



# Weekly Update | May 6, 2026

VOL. 5, ISSUE 1

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## A Message from Alicia

There's nothing quite like springtime at South Shore Charter. Kindergarten students are nearing the end of their first year of school. Eighth-grade students, high school in sight, are preparing for an upcoming trip to Washington, DC. Meanwhile, our high school seniors are getting ready for graduation and life beyond SSCPS. We look forward to honoring the Class of 2026 at their upcoming Commencement on Thursday, June 11, 2026.

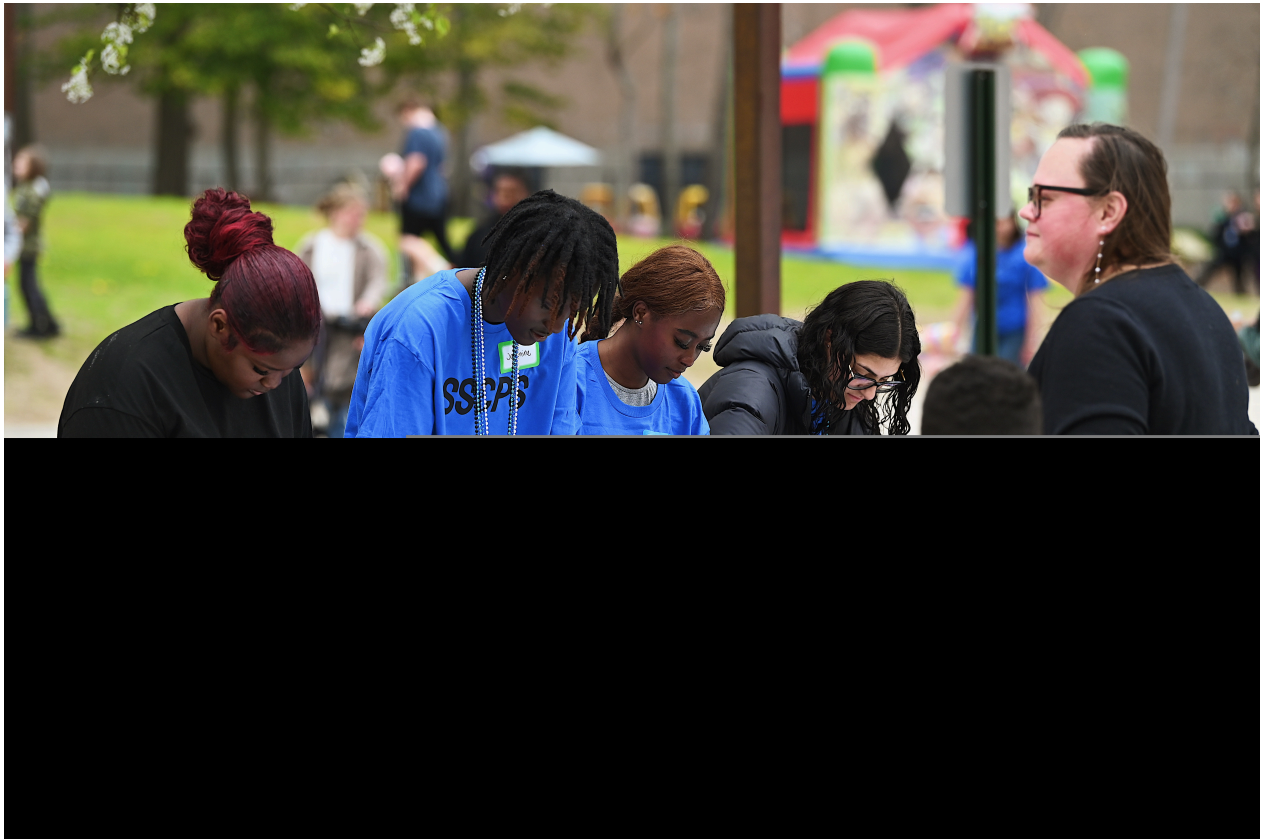
In springtime, the school calendar overflows with field trips, exhibitions, and class celebrations, taking on a life of its own. Whether it's kindergarten students exploring the South Shore Natural Science Center, or first grade students learning seed cycles at Holly Hill Farm, or sixth grade students taking in the glass flowers at the Harvard Museum of Natural History, or grade nine students applying history lessons at the USS Constitution Museum, or tenth grade students planning ahead visiting universities, or AP Calculus

students competing at Northeastern for Calculus Field Day, or Art Workshop students exploring their craft at the Harvard Art Museum, experiential learning abounds. Over April break, high school students and chaperones traveled to Spain, where they immersed themselves in the language, history, and culture they have been studying for years, some since Kindergarten. Most importantly, these are the experiences that build friendships and create memories that last a lifetime.



In April, we celebrated Multicultural Food Night, an evening of celebrating our school community with great food and wonderful music, made possible by hard work and creativity. Tremendous thanks to our Multicultural Food Night planning committee, the dedicated parent volunteers, event coordinators Sheina Prince-Eugene and Nadine Sullivan, and our on-site family, faculty, and student volunteers who worked to bring this joyful South Shore Charter tradition to all of us.

May began with the Spring Fair, a student-run event. Now in its third year, the Spring Fair is the result of months of planning and legwork. The outcome proved well worth the effort. Like Multicultural Food Night, it was a day of coming together. Students of all ages and their families spent time together playing games, bouncing and sliding, painting faces, eating, and enjoying one another's company.



*Photograph by Mia Strahm*

We owe tremendous gratitude to the SSCPS Fair Committee. This group of dedicated high school students devoted countless hours of thought and hard work to making the fair a reality for the third consecutive year. This is a service project, with each committee member bringing their unique talents to the table. Students worked on the details of the fair, planning and mapping out the day, so the fair went smoothly. Congratulations, David Anyanwu, Kendra Anyanwu, Willow Shinney-Kalafatas, Niamh Mullane, and Emily Walsh, for a job well done.

I would like to thank the Parents Association, led by Keisha O'Marde-Jack, for their fundraising initiatives which provide extra field trips, classroom supplies, and experiences, and for the planning and effort that went into Multicultural Food Night, the Spring Fair, and Teacher Appreciation Week. We are fortunate to have the ongoing support of our families in all we do.



*Photograph by Mia Strahm*

These experiences are inherent to our mission. As we look to the future of South Shore Charter, we seek programs and opportunities that will continue to reflect our commitment to inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life. One of those commitments is providing our students with college-level coursework in high school. Over the past fifteen years, we have grown our Advanced Placement program to meet this commitment. Our high school students have thrived, and South Shore Charter continues to receive recognition from the College Board for providing college credit, culture, and optimization.

Another avenue of achievement is dual enrollment. Last year, South Shore Charter began a partnership with Quincy College, enabling high school students to earn college credit through the dual enrollment model. Currently, dual enrollment course offerings include Speech Communications, General Psychology, and Quantitative Reasoning. These courses, taught by South Shore Charter faculty on our campus, provide students with the support they need to access college-level rigor in a familiar educational setting. Now in its second year, the program plans to transition from the Dual Enrollment model to an Early College model by the 2027-2028 school year to broaden opportunities.

The South Shore Charter Public School has been awarded a pre-planning grant for the Early College Pathway Program. This year and next, we will develop an Early College Pathway Program that aligns with our mission and past practice of providing college coursework to our student body. If funded, the Early College Pathway Program will provide students with multiple course pathways to earn college coursework and course credits prior to high school graduation. The Early College Pathway Program will identify

students as early as grade nine who are interested in pursuing college coursework through a guided career or academic pathway. This means that students will have another option for accessing college-level rigor, in addition to, or in place of, Advanced Placement coursework. We look forward to seeing how this initiative develops over the next year and will keep you informed as we move ahead.

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

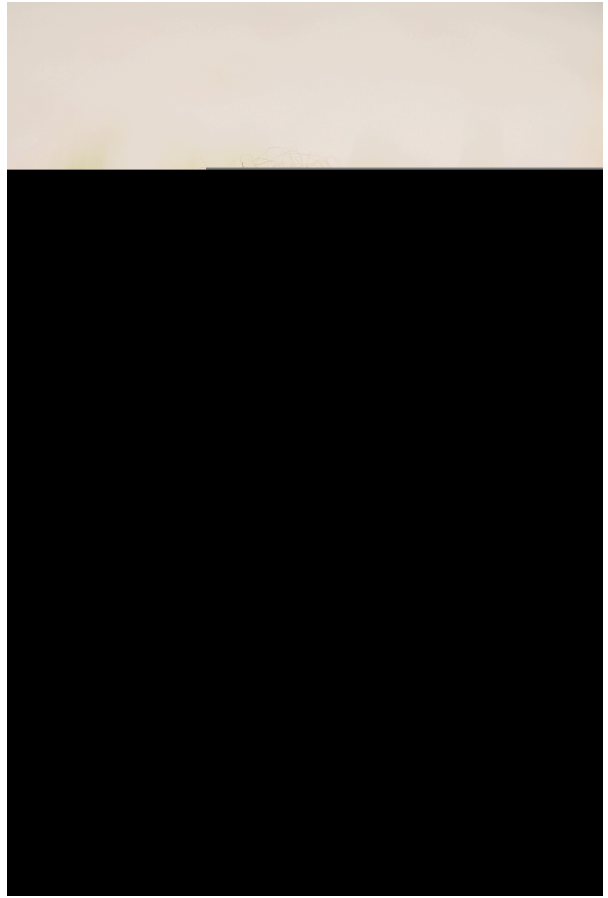
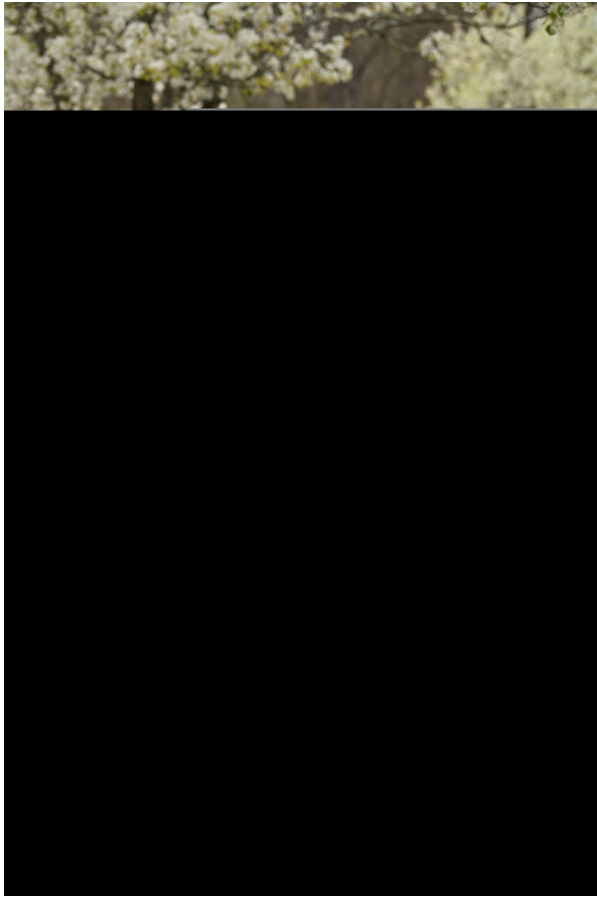
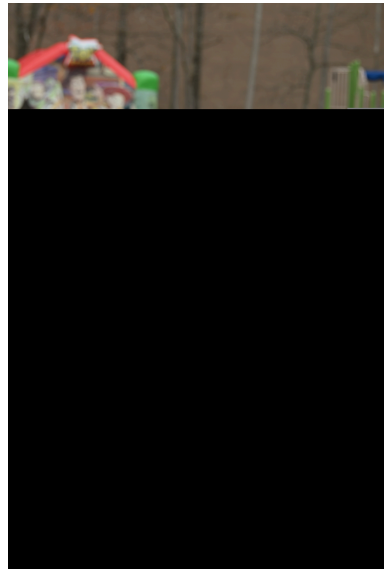
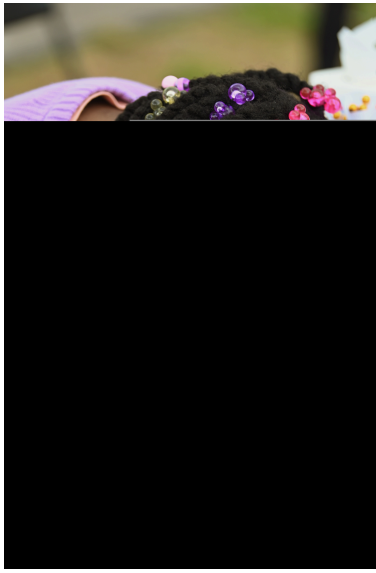
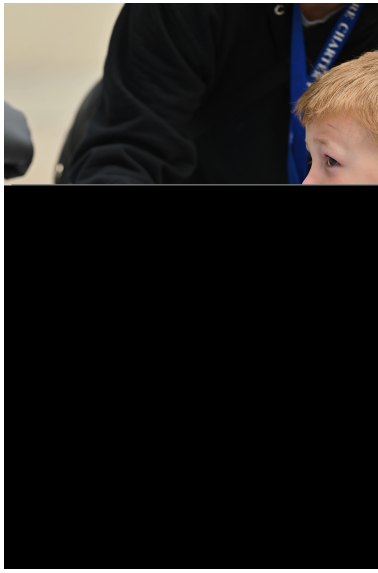
**Alicia Savage**  
Executive Director

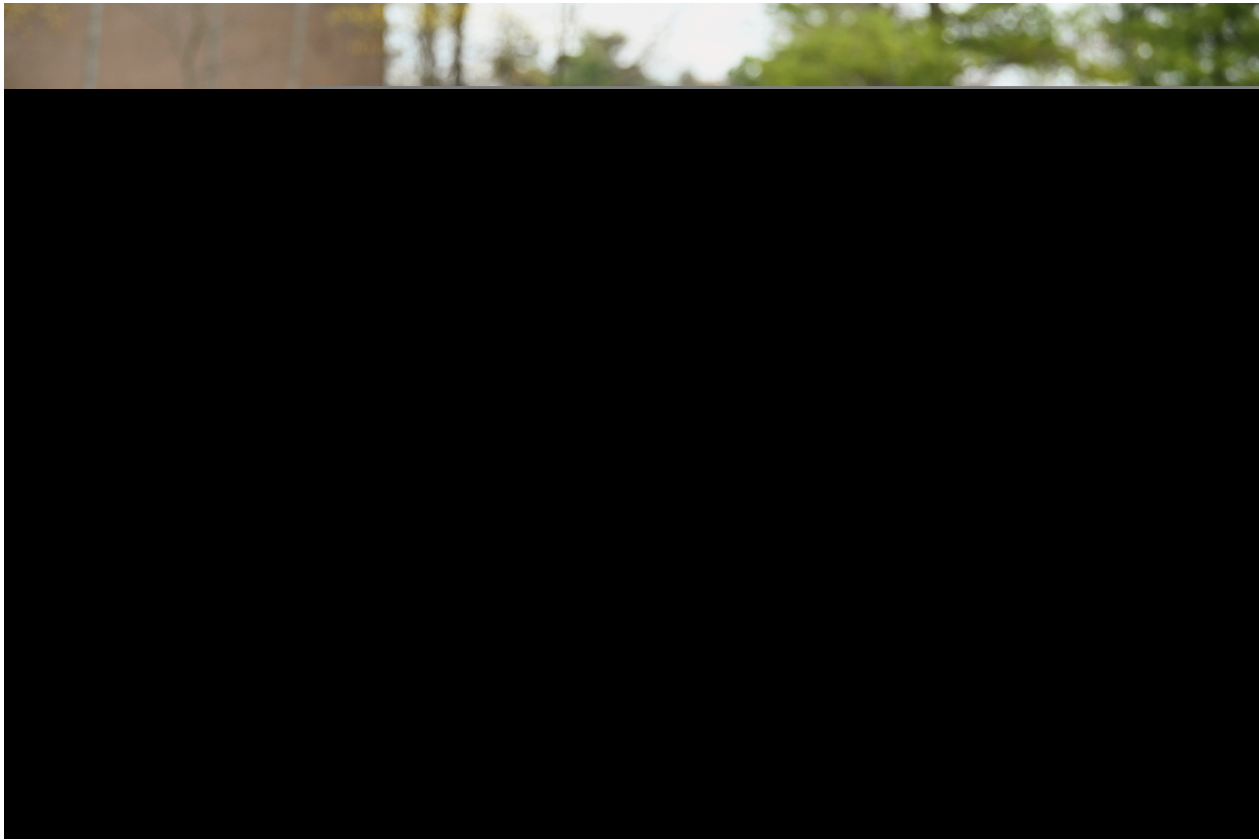
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## SSCPS Spring Fair

*All photographs by Mia Strahm*







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## **PA Teacher & Staff Appreciation Lunch**



*A special thank you to the Parents Association for organizing a Teacher & Staff  
Appreciation lunch for our faculty this week!*

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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.](#)

## IMPORTANT REMINDER:

**EARLY RELEASE - 12PM**

**FRIDAY, MAY 8TH**

## Weekly Calendar

### SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR MAY 06 - MAY 13

Wed 06

MCAS Level IV Math  
AP Literature & Composition Exam  
AP Physics I VHS Exam  
Board of Trustees Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom - 9AM

Thu 07

MCAS Level IV Math  
AP Exams: African Studies, Statistics, World History  
K-5 New Student Open House - 5PM  
6-12 New & Current Student (Rising 6 & 9) Open House - 6PM

Fri 08

AP US History Exam  
Professional Development Early Release - 12PM

Sat/Sun



Mon 11

MCAS Level III Math  
AP Calculus AB Exam  
AP Calculus BC Exam  
AP Music Theory VHS Exam

Tue 12

MCAS Level III Math  
AP Precalculus Exam  
Board of Trustees Committee Meetings via Zoom - 5PM

Wed 13

MCAS Level II Math  
AP Language & Composition Exam  
AP Physics C Exam  
School Council Meeting via

Upcoming

**May 14** - MCAS Level II Math  
**May 14** - BOT Meeting  
**May 14-15** - AP Exams  
**May 15** - Seniors Last Day

**[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 SSCPS Board of Trustees

Below you will find a link to the SSCPS Complaint Procedure. The procedure can also be found on the SSCPS website on our [Board of Trustees](#) page and our [Family Resources](#) page.

SSCPS Complaint Procedure

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### From the Counseling Department

**May is Mental Health Awareness Month!** Join us in breaking the stigma and recognizing the importance of mental health by wearing green on May 15th.

Click the button below to read the full message from the Counseling Department about the importance of mental health in schools, tips to take care of your own mental health, and a list of helpful resources.

Mental Health Newsletter



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## 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**

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## SUN Bucks 2026

SUN Bucks, the federal food benefit program once known as Summer EBT, is returning for summer 2026. SUN Bucks provides a \$120 lump-sum summer benefit per school-aged child for income-eligible families. The program is administered by the state Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) in partnership with DESE and with assistance from schools.

SUN Bucks income eligibility standards are the same as those for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). As such, all enrolled students identified as meeting the income eligibility standards for free or reduced-price lunch during school year 2025-26, either through an NSLP household paper application or direct certification, are automatically eligible for SUN Bucks. Students identified as homeless, migrant, runaway or participating in Head Start are also automatically eligible. Students who do not meet the aforementioned criteria can apply for SUN Bucks benefits through DTA by visiting [www.DTAConnect.com](http://www.DTAConnect.com).

More information is available on the [SUN Bucks website](#), including [application materials](#) in six languages.

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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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## Teacher & Staff Appreciation Fundraising

Once again, SSCPS is extending **Teacher Appreciation Week** through the entire month of May to show our immense gratitude and support for all of the amazing teachers and faculty at South Shore Charter!

This special week (and month) is a great chance to show additional support to our teachers and staff who contribute in so many ways to the success of our school, but it's important that we remember their contributions every day of the year as well. Our faculty dedicate each day to providing a **safe, inclusive, educational, and engaging learning environment** for all of our students at SSCPS, and choosing to make a donation in support of our staff helps us continue to provide the same environment for them.

No matter the size, your donation will make a huge difference for our entire faculty at SSCPS. If you'd like to **show your support and make a donation** to our Teacher & Staff Appreciation campaign (or any other department at SSCPS), please use the button below!

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

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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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## Upcoming School & Community Events

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### Upcoming SSCPS Events

#### Junior/Senior Prom

Join us on **Friday, May 15, 2026** for the SSCPS Junior/Senior Prom!

Prom will be held from 7:00-11:00 pm at the Tirrell Room, located at 254 Quarry Street in Quincy, MA. The dance is open to all SSCPS students in grades 11 and 12. Tickets are \$65.00 per person, and students can bring one outside guest for an additional \$65. Guests must be registered - please see Mary Carter for details. Tickets can be purchased using the button below!

BUY TICKETS

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#### Dress Your Heritage Day



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**SSCPS Spring Concerts**

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## Community Events & News

### **Free Mother's & Father's Day Events for Students**



# EMPOWER MOTHER'S & FATHER'S DAY EVENTS

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## Holly Hill Farm Programs & Events

In addition to Holly Hill Farm's summer programs, they'll also be hosting a free community celebration event on Cohasset Common on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm. The event celebrates over 20 years of growing, teaching, and serving the community,

and will share exciting new plans for growing its future. The event, **Keep Our Farm a Farm: Celebrating Our Farm, Growing Its Future**, welcomes people of all ages to learn about the farm, enjoy local food trucks and live music, participate in hands-on workshop activities (while supplies last), and join in the festivities with the community.

**Hands-on activities for children:**

Craft paper pollinator puppets and learn with us!

Tie-dye your own t-shirt using natural dyes!

Plant seeds and learn about composting!

Plus, catch a special performance from Mama Steph, South Shore's beloved singer-songwriter and entertainer!



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**BSU Summer Science Academy**

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**From the Guidance Department**

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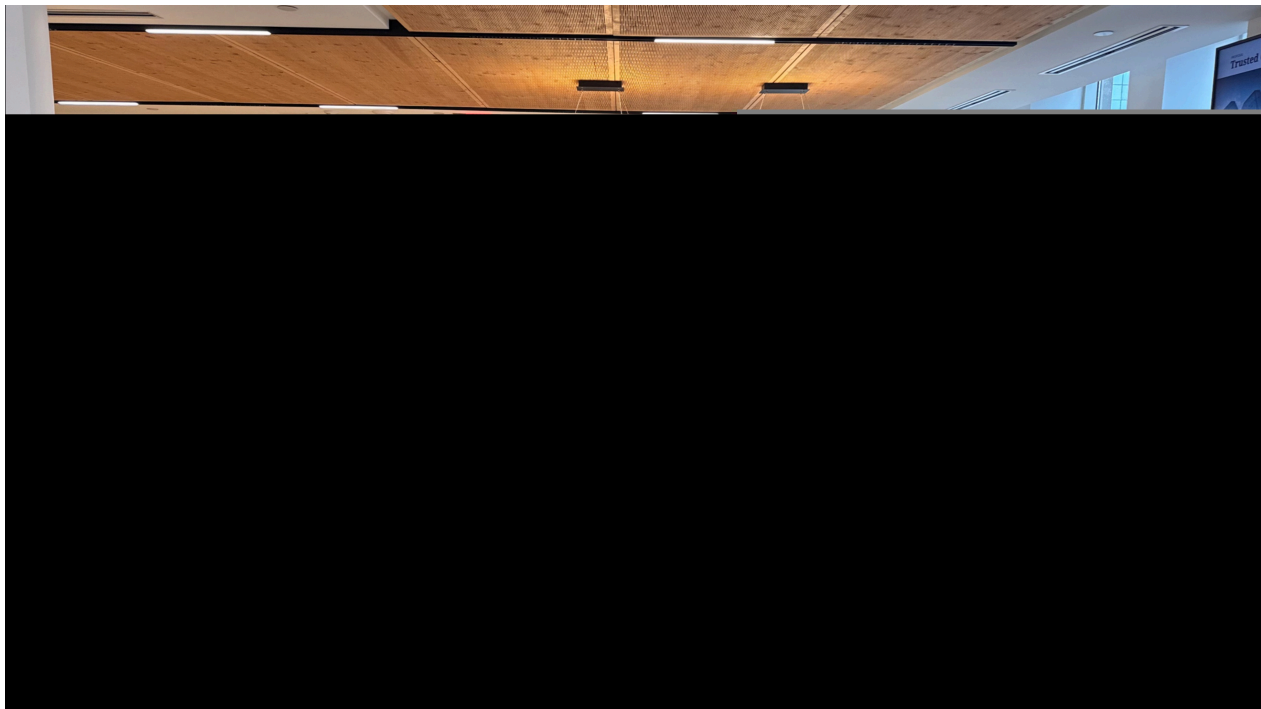
**AP Personal Finance Field Trip**

We are excited to share that our AP Personal Finance students recently had the opportunity to participate in a field trip to Wolf & Company in Boston last Thursday, April 30th. Guidance Counselor Mary Carter, along with Jerry Ford, Math Teacher and future AP Personal Finance instructor, chaperoned the trip. Students traveled into Boston by commuter boat, making for a memorable start to a full day of learning.

During their visit, students explored what a career in accounting can look like and gained valuable insight into the wide range of opportunities within the field. The team at Wolf & Company shared how impressed they were with our students' enthusiasm and engagement.

A very special thank you to SSCPS parent Michelle Mercurio for helping to make this opportunity possible. We are so grateful for her support in connecting our students with such a meaningful real-world experience.

This field trip provided an excellent opportunity for students to connect classroom learning to potential future careers in finance and accounting.



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## **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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## On the Levels

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### Level IV Newsletter

Use the button below to read the April issue of the Level IV Family Newsletter!

[READ THE NEWSLETTER](#)

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### Grade 8 Fundraiser



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**K-4 Book Swap**

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**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

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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

#### Joshua Kaye Foundation Events

The 9th annual Family Fun Festival is Sunday, June 7 in Braintree. This event is made possible by about 200 volunteers, so if any of SSCPS students are interested, they can sign up [here](#) or by using the button below.

Other upcoming volunteer opportunities with the Joshua Kaye Foundation:

- JKF Gardens + Greenhouse Program
- Kindness Message Packs
- Little Free Libraries

Please feel free to contact Melissa Kaye at [melissa@joshuakayefoundation.org](mailto:melissa@joshuakayefoundation.org) to learn more about these upcoming volunteer events.

Family Fun Festival Volunteering

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### Community Service Table

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.

## 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

#### Upcoming PA Meeting

**Our next PA meeting will be Tuesday, May 12th at 7PM.** We look forward to seeing you there - use the button below to join the meeting!

MEETING LINK

**May 12th  
@7PM**

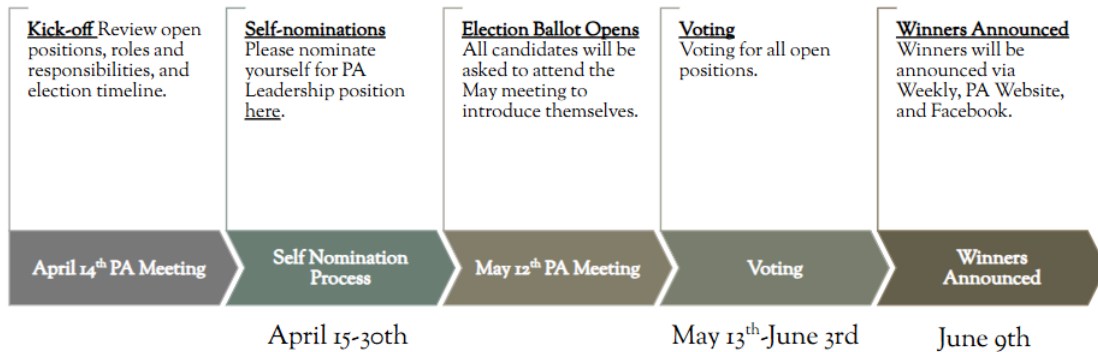


**COMMUNITY BUILDING**

# PA MEETING

- **Event Updates**
- **Thank You, Donors!**
- **Grant Requests**
- **PA Elections - meet the candidates**

## 2026-2027 PA ELECTION CYCLE



### 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

#### Helpful Links:

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

### Important Links

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

1. [Afterschool Enrichment Program](#)

#### School Documents:

[2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

[Student and Family Handbook](#)

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](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)  
[SSCPS By-Laws](#)

[2024-2025 SSCPS Annual Report](#)

[DESE Integrated Monitoring Review](#)

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar



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