not have a current physical will not be allowed to try out or participate in sports. You may submit health forms to:

K-8: Jaime Kjelgaard, RN Jkjelgaard@sscps.org 781-982-4202 x 104

High School: Barbara Folan, RN Bfolan@sscps.org 781-982-4202 x 182

Fax: 781-982-4201

Students entering K, 4th, 7th & 10th grade must submit current physical forms and vaccine records.

The K through 8 school is a **peanut/nut free** building. Please make sure you do not send your child to school with any food that contains peanuts or nuts or the label reads “may contain nuts or traces of nuts”. Caffeinated beverages are not allowed in the elementary school. Please send your student to school with a reusable water bottle as the school does not provide water bottles. Level 1 students should have a full change of weather appropriate clothes that is kept at school.

Please reach out to your school nurse and teacher if your student is sick. Students who have vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever of 100 or above need to remain out of school until the symptoms or fever have resolved for 24 hours. If your student has strep throat, conjunctivitis or any other contagious illness they will need to remain out until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours. Students who develop any of these symptoms during the school day will need to be picked up from school promptly. Please make sure your contact information with the school is up to date. Absences can be reported to attendance@sscps.org.

If your student tests positive for COVID-19 please reach out to your school nurse so it can be determined when your student is able to return to school. Thank you!

--

Jaime Kjelgaard

SSCPS School Nurse

THE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Weds-Thurs	10/25- 10/26	Fire Safety continues for Grades K-4 with Norwell Fire Department	
Wednesday	10/25	Parents Association Focus Group at 100 Longwater Circle	6:30pm
Wednesday	10/25	Development Committee Meeting at 99 Restaurant, 29 Accord Drive, Rockland	7:45pm
Wednesday	11/01	Executive Committee Meeting at 100 Longwater Circle	9:00am
Thursday	11/02	1st Quarter Ends for Grades 5-12	
Thursday	11/02	Enrollment Open House at 100 Longwater Circle and 700 Longwater Drive	5:00-7:00pm
Friday	11/03	School Picture Retake Day	

Friday	11/03	Professional Development Early Release	12:00pm
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IMPORTANT LINKS

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

- [Back-to-School Information](#)
- [Food Services](#)
- [Health Office](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance](#)
- [Community Service](#)
- **Visit the [Parents Association Website](#)**

School Documents:

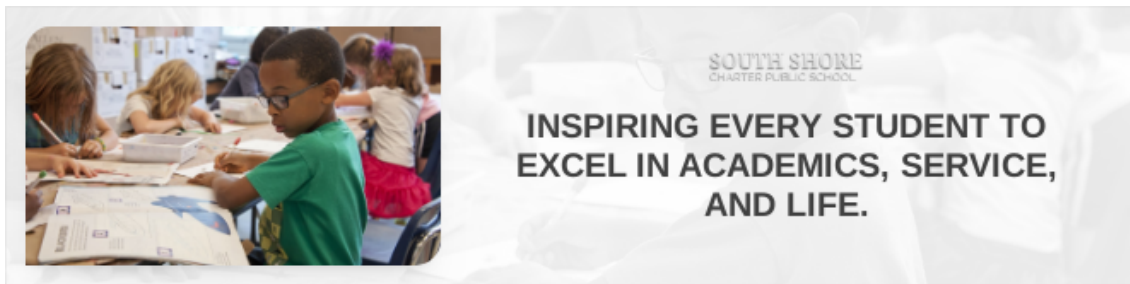
2023-2024 School Calendar

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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