



## Weekly Update | March 18, 2026

VOL. 3, ISSUE 3

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## A Message from Jamie

Monday night, SSCPS hosted another successful Family STEM Night, bringing together students, families, teachers, and volunteers for an evening of hands-on exploration across multiple branches of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The event was intentionally designed to celebrate Pi Day and the world of STEM while providing students and families with opportunities to engage in authentic, inquiry-based learning experiences.

The evening featured a wide variety of interactive stations representing mathematics, computer science, engineering design, life sciences, physics, and chemistry, allowing participants to explore different areas of STEM through hands-on activities and collaborative problem solving.

Station highlights included:

- **Mathematics and Computational Thinking**
  - *Function of Pi*: Students explored the significance of  $\pi$  through challenges focused on learning and memorizing digits of Pi.
  - *Math Games*: Families participated in engaging math games highlighting patterns, strategy, and mathematical reasoning.
  - *Brain Games*: Logic puzzles and problem-solving activities challenged reasoning skills and computational thinking.
- **Computer Science and Digital Literacy**
  - *Binary Code Bracelets*: Students created coded bracelets while learning how binary represents letters and messages.

- *Exploring Code and Mini Robotic Systems*: Participants experimented with block coding using Ozobots and Micro:bits.
- *Unplugged Computer Science Activities*: Families self-explored sequencing, logic, and pattern recognition through hands-on activities that demonstrate computational thinking without the use of screens.
- **Engineering Design**
  - *Accessible Engineering Challenges*: Students collaborated on hands-on design challenges requiring creativity and teamwork.
  - *Exploring the Makerspace*: Demonstrations introduced families to 3D printing technology and digital fabrication.
  - *LEGO Engineering and Robotics*: Students explored engineering and robotics concepts through LEGO design and SPIKE Prime programming.
- **Physics**
  - *Snap Circuits*: Students investigated electricity and circuits using Snap Circuit kits.
  - *Physics of Motion and Kinematics*: Participants designed and tested balloon-powered cars to explore force, motion, and speed.
- **Life Sciences**
  - *The Living World – Unseen*: Students examined microscopic specimens using microscopes and microviewers.
  - *The Molecule of Life*: Families explored genetics and molecular biology through DNA and molecule modeling.
- **Chemistry**
  - *Polymer Science*: Students investigated chemical bonding and reactions through slime-making experiments.
  - *Exploring Molecular Structures*: Students explored the world of chemistry by building magnetic molecule models and examining molecular structures to better understand how atoms bond and combine to form different compounds.

To encourage exploration, students participated in a STEM Passport activity, collecting pie-shaped tokens as they completed stations. At the end of the evening, students exchanged their collected pieces for either a Pi-themed prize or a miniature-sized Table Talk Pie, reinforcing the Pi Day celebration.

While Family STEM Night provides a visible opportunity for community engagement, it also reflects the broader work happening at SSCPS to integrate STEM learning throughout the school day. STEM is embedded across classroom instruction, laboratory investigations, FIT courses, workshops, and enrichment programming, allowing students to experience science, engineering, and computer science in meaningful and applied ways. Events like this help extend that work beyond the classroom by inviting families to participate directly in the learning process.

Additionally, the event supports the mission and goals of the CS Engage Grant, which focuses on expanding access to computer science and digital literacy while building confidence and curiosity in STEM fields. By creating opportunities for families to engage with coding, robotics, engineering design, and scientific inquiry, SSCPS continues to disseminate the values of the grant while reinforcing our broader mission of inspiring students to explore, innovate, and connect their learning to the world around them.

As the school year moves toward the summer months, this event also serves as a reminder of the many extended learning opportunities available to our students beyond the classroom. We will be sharing resources with families including information about summer STEM camps, internships, volunteer opportunities, and community-based programs that allow students to continue developing their interests in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while gaining real-world experiences. These opportunities help students further connect their classroom learning to future pathways in college, careers, and community engagement.

**Jamie Allen**  
**Science Curriculum Coordinator**

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# School Calendar & Announcements

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## Important Make-Up Snow Day Calendar Update

Last Day of School:

Thursday, June 25th, 2026

[View the full updated calendar here.](#)

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## Weekly Calendar

**SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR** MAR 18 - MAR 25

<b>Wed 18</b> Grade 5 Field Trip - USS Constitution Junior Parent Night via Zoom - 6PM Multicultural Food Night Planning Committee Meeting via Zoom - 7PM	<b>Thu 19</b> JJ Facey Spirit Day	<b>Fri 20</b> Eid al-Fitr - No School	<b>Sat/Sun</b> <b>Sat 21</b> - New Kindergarten Student Open House - 10AM
<b>Mon 23</b> Rock Your Socks Day - Wear mismatched socks for World Down Syndrome Day!	<b>Tue 24</b> MCAS Grade 10 ELA Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom - 6PM	<b>Wed 25</b> MCAS Grade 10 ELA Storyteller for Grades K-3 High School Music Workshop Fundraising Concert Multicultural Food Night Planning Committee via Zoom - 7PM	<b>Upcoming</b> <b>Mar 26</b> - K-4 Literacy Night <b>Mar 27</b> - Library Committee Meeting <b>Mar 30</b> - Grade 10 to UMass Dartmouth <b>Mar 31 &amp; Apr 1</b> - MCAS Level IV ELA

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

[Click here for the new 2026-2027 School Calendar](#)

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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**



**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.

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**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](https://projectbread.org/gethelp)

# LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES

Click the names of each resource for more information.

<a href="#">Wellspring Multi-Service Centers</a>	<a href="#">Norwell Food Pantry</a>
<a href="#">The Charity Guild Food Pantry</a>	<a href="#">Randolph Food Pantry</a>
<a href="#">Feeding America</a>	<a href="#">Rockland Food Pantry</a>
<a href="#">Find Local Food Resources</a>	<a href="#">Weymouth Food Pantry</a>
<a href="#">Interfaith Social Services</a>	<a href="#">Self Help</a>



**SSCPS Yearbooks on Sale Now!**



**2025-2026  
SSCPS Yearbook**

*Place your online yearbook order today!*

**CLICK TO BUY** 

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## 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](#).

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## From the Foundation

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### The JJ Facey SSCPS Scholarship



South Shore Charter Public School will raise money until May 1st, 2026 for a scholarship to be awarded to two senior students who embody the characteristics of JJ Facey: Sportsmanship, Character, and Respect.

JJ was a consummate leader. JJ would often offer advice to his fellow students, join the principal for discussions with students, and raise the confidence of his teammates on and off the field. He is still helping his fellow students, but in a different way now: by funding their dreams in honor of his name.

We are seeking donations to provide two scholarships. Please donate using the button below. *All receipts will be generated electronically and can be used for Tax purposes for non-profit donations.*

[SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS](#)

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## From the Dean's Desk

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Earlier this week, during an advisory, I sat with a group of students working on something together.

Students were in small groups, heads down, focused. Some were writing. Some were drawing. Some were going back and forth about what should be included. Nothing loud. Nothing dramatic. Just a group of kids trying to capture what their school feels like right now.

It was a simple activity. A time capsule.

But it stayed with me.

There are so many moments in a school year that pass by without much notice. A conversation between friends. A class that finally settles into a rhythm. A student who feels a little more confident than they did a few months ago. None of it announces itself. It just happens, and then we move on to the next thing.

It is easy to think the important parts of school are the big ones. The performances. The events. The milestones we mark on a calendar. But a lot of what matters most lives in the smaller moments that don't get named.

This week, across both 5th and 6th grade advisories, students had a chance to slow down, just a little, and notice.

They wrote about what school feels like to them right now. What they enjoy and what matters. What they think future students should know. They captured something that will never exist in quite the same way again.

Because this group of students, this moment in the year, this version of our community only happens once.

That is true at school, and it is true at home.

There are small moments happening every day that are easy to move past. A conversation in the car. A quick laugh at the dinner table. A child sharing something that mattered to them that day. They don't feel like milestones, but they are.

This week was a reminder to notice them.

Not to hold on too tightly. Just to recognize them while they are here.

Warmly,

**Walter Duncan**  
**Dean of Students (K-6)**



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## Upcoming School & Community Events

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### Upcoming SSCPS Events

#### **World Down Syndrome Day at SSCPS**



A BELATED CELEBRATION OF

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY  
**ROCK YOUR SOCKS**

...=====...

Celebrate the strength, joy, and resilience of individuals  
with Down syndrome on Monday 3/23\*. Wear your  
favorite mismatched socks!

\*WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY  
IS SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST

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**Annual Music Workshop Concert | Women in Music**



SSCPS  
MUSIC WORKSHOP  
PRESENTS

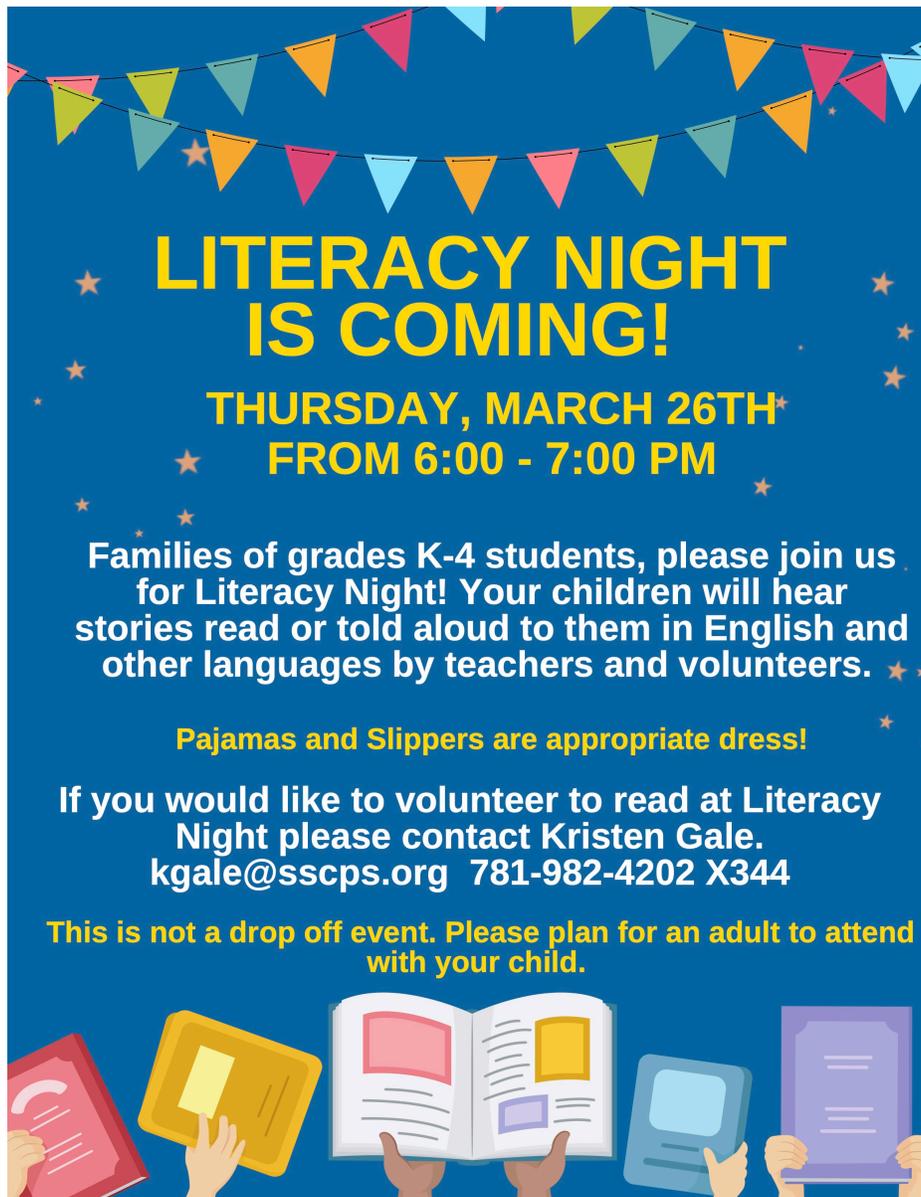
# IN MUSIC

**MARCH 25 | 6 P.M.**

\$3/STUDENTS & TEACHERS | \$5 FRIENDS & FAMILY  
104 LONGWATER | PE SPACE

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**K-4 Literacy Night**



**LITERACY NIGHT  
IS COMING!**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH\***  
**FROM 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

Families of grades K-4 students, please join us for Literacy Night! Your children will hear stories read or told aloud to them in English and other languages by teachers and volunteers.

**Pajamas and Slippers are appropriate dress!**

If you would like to volunteer to read at Literacy Night please contact Kristen Gale.  
**kgale@sscps.org 781-982-4202 X344**

**This is not a drop off event. Please plan for an adult to attend with your child.**



## Multicultural Food Night

Join SSCPS for our annual Multicultural Food Night on **Thursday, April 16th** and celebrate the rich diversity of our school community! Families are invited to share a favorite dish that represents their culture and enjoy an evening of delicious food, connection, and cultural appreciation. Come taste flavors from around the world, meet new friends, and celebrate the traditions that make South Shore Charter Public School so special.

All are welcome to attend! Please click the button below to sign up or volunteer for this event. We can't wait to see you there!

[VOLUNTEER](#)



# Multicultural Food Night

**WHERE:** 871 NORTH MAIN ST, RANDOLPH, MA  
**WHEN:** THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026, FROM 6:00 TO 8:00 P.M.

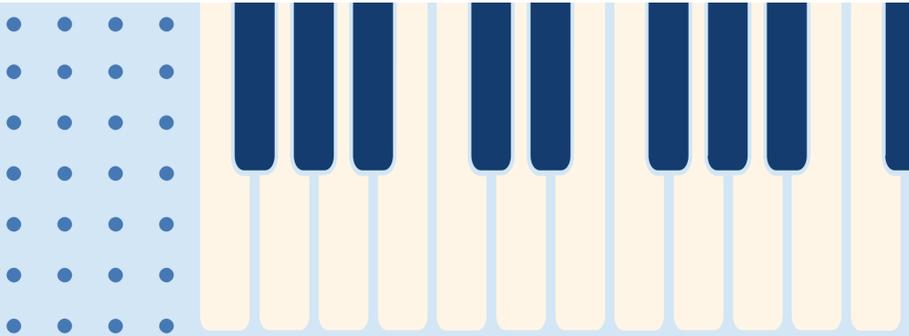
**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A POTLUCK DINNER!  
BRING YOUR FAMILY'S FAVORITE FOOD TO SHARE  
WITH OTHERS.**

**6:00-6:15 WELCOME  
6:15-7:00 BUFFET DINNER  
7:00-7:15 PERFORMANCE/ENTERTAINMENT  
7:15-7:30 DESSERT  
7:30-8:00 CLEAN-UP**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO BRING A  
DISH HELP SET-UP, SERVE, AND/OR CLEAN-UP,  
OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EVENT,**

**PLEASE CONTACT:  
SHEINA PRINCE-EUGENE (781) 982 4202 EXT 344,  
SPRINCE@SSCPS.ORG**

**STUDENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT  
OR GUARDIAN.  
THIS IS NOT A DROP-OFF EVENT.**



SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL



# SPRING CONCERTS

**WEDNESDAY**  
**MAY 27**  
**6:00PM**

**HINGHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL**

1103 MAIN ST, HINGHAM, MA 02043

*LEVEL 1, SSCPS CHOIR, BEGINNING STRINGS, INTERMEDIATE STRINGS*

**THURSDAY**  
**MAY 28**  
**6:00PM**

**HINGHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL**

1103 MAIN ST, HINGHAM, MA 02043

*BEGINNING BAND, CONCERT BAND, CONCERT STRINGS, HS MUSIC WORKSHOP*

**CALL TIME 5:30PM**

*NO PARKING AT HINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOL*

Community Events & News

Holly Hill Farm Summer Programs

Register today!

June 8 - Aug. 28, 2026

# SUMMER PROGRAMS

... on the farm



### Voted Best of the South Shore Three Years in a Row!



Our farm is a living and breathing classroom for children **ages 3.5- 15!** Our programs seek to connect children to nature in a way that will stick with them for life! Sign up for one week, or many!

### GARDEN GOATS Ages 3.5 - 5 | Half and Full Day

In this widely popular program children get to know the barnyard animals, experience the joy of growing, planting and harvesting crops, get their hands in the dirt, have adventures, explore, create crafts, and more!



All weeks

### PROGRAMS FOR AGES 9 -12 Full Day | See website for dates

- Future Farmers & Adventurers
- BioBlitz
- Future Farmers
- Outdoor Adventurers
- Creativity & Cooking with Nature
- Farmsteaders - Holly Hill Farm 1776

### MONARCHS

Ages 6 - 8  
Half and Full Day  
All weeks



Step into the many habitat at Holly Hill, including growing areas, meadows, woods, marsh, ponds and diverse flora & faun. Children will explore it all and learn all along the way!

### PROGRAMS for MIDDLESCHOOLERS

Ages 11 - 14  
Full Day

- **Stepping Back in Time: A 2-Day Living History Program**, July 13 - 14
- **Environmental Solutions Leadership: A 3-Day Program**, August 10 - 12

### Counselor-in- Training

Ages 12 - 15  
Half Day  
Weeks of 6/15-8/24

This program fosters leadership skills, with hands-on training in activity and lesson development. CITs will work with educators and learn the nuances of working with young children, while also working on building skills in communication, collaboration, respect, responsibility, and sustainability education. Certificates of completion will be awarded at week's end.

**BSU Summer Science Academy**

BSU Center for the Advancement of STEM Education

# Summer Science Academy 2026

Session	Date	Time	Grade	Cost
The Human Body from a Medical Mindset	July 6-10	8:30AM to 2:30PM	Grades 10-12 (Fall 26)	\$400
CyberTank: Innovate, Defend, Pitch!			Grades 6-9 (Fall 26)	\$300
CyberFlight: Taking Cyber Skills to New Heights!	July 13-17	8:30AM to 2:30PM	Grades 6-9 (Fall 26)	\$300
Forensics Institute of Bridgewater			Grades 6-9 (Fall 26)	\$300

For more information & to register, please visit our site: [www.bridgew.edu/center/case/science-academy](http://www.bridgew.edu/center/case/science-academy)

**REGISTER NOW**

## 2026 Summer Science Academy

### Program Descriptions

**The Human Body from a Medical Mindset**

Are you a high school student considering a career in the medical field? Join us for this week-long investigation into human body systems. Get a feel for what it's like to be a surgeon, a nurse, a researcher, or a technician (just to name a few). Practice suturing techniques, explore the heart through dissection, and diagnose illness using electrophoresis, microscopy, or culture. Information about medical careers, including "a day in the life of a medical student," will be discussed.

**CyberTank: Innovate, Defend, Pitch!**

Dive into cybersecurity with our Shark Tank-themed session for middle school students! Student teams will design and pitch innovative tech creations with built-in cybersecurity defenses to a panel of "sparks," building creativity, problem-solving, and real-world tech skills. Using Sphero robots, teams will simulate cyber threats and unmask the tactics of unethical hackers. Daily digital citizenship lessons build ethical tech habits, while the Shark Tank challenge sharpens collaborative problem-solving. The BSU Technology Department team will share their career journeys, inspiring students with real-world applications of cybersecurity skills.

**CyberFlight: Taking Cyber Skills to New Heights!**

Take off into cybersecurity with this aviation-themed summer class for middle school students! Students will collaborate in teams to design and secure their airline operations - managing databases, protecting critical systems, and safeguarding passenger information, while learning the essential role of teamwork in cybersecurity. Teams will deploy Sphero robots to complete aviation-inspired design and security challenges, applying cybersecurity skills in realistic simulations, including a simulated cyberattack on airports worldwide. To ground their skills in reality, students will meet with the BSU Aviation Department to explore the intersection of aviation and cybersecurity.

\*No prior experience needed. These classes help students level up their skills. CyberFlight and CyberTank are separate classes that can be taken independently, or together, regardless of experience.

**Forensics Institute of Bridgewater**

As a new employee at the Forensics Institute of Bridgewater (FIB), you expect your intensive training on crime scene investigations to be exciting, but you never thought it would be THIS exciting. While training on the various crime lab biotechnology techniques, a live case is delivered and F.I.B. needs YOU to help determine what happened!

Have you ever watched Crime Scene Investigators and wondered what really happens to the evidence at a crime scene and how that evidence is used to solve the crime? Join us in a week-long adventure into the life of a crime scene analyst! Working with Senior Scientists, you will learn how to collect and analyze fingerprints from a simulated crime scene, perform blood type analysis and get closer to solving the mystery using DNA fingerprinting.

## From the Guidance Department

### For Senior Families - Financial Aid Information

As you consider your options after high school, we encourage you to fill out the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#), known as the FAFSA, in order to access grants, federal student loans, and work-study funds for college. Filling out the FAFSA is one of the most important steps students and their families can take to pay for college and is the key to unlocking college financial aid from federal, state, and local sources.

If your immigration status prevents you from qualifying for federal aid, you might still be eligible for aid through the [Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid \(MASFA\)](#), which can help you attend public institutions of higher education in Massachusetts.

Applying for financial aid helps keep college an option for the fall but does not commit you to enrolling. Fill out the FAFSA or MASFA as early as possible to maximize the aid you can receive.

There are resources available to help with this process, including the following:

[Go Higher](#) is the Commonwealth's initiative to share information about access and affordability at public institutions of higher education in Massachusetts. Go Higher offers paths that make higher education more affordable—like free community college, free or affordable four-year degrees, career-connected scholarships, and more.

DESE, in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education and the Executive Office of Education, has identified [FAFSA resources that may be helpful](#).

The Department of Higher Education's [Office of Student Financial Assistance](#) is the Commonwealth's "go to" on resources concerning student financial aid.

The federal government's [FAFSA website](#) includes [steps for families](#), and entities such as the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) provide [information](#) and continuing support during the school year for educators, counselors, administrators, students and their families.

Fill out the FAFSA or MASFA as early as possible to maximize the aid you can receive!

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## **International Travel Returns to SSCPS**

### **SSCPS Goes to Spain!**

After nearly a 10-year hiatus, South Shore Charter Public School is excited to bring back international travel opportunities for our high school students.

Since 2008, I have had the privilege of traveling with six graduating classes (2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016) on educational trips to Europe. These experiences allowed students to explore history, culture, and global perspectives in ways that simply cannot be replicated in the classroom. Beyond visiting historic sites, students learn valuable life skills such as navigating new environments, managing their money, making group decisions, and developing a deeper appreciation for different cultures.

We are thrilled to continue this tradition. During April vacation, a group of 28 juniors and seniors will travel to Spain for a 10-day educational tour with EF Educational Tours. Spanish teachers Alicia Dupuis, Patrizio Trivellini, and I will be chaperoning the trip as students visit Barcelona, Madrid, Seville, and Granada.

After years of studying Spanish, students will have the opportunity to experience the language, culture, and history of Spain firsthand.

We look forward to sharing highlights from the trip with the SSCPS community.

**Mary Carter, Director of Guidance**

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## **On the Levels**

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### **St. Patrick's Day Performance at SSCPS**

Margaret Bulger, high school history teacher, plays the fiddle in celebration of St. Patrick's Day at SSCPS.



## P.E. Kids Heart Challenge

SIGN UP NOW

**JOIN THE KHC LIFESAVERS LEAGUE**

**STEP 1: SIGN UP TODAY!**  
Download the AHA Schools app or visit [www.heart.org/schools](http://www.heart.org/schools) to join your school team. When you register, be sure to join the NFL PLAY 60 Family Challenge and track 60 active minutes a day!

**STEP 2: COMPLETE FINN'S MISSION!**  
Make it YOUR mission to help create a hearing community. Learn Hands-Only CPR with NFL players, how to recognize the warning signs of stroke and more.

**STEP 3: COLLECT DONATIONS!**  
Help kids, like Ava, with special hearts by collecting donations. And help open heart surgery to age five. Thanks to advancements funded by the American Heart Association, she can do everything her friends can.

**PLAY 60**

**CBIZ**

**RAISE MORE GET MORE!**

**REGISTER ONLINE TO EARN YOUR WISHTAND.**

**EARN THE GIFT AT EACH LEVEL PLUS ALL LOWER LEVELS.**

**EARN A MYSTERY GIFT FOR EVERY \$50 YOU RAISE!**

**TYSON**

**COLLECT DONATIONS TO HELP KIDS WITH SPECIAL HEARTS—KIDS LIKE TYSON!**

**\$1000 RESCUE HERO**

**\$500 HYDRO BOT**

**\$250 AXEL JET**

**\$100 TURBO**

**\$75 PLAYMATE BALL**

**\$50 ASHER**

**\$40 PRIMER**

**\$15 SUPER SOAP**

**\$8 BEE**

**TIPS**

**REGISTERING MULTIPLE (STUDENT)?**

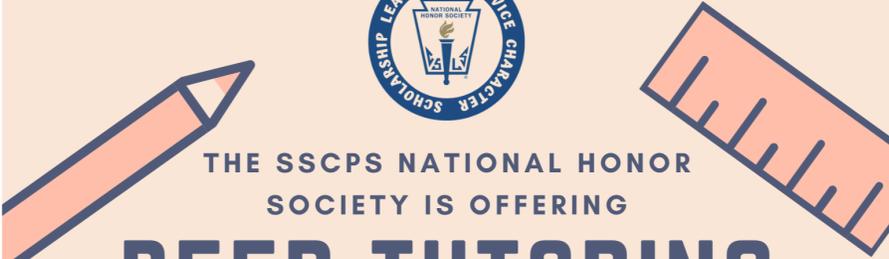
**HAVE A MULTIPLE GIFT?**

**COMPLETE FINN'S MISSION TO EARN YOUR LIFESAVERS CAPE!**

## 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



THE SSCPS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IS OFFERING

# PEER TUTORING

TUTORING IS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS FOR ANY SUBJECT! EVERY DAY AT RECITATION (10:04 - 10:57) & WORKSHOP (11:00 - 11:50)

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## Afterschool Enrichment Program

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### Chemical Creations Club

This week in Chemical Creations, students explored exciting scientific reactions through hands-on experiments. First, they observed a plasma ball to learn about the fourth state of matter - plasma. As students touched the glass, they were fascinated to see the colorful streams of light follow their fingers. They learned that the gas inside the plasma ball becomes energized by an electric current, and because our bodies can conduct electricity, we can influence the path of the electrical discharge.

Next, students carried out a chemical reaction experiment by mixing vinegar and baking soda to inflate a balloon. They discovered that the bubbling reaction produces carbon dioxide gas, which fills and expands the balloon. Students also noticed that the balloon felt cold, learning that the reaction absorbs heat from its surroundings.

The students had a wonderful time experimenting, observing the reactions, and playing with their balloons afterward. We look forward to more scientific discoveries in the upcoming weeks.





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## From the Health Office

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### 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](mailto: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](mailto:jkjelgaard@sscps.org)) & Erlin Martinez ([emartinez2@sscps.org](mailto:emartinez2@sscps.org))**

**Grades 7-12: Barbara Folan – [bfolan@sscps.org](mailto:bfolan@sscps.org)**

SSCPS Health Office

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## Community Service

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## 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](#)

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## 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](#)

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## Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC

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### Parents Association Updates

#### PA Election Season

The PA election season is approaching - please think about self nominating for any of the leadership positions up for election or for lead roles in the Fundraising Committee or the Outreach Committee.

<u>PA Position</u>	<u>Spring 2026 Election</u>
Levels I & II Co-chair	Two-year term
Levels III & IV Co-chair	No election
Level V Co-chair	No election
Secretary	No election
Treasurer	Two-year term

**Helpful Links:**

<b>SPRING FAIR 2026</b> Food/Fundraising Communications/Community Day of support <b>Date:</b> 5/2/2026	<b>TEACHER APPRECIATION</b> Planning Team Donations & Sponsorship Day of support <b>Date:</b> 5/4 & 5/5	<b>SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT</b> Organization Business/Sponsorship support Project support volunteer General Volunteer	<b>VOLUNTEERS</b> We are looking for volunteers to help with planning and implementing initiatives and general support Please signup on Signup Genius
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## Parent Volunteers Needed!

The Parents Association approved our budget during our January meeting, and we received funding for three PA committees that we need parent volunteers to help support! The committees will be focusing on Teacher Appreciation, the SSCPS Spring Fair, and School Beautification & Improvement.

If you're interested in volunteering with one of these PA committees, please use the buttons below to sign up and learn more!

TEACHER APPRECIATION

SSCPS SPRING FAIR

SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION

## General PA Info

**There will be no PA meeting this month.** The next PA meeting will be April 14th. We hope to see you there!

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](mailto:paatsscps@gmail.com)

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## Important Links

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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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