

Weekly Update | October 2, 2024

Vol. 10 Issue 1

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A Message from Alicia

The 30th anniversary year of South Shore Charter Public School has already been one of perpetual motion. Our Parents Association is off to an impressive start; coming together for a welcome coffee on Friday, September 20 as well as hosting a new family meet and greet last night. The SSCPS Annual Road Race was a splendid success on Saturday. 150 runners and walkers made their way through Wompatuck State Park supporting our school with every step. Photos from the event were taken by photographer and SSCPS alumna Mia Ray Straum. As we continue to celebrate 30 years, we were honored by members of

our Foundation, Board of Trustees, and alumni who were in attendance. Here on campus we have hosted three Back-to-School Nights, a Senior Parent Information Night, and the DESE Site Visit. Fall sports continue to energize the school community with busy schedules for the Cross Country, Soccer, and Girls Volleyball teams. Be there no question, the school year is in full swing.



Academic achievement for every student remains at the forefront. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released the Spring 2024 MCAS results on September 24, 2024. South Shore Charter MCAS results may be found here on the DESE website. Teachers will be meeting to analyze MCAS data and use that information to inform instruction and curriculum. Although we review and assess all aspects of teaching and learning, the MCAS provides a specific window to help determine how closely teaching and learning is aligned to what is being measured by the MCAS. Families may expect individual student reports to be sent home over the next few weeks.

In my last message to our school community, I shared The South Shore Charter Public School Application for Renewal of a Public School Charter which may be found on the **Public Policies & Documents** page of the SSCPS website. I would encourage all families to review Criterion 1: Mission and Key Design Elements. Outlined within that section on pages 3-8 are important distinctions that make the South Shore Charter Public School different from other schools. The key design elements illustrate why we are a school of choice for so many students and families throughout the South Shore.

One of those key design elements is community service. An excerpt from the renewal application offers the description: "K-12 community service both through a project-based learning model and within student home communities." However, we understand the meaning to have a far more exceptional reach. We are a school community that holds the shared value of being a part of something greater than ourselves. By choosing South Shore Charter Public School for your child, you have identified community service and kind

acts towards others as an essential part of your child's education and development. You have chosen to amplify the importance of helping others and extending friendship to those in need. As E.B. White once wrote, "That in itself is a tremendous thing."

The school wide commitment to community service is both tremendous and evident. It was evident at the Parents Association welcome coffee, evident at the SSCPS Annual Road Race, and evident in our hallways and classrooms every day. Thank you for your commitment to the South Shore Charter Public School.

Alicia Savage

Executive Director

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.

<u>Level I Community Service</u> <u>Level II Community Service</u>

Level III Community Service Level IV Community Service

High School Community Service

Interfaith Social Services: Halloween Costume Drive

In October, hundreds of children will come to Interfaith to choose a Halloween costume. Their families may not be able to afford a costume, but you can make it possible for these kids to be the little princesses and superheroes they've been dreaming of. Helping these kids and their families is paramount to our organization's mission. Be a part of Interfaith Social Services Halloween Costume Drive and give these children the opportunity to enjoy fun Halloween festivities. **Donations are due Friday, October 11.**

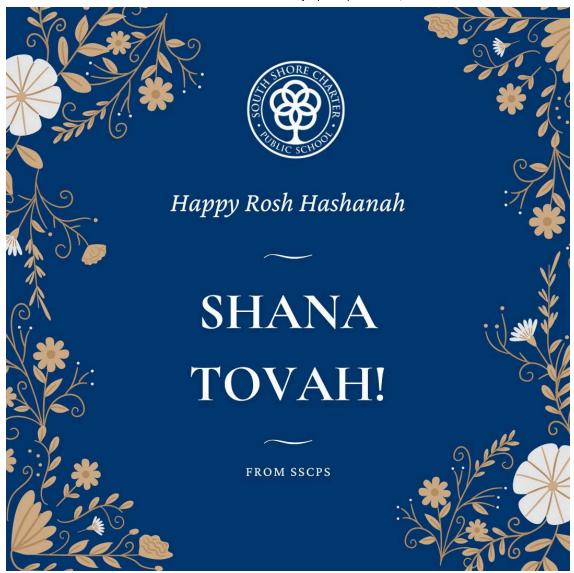
Here are three ways you can support the program:

- Drop off new costumes Monday-Friday, between noon and 3:30pm,or until 7pm on Tuesdays. We are located at 105 Adams St. in Quincy.
- Purchase costumes from our <u>Amazon Wish List</u> and ship your donations directly to us.
- Make a monetary donation to the program.

Donate & Learn More



School Calendar & Announcements



Rosh Hashanah Oct. 2nd - Oct 4th

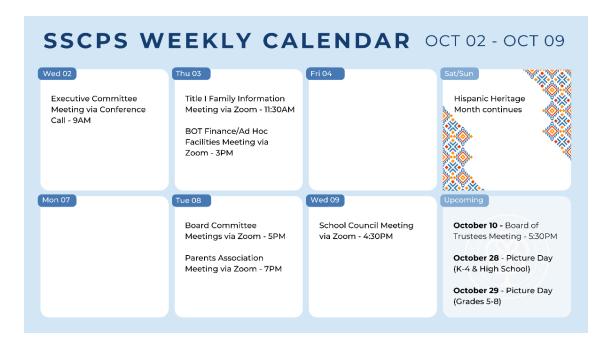
This week marks the beginning of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, which will be celebrated from sunset on Wednesday, Oct. 2nd, to sunset on Friday, Oct. 4th. Rosh Hashanah is a time of reflection, prayer, and renewal for Jewish communities around the world. It represents a moment to look back on the past year, consider how we can grow, and set intentions for the year ahead.

As a school community dedicated to diversity and inclusion, we recognize the importance of honoring the traditions and celebrations of all cultures and religions. To our students, families, and staff members who observe this sacred time, Shanah Tovah—wishing you a sweet and prosperous New Year.

Let us all take this opportunity to reflect on our values, our community, and how we can continue to support one another in the year ahead.

Sheina Prince-Eugene

Click here for the complete SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar



SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar



Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15th - Oct. 15th

Dear South Shore Community,

As we approach the end of September, we are excited to announce our celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15th to October 15th. This month is a special time for us to recognize and honor the rich cultures, histories, and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx communities in our school and beyond.

We are thrilled to share that we will be adding a Dominican flag to our Hall of Flags in the front of our building this month. This addition reflects our commitment to celebrating the diversity of our community and recognizing the unique heritage of our students, families, and staff. The Dominican Republic has a vibrant culture, and many of our families and community members have roots there. By displaying the Dominican flag, we acknowledge the significant contributions of Dominican Americans and celebrate the cultural richness they bring to our school.

We look forward to celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with all of you and embracing the diversity that makes our community so special. Stay tuned for more information about

upcoming events and activities planned throughout the month to honor and learn from the diverse cultures within our community.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all!

Sheina Prince-Eugene

Invent the Summer Awards

We are so very proud to announce the following SSCPS students who participated in *Invent the Summer. Invent the Summer* is a non-profit organization created by kids for kids. Students use engineering, inventing and problem solving skills in weekly challenges throughout the summer. Students compete for prizes as well as earning points for their school. SSCPS earned 1 point for each entry they made for a total of 46 points! As a result they reached the top level of the competition Level 5! The awards show and highlights can be viewed here: *Invent the Summer* Awards Show

Please congratulate the following students who participated:

Harrison Cummings-Thomas

Darshan Kodisana

Carter Lipscomb

Lilah Libscomb

Jaxson Lofstrand

Nikith Monagari

Aryansh Ramireddy

Sarvesh Ramkumar

Special shout out to SSCPS High School student Stella Veissid for all her work as a Jr Board of Engineer helping to create and evaluate the weekly challenges!

Watch the Awards Show

Upcoming Events

Inly Speaker Series October 9th

The Pressures of Parenting; Navigating Technology, Anxiety and Independence

Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Meehan Family Artsbarn, Inly School

46 Watch Hill Drive, Scituate

INLY SPEAKER SERIES

Save the Date!

The Pressures of Parenting

Navigating technology, anxiety and independence Expert panelists answer your questions

> Wednesday, October 9 7:00 PM • Artsbarn

> > Register



R. Meredith Elkins, PhD



Dr. Jill Walsh, PhD



Jenny Bright, LMHC

K-6 Literacy Lane Saturday, October 26th



School Picture Day

October 28th - K-4 & High School Picture Day

October 29th - Grades 5-8 Picture Day



Celebrating 30 Years of SSCPS

SSCPS 30th Anniversary Road Race Survey

Another thank you to all who participated in Saturday's Annual Road Race. It was a great school event which was the result of months of planning and hard work. Thank you to all of our runners and walkers who came out in support of our school. Thank you to our family volunteers with special thanks to Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst and Dawn Whitney. Special thanks to event photographer and SSCPS alumna Mia Ray Strahm, whose pictures captured the event so perfectly. More thanks to faculty and staff who worked so hard on the days leading up to and during the event. Special thanks to Pam Algera, Abby Bingham,

Rowena Samuels, Kristine Bingham, Kerri Doble, Annette Golden, Elyse Kay, Dan Vasconcellos, Ricky Novio, Matt Dibb, Walter Duncan and the terrific x-country team, and event organizer Joe Kay.

If you participated in the Annual Road Race, please take a few moments to fill out the survey above to provide your feedback and help us improve future road races at SSCPS.

Thank you!

TAKE THE SURVEY



10/2/24, 12:14 PM











Photos by Mia Ray Strahm

On the Levels

High School | Celebrating Nigerian Independence

At the high school, students celebrated Nigeria's Independence Day with lively music, filling the air with the sounds of traditional and modern Nigerian tunes. The celebration brought students together to honor Nigeria's rich cultural heritage and reflect on its journey since gaining independence on October 1, 1960. The music created a festive atmosphere, allowing everyone to experience the vibrancy of Nigerian culture through its rhythms and sounds.





Happy 64th Independence Day, Nigeria!

Students at the high school celebrating Nigeria's Independence Day.

Athletics

SSCPS Athletics Newsletter

Click the button below to read the SSCPS Athletics Newsletter featuring Jaguar of the Week nominations, "JJ Facey Day", and more.





SSCPS SPORTS NEWSLETTER

The SSCPS Jaguars retired JJ Facey's #7 jersey in a ceremony honoring him and his family last week. An article covering the event and JJ's legacy can be found here.

'JJ Facey' Day



A huge thank you to everyone who came out to honor JJ at last week's boys' soccer game. The Facey family was in attendance and were presented JJ's retired #7 jersey, beautifully crafted by Coach John Oliva. Forever at



Afterschool Enrichment Program 2024-2025

Dear Families,

We are pleased to announce that registration for Session One of our Afterschool Enrichment Program is now open. Enrichment will now run for 10 weeks. The first session is from October 8th - December 19th 2024. Please review our Club Descriptions here and complete the Registration form here using FamilyID. Registration closes on September 20th 2024. If you are interested in carpooling, please complete this survey here. We look forward to another wonderful session of learning, adventure and fun! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

Nadeen Sullivan

Afterschool Enrichment Program Coordinator



From the SSCPS Board of Trustees

Below are the Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda and Executive Director Report for the month of September. You can find more information on the SSCPS Board of Trustees on our website here.

FY25 September Meeting Agenda

September Executive Director Report

Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC



K-5 Pod Parents Announcement

The Parents Association is bringing back pod parents for grades K-5 this fall! We need 1-2 parents/caregivers to volunteer per pod (aka classroom). As a pod parent, you may do things like:

- Organize supply drives throughout the year for things like tissues, wipes, extra snacks, bottled water
- Reach out to class parents about opting into the new parent directory
- Work with the teacher to plan special events like pod breakfasts, community service events, and end-of-year activities like field day
- Assist with anything else the teacher could use help with

If you are interested, please complete the form below. Anyone interested in being a pod parent for more than one classroom should complete a separate form for each class. Any questions - feel free to email paatsscps@gmail.com. Thanks for supporting our teachers and kids!

Pod Parent Sign-Up Form

Upcoming PA Meetings

PA meetings are generally held on the **second Tuesday of the month**, Our next meeting is scheduled for **October 8th**, **2024**, **at 7 PM**. For the full calendar of meetings, please visit our **PA Calendar**.

Zoom link details:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85404199820?
pwd=bXWVvYfwApoVza6D63a0TxQqr6G0WI.1

Thank you for your continued support and involvement!

Nakeya Miller
Chair, Parent Association
Co-Chair for Levels I & II

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.

Health Office

If your student takes prescription medication during the school day, including epipens or inhalers, the medication will need to be dropped off to the school nurse by an adult. Medication cannot be sent on the bus with students. All medication needs to be accompanied by a new prescription medication form each year. Your doctor may fill out their own medication form, an Asthma Action Plan, Allergy Action Plan, or the school's Prescription Drug Form. No medication can be accepted without the proper paperwork. Parents/guardians will also need to sign the form to give permission for medication to be administered in school. Students can not bring in over the counter medication. All medication needed at school must be held in the Health Office and have the proper paperwork in order for it to be administered at school. Please check expiration dates of medication before sending it in. Medication that expires during the school year will need to

be replaced before it expires. Please reach out to your school nurse if you have any questions about medications.

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

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

If your student is planning on playing a school sport in the fall they must have a current physical dated within the past 13 months of the start of the sports season. Students who do not have a current physical will not be allowed to try out or participate in sports. You may submit health forms to:

K-8: Jaime Kjelgaard, RN Jkjelgaard@sscps.org 781-982-4202 x 104

High School: Barbara Folan, RN Bfolan@sscps.org 781-982-4202 x 182

Fax: 781-982-4201

Students entering K, 4th, 7th & 10th grade must submit current physical forms and vaccine records.

The K through 8 school is a **peanut/nut free** building. Please make sure you do not send your child to school with any food that contains peanuts or nuts or the label reads "may contain nuts or traces of nuts". Caffeinated beverages are not allowed in the elementary school. Please send your student to school with a reusable water bottle as the school does not provide water bottles.

Please reach out to your school nurse and teacher if your student is sick. Students who have vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever of 100 or above need to remain out of school until the symptoms or fever have resolved for 24 hours. If your student has strep throat, conjunctivitis or any other contagious illness they will need to remain out until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours. Students who develop any of these symptoms during the school day will need to be picked up from school promptly. Please make sure your contact information with the school is up to date. Absences can be reported to attendance@sscps.org.

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

From the Foundation



SOUTH SHORE CHARTER EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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

Donate Here

Important Links

Protect Your K-12 School-Issued Device!





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

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

School Documents

1. Afterschool Enrichment Program

2. DESE Student Attendance Letter Translated:

Arabic, Cape Verdean

Creole, Chinese, Haitian

<u>Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnames</u>

<u>e</u>

- 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





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









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