



Weekly Update | March 4, 2026

VOL. 3, ISSUE 1

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A Message from Alicia

Despite freezing temperatures and deep snow, meteorological spring has arrived at South Shore Charter. Icy arrivals and dismissals test our patience, yet optimism outlasts this seemingly endless winter. In the words of English poet and Homer translator Alexander Pope, "Hope springs eternal."

One hope springing eternal is an end to days upon days of indoor recess. Five snow days and missed classes have launched students and teachers alike into an odyssey of our own. As signs of spring rise, students, families, and teachers have mitigated and minimized disruptions through patience and perseverance. Students in grades K-4 are joyfully making their way to the end of the second trimester. Yesterday, our eighth graders took their annual field trip to the JFK Library. Seventh graders are taking a field trip to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts today. And this morning, our senior class completed the final and third day of their Senior Debates. The capstone Exhibition of Mastery for Ethics, where students work together on the debate stage as they move one step closer to graduation.

Another rite of spring arrives Friday, the annual Enrollment Lottery. The application pool is strong. With 788 applications to be sorted, it is a significant undertaking. This year, we received the highest number of applications from Brockton (182), followed by Randolph (152) and Weymouth (145).

The months leading up to the Enrollment Lottery have been filled with admissions events and community outreach. Active recruitment of new families begins on November 1 each year for the upcoming school year. At the November Open House, we received 205 visitors for grades K-5, 76 for grades 6-8, and 34 for the high school. During *Talk to Us Tuesday* sessions in January and February, 97 prospective students and families visited the campus, met students and teachers, and participated in classes while in session. We

remain grateful to our school community and current families who have shared their experiences at South Shore Charter Public School with others, spreading the word and supporting our mission.

Enrollment growth includes the building renovations currently underway at 700 Longwater Drive. There are some exciting construction updates to share. The Town of Norwell completed the permit for the second phase of the project on December 17. Phase 2 construction began the weekend of December 20 and continued throughout the December break.

Work began on the outside of the building, and a driveway was installed from 141 to our building behind the basketball net. This provides the construction team with separate access to the building during construction. A fence was installed to delineate the work area from the student area. The fence has a screen to impede visibility on all sides. The work area is designated as a hard-hat area. The picnic table area has been impacted, but we hope to keep the basketball half-court. We anticipate the fence to be up until May. Full-scale demolition began in January and continued for four weeks. We reached the end of the demolition stage of the second phase at the beginning of February. Phase Two construction is now underway.





Photo Credit: Wayne Heuer

Phase Two Demolition | February 2, 2026

Construction at 700 Longwater
February 2, 2026

We have entered the construction stage of phase two.

Using a boom lift, construction crews transported building materials, including metal wall studs, to the second floor.



As we look forward to welcoming new students and families to our school community, we remain committed to and grateful for our current students, who have paved the way for progress through their accomplishments in academics, service, and life.

Thank you for being a part of the South Shore Charter Public School.

Alicia Savage
Executive Director

School Calendar & Announcements

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

**EARLY RELEASE - 12PM
FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Weekly Calendar

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR MAR 04 - MAR 11

Wed 04

Grade 7 Field Trip to MFA
Board of Trustees Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom - 9AM

Thu 05

African Diaspora Night at 100 Longwater - 6PM

Fri 06

Enrollment Lottery 2026-2027
Professional Development
Early Release - 12PM

Sat/Sun

Sun 08 - Daylight Saving Time Starts

Mon 09



Tue 10

Board of Trustees Committee Meetings via Zoom - 5PM

Wed 11

School Council Meeting via Zoom - 4:30PM
High School Spain Trip Parent Meeting at 700 Longwater - 6PM

Upcoming

Mar 12 - Board of Trustees Meeting - 5:30PM
Mar 16 - Family STEM Night
Mar 18 - Junior Parent Night

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

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

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

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



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



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 Foundation

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

From the Dean's Desk

Last week, it snowed again.

I walked into the building with that late-winter feeling. Heavy coat. Gray sky. The kind of cold that makes you move faster just to get inside. Winter has been long this year. The children feel it. The adults feel it.

There is something about February and March that stretches people thin. Fewer outdoor moments. More time shoulder to shoulder. Small frustrations show up faster. Patience runs shorter. Even the light feels different.

And then, almost quietly, something shifts.

One morning, the sun lingers. The snow begins to collapse into itself. Water runs along the curb where ice had been. You notice it before you can explain it. Spring is coming.

Children are like that too.

Growth does not announce itself with fireworks. It shows up gradually. A student who used to shut down now tries again. A child who struggled socially finds steadier footing. A class that felt unsettled begins to hum in a different way. You look up and realize the work has been taking root all along.

Winter is not wasted time. It is the season where roots go deeper.

In school, we spend months reinforcing routines, correcting behavior, pushing through hard lessons, revisiting expectations. It can feel repetitive. It can feel slow. But then something clicks. A new level of maturity. A stronger sense of ownership. A steadier rhythm.

The same thing happens at home. You may see glimpses of independence. A little more self-control. A deeper thought in a casual conversation. Growth that was invisible suddenly becomes visible.

This season invites us to notice it.

We do not control the pace of growth. We can only prepare the soil. Provide structure. Offer warmth. Hold boundaries. Stay consistent. And trust that the seeds we plant every day are doing their work beneath the surface.

Spring is coming. In the trees. In the light. In our children.

And we are fortunate to witness it.

Warmly,

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students (K-6)



Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

African Diaspora Night | March 5th

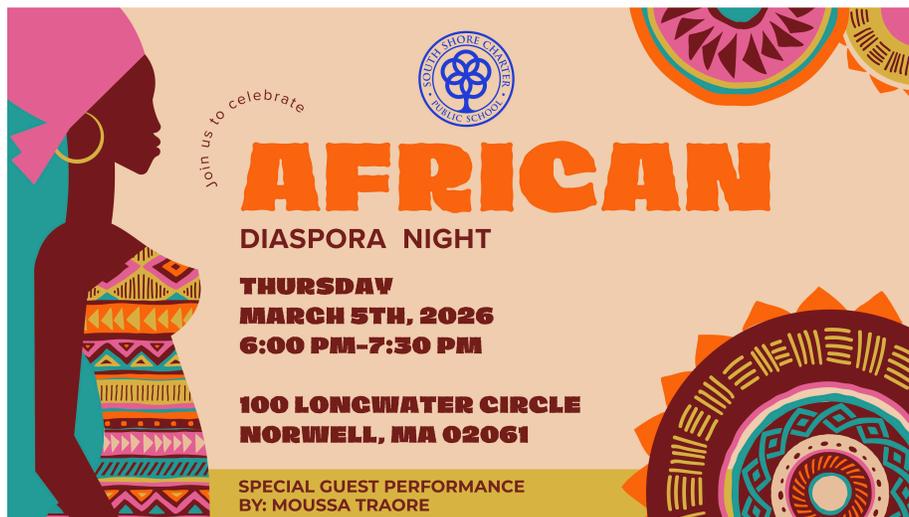
SSCPS is committed to celebrating the rich diversity of our school community through inclusive, communal events. On **March 5th, 2026, from 6:00PM - 7:30PM**, we will host **African Diaspora Night: Celebrating the Cultures of Africa and the African Diaspora**.

The African diaspora refers to the global communities formed by people of African descent, each with unique cultures, traditions, and histories. Modeled after Literacy Night, this interactive event invites children and families to move from room to room, learning about these diverse cultures through hands-on experiences and presentations. Rather than stories from books, participants will engage directly with the lived experiences, traditions, and customs shared by members of our own SSCPS community.

Families are encouraged to attend dressed in traditional clothing from their heritage. We'll have a special performance by Moussa Traore, a cultural drum performer, during the event, and we hope to have presenters from **Nigeria, Cuba, St. Thomas, United States of America, Cape Verde, Brazil, Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic**, and more. African Diaspora Night promises to be a vibrant, educational, and joyful celebration of culture, connection, and community.

If you would like to volunteer, please fill out the form below!

[VOLUNTEER FORM](#)



Family STEM Night

SSCPS Family STEM Night | March 16th

We are excited to invite you to our Family STEM Night following Pi Day, a special event designed to explore the fascinating world of Science, Technology,

Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). This event will be held on **Monday, March 16th, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at 700 Longwater Drive** (The High School Building).

This event is free of charge and offers a variety of engaging, hands-on activities, including:

- Learn and memorize the digits of Pi
- Secret letters with Binary Code bracelets
- Block coding using Ozobots and MicroBits
- STEM challenges
- Circuit exploration with Snap kits
- Makers activities
- 3D Printing
- Exploring life science through microscopes and MicroViewers
- Hands-on physical science and environmental science-molecules, slime, and water filtration.
- STEM exploration and so much more!

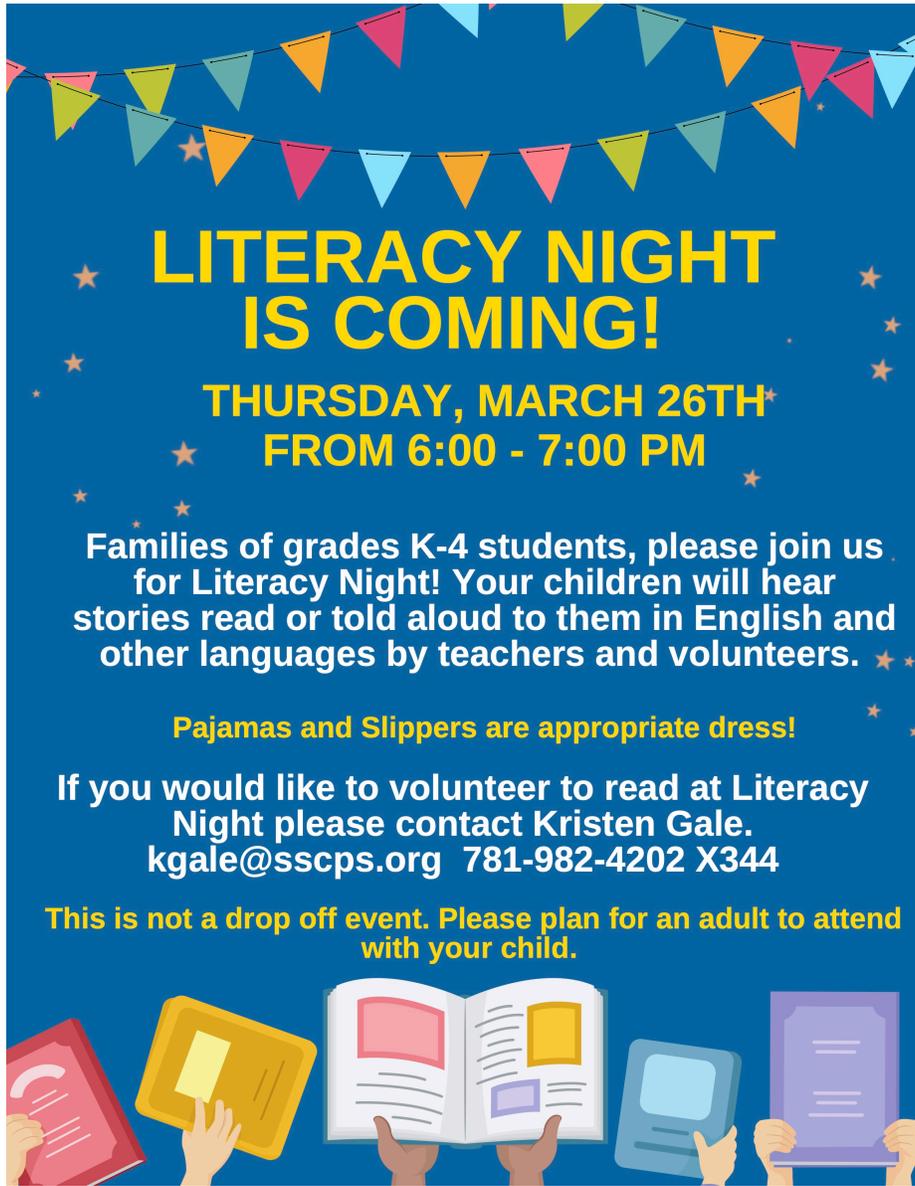
Additionally, there will be a "Snack Shack" (cash only) to enjoy while you explore the different STEM stations.

We hope you can join us for an evening of fun, learning, and exploration. Bring your family, friends, and curiosity!

For more details, please reach out to Jamie Allen, the Science Coordinator, at jallen@sscps.org.

We look forward to seeing you there!

K-4 Literacy Night

A blue poster for Literacy Night. At the top, there is a string of colorful triangular bunting flags in shades of yellow, orange, pink, and light blue. Below the flags, the text "LITERACY NIGHT IS COMING!" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters. Underneath that, the date and time "THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH* FROM 6:00 - 7:00 PM" are written in smaller yellow capital letters. The background is dark blue with several small white stars scattered throughout. The main text is in white: "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." Below this, in yellow, it says "Pajamas and Slippers are appropriate dress!". Then, in white, it says "If you would like to volunteer to read at Literacy Night please contact Kristen Gale. kgale@sscps.org 781-982-4202 X344". At the bottom, in yellow, it says "This is not a drop off event. Please plan for an adult to attend with your child." At the very bottom of the poster, there is an illustration of five hands holding up books of various colors (red, yellow, white, blue, purple).

**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.

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
- Outdoor Adventurers
- BioBlitz
- Creativity & Cooking with Nature
- Future Farmers
- 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.

On the Levels

P.E. Kids Heart Challenge

SIGN UP NOW

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION KIDS HEART CHALLENGE

JOIN THE KHC LIFESAVERS LEAGUE

STEP 1: SIGN UP TODAY!
Download the AHA Schools app or visit heart.org/kids 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 healthier community. Learn Hands-Only CPR with NFL players, how to recognize the warning signs of a stroke and more.

STEP 3: COLLECT DONATIONS!
Help kids, like Avo, with special hearts by collecting donations. And help open heart surgery at age five. Thanks to advancements funded by the American Heart Association, she can do everything her friends can. Help a complete list of items you can donate to your team.

PLAY:60 CBIZ

RAISE MORE GET MORE!

REGISTER ONLINE TO EARN YOUR WRESTLEBAND + **EARN THE GIFT AT EACH LEVEL PLUS ALL LOWER LEVELS** + **EARN A MYSTERY GIFT FOR EVERY \$50 YOU RAISE!**

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

COMPLETE FINN'S MISSION TO EARN YOUR LIFESAVERS CAPE!

TIPS

REGISTERING MULTIPLE STUDENTS? Contact an account for each student with the same parent email but different usernames.

WANT A MARCHING GIFT? Email your marching gift identification (email/photo/screen grab) to matchinggift@heart.org.

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

SCHOLARSHIP LEADERSHIP SERVICE CHARACTER NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

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)

Afterschool Enrichment Program

Dance Blast Club

Students have been exploring popular dance trends from the 1980s to the present, highlighting how music and movement have evolved over the decades. We began with

Michael Jackson's "Beat It" (1982), an iconic 80s hit known for its sharp, stylized choreography. From there, we moved into the 90s with the global dance craze "Macarena" by Los del Río (1993), a song that became a staple at celebrations everywhere. We then learned the "Cha Cha Slide" (2000) by DJ Casper, a line dance favorite that gets everyone involved with its easy-to-follow directions. Finally, we brought it to the 2010s with "Shake It Off" (2014) by Taylor Swift, a high-energy pop anthem that encourages confidence and self-expression.

The students had a wonderful time following the choreography, keeping up with the rhythms, and experiencing how each era brought its own unique style and energy to dance. The club is a fun and engaging way to connect music, movement, and culture across generations.



Chemical Creations Club

In Chemical Creations, students dove into an exciting, hands-on science activity - making slime! Using a mixture of glue and borax, they explored how different materials combine to create something completely new. Students enjoyed kneading and stretching their slime, experimenting until it reached the perfect smooth and stretchy consistency.

To make the experience even more engaging, each student added food coloring to personalize their creation, resulting in a vibrant array of colorful slime across the classroom.





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

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.

PA Position	Spring 2026 Election
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:

[Learn about the PA](#) | [PA Leadership Roles](#) | [PA Committees](#) | [PA By-Laws](#)

SPRING FAIR 2026 Food/Fundraising Communications/Community Day of support Date: 5/2/2026	TEACHER APPRECIATION Planning Team Donations & Sponsorship Day of support Date: 5/4 & 5/5	SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT Organization Business/Sponsorship support Project support volunteer General Volunteer	VOLUNTEERS 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>



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](#).

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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