

# Solomon Principal Newsletter

## October 30, 2023

Dear Solomon Family--

Thank you to all of our families that joined us this past Thursday for our parent teacher conferences. If you missed your opportunity to connect with a teacher, please use [this organizational chart](#) to find the email for that staff member and reach out to schedule a time to speak. When parents partner with schools, our students are the winners!

In partnership,

Chris Gamble  
Principal  
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

## News and Notes

- We need your help in keeping our streets cleared for bus pick-up and drop-off. As a reminder, please do not park between the “No Parking” street signs on Avers Ave. at pick-up and drop-off to ensure that our buses can line up in their designated areas. Once the snow hits, then we need to ensure that our students and particularly those with mobility needs have safe spaces to enter and exit. As a reminder, our staff puts out additional “No Parking” signs on that side of Avers as a reminder. Additionally, please do not park in the designated accessible parking space on Hamlin Ave. at any time, unless you have a placard. We appreciate your assistance.
- A reminder about our Halloween procedures on Tuesday:
  - Halloween will be celebrated at Solomon on Tuesday, October 31, 2023. Students are not required to dress up, and we offer this as an optional activity for students and staff.
  - Nut-free candy can be brought to school for trick-or-treat purposes. Students will exchange candy, healthier snack alternatives, or trinkets (pencils, etc.) during a classroom trick-or-treat. Teachers will seal the bags after distribution so that students do not eat treats during the school day. This ensures that parents have discretion over what their child eats. There will not be any in-school consumption of treats. Note: Please help us keep our facilities clean by encouraging students to throw any wrappers or trash in the garbage cans around our campus.
  - There will be a parade for students in grades K through 2nd grade, inside the building for students, starting at 10:45am. Students will travel internally from Door #3 to Door #6, exit via Door #6, and then return back through Door #3 to go back to their classrooms. Parents are welcome to watch the parade from our lobby and main office hallway. While you may take pictures of your child, please do not take pictures or video record other students.
  - Students in grades PK through 2nd will head off for their walking field trip to the convent at 2:20pm.

- Pre-K (108) will perform a few fall songs for parents outside of Door #1 at 9:10am and 1:20pm. If there is inclement weather, parents will be invited into our gymnasium for the performance.
- On costumes:
  - Students should either wear their costume all day or have a costume they can put on themselves so that teachers are not required to assist.
  - All costumes must be school-appropriate, which includes no masks, toy weapons, and fake blood.
- Teachers will follow up with parents directly if they have particular requests for their classroom on October 31, 2023. Teachers have the option of hosting classroom parties with parents this year, and if they choose to do so, they will communicate directly with parents.
- Calling all veterans (and friends and family of veterans: With the exception of a few years during the COVID pandemic, we have hosted the [Veterans' Celebration Day](#) at Solomon since 2001, and we are excited to start planning for the 2023 event. Navy Band Great Lakes is ready to perform, and we invite all veterans in the community to join us 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](mailto:amreis@cps.edu).
- A note from our Pre-K teacher, Ms. Coppa, who is also our Scholastic Book Fair Coordinator: "The Fall Book Fair is coming up and we are in need of volunteers. This is such a fun event for our kids and a great way to build a love of books and reading. The dates are November 13-17. All volunteers will receive 10 scholastic dollars at the end of each shift. Please sign up here: [Book Fair Volunteer Sign up](#). Please feel free to pass this sign up on to anyone else who may be interested in volunteering. Thank you for all you do!"
- 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](#).
- [GoCPS](#) for the 2024-2025 application cycle has opened, and it will close 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.
- 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!
- Community opportunity: Senn High School will be hosting a free soccer clinic for boys in 6th-8th grades on Saturday November 4th. We would love for your students to join us, attend a practice with a high school coaching staff, and see what our high school is all about. The clinic is **FREE**, and will be held rain or shine. For more information, click [here](#).
- 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

- 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 first restaurant giveback of the year has been planned, courtesy of our Friends of Solomon School PTO–Jollibee (3534 W. Touhy) on November 11. For more information on the hours and how much of sales that day come back to support the vision and mission of our PTO, please click [here](#).
- 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](mailto: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](http://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)