



Weekly Update | December 17, 2025

VOL. 12, ISSUE 3

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A Message from Michelle

Finding Joy in the Small Moments

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The holiday season is celebrated in many different ways. Some families gather for Christmas, others light candles for Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, and many create their own unique traditions to honor this time of year. However it is observed, the season often brings images of tradition, celebration, and togetherness.

For many children, especially those who are neurotypical, joy comes from participating fully in these traditions: the large family gatherings, the festive meals, the music, and the rituals that mark the season.

But joy does not look the same for every child. For students who are not neurotypical, holiday traditions can sometimes feel overwhelming. Bright lights, noise, and changes in routine can make the season challenging. That does not mean the holidays cannot be joyful. It simply means that joy may be found in different ways.

Sometimes joy comes from creating new traditions that fit your child's needs. It may be baking a favorite recipe together, watching a movie in a quiet space, lighting a candle, or taking a walk to notice decorations in the neighborhood. It may be choosing one meaningful event instead of many, or finding comfort in a familiar routine that brings a sense of calm. These moments may look small from the outside, but for our children, they can hold just as much magic as the busiest celebration.

The beauty of the season is that joy is not measured by how much we do but by how meaningful those moments feel. Whether it comes from long-standing traditions or from new ones created with your child in mind, joy is joy, and every student deserves to experience it.

This holiday season, we encourage you to pause, notice, and celebrate those small, joyful moments, however they unfold in your home. They are the ones your children will carry with them for years to come.

Wishing you peace, joy, and meaningful moments with your families,

Michelle Gallagher
Special Education Coordinator

“Enjoy the little things,
for one day you may look
back and realize they
were the big things.”

— Robert Brault





School Calendar & Announcements

Weekly Calendar

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR

DEC 17 - DEC 24

Wed 17 SSCPS Winter Concert at Hingham High - 6PM <i>Performances from: Level 1, Level 2 Choir, Beginning Strings, & Intermediate Strings</i>	Thu 18 SSCPS Winter Concert at Hingham High - 6PM <i>Performances from: Beginning Band, Concert Band, Concert Strings, & High School Music Workshop</i>	Fri 19 K-6 Craft Day - 1-2:30PM BSU Kwanzaa Night - 5-7PM	Sat/Sun
Mon 22 Holiday Break (No School) 	Tue 23 Holiday Break (No School) 	Wed 24 Holiday Break (No School) 	Upcoming Jan 5 - Classes Resume Jan 13 - Talk to Us Tuesday Begins

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

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Important Announcements

Take the Transportation Family Survey

SSCPS Families: Please take a moment to fill out our **Transportation Family Survey**! Feedback from our SSCPS family members is essential to help all of our programs and services run smoothly, especially with the SSCPS regional transportation program now in its third year. Data from this survey will guide discussions during two upcoming regional

transportation family focus groups: **Wednesday, January 14 at 9:00 am**, and **Wednesday, January 28 at 6:30 pm**.

Please take this opportunity to identify the strengths and areas of growth of the regional transportation program. We rely on your responses to inform our efforts to meet the needs of all families in our school community. The survey should take approximately 5 minutes to complete. Respondent names are not required. Responses will be shared with our school community and at the Board of Trustees' open meetings. **Survey responses are due by January 7, 2026.**

TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

From the Food Services Department

SSCPS Families,

The South Shore Charter Public School offers free nutritious lunch and breakfast at school every school day for all students. Please visit our [Food Services](#) webpage to learn more about our FREE NSLP breakfast and lunch programs and to place an order for your child. If you haven't already, you are able to order your child's meals online. All families must register each child in Arbiter. Please visit the [SSCPS FamilyID Programs](#) webpage to register your child. When registering your child for meals please be sure to input their grade. Their student ID and homeroom teacher **are not** required fields. If you do know their homeroom teacher it would be helpful but that information can always be entered at a later time. To learn more on how to register your child click [here](#) to watch a quick video. If you need any assistance with FamilyID registration, please call 1-800-311-4060 or email support@arbitersports.com. All meal orders will be made directly through this online system. If you need further assistance, please contact Charlene Salamone at csalamone@sscps.org or by calling 781-982-4202x156.

If your family needs additional support please visit [Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline](#). FoodSource hotline counselors, in 180 languages, can help families find food assistance through other sources such as the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program and local food pantries.

Thank you,

Charlene Salamone
Food Services Coordinator


PROJECT BREAD

Can't afford enough food? Let's chat.

CALL: 1 (800) 645-8333

Hotline Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm Sat: 10am-2pm

No matter what you're going through, we understand that food is a must. We want to help you. PROJECT BREAD can connect you to programs that will help you afford groceries and put food on the table. Always free & confidential for all Massachusetts residents, our counselors are ready to assist callers in 180 languages.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

SNAP is a federal nutrition program that provides monthly financial assistance for groceries. Could you be eligible? Find out today and get help applying.

Free Meals for Kids & Teens

All children ages 0-18, and in some locations up to age 21, can receive free meals for pickup at hundreds of locations around the state. No registration or I.D. is required. Find a free meal site near you.

Food Pantries

If you need food right now, we can direct you to emergency food programs near you, including food pantries and meal programs.

Referrals to Additional Resources

We can help you find additional support, including referrals to WIC (a federal nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children), housing, and utility assistance.

Call today or learn more at: projectbread.org/gethelp



LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES

Click the names of each resource for more information.

Wellspring Multi-Service Centers	Norwell Food Pantry
The Charity Guild Food Pantry	Randolph Food Pantry
Feeding America	Rockland Food Pantry
Find Local Food Resources	Weymouth Food Pantry
Interfaith Social Services	Self Help



Important Drop Off & Pick Up Reminders

Protocol for absences, tardiness and dismissing students early:

When your child is absent and leaving a message, please be sure to leave the **first and last name as well as the grade of your child**. Any changes can be sent to attendance@sscps.org.

Drop off in the morning by 8:10am.

Please try to arrive by or before 8:10am so that teachers can take attendance and students can prepare for classes that start at 8:20am. **At 8:15am the doors will close and students will be marked as tardy.**

Dismissal/Pickup Procedures

Grades K-6 100 Longwater Circle	Grades 7-12 700 Longwater Drive
Bus Dismissal 1 Buses 1-8	Bus Dismissal 1 Buses 9-17
Carlisle Dismissal Begins	
Bus Dismissal 2 Buses 9-17	Bus Dismissal 2 Buses 1-8
	Carlisle Dismissal Begins

100 Longwater Drive (Grades K-6): Dismissal will begin for buses (1-8)

700 Longwater Drive (Grades 7-12): Dismissal will begin for buses (9-17)

After the buses are loaded, buses 1-8 will depart for 700, and buses 9-17 will depart for 100 to pick up the remaining students.

Carlisle dismissal will begin for 100 after the first round of buses (1-8) depart.

Carlisle dismissal will begin at 700 after the second round of buses depart.

Procedure for 700 Longwater Drive (Grades 7-12) Dismissal

(See Map)

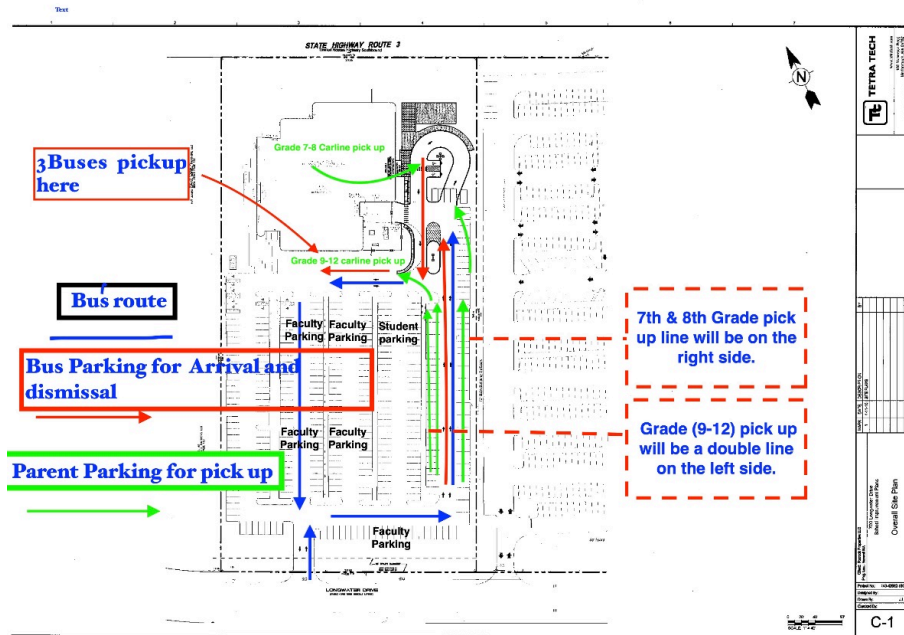
There will be 3 carlines at 700 Longwater:

- The far right (green arrow) will be for Grades 7-8
- The double green arrow is for Grades 9-12

After the buses have completed pickup, cars for grades 7-8 will pick up around the traffic circle to the right of the building and exit, following the blue arrows.

After the buses have completed pick up, cars for grades 9-12 will pick up in front of the building, along the sidewalk.

If you are picking up students in both grades 7-8 and 9-12, pick up your 7-8th grade student first, then continue to the grade 9-12 pickup.



School Picture Reminders

Order your school pictures today!

Use the code **F2510OFF** for 10% off your order.

Code expires July 31, 2026.

[ORDER HERE](#)

Don't forget to order your FREE Digital SmileSafe card!

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

From the Dean's Desk

Schools are living communities. They are made up of children, families, and adults who are all learning, growing, and sometimes struggling at the same time. That means there are moments of joy and moments of challenge — often right next to each other.

What I want families to know is this: **we do not face challenges alone at Charter.**

When things are hard, when questions are raised, when we feel stretched, that is not a sign of failure. It is a sign that we are doing real work together. Strong communities don't avoid difficulty — they move through it with honesty, care, and shared responsibility.

Our children are watching us. They are learning not only from what happens, but from *how* we respond. When they see adults listen, adjust, support one another, and stay committed even when things are uncomfortable, they learn something far more important than any single lesson. They learn what it means to belong to a community that does not give up on itself.

At Charter, we believe deeply in helping students grow into people who can think clearly, act with compassion, and take responsibility for the world they are inheriting. That work does not happen in perfect conditions. It happens when we stay connected, even when it would be easier to pull away.

Together — families, teachers, staff, and students — we are shaping the kind of people who will go on to make classrooms, workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities better than they found them.

That is long work. Meaningful work. And it is work worth doing together.

Thank you for walking this path with us, especially when it feels hard. That is how strong schools — and strong people — are made.

Warmly,

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students (K-6)



Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

Tonight & Tomorrow: Winter Concerts

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
WINTER CONCERTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH | 6PM

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES:

LEVEL I (K-2) STUDENTS
LEVEL II CHOIR
BEGINNING STRINGS
INTERMEDIATE STRINGS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH | 6PM

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES:

BEGINNING BAND
CONCERT BAND
CONCERT STRINGS
HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC WORKSHOP



HINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL
17 UNION STREET, HINGHAM 02043

Student call time at 5:30pm

Friday: Kwanzaa Night



KWANZAA NIGHT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

5:00PM – 7:00PM

PE SPACE

104 LONGWATER DR

FOOD • ACTIVITIES • DANCES

BSU



Community Events & News

Essay Contest | Weymouth & Braintree Students

The Weymouth-Braintree Elks Americanism Essay Contest is accepting submissions until **January 7th, 2026**. This essay contest is available to Weymouth and Braintree students in grades 5-8. Use the button below for more details and instructions.

[ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS](#)

On the Levels

Holiday Rooms at SSCPS

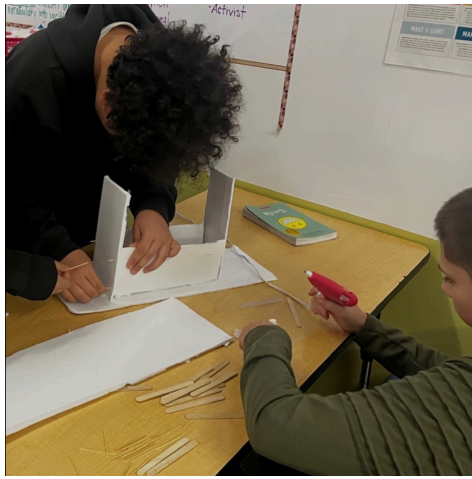
The SSCPS National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society, led by Katie Cianelli and Alicia Dupuis, came together to host the Holiday Rooms yesterday evening. The students did a phenomenal job of decorating the classrooms for the following holidays: Yule, Three Kings Day, St. Lucia's Day, Oshogatsu, San Jordi, El Gordo, Winter Solstice, Inti Rami, Kwanzaa, Lunar New Year, Tradition of 12 Grapes, Diwali, Hanukkah, and Christmas. They provided cultural awareness, arts and crafts, games, and food and drink to help celebrate the holidays. This is the third year of running this event, and we are very grateful to the community for coming out to celebrate with us. Happy Holidays!





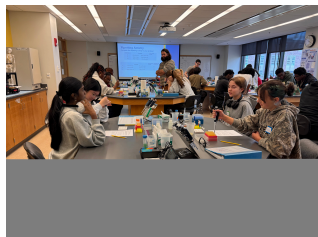
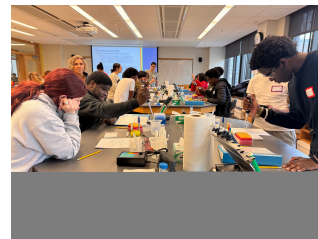
Grade 7 Ancient Civilizations

Our 7th graders have been diving into the rich history of ancient China. Over the past few weeks, they have explored the major dynasties and examined the remarkable innovations of the Qin Dynasty, many of which still influence our world today. To bring their learning to life, students are now constructing their own models of the Great Wall of China. This hands-on project allows them to experience the challenges of building and connecting sections of the wall while defending against incoming invaders! Here are some pictures of their work so far!



AP Chemistry Field Trip to Bridgewater State

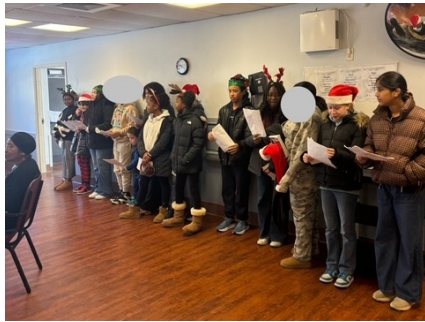
Rowena Samuels' AP Chemistry class took a field trip to Bridgewater State University's City Lab on December 10th. Students investigated the protein content of sports drinks by conducting colorimetric assays and using spectrophotometers to quantify the actual protein levels in drinks from three different manufacturers.



What's New in Projects & Workshops

Community Service Project

Students in the 6th Grade Community Service Project spread holiday cheer to residents at Guardian Nursing Center in Brockton when they delivered handmade cards and festive carols.



Cultural Diversity Workshop

The Cultural Diversity Workshop
Presents



DONATE COATS

Where: At the Front Desk

NOW - JAN 10

Donate gently used, warm winter coats for **children and adults** at any Anton's Cleaners, Jordan's Furniture, or Rockland Trust location.

Corporate Partners



Coats only, please. All sizes welcome!

antons.com/cfk

Promotional Partner



Coats are professionally cleaned by Anton's and distributed to families in need through a network of over 90 local social service agencies, schools, and nonprofit organizations.

Afterschool Enrichment Program

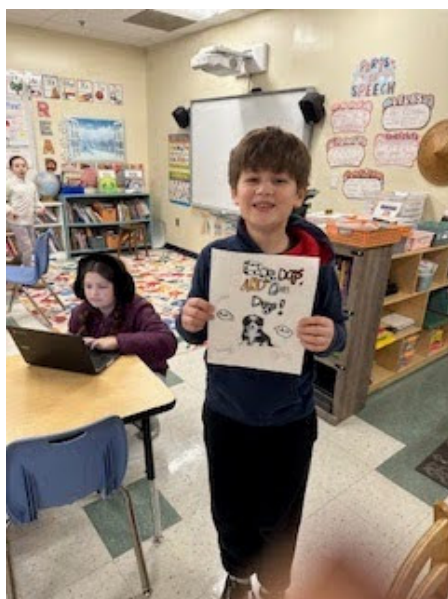
STEAM Dream Team

Our STEAM DREAM Team got hands-on and a little messy this week as students created their own slime! Through this fun experiment, students explored key science concepts like chemical reactions, measurement, and states of matter, all while problem-solving and collaborating with peers. The excitement, creativity, and curiosity on display truly brought STEAM learning to life. Learning has never been so *slime-tastic*!



Magazine Club

Magazine Club students have officially completed their individual magazines, each one centered on a topic they are personally passionate about. From dog magazines to sports, fashion, music, and more, every student took ownership of their publication. They wrote articles, designed layouts, and made creative choices that reflected their unique interests. The final products highlight students' voices, creativity, and independence, and it's exciting to see such a wide range of ideas brought to life in print.



Session II Registration: Open Now!

Dear Families,

We are excited to announce that registration for Session II of our Afterschool Enrichment Program is now open for students in Grades 2 - 8! Please review our Club Descriptions [here](#) and complete the Registration using [FamilyID.com](https://familyid.com). **Registration is \$50 and will close on Friday, December 19th.** 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

Afterschool Enrichment Program Coordinator



SSCPS AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



SESSION II

GRADES 2-8

JANUARY 20TH 2026 - APRIL 2ND 2026

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

TIME: 3:15 - 4:15 PM



SESSION II CLUBS:

- ACTIVE ZONE: SPORTS AND FITNESS
- STEAM DREAM TEAM
- MAGAZINE PRODUCTION CLUB
- EXERCISE THROUGH MUSIC AND MOVEMENT
- KICKBOXING FITNESS CLUB
- DANCE BLAST
- CHEMICAL CREATIONS
- MATH MAVERICKS
- STORYBOOK EXPLORERS CLUB
- ART CLUB
- HOMEWORK ACADEMY



CONTACT: NADEEN SULLIVAN

PHONE: 781-982-4202 EXT. 356.

EMAIL: [NSULLIVAN@SSCPS.ORG](mailto:nsullivan@sscps.org)

From the Health Office

Important Reminders | 2025-2026

Please be advised that per our school policy, if your student has a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or a contagious illness, they must remain out of school until symptoms have resolved for 24 hours without medication or they have been on antibiotics for a full 24 hours. If your student will be absent from school, please email attendance@sscps.org as well as your student's teacher.

This is also a reminder that over-the-counter medications (including, but not limited to, eye drops, allergy medications, cough medications, vitamins, and nasal sprays) may not

be brought into school by students. All medication within the school system is considered prescription and requires a doctor's prescription medication form. Before any medication is brought to school, it must be discussed with the school nurse and must be accompanied by the required prescription medication form. If a student is found to have any medication on them, it will be brought to the health office and a parent will need to pick it up or it will be disposed of.

Please also be advised that we will be beginning state-required vision, hearing, height, and weight screenings, based on your student's grade. If you would like to opt your student out of part or all of these screenings, please email your student's school nurse.

Please make sure all students are dressed appropriately for the weather. Students go outside for recess daily, except in inclement weather or when the wind chill temperature drops below 20 degrees. Students in grades K through 2nd should have a spare set of weather appropriate clothing in their backpacks/classrooms.

Contacts:

Grades K–8: Jaime Kjelgaard (jkjelgaard@sscps.org) & Erlin Martinez (emartinez2@sscps.org)

Grades 7–12: Barbara Folan – bfolan@sscps.org

SSCPS Health Office

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

Submit Community Service Hours

If you've started your Community Service for the **2025-2026** school year, it's not too early to start recording those hours today!

Use the links below to submit your community service hours. **Please note that Levels III, IV, and High School students are required to enter their own community service hours using their school email.** Family members of students on Levels I and II have been given direct access to the forms and do not need a school email.

LEVEL I FORM

LEVEL II FORM

LEVEL III FORM

LEVEL IV FORM

HIGH SCHOOL FORM

Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC

Parents Association Updates

General PA Info

Check out the PA website for meeting agendas/minutes, the new bulletin board and other handy info: <https://sscpspa.weebly.com/>

More updates from the Parents Association can be found on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SSCPSParentGuardianInfo>

POD PARENT SIGN-UP



Volunteer as a Pod Parent!



- Need Volunteers for each classroom
- Pod Parents organize **supply drives** throughout the year for things like tissues, wipes, extra snacks, bottled water
- Pod Parents help with classroom communication and parents engagement
- 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

Interested?? Please email: paatsscps@gmail.com

Important Links

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website - [subscribe here](#).

School Documents:

[2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <u>Afterschool Enrichment Program</u> | <u>Student and Family Handbook</u> |
| 2. <u>DESE Student Attendance Letter</u>
Translated: (<u>Arabic</u> , <u>Cape Verdean</u>
<u>Creole</u> , <u>Chinese</u> , <u>Haitian</u>
<u>Creole</u> , <u>Portuguese</u> , <u>Spanish</u> , <u>Vietnamese</u>) | <u>Arrival and Dismissal Procedures</u>
<u>SSCPS By-Laws</u>

<u>2024-2025 SSCPS Annual Report</u>

<u>DESE Integrated Monitoring Review</u> |
| 3. <u>Back-to-School Information</u> | |
| 4. <u>Food Services</u> | |
| 5. <u>Health Office</u> | |
| 6. <u>Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance</u> | |
| 7. <u>Community Service</u> | |
| 8. <u>Parents Association Website</u> | |



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