



## Seven Hills Charter School Weekly Newsletter

November 20, 2009

**Respect is our Core Value for November.**

### Save the Date!

Nov. 20: Last Day of Term 1

Nov. 21: Parent Guild Holiday Bazaar Item Preparation  
9:00AM- Volunteers Needed!

Nov. 25,26,27: No School

Dec. 1: Board of Trustee Meeting 6:00 PM, Rm 210

Dec 2: Spelling Bee Final Round 4:30 WPL

Dec 2, 3 4: Parent Guild Holiday Bazaar - Volunteers  
needed!

Dec. 7: Gr. K-3 Auditions for Beauty and the Beast

Dec. 8: Gr. 4-5 Auditions for Beauty and the Beast; Parent  
Guild Meeting 6:00 PM

Dec. 9: JA Auditions for Beauty and the Beast; SLC's Go  
Home

Dec. 11: Model Citizen Assemblies; Half Day for Parent  
Conferences - Dismissal begins at 11:55 AM.

***Be kind. Be safe. Be responsible.***

November is Massachusetts Family Literacy Month!

*Dear Families,*

Thank you to everyone who participated in this week's Family Literacy Night and Book Fair. We hope you all enjoyed the activities and found ways to bring reading to life in your own homes. Our final story of the evening, Yes We Can by Sam McBratney focused on several important messages: believe in yourself, encourage one another and celebrate what makes each one of us special. One of the students summed it up beautifully when he said "have hope." Hope is one of the Seven Hills core values. By having hope, we never give up because we know that anything is possible. Please let your children know that you believe in them and that you are committed to helping them shine.


*Happy reading! Krista Piazza, Superintendent*

**Star Students** Congratulations to: Franshelly Mane, Jaya Dupere, Melinda Duah, Basirat Quadry, Isaac Cordova and Nyles Irving.


**Rainbow House News** This week's La Frase Secreta winner is Hector Rivera. Star students are Jared Vega, Shawn Yeboah and Etintongo Brown. We are excited to announce that Beauty and the Beast will be this year's school musical! Please see the attached sheet for information about auditions.

**Parent Partnerships** Seven Hills is proud to host a full day kindergarten program that is fully accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). That accreditation must be renewed every five years. As part of that process, families are asked to provide feedback about their child's school experience. Please look for a survey to be sent home with the next newsletter on December 4th. All surveys are confidential and anonymous. Please return your completed survey to the main office in the envelope that will be provided. All surveys must be received by December 18th. Additional information is available at [www.rightchoiceforkids.org](http://www.rightchoiceforkids.org). Thank you for your cooperation.

**Parents to Parents** is still welcoming parents to join them in conversation and companionship to discuss ways to help one another raise happy, healthy children during challenging times. Please contact Mr. Farquharson at [afarquharson@sevenhillscharter.org](mailto:afarquharson@sevenhillscharter.org) for more information.

 **Are you a Celtics fan?** The SHCPS Ski and Snowboard Club is having a raffle for two tickets to the February 5<sup>th</sup> Celtics vs. Nets game. Chances are for sale in the nurse's office for \$1 each, 6 for \$5 or 14 for \$10.

**The Parent Guild Holiday Bazaar** is coming soon. During the first week of December, students will have a chance to purchase gifts for loved ones. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the bazaar tomorrow at 9:00 AM. Other volunteer opportunities are listed on the attached page. We appreciate your help!

 **Help at Home from Ms. Dirsq** Thanksgiving and Christmas help is here again. If you could use a hand for the holidays, contact our school guidance counselor at x1108 or via email at [ldirsq@sevenhillscharter.org](mailto:ldirsq@sevenhillscharter.org). If you need food for a special Thanksgiving meal or help getting gifts for family members, she can offer confidential assistance. Seven Hills sponsors a "Giving Tree" where people shop for one another and ensure that everyone receives a little something special at holiday time.

**Community Partnerships: Vaccines are on the way!** The Center for Disease Control recommends that school age children be vaccinated against the flu. Seven Hills is working with the city to have this vaccination available at no cost to our students during the school day. Parents who want their child to be vaccinated must return a signed consent form (attached) to the school office. Students in Grade 7 and 8 can be vaccinated without a parent present. However, parents must be present for all students in Grades K through 6 to receive the vaccination. The dates will be determined once the city receives all of the completed consent forms. Any parents who are certified RN's who would like to volunteer to assist with this process should contact our school nurse. We appreciate your help.



### **This week's MA Family Literacy Tips**

Here are some suggestions for helping your child choose a good book to read:

- Look for books that are about topics of interest to your child.
- If your child enjoyed a book, look for other books of a similar genre or by the same author.
- It's okay for your child to re-read old favorites!
- Try the five finger rule.
  - Have your child read one page (or section) of a book. If s/he gets stuck on less than five words, that book is appropriate for your child to read independently. If there are more than five tricky words, it is most likely a better book for reading together.



### **SHCPS Family Literacy Weekly Challenge**

*Completed challenges are due to Ms. Piazza on Monday morning.*

Go to <http://www.teachersandfamilies.com/open/tr/tr3.cfm> and read the Tips to Build Better Readers. Pick at least one tip each week and try it out while reading a favorite book. Create a poster about that tip to be hung in the school. Come to the main office to share your tip over morning announcements.

Have you checked out the online book chat groups yet? Click on "Think" icon at the top of the school website student log in page and join the discussions!



## **Auditions! Auditions! Auditions!**

*Dear Parents:*

*We would like to invite your child to audition for our Spring Musical this year. This year's musical will be "Beauty and the Beast". The auditions will be on December 7 (K-3), December 8 (4-5) and December 9 (6-8) after school from 3:00-5:00 p.m.*

*Before signing the permission slip below, please be aware of the commitment of both you and your child to this project. Here are some things for you to consider once your child has been asked to be in our musical:*

- 1. Your child will be rehearsing at least one day a week, and if your child has a "Lead", they will rehearse at least two days a week. When the day of the show gets closer, they may have to rehearse more than two days a week.*
- 2. You will need to pick your child up or arrange for transportation home at 5:00 p.m. on rehearsal days.*
- 3. Your child will need to practice their lines and songs at home.*
- 4. Your child will be required to be at both performances on Saturday, May 8th in the evening and Sunday, May 9th in the afternoon, at a place to be announced. (This venue will be in Worcester)*
- 5. Your child will need to follow the "Code of Conduct" that we use during the school day. If your child doesn't follow the "Code", they will be asked to leave the musical production team.*

*Please discuss this commitment with your child. It is very difficult on the entire cast if they go through the audition process, get in to the musical rehearsals and then drop out. The commitment is from January 2, - May 9, 2010, at least one day a week after school (more days for "Leads").*

*If you and your child talk this over and decide that your child will audition, please fill out the permission slip below. REMEMBER, it doesn't mean that your child will definitely be in the show. Your child will attend the audition and we will post a "Cast List" online, before the December break on December 23.*

*Sincerely,*

*Mrs. Lemoyne (Director) and Mrs. Holton (Musical Director)*

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*I give my child permission to stay after school on December 7, 8 or 9<sup>th</sup> to audition for the Spring Musical.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Parent Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Child's Name/Class*



On **Wednesday, December 2, Thursday, December 3 and Friday, December 4, 2009**, the SHCPS Parent Guild will sponsor the twelfth annual **Holiday Bazaar** for the children at the school. This will be an opportunity for your children to do some holiday shopping on their own.

Each child's participation is voluntary. If you do not want your child to participate, please notify your child's classroom teacher. Each teacher will be assigned to a specific time period for their class to shop. If you would like to accompany your child to the bazaar, please feel free to ask his/her teacher what time their class will be shopping.

Before the bazaar, please decide with your child whether they can purchase gifts for only their parents, or whether they may purchase items for other family members and friends. The prices of the items offered will range from \$1.00 to \$8.00.

In order to make this year's holiday bazaar a fun shopping experience for everyone, the **Parent Guild needs your help!!**\* If you or a family member can volunteer some time, please complete the bottom half of this form and return it to the office as soon as possible. We need help assisting children with handling their money and making wise choices, restocking the tables, and running the cash register. We are also accepting donations of new or handcrafted items to sell. Send donations in with your child, labeled for the Parent Guild.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions.

Thank you,

Sarah Okerlund  
 (508 854-4725)  
[sdokerlund@msn.com](mailto:sdokerlund@msn.com)

**\*All volunteers are required to have a CORI report on file. PLEASE CONTACT SALLY USTAITIS (508-799-7500 X1066) for a CORI application. It takes approximately two weeks for your CORI report to come back to school.**

**Parent Guild sponsored Holiday Bazaar 2008**

Please check off the times that you are able to volunteer:

**Wednesday, December 2**

- 7:30 – 9:30
- 9:30 – 11:30
- 11:30 – 1:30
- 1:30 – 3:30

**Thursday, December 3**

- 7:30 – 9:30
- 9:30 – 11:30
- 11:30 – 1:30
- 1:30 – 3:30

**Friday, December 4**

- 7:30 – 9:30
- 9:30 – 11:30
- 11:30 – 1:30
- (Clean up)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return to school as soon as possible.

**Thank you for your help!!!**