



Weekly Update | October 15, 2025

VOL. 10, ISSUE 3

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A Message from Mary

"If you don't know where you want to go, then it doesn't matter which path you take."

-The Cheshire Cat, Alice in Wonderland

This is a quote that I have had in my office for many years, because as a guidance counselor, many students seek the answer to those daunting questions: *"What should I do after school?"* or *"What should I major in?"* In my role as a guidance counselor, it is not my job to tell anyone what to do (especially a high school student) but rather guide them through the process of finding the answer to this question for themselves.

To help students with this process, guidance helps support students through various activities and events, including Parent Nights, as well as individual and group meetings. I primarily work with the Juniors and Seniors as their Guidance Counselor and Ahminchie Estime is our Freshman and Sophomore counselor.

Below is a summary of guidance services by grade level:

Senior Year - This year, Seniors started the year off with a mini college fair in early September as well as having a Senior Seminar for the first quarter. Senior Seminar is a space for students to work on college applications, go over the college search process and participate in mini lessons on resume writing, financial aid, careers, and internships. The Fall semester ends with an SSCPS Alumni Fair where our former students come back and share their college experiences with our Juniors and Seniors.

Junior Year - The Juniors will take the PSAT this Friday, Oct 17, 2025 and will take the SAT Day Exam on April 9, 2026. The first half of junior year is working on keeping up grades, extra curricular activities, and bringing their resume as well as looking at different

career paths. Junior Seminar FIT will be in the Quarter 3 and we end the year by attending a college fair at Bridgewater State University.

Sophomore Year - During the sophomore year, guidance supports students in their academics with a focus on test taking and career exploration. As sophomores, students will take MCAS and a practice PSAT10 in the Spring.

- Work with students on career development
- Encourage students to keep up with community service
- Counsel students on Advanced Placement courses for Junior year
- Utilize Naviance for exploring college majors and careers

Freshman Year - The goal of freshman year guidance is to help students transition into high school.

- Freshman Orientation
- Assist students with time management, study skills, and report card review
- Help students understand the importance of a strong freshman year
- All freshman will create a CollegeBoard and Naviance account, PSAT 8/9

Ahminchie and I look forward to working with you and students. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions!

Mary Carter, Director of Guidance, Counselor (Grades 11-12)

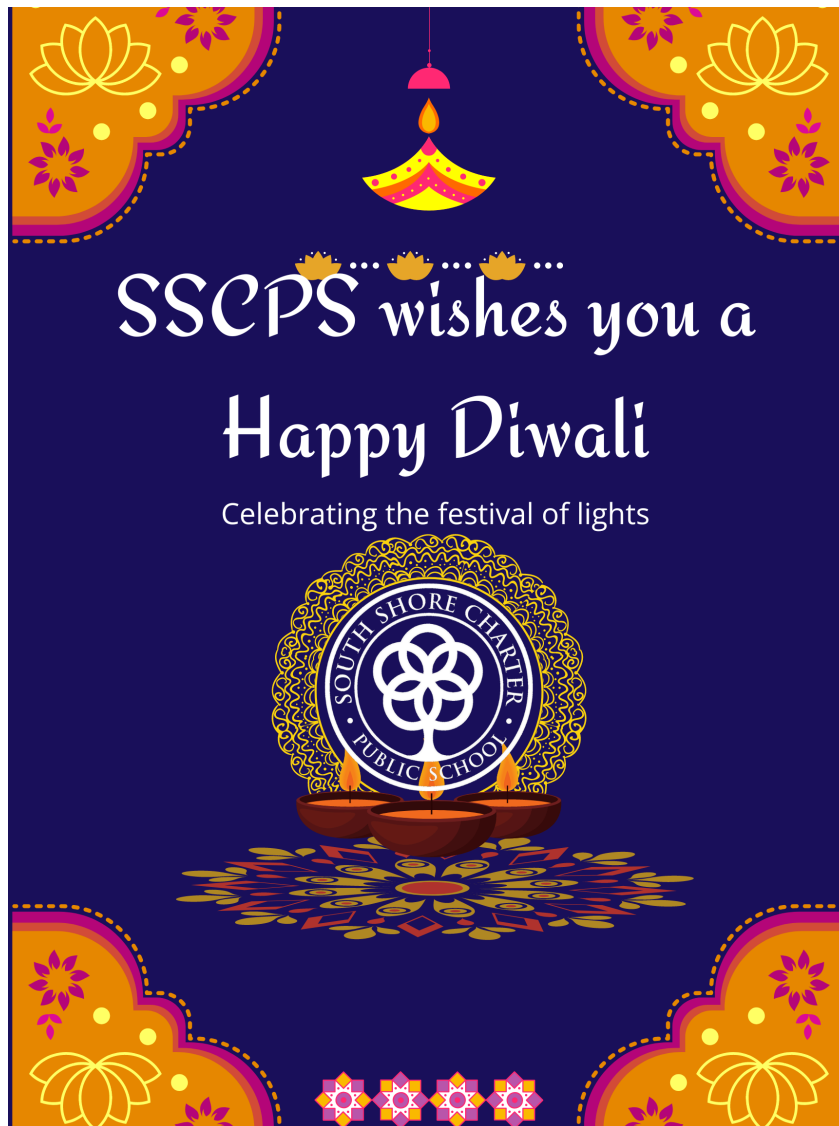
mcarter@sscps.org

Ahminchie Estime, Guidance Counselor (Grades 9-10)

aestime@sscps.org

Mary Carter
Director of Guidance

School Calendar & Announcements



SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR OCT 15 - OCT 22

Wed 15

K-12 Raise Craze Fundraiser

Thu 16

K-12 Raise Craze Fundraiser

Title I Info Meeting via Zoom - 8:45AM

Board of Trustees Meeting at 700 Longwater and via Zoom - 5:30PM

Fri 17

K-12 Raise Craze Fundraiser

Sat/Sun



Mon 20

K-12 Raise Craze Fundraiser
Happy Diwali!

Tue 21

K-12 Raise Craze Fundraiser
School Picture Retakes

Wed 22

K-12 Raise Craze Fundraiser

Upcoming

Oct 23 - ELPAC Meeting via Zoom

Oct 23 - K-12 Raise Craze Fundraiser

Oct 25 - Literacy Lane at 100 Longwater

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

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Important Announcements

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](#).

School Picture Retakes: Tuesday, October 21st

Students can get their photos retaken if any of the following apply:

- they were not yet enrolled at SSCPS for the original Picture Day
- they were absent on Picture Day
- the student's family wants a retake

PSAT Announcement

PSAT Day - Friday, October 17th

All Juniors will be taking the Digital PSAT on Friday October 17th here at school. This is a FREE test administration to all of our students in the Class of 2027. The goal of the PSAT is to prepare students for the SAT exam they will take in April 2026.

The Digital PSAT is 2.5 hours with a 10 minute break between sections. The total test time will be 3 hours (start to finish - standards time).

For additional information on what to expect on the Digital PSAT Exam, click [here](#).

How to prepare for the digital PSAT/NMSQT

Since the digital PSAT/NMSQT mimics the digital SAT, students can go through [Khan Academy's free official digital SAT](#) test prep materials to prepare for the digital PSAT/NMSQT. Here, you'll find article and video guides, worked examples, and practice.

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,

At Charter, we talk often about the kind of community we want to be. One where every child feels seen, supported, and inspired to do their best. But the fact of the matter is, our students learn as much from what we do as from what we say.

Each morning at the bus stop, in the car line, or walking through the hallways, children are watching us. They notice how we greet one another, how we handle frustration, and

how we show patience and respect in everyday moments. These small interactions—between adults, between families, and between staff—shape their understanding of what it means to belong to a caring community.

Of course, none of us are perfect. We all have long days and short tempers at times. But even with our shortcomings, we can still model the kind of kindness and calm we want our students to carry into their own friendships and choices.

When they see adults take a breath, share a kind word, or offer help, they learn what real strength looks like.

Together, we are building the Charter community—one made stronger by empathy, respect, and care for one another. Thank you for helping to make it a place where both children and adults can grow into their best selves.

Warm regards,

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students (K–6)



Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

K-6 Literacy Lane

South Shore Charter Public School will hold Literacy Lane, a literary themed trunk-or-treat event on Saturday, October 25th from 2-4pm! At the event, students will have the opportunity to wander from car to car to visit trunks decorated to represent a favorite book, character, or literary series. Some examples of decorated trunks can be found [here](#).

Please complete the form below to register your car and/or your family for the event. We have a limited number of parking spaces available. Families that register a car should plan to arrive on campus between 1:00-1:45pm for setup.

REGISTER NOW

LITERACY LANE | K-6

A LITERARY-THEMED TRUNK OR TREAT AT 100 LONGWATER!

Join the SSCPS community for an afternoon of celebrating literature through car trunk displays, character costumes, and more! Students will have the opportunity to wander from car to car to visit trunks decorated to represent a favorite book, character, or literary series. Students are encouraged to dress up as their favorite literary characters. The Community Service Project will also be collecting donations of nonperishable food items for local food banks!



SATURDAY
OCT 25, 2025



2:00 PM -
4:00 PM

Activities Include:

- Live Music
- Free Book Fair
- Refreshments
- Photo Booth
- Volunteer Opportunities (7-12)

This is NOT a drop-off event.



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. **Tickets are \$30.00 per person and must be purchased through FamilyID using the button below.**

PURCHASE TICKETS

A graphic for a homecoming dance poster. It features a dark blue background with a central golden globe that has a grid pattern and radiating lines. Surrounding the globe are several golden stars of different sizes, some hanging from thin lines. Below the graphic, the text "South Shore Charter Public School" is in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. The word "HOMECOMING" is in a large, white, serif font, and "Dance" is in a smaller, orange, cursive font. Below that, the date and time "THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2025 | 7-10PM" and the location "CANTON TOWN CLUB | 300 BAILEY ST, CANTON MA" are in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below the location, the text "OPEN TO SSCPS STUDENTS ONLY (9-12)" is in a bold, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a large, orange, rounded rectangular button with the text "\$30 TICKETS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below the button, the text "TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED THROUGH FAMILYID" is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

South Shore Charter Public School

HOMECOMING *Dance*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2025 | 7-10PM
CANTON TOWN CLUB | 300 BAILEY ST, CANTON MA

OPEN TO SSCPS STUDENTS ONLY (9-12)

\$30 TICKETS

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED THROUGH FAMILYID

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](https://www.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



On the Levels

Level III: Community Service Project & Kindness Counts

Kindness Counts! September Edition

6th Grade teachers are highlighting kind acts that are observed by awarding students with a "caught you being kind" card each time we see a student doing something thoughtful. At our monthly town meeting, the students who have received kindness cards are recognized by their peers for their kind acts. **Please ask your 6th grader student if they were caught being kind today!**

6th Graders		
Zoe Francis	Francesca Dupiton	Conor Egerton x 4
Gabriella Olasoje	Seerat Talwar x 2	Kaleb Samuels
Glory Woghiren	Sam Newell	Azarias Williams x 2
Penelope Brasile x 2	Elliot Martinez	Avery Goines
Rowan Shinney-Kalafatas x 2	Nora Christopher x 2	Kadar Mims-Powell x 2
Jazlyn Daley	Ayla Monteiro	Zoe Fabian Beman
Olivia Veisid	Zaniyah Brown x 4	Aaron Biruk
Gloria Woghiren x 3	Alani Schoonmaker	
Nikith	Molly Merceron	



Fall Food Drive

Going to the Weymouth Food Pantry

PLEASE DONATE:

- Jam and/or jelly
- Ready to Eat (canned pasta, chili, hash)
- Pancake mix / syrup
- Pasta sauce
- Side dishes (seasoned rice / pasta)
- Cold Cereal
- Ground coffee and tea
- Condiments (dressing, bbq sauce, ketchup, mayonnaise etc)
- White tuna
- Cooking Oil / Pam

Dates: October 6-October 24
please drop off all food out front or in Laura's room!

NO GLASS PLEASE

Cultural Diversity Workshop



The Cultural Diversity Workshop Presents



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



Coats only, please. All sizes welcome!

antons.com/cfk

Promotional Partner



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

STEAM DREAM TEAM

The STEAM DREAM TEAM kicked off enrichment with an exciting hands-on project: making olive oil lava lamps to explore the principles of convection! Students discovered how oil, being less dense and insoluble in water, separates into layers. When Alka-Seltzer was added, the bubbling chemical reaction carried colored water upward, creating a visual model of convection and showing how density, solubility, and chemical reactions work together in real-world systems.



From the Counseling Department

This year, the Counseling Team is excited to welcome two graduate-level interns who will be working under the supervision of our school counselors and school psychologists. Our interns will be involved in one-on-one, group and/or classroom student support.

Our school counselors will continue to invite students in grades K-6 to occasionally participate in "Lunch Bunch" or skill building group with peers. These groups take place during non-academic time and are created to support developmentally appropriate social skills. The groups run in 6-8 week sessions, but possibly extend beyond that in some cases. Students tend to enjoy these opportunities and look forward to them during the week.

If you are the parent or guardian of a student in Grades K-6 and would like to opt your child OUT of lunch bunch/skill building groups, please email Tanya Ames at tames@sscps.org. If you consent to your child being included in these groups, no action from you is necessary.

From the Health Office

Back to School | 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>



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

PA Raise Craze Fundraiser



**FUNDRAISING THROUGH
KINDNESS**
RAISE CRAZE™

**CLICK FOR
MORE INFO!**

Show Gratitude for Donations by Giving Back to Others!

This year's Raise Craze fundraiser is running from **October 6th - October 23rd!**

Raise Craze is a unique way for us to raise money for our school while making an impact in our community. During this fundraiser, students ask friends and family for donations via the online Raise Craze platform while paying it forward serving others. What a great way for us to teach our students the importance of kindness and gratitude while raising much needed funds. Students will spend time serving, not selling!

Some of the [Raise Craze Acts of Kindness](#) also qualify as SSCPS Community Service - be sure to check with your students' teachers to see what qualifies, and remember to log those community service hours separately.

Watch [this video](#) for more info on how this fundraiser works, and see more details about Raise Craze below!

What is **RAISE CRAZE**™?

Raise Craze is a unique, kindness-based fundraising platform designed to make raising money for schools and organizations more fun, engaging, and positive. Instead of relying on traditional product sales, Raise Craze encourages participants to seek donations from friends and family. Then, in return for donors' generosity, students perform acts of kindness for others. It's designed to foster a sense of community, gratitude, and giving while raising funds for a cause. Students will spend time serving others, not selling!

How does It work? What's a Kindness Fundraiser?

At its core, the Raise Craze fundraising platform is simply a tool to make it easy for you to ask friends and family for monetary donations. That's it! Some donors are happy to contribute to help your school, while others may appreciate an extra incentive. That's where the kindness element comes in. You can let potential donors know that, as a thank-you for their kind gesture of donating, you too will be doing at least one Act Of Kindness (AOK) in return! Also known as "paying it forward." The Raise Craze platform makes it effortless to incorporate this kindness-for-kindness approach directly into your fundraising page with just a few clicks!

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](#)



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