

Weekly Update | December 11, 2024

Vol. 12 Issue 2

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Table of Contents:

- A Message from Angie
- School Calendar & Announcements
- <u>Upcoming School & Community Events</u>
- Celebrating 30 Years of SSCPS
- What's New in Projects & Workshops
- On the Levels
- Afterschool Enrichment Program 2024-2025
- Community Service
- From the SSCPS Board of Trustees
- Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC
- Health Office
- From the Foundation
- <u>Important Links</u>

A Message from Angie

The days in the race to the holiday break are full of activity and excitement. While teaching and learning continues, December events provide students with an opportunity to showcase their hard work, celebrate with their classmates, and build community as 2024 draws to a close. This morning, our K-2 students sang their hearts out as they performed songs that they have worked on during this first part of the year at their winter concert. Next week we will hold two performing ensemble concerts: one for the Choir, Beginning Band, Beginning Strings, and Intermediate Strings groups on Tuesday, and a second concert for the Concert Band, Concert Strings, and High School Music Workshop groups

on Wednesday. Both of these concerts will take place at Hingham High School beginning at 6:00pm.

Thanks to the hard work of volunteers from the Parents Association, tomorrow our students at 100 Longwater Circle will celebrate the success of the Raise Craze fundraiser with a dance party recess. This was the first year that the Parents Association has run this fundraiser and it has proven to be an incredible success with over \$22,000 raised to support field trip transportation, student enrichment activities, and other Parent Association initiatives. Thank you to everyone who participated; by volunteering, by helping their children to register, by encouraging acts of kindness, and by donating. Dawn Whitney and Rachel Brodeur, Raise Craze parent organizers, deserve a huge thank you for the incredible effort that they put into the fundraiser to help make it a success. Their hard work has made this possible despite the short timeline. We truly appreciate their dedication and commitment.



Volunteers will play another important role next Friday when we host our annual Craft Day, a tradition for SSCPS students in grades K-6. On Craft Day students have the opportunity to make a variety of crafts that volunteers from our community provide and monitor. Students will be able to visit different classrooms with friends from across their Level to complete crafts that are setup in each classroom. This eagerly awaited event is only possible because of the willingness of families to come in and help. Thank you to all of the parents who have committed and completed the volunteer paperwork. We already have 62 parents and 15 high school students registered to volunteer. In this case more is more, so

we are still looking for volunteers. If you are interested in participating, please sign up **here**. If you are unable to volunteer but are willing to donate the materials needed to complete a craft there is a place on the form to indicate this. We are looking for enough materials for approximately 50 students for each craft.

Friday families will have the opportunity to discuss student achievement to this point in the year during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Families with children in grades K-4 should schedule appointments directly with their children's teachers. Families with children in grades 5-12 should use the appointment system at https://sscps.schoolappointments.com/ to schedule conferences. Please note that the conference portal closes tonight at 11pm. This allows our teachers the time that they need in order to prepare for parent meetings.

I hope that all of you find time to relax, rest, and celebrate with family and friends over the break. I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2025! As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Angie Pepin Principal, K-12

School Calendar & Announcements



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 NO SCHOOL

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Click here for the complete SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar



SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Important Reminder for High School Students/Families

The Homecoming Dance on Thursday, December 12th has been cancelled. Refunds have been issued to all who purchased tickets.

Please feel free to reach out to Mary Carter at mcarter@sscps.org with any questions.

SSCPS Yearbooks On Sale Now!

Our SSCPS 2025 yearbooks are available to order now! Use the information below to order yours today.

Yearbook: Order Here

Code: 14917725

10% Off School Picture Orders!

CODE: F202410OFF *Expires July 31, 2025*

CLICK HERE TO REDEEM

Don't forget to order your FREE Digital SmileSafe card!

More about the Smilesafe program **here**.

Upcoming School & Community Events

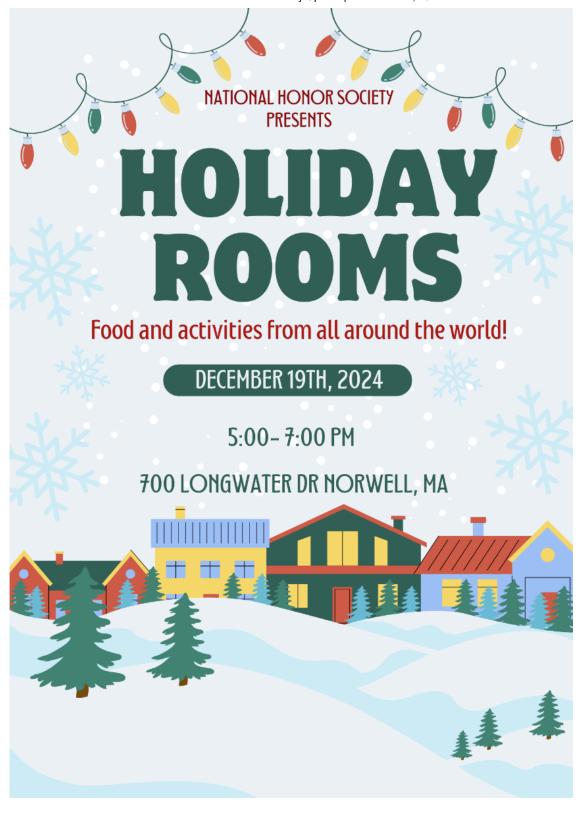
SSCPS Winter Concerts

December 11th, 17th, & 18th



NHS Holiday Rooms

December 19th



Friends of Holly Hill Farm Programs & Events



Celebrating 30 Years of SSCPS



For the last 30 years, South Shore Charter Public School has been a pillar of innovation, community, and academic excellence. This school year, as we celebrate this incredible milestone, we're reminded of the power of generosity in shaping our journey and strengthening our future. As we launch this year's 30th Anniversary Annual Fund Campaign, our goal is to raise \$50,000 and have 100% family participation. Donations will be collected through the remainder of the school year, and you can choose which department or area of SSCPS you'd like your donation to be put toward.

Every donations makes a difference, no matter the size. Help us celebrate 30 years of SSCPS and contribute to our future successes for 30 more years and beyond!

Make a Donation

What's New in Projects & Workshops

High School Cultural Diversity Workshop

The Cultural Diversity Workshop is holding a coat drive from now until January 5th! Please feel free to donate warm winter coats for children and adults - all sizes welcome.



Donate warm winter coats for children and adults

All sizes are welcome! Coats only, please.

Boxes are located in the front vestibule









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.











On the Levels

Community Service | Levels I and II

The students from Tracey's Pod (second grade) and Jenn's Pod (fourth grade) participated in a community service for Fr. Bill's & MainSpring in Quincy. Students decorated brown bags, wrote positive notes and made 100 lunches on Friday, December 6.





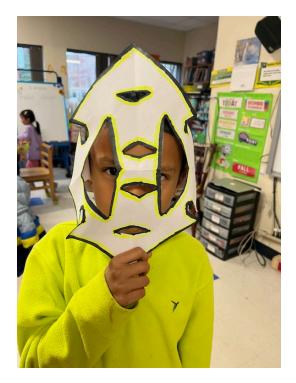




Winter Artwork | Level I

Pam Golden's first and second grade art students have enjoyed learning the process of creating 2-D colorful radial snowflake designs, eventually transforming their snowflakes into 3-D snowflake masks to wear!









Afterschool Enrichment Program 2024-2025

Register for Session II by December 13th!



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 using FamilyID.com. Registration closes on Friday, December 13th. We look forward to another great session of learning, adventure and fun! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

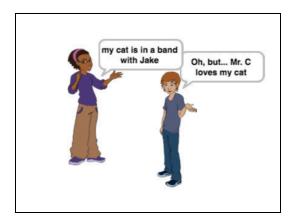
Warm regards,
Nadeen Sullivan
ASEP Coordinator

Technology and Coding Club

"Gossip - Making Programs Talk"

Students explored the exciting world of programming conversational interactions. Students worked on a lab where they programmed two sprites to have a dynamic conversation. Starting with a provided starter code, they explored ways to customize dialogue, timing, and interactions between the sprites. This hands-on activity encouraged creativity while teaching fundamental concepts of programming communication. It was a fun and interactive session that brought coding to life!

Students also brought their creativity to the forefront by designing their own Holiday Animation projects. Starting with a provided starter code, they customized their animations by adding unique costumes, backgrounds, and interactive elements to create festive, dynamic scenes. This project allowed them to showcase their creativity while reinforcing coding skills through designing personalized holiday-themed animations. The results were both impressive and celebratory!



Gossip - Making Programs Talk



Making Holiday Animation

Chemical Creations Club

Exploring Interactions Through Colorful Experiments

This week, we conducted two captivating experiments that combined science with vibrant visuals!

Experiment 1: "Rainbow Milk"

In this experiment, students added food coloring to a dish of milk and then dipped a coffee stirrer coated in dish soap into the mixture. The soap's dual nature—hydrophilic (waterloving) and hydrophobic (fat-loving)—caused the colors to swirl as it disrupted the milk's

surface tension and interacted with its fat and water. The result was a mesmerizing display of swirling colors as the soap mixed the pigments. Unfortunately, I didn't capture a photo of this experiment, but it's a simple and fascinating activity you can try at home!

Experiment 2: "Rainbow Rain"

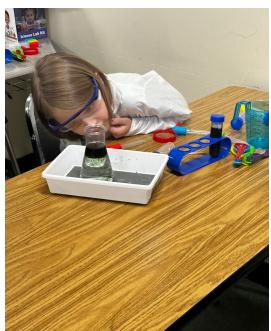
For our second experiment, students mixed food coloring with oil and then gently poured the colored oil into a container of water. Since oil is less dense than water and doesn't mix with it, the oil floated on top while the food coloring slowly diffused into the water. This created the beautiful effect of colorful "rain" falling through the water, much to the students' delight.

The students had a great time observing how different substances interact based on their unique properties.









Community Service

Submit Community Service Hours

If you've started your Community Service for the **2024-2025** school year, it's not too early to start recording those hours today!

Use the links below to submit your community service hours.

Level I Community Service Level II Community Service

<u>Level III Community Service</u> <u>Level IV Community Service</u>

High School Community Service

Cushing Annual Christmas Tree Sale

Sign up to volunteer with Cardinal Cushing Centers at their Annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale this season! Volunteers will help sell trees, wreaths, houseplants, student crafted holiday art, ornaments, and more. Be sure to wear or bring plenty of warm winter clothing as volunteers will be spending lots of time outdoors. Volunteers will also get hot cocoa, coffee, treats, and discounts on trees, wreaths, and more!

Location:

The Garden Shop (aka The Old Trader) at the Cushing Greenhouse,

120 Columbia Road, Hanover, MA 02339

Days & Hours

Thursdays: 2pm – 7pm

Fridays: 2pm - 8pm

Saturdays: 9am - 8pm

Sundays: 9am - 5pm

Closed: Monday – Wednesday

To sign up or learn more information, contact Eleanor using the button below.

SIGN UP & INFO

From the SSCPS Board of Trustees

Meeting Agendas & Reports

Below is the Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda for the month of December. You can find more information on the SSCPS Board of Trustees on our website **here**.

FY25 December Meeting Agenda

FY25 December ED Report

Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC

Parents Association



Level I & II Co-Chair Elections

Announcing Keisha O'Marde as our new Level I & II Co-Chair! As you may know, there are 3 Co-Chairs of the PA representing our student/parent population; Stephanie Innis represents Level III & IV, and Addy Olaoye represents Level V. Between the three Co-Chairs, they elect a single Chair of the Parents Association to represent all Parent/Guardians interest on the Board of Trustees. This is a big volunteer responsibility and essential to the health of our school, so please join us in congratulating Keisha on her win!

PA Elections Committee

Lisa Elwell (PA Secretary)
Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst (PA Member)

K-6 Craft Day Volunteer Sign Up

We are looking for volunteers to help with this year's Craft Day event on Friday, December 20th. If you are interested in volunteering on Craft Day please sign up here. We are asking volunteers to plan for a craft for about 50 students. **Due to the structure of the event, individuals may only register for one grade level.**

Anyone that volunteers at SSCPS must complete a CORI, complete volunteer training, take the volunteer quiz and be fingerprinted. Please plan ahead and get your paperwork completed as soon as possible if you plan to come in and volunteer

on Craft Day. This sign up will close on Friday, December 13th to allow us time to plan. Thank you for your consideration. We are all looking forward to this year's Craft Day!

CRAFT DAY SIGN-UP

Other Ways to Get Engaged in Our School Community

Did you know there is more than one way to get engaged in our school community? Visit the PA website <u>Parent Volunteer Opportunities</u> page to learn more about the following three way you can get engaged:

- 1. Search through <u>parent volunteer opportunities list</u> This dynamic list houses one-time and ongoing volunteering opportunities at the school.
- 2. Join a PA Committee Email the PA if you want to join one of our standing committees including Outreach, Events, and Fundraising PAatSSCPS@gmail.com
- 3. Join the **SSCPS Connect** Database SSCPS Connect is a community engagement platform that connects the skills, talents and expertise of our community members to our school's faculty, staff, and community leaders to support our mission to "Inspire students to excel in academics, service, and life." Through a comprehensive survey, we gather how individuals want to contribute, allowing school leaders to easily search and connect to the resources that exist right here in our community.

PA Website Quick Links

SSCPS Parent Directory Update

We are pleased to announce that the Parent Directory is now active on our <u>PlusPortals</u> website. The Parent Directory provides families with a means to connect with other SSCPS families. In order to be listed in the Parent Directory, you must opt-in. Information will not be shared without your consent.

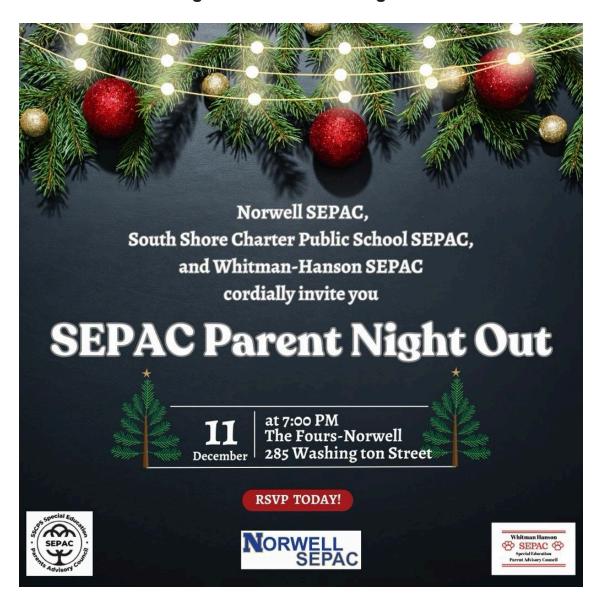
The first step is to activate your <u>PlusPortals</u> account. If your account is not yet activated you should have received activation instructions in a separate email.

Next, click on your name and choose "Directory Listing."

From this page, select the information that you would like shared with the community.

Please find detailed instructions here.

SEPACTonight: SEPAC Parent Night Out!



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 new prescription medication form each year. 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. Please check expiration dates of medication before sending it in. Medication that expires during the school year will need to be replaced before it expires. Please reach out to your school nurse if you have any questions about medications.

K-8: Jaime Kjelgaard, RN jkjelgaard@sspcs.org 781-982-4202 x104

High School: Barbara Folan, RN <u>bfolan@sscps.org</u> 781-982-4201 x 182

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 of the start of the sports season. 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.

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.

Level I students should have a full change of weather appropriate clothes that is kept at school.

From the Foundation



SOUTH SHORE CHARTER EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

We encourage all to participate in our Annual Fund Giving Campaign by donating through the form below. We appreciate your continued support!

Donate Here

Important Links

Protect Your K-12 School-Issued Device!





South Shore Charter Public School has chosen Worth Ave. Group as the insurance provider for school devices. To opt into the Voluntary Group Program click **here**.

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website <u>www.sscps.org</u>.

1. Afterschool Enrichment Program

2. DESE Student Attendance Letter Translated:

Arabic, Cape Verdean

Creole, Chinese, Haitian

Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnames

<u>e</u>

- 3. Back-to-School Information
- 4. Food Services
- 5. Health Office
- 6. <u>Massachusetts Department of</u>
 <u>Transitional Assistance</u>
- 7. Community Service
- 8. Visit the **Parents Association Website**

School Documents

2024-2025 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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