

# Parents Association

October 4, 2011

*Minutes taken by Melissa Freitas and reviewed by Lisa Harvey-Mone*

**Meeting called to order at 7:03pm**

**September meeting minutes reviewed and approved.**

## **Presentation by Michelle from Stop & Shop**

Stop & Shop loves to partner with local schools.

You can link your Stop & Shop card up to 2 schools.

A school in NY raised over 11K. (A challenge for SSCPS!) We raised about \$700 last year.

You must re-register your card every year.

## **Emily Merwin & Susan Dupras - Presentation on Lyme Disease**

Lyme disease is caused by Deer Ticks. Deer Ticks are EVERYWHERE!

If your child has a tick on him/her, remove it and put it in a container so that someone can determine if it is a deer tick.

The school physician recommends people come into the office to have a tick removed.

Symptoms of Lyme disease include rash at bite site (70-80% of cases, the rash is bulls eye shaped), nausea, joint/muscle pain, headache, fever, sweats or chills.

Can take 3-30 days for the symptoms to appear after a bite, but generally present after about 7 days.

## **School Reports**

### **Emily Merwin, Acting 7-12 Principal, Level IV Coordinator, Level IV Science**

After school program is managed by Charlene Evens. It is going well.

MCAS - High School students did great.

Seniors went on a retreat to Camp Burgess.

Advisory - all advisories will be covering a cyber-bullying curriculum.

Mary Carter is helping seniors work on their college applications.

Parent Teacher conferences will be October 13, 7-8pm

### **Ted, K-6 Principal**

Label all clothes

MCAS Results - as a school they were tremendous. We had the highest growth scores for many different groups of students in ELA for a K-12 school and very high for Math.

### **Polina Shpilker, Student Representative**

The election will be held in October and hopefully Paulina will be the rep.

## **Grade Reports**

**Kindergarten** - Thank you for sending in sneakers on PE. Please remember to send in homework on time. June's pod is still in need of 2 Pod Parents.

**1st Grade & 2nd Grade** - The first graders will hopefully be starting the globe project on October 17th. Looking for 2nd grade parents who did it last year to come in and show the 1st grade parents how to make the globes. Cyndi Wormald will coordinate things. Amy's Pod Project, the Farm Project is going well. The kids are planting and harvesting. 2nd Grade Curriculum Project - they are studying Ancient Asian Civilizations. In 2nd Grade math, they are reviewing place value and sequencing as well as the concept of greater and less than.

**3rd Grade** - Formative Assessments are this week (Wednesday is reading and Thursday is Math). 3rd graders will be starting multiplication in Math next week. Parents should work with students on their facts at home.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**- no report

**5th & 6th Grade** - Edline is up and running. Information went out in the mail. If you have not received your information, contact your child's teacher.

**7th & 8th Grade** - The PE/ART field trip to Boston Common that got cancelled twice has been rescheduled for Thursday Oct 12, with the following Thursday Oct 20 as the rain date. And if THOSE dates don't work it will be pushed back to the spring. Students should dress appropriately (no flip flops!) and for the weather (layers). Attendance is required...it is a regular class.

Thank you to parents for their patience with Edline. We have new teachers learning how to use it, and veteran teachers refreshing their memories and getting back into routines. We will continue to work towards weekly grade updates and regular homework postings.

Warnings were sent home this week, a number of which result from work not being done or turned in. Any support that can be provided at home regarding homework is always helpful. This may mean helping your student organize a binder, reminding them to turn things in, asking to see completed homework, or encouraging them to communicate with teachers if there are concerns about an assignment.

**9th Grade** - Everyone is settling in to HS.

Mary Carter reports: **Academic Warnings were mailed September 29<sup>th</sup>**. Parents should contact the appropriate teacher with questions and/or concerns. These are warnings - so there is still time to pull up grades as well as work with students on better study skills.

**Thursday, Oct 13<sup>th</sup>**, during the 2-3pm Directed Study block, a speaker from "**Making it Count**" will address all freshman on the importance of a strong high school transcript.

Also **October 13** - Parent-Teacher Conferences for all HS, from 7-8pm.

**Monday, October 31** - all HS community building field trip - details to follow.

In addition: This Fall, freshmen will benefit from a **Break Free from Depression** program, consisting of classroom lessons, viewing a documentary and discussion groups. The program is aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness of adolescent depression and suicide, but is neither a treatment nor a counseling program. Letters went home last week. Parents who do not wish their 9<sup>th</sup> Grader to participate should contact the Adjustment Counselor, Alicia Scafidi [ascafidi@sscps.org](mailto:ascafidi@sscps.org) / 781-982-4202 Ext206.

**10th & 11th Grade** - PSAT testing will be during school Oct. 12 on the 1/2 day. There is a \$14 fee to take test. Fee waivers are available in the Guidance office. Results will come in mail in December. Also soccer home games are in Abington and they would love for more people from the school community to come and cheer them on. The dates of all the games are in the newsletter.

**12th Grade** - Students emails are blocked so they cannot receive any emails. This is not good for students doing college applications. The understanding was that incoming emails would be blocked for Level IV but not for the high school. Ted will contact the IT person about this.

Graphing Calculators - students need them for tests like the PSAT and they cannot use an app from a phone for this. Some students cannot afford to buy them. Suggestion was made by a member of the PA that the high school math teachers put in a request in January for our next distribution for money to purchase more calculators.

Seniors will be going to visit Stonehill College on October 12th. If the students wishes to visit another college of their choice, they may do so but they must bring back a letter from the school stating that they visited in order for the absence to be excused.

Mark Stevenson - Golf Tournament

The Golf Tournament and Auction will be 2 separate events this year. Corporate Sponsors are needed. Volunteers are needed on the day of the event as well as in the months leading up to the event.

### **School Report - continued**

**Alicia Savage, Executive Director**

Literacy night on October 6th, 6-7pm

Early Literacy Campaign - members of the National Honors Society will visit local daycares to read.

Harvest Run - October 15th. 189 runners are registered so far.

October 17th - Annual Fund will be launched. Need a high % of participants. Last year we only had 36% of families donate. This year the PA's goal is to let everyone know that it is not how much you give - just important to give.

Gym Space - signed a lease with the building behind our school. We will have a large gym space with 2 smaller studio places. We will begin using it on November 1st.

Parking & Pick-up - NO parking on the Street, NO parking in the neighbors lot.

Suggestions from members of the PA for what we can do: 1. Possibly widen the front to stop the congestion. 2. Get kids out of the school earlier and into their cars quicker. 3. Having a "parent patrol" to police the line.

### **Committee Reports**

**Arts & Music** - still working on having SS Conservatory come in and give music lessons.

The director of the conservatory in Hingham is coming to visit the school to see what he can do. Other options are being looked into such as having group lessons by our new music teachers or by the SS Conservatory.

**Community Service** - many opportunities. Blue Hills Trail clean up - 10/15, 11/12, 12/10.

Local libraries in Rockland, Weymouth, Norwell and Duxbury looking for volunteers.

SSYMCA is always looking for volunteers. South Shore Wildlife Center is having an event on October 29th & 30th. Volunteers are needed beforehand to clear the trails and carve the pumpkins.

**Fundraising** - Harvest Run - students should be getting friends and family to sponsor them. Volunteers are needed the day of the event.

Rockland/Hanson Rotary - they have sponsored us many times in the past. They are asking us to sell raffle tickets for them. The tickets are \$5/each or a book of 5 for \$10. We will get a percentage if we sell a certain number.

**Library** - Teachers have given a schedule of when they would like to come. Training of vol-

unteers will start next week. New shelves will be installed on Friday. Hopefully library will open next week.

Book fair will be November 9th & 10th. Volunteers are needed.

**Welcoming** - Open House November 19th, 1-3pm. Volunteers needed.

**SEPAC** - There will be a workshop in November - still working out the details. There is a parent interested in being treasurer. All meetings are the 3rd Friday of the month at 8:30am.

**Volunteer** - Starting to compile a list of Pod Parents. Asking Grade Reps to please reach out to teachers to find out who the pod parents are.

### **PA Treasurer's Report**

PA distributed spreadsheet which listed all funding items that were requested and which items were approved by the task force to be put up for vote at the PA.

Q&A

*What does it mean when it says "needs more documentation"?* There was not enough documentation with the request. More information needed for the task force.

*Why, when we have always said we want to support the entire school, are the approved items for the lower levels?* Each level is represented in the task force meeting. The upper level reps could have spoken up if they felt as if their levels requests deserved more attention. Voting will happen on the items at the November meeting.

### **Old Business**

PA Chair has tabled the Technology Committee discussion to the November meeting, in the interest of time.

School Council - New members have been appointed: Nina Marchese, Kerry Griffin, Cathy Bowman, Elizabeth Vanderveen, Hope Malnati, Julianne Tilden

Education Committee - New members have been appointed: Gwen Watchorn, Priscilla Kelly

### **Parking Lot from September Meeting**

1. *Why don't we start school after Labor Day?* This item has been sent to School Council.
2. *Will the library open before the switch over to the new technology?* Yes, later this month.

### **Meeting Adjourned 9:04**

**Parking Lot** - Items placed in the parking lot will be looked into by the four officers of the PA. If items need to be passed on to someone else in the school, they will be and it will be announced at the next PA meeting. If an item is something that should be discussed at the PA it will be placed on the agenda for next month.

Parking/Pick-up

Cell Phone sign

No Smoking Sign