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Weekly Update | November 5, 2025

VOL. 11, ISSUE 1

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A Message from Angie

Last week saw the end of the first quarter for students in grades 5-12. Student report cards will be emailed home later this week. The trimester for students in grades 1-4 will close before the Thanksgiving holiday, and Parent-Teacher Conferences to discuss student progress will take place on December 12th for all grades. Details about the conferences and how to schedule appointments will be shared shortly. These reports and meetings provide families with important feedback on the important work taking place in classrooms across our campus.

Parents of students in grades 1-5 should have received DIBELS reports last month that provide a summary of student progress in literacy skills. At SSCPS, building a strong foundation in literacy skills is the cornerstone of our work in the early grades. Our early

literacy instruction is grounded in the science of reading, helping every child develop the skills and confidence they need to become lifelong readers and learners.

This year marks our second year using **Appleseeds**, a foundational literacy skills program grounded in the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Skills we've used successfully for more than 15 years. The DESE awarded our school a substantial grant to support this **implementation**, providing us with new materials, coaching, and in-depth professional development for both teachers and school leaders. This training is focused on helping educators support all learners, including students with learning differences, multilingual learners, and those reading above grade level.

Through Appleseeds, our students experience systematic instruction that includes carefully sequenced lessons and supports for students in Kindergarten through grade two. The lessons are grounded in explicit teaching that provide students with daily opportunities to *See It, Hear It, Read It, and Write It.* Our students get significant practice with opportunities to work on specific skills both in and out of text, including reading decodable stories that build confidence and fluency. Teachers provide targeted support through regular assessment and feedback to make sure each child gets what they need to grow as a reader.

Through a strong, data-informed literacy program, our teachers are creating a foundation for reading success in the early grades that sets the stage for high academic achievement as students continue in their academic careers. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Angie Pepin
Director of Teaching and Learning

School Calendar & Announcements

Weekly Calendar

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

EARLY RELEASE - 12PM
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR NOV 05 - NOV 12

Wed 05
Board of Trustees Executive Committee via Zoom - 9AM

Thu 06
High School Homecoming Dance - 7-10PM

Fri 07
Professional Development Early Release - 12PM

Sat/Sun



Mon 10
Board of Trustees Committee Meetings via Zoom - 5PM

Tue 11
No School - Veterans Day



Wed 12
K-6 Book Fair

School Council Meeting via Zoom - 4:30PM

Spanish Honor Society Induction Ceremony at 700 Longwater - 10:15AM

Upcoming

Nov 13 - Who We Play For Heart Screenings at SSCPS

Nov 13 - Board of Trustees Meeting - 5:30PM

Nov 14 - Level III Social at the PE Space

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





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

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**.

From the Dean's Desk

Dear Families,

This week in Advisory, our students are focusing on gratitude — specifically, taking time to thank those who have served in the military as part of our Veterans Day reflections.

At Charter, we believe that character grows from action. Gratitude isn't just a feeling — it's something we do. This week's lesson gives students a chance to turn that idea into practice by writing letters of appreciation to veterans and active service members. These letters will be sent through Operation Gratitude, an organization that shares messages of thanks with troops and veterans across the country.

In Advisory, students will learn that small gestures — like a note of thanks — can carry great meaning. For someone who has spent time far from home, a simple letter from a student can be a powerful reminder that their service is seen and valued.

As adults, we can help extend this lesson beyond the classroom. Families might talk together about what service means, or share stories of relatives or friends who have served.

Even a moment to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy and who helps protect them can deepen that sense of appreciation.



Being Charter means building a community that honors respect, gratitude, and care for others — not only in what we say, but in what we do. This week, I'm proud that our students are putting those values into action.

Warmly,

Walter Duncan

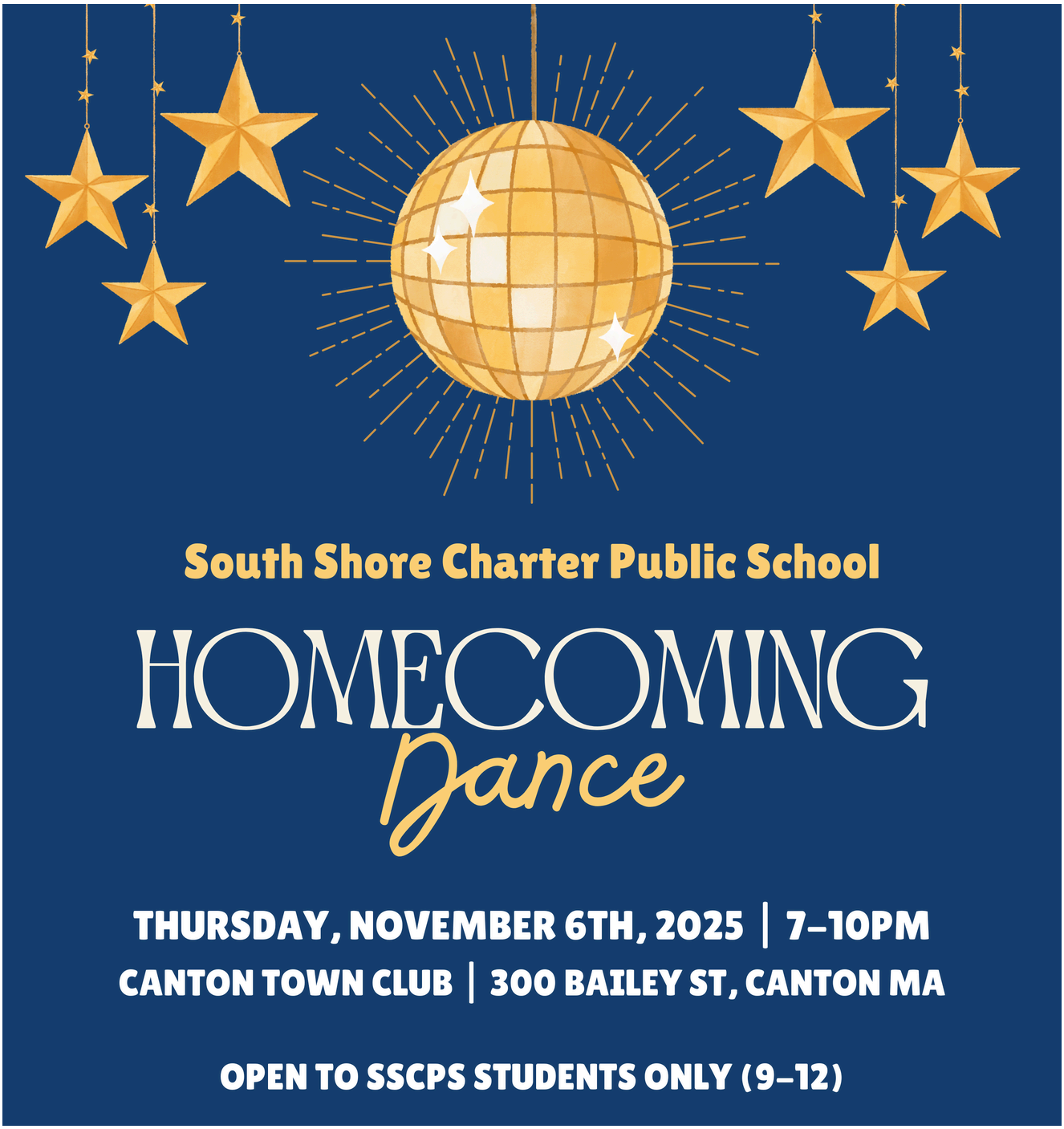
Dean of Students (K–6)

Upcoming School & Community Events

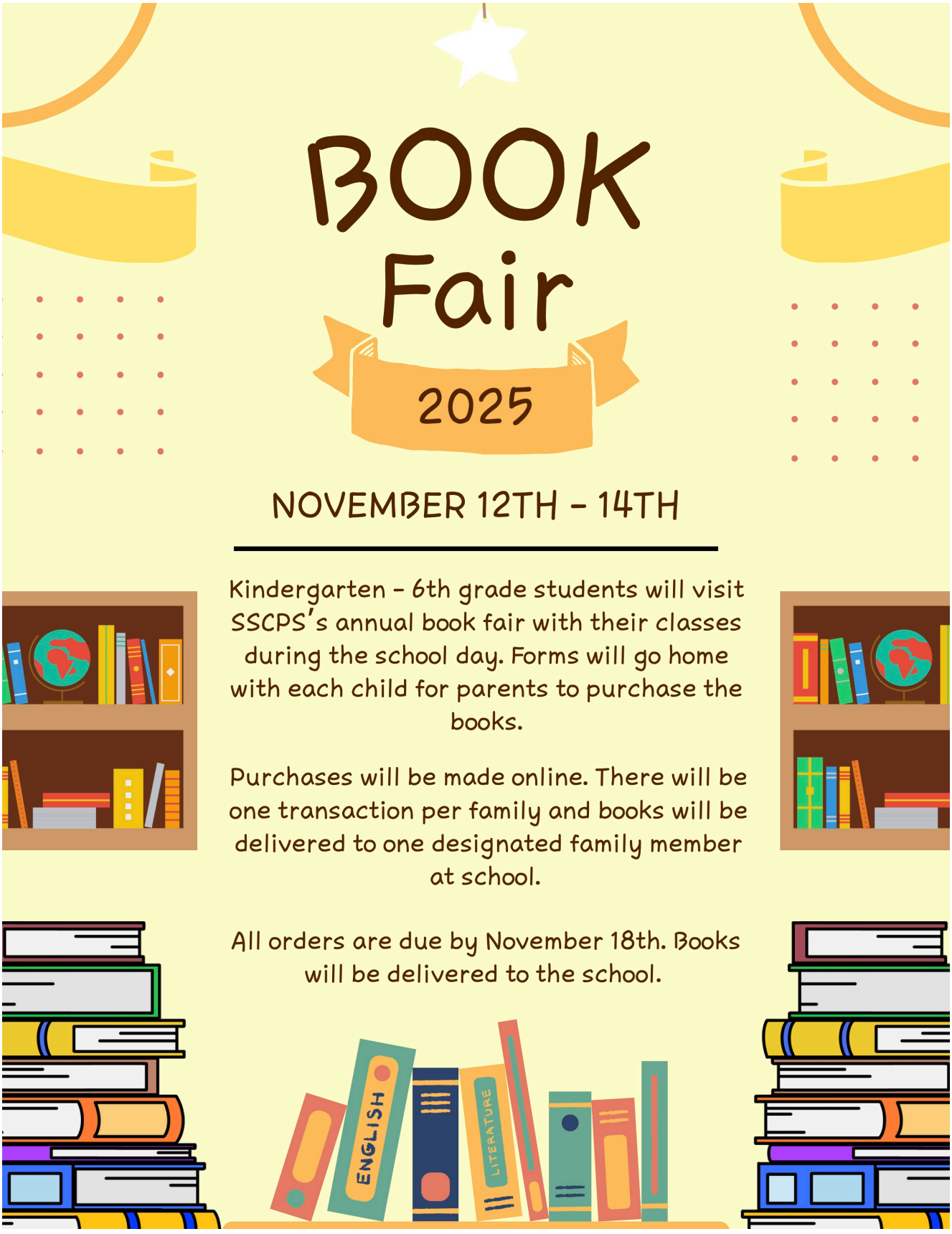
Upcoming SSCPS Events

Tomorrow: SSCPS Homecoming Dance (Grades 9-12)

The 2025 Homecoming Dance will be held on Thursday, November 6th from 7:00-10:00pm at the Canton Town Club. The dance is open to all SSCPS students in grades 9-12, and no outside guests are permitted to attend.



K-6 Book Fair | November 12-14



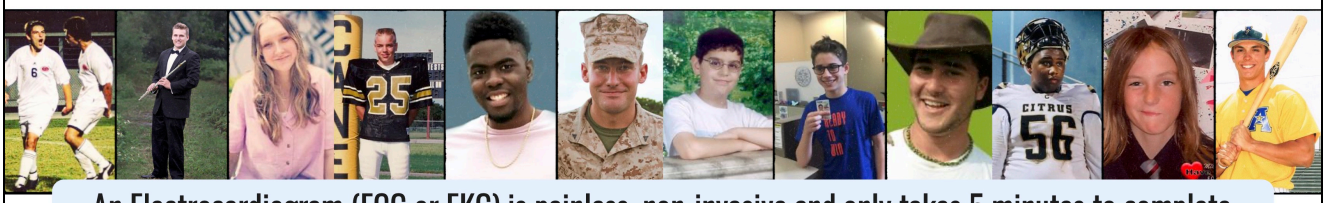
Heart Screenings | Who We Play For

SSCPS will be holding $20 heart screenings on November 13th from 12:30-3:00pm in collaboration with Who We Play For and Long Live JJ. SSCPS students can use the button below to sign up for a screening today!

REGISTRATION

WHO WE PLAY FOR HEART SCREENING

For Every Kid Who Never Had The Opportunity



An Electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) is painless, non-invasive and only takes 5 minutes to complete.

Each ECG is read by a board certified pediatric cardiologist.

WHEN: Thursday, November 13th from 12:30pm - 3pm

WHERE: South Shore Charter Public School

(700 Longwater Circle, Norwell, MA 02061)

COST: $20/Screening Ages 10 - 25

REGISTER: Online at

https://www.whoweplayfor.org/massachusetts-plymouth

To learn more about Who We Play For or to get involved, visit whoweplayfor.org

80% No symptoms prior to sudden cardiac arrest event

1 IN 300 Youth have a detectable heart condition

 # 1 Cause of death on school campuses and in student athletes

In Collaboration With

LONG LIVE JJ™

Community Events & News

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

MassGIS-CSCR Certificate Program

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!

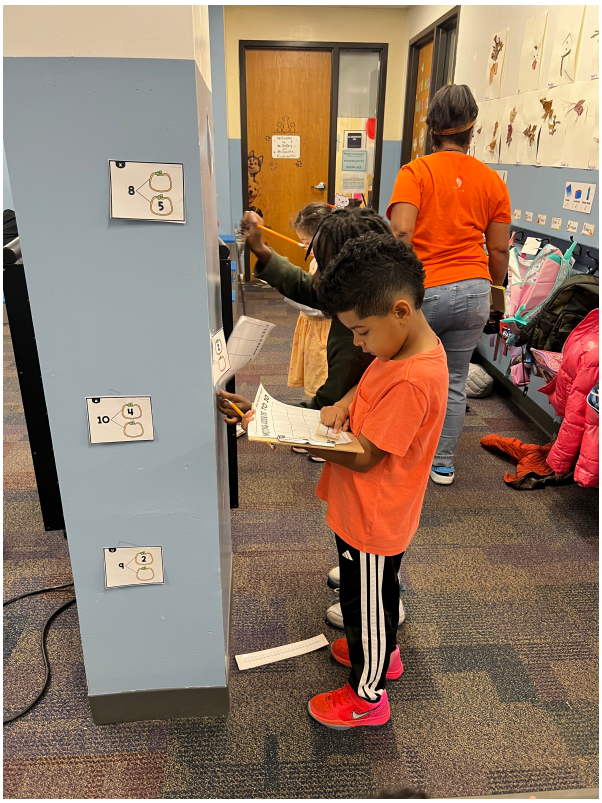
2025 COHORT DETAILS

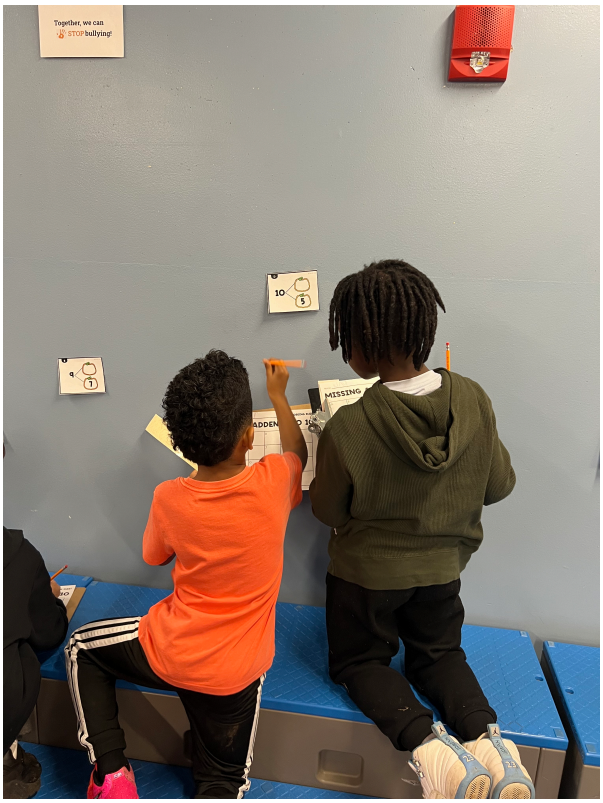
GIS STORY MAP

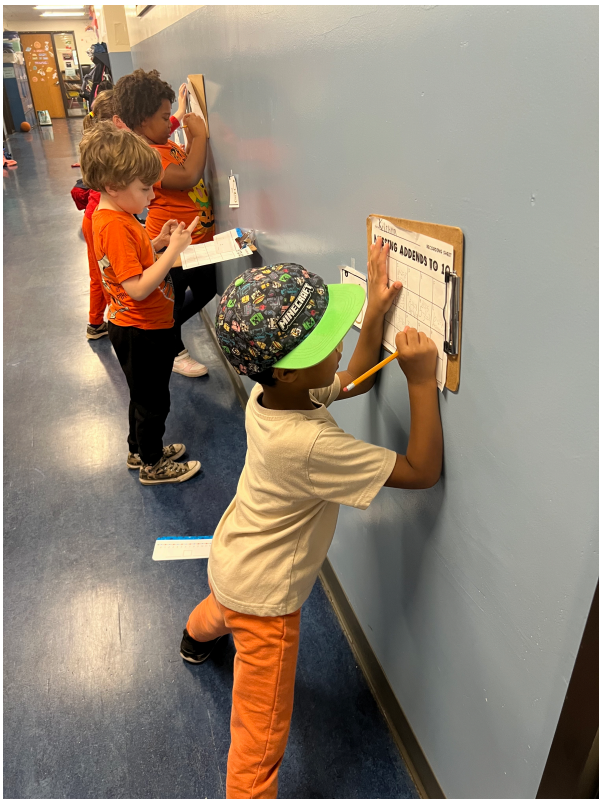
On the Levels

“Math Around the Room" | Grade 1






Together, we can STOP bullying!




MISSING ADDENDS TO 10
Keep Growing

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.

Corporate Partners

Anton's CLEANERS You've never looked better

Jordan's FURNITURE

ROCKLAND TRUST BANK Where Each Relationship Matters®

Coats only, please. All sizes welcome!

antons.com/cfk

Promotional Partner BOSTON 25 NEWS

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.

Afterschool Enrichment Program

Art Club

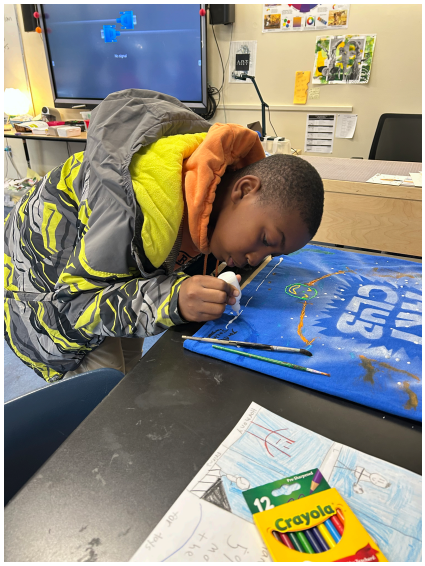
Week 4 of the SSCPS Art Club found our intrepid artists adding the finishing touches to their blue Art Club t-shirts. After an initial failed attempt to bleach dye our logo onto the shirts, we had to get creative! White fabric spray paint seemed to be the best solution, followed by colorful fabric paints for that personal touch on these blue beauties. The next step was custom painting on the shirts with colored fabric paint.

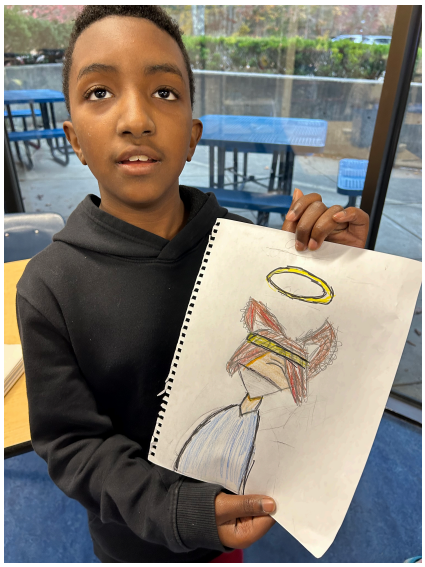
Our weekly meetings consist of snack time, followed by a shared piece of art from a featured Club artist, a collective recital of the club motto: "I will try to do my best work. To be creative, to clean up, and to have fun doing it!" We conclude with an art activity, followed by clean-up and wrap-up, where we discuss our favorite part of the day! This week's early t-shirt finishers moved on to experimenting with finger painting or drawing in their sketchbooks. The coming weeks will have us working with papier-mâché, sketching, air-dry clay, and creating a poster for school... and maybe even making slime—all suggestions from our students!

All in all, we're having a lot of fun creating together!



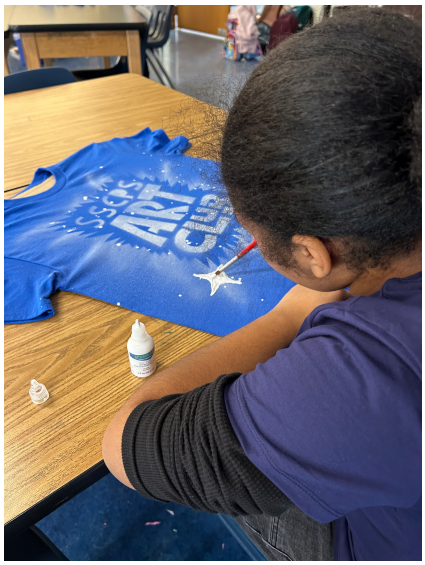








SSCPS
ART
CLUB

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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 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**

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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