



Weekly Update | February 26, 2025

Vol. 2 Issue 3

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A Message from Michelle

"It takes a village to raise a child." — African Proverb

I'm excited to share some inspiring updates from our High School Learning Services Department—a true testament to the fact that it takes a village to support every student's journey.

At SSCPS, we see this village in action every day. It's in the way our Learning Services and

general education teachers work together to adapt lessons that meet each student's needs. It's in the small but impactful moments—when a paraprofessional quietly encourages a student to take a brave step toward independence, when a nurse provides the care that allows a student to focus on learning, and when a related service provider helps build the skills that open doors to new opportunities. The work of our entire staff, from classroom teachers to behind-the-scenes support professionals, creates the foundation that allows our students to grow, thrive, and step confidently into their futures.

Beyond our school doors, we are fortunate to have a growing number of supportive partners working with us to help our “village” expand. We are grateful to Best Buddies, Mass Hire, and Easterseals for all they provide for our students!

Expanding Friendships and Career Readiness

Our Best Buddies program continues to be a cornerstone of these efforts. Through pre-employment classes and our daily Workshop, the Best Buddies Friendship Program, students are not only gaining critical job skills but also developing the kind of friendships that foster confidence and a sense of belonging. These connections remind us that education isn't just about academics—it's about preparing students for the relationships, responsibilities, and resilience they'll need in life beyond high school.

Building Pathways into the Trades

We are also thrilled to provide new opportunities for seniors looking to enter the trades. Through a valuable partnership with Mass Hire and South Shore Technical, students interested in hands-on careers now have access to a training program that introduces them to skilled trades. Thanks to the continued support of Mass Hire, a grant has made it possible to fund the extras that truly make a difference for our students, helping to ensure that financial barriers don't stand in the way of their success. The collaboration between our school and industry partners reinforces the idea that it truly takes a network of people working together to provide meaningful opportunities for every student.

Hands-On Learning Beyond the Classroom

This fall, our transition students experienced a unique and powerful learning opportunity at the Bridge Center, run by Easterseals. Working with horses, they learned firsthand about teamwork, responsibility, and perseverance. These lessons extend far beyond the barn—the confidence, patience, and communication skills gained through this program will serve them well in any career path they choose.

A College Experience for Our Students

Looking ahead, our village is growing even wider. We are excited that our transition students have been invited to a special College Day event at Bridgewater State University

on Thursday, March 27th. This event, hosted by our Transitions and Friendship Teams, is specifically designed for students with disabilities considering college. With campus tours led by our Friendship chapter members, interactive workshops with BSU representatives, and inspiring guest speakers, students will gain insight into the college experience in a way that feels welcoming, accessible, and exciting.

The saying “it takes a village” couldn’t be more true. Every success, every new opportunity, and every step forward for our students happens because of the incredible teamwork, commitment, and care within our SSCPS community. We are grateful for every teacher, service provider, and community partner who plays a role in supporting our students, and we thank you—our families—for being part of this journey with us. Together, we are shaping bright futures for every student, and we can’t wait to see what comes next.

Michelle Gallagher

High School Learning Services Coordinator

School Calendar & Announcements



Celebrating Black History Month at SSCPS

February is Black History Month, and at South Shore Charter Public School, we are proud to honor and celebrate the rich history, achievements, and contributions of Black individuals throughout history and today. Throughout the month, students and staff will engage in a variety of activities, discussions, and lessons that highlight Black excellence, resilience, and culture. We hope that through these activities our school community will come together to learn, reflect, and celebrate.

At SSCPS, we recognize that Black history is an essential part of American history, and we know that embracing diverse perspectives adds to the strength and richness of our school. This month and every month we remain committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment where all people are seen, valued, heard and celebrated.

Please join us in honoring Black history and continuing to learn, grow, and uplift one another. On Thursday, February 27th, 2025 at 6:00pm, SSCPS will be hosting Diaspora Night to highlight the Black cultures at our school.

Sheina Prince-Eugene

[Click here for the complete SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar](#)

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR

FEB 26 - MAR 05

Wed 26

Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom - 9AM

Level IV Healthy You Project to Gillette

Grade 4 New England Wildlife Program

Thu 27

JJ Facey Spirit Day

African Diaspora Night at 100 Longwater - 6-7:30PM


Fri 28

Library Committee Meeting - 11:45AM


2025-2026 Enrollment Application Deadline

2025-2026 Intent to Return Deadline

Sat/Sun



Mon 03



Tue 04

Board of Trustees Committee Meetings via Zoom - 5-7:30PM

Wed 05

Grade 4 New England Wildlife Program

School Council Meeting via Zoom - 4:30PM

Upcoming

March 07 - Enrollment Lottery

March 10-11 - Strategic Planning Family Focus Groups

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

JJ FACEY SPIRIT DAY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

FUNDRAISING: Until May 2nd

JJ FACEY SPIRIT DAY: February 27th

SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS: April 2025

VOTING: May 2025

PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS: Graduation 2025

SSCPS will be celebrating Spirit Day in honor of JJ Facey on February 27th. South Shore Charter Public School will also raise money until May 2nd for a scholarship to be awarded to two senior students who embody the characteristics of JJ Facey: Sportsmanship, Character, & Respect.

The SSCPS School Store will be matching donations up to \$150, and all proceeds from purchases made from the Long Live JJ shop will be put towards the scholarships as well.

Click the button below to visit the shop and help support JJ's life and legacy.

Long Live JJ Shop



From the Foundation

The JJ Facey SSCPS Scholarship



South Shore Charter Public School will raise money until May 2nd for a scholarship to be awarded to two senior students who embody the characteristics of JJ Facey: Sportsmanship, Character, and Respect.

JJ was a consummate leader. JJ would often offer advice to his fellow students, join the principal for discussions with students, and raise the confidence of his teammates on and off the field. He is still helping his fellow students, but in a different way now: by funding their dreams in honor of his name.

We are seeking donations to provide two scholarships. Please donate using the button below. *All receipts will be generated electronically and can be used for Tax purposes for non-profit donations.*

[SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS](#)

Upcoming School & Community Events

African Diaspora Night

Thursday, February 27th

Grade 8 Fundraising Opportunities

Eighth graders at South Shore Charter are raising money to help fund our field trips and group activities at the end of this year! We have two field trips coming up: one to Washington D.C. and one to Boston, and we'd love your support.

A number of local restaurants and businesses have upcoming fundraising opportunities in March and April that can help support our initiatives, from dining out or ordering from certain restaurants to spending time at activity centers with the family! Click on the flyers below for more details.

For any questions, please contact Kristen Mullin-Connolly at kconnolly@sscps.org

Pi Day Eve at SSCPS

Friends of Holly Hill Farm Programs & Events



Register Now!

Winter Programs ... on the Farm

Plus February and March vacation
week programs coming soon too!



Tiered pricing means you
pay at the level that works
best for your family.
Reduced prices included!



scan here

hollyhillfarm.org/winter-sessions

Voted
BEST OF THE SOUTH SHORE
2023 & 2024
Summer Programs

Friends of Holly Hill Farm
236 Jerusalem Road, Cohasset, MA
781-383-6565

Mornings Ages 3 - 5

January 7 - March 28, 2025*
9:30 - 11:00AM

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays

Sign up for one day or a few!

Sign up for a 9-week session bundle and save!
(9-week bundle meets on same day of week for 9 weeks)

Members receive a discount!

Afterschool Sessions Ages 6 - 12

10-weeks session*
January 7 - March 28, 2025*
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Sessions meet one afternoon per week for 10 weeks*

Mondays - Healthy Cooking*
Tuesdays - Outdoor Exploration & Creation
Wednesdays - Winter Farming
Thursdays - Winter Farm Building & Innovation

*No sessions 1/20, 2/17-2/21, 3/10-3/14, (3/17-21 no mornings)
Healthy Cooking afterschool program meets for 9-weeks.



Friends of Holly Hill Farm
236 Jerusalem Road, Cohasset, MA
781-383-6565

Register Now!

February Vacation on the Farm

Members receive a discount!

February 17 - 21, 2025

Cooking Syrup

Monday, February 17

ages 3-5
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm

Tuesday, February 18

ages 6-8
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm



Farm Animals

Monday, February 17

ages 6-8
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm

Friday, February 21

ages 3-5
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm



Winter in the Woods

Tuesday, February 18

ages 3-5
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm



Compost Creatures

Wednesday, February 19

ages 3-5
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm



Magical Creatures

Wednesday, February 19

ages 6-8
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm



Thursday, February 20

ages 3-5
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm



Adventures in Winter

Scavenger Hunt

Thursday, February 20

ages 6-8
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm

Shelters

Friday, February 21

ages 6-8
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:45 - 3:45 pm

Tiered and reduced pricing available!

hollyhillfarm.org/february-vacation-1

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](#).

Celebrating 30 Years of SSCPS

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Est. 1995

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



On the Levels

Valentine's Day Dance

A huge shout out to the Level IV Student Council for hosting an incredible Valentine's Day Dance! With support from Level III & IV staff chaperones, the night was filled with music, dancing, a festive photo wall, balloons, pizza, and plenty of snacks—all making for an unforgettable event.

Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen and to all who attended for bringing the energy and fun!

Black Student Union

BSU Promotes Representation Through Storytelling

On Thursday, February 13th, members of the Black Student Union visited K-2 classrooms to read books that celebrate diversity and representation in literature. Through engaging stories and vibrant illustrations, the high school students helped foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Black culture, history, and contributions. This initiative not only inspired a love for reading among young learners but also highlighted the power of inclusive storytelling and the need to foster meaningful connections between students of all ages.



SSCPS Best Buddies

The Best Buddies program fosters inclusion, friendship, and leadership for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It helps students build meaningful connections, develop social skills, and create a culture of kindness at SSCPS.

This Valentine's Day, our Best Buddies students celebrated kindness, love, and friendship by meeting their buddies to discuss what these values look like at SSCPS. They then enjoyed a balloon and dance party and created heartfelt cards for their buddies and teachers they appreciate.

It was a fantastic morning of inclusion and joy!

P.E. Department Fundraiser

Use the button below to visit our fundraising website and learn more about the Kids Heart Challenge run by P.E. Teacher Heather Brems!

[Learn More](#)



Time to get your ducks in a row!



Our annual **Kids Heart Challenge** is coming soon.

Join our "Quack Pack" by registering today and receive this year's Heart-Hero wristband!



What's New in Projects & Workshops

Level III Community Service Project

Click the message or button below to support the Level III Community Service Project!

Hello SSCPS Community,

"The Level III Community Service Project is planning a trip to the local nursing home to host a craft day and we need your help. We would be so grateful if you could help us purchase an item from our [Amazon Wish List](#). All the elderly would be so grateful to wake up on Valentine's Day morning and have a bunch of crafts to do to brighten their day."

Sincerely,
The SSCPS Community Service Project



[Visit the Wishlist](#)

Afterschool Enrichment Program 2024-2025

Kickboxing Class

Our kickboxing students have been making great progress, refining their technique and building confidence with each session! They've been practicing a variety of punches—jabs, crosses, hooks, and uppercuts—along with powerful front and back kicks, plus inside and outside crescent kicks. This week, they've been focusing on combining these moves into fluid, strategic combinations using partners and focus mitts. The energy is high, and the improvements are noticeable as students continue to develop strength, coordination, and precision. Keep up the great work!

STEAM Dream Team

STEAM DREAM TEAM enrichment students kicked off the afternoon with an exciting engineering challenge - designing and testing floating prototypes to see which could hold the most weight without taking on water. After sharing their creations and discussing their designs, we shifted gears for some hands-on creativity.

The rest of our time was spent making charm bracelets and crafting magic wands using chopsticks, beads, cupcake liners, and pipe cleaners—all while enjoying some enthusiastic karaoke!

Community Service

Community Service Opportunities

Need help finding a community service opportunity? Below is a link to our regularly updated Community Service Table filled with CS opportunities around the South Shore. Descriptions of organizations, contact information, and more are included.

Community Service Table

Interfaith Bunny Basket Program

Support the Interfaith Bunny Basket Program by contributing to their Amazon Wishlist or by making a general donation - use the buttons below to support the cause!

[AMAZON WISHLIST](#)

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

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](#)

[Level III Community Service](#)

[Level IV Community Service](#)

[High School Community Service](#)

From the SSCPS Board of Trustees

Below is the Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda for the month of March. You can find more information on the SSCPS Board of Trustees on our website [here](#).

FY25 March Meeting Agenda

Health Office

In the coming weeks, the Health Office will be starting screenings for vision, hearing, weight, and heights. These screenings are based on grades. **If you would like to exempt your student from any or all of these screenings please email:**

K-8: Jaime Kjelgaard (Jkjelgaard@sscps.org)

High School: Barbara Folan (Bfolan@sscps.org)

Exemptions must be done annually.

Please remember if your student has a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or an infectious illness (such as strep throat) they need to remain out of school. Students with a fever need to remain home until they are fever free with no medication for 24 hours. Vomiting and diarrhea needs to be resolved for a full 24 hours before returning to school. Students with an infectious illness need to stay out until symptoms have resolved or they have completed a full 24 hours of antibiotics.

Students go outside for recess in most weather. Please make sure that students have proper clothing to be outside. Students should also have a refillable water bottle daily.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to reach out to the Health Offices.

781-982-4202

Jaime Kjelgaard, RN - K-8 building (x104)

Barbara Folan, RN - High School building (x182)

Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC

Parents Association



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 [Parent Volunteer Opportunities](#) page to learn more about the following three way you can get engaged:

1. Search through [parent volunteer opportunities list](#) – 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 [PlusPortals](#) 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 [PlusPortals](#) 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](#).

Important Links

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

School Documents

- 1. [Afterschool Enrichment Program](#)
- 2. [DESE Student Attendance Letter Translated: \(Arabic, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese\)](#)
- 3. [Back-to-School Information](#)
- 4. [Food Services](#)
- 5. [Health Office](#)
- 6. [Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance](#)
- 7. [Community Service](#)
- 8. Visit the [Parents Association Website](#)

[2024-2025 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)
[SSCPS By-Laws](#)

Next Year: [Updated 2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

Protect Your K-12 School-Issued Device!

WORTH AVE. GROUP
Application valid for 2024-2025 school year

Protect Your K-12 School-Issued Device
Avoid costly repairs and replacements with comprehensive protection.

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
NORWELL, MA

Unlimited Claims, Accidental Damage, Cracked Screens, Spills & Liquid Submersion, Fire, Flood & Natural Disasters, Power Surge by Lightning, Vandalism, Theft

NOT Covered: Manufacturer Defect & Mechanical Failure, Cosmetic Damage, Wear & Tear, and Unexplained Loss.

Device	Coverage	Deductible	Price
ACER/LENOVO/SAMSUNG CHROMEBOOK	Device	\$0.00	\$19.00

Policy Term:
08.29.2024 - 08.29.2025

Deadline to purchase coverage: SUNDAY 10.06.2024
To purchase please visit:
<https://gpo.worthavegroup.com/southshorecps>

Customer Support: Phone: (800) 620-2885, Hours: Mon-Sun 9am-5pm M-F CST, Online Chat: www.worthavegroup.com

50+ Years in Business, **Leader in K-12 Device Insurance**, **Backed by an "A" Rated Underwriter**, **Fully Licensed Insurance Agent**

Worth Ave. Group P.O. Box 2077 Stillwater, OK 74076 | www.worthavegroup.com | (800) 620-2885

WORTH AVE. GROUP
Solicitud válida para el año escolar 2024-2025

Proteja su dispositivo escolar
Evite reparos y reemplazos costosos con una protección completa.

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
NORWELL, MA

Reclamos Ilimitados, Daños accidentales, Pantallas rotas, Derrames y salpicaduras líquidas, Fuego, inundación y desastres naturales, Sobrecarga de energía por relámpago, Vandalismo, Robo

No se cubre: Defecto del fabricante y falla mecánica, daños cosméticos, desgaste normal, o pérdida inexplicable.

Dispositivo	Cobertura	Deductible	Precio
ACER/LENOVO/SAMSUNG CHROMEBOOK	Device	\$0.00	\$19.00

Plazo de la póliza:
29.08.2024 - 29.08.2025

Fecha límite para comprar cobertura: DOMINGO 06.10.2024
Para comprar, visite:
<https://gpo.worthavegroup.com/southshorecps>

Atención al cliente: Teléfono: (800) 620-2885, Horas: 9a.m.-5p.m. L-V CST, Chat en línea: www.worthavegroup.com

50+ años en el negocio, **Líder en seguros de dispositivos K-12**, **Respaldo por un asegurador calificado "A"**, **Agente de seguros con licencia completa**

Worth Ave. Group P.O. Box 2077 Stillwater, OK 74076 | www.worthavegroup.com | (800) 620-2885

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](#).

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

INSPIRING EVERY STUDENT TO EXCEL IN ACADEMICS, SERVICE, AND LIFE.



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