

Solomon Principal Newsletter

February 5, 2024

Dear Solomon Family--

Our Student Voice Committee will be selling Candy Grams during lunch periods on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday this week. In addition to Valentine's Day candy which will be distributed on February 14, they will be selling teddy bears. The profits from teddy bear sales will benefit the Cardiac Care Unit at Lurie Children's Hospital as we recognize congenital heart defect awareness week at Solomon. Our Student Voice Committee, led by Mrs. Gleeson, contributes both to our school community and the Chicago community at large!

As a reminder, Valentine's Day (February 14) is our second (and last) non-healthy food item celebration of the school year. Any items distributed in class that day will be sealed up and sent home with students so that they can enjoy them at home.

Last, we are half-way through the 3rd Quarter this week, so progress reports will be distributed to students on Thursday. There is no school on Friday as we have a School Improvement professional development day with staff.

In partnership,

Chris Gamble
Principal
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

News and Notes

- This week is Counselor Appreciation Week (February 5-9), and we have to share with love with our one and only, Mrs. Mulholland. I hope that everyone is able to take a moment this week and share with her how she has impacted your child or classroom!
- A friendly reminder: Accessible parking at Solomon, either in our lot or in the designated space on Hamlin Ave., are reserved for cars that have the required placard. Our school security maintains watch on those spots to ensure that our families who need them have access to them. Thanks for your cooperation.
- 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.
- 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>

- The deadline to file as a Local School Council candidate is February 8, 2024. 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. Let's get a full slate of candidates for our April 2024 election.
- **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>.

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.

School Calendars

- **February 8:** Week 25 Progress Reports go home
- **February 9:** School Improvement Day (no school for students)
- **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)