

Solomon Principal Newsletter

December 18, 2023

Dear Solomon Family--

I hope everyone had a great weekend. This week will be the final one of Quarter 2, with no school for students on Friday, December 22, due to a staff Professional Development Day. Report cards will be distributed to students to be brought home via kidmail on January 12.

This will be our last newsletter before the holiday break, with the next newsletter returning on January 8, 2024. I wish all of our Solomon families a restful and restorative time with friends and family these next few weeks. To those who celebrate, I wish a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a blessed Kwanzaa; as we head into the new year, may your hearts be filled with joy and love.

In partnership,

Chris Gamble
Principal
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

News and Notes

- We will have a [Solomon Spirit Week](#) this last week of our quarter. I've got my winter hat, ugly sweater, sports jersey, and PJs ready. Let's have full school participation as we head into the break!
- Kudos to our classroom Spelling Bee champions, who will compete on January 17, 2024, for the school-wide championship. The winner will move onto the city-wide Spelling Bee later this winter. Our classroom winners were: Jayden C. Raayaa S., Durvesh R., Vincent B., Deni K., Isabella O., Emma B., Theodore P., Bella P., Rebecca P., Hidayah S., Isabella U., James H., Sofia M., Mohammed S., and Emma K. Many thanks to our event organizers, Ms. McReynolds and Mr. Conway, for bringing this event back to Solomon.
- Even more kudos to our 29 students that auditioned for parts in our rendition of *Disney's Descendants*, with the final performance on April 19 at Wright College. I can't forget the crew too. I can't wait to see this year's performance, led by volunteer directors Ms. Kristin and Ms. Emily.
- For families interested in signing up for our Winter OST (After-School) free, Solomon-led programming, sign up will start on January 8, 2024, with the first week of programming set to begin January 16. We are still finalizing our offerings, but one program that I know we will offer for our younger students is "Ready, STEM, Go" from our friends at Mad Science.
- Practices started this week for our 5th through 8th grade basketball teams. Practice and game schedules (updated with game dates, times, and locations for our 7th/8th grade teams) can be found here:
 - [5th/6th Girls Basketball](#) with Coach Alan Guevarra
 - [7th/8th Girls Basketball](#) with Coach William Myatt
 - [5th/6th Boys Basketball](#) with Coach Jesus Villaneuva

- [7th/8th Boys Basketball](#) with Coach Jesus Villaneuva
- Linked [here](#) is a message regarding the annual Office of Student Protections Training for students. The training will occur the week of December 18th at a time designated by the homeroom teacher and our counselor, Mrs. Mulholland. You can find the training materials on the OSP CPS website which is also linked [here](#).
- Community resources:
 - Thank you to Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Mulholland, and Mrs. Zaiya for putting together [this resource](#) on available English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in the community.
 - Our friends at Music House are hosting Winter Break programming for students at their West Rogers Park and Humboldt Park studios. For more information, please click [here](#).
 - The Chicago Industrial Arts and Design Center hosts after-school and weekend programming for students in grades 6 and higher, and their next session begins January 6. For more information, please click [here](#). All CPS students are eligible for a fee waiver, and for more information about that, click [here](#).

Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization

- Our Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a parent and staff leadership group that promotes community and supports Solomon in our strategic plan. Please click [here](#) to read more about their mission and vision, as well as the dates for many of this year's PTO-led events.
- It's not too late! You can still order custom keepsakes featuring your child's artwork. Go to [ArtToRemember.com](#) to place your order.
- Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 16, at 8am in the library.
- Our next sponsored event is the PTO Game Night on January 18, 2024 (5:30-7pm) in our gymnasium. It will be coupled with a Panner Bread Restaurant Giveback Night as well.
- Stay tuned for more winter fun in February 2024, including our first Family Dance.

Important Solomon Links

- To report a COVID-19 positive test, click [here](#).
- To find Solomon's breakfast and lunch menus, click [here](#) (search for "Solomon"). To learn more about the district's meals and nutrition program, click [here](#).
- To see our entry and exit procedures, please click [here](#).
- To find any Solomon staff member, their position, and their contact information, click [here](#) for our organizational chart.
- To register for before and/or after-school child care with the YMCA of Chicago, hosted in our lunchroom, please follow the directions in [this link](#).
- Please click [here](#) to read more about the differences between Level I and Level II volunteers and to complete the application process.
- To see our year-long community calendar, click [here](#).
- To see our year-long assessment calendar, click [here](#).
- Solomon spirit wear purchases can be made through our partner, Squadlocker. Check out unique Solomon gear [here](#).
- Student fees were approved by our Local School Council this past July. Please click [here](#) to see the student fee structure for this year and the methods of payment.
- Class supply lists are linked [here](#) and at our school website, [solomon.cps.edu](#).

School Calendars

- **December 21:** Last Day of the 2nd Quarter
- **December 22:** School Improvement Day (no school for students)
- **December 23-January 7, 2024:** Winter Break (no school for students and staff)
- **January 8:** Start of the 3rd Quarter
- **January 12:** Report Card Distribution via kidmail