

Vol. 11 Issue 4

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A Message from TC

Dear South Shore Charter Public School Parents and Guardians,

As we approach Thanksgiving, a season of gratitude and reflection, I encourage you to take a moment to think about your journey through high school and the exciting path ahead. The transition from high school to college is a pivotal time filled with opportunities and challenges. It's natural to feel a mix of excitement and anxiety as you consider the next steps in your education and personal growth.

College brings with it the promise of increased independence, diverse learning opportunities, valuable networking connections, and preparation for your future career. At the same time, it comes with its own set of challenges—adjusting to a new environment, managing time and responsibilities, balancing academics and social life, and navigating the financial aspects of higher education.

During this holiday break, I encourage you to reflect on what excites you most about this next chapter and what questions or concerns you might have. How do you see yourself preparing for this transition? What resources or support would help you feel more confident about your journey ahead?

As always, we are here to guide and support you as you take these important steps. Let's use this season of gratitude to consider how we can prepare together for the opportunities that lie ahead.

Shifting from high school to college can be an exciting and enriching experience, but it also comes with its own set of challenges. I would like to take a moment to emphasize the importance of reviewing scholarship information. Some might think this is solely a 12th grade matter however, I highly recommend Juniors start the process with their families as soon as possible. (As for 9th and 10th graders, this is a perfect opportunity for families to begin the conversation about transitioning to college.) Scholarships can significantly impact students' educational journey, and it is crucial that both parents and students are actively engaged in this process.

The pursuit of higher education can be a challenging and rewarding experience. However, the cost of college can be a significant burden on many families. Scholarships are an excellent way to alleviate some of the financial stress associated with higher education, and they can open doors to opportunities that might otherwise seem out of reach.

Here are some reasons why it is vital to review scholarship information with your child:

- Financial Assistance: Scholarships can provide financial support to cover tuition, books, housing, and other educational expenses. By exploring available scholarship opportunities, you can reduce the financial strain on your family and your child's future.
- Personal Growth: The process of researching, applying for, and winning scholarships can be a valuable learning experience. It encourages students to develop their organizational and communication skills, fosters a strong work ethic, and helps them set clear goals for their future.
- Career and Educational Opportunities: Scholarships can provide access to specific educational institutions, programs, or fields of study. This can lead to more significant opportunities for your child, aligning their education with their passions and career goals and aspirations.
- Reducing Student Loan Debt: The less your child has to rely on loans to fund their education, the more financially secure their future will be.

As parents and guardians, your guidance and involvement in the scholarship application process can make a significant difference. We encourage you to:

- Start Early: Begin searching for scholarships early in your child's high school journey, as some scholarships have specific eligibility requirements and deadlines.
- Communicate: Regularly discuss scholarship opportunities with your child, offering support, encouragement, and guidance throughout the application process.

- Stay Informed: Keep an eye on our school's website (<u>SSCPS</u>) and newsletters for scholarship updates and opportunities, as well as external resources such as scholarship databases (see below) and financial aid information.
- Seek Help: Our school's guidance counselors are available to provide guidance and assistance in the scholarship search and application process. Guidance Counselors are Mary Carter (<u>mcarter@sscps.org</u>) or Ahmenchi Estime (<u>aestime@sscps.org</u>).

We believe that by working together, we can help your child secure the resources they need to pursue their dreams and succeed in their academic and career pursuits. If you have any questions or need assistance in this process, please do not hesitate to reach out to our school's guidance counselors: Mary Carter (<u>mcarter@sscps.org</u>) or Ahminchie Estime (<u>aestime@sscps.org</u>).

Thank you for being an active partner in your child's education! Together, we can help them achieve their full potential and set them on a remarkable path to success.

Scholarship Application Tips:

- Meet all application deadlines: Use a calendar or planner, make a schedule, and stick to it. Missing a deadline, even by a day, may disqualify your application.
- Gather application materials early: Give yourself plenty of time to complete each step. Rushed applications may not be successful.
- Don't ignore small awards: Small scholarships can add up over time.
- Request letters of recommendation early: Give recommenders at least two weeks' notice. Follow up to ensure they submit their letters.
- Write a great essay: Carefully address the essay question(s) and use it to share personal insights. Edit for grammar and spelling.
- Sing your own praises: Highlight your achievements and activities that demonstrate leadership, initiative, persistence, and community involvement.
- Try, try again: Don't give up if you don't win a scholarship immediately. Save copies of your applications to avoid starting from scratch each time. Remember to APPLY, APPLY, and APPLY!

Feel free to explore these scholarship websites to find valuable scholarship opportunities:

- <u>SSCPS</u>
- Collegeboard.com (look for BigFuture Tab)
- <u>Scholarships.com</u>
- Fastweb.com
- <u>GoingMerry.com</u>
- Bold.org
- <u>MyScholly.com</u>
- <u>ScholarshipOwl.com</u>

Christophe Teulet-Cote High School Assistant Principal

School Calendar & Announcements

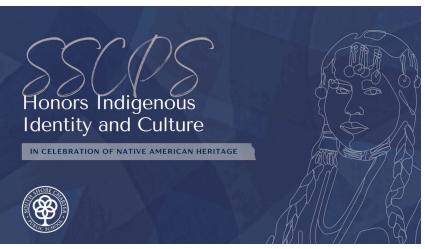


SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR NOV 27 - DEC 04				
Wed 27 Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom - 9AM Early Dismissal - 12PM	Thu 28 No School - Thanksgiving Break Happy Thanksgiving!	Fri 29 No School - Thanksgiving Break	Sat/Sun	
Mon 02	Tue 03 School Picture Retake Day Board Committee Meetings via Zoom - 5-7:30PM	Wed 04 High School Theater Workshop to The Company Theater, Norwell Ad Hoc Communication & Growth Committee Community Meeting via Zoom - 6:30PM	Upcoming December 5 - Board of Trustees Meeting December 11, 17, 18 - Winter Concerts	

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Reminder: Half Day & Thanksgiving Break





November is Native American Heritage Month—a time to honor and celebrate the rich histories, diverse cultures, and important contributions of Native American and Indigenous communities. At South Shore Charter Public School, we recognize the profound impact of Native American heritage on our country's history, arts, sciences, and values. This month, we invite students, staff, and families to join us in learning more about Indigenous cultures, traditions, and stories through classroom activities, discussions, and resources. Let's embrace this opportunity to broaden our understanding and show respect for the resilience and heritage of Native communities. Together, we ensure that SSCPS is a place that all are seen, heard and valued.

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>.

From the SSCPS Board of Trustees

Survey Feedback & Upcoming Meetings

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent Needs Assessment Survey. We are excited to share that 210 community members provided their valuable input.

- 18.6% were students
- 55.2% were guardian/parent/caretakers
- 19% were faculty and staff members

Your voices reflect a broad range of perspectives and levels of support, which are vital in shaping the future of our school community.

The Ad Hoc Communication Committee is currently taking the time to carefully review your feedback and identify key themes. We will share these themes with the community during

our upcoming meetings:

- New Date: Wednesday, December 4th: Virtual Meeting at 6:30PM via Zoom
- Monday, December 9th: In-Person Meeting at 6:30PM at 700 Longwater

These meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss the survey findings and hear from one another.

More details, including the Zoom link, will be shared soon. We deeply appreciate your engagement and look forward to your continued participation in this important process.

Warm regards,

Jimmy Juste Chair of the Board of Trustees

Meeting Agendas & Reports

Below is the Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda for the month of November. You can find more information on the SSCPS Board of Trustees on our website <u>here</u>.

FY25 November Meeting Agenda

FY25 November Executive Report

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

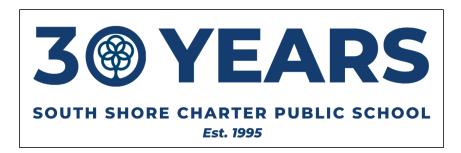
SSCPS Receives Creative Projects Grant

We are pleased to report that South Shore Charter Public School has received a grant of \$5,000.00 from the Mass Cultural Council for our Holly Hill Farm Program. As our families know, the Holly Hill Farm Project actively engages first and second graders in a comprehensive multi-grade initiative for students on Level I.

Students plant and hike on the farm, learning about water flow, animal nests, and trees. In addition to math, earth science, and ecology, this experiential learning parallels what they are reading and learning about within the new Wonders curriculum. This outdoor education program has provided students with ongoing opportunities inherent in outdoor education. Students learn life cycles by planting, including measuring, digging, placing, and covering seeds. Students learn how to garden, care for animals, and eat harvested food.

We are grateful for this support from MCC. The goal of this project is to increase experiential learning opportunities for students so that they are able to make real life connections with what they learn about in school to the world around them. South Shore Charter has increased the farm program at Holly Hill, added organic garden beds on campus, and continues to provide students with lessons on stewardship of the world. Receiving this grant from MCC is notably special as we celebrate our 30th anniversary. With this generous Creative Projects Grant from Mass Cultural Council, South Shore Charter will continue to provide hands-on, experiential learning opportunities for our youngest learners.





Keep your eyes out for our annual fundraising campaign beginning soon! If you'd like to make a general donation to support SSCPS, you can do so using the button below.

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.



On the Levels

A Day at the Races

Level IV students and teachers competed in a morning of health, fitness, and community building.





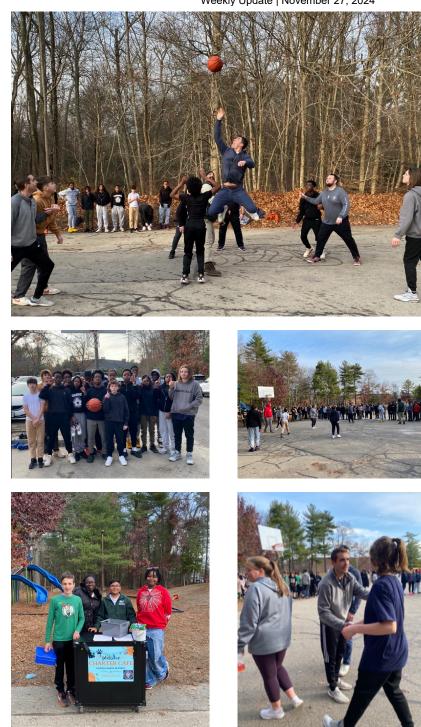
Grade 8 US Senate Field Trip

Last week, eighth graders took a field trip to Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate and participated in a simulated Senate session about election reform.



Level IV Students vs. Teachers Basketball Rematch

Level IV had their Student vs. Teacher Basketball Rematch this week. The students put up a good fight, but the teachers remained victorious after winning 36-29!





Arts & Music

SSCPS Concert Strings | Winter Festival Performance

The SSCPS Concert Strings group has been invited to perform at the Four Corners Winter Festival next month! This is a family friendly holiday event with chorus groups and dance schools performing, pictures with Santa, s'mores, food trucks, a gingerbread house contest, and more. Our Concert Strings students will be performing at 5:45pm. All information about the festival can be found below.



Afterschool Enrichment Program 2024-2025



Now Open: ASEP Session II

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 6th. 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

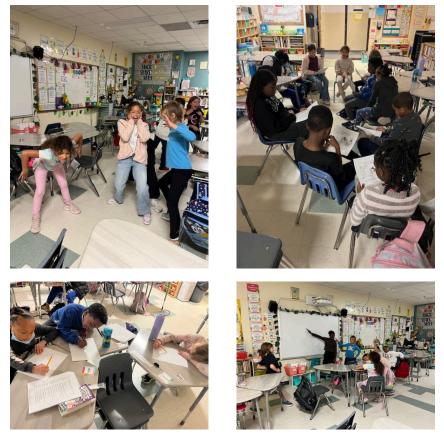
In Week 5, students built a Shopping List app that allows users to add, remove, and clear items from their list. This project demonstrated how many computer applications—such as contact lists, playlists, event calendars, maps, and reminders—rely on managing lists of information. Through this activity, students learned how lists can be searched, sorted, and updated, showcasing the fundamental principles behind many everyday apps.



Theatre Arts Club

In our Theatre Arts enrichment program, we have been focusing on different aspects of theater including script reading, script writing, costume design, set design, and improv! Students have been practicing reading lines as a group using Readers Theater and coming up with their own plays and scenes. Students are growing confident with performing by using improv and theater games. Students also got to get creative by designing costumes and sets for different plays. In the next few weeks, we will be focusing on rehearsing scripts and learning about stage directions.





Happy Thanksgiving from the Afterschool Enrichment Instructors!



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

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

Black Friday Hours

Nov 29th: 9am - 8pm

December 5th & Onward 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

Interfaith Holiday Sponsor Form

Each year, caring individuals, churches and businesses across the South Shore "adopt" some of Interfaith's food pantry client families as part of our Help for the Holidays program. They purchase gifts for children who would otherwise go without. Last year, nearly 900 children were assisted through this program.

If you would like to purchase gifts for children served by Interfaith Social Services' food

pantry, please fill out this form.

Please avoid donating clothing, tablets, gaming systems, computers, scooters or bikes.

LEARN MORE



Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC

Parents Association



Level I & II Co-Chair Elections

Attention all Level I & II Parents: Elections are underway for Levels I & II Co-Chair position. Since only Level I or II parents can vote in this special election, we need to hear from you. The voting period will be open through December 1st with the winner being announced on December 2nd. Please vote today using this link: <u>PA November Election</u> <u>Ballot</u>

If you have any questions about the election process please, send us an email at <u>SSCPSPALeadership@gmail.com</u>.

Reminder: Our next PA meeting will be held on Tuesday December 10th @ 7PM. Please join us on Zoom.

PA Elections Committee Lisa Elwell (PA Secretary) Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst

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 <u>here</u>. 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:

 Search through <u>parent volunteer opportunities list</u> – This dynamic list houses onetime and ongoing volunteering opportunities at the school.

 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

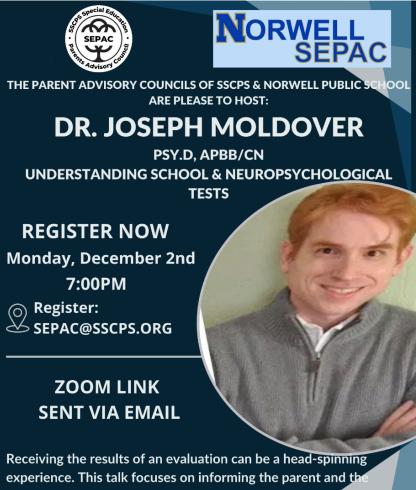
activated you should have received activation instructions in a separate email.

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



experience. This talk focuses on informing the parent and the "consumer" of the evaluation, explaining the different types of evaluations, evaluators, tests, test results, and how they can be – but sometimes are not – useful.



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 <u>Jkjelgaard@sscps.org</u> 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.

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 <u>here</u>.

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website <u>www.sscps.org</u> .	School Documents
 Afterschool Enrichment Program DESE Student Attendance Letter Translated: Arabic, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnames 8 Back-to-School Information Food Services 	2024-2025 School Calendar Student and Family Handbook Arrival and Dismissal Procedures SSCPS By-Laws

- 5. Health Office
- 6. <u>Massachusetts Department of</u> <u>Transitional Assistance</u>
- 7. Community Service
- 8. Visit the Parents Association Website



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