

**10/28/2024**

**SHHS**

**Principal's Weekly Update**



Hello!

Here are this week's important updates:

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

11/5: No School Election Day

11/6-11/7 MCAS ELA Retest

11/11: No School Veterans Day

11/12-11/13: MCAS Math Retest

11/27: Half Day

11/28-11/29: No School

12/4: Academic Advising Night

12/6: Caregiver Coffee with the Admin Team 7:30 a.m-8:30

**New Updates:**

**Congratulations:**

Congratulations to the Tiger Pride Marching Band for a stellar performance and 4th place finish at the MA State Finals.

**Attention All:** The Service Club is holding a donation drive to benefit Alianza Domestic Violence Services from November 6 through November 26. Items most needed include - personal care products for all ages; children's needs which include diapers sizes 4 and 5, baby wipes, toothbrushes and toothpaste, baby shampoo, bibs, teething toys and rings, diaper cream and lotion; bed pillow, twin and full-size sheets and blankets; all sizes of children's and women's clothing. **Please note that all items need to be new. They cannot accept used or opened items.** There are collection bins in the main foyer at the High School, Mosier Elementary School, and Michael E. Smith Middle School. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Attention Senior Class Email:** Calling all seniors! Registration is still open for the SHHS Senior Trip to London over April vacation. Are you a spring athlete worried about missing games while you travel? There is no need to worry. Mr. Castonguay is going to adjust game schedules for those students traveling so that the number of games missed will be minimal. Students interested in traveling are invited with their caregivers to watch the informational meeting that was recorded earlier this fall: [SHHS Seniors London Informational Meeting Recording](#). If you have any questions, please see Ms. Foley in room 523 or email her at [afoley@shschools.com](mailto:afoley@shschools.com). If you want to check out the itinerary and trip details, please use this link: [SHHS Class of 2025 London Itinerary](#)

**Attention All:** Do you like horseback riding? How about zip lining? Want to see a rain forest or walk to a waterfall? These are just a few of the things you will experience if you go to Costa Rica this summer! Students interested in traveling are invited with their caregivers to watch the informational meeting that was recorded earlier this fall: [Costa Rica & Panama Informational Meeting Recording](#). If you have any questions, please see Ms. Foley in room 523 or email her at [afoley@shschools.com](mailto:afoley@shschools.com). If you want to check out the itinerary and trip details, please use these links: [Costa Rica 2025](#) or [Costa Rica & Panama 2025](#).

### **Spirit Week:**

#### **Monday November 25th**

Mad Hatter Monday - Bring your best hat, the dress code is Wonderland

#### **Tuesday November 26th**

Sweater Weather - Everyone is encouraged to wear a sweater. The warmer the better!

### **Wednesday November 27th**

Color Wars -

**Seniors are black and orange**

**Juniors are green**

**Sophomores are blue**

**Freshman are Red**

### **Wednesday, November 27, 2024**

#### **Day 4 - ½ Day Schedule**

7:23 – 8:07 period 1

8:11 – 8:55 period 2

8:59 – 9:43 period 3

9:47 – 11:01 period 5 and lunches

(9:47-10:17 1st lunch / 10:19 – 11:01 class)

(9:47-10:29 class / 10:31 -11:01 2nd lunch)

**South Hadley Families: The South Hadley Music Parents Association** invites you to join us for our monthly meeting on November 12th at 6PM in the Michael E. Smith Middle School library. After a *brief* regular meeting, we invite you to join a discussion about the music opportunities available to students in South Hadley. We want to join forces to support and grow the performing arts in our public schools. Please attend if you're able. Reach out to [shmpa@southhadleymusic.org](mailto:shmpa@southhadleymusic.org) with any questions. You can visit our website to learn more about us. <https://www.southhadleymusic.org/> Thank you for all your support!! Your SHMPA Board Members

**Attention Grades 11 and 12:** Throughout the fall semester colleges will visit SHHS. Students in grades 11 & 12 are encouraged to obtain a pass in guidance to attend college meetings. (The day before is the best time to obtain the pass.) These meetings are no more than 30 minutes long. Absences will be excused; however, it is the student's responsibility to inform their teacher of the meeting and to arrange to complete any missed work. This is a good opportunity to demonstrate interest, ask questions of someone who may be reading your application, and to learn more about the college admissions process in general. Please come prepared to ask questions and participate in a conversation with the admissions officer. See the list [here](#)

**Winter Registration Now Open! Athletics Updates:** We are excited to continue using FamilyID for athletic registrations. FamilyID is a secure registration platform that provides you with an easy, user-friendly way to register for our programs, and helps us to be more administratively efficient and environmentally responsible. When you register through FamilyID, the system keeps track of your information in your FamilyID profile. You enter your information only once for each family member for multiple uses and multiple programs. Registration for winter sports is now open.

#### REGISTRATION PROCESS:

A caregiver can register by clicking on this link:

<https://www.familyid.com/organizations/13827/programs/south-hadley-fall-2021-athletics-registration/edit#>

Registering as a new user on FamilyID is simple. Follow these steps:

First, create and activate your FamilyID account.

1. If you have not already done so, [create a FamilyID account here](#).
2. After you sign up for an account please check your inbox for an Activation Email from FamilyID. You'll need to click the link in that email to activate your account.
3. Once you have activated your account, you will be ready to register for our program! [Please click here to watch a quick video or read a help article on how to register for the first time on FamilyID.](#)

#### SUPPORT:

- If you need assistance with registration, contact FamilyID at: [support@familyid.com](mailto:support@familyid.com) or 781-205-2800 x1.

- Support is available 5 days per week, Monday through Friday, and messages will be returned promptly.

\*\*\*\*\* Please do not forget to fill out the online concussion test. This is required for all first-year athletes and is to be filled out every two years. You can find the test

[here](#)\*\*\*\*\*

### Ongoing Information:

**2024-2025 Student Handbook:** [Here](#)

**Work Permit Information:** Many have asked about obtaining work permit applications and resources. Here is the link for the state guidelines and forms:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/youth-employment-permit-information> If you are in need of a permit, please call ahead and secure an appointment with the high school front office staff. (413) 538-5063 ext. 3704. The High School will also have open permit hours on Monday and Wednesday between the hours of 8:00-2:00

**District Store:** Our South Hadley store is officially open! This store will be open for the entire year, so there is no rush to order. All items purchased will get shipped directly to your house. There is an option to order apparel that's generically made and another option to customize your apparel however you want! If you have any questions about how to order, please reach out. [ecastonguay@shschools.com](mailto:ecastonguay@shschools.com) Here is the link.

<https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/massachusetts/southhadley/south-hadley-high-school> Let's show our Tiger Pride as a school community.

### Community Resources:

**SEL Updates:** [Here](#) Attached Newsletters as well.

### Mental Health Resources:

<https://mhanational.org/mental-health-resources-caregivers?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=882088ea-e6b4-4b84-94df-0b990b2e700c>

**Self-Care:** Take a look at South Hadley High School's Virtual Meditation Station Here: [South Hadley High School Virtual Meditation Station](#)

**Attention All:** Did you know SHPS offers a service called Care Solace? A referral system for mental health counseling. As part of this program, we have Care Match. Care Match is an additional self-service resource available to you - allowing students, families and staff to anonymously find mental health providers and substance use treatment options matched to their needs on their own more information can be found here: <https://caresolace.com/site/southhadley>

**Information from the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry:** If you find yourself in need of support with meals for after school hours, please reach out to me [@ewood@shschools.com](mailto:@ewood@shschools.com) [flyer](#) [sample menu](#)

*SHHS remains committed to maintaining a safe place for our staff and students. As we continue to find ourselves in unprecedented times, it is more important than ever to hold a safe place for difficult conversations. Our words are powerful and have the ability to cause harm that may not be visible on the surface but have lasting effects in our school community. It is beyond necessary to create an environment that listens, supports and validates each of our diverse identities. We recognize that we are all on a journey of education. I feel fortunate to have the ability to be a listening ear, but also provide our students with learning opportunities and teachable moments that will allow them to become proactive members of our community. Please know that if you find yourself in need of additional support, we are here.*

### **Library Updates:**

As we move into November, we are extremely grateful for the many people who make up our library community. Every day at the libraries is a mix of the new and familiar: from books to programs to people. Whether you stop by rarely or daily, you are always welcome at the South Hadley Public Library and Gaylord Memorial Library. We hope to see you soon.

## Adult Programs at SHPL

Looking for some like-minded readers? The library's two book discussion groups have some great books to talk about this month. The Hello Sunshine Book Club will meet on Wednesday, November 6 at 6:30 to discuss *The Me I Used To Be* by Jennifer Ryan. Romance readers will be interested in joining our fun Between the Covers Romance Book Club on Tuesday, November 12 at 3:00 to talk about *Always Remember* by Mary Balogh. Copies of both books, as well as books being discussed at the Senior Center, are available at the library.

Maybe you're looking for something new to read? Join us at our Adult Book Tasting on Wednesday, November 13 at 6:00. We'll have a selection of new authors and books representing a variety of genres. Register by calling 413-538-5045 or stop by the Circulation Desk.

With several big meals to plan in the coming months, we've got the opportunity to find some new recipes at our Recipe Swap happening on Saturday, November 16 at 10:00. Drop off your favorite recipes between Oct. 28 and Nov. 15. Share your favorite appetizers, soups, salads, one pot meals, entrées, vegetarian & vegan, and desserts. Copies will be available for people to pick up on Saturday, November 16. Bon appétit!

¿Hablas español? Our Spanish Conversation Circle on Saturday, November 16 at 10:30 provides a monthly opportunity for Spanish speakers to practice their language skills. Participants should have basic conversation skills as this is not a language class, but a conversation group.

Don't forget our ongoing weekly programs: The Tuesday Night Knitters meet every Tuesday at 6:00 and offer quality knitting, crocheting, and company. All skill levels are welcome. Our Gatehouse Online Writer's Group gathers every Friday on Zoom from 10:00-12:00. This is a supportive peer-led environment open to all levels and styles. The group philosophy is a simple one: every person is a writer, and every writer deserves a safe environment in which to experiment, learn and develop their craft. Email the facilitator for the Zoom link.

Online Author Programs (click each program for more information)

- [A Navajo Investigator's Search for the Unexplained: In Conversation with Stanley Milford, Jr.](#) Fabled Navajo Investigator of the History Channel's Beyond Skinwalker Ranch and the Netflix Series The Secret of Skinwalker Ranch. Thursday, November 7 at 7:00.
- [Sobre la migración infantil desde Centroamérica--En conversación con Javier Zamora.](#) Autor Galardonado y más vendido del New York Times del libro *Solito*. Saturday, November 9 a 2:00.
- [On Childhood Migration from Central America--In Conversation with Javier Zamora.](#) Award-Winning and New York Times Bestselling Author of *Solito*. Thursday, November 14 at 4:00.
- [Native Rights and Culture in Fiction--A Conversation with Mona Susan Power.](#) PEN/Hemingway Prize Winner and An Enrolled Member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (Ihąŋkthunwanja Dakhóta). Wednesday, November 20 at 7:00.

#### Children's Programs at SHPL

This month in children's services our displays will focus on Indigenous Peoples' month and gratitude. Stop by to borrow a book like [Thank You, Omu!](#), [We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga](#), or [The First Blade of Sweetgrass](#).

With the schools being closed on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, we are going to have a Read-In from 12:00-7:00. Kids and their families are encouraged to bring blankets, sleeping bags, or any other cozy things to the library, cuddle up, and read! We'll have popcorn and cocoa in the story/craft room.

Kiddos interested in the ukulele have a special opportunity to learn about the instrument and even give it a try with Julie Stepanek on Saturday, November 9; kids 4-7 years old should sign up for the 10:00 Meet the Ukulele session, and kids 8+ should sign up to Learn the Ukulele at 11:00. Please call the library or email Children's Librarian Jenny to register.



Author Mk Smith Despres will be visiting us twice(!) this month, once at Story Time on Wednesday, November 13 at 10:30 and again at Pajama Storytime on Monday, November 18 at 6:30. Odyssey Books will be offering Mk's books for sale, but there's no need to purchase to come enjoy either program!

Want to practice reading aloud to a dog? Read to Yorkshire terrier Duchess on Tuesday, November 12 or greyhound Gwen on Wednesday, November 20; call or visit the library to sign up.

The final session of our Chess for Kids series is Wednesday, November 6, at 4:00. Come learn some strategic moves!

On Thursday, November 14 our Graphic Novel Book Club for kids ages 8-11 will discuss *Squire & Knight* by Scott Chantler from 3:45-4:45; copies are available on the children's desk. On Friday, November 15 our My First Book Club for kids in kindergarten and first grade meets at 3:45 - no advance reading required!

Of course, all our wonderful [weekly programs for children](#) continue - Pajama Storytime, Lego & Games, Rhyme Time, Comics & Crafts, Story Time, and Playgroup. And you can request a personalized [Book Bundle](#) anytime!

### Teen Programs at SHPL

This month in Teens we continue our regular monthly programs with Crafternoon, Snackternoon and Xbox1. Our Crafternoon on Thursday, November 14 at 4:00 will feature Crumpled Paper Art and our Snackternoon on Thursday, November 21 at 4:00 will feature Taco Tortilla Roll Ups! Thank you to the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library for sponsoring our Teen Snackternoon. Please note this month's Snackternoon will be the 3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving closure. We have a different game selection for this month's Xbox1 sessions on Tuesdays, November 5 & 19 at 3:30. Reach out with any questions through email or call the library 538-5045 and ask for Bethany. You can also check out the flyers on the Teen Room door for more information.

We will end the month with our Teen Night Craft on Tuesday, November 26 at 6:30 and will be crafting Kinetic Sand.

Our Teen Book Tasting Program happens on Monday, November 4 from 3:30-5:30, come and check out all the brand new, not even circulated YA books, graphic novels, and manga that we've gotten in for the month - get first dibs for check out! This month features gaming afternoons with our brand new Nintendo Switch on Thursday, November 7 and Monday, November 25 at 3:30.

We are bringing back our Teen Book Club, Booktroverts. There is no in-person meet up. Enjoy the book on your own time. This month features *The Girl from the Sea* by Molly Knox Ostertag. Copies are available in the Teen Room to check out.

Our Teen Takeaway craft this month is Borax Crystals! See Bethany for more details or to sign up.

#### Gaylord Memorial Library Programs

Gaylord's Garden Club will meet Friday, November 1 at 12:00 to talk about preparing Gaylord's gardens (and yours) for fall. Get ready for Thanksgiving, or any fall entertaining, with Spice Club by sampling Southern New England Spice Company's Cranberry Herb Poultry Rub on Thursday, November 7 at 6:30. Castle Nitor returns on Thursday, November 14 at 6:00 to teach Drop Spindle Spinning. There are a few spots available in this class. Email [sgcourtney@cwmars.org](mailto:sgcourtney@cwmars.org) to register. On Friday, November 22 from 3:00-5:00 we have a Gift Wrap Swap in the rotunda. Holiday, birthday, and any-time wrapping, ribbons, and cards are all welcome!

For kids, we have our popular story times, LEGOs and crafts, plus Mary Westgate sings and reads braille books on Friday, November 1 at 10:30. We also have a special Bilingual Spanish-English Story Time on Saturday, November 2 at 10:30.

#### Holidays

The South Hadley Public Library and Gaylord Memorial Library will be closed the following days this month:

- Monday, November 11 for Veterans Day
- Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29 for Thanksgiving

KEY WEBSITES to STAY CONNECTED:

- [Event calendar for library programs \(including registration information\)](#)
  - [SHPL Facebook page](#)
  - [South Hadley Public Library homepage](#)
  - [Gaylord Memorial Library homepage](#)
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- [Town of South Hadley homepage](#)