

SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

UPDATE

September 5, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 1

GREETINGS, MEMBERS OF THE SSCPS COMMUNITY!

2007-2008 is a very special school year for us since four members of the Class of 2008 started as kindergarteners in September, 1995. These four students, along with four staff members, Velma Begley, Claudia Darrow, Rick Small, and Ted Hirsh have been part of South Shore Charter Public School's thirteen year evolution and journey from Hull to Norwell.

The week of August 27th was the "official" opening of school for students and staff. Monday was Staff Orientation Day, Tuesday was Freshman and New Student Orientation Day, and everyone returned on Wednesday. As I greeted staff, students and their families each day, I could sense everyone's excitement, enthusiasm and high hopes for the year.

There were smiles all around as students and families toured the building and observed the changes made over the summer. The new level 1 classroom is spacious and well furnished and the science lab is state-of-the-art. Kudos to our crackerjack maintenance crew, Paul and Gabe, and the contractors as well as the staff for their work and extra efforts over the summer so that we would be ready to open on August 28th! We are planning an "open house" before the October 18th Board of Trustees meeting to show off these two new classrooms. We hope that you will be able to join us at 6:30 p.m. on that evening.

In addition to the renovations, five media carts, complete with an LCD projector, lap-top computer, and a DVD/video tape recorder, have been purchased for teachers to enhance their lessons. All of these changes will help us achieve our mission to "inspire students in kindergarten through grade twelve *to excel* in academics, career and life."

Of course, to accomplish our mission, we rely on the *triangle of support* "that includes teachers, parents and the student in a unified approach to fostering each student's growth." As your new Executive Director, I have quickly learned that what makes South Shore Charter School so special is the dedication of the teachers. Over the summer, Tom, Ted, Ron, and Kristine have been very busy interviewing candidates for teaching positions. Nothing is more important than hiring high quality teachers who will be the right fit for our school.

To promote collaboration, consistency and communication, Tom and Ted earmarked most of this year's professional development budget for all teachers to take a six day course together, "Studying Skillful Teaching". This course is being taught by Laura Porter from Research for Better Teaching. The first two days of the course were Thursday, August 23 and Friday, August 24. Tom, Ted and I are taking the course as well. In addition to learning some new teaching strategies, an added bonus to the two day training was our new staff having the opportunity to get to know the "seasoned" staff better and learn more about the culture of SSCPS.

This year, we welcome eight new classroom teachers, two special education teachers, and four paraprofessionals to the SSCPS family: Kassandra Grant and Elise Lovejoy, Level I; Kristin Swanson, Level II; David Corbett, Level III; Kaitlyn Walsh and Richard Merget, Level IV, Lora DeSalvo, high school U.S. History and World Cultures and Pamela Habib, high school Math; Elizabeth Martello, Learning Services, Level II; and Joyce Dandrow, Learning Services, Level III. When you have the time, take a look at the bulletin board in the main foyer to view candid photos of our great staff!

Over the course of this school year, there will be a number of celebrations and reunions to commemorate the achievements of the Class of 2008 as well as our charter school over the past thirteen years. The dates and times of these spring activities will be announced shortly.

Together, we can make this a year full of new learning experiences, academic achievement and personal engagement for our students.

Sincerely,
Prudence H. Goodale
Interim Executive Director

Thursday	9/06	Picture Day – Individual and Class – Remember to bring order forms	
Thursday	09/06	Welcome Back Picnic – See attached flyer for more information	5:00-7:00pm
Monday	09/10	Executive Committee Meeting – Panera Derby Street Hingham	7:45am
Monday	09/10	Governance Meeting	5:00pm
Tuesday	09/11	Parent Night for Levels 2, 3 and 4	6:00 - 7:30pm
Wednesday	9/12	IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE: Parent Night for Level 1 and High School has been postponed until Wednesday, September 19th.	
Wednesday	09/12	Fundraising Committee – Auction Planning Meeting	1:30pm
Monday	09/17	Professional Development Day – No classes for students	
Wednesday	09/19	Parent Night for Level 1 and High School	6:00 – 7:30pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The UPDATE is published on a weekly basis and is distributed on Wednesdays through email to the entire community and is posted on our website at www.sscps.org. If your family would like to receive a paper copy please email a request to palgera@sscps.org or contact Kathy at 781-982-4202 ext. 100.

REMINDERS:

- All parents and students must sign and return the Student Handbook Agreement no later than September 10th.
- All students must have a completed Emergency Form, Dismissal Form and PE Permission slip returned to the front desk.

LUNCH ORDERS

Enclosed please find the Menu and Lunch Order for September. All orders are due Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 3:00pm.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back to school everyone. I hope you have all enjoyed your summer vacation and especially the beautiful Labor Day weekend. Everyone seems to be settling in nicely and we are off to a great start to the year. This summer was very busy with new building projects and curriculum writing. Please come by and see the changes to the building – new Science Lab, Level I classroom, and new archway in the Level III/IV hallway. All of these projects have made a wonderful difference to our school.

We had our first fire drill, excuse me, evacuation drill as they are now called, on Tuesday. According to the Norwell Fire Department, we did very well. The students exited the building in a calm, quiet, and orderly manner. We made our fastest time yet.

Parent volunteers are needed for School Council and Education Committee. School Council is a committee made up of parents, teachers, students, and members of the community that meet on a regular basis to advise the Principal regarding school improvement, policy, and budget matters. Our School Council meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 3:30 in room 100 and consists of 3 students (two high school and one Level IV student), 3 parents (minimum), and 3 teachers. Education Committee is composed of the Level Coordinators, Learning Service Director, Assistant Principal, Principal and two parents. The primary focus of this committee is curriculum and the educational program. The committee meets on the third Monday on the month at 3:30. . Please see me if you would like to contribute to these important committees.

Picture day is this Thursday, September 6th. Please reminder to bring order forms. Students will be notified on Wednesday what time their class will be scheduled for pictures.

The “Welcome Back to School Family Picnic” is also this Thursday, September 6, from 5-7pm. Some of our talented music students will be providing entertainment, and other activities are planned as well. I hope everyone can make that.

Sally Foster fund raiser is starting next week. See Claire on Level III for details.

Dr. Tom Gorsuch

ON THE LEVELS

SAYING OF THE WEEK:

Level 1: “A place for everything and everything in its place.”

Level 2: “Let’s break the ice.”

COLLEGE FAIR FOR SENIORS at UMass Dartmouth on Sunday, September 16th from 2:00-4:40pm. For more information contact Mary Carter.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

SSCPS YOU CAN STILL JOIN the online SSCPS Parents Discussion Forum at GoogleGroups. There are currently more than 100 SSCPS parents signed up. It’s a great forum for sharing thoughts and ideas related to the school and our community, and for keeping up with Parents Association announcements and news. If you’d like to sign up, simply send an email to sscpsparents@googlegroups.com and write “Sign Me Up.”

Early Morning Drop-Off Program

This program has been reorganized to begin at 7:00 a.m. each school day morning. Level II Aide Geoff Overlee is the teacher. The cost is \$15 p/week for the first child, \$7.50 p/week for siblings. To register please contact gemagr@comcast.net with child name & grade, parent name(s), and day/evening phone numbers. No email? Call me at 781-963-7363 before 9:00 p.m. Thanks.
Gema Gray, Level III parent.

CHARTER SCHOOL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

-- PARENTS NEEDED --

-- PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL LEGISLATION --

The following is an important e-mail message from Marc Kenen, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Charter Public School Association:

“On Tuesday, September 25th the K-12 Education Committee of the Legislature will hold a public hearing in Gardner Auditorium in the State House on proposed Charter School Legislation.

We understand that the Superintendent's Association will be pushing hard their proposal to limit district funding for charters to \$5,000 per student so it's very important that we have a large turnout of parents and supporters. Testimony on our proposed legislation to raise the 9% district cap on charters will also be heard that day.

As in the past, we are able to reimburse you for transportation for parents to the state house. The hearing will begin at 1:00. We're asking everyone to stay at least until 2:00, later if you can. We also encourage you to come early and visit with your local reps and senators before the hearing starts. Let me know if you need help setting up appointments."

It is very important that we have a large turnout of parents to attend the hearing and show their support for charter schools. I am coordinating car pools. I am willing to reserve a bus if we have enough of an interest. Some folks might work downtown and plan on attending the hearing. I am open to any suggestions. Please contact me if you are available to attend. www.masscharterschools.org

Judy Kaplan - Level II parent J_SKaplan@yahoo.com (h) 781-925-9151

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Anticipated 88% (35 hours per week) Certified Occupational Therapist or
Part Time 70% (28 hours per week) Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant
Level IV Part time 50% (20 hours per week) Teachers Aide
On-Call Substitute Teachers
On-Call Substitute Teacher Aides

Send cover letter, resume and list of references to Kristine Shipps, Business Manager.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY FOR SEPTEMBER - Our first community service activity of the year will be participating in Coast Sweep again. It will be taking place on Saturday, September 15th, from 9-11 a.m. We will be meeting at the bathhouse on Nantasket Ave. and Nancy Kramer, our local coordinator, will have all the supplies we need (data cards, pencils, trash bags, disposable gloves).

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Coast Sweep and SSCPS has been a part of this effort for many years, beginning when we were located right on the beaches of Hull. It is sponsored locally by Coastal Zone Management and Urban Harbors Institute at UMass, Boston, but Coast Sweep is an international campaign organized by the Ocean Conservancy in Washington, D.C. Volunteers clean coasts of oceans, rivers, and lakes, while recording data on this marine debris. The information gathered is used to help reduce future marine debris problems. Last year 358, 617 volunteers in 68 countries removed 7 million pounds of debris from the oceans, rivers, and lakes of the world! And SSCPS was 35 of those volunteers! This is a fun, easy, and meaningful community service activity to get us going on our required hours - I hope to see many of you there! Katherine Kardok 781-659-7540

"CARTRIDGES FOR KIDS" – Thank you for all of the cartridge and cell phone donations made to Cartridges for Kids this year. We were able to package and send off many boxes in return for money for our school. We will continue to collect again next year and would be happy to pick up any donations over the summer. Thanks again, Luke, John and Grace Ryan (781) 925-9541

COMMUNITY INTEREST

Hurry only 5 openings left

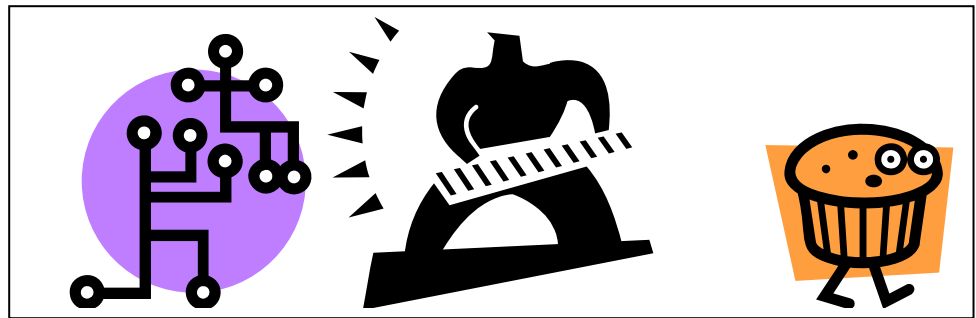
NEW SSYMCA MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

HELD HERE AT SSCPS FROM 3:00p.m.-6:00p.m. Monday through Friday

Has 5 Openings. Please call Steve Litcoff at 781-829-8585x262 for registration Information

WEEKLY UPDATES ARE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SSCPS.ORG

SSCPS Welcome Back Picnic



Who: All members of the SSCPS community

What: An evening of fun, food and friends

When: Thursday, September 6, 2007 5p.m.-7p.m.

Where: SSCPS 100 Longwater Drive Norwell, MA

Why: See old friends

Meet new friends

Listen to the music of our very talented students

Hear stories of how SSCPS became the great community it is now

How: Bring your family

Bring a blanket

Bring a picnic dinner for your family

Bring an appetizer or dessert to share

Bring a smile

Please call Kerry Griffin @ 781 878 3762 if you have any questions.

Reminder:

Dismissal is at regular time 3:00pm

Please do not bring any foods that contain peanut or nut products.

Lunch Menu – September, 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Labor Day No School	4 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	5 BLT Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato with mayonnaise	6 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	7 Tuna Salad With lettuce and tomato
10 Chicken Salad With lettuce and tomato	11 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	12 Italian Cold Cuts With Provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle and oil	13 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	14 PB&J Lunch -or- Tossed Salad With Italian dressing and pita bread
17 NO SCHOOL Professional Dev. Day	18 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	19 Roast Beef With American cheese and mustard	20 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	21 Tuna Salad With lettuce and tomato
24 Ham With American cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle and oil	25 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	26 BLT Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato with mayonnaise	27 <i>Cheese Pizza</i>	28 PB&J Lunch -or- Greek Salad With Greek dressing and pita bread

2 % milk, chocolate milk, strawberry milk or orange juice is included with the purchase of lunch or may be purchased for 25 cents. If your child has forgotten a lunch, a Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich and Milk will be provided at the cost of \$2.00. A note from the office will go home that week for reimbursement.

Lunch Order Form
 Lunch for the Month of September, 2007
Due to the office by 3:00 pm, Thursday, September 6, 2007

Student Name _____

Pod Teacher/Advisor _____ Grade _____

Please **CHECK** off the day lunch will be ordered and **CIRCLE** your selection.

Week of 9/10 – 9/14	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Pizza #_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Pizza #_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday PB&J Lunch - or - Salad
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Week of 9/17 – 9/21	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday No School	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Pizza #_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Pizza #_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Sub ½ sub Wheat
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Week of 9/24 – 9/28	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Pizza #_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Sub ½ sub Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Pizza #_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday PB &J Lunch - or - Salad
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Number of Subs/Wheat ordered	_____	X	\$5.00
Number of ½ subs ordered	_____	X	\$3.00
Number of Pizza Slices ordered	_____	X	\$1.50
Number of Salads ordered	_____	X	\$3.00
Number of PB&J Lunches ordered	_____	X	\$3.00

Less credit due

Total Amount Enclosed

\$_____

Cash or Checks may be made out to SSCPS.

Choice of 2% milk, chocolate milk, strawberry milk or orange juice is included with the purchase of a meal or can be purchased separately for 25 cents.

Please note: If your child has forgotten lunch, a lunch of Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich and Milk will be provided at the cost of \$2.00. A note from the office will go home that afternoon for reimbursement.