

Weekly Update | November 19, 2025

VOL. 11, ISSUE 3

Table of Contents

- A Message from Kristen
- School Calendar & Announcements
- From the Dean's Desk
- Upcoming School & Community Events
- On the Levels
- What's New in Projects & Workshops
- Arts & Music
- Afterschool Enrichment Program
- From the Health Office
- Community Service
- Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC
- Important Links

A Message from Kristen

As November unfolds, we reflect on connections that make learning more meaningful. In English language arts, history, and social studies classrooms, students explore how people create meaning and connect with one another through language, art, and culture.

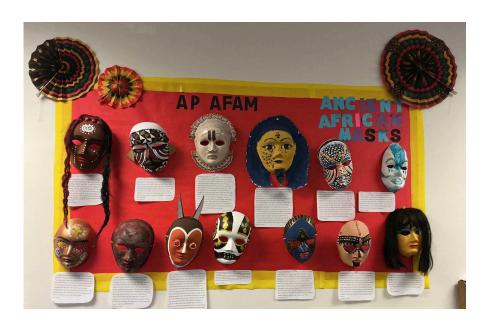
Notable Happenings

- Elementary School: Third graders visited Plimoth Patuxet Museums on Tuesday to learn more about what life was like in 17th-century Wampanoag and Pilgrim settlements. The living history museum offers several online resources for people of all ages to learn more about history, including interactive "You Are the Historian" games.
- **Middle School:** Holocaust survivor Werner Salinger spoke to eighth graders about his experiences. Students had many questions and thoughts to share based on their study of *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank.



Joshua Walker, Holocaust Survivor Werner Salinger, and Zaid Almadi

High School: In Advanced Placement® African American Studies, students bring
history and heritage to life through Motherland Mondays. As they learn about Africa
and the African diaspora, students share something new they discovered from a
family story, a class reading, or their own research. Students also designed ancient
African masks inspired by traditional art, symbolism, and cultural meaning.



Connecting Through Reading

As we enter the holiday season, consider using some of the extra time at home reading together. Whether it's a picture book, a poem, a news article, or a favorite childhood story, shared reading builds connection. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) offers a webpage for families interested in bolstering their child's early literacy skills. It features a recommended read-aloud routine, tips for expanding a child's vocabulary, and book lists, among other resources.

The <u>DESE Family Guides</u> also invite families to spark meaningful conversations and connect classroom learning to home by asking open-ended questions such as:

- Can you tell me about something you read today?
- What kind of writing did you do in school today?

- · What topics have you researched recently?
- Whose perspectives did you think about in class today, other than your own?
- · How does what you're learning help you understand the world?

Thank you for helping our students find meaning in the stories they explore.

Kristen Mullin-Connolly Humanities Curriculum Coordinator





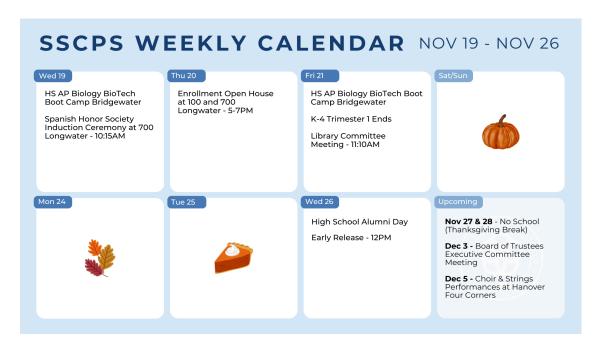




Lucas Bonin, Edson Silva, Giovhani Valbrun, Liam Shinney, Carter Lipscomb, Leighton Murphy, Emelia Ferry, Kendo Ogwindi, Lily-Anne Brady, and Ziad Exavier enjoy the K-6 book fair organized by Literacy Curriculum Coordinator Kristen Gale.

School Calendar & Announcements

Weekly Calendar



Click here for the complete SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Important Announcements

From the Food Services Department

SSCPS Families,

As of November 1, 2025, over 1 million residents, including 277,000 school aged children in 168,000 households, are not receiving their SNAP benefits. Seemingly, SNAP benefits will not continue to be paid until the federal government shutdown is over.

The South Shore Charter Public School offers free nutritious lunch and breakfast at school every school day for all students. Please visit our <u>Food Services</u> 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 <u>SSCPS Familyld Programs</u> 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 <u>here</u> to watch a quick video. If you need any assistance with FamilyID registration, please call 1-800-311-4060 or email <u>support@arbitersports.com</u>. All meal orders will be made directly through

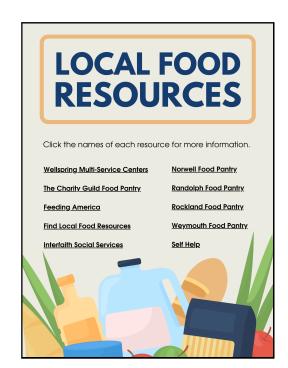
this online system. If you need further assistance, please contact Charlene Salamone at **csalamone@sscps.org** or by calling 781-982-4202x156.

If your family needs additional support please visit <u>Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline</u>. 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





Lost and Found Student Coats | Levels I-III

Parents and families: We have a large number of coats left behind at SSCPS. If your child has left their coat at school, please take a look through **this folder** of photos or use the button below to see if any of them belong to you.

LOST AND FOUND



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**.

Drop Off & Pick Up Reminders

first and last name as well as the grade of your child. Any changes can be sent to attendance@sscps.org.

Drop off in the morning by 8:10am.

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

SSCPS Volunteer Information

We know that many parents and guardians are eager to complete volunteer requirements so that they are able to begin volunteering. Please find the list of volunteer requirements below. Links to the required documents are available on the <u>volunteering page on our website</u>. Copies of the paperwork will be available prior to the Back-to-School Nights.

Anyone who is working with children or within our SSCPS buildings must be officially registered as a volunteer. This policy is in place to protect our students. Volunteers must register each school year. In order to register as a volunteer, you must complete all of the requirements listed below.

- Complete a CORI form. This requirement must be met annually. The CORI form should be returned to the school to the attention of Pam Algera with a copy of a photo ID.
- Complete Identogo Fingerprinting. This task must be completed every three
 years. Fingerprinting is completed off site and has a cost. SSCPS will reimburse
 parent/guardian volunteers for this cost.
- Complete Volunteer Training and agree to the Confidentiality Policy. This
 requirement must be completed every three years. The training is available on the
 volunteering page on our website.

If you have any questions please reach out to Angie Pepin at apepin@sscps.org.

From the Dean's Desk

Dear Families,

As we move into Thanksgiving week, I want to pause and name what this season is about. Gratitude is not an idea we talk about once a year. It is a practice. It asks us to slow down, pay attention, and recognize what we already have in our lives.

On Monday, our 6th graders will wrap up their gratitude project. It has been good to see them take time to reflect and put their thoughts into real words and images. Our 5th graders will not have an Advisory next week, as we all head into a well-earned break.

This season also gives us a chance to look outward. There are many people in our larger community who are struggling. One way to show appreciation for what we have is to offer support to those who need it.

That can be food drives, clothing donations, or simple acts of care. It does not have to be big. It just has to be real.

As we move into the break, I hope you take time to rest, connect with the people you care about, and find one small way to give back.

Thank you for all you do to support our students and our school.

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students (K-6)



Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

This Thursday: SSCPS Enrollment Open House

Enrollment Open House Thursday, November 20th | 5-7PM

Do you know someone looking to enroll their student in a great school? Is your student entering high school next year, or transitioning between buildings from 6th to 7th grade? Spread the word & join us **tomorrow on Thursday, November 20th** to explore our campus, meet students and faculty, ask us questions, and learn about our unique educational model.

OPEN HOUSE INFO

K-12 Night of Code

K-12 Night of Code

Monday, December 8th from 5-6:30PM 700 Longwater Drive

Join us for the Night of Code, where you can dive into exciting hands-on activities featuring Micro:Bits, Ozobots, Lego Robots, and unplugged activities. You'll also have the opportunity to explore website design, artificial intelligence, various coding languages, and potential career paths in computer science. Don't miss this chance to engage with technology and discover the many facets of coding!

The Night of Code will take place during Computer Science Education Week (CSEd Week), which runs from December 6th to 12th this year. This week-long celebration offers a fantastic opportunity for families to immerse themselves in the world of computer science. Throughout the event, students and their family members will have the chance to explore various aspects of computer science, including coding and its applications, using a variety of tools and resources. CSEd Week is recognized as the largest learning event in history, aiming to inspire K-12 students to engage with coding. We encourage everyone to participate in the "Hour of Code" during the second week of December!

SSCPS Winter Concerts



K-6 Craft Day | Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help with this year's Craft Day event on **Friday**, **December 19th.** If you are interested in volunteering on Craft Day please sign up **here** or use the button below. We are asking volunteers to plan for a craft for about 50 students. **Due to the structure of the event, individuals may only register for one grade level.**

Anyone that volunteers at SSCPS must complete a CORI, complete volunteer training, take the volunteer quiz and be fingerprinted. Please plan ahead and get your paperwork completed as soon as possible if you plan to come in and

volunteer on Craft Day. This sign up will close on Friday, December 12th to allow us time to plan.

Thank you for your consideration. We are all looking forward to this year's Craft Day!



Community Events & News

Hanover Four Corners Winter Festival

On December 5th, SSCPS will be returning to the Hanover Four Corners Winter Festival! The Level II Chorus will perform at 5:50pm, and the String Ensemble will perform at 6:15pm, both at Saint Andrews. Stop by the festival to support our SSCPS students!



Blue Hills Ski Area | Student Employment Opportunities

Blue Hills Ski Area has some exciting opportunities for students who may be seeking parttime employment, seasonal work, or leadership development between fall and spring sports seasons!

Their 2025–2026 winter season runs from December through March, with onboarding and training beginning in late November to early December. They offer both full-time and part-time hours with flexible scheduling options to accommodate school commitments—including school-day, evening, night, and weekend shifts. It's a fun, active, and community-oriented environment where students can gain valuable experience.

Blue Hills is hiring across all departments, with positions available for a wide range of ages and interests:

- Snowsports School (ages 14+) Ski & Snowboard Instructors (training provided; great for students who are intermediate or advanced skiers/snowboarders)
- Guest Services (16+) Ticketing, Retail, Information, Guest Experience Ambassadors
- Rentals (16+) Rental Equipment Technicians
- Food & Beverage (16–18+) Food Runners/Bussers, Snack Shack Attendants, Cooks, Bartenders
- Parking (16+) Parking Attendants, Shuttle Drivers
- Tubing (16+) Tubing Attendants
- Race Department (16+) Race Coaches, Race Course Assistants
- Lifts (18+) Lift Operators
- Operations (18+) Snowmaking, Grooming
- Events & Group Sales (18+) Group Sales and Event Coordinators
- Content Creation & Social Media (18+) Paid Internships and Full Positions

Students who wish to join our **Snowsports School** will also participate in our **Instructor Training Course**, which builds **communication**, **leadership**, **and teaching skills** that apply well beyond the mountain. Our affiliation with the **Professional Ski Instructors of America American Association of Snowboard Instructors (PSIA AASI)** gives participants access to professional-level training, mentorship, and resume-enhancing certifications.

View the flyer below for more information - job postings and application links are available on the Blue Hills Ski Area <u>website</u>.

BLUE HILLS SKI INFO

Holly Hill Farm December Programs





Late Fall

December 1 - 18

Sign up for one, a few, or all programs!

Members receive a discount. Reduced pricing available.

We strive to make educational programming accessible to all ages. Tiered pricing allows families to choose the price that is right for them, while also becoming more aware of the costs associated with putting on educational programs for each child.



Friends of Holly Hill Farm 236 Jerusalem Road, Cohasset, MA 02025 781-383-6565 programs@hollyhillfarm.org

Register Now!

"One Day" Programs for ages 6 -12 After school from 4:00 - 5:30 pm*

> Healthy Cooking* **Shelter Building** Farm Night Mysteries Wreath Making Holiday Gift Crafts Fairy & Gnome Homes **Tomtem Quest**



hollyhillfarm.org/december-programs



There is still room for some high school students to join the MassGIS Certificate Program in partnership with the Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research! The next cohort for the MassGIS-endorsed Certificate of GIS Proficiency begins on Veterans Day, November 11th. The course schedule is designed to be student-friendly, even for the highly scheduled, ambitious student. Student meets take place over 5 months from November to March, and are sprinkled among holidays, Saturday mornings, and early evening Wednesdays.

View the additional resources below for more information!













On the Levels

MCAS Scholarships Class of 2026

Congratulations to our Class of 2026 MCAS Scholarship recipients!

Adedeji Akinwumi, Zahid Ali, Joseph Altieri, Luc Dery, Chibugo Ejiogu, Alicia Eze, Sadie Grissom, Kosisochi Igbo, Julianna Johnston, Hannah Kallman, Emma Mooney, Niamh Mullane, Marianna Muturi, Lesly Occeus, Jadesola Oyekoya, Colwynn Polfeka, Franco Rojas, Willow Shinney-Kalafatas, Marvheen Theodore, Ehidiamen Ujialele, Benjamin Whitcomb



Who We Play For Heart Screenings

A tremendous thank you to the Facey family for organizing another successful heart screening event for our students!



Level III Community Service Project

The Level III Community Service Project delivered the generous food drive donations they received to the food bank - thank you to everyone who made a donation!



AP Bridge Program | High School Mentors Needed

Mentors Needed! Help Guide Our Future Scholars

The AP Bridge Program at South Shore Charter Public School High School is seeking professional mentors to support students preparing to take on Advanced Placement (AP) coursework. This is a meaningful way to give back and inspire the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and changemakers.

Whether you're in business, education, healthcare, STEM, the arts, or public service, your guidance can make a lasting impact.

What You'll Do:

- · Encourage and motivate high school students
- · Share real-world experience and college/career advice
- · Build confidence in young scholars

Mentors meet periodically with students (virtually) to share advice, encouragement, and strategies for success in AP and beyond.

Time Commitment: Flexible & rewarding

Contact Info: Email Nadeen Sullivan (nsullivan@sscps.org) for more information or complete this mentor interest form.

Get Involved Today! Let's empower our students to dream big and achieve even bigger!

What's New in Projects & Workshops

Level III Community Service Project

The Level III Community Service Project is bringing Toys for Tots to SSCPS this year! If you are able, please send in a new, unwrapped toy to donate before December 10. Collection boxes are located at the front desk of both buildings. Thank you for helping to make a child's holiday season a bit brighter!



Cultural Diversity Workshop



DONATE COATS Where: At the Front Desk NOW - JAN 10

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







Coats only, please. All sizes welcome!

antons.com/cfk



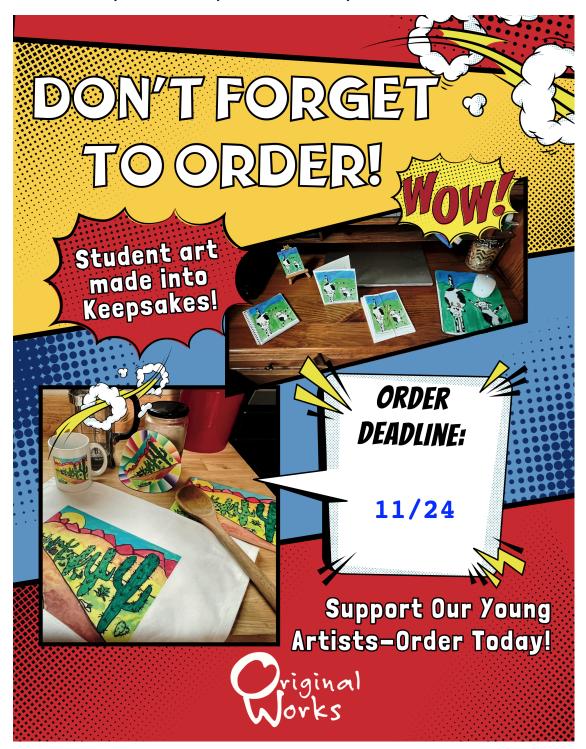
Coats are professionally cleaned by Anton's and distributed to families in need through a network of over 90 local social service agencies, schools, and nonprofit organizations.

Arts & Music

Original Works Program Orders

Original Works is an annual fundraiser run by the Art Department where families have the opportunity to purchase keepsake products (mug, tote bag, keychain, pillowcase, blanket, ornament) with their students' art on it. K-8 students have worked for the past few weeks in art classes to create meaningful artwork that can be used for this purpose.

Students are being sent home with custom ordering instructions during their art classes this week so that families can place their orders online at home. **All orders are due by Monday, November 24th,** and products ordered by the deadline will arrive at school on Wednesday, December 18th - just in time for the holiday break!



Afterschool Enrichment Program

After-School Active Zone

This week in Active Zone we focused on building core soccer skills and strengthening our sense of teamwork and sportsmanship. Students worked on dribbling control, passing accuracy, and communicating effectively during small-sided games. We spent time practicing how to move into open space, support teammates, and make smart decisions on the field.

A big emphasis this week was sportsmanship, celebrating good plays from anyone on the field, using positive language, and showing respect during competitive moments. The group did a great job shaking hands after matches, encouraging one another, and demonstrating what it means to play with integrity.

We're looking forward to another fun and active week ahead!





From the Health Office

Important Reminders | 2025-2026

If your student takes prescription medication during the school day, including epipens or inhalers, the medication will need to be dropped off to the school nurse by an adult. Medication cannot be sent on the bus with students. All medication needs to be accompanied by a new prescription medication form each year. Your doctor may fill out their own medication form, an Asthma Action Plan, Allergy Action Plan, or the school's Prescription Drug Form. No medication can be accepted without the proper paperwork. Parents/guardians will also need to sign the form to give permission for medication to be administered in school. Students can not bring in over the counter medication. All medication needed at school must be held in the Health Office and have the proper paperwork in order for it to be administered at school. Please check expiration dates of medication before sending it in. Medication that expires during the school year will need to be replaced before it expires. Please reach out to your school nurse if you have any questions about medications.

K-6th Grade: Jaime Kjelgaard, RN jkjelgaard@sspcs.org 781-982-4202 x104 7th-12th Grade: Barbara Folan, RN bfolan@sscps.org 781-982-4201 x 182

If your student is planning on playing a school sport in the fall they must have a current physical dated within the past 13 months of the start of the sports season. Students who do not have a current physical will not be allowed to try out or participate in sports. You may submit health forms to:

K-6th: Jaime Kjelgaard, RN <u>Jkjelgaard@sscps.org</u> 781-982-4202 x 104 7th-12th: Barbara Folan, RN <u>Bfolan@sscps.org</u> 781-982-4202 x 182

Fax: 781-982-4201

Students entering Kindergarten, 4th, 7th, or 10th Grade must submit current physical forms and vaccine records.

The K through 6 school is a **peanut/nut free** building. Please make sure you do not send your child to school with any food that contains peanuts or nuts or the label reads "may contain nuts or traces of nuts". Caffeinated beverages are not allowed in the elementary school. Please send your student to school with a reusable water bottle as the school does not provide water bottles.

Please reach out to your school nurse and teacher if your student is sick. Students who have vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever of 100 or above need to remain out of school until the symptoms or fever have resolved for 24 hours. If your student has strep throat, conjunctivitis or any other contagious illness they will need to remain out until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours. Students who develop any of these symptoms during the school day will need to be picked up from school promptly. Please make sure your contact information with the school is up to date. Absences can be reported to attendance@sscps.org.

Level I students should have a full change of weather appropriate clothes that is kept at school.

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.



Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC

Parents Association Updates

Tomorrow: PA Holiday Fundraising Opportunity

The SSPCS Parents Association has organized a designated SSCPS Shopping Day at The Toy Box in Hanover, MA! From 9AM to 6PM tomorrow (November 20th), SSCPS families can shop at The Toy Box and 20% of all purchases will be donated back to the Parents Association. Shop in-person, over the phone, or online & help support the SSCPS PA!

If shopping <u>online</u>, use the coupon code "SSCPS" in the comments section when checking out!

South Shore Charter Public School

Holiday Shopping Fundraiser!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH | 9AM - 6PM



THE TOY BOX OF HANOVER



South Shore's #1 Toy Store!

is generously donating 20% of all purchases made by SSCPS families back to our Parents Association (PA)!

The Toy Box offers in-store shopping, online orders, virtual shopping via facetime, and phone orders.



Complimentary Gift Wrap. curbside pick-up and free local home delivery



*Please mention SSCPS at check out

Where: Rt. 53 Hanover, across from Hanover Crossing Can't make it there: Simply call: 781-826-3750 and order a gift certificate and 20% will be donated to SSCPS PA Fund

Cannot be combined with coupons or previous purchases.

General PA Info

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

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

POD PARENT SIGN-UP



Volunteer as a Pod Parent!



- Need Volunteers for each classroom
- Pod Parents organize supply drives throughout the year for things like tissues, wipes, extra snacks, bottled water
- Pod Parents help with classroom communication and parents engagement
- Work with the teacher to plan special events like pod breakfasts, community service events, and end-of-year activities like field day
- Assist with anything else the teacher could use help with

Interested?? Please email: paatsscps@gmail.com

Important Links

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

- 1. <u>Afterschool Enrichment</u> 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. <u>Massachusetts Department of</u>
 <u>Transitional Assistance</u>
- 7. **Community Service**
- 8. Parents Association Website

School Documents:

2025-2026 School Calendar

Student and Family Handbook

<u>Arrival and Dismissal Procedures</u> <u>SSCPS By-Laws</u>

2024-2025 SSCPS Annual Report

DESE Integrated Monitoring Review



Copyright (C) 2025 South Shore Charter Public School. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can <u>update your preferences</u> or <u>unsubscribe</u>