



Weekly Update | November 26, 2025

VOL. 11, ISSUE 4

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Happy Thanksgiving from SSCPS!

A reminder to our SSCPS community that there will be a half day today, November 26th, and all students will be released at 12:00PM today. There will also be no school tomorrow, November 27th, or Friday, November 28th, for Thanksgiving break.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday!



The Level IV School Store students shared their appreciation for our SSCPS community with a fun, seasonal gratitude wall.

From the Dean's Desk

Hi everyone,

I want to speak plainly about something we are seeing more and more at school: the impact of online life on our students' real-life wellbeing.

Our children have access to an incredible amount of technology at a very young age. They are navigating group chats, social platforms, shared documents, and messaging spaces that adults often don't see. Some of these spaces are open and obvious. Others are tucked away — for example, chatting inside Google Docs, shared Notes, gaming apps, and even in Google Maps.

What we are finding is this:

When things turn toxic online, they don't stay online. They come to school. They show up in friendships. In conflicts. In classroom dynamics. And our students do not yet have the emotional tools to manage it alone.

Here is what I am asking, with real urgency and respect:

Please dig into your child's online world. Not in a punitive way. Not with fear. But with curiosity, guidance, and clarity.

Over the holiday break, please consider:

- Asking your child if they are in any group chats
- Asking what those conversations look like
- Looking together at the tone and content
- Naming what meets your family's standards and what does not
- Being direct about what healthy online interaction should feel like

Children often need adults to set the boundary they cannot set for themselves. They need us to say: *"This conversation isn't kind."* or *"This space isn't healthy for you."* or *"This is not who we are."*

Our goal is simple: keep kids safe — physically, emotionally, and socially — both inside school and beyond the walls of the building. We can only do that well if home and school partner closely.

Thank you, as always, for the way you show up for your children and our community. It matters more than you know.

Warmly,

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students (K-6)



School Calendar & Announcements

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

EARLY RELEASE - 12PM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH

THANKSGIVING BREAK



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 [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



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.

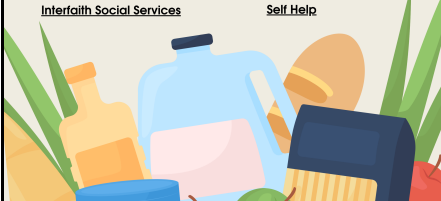
Referrals to Additional Resources
We can help you find additional support, including referrals to WIC (a federal nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children), housing, and utility assistance.

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](#).

Drop Off & Pick Up Reminders

Protocol for absences, tardiness and dismissing students early:

When your child is absent and leaving a message, please be sure to leave the **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 [volunteering page on our website](#). 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.

1. **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.*
2. **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.*
3. **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.

Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

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

A vertical poster for SSCPS Winter Concerts. The background is dark blue with white snowflakes and star-like sparkles. The text is centered and uses a mix of white and yellow/gold colors. At the bottom, there is a white line drawing of musical instruments: a trumpet, a guitar, and a violin.

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
WINTER CONCERTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH | 6PM

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES:

- LEVEL I (K-2) STUDENTS
- LEVEL II CHOIR
- BEGINNING STRINGS
- INTERMEDIATE STRINGS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH | 6PM

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES:

- BEGINNING BAND
- CONCERT BAND
- CONCERT STRINGS
- HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC WORKSHOP



HINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL
17 UNION STREET, HINGHAM 02043
Student call time at 5:30pm

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!

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

BSU Club Kwanzaa Night

Join the SSCPS BSU Club for an evening of culture, community, and joy as we honor the traditions and principles of Kwanzaa. All are welcome!

KWANZAA NIGHT



BSU CLUB FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19
PE SPACE 100 LONGWATER CIR
5PM-7PM

Community Events & News

Elks Hoop Shoot Contest



Elks National Hoop Shoot® Fun Free Throw Contest

The Elks Hoop Shoot is a FUN Free-Throw Contest and FREE to **boys and girls** who will be between the ages of (8-13) on April 1, 2026. Kids shoot in three age groups; (8-9), (10-11) and (12-13). All Kids from our local South Shore Community Towns are welcome to participate.

Contests Location: Daughraty Gym 538 Washington Street, Braintree, MA 02184 (Parking and entrance is behind Gym and beside Hollis School entrance parking lot)

Date: November 29, 2025 - **Start Time: 10:30 Registration – Contest at 11AM to 2:00PM.**

Hosted By Elks Lodge: Weymouth/Braintree Lodge #2232 for local Community Towns

Lodge Hoop Shoot Director John MacDonald 617-827-0889 jkmacdonald@comcast.net

Fast Facts:

- The Elks National Hoop Shoot Contest is a FUN Free-Throw Contest and free to boys and girls who will be between ages of 8-13 on April 1, 2026.
- Winners advance through District, State and Regional Hoop Shoot contests
- Regional winners qualify for a free trip to compete at the Hoop Shoot National Finals held in April 2026, in Chicago, IL
- National Champions will have their names permanently inscribed on a plaque in the Basketball Hall of Fame
- Learn more at www.elks.org/hoopshoot

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 part-time 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 [website](#).

BLUE HILLS SKI INFO

Holly Hill Farm December Programs



Friends of
Holly Hill Farm
A Farm for Teaching & Learning

Late Fall December One-Day Programs

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.



Register Now!

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

COMING
SOON

WINTER SESSIONS

January - March 2026

Healthy Cooking*

Shelter Building

Farm Night Mysteries

Wreath Making

Holiday Gift Crafts

Fairy & Gnome Homes

Tomtem Quest

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

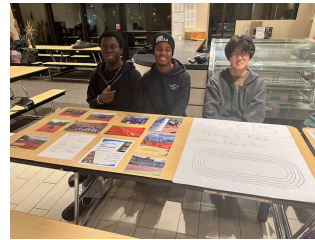
*Healthy Cooking 4:00-6:00 pm

hollyhillfarm.org/december-programs

On the Levels

K-12 Enrollment Open House

Our FY27 Enrollment Open House was another terrific success thanks to our student volunteers! Together they introduced over 300 visitors to our school. Thank you to all who attended and who helped organize the event.





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

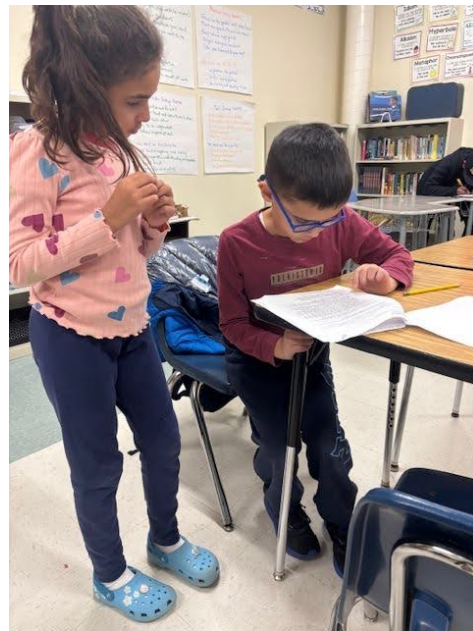
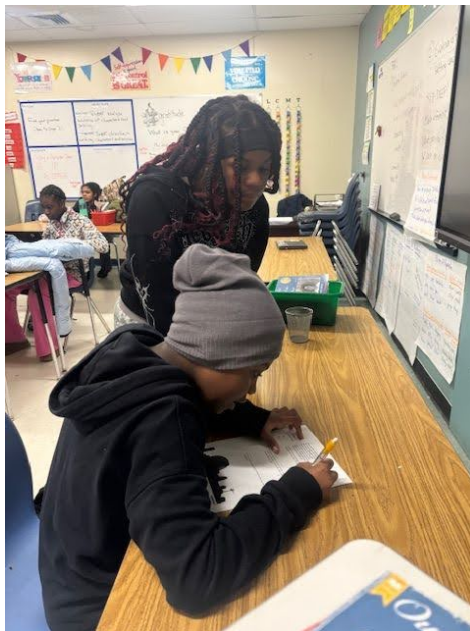
The Level III Community Service Project is bringing Toys for Tots to SSCPS this year! If you are able, please send in a new, unwrapped toy to donate before December 10. Collection boxes are located at the front desk of both buildings. Thank you for helping to make a child's holiday season a bit brighter!

Cultural Diversity Workshop

Afterschool Enrichment Program

Homework Academy Club

In the Homework Academy Club, students can check homework off of their to-do list. Academy members have been enjoying completing assignments and working together to collaborate and problem solve. Younger students have the opportunity to see the older students model responsibility in their schoolwork and, often, older students have enjoyed mentoring the younger members of the group once they have completed their own assignments. With the support of 6th Grade ELA teacher, Laura, and high school helpers, Homework Academy students leave each session feeling accomplished.





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@sscps.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 jkjelgaard@sscps.org 781-982-4202 x 104
7th-12th: Barbara Folan, RN bfolan@sscps.org 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.

LEVEL I FORM

LEVEL II FORM

LEVEL III FORM

LEVEL IV FORM

HIGH SCHOOL FORM

Parents Association, SEPAC, & ELPAC

Parents Association Updates

General PA Info

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

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

POD PARENT SIGN-UP



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:

- [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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