

Solomon Principal Newsletter

December 4, 2023

Dear Solomon Family--

I hope that you enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday with friends and family. We have three more weeks in the quarter before we head into our two week Winter Break, and there are a lot of fun things planned during this festive time of the year. Please read below for important information on this week's events.

We had our first cold snap of the school year this past week, and it is a good time to remind everyone of our winter recess policy. The [district states](#) that for temperatures between 15-32 °F, it is the school's discretion on whether or not to go outside; as a result, Solomon policy is to go outside for all temperatures 15 °F and above, as long as it isn't raining or the blacktop isn't a sheet of ice. For temperatures below 15 °F at 11am, we will take our recess in the classroom. As a result, please make sure your child is appropriately dressed for cold weather, including hats, gloves, and snow boots. Time to bundle up!

In partnership,

Chris Gamble
Principal
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

News and Notes

- Monday, December 4, we host our annual Science Fair for 7th and 8th grade students in our gymnasium. We are excited to have students from Mather joining us this year as the judges, and all of our other classes will have an opportunity to visit the fair as well. 7th and 8th grade parents are welcome to join us as well between 9:15-11:45am. Good luck to our scientists, as winners will proceed on to the city fair in 2024. Many thanks to our Science Fair organizer, Mrs. Reis.
- Our annual [Holiday Shop](#) returns this week. For the uninitiated, we turn the gym into a marketplace on Wednesday (10am-4pm plus after-school hours for the community from 4-5pm), Thursday (9am-4pm), and Friday (9am-12pm). Items for sale are low-cost items, as well as cool and creative arts and crafts offerings from a variety of vendors. New this year, we are hosting a bake sale during the Wednesday after-school session, benefitting the mission of our PTO. Interested in helping? For information about the bake sale, click [here](#). To volunteer during the Holiday Shop, click [here](#). Thank you to our Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization for making the holiday magic happen.
- If your child is in grades 4-8 and interested in participating in our Solomon musical, *Disney Descendants, The Musical*, please return this [interest form](#) to the main office by Friday, December 8. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, December 12, in the gymnasium. Every year this is an amazing performance by our students, and I am excited to see what this year's performance brings.
- I'm also excited to announce that we have enough applicants and coaches to run 4 Solomon basketball teams this winter: 5th/6th Boys, 5th/6th Girls, 7th/8th Boys, and 7th/8th Girls. If your child is interested in playing, please have them turn in their

applications by Monday. Practices will start the week of December 11, and a letter with the practice schedules will be shared with student-athletes early this week.

- 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.
- We are excited to organize this year's Holiday Shop on December 6-8, 2023.
- Stay tuned for more winter fun in January 2024, including our annual Family Game Night.
- Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 12, at 8am in the library.

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 12:** Friends of Solomon School PTO meeting (8am, library)
- **December 12:** Parent Advisory Council meeting (4:15, library)

- **December 12:** Local School Council meeting (5:30, library)
- **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