

Solomon Principal Newsletter

November 6, 2023

Dear Solomon Family--

I hope everyone has recovered from the Halloween mid-week festivities. There are other big events at Solomon coming up this month. Some might call it "No School November" but we have a lot of activities planned to keep our students engaged all month long--Veterans' Celebration Day, Scholastic Book Fair, Literacy Night, and a lot more. For our parents, don't forget we have our first restaurant giveback of the year at Jollibee's, our annual State of the School address, and other parent leadership events. For more information, please read below.

As a reminder, there is no school on Friday, November 10, due to the observance of Veterans' Day.

In partnership,

Chris Gamble
Principal
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

News and Notes

- Pictures this week on Snap include scenes from Halloween at Solomon, as well as our 8th graders visiting Mather High School to learn about their neighborhood high school.
- Save the date: Solomon will be hosting a literacy night on Thursday, November 16, after school. We will be sharing more information soon, but it promises to be a fun community event!
- The 2024-2025 [GoCPS](#) application cycle closes on November 9. This application is vital for our 8th graders transitioning to high school, but it is also important for any of our Pre-K families that live outside Solomon's [attendance boundary](#) to apply for a spot here. This application is for anyone outside of our attendance boundary that wants to bring their child(ren) to Solomon in grades K-8 for the 2024-2025 school year. If your child currently attends Solomon in grades K-8, there is no need to reapply for a spot here. A few notes from the district about the applications:
 - **Families of Pre-K students:** It is important to remember that CPS elementary school Pre-K programs do not feed directly into Kindergarten (*exceptions: Drummond, Suder and Inter-American ES*). Unless your child attends preschool at their designated neighborhood elementary school, you will need to apply using GoCPS if you want your child to attend kindergarten at the school where they are currently enrolled.
 - **Sibling applications:** If you would like your child to attend a high school or elementary school where they have a sibling already enrolled, you will need to submit an application through GoCPS for the new child you want to enroll. Sibling applicants to choice programs that have a sibling priority are selected first and will be offered seats to the extent that space is available. Selective Enrollment Schools do not have a sibling preference.
- Calling all veterans (and friends and family of veterans): We invite all veterans in the

community to join us for [Veterans' Celebration Day](#) at Solomon on November 16, 2023, from 9:00-11:30am. Additionally, if you have names of veterans past or present that you would like to be included in our Honor List read at the event, please email their names, military force, rank, and a picture to Ann Reis at amreis@cps.edu.

- The Scholastic Book Fair is coming up to Solomon one week from now, November 13-16. This is such a fun event for our kids and a great way to build a love of books and reading. We still have openings for a few more volunteers, and all volunteers will receive 10 scholastic dollars at the end of each shift. Please sign up here: [Book Fair Volunteer Sign up](#).
- Picture re-takes with Lifetouch are scheduled for Friday, November 17, for anyone who missed the first picture day or would like to have a re-take.
- Attention families of 3rd graders: We have a group looking to form a Girl Scout troop for our 3rd grade girls. For more information, click [here](#).
- We are going to be working with Anna Murphy, a muralist our team selected last year, to complete a mural outside of Door #3, and we need your help in identifying what themes you want to see represented for our community. Please take a few moments and give us your thoughts in [this short survey](#) that will be shared with the artist. From this, we will conduct a community forum to discuss further, date and time TBD. Thank you!
- CPS is hosting several in-person (and 1 virtual) stakeholder engagement meetings for SY25 budgets. We need parents and communities to understand the budget situation in CPS, and this is a great chance to get involved in the process. For more information, please click [here](#) and [here](#).

Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization

- On Saturday, November 11th the delicious and generous Jollibee (3534 W Touhy Ave) is donating back 20% of Dine-In, Takeout, Drive thru & Pick up orders to support a great cause -- Friends of Solomon School PTO! On behalf of Friends of Solomon School PTO you're invited to join us and eat out, not only in support of the organization, but to show one of your Skokie restaurants some love too! We ask that you RSVP here: <https://grouprai.se/e262666> (even if you're not completely sure) so Jollibee knows roughly how many orders to expect & so you have access to all the event details. We hope you can make it, and please feel free to forward this invitation to your friends and family. Thanks in advance for your support!
- 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.
- The PTO is excited to announce the dates of this year's **Holiday Shop!** We look forward to transforming our gym into a festive and exciting place for our students to shop for holiday gifts for their family. Our shop will be open **December 6-7-8** for business, but we need support from our Solomon community to make it a success. [Here's how you can help:](#)
 - **Sign up to volunteer at** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084BAAA72CAAFF2-holiday>. We have a variety of shifts (before, after and during the school day) that need coverage. If you and your child(ren) are enjoying the events that PTO organizes, please consider donating some of your time.

- In addition to the merchandise provided by an outside vendor, **we are looking for local artisans and crafters** to set up shop and sell their creations to our students. We do not charge a fee for the table, the price range should be from a few dollars up to about \$10-\$15 for whatever they sell, and it is not necessary to be at the shop all 3 days. If you or anyone you know would like to hear more about this opportunity, please contact the Holiday Shop Chairperson Joyce Baca directly at joyce.baca77@gmail.com.

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 Calendar

- **November 10:** No School (Veteran's Day)
- **November 13-16:** Scholastic Book Fair (lobby)
- **November 14:** Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization meeting, 8:00 (library)
- **November 14:** Parent Advisory Council meeting, 4:15 (library)
- **November 14:** Local School Council meeting, 5:30 (library)
- **November 16:** Veterans Celebration Day, 9:00 (gymnasium)
- **November 17:** Pre-K to 8th grade picture retakes (lobby)
- **November 20-24:** No School (Thanksgiving Break)