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Weekly Update | January 14, 2026

VOL. 1, ISSUE 2

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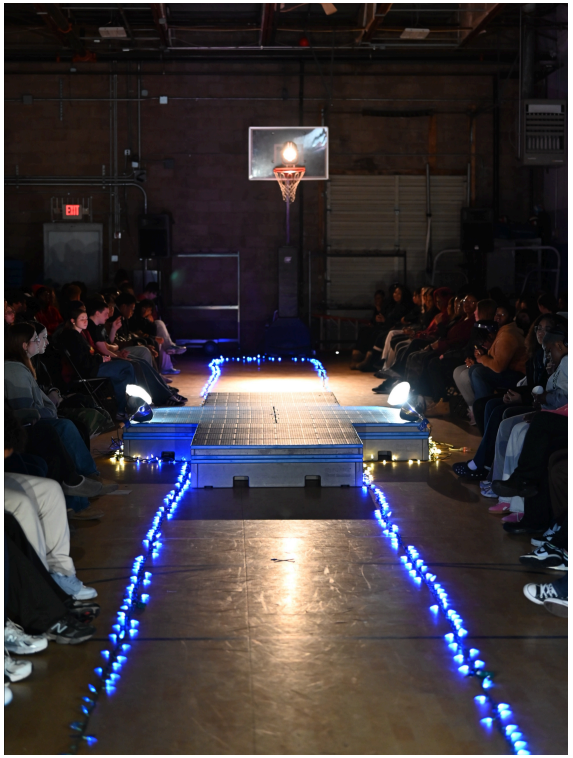
A Message from Alicia

Our first week of 2026 was a celebration of one of South Shore Charter's most storied traditions - the Art Workshop Fashion Show. Students from the Art Workshop displayed their Exhibitions of Mastery, first on Tuesday in a walkthrough at 100, and then two cumulative performances on Friday for their peers, teachers, and judges. Posters reading "*THE WORLD IS YOUR RUNWAY, EXPRESS YOURSELF"* built excitement and inspiration in the days leading up to the event.

Flowing from inspiration is hard work. Students dedicated hours of talent and effort, designing and deploying patterns, researching and acquiring textiles necessary, sewing and tailoring, and engineering movable wings and illuminated parasols. Each Exhibition of Mastery demonstrated true scholarship in art, math, physics, and the humanities. With our high school community gathered, the amazing ensembles were a sight to behold. A tremendous thank you to art teachers Dan Vasconcellos, Sarah Gavin, and Frisk Lacorazza for supporting our students, encouraging risk-taking, and sharing their expertise in preparation for this day. Additional thanks to our retired faculty members, Jody Regan and Christine Bodnar, for serving as judges for the show, music teacher Theron Leonard for music and sound, and to our photographer, SSCPS alumna Mia Strahm, for capturing the day so beautifully.







Scroll down to “What’s New in Projects and Workshops” to view more photos of the Fashion Show!

Similar to inspiration, another essential part of our mission is community service. Many students and families will be participating in a day of service this Friday, January 16, in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday. By actively participating in community service, students go beyond the realm of academics and the school campus to show what they know in meaningful ways. Through service, our students learn the immeasurable value of contributing to others' well-being and develop a sense of responsibility for something greater than themselves. Whether it’s volunteering at a public library, cleaning and cooking for the homeless, or helping an elderly neighbor garden, we remain proud of our students and all they have achieved in service and in life.

This is also the time of year when we ask our families about their South Shore Charter experience. We are currently reviewing preliminary data we received from the Transportation Survey. This morning, we hosted the first of two Transportation Family Focus Groups. Today, we have included the **SSCPS Annual Family Survey**. Over the past five years, family participation in the survey has been strong. Participation in 2024 the Annual Family Survey reached an all-time high. We received survey results from 309 out of 688 families, boosting our response rate to 45%. Participation in last year's Annual Family Survey was also high. We received 224 survey responses from 703 families, yielding a response rate of 32% and a confidence level above 90%.

We hope to achieve and surpass the high level of engagement this year. We are asking each SSCPS family to participate in the survey by reflecting on the first half of the academic year and your overall SSCPS experience to provide data essential to our institutional development. Data collected from the survey is annually reviewed by the Instructional Leadership Team, the faculty and staff, and the SSCPS Board of Trustees to assess key measures of student achievement, institutional strength, and areas of growth. In this way, the data collected will not only inform day-to-day enhancements but also play a crucial role in planning for the future. Your feedback is invaluable as we strive for continuous improvement and work to provide the best possible educational experience for our students.

Thank you for your continued support of the South Shore Charter Public School.

Alicia Savage
Executive Director

Take the SSCPS Annual Family Survey

SSCPS ANNUAL FAMILY SURVEY

School Calendar & Announcements

Weekly Calendar

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR JAN 14 - JAN 21

Wed 14

2025-2026 Waitpool Lottery

Transportation Focus Group via Zoom - 9AM

School Council Meeting via Zoom - 4:30PM

Thu 15



Fri 16

No School (Professional Development)

Sat/Sun



Mon 19

No School (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)



Tue 20

Talk to Us Tuesday - 9AM

High School Mock Trial to Hingham District Court

Wed 21

Midyear Exams Begin

Upcoming

Jan 22 - SEPAC Meeting at 100 Longwater

Jan 22-23 - Midyear Exams

Jan 27 - Talk to Us Tuesday

Jan 27 - Finance & Personnel Meeting

Jan 28 - Transportation Focus Group 2 - 6:30PM

Click here for the complete SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Click here for the new 2026-2027 School Calendar

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Midyear Exam Schedule

High School Midyear Exam Schedule

	Wednesday 1/21/26	Thursday 1/22/26	Friday 1/23/26
8:15 - 8:20	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
8:25 - 10:00	A Block Exam	C Block Exam	E Block Exam
10:00 - 10:25	Break	Break	Break
10:25 - 12:00	B Block Exam	D Block Exam	Makeup Exam Block*

*Students without a makeup exam will be dismissed at 10:00 on Friday.

Level IV Midyear Exam Schedule

	Wednesday 1/21/26	Thursday 1/22/26	Friday 1/23/26
8:15-8:30	Pod Time	Pod Time	Pod Time
8:30 - 10:00	A Block Exam	C Block Exam	E Block Exam
10:00 - 10:30	Break	Break	Break
10:30 - 12:00	B Block Exam	D Block Exam	Project Reflection & Make-ups

Important Announcements

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





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

A Kindness Reset

As we move through the new year, I want to invite our community into a simple reset. A kindness reset.

In advisory this week, students are practicing something that sounds basic, but is actually a life skill: **how to use words responsibly**—especially in moments of frustration. We’re talking about how words can build trust or break it. How comments can travel. How “I didn’t mean it like that” doesn’t always undo the impact. And how the strongest choice is often to pause, re-think, and speak in a way you’d be proud of later.

A big part of growing up is learning how to handle disappointment, disagreement, and strong feelings without turning them into harm. That’s true for kids—and honestly, it’s true for adults too.

Every community has moments where people are stressed, worried, or unhappy about something. That’s normal. What matters is how we carry those feelings. Do we move toward each other, or away from each other? Do we assume the worst, or ask questions first? Do we say things in ways that solve problems, or in ways that spread negativity?

Charter is at its best when we choose the path of direct, respectful communication. If you have a concern, a question, or a frustration, I want you to know this: **we want to hear it.** Not because we have a perfect answer every time, but because we do our best work when we are working together, face to face, with trust.

This week, as students practice this in advisory, I'm asking our adults to practice it too. A kindness reset doesn't mean we ignore problems. It means we handle problems in ways that strengthen the community instead of weakening it.



Thank you for being part of a school where we keep choosing growth—one conversation, one decision, and one act of kindness at a time.

Warmly,

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students (K–6)

Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

Transportation Focus Group 2

Thank you to all who participated in today's Transportation Focus Group! Feedback from our SSCPS family members is essential to help all of our programs and services run smoothly. Now that the SSCPS regional transportation program is in its third year, your input will help us to refine our transportation services for our student community.

Please join us on **Wednesday, January 28 at 6:30pm** for our second transportation focus group via Zoom. We will be using data from the survey to guide discussions and answer questions from the SSCPS community surrounding our transportation services.

TRANSPORTATION FOCUS GROUP

SSCPS Winter Semi | Grades 9 & 10

BUY TICKETS

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
PRESENTS:

WINTER *Semi*

SSCPS STUDENTS ONLY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH 2026

7PM-10PM

673 MAIN STREET, NORWELL MA 02061

TICKETS ARE $20 ON FAMILYID

THEME: ANY SHADE OF BLUE, WHITE, & BLACK

GRADES 9 & 10





On the Levels

NHS Tutoring Committee

The SSCPS National Honor Society is offering peer tutoring for all high school students! Use the form below to request a tutor and the committee will pair you with a tutor that best fits your needs. Tutoring is open to all SSCPS high school students for any subject!

REQUEST A TUTOR



What's New in Projects and Workshops

Art Workshop Fashion Show

Photography by SSCPS alum Mia Strahm















































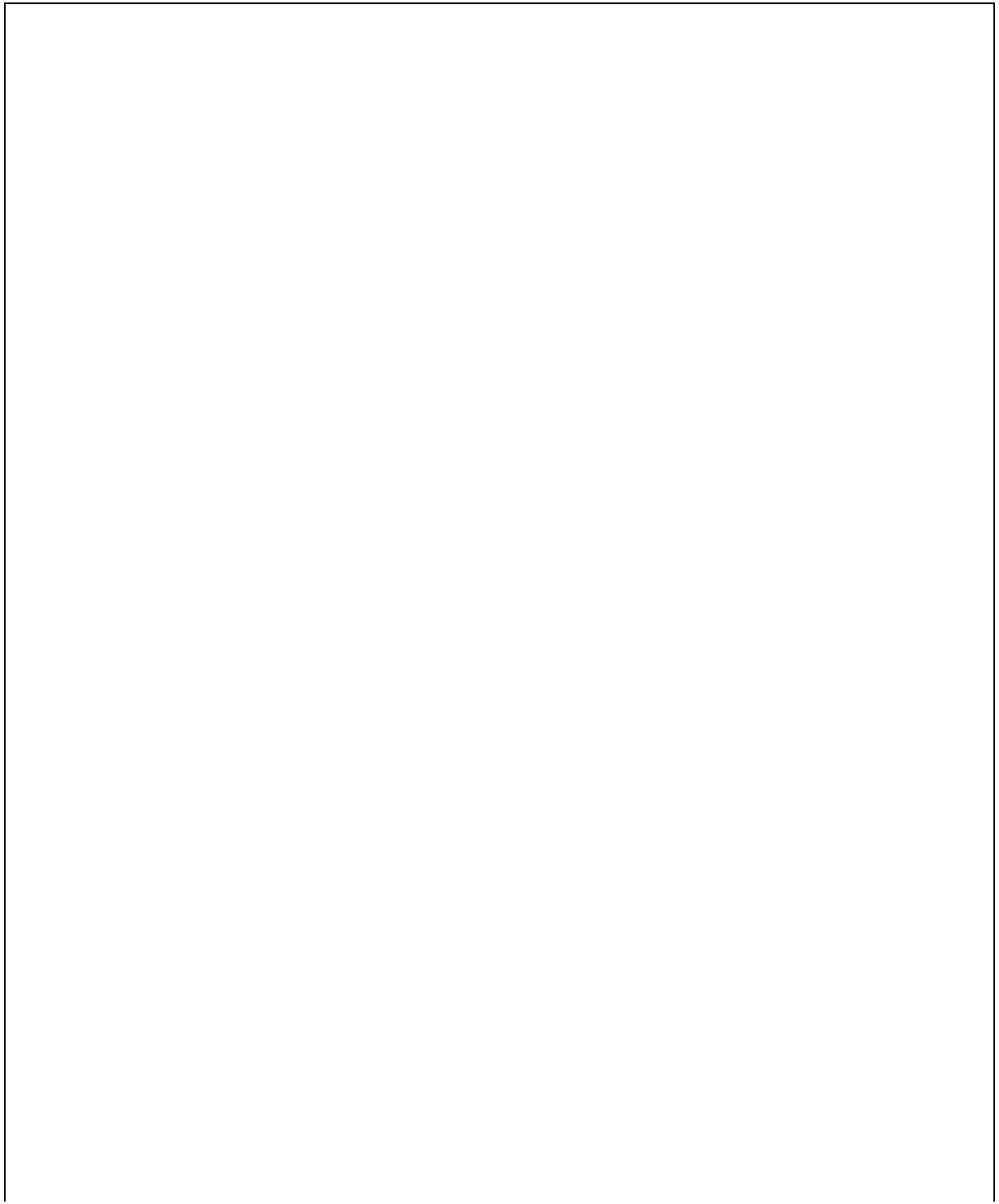






Grade 6 Community Service Project

The Grade 6 Community Service Project is collecting gently used linens to donate to Buddy and Friends Animal Rescue! Donations can be dropped off to Laura Bosse in Room 101 at 100 Longwater Circle until January 30th.



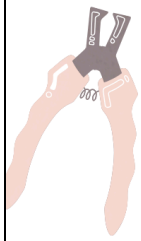
Buddy and friends animal rescue collection



COLLECTING GENTLY USED



-towels
-blankets
-FLAT sheets





when you are getting flat sheets please don't get fitted sheets only get flat.

the dates are 1/12 - 1/30

Make sure to drop off donation in

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

SSCPS Parents ASSOCIATION

Volunteer as a Pod Parent!

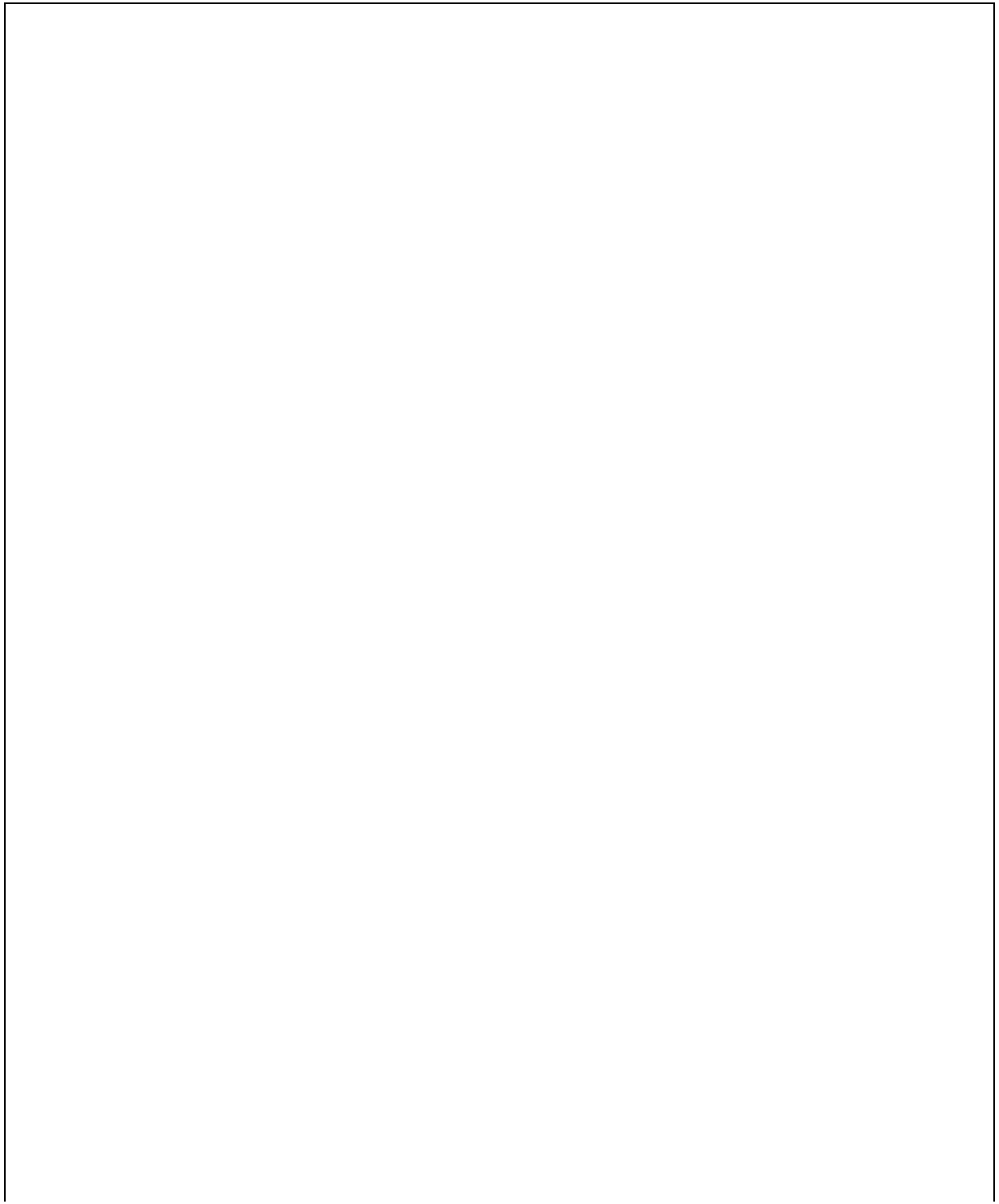


- Need Volunteers for each classroom
- Pod Parents organize **supply drives** throughout the year for things like tissues, wipes, extra snacks, bottled water
- Pod Parents help with classroom communication and parents engagement
- Work with the teacher to plan special events like **pod breakfasts**, **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

SEPAC Updates

Next Week | SEPAC Meeting




January
SEPAC
Meeting
Please join us for a
COFFEE TALK
@SSCPS 100 LONGWATER • JANUARY 22, 2026 • 6PM



Important Links

Weekly Updates are emailed and posted to our website - subscribe here.

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. **Parents Association Website**

School Documents:

NEW: 2026-2027 School Calendar

2025-2026 School Calendar

Student and Family Handbook

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures
SSCPS By-Laws

2024-2025 SSCPS Annual Report

DESE Integrated Monitoring Review



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