

Solomon Principal Newsletter

February 12, 2024

Dear Solomon Family--

First and foremost, I would like to wish a happy Lunar New Year to all those who celebrate—may you be happy and prosperous in the new year!

Friends of Solomon School PTO invites you to a Family Dance Thursday, February 15 from 5:30pm to 7pm in the gymnasium. We hope you will join us for a night of family fun, Photo Booth, Bake Sale and lots of dancing. This event is free to attend, and all students must have an adult chaperone.

If you would like to contribute baked goods to the Bake Sale please fill out this form - <https://forms.gle/UXBfjsZoUhYokRxd7>

If you aren't a baker, but still want to help, we are in need of volunteers to help during the event. You can sign up to volunteer here - <https://forms.gle/2gd3aDXXEEEq6drj6>

We look forward to seeing you and your family at the dance on Thursday, February 15!

In partnership,

Chris Gamble
Principal
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

News and Notes

- In this week's picture on Snap, I've shared a screenshot from the work our 8th graders are doing with our muralist, Anna Murphy, for the new mural coming outside of Door #3. Ms. Murphy spoke with the meaning behind certain plants, flowers, and animals in her work, and our 8th graders are contributing by finding more examples of potential objects in the mural and the meaning behind them. A great way to integrate the visual arts with student voice!
- Safety is our primary concern for students, and one place we can use parent support is during morning line-up, prior to the start of school. Outside of Door #1, please help us keep everyone safe by not allowing your child to swing and climb on the wheelchair ramp and not climbing in our flower beds. Outside of Door #6, students should avoid playing catch and throwing items near others in line or by teacher cars. It isn't just physical safety; we want our students to come in regulated and ready for the school day at 9am. Thank you in advance for your help!
- Our Friends of Solomon School PTO, Parent Advisory Council, and Local School Council all meet at Solomon on Tuesday (8am, 4:30, and 5:30, respectively). This is a great opportunity to join one of the meetings to see how you can support our school programs!
- Our 5th grade Girl Scout Troop is collecting toiletries for homeless veterans in the

Chicagoland area, and they can use your help. You can bring new, unused hygiene products to Solomon any day during business hours through mid-March to place in the donation bin near the main office. Read [here](#) for more information. Thank you, girls, for your leadership!

- We are looking for volunteers that will be able to assist with Spanish translation. If you may be available to assist with translation services during the day, please fill out [this brief form](#). We are working to identify specific times during the day when translation support is most needed, and from that we will share a sign-up form with those interested for particular days and times. We are grateful for anything that community members can provide! All volunteers will need to have completed registration as a [Level II CPS volunteer](#), if they haven't done so already.
- The deadline to file as a Local School Council candidate has been pushed to February 14, 2024. We currently have a full slate of candidates except for student and community reps, but more candidates are always welcome. You can file paperwork at Solomon or send your completed forms to the CPS Office of Local School Council Relations. The forms are available at Solomon, as well as cps.edu/lsc, along with more information on the candidate forums and the LSC election process overall.
- **Participatory Budgeting (PB) Idea Collection in the 39th Ward is open!** PB is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of the public budget, also known as the "menu". Menu money is Ward specific money that the Alderman allocates to specific needs across the Ward. PB in the 39th Ward allows residents to allocate \$500,000 from the menu for capital funds. Menu funds can not be used on operational expenses; i.e. cannot be used for starting programs or hiring personnel. **Idea collection will run through March 1st.** This is a great opportunity for the LSC, PTO, or other school groups to submit infrastructure ideas that they would like to be funded. Past PB projects completed at our schools include, but are not limited to: accessible playspace, pollinator garden, green space, and murals across the Ward. You may access the PB website here: <https://www.participatepbchicago.org/processes/PB39>.
- Community update from a few of our friends in the neighborhood: (1) Music House has opened up registration for their summer camps in West Rogers Park and Humboldt Park, and you can click [here](#) for more information; (2) Gompers Park Athletic Association is low on registration for 4th-6th grade girls softball, and the early bird discount can still apply if you register now. For more information, please 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.
- Our January 18 Restaurant Giveback Night at Panera brought \$74.89 back to our PTO. Our next scheduled giveback night is at Chipotle (5931 N. Lincoln) on April 3.
- Friends of Solomon School PTO invites you to a Family Dance on Thursday, February 15 from 5:30pm to 7pm in the gymnasium! We hope you will join us for a night of family fun, Photo Booth, Bake Sale and lots of dancing. This event is free to attend.

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.
- We have had members of our community ask how we can support our newcomers and their families at Solomon, and I would like to share some information from the 39th Ward: The Hollywood North Park Community Association (HNPCA) has been doing tremendous work helping new arrivals in the 39th Ward. You can access donation wish-lists here: <https://www.hnpca.org/inclusivecommunity>. Partnering with our office and the shelters in 39, the HNPCA creates weekly wish lists of items that are highly requested by folks in the shelters. The items then get shipped to our office and we deliver them *directly* to the staff at the shelter to distribute accordingly. The HNPCA Facebook also remains very active with up to date information: <https://www.facebook.com/hnpcachicago>

School Calendars

- **February 13:** Friends of School School PTO meeting (8:00, library)
- **February 13:** Parent Advisory Council meeting (4:30, 112)
- **February 13:** Local School Council meeting (5:30, library)
- **February 15:** Solomon Family Dance (5:30, gymnasium)
- **February 19:** Presidents' Day (no school for students or staff)