

Solomon Principal Newsletter

February 19, 2024

Dear Solomon Family--

Thank you to all of our families and students who attended our Family Dance on Thursday night for a fun evening of community. A special thanks to our event coordinator, Mrs. Smith (4th grade parent), our DJ, Mrs. Cunanan (4th and 3rd grade parent), and the dozen or so other parents that helped with setting up the dance. We love seeing our families come together!

As a reminder there is no school for students and staff on Monday due to the Presidents' Day holiday. We will see everyone at 9am on Tuesday morning.

In partnership,

Chris Gamble
Principal
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

News and Notes

- In this week's picture on Snap, I've shared a shot from the Family Dance on Thursday. Additional pictures include one way our Kindergarten and 2nd grade students are celebrating Valentine's Day and Black History Month, respectively, as well as the final donation of teddy bears to the Cardiac Care Unit at Lurie Children's Hospital, courtesy of the Student Voice Committee's Candygram fundraiser.
- Kudos to our 7th/8th grade boys and girls basketball teams, who both wrapped up the season on Saturday with victories. Both teams finished up with 3 wins and 2 losses for their seasons. Many thanks to Coach Villanueva (boys) and Coach Myatt (girls) for their time and effort!
- Our 5th/6th grade boys and girls basketball teams have their first games on Saturday, February 24 (8am for boys, 9am for girls) against Belding at the Taft senior campus gymnasium (6530 W. Bryn Mawr). Note: There will be no practice for 5th/6th boys on Wednesday, February 21, due to a schedule conflict.
- Sign up has started for spring sports in the CPS Score program. The offerings include 5th/6th and 7th/8th girls soccer, 5th/6th and 7th/8th coed flag football, and 5th-8th coed track and field. We will need coaches for those teams, so if you are interested in serving as a coach this season or would like more information, please let Principal Gamble (crgamble@cps.edu) or our Athletic Director Mr. Martin (cjmartin1@cps.edu) know as soon as possible.
- For families wishing to tour Solomon, our next community tour is scheduled for Thursday, February 29, at 9:30am. Please meet in the lobby; no reservations are required.
- Sharing for community awareness: There was a case of RSV reported in the 8th grade homeroom this week; for more information about RSV and the risks associated with it, please click [here](#).
- 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.
- **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.
- Thank you to everyone who attended our Family Dance! The bake sale raised \$222 for the PTO.
- Upcoming events include a restaurant giveback night at Chipotle on April 3 and our annual Walk, Jog, Roll-a-thon on Friday, May 3 (rain date May 10). Be on the lookout for more information about both of those events.

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 19:** Presidents' Day (no school for students or staff)
- **March 6:** Bilingual Advisory Committee meeting, 9:15 (library)
- **March 12:** Friends of Solomon School PTO meeting, 8:00 (library)
- **March 12:** Parent Advisory Committee meeting, 4:15 (Room 112)
- **March 12:** Local School Council meeting, 5:30 (library)