



Weekly Update | November 6, 2024

Vol. 11 Issue 1

[View this email in your browser](#)

Table of Contents:

- [A Message from Angie](#)
- [From the SSCPS Board of Trustees](#)
- [School Calendar & Announcements](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Celebrating 30 Years of SSCPS](#)
- [On the Levels](#)
- [Afterschool Enrichment Program 2024-2025](#)
- [Community Service](#)
- [Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC](#)
- [Health Office](#)
- [From the Foundation](#)
- [Important Links](#)

A Message from Angie

Last week saw the end of the first quarter for students in grades 5-12. Student report cards will be emailed home later this week. The trimester for students in grades 1-4 will close in two short weeks and Parent-Teacher Conferences to discuss student progress will take place in December for all grades. Details about the conferences and how to schedule appointments will be shared around Thanksgiving. These reports and meetings provide families with important feedback on the important work taking place in classrooms across our campus.

While our teachers and students are working hard across grades and subjects, early literacy initiatives have been especially important in our work to improve outcomes for all students in recent months. We have been lucky to receive grant funding that has facilitated a deep examination of our curriculum, systems of assessment, strategies for intervention, and instructional practices. Teachers and the leadership team have used this information to make changes that allow us to meet the needs of all our students. This work has been especially busy in the area of K-2 foundational literacy skills.

Our school is in the second year of implementation of a literacy action plan written through our participation in the [Lead for Literacy](#) grant during the 2022-2023 school year. The action plan places a comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum for all students that prioritizes systematic phonics instruction at its core. The steps outlined in the plan ensure that all Kindergarten through second grade students at South Shore Charter Public School engage in explicit reading instruction that includes phonological awareness, phonics, print concepts, spelling, and writing. Students apply the skills they learn to reading a variety of texts that move methodically from simple to complex. Oral language surrounds and supports all literacy instruction and the approach is multisensory, culturally responsive, and differentiated.

Executing an early literacy curriculum that meets these requirements is a weighty task that requires a great deal of careful planning and specialized expertise. Students on Level I have a teaching team that puts in that time, isn't afraid of hard work, and brings incredible skill to the implementation of this critical foundational curriculum. We have had the opportunity to enhance their expertise and support their planning with targeted professional development across different aspects of literacy instruction.

Central to the implementation of the literacy plan is the adoption of a new tier 1 reading curriculum, [Wonders 2023](#), for grades K-4. Teachers are continuing the work of implementation which began prior to the close of the 2022-2023 school year with two full days of professional development to prepare teachers for the shift. We followed this work with two additional professional development days over the course of last school year. In year two teachers are refining the curriculum and working to integrate the additional phonics and phonemic awareness elements that are central to effective literacy instruction.

This year our K-2 teachers are participating in the [Appleseeds Materials and Professional Development Grant](#) to support strong phonics instruction for all early childhood students. The Appleseeds curriculum is a revised edition of the Core Knowledge Language Arts Skills curriculum that our teachers have used for over a decade. Participation in the grant has provided us with new versions of the materials, professional development for teachers tailored to needs determined through classroom visits and data

analysis, and extensive professional development for school leaders to support implementation.

Literacy instruction on Level I is highly informed by data. Students participate in [DIBELS 8](#) assessments three times a year and struggling students are followed more closely through progressing monitoring that is embedded in the system. This data allows teachers to create groups and targeted lessons to meet the needs of students. Much of this specialized instruction occurs during FIT time and in literacy centers that are incorporated into the literacy block. Last spring SSCPS received grant funding to support professional development to guide teacher learning focused on the tools embedded in the assessment system. This professional learning has helped teachers plan to support students through targeted small group instruction.

We paired the new curriculum with scheduling changes that extended the literacy block for all students in grades K-4. Over the course of last school year, teachers worked collaboratively by grade level with the support of Kristen Gale, our literacy coordinator, to design a literacy block with the appropriate balance of phonemic awareness through [Heggerty](#), direct phonics instruction, and reading comprehension. This balance shifted throughout the year in response to data. This year teachers were able to hit the ground running with planning informed by their first run through the curriculum.

Literacy instruction at SSCPS is designed to support all students, including our English Language Learners and students with disabilities. Designing supports is integral to the lesson planning process. This year a team of K-4 teachers will be attending the Massachusetts Dyslexia Institute with grant funding. The institute will offer our team the opportunity to develop a Dyslexia Action Plan. The plan will identify general and special education structures and supports to meet the needs of students at risk of poor reading outcomes, including students at risk of dyslexia.

Through a strong, data-informed literacy program, our teachers are creating a foundation for reading success in the early grades that sets the stage for high academic achievement as students continue in their academic careers. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Angie Pepin
Executive Director

From the SSCPS Board of Trustees

Dear School Community/Parents and Guardians/Stakeholders,

I am reaching out on behalf of the Board of Trustees to share important updates and considerations regarding a potential expansion of enrollment at SSCPS. This proposal would allow us to welcome an additional 225 students to our school community, allowing us to provide high-quality, accessible education to a diverse group of learners. We believe it is important to approach this decision with transparency and to keep you, our valued community members, informed of both the potential benefits and challenges.

Potential Benefits of Enrollment Expansion

1. **Space Needs:** There is an increasing need for more space for both students and teachers, which could be alleviated by expansion.
2. **Increased Diversity and Enhanced Learning Environment:** Expanding enrollment offers the opportunity to welcome new students from varied backgrounds, bringing fresh perspectives that enrich our school culture and support a more dynamic, inclusive learning experience for all.
3. **Broader Range of Programs and Services:** A larger student body can support the growth of specialized programs, extracurricular activities, and resources that might otherwise be limited. We anticipate that with expanded enrollment, we can offer more robust options in arts, athletics, advanced academics, and other areas that contribute to well-rounded student development.
4. **Enhanced Facilities and Resources:** The expansion may allow us to invest in upgraded facilities, technology that benefit every student. With more students, we can apply for larger grants and explore new funding sources, making it possible to further develop our campus and resources.
5. **Greater Community Engagement and Partnerships:** Welcoming new families fosters stronger ties with local organizations, businesses, and stakeholders, creating partnerships that support the school and surrounding community. An expanded network offers mutual benefit.

Considerations and Potential Challenges

1. **Impact on Class Sizes and Individual Attention:** While we aim to maintain our commitment to small class sizes, an increase in enrollment may require adjustments in classroom structure. To preserve the quality of education, we are considering ways to manage these changes, such as hiring additional qualified teachers and support staff.
2. **Resource Allocation and Budgetary Considerations:** Expanding enrollment means we will need to assess and potentially upgrade our physical space, from classrooms

to common areas, to accommodate a larger student body comfortably. This will require a significant financial commitment.

3. School Culture and Community Balance: A significant increase in enrollment can bring changes to our close-knit community feel. Families value the strong relationships between students, staff, and families.
4. Strategic Decision: Even if expansion is financially feasible, the board must consider whether acquiring the entirety of 700 Longwater is the right strategic decision for SSCPS.

Your Input is Vital

This potential enrollment expansion represents an exciting growth opportunity for SSCPS, but it also requires thoughtful consideration of financial viability, stakeholder impact, and the strategic alignment with the school's long-term goals. We are committed to making decisions that best serve our current and future students, staff, and families. To that end, we value your insights and feedback. In the coming weeks, we will hold open forums and send out surveys to gather your thoughts on this proposal.

Thank you for your continued support, and for being an essential part of SSCPS. We look forward to working together to shape the future of our school and ensure it remains a place where every student can thrive. In the meantime, stakeholders can find a truncated [memorandum](#) outlining the considerations of the BOT in the link.

Warm regards,

Jimmy Juste

Chair, Board of Trustees

South Shore Charter Public School

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 [here](#).

FY25 November Meeting Agenda

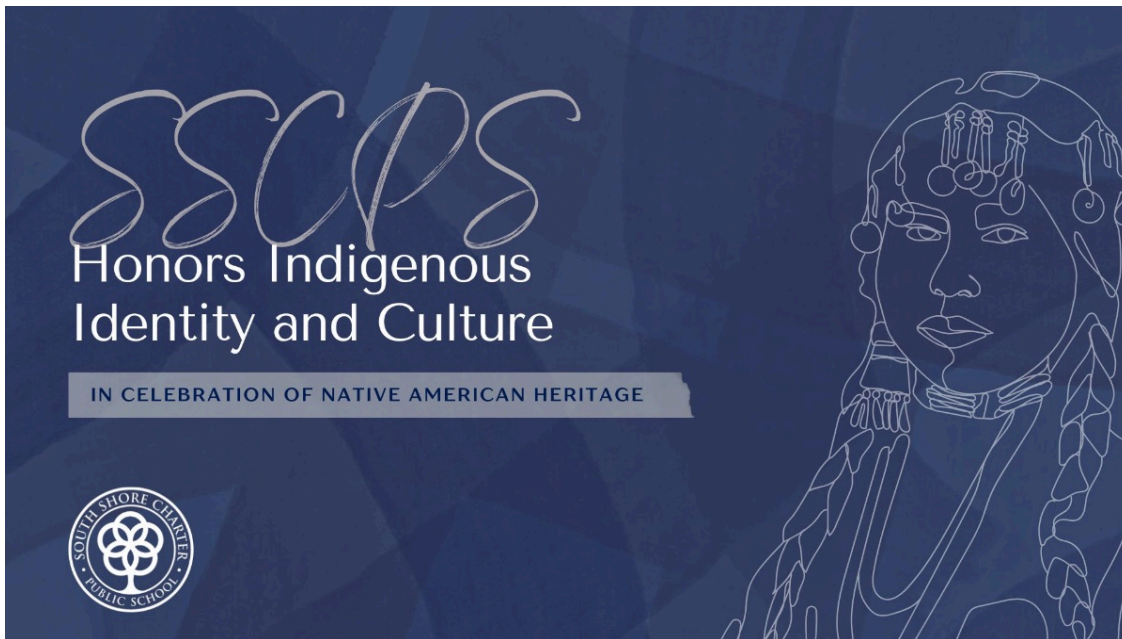
School Calendar & Announcements

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

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR NOV 06 - NOV 13

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Wed 06</p> <p>MCAS ELA Retest</p> <p>BoT Ad Hoc Field Trip Committee via Zoom - 12:25PM</p> | <p>Thu 07</p> <p>MCAS ELA Retest</p> <p>Board of Trustees Meeting at 700 Longwater Drive and via Zoom - 5:30PM</p> | <p>Fri 08</p> | <p>Sat/Sun</p> |
| <p>Mon 11</p> <p>Veterans Day - No School</p> | <p>Tue 12</p> <p>K-8 Book Fair at 100 Longwater Circle</p> <p>MCAS Math Retest</p> <p>BoT Finance Committee via Zoom - 6:30PM</p> <p>Parents Association Meeting via Zoom - 7PM</p> | <p>Wed 13</p> <p>K-8 Book Fair at 100 Longwater Circle</p> <p>MCAS Math Retest</p> <p>Grade 3 to Plimoth Patuxet Museums</p> <p>SEPAC Meeting via Zoom - 6:30PM</p> | <p>Upcoming</p> <p>December 11, 17, 18 - Winter Concerts</p> |

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar



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.

School pictures are ready!

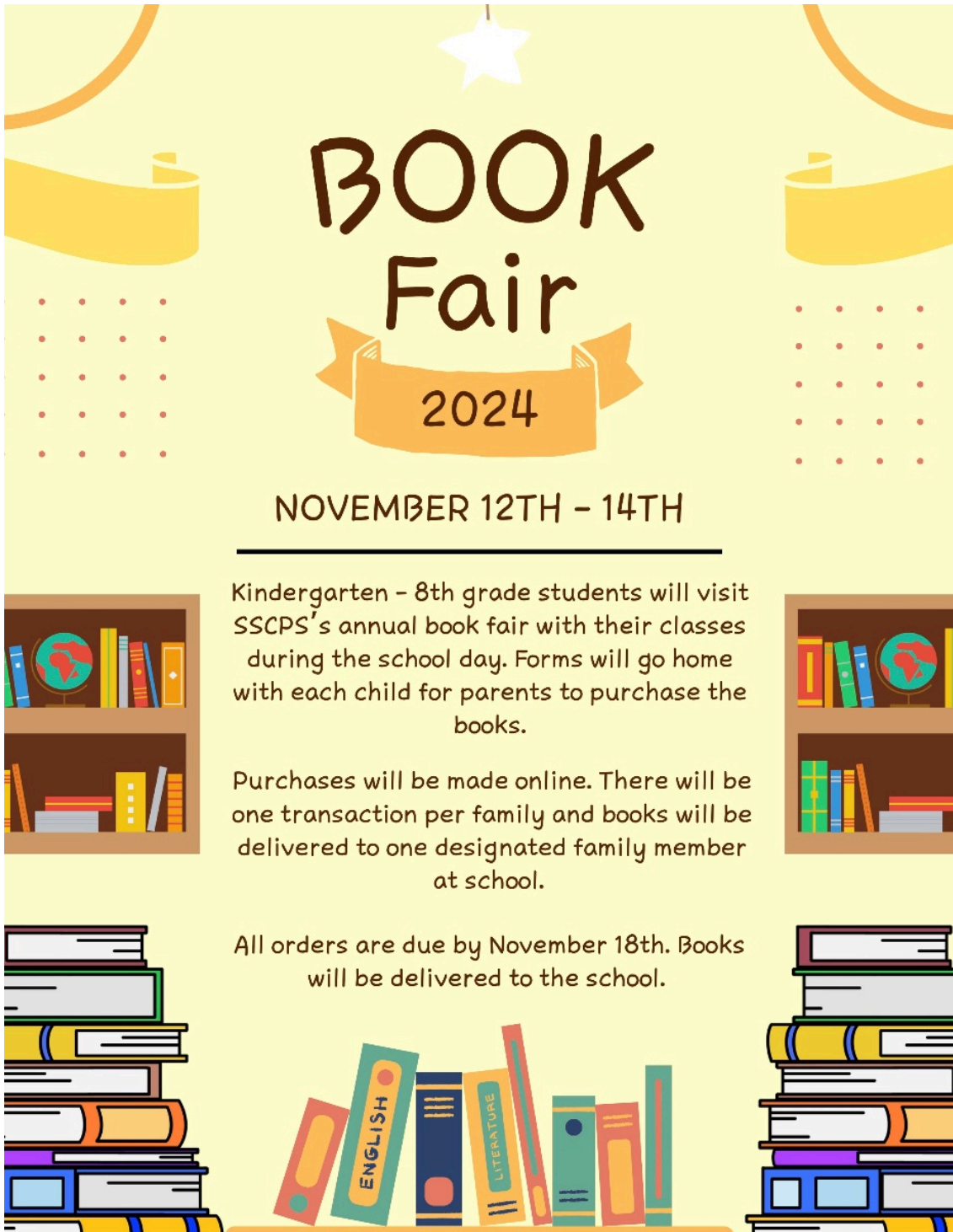
To order, log in to your account on mylifetouch.com or create an account using your student's student ID number.

All families can also log on and order a FREE Digital SmileSafe card.

More about the Smilesafe program [here](#).

Upcoming Events

K-8 Book Fair



BOOK Fair

2024

NOVEMBER 12TH - 14TH

Kindergarten - 8th grade students will visit SSCPS's annual book fair with their classes during the school day. Forms will go home with each child for parents to purchase the books.

Purchases will be made online. There will be one transaction per family and books will be delivered to one designated family member at school.

All orders are due by November 18th. Books will be delivered to the school.

SSCPS Winter Concerts

December 11th, 17th, & 18th

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

FREE ENTRY!

WINTER CONCERTS

LEVEL 1 CONCERT
WED. DEC 11 | P.E. SPACE, 10AM

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES (LEVELS II-IV CHOIR, LEVELS III-IV BEGINNING BAND, BEG. & INTERM. STRINGS)
TUES. DEC 17 | HINGHAM HIGH, 6PM

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES (CONCERT BAND, CONCERT STRINGS, HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC WORKSHOP)
WED. DEC 18 | HINGHAM HIGH, 6PM

HINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL | 17 UNION STREET, HINGHAM MA
LEVEL 1 CONCERT PARKING WILL BE AT 700 LONGWATER

Friends of Holly Hill Farm December Programs



Friends of
Holly Hill Farm
A Farm for Teaching & Learning

Late Fall December One-Day Programs

December 2 - 19
Sign up for one, a few, or all programs!



Members receive a discount.
Reduced pricing available.

We strive to make educational programming accessible to all ages. Tiered pricing allows families to choose the price that is right for them, while also becoming more aware of the costs associated with putting on educational programs for each child.

COMING SOON

WINTER SESSIONS
January - March 2025

Friends of Holly Hill Farm
236 Jerusalem Road, Cohasset, MA 02025
781-383-6565 programs@hollyhillfarm.org

Register Now!

"One Day" Programs for ages 6 -12
*After school from 4:00 - 5:30 pm**

- Healthy Cooking*
- Shelter Building
- Farm Night Mysteries
- Wreath Making
- Holiday Gift Crafts
- Fairy & Gnome Homes
- Tomtem Quest

*Healthy Cooking 4:00-6:00 pm

hollyhillfarm.org/late-fall-programs

Celebrating 30 Years of SSCPS



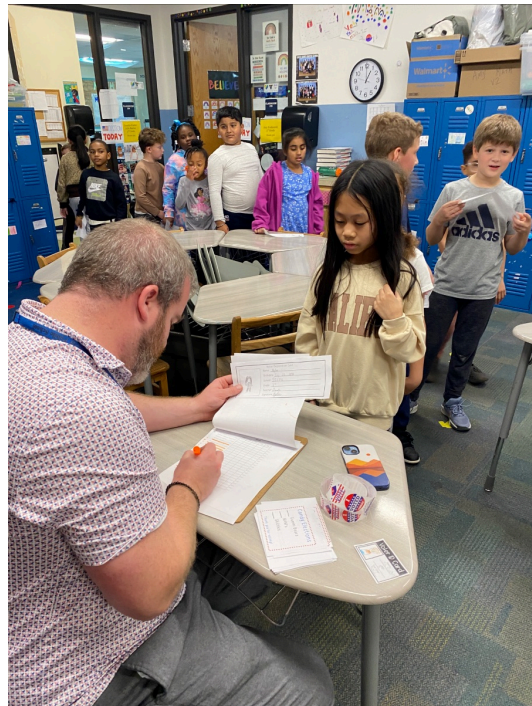
Keep your eyes out for our annual fundraising campaign beginning soon! If you'd like to make a general donation to support SSCPS, you can do so using the button below.

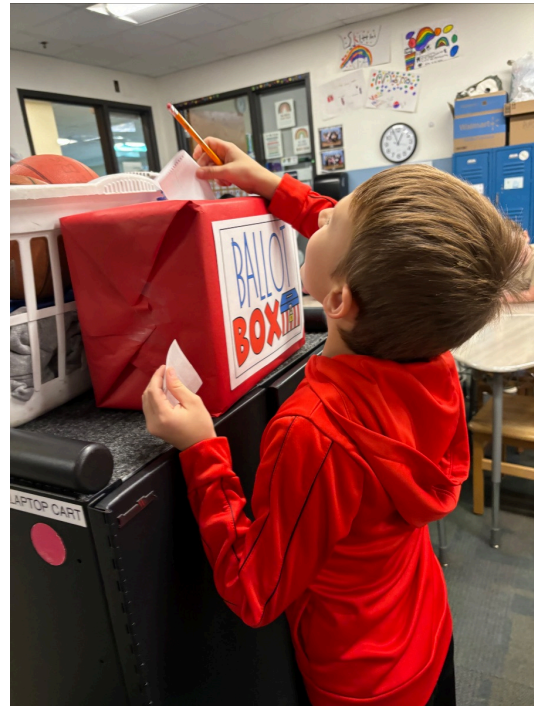
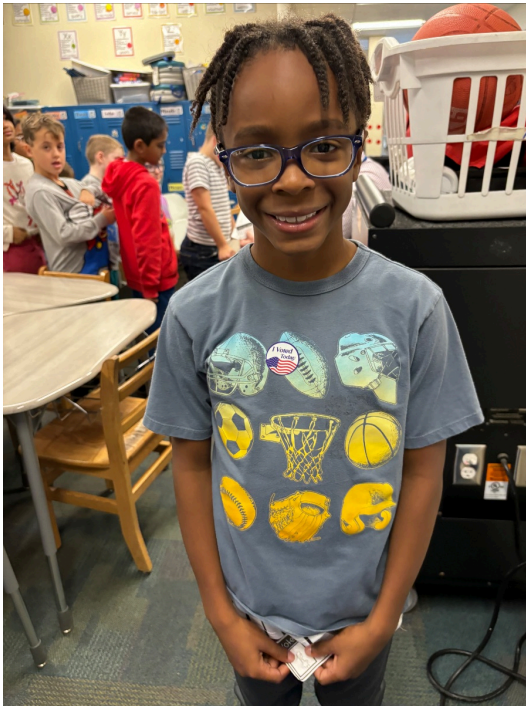
[Make a Donation](#)

On the Levels

Level II - Grade 3 Mock Election

Students in third grade have been learning all about government and the process of voting. On November 5th, classes came together to hold a mock election. After campaigning for their chosen "Candy-date", students registered to vote, waited in polling lines, checked in, and voted!

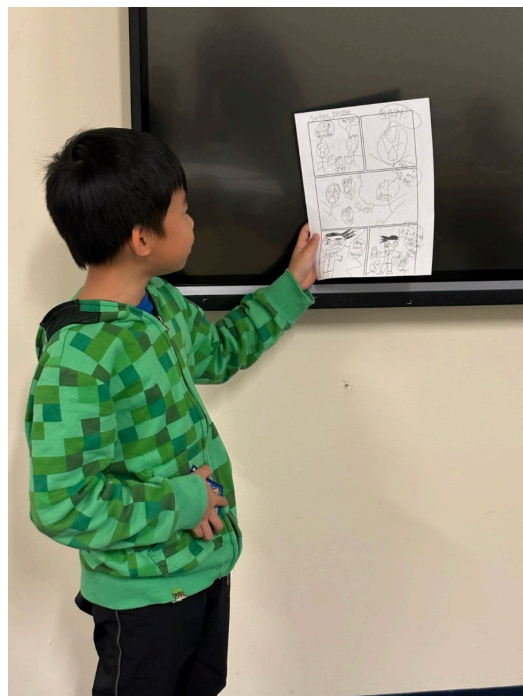
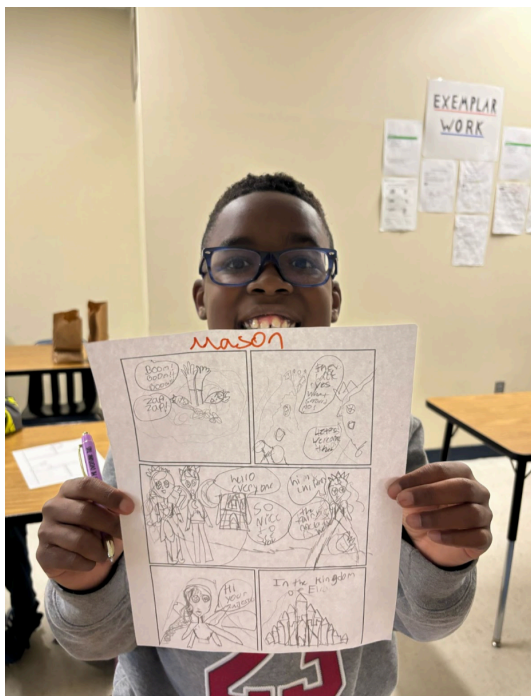




Afterschool Enrichment Program 2024-2025

The Art of Journaling Club

This week in The Art of Journaling Club, students continued working on their individual creative writing journals. After a few weeks of trying different strategies out, each student has chosen their own preferred mediums, whether it's comic book drawing, writing lyrics, crafting their own fictional short stories, or writing down their thoughts and feelings on current events. The best part of our time together is when students voluntarily share their work during the second half of the afternoon - we have had 100% of students feel comfortable enough to share at least once. It is a truly wonderful way to work on writing and public speaking skills in a fun and creative way!



Chemical Creations Club

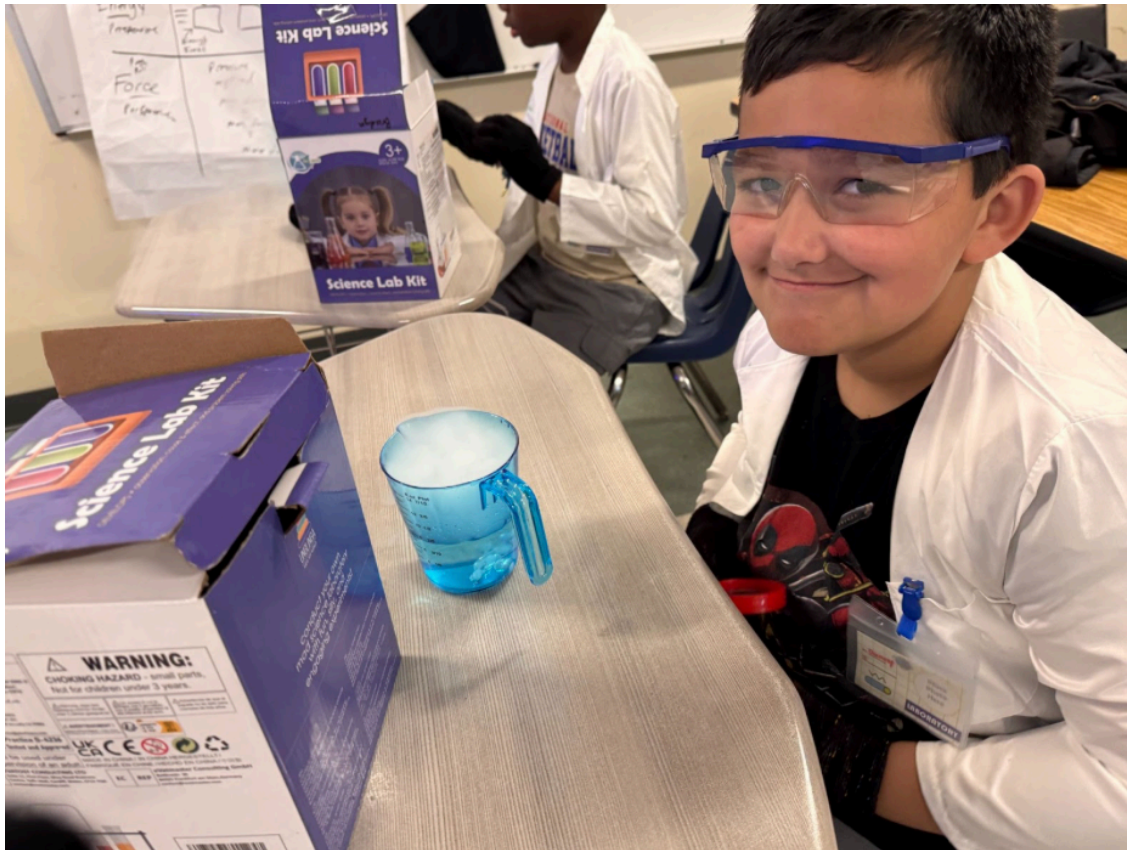
Week 4 Recap: Spooky Science Fun!

Halloween was a blast as we explored the magic of dry ice! This solid form of CO_2

sublimates directly into gas, creating an eerie fog and spooky “boo bubbles.” Students safely observed this fascinating phase change, using gloves to handle the dry ice. Adding soap turned our fog into bubbles that popped with a surprise, blending science and Halloween fun in a captivating way.

We're excited for our next experiment!





STEAM Dream Team

Students explored creative engineering by building structures with marshmallows and sticks! They also got into the Halloween spirit by designing and crafting their own spooky monsters. Through hands-on activities, they practiced teamwork, problem-solving, and let their imaginations run wild. Looking forward to more inventive projects next week!





Community Service

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](#)

Volunteering at SSCPS

Anyone who is working with children or within our SSCPS buildings must be officially registered as a volunteer. This policy is in place to protect our students. Volunteers must register each school year. In order to register as a volunteer, you must complete all of the requirements listed below.

1. Complete a CORI form. This requirement must be met annually. The CORI form should be returned to the school to the attention of Pam Algera with a copy of a photo id.
2. Complete Identogo Fingerprinting. This task must be completed every three years. Fingerprinting is completed off site and has a cost. SSCPS will reimburse parent/guardian volunteers for this cost.
3. Complete Volunteer Training and agree to the Confidentiality Policy. Take the Volunteer Training Quiz. This requirement must be met annually. The training is available on [volunteering page on our website](#).

Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC

Parents Association



The SSCPS Parents Association is pleased to announce that Stephanie Innis received the majority of votes in our special election for Levels III & IV Co-Chair. Congratulations, Stephanie! And thank you to everyone who participated.

Our next PA meeting is **Tuesday, November 12th at 7PM - virtual only**. Angie Pepin and Alicia Savage will both be present on the call to answer questions previously brought up by parents during our October PA and committee meetings.

Zoom Meeting Link: [Join the Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 825 1188 9198

Passcode: 419036

For meeting notes and other resources, visit the [PA Website](#).

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 ways 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](#).

SEPAC

A vertical graphic with a white wood-grain background. It is decorated with autumn-themed elements: pumpkins, acorns, and colorful leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The text is centered and reads:

SSCPS SEPAC presents

BASIC RIGHTS

Wednesday November 13

Learn about your basic rights regarding your children's IEP

6:30pm. Via Zoom. With Matt Tondorf, Director of Learning Services

Zoom link will be shared via email. Rsvp SEPAC@SSCPS.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 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 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 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!

WORTH VEG 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: 8am-5pm M-F CST
Online Chat: www.worthavegroup.com

We accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express & Discover

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 VEG 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
- Derames y submersion liquida
- Hongo, inundación y desastres naturales
- Sobrecarga de energia por sobrepago
- 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: 8a.m.-5p.m. L-V CST
Charla en línea: www.worthavegroup.com

Aceptamos Visa, Mastercard, American Express & Discover

50+ años en el negocio | Líder en seguros de dispositivos K-12 | Regulado 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

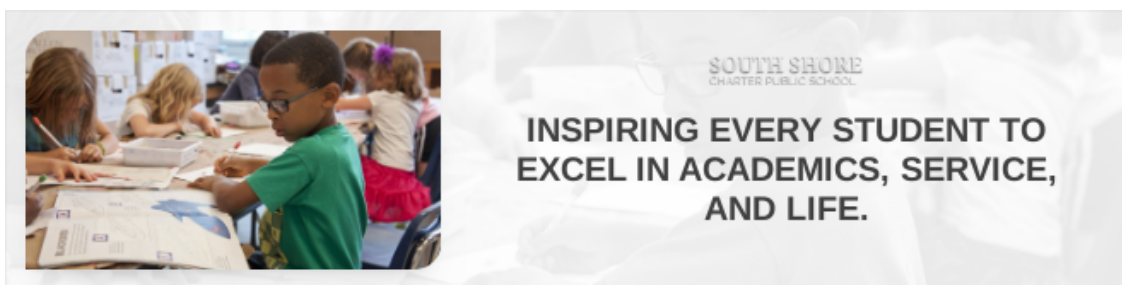
South Shore Charter Public School has chosen Worth Ave. Group as the insurance provider for school devices. To opt into the Voluntary Group Program click [here](#).

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](#)



Copyright © 2024 South Shore Charter Public School, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

