

Solomon Principal Newsletter

March 11, 2024

Dear Solomon Family--

To our families who celebrate starting this week, we want to wish you Ramadan Mubarak. We provide a safe space for our students who fast throughout the entire month.

A few weeks ago we gave kudos to our eight 7th and 8th graders who will be presenting their science fair projects at Illinois Tech this week for the city-wide science fair, and we wish them lots of luck. Additionally, our 6th grader Isabella U. has qualified for the all-city Spelling Bee on March 19, with the winner of this competition going to Washington, DC.. Our students are doing some really cool things! Way to go, Cougars!

Please remember that Solomon will conduct its Illinois Assessment of Readiness testing for 3rd through 8th graders on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday this week. In partnership,

Chris Gamble
Principal
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

News and Notes

- In Snap! pictures this week, we celebrated our Read Across America Week with a morning pledge and “drop everything and read” time each day.
- We are in the process of making summer plans at Solomon, but one thing that has been confirmed is that we will be hosting summer programming with YMCA of Chicago on our campus between June 10-August 9. For more information about our YMCA programming at Solomon, please click [here](#).
- Basketball playoffs start on Saturday, March 16, for our 5th/6th grade Boys and Girls teams. The 12pm game features two undefeated Boys teams as Solomon takes on Sauganash. The 1pm game will have our 2-1 Girls team take on an undefeated Sauganash team. Both games are over at Taft’s Varsity Campus on Bryn Mawr. Let’s get over there and make it loud for our Cougars!
- Our spring sports teams begin practices the week of March 18:
 - 5th-8th grade Co-Ed Track and Field: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8am (gym or turf–weather permitting)
 - 5th/6th Co-Ed and 7th/8th Boys Flag Football: Wednesdays and Fridays at 4:30 (turf)
- On Sunday our Solomon Glee Club performed a Disney medley at the Chicago Wolves hockey game. Congratulations to our young performers and their club sponsor, Mrs. Bakula.
- A note from our counselor, Mrs. Mulholland to our 8th graders:
 - **“The deadline to accept or decline your High School offers is approaching fast March 15, 2024.** It is crucial to make your decision known by this date. Please be aware that any offers not accepted by the deadline will be automatically declined. This action is irreversible, and students who have not

accepted an offer will need to participate in the rolling waitlist to be considered for non-neighborhood programs. **I want to emphasize that accepting an offer does not affect a student's waitlist status for other programs.** In light of this, we strongly advise all students to accept their initial offer. This ensures that you secure a spot in a high school program while still allowing you the opportunity to remain on the waitlist for other programs that may be of interest to you.”

- IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) testing for students in grades 3-8 will be held at Solomon on March 12-14, with make-up testing the following week. The IAR is our state-mandated assessment for all students that do not qualify for any alternative assessments, and we have used results to identify areas for instructional improvement school-wide. For more information about IAR testing:
 - [English IAR Letter for Families](#)
 - [Arabic IAR Letter for Families](#)
 - [Spanish IAR Letter for Families](#)
 - [Chinese IAR Letter for Families](#)
 - [Tagalog IAR Letter for Families](#)
 - [Ukrainian IAR Letter for Families](#)
 - [Vietnamese IAR Letter for Families](#)
 - [Greek IAR Letter for Families](#)
 - [Polish IAR Letter for Families](#)
 - [Urdu IAR Letter for Families](#)
- Our Local School Council forum for all candidates participating in the April 2024 election will be held at approximately 6:30 on Tuesday, March 12, after the conclusion of our regularly-scheduled LSC meeting.
- 8th grade graduation picture day for any re-takes is scheduled for Monday, March 18, at 9:15am.
- Community update from a few of our friends in the neighborhood:
 - 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
 - Sign up for [spring programming](#) at Chicago Industrial Arts and Design Center. To find out how to sign up for free classes available for Chicago Public School students, click [here](#).
 - The girls lacrosse coach at Walter Payton College Preparatory High School is starting a lacrosse club geared towards elementary school students in CPS. AIM Lacrosse is all about awareness, intensity, and movement on and off the field. To learn more, 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 next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, at 8am in our library. We will discuss planning for Walk, Jog, Roll-a-thon and Staff Appreciation Week.

- We have two restaurant givebacks in the next month—April 3 at [Chipotle](#) and April 19 at [Oberweis](#). April 19 is the date of our musical performance, so we can all have an ice cream treat to celebrate!

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

- **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)
- **March 18:** 8th grade Picture Day re-takes, 9:15 (lobby)
- **March 22:** Last day of the 3rd Quarter
- **March 25-29:** Spring Break (no school for students or staff)
- **April 1:** School Improvement Day (no school for students)