

SSCPS parents and guardians!

It is hard to believe that we have just finished the first day of the 2009-2010 school year. We hope that your student had a great Monday. Last week, all of our staff were here for two days of professional development and one day for information about the opening of school, policies and procedures, and identifying the ways that each one of us plans to contribute to making SSCPS a better school this year. As many of you know, every five years a charter school must submit a renewal application. By the end of the week, our application will be posted on our website for you to review. One component of the renewal application is a proposed Accountability Plan for 2011-2016. From May through July a twenty person committee comprised of Board and Foundation members, parents, high school students, faculty, and administrators reviewed our current mission statement and Exit Standards and discussed the goals of the founders in starting SSCPS back in 1995.

One of the first tasks of the Renewal Committee was to look at the current mission statement. While everyone agreed that it describes SSCPS, its mission and priorities, there was consensus that it was too long. No one could recite it. After much discussion and sharing of the proposed revised mission statement, the Board of Trustees approved a shorter, revised Mission at its July meeting: “inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life.” Volunteering and service were priorities for the founders of the school. When submitting an application for SSCPS, parents agree that they will do volunteer work each year. Last year, SSCPS renewed its commitment to parent volunteering and Melissa Freitas stepped forward to serve as the Volunteer Coordinator. Our goal then and now is to promote volunteering, track the number of hours each parent volunteers, and recognize our volunteers for all that they do for our school, the faculty, and the students. **Last year 60% of the families volunteered in some way to help our students.** Because this was a significant improvement over last year and service is such an important part of SSCPS, the Accountability Committee agreed that one of the goals for the next five years is to have 60% or more of the families volunteering at the school. We did it last year and I know that we can surpass the 60% mark this year! So often last year, I referred to the Founder’s belief in the three-legged stool and the important role that parents play in their children’s education here. What better way to get more involved through volunteering in some capacity.

We are thrilled that SSCPS parent Melissa Freitas has agreed to serve again this year as the PA Parent Volunteer Coordinator. For our program to be even more successful this year, we need **EVERYONE to complete the attached Volunteer Survey**. This survey will let us know the ways in which you might be able to help us this year and when you would be available. Of course, I am certain there are some volunteer areas that we omitted or forgot to include, so please mention other ways that you might be able to assist us. Another form that we need you to fill out and complete is the attached **Confidentiality Agreement**. In addition to these important documents, the state requires all schools to have everyone who volunteers/works with students to **complete a CORI form** each school year. The CORI form needs to be filled out at the school and you will also need to have your driver’s license with you for us to photocopy. Once we have your Survey, Confidentiality Agreement, and CORI clearance, you will be “good to go” as a volunteer.

For those of you **new** to the school or who **did not volunteer last year**, there will be **Volunteer Orientation sessions** where Ted Hirsch, K-6 Principal, Melissa, and I will go over the lessons we have learned about volunteering over the years and how we can make the experience even better. I will include the dates and times of the Volunteer sessions in the first Update. One definite session will be the afternoon of the Back-to-School picnic on Wednesday, September 9th. It will take place 30 minutes before the picnic begins. For our seasoned volunteers, we extend an invitation to attend the sessions to help us respond to questions about volunteering from our new parents/families.

Melissa will be working with Donna Josseyln, our receptionist at the front desk, to create the database for our volunteers. As she did last year, Melissa will connect with the Level Coordinators and the school principals to identify the needs at each level. It is our goal to be in contact with everyone about volunteer opportunities by the end of September.

I look forward to working with all of you this year and to seeing all of you at the Family Picnic sponsored by the Parents Association on the 9th.

It’s going to be a great year!!!

Prue Goodale



To: All Volunteers

From: South Shore Charter Public School Administration

2009-2010 Confidentiality Agreement

Thank you for volunteering your time and energy towards such a worthy cause – our children.

As a volunteer, you will have the opportunity to work closely with students, teachers and staff. You will often encounter personal and confidential information that must be handled sensitively and respectfully. SSCPS considers confidentiality a fundamental principle that should guide every adult involved in our school. Each individual must take full responsibility for the information that he/she shares with others. You must also remember that any breach of confidentiality will cause pain to the students, their families and the school and may result in your no longer being able to serve as a volunteer at the school.

I have read the above and agree to honor the confidentiality of students, teachers, and staff.

Volunteer

Date

SSCPS Staff Member

Date

Inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life

100 Longwater Circle
Norwell, MA 02061
781-982-4202/Fax 781-982-4201
www.sscps.org



Volunteer Registration Form for 2009-2010

Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Occupation: _____ **Hobbies/Interests:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Children at SSCPS (grade and teacher): _____

Volunteering: Please check any areas you have an interest in volunteering:

- Reading/Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Specialty Subjects (circle all that apply): Art, Music, Physical Education, Spanish
- Project and Workshop
- Library
- Guest Speaker (list topic/s)*:
- Lunch Monitor
- Chaperone/Driver for field trips/special events
- Photocopying
- Landscaping
- Building maintenance
- Home (phone calls/baking/preparing classroom materials)
- Other: _____

Volunteering Availability (check one)

- Regular school hours
- Nights and weekends
- Anytime

Please return by Friday, September 11

2009-2010 Volunteer Registration Form (page 2)

Would you be willing to volunteer in other classes/levels than the one your student(s) is in? (circle one) Yes No

Would you like to volunteer ONLY in a level other than the one your student is in? (circle one) Yes No

Frequency of volunteering: Please check what works best for you and your schedule

- Regular basis (coming in at a set time each week)
- Short-term commitment (examples: judging a science fair or working with students on a special assignment)
- Occasional (volunteering for a few hours one day for a field trip or a special activity or as a guest speaker on a special topic)

*At the secondary level, there is a great need for guest speakers. If you are interested in doing a presentation on your career or specialty area, please provide some additional information that we can share with the teachers: _____

Please return this form, along with the signed confidentiality agreement, to Donna at the front desk or Pam Algera.

All forms will be given to Melissa Freitas, our Parent Volunteer Coordinator. If you have any questions, please contact her for additional information. She can be contacted at MelissaFreitas@msn.com or 857-205-8712. By the third week in September, we hope to have our database for the year completed and volunteer "assignments" made!

Reminder: Before anyone can begin volunteering, they must have submitted the Confidentiality Agreement and completed the CORI form. The CORI is a state requirement in all schools. Also, if you did not volunteer last year and/or are new to the school, please ask to meet with one of the school administrators when you come in to complete the CORI, and he/she will go over the volunteer protocol with you and provide you with more detailed information about volunteering at SSCPS.

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