

Vol. 1 Issue 1

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A Message from Alicia

Happy New Year! With much to look forward to and much to be proud of, life at South Shore Charter continues to reflect the values our school community has held true for thirty years. We ended 2024 with three impressive Winter Concerts, fabulous art and door decorating, community building festivities, and the perennial celebration for students in grades K-6 which we all love: Craft Day. This annual tradition at South Shore Charter comes to life because of the time and talent contributed by our family volunteers and dedicated faculty and staff. A tremendous thank you to all families and friends who volunteered and donated art supplies for Craft Day.

As these January days gradually lengthen, so too does the gratitude for all that our school

community continues to accomplish together. This year we continue to focus on community service and the importance of service to others. Community service aligns with our school's mission and with who students are as individuals. Many of us will be participating in a day of service on January 20, 2025 in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. By actively participating in community service, students go beyond the realm of academics and the school campus to show what they know in practical and meaningful ways. Through service, our students learn the immeasurable value of contributing to the well-being of others and develop a sense of responsibility for something collectively great. We see so much in our students through community service, empathy, leadership, and a commitment to making a positive impact on the world.

"I learned that I shouldn't spend even a second not being grateful for what I have. When looking at homeless people, sometimes people see the bad... When I got to Boston the people we saw in Boston were just broken in the end. Nobody deserves that to happen to them. When we first met some people they seemed closed off and cold, but when they realized that we just wanted to give them food, they felt more comfortable and ended up talking to us. They just wanted someone to talk to."

~ ANNMARIE MUTURI, GRADE 11

Over the past few months, students have been working hard throughout their communities and reflecting on their experiences. Many of our students participated in the wonderful Raise Craze challenge in November. Year round, students have been recording their community service hours and reflecting on the importance of this work. It has been wonderful to read about our students as they work within their communities to make a difference. Whether it's volunteering at a public library, cleaning and cooking for the homeless, or helping an elderly neighbor garden, we remain perpetually proud of our students and all they have achieved in service and in life. "[I] Wrote positive messages to senior citizens in cards. Designed each card by hand and wrote motivating and positive messages for each. I included drawings and pictures to add the aspect of positivity and happiness."

~ ASTER COLLINS, GRADE 11

January is also that time of year when we ask our families about their South Shore Charter experience. The SSCPS Annual Family Survey is a pivotal tool to gain family insight. Over the past five years, family participation in the survey has been strong. Last year, participation in the Annual Family Survey reached an all-time high. We received survey results from 309 out of 688 families, boosting our response rate to 45%. We hope to achieve and surpass that high level of engagement this year. **We are asking each SSCPS family to participate in the survey** by reflecting on the first half of the academic year, as well as your overall SSCPS experience, to provide data essential to our institutional development.

Your feedback is invaluable as we strive for continuous improvement and work to provide the best possible educational experience for our students. Data collected from the survey is annually reviewed by the Instructional Leadership Team, the faculty and staff, and by the SSCPS Board of Trustees to assess key measures defining student achievement, institutional strength, and areas of growth. It is in this way that data collected will not only inform day-to-day enhancements, but will also play a crucial role in planning for the future.

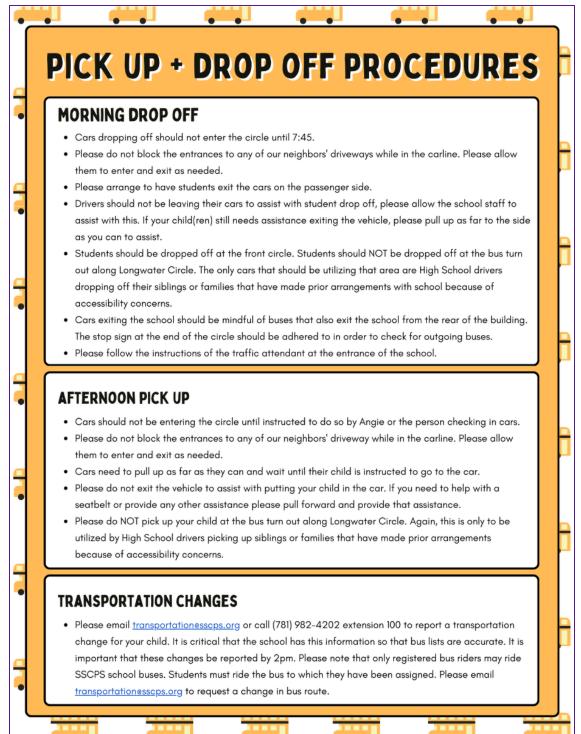
Below please find a link to the SSCPS 2024 Annual Family Survey. To ensure we capture as many perspectives as possible, we request the participation of every SSCPS family by Friday, February 14, 2025. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes.

Thank you for reading and for your ongoing commitment to the South Shore Charter Public School.

Alicia Savage Executive Director

Important Transportation Reminder Pick Up & Drop Off Procedures

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break and has had a smooth transition back into the school year. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone of a few of the arrival and departure procedures in place to keep everyone safe and move traffic along as best as possible. Thank you all for helping us make the drop off and pick up as safe and enjoyable as possible.



School Calendar & Announcements

Click here for the complete SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar



SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

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: F2024100FF *Expires July 31, 2025*

CLICK HERE TO REDEEM

Don't forget to order your FREE Digital SmileSafe card! More about the Smilesafe program <u>here</u>.

Upcoming School & Community Events

High School Winter Dance

Friday, January 31st



Buy Tickets

Friends of Holly Hill Farm Programs & Events



Easterseals Massachusetts Programs



The Bridge Center provides a wide range of programs year-round and welcomes individuals of all ages to enjoy enriching experiences and opportunities for growth. Visit our website to learn more about our <u>Recreation</u>, <u>Equine-Assisted</u> <u>Programs</u>, <u>Therapeutic Services</u>, and <u>Camp</u> opportunities.

We are excited about our lineup of fun Winter Programs and invite you to our Community Open House on January 7, 2025. Read below about our upcoming programs and events, our Participant and Volunteer of the Month, and...

Learn More

Celebrating 30 Years of SSCPS

CELEBRATING 3 YEARS

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

Handmade Winter Hats | Mariah's Pod

Pictured below: Molly and Mariah with students and their handmade winter hats. Students in Mariah's Pod designed their own winter hats on paper, and then Mariah hand-knitted each hat for every student!



NHS Holiday Rooms

Last month, NHS students hosted rooms that celebrated holidays around the world: Diwali, Omisoka, St. Lucia's Day, Yule, 3 King's Day, Winter Solstice, Chinese New Year, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas. They decorated, served food, and helped with crafts and activities in each room, like building wreath crowns, playing Dreidel, making paper lanterns, etc. We had students and adults from K-12 all enjoying the night!



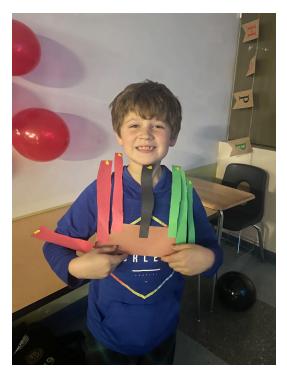
















Effective Effort Awards

Third graders that earned the Effective Effort Award for the month of December were Phallon Rohrick, Robbie Hall, Jeremiah Gonzalez, Cedric Augustin, Enelyn Fuentes, Matyas Grepl, Jasmine Ononiwu, Sebastian Grepl, Aaron Magarian, Naomi Emet, Jonathan Dickerman, and Maddie Crawford. These students not only showed effective effort in academics, but also displayed this month's character trait of joyfulness!



Afterschool Enrichment Program 2024-2025

Session II | January 21 - April 3



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

Level III Community Service

Level IV Community Service

High School Community Service

Community Service Opportunity for Randolph Students



Codman Square Health in partnership with the Town of Randolph and Randolph Public Schools has established а HEALTHY RANDOLPH COLLABORATIVE. Through a five-year grant from Children's Hospital Boston, the health equity initiative will focus on improving outcomes for Randolph young people and their families. Programs, services, goals and objectives will be informed in part by a council of Randolph youth ages 15-22 and adults. The council members will receive a small stipend for contributing 2-5 hours per month.

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 onetime 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 <u>PAatSSCPS@gmail.com</u>

3. Join the <u>SSCPS Connect</u> 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.

SEPAC



• Timelines, Resources and more!

Basic Rights: Transition Planning A Free Virtual Workshop for Parents and Professionals



About Your Host:

The SEPAC at South Shore Charter Public School in Norwell is hosting this virtual workshop. All are welcome.

Date: January 23, 2025

Time: 6:30pm Registration Link:

https://fcsn.org/event/south-shore-transition-plannin g/

For more information about the educational workshops available from The Federation for Children with Special Needs, please visit us at fcsn.org/ptic/workshops or email: workshops@fcsn.org

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. 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 bfolan@sscps.org 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 <u>Bfolan@sscps.org</u> 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 <u>attendance@sscps.org</u>.

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

Important Links

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted toSchool Documentsour website www.sscps.org.

 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

- 7. Community Service
- 8. Visit the Parents Association Website

2024-2025 School Calendar

Student and Family Handbook

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures SSCPS By-Laws

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 <u>here</u>.



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