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Weekly Update | October 22, 2025

VOL. 10, ISSUE 4

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A Message from Michelle

A quote by Alan Watts is displayed in a large, bold, dark blue font. The background is a soft-focus image of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with warm orange and pink hues. The text reads: "THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE SENSE OUT OF CHANGE IS TO PLUNGE INTO IT, MOVE WITH IT, AND JOIN THE DANCE." Below the quote, the name "ALAN WATTS" is written in a smaller, all-caps, dark blue font.

THE ONLY WAY TO
MAKE SENSE OUT
OF CHANGE IS TO
PLUNGE INTO IT,
MOVE WITH IT,
AND JOIN THE DANCE.

ALAN WATTS

Embracing Change Together

This year, our High School and Level IV programs have come together under one roof. Change can be hard for all of us. It shifts routines, stretches comfort zones, and requires us to let go of what feels familiar. For students, those challenges can feel even bigger.

Walking new hallways, learning new schedules, and sharing space with new peers can bring uncertainty.

But change also brings growth. With both programs in the same building, our circles have widened. Staff who may not have crossed paths before now collaborate more naturally, and students have more opportunities to connect, observe, and learn from one another. These expanded interactions strengthen our school community and help prepare our students for the reality of the world beyond school, where flexibility and adaptation are essential skills.

For students who are not neurotypical, these transitions may come with added layers of challenge. A new environment can heighten anxiety, disrupt carefully built routines, or make it harder to regulate emotions and attention. That is why intentional support through clear communication, patience, and consistency is so important. When we meet these needs thoughtfully, students are able not only to adjust but also to thrive, developing confidence in their ability to handle change.

Of course, adjustment takes time. Some students will embrace the change right away, while others may need extra support. What matters most is that they are learning resilience, patience, and confidence in the process. These lessons will serve them far beyond their years with us.

As we move through this transition, let us remember that while change is rarely easy, it is often the very thing that helps us grow stronger as individuals and as a community. Thank you to our staff and families for your patience, flexibility, and encouragement as we navigate this new chapter together.

Michelle Gallagher
Learning Services Coordinator (7-12)

School Calendar & Announcements

SSCPS WEEKLY CALENDAR OCT 22 - OCT 29

Wed 22 K-12 Raise Craze Fundraiser	Thu 23 K-12 Raise Craze Fundraiser ELPAC Meeting via Zoom - 6PM	Fri 24 MCAS Results Parent Meeting via Zoom - 8:45AM	Sat/Sun Sat 25 - Literacy Lane at 100 Longwater - 2-4PM
Mon 27 	Tue 28 NHS Induction Ceremony at 700 Longwater - 6-7PM Development Committee Meeting via Zoom - 7PM	Wed 29 	Upcoming Oct 31 - Halloween Nov 6 - High School Homecoming Dance Nov 13 - Who We Play For Heart Screenings at SSCPS

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

SSCPS Events & Athletics Calendar

Important Announcements

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, we're focusing on integrity — doing the right thing, even when no one's watching.

At Charter, our goal is to help students grow not only in academics, service, and life, but also as people who can be counted on. Integrity is a big part of that. It's what builds trust — between students, between adults, and across our community.

Over the past few weeks, our advisory lessons have focused on readiness, safety, and kindness. Integrity is where all of that comes together. It's what helps students follow through on what they say, treat others well, and make good choices even when no one else is around to see it.

We know that doing the right thing isn't always easy. Sometimes it means admitting a mistake or making a choice that no one will ever know about — but those are the moments that shape character. As adults, we have the chance to model that every day, whether it's owning an oversight, following through on a promise, or treating someone with respect even in a tough moment.

Families can keep this lesson going at home by talking with your child about small, real-life choices — keeping their word, being honest even when it's uncomfortable, or finding a way to fix something they got wrong. Those are the small acts that build real integrity.

Being Charter means we work together to build the kind of community we want to be part of — one built on trust, honesty, and care. That's the foundation our students are standing on.

Warmly,

Walter Duncan
Dean of Students (K-6)



Upcoming School & Community Events

Upcoming SSCPS Events

This Weekend: 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

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

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

On the Levels

Level III Community Service Project



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



Coats only, please. All sizes welcome!

antons.com/cfk

Promotional Partner

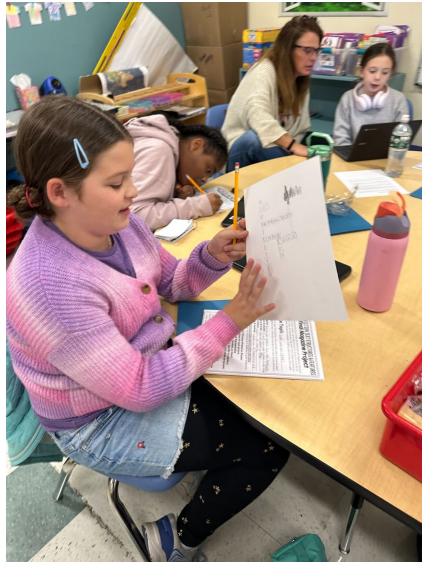


Coats are professionally cleaned by Anton's and distributed to families in need through a network of over 90 local social service agencies, schools, and nonprofit organizations.

Afterschool Enrichment Program

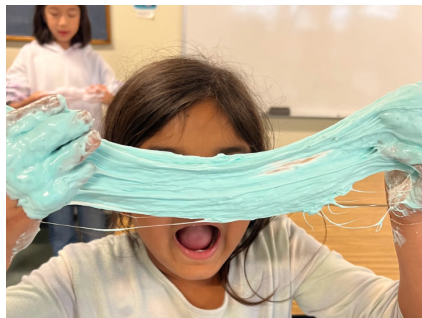
Magazine Production Club

New this year to the Afterschool Enrichment Program, the Magazine Production Club has quickly become a hub of creativity and collaboration. Students have been busy researching topics, designing layouts, and incorporating informational text features as they build their own personal magazines. Each magazine will reflect the individuality and creativity of students and they are eager to bring their work to life and share it with others. We can't wait to see their wonderful creations!



STEAM DREAM TEAM

Members of the STEAM DREAM TEAM celebrated Week 2 by learning about the science behind slime and making their own using shaving cream, glue, activator, and fun mix-ins like food coloring and sparkles! They learned about slime forms through a chemical reaction that links the glue's molecules together, creating its stretchy, squishy texture that they got to experience first hand.



Sports and Fitness Club

Students in the Level IV Sports and Fitness Club kicked off Week 2 with some dynamic warm-up stretches and a competitive 3-on-3 basketball game. They then teamed up with the cross country team for an energized High School vs. Middle School kickball showdown, bringing out their teamwork, sportsmanship, and school pride in a fun and friendly competition!

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>

PA Raise Craze Fundraiser



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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