

Solomon Principal Newsletter

February 6, 2023

Dear Solomon Family--

As you have seen in our Snap! posts this week, we have been devastated this week by the loss of a colleague, Ms. Lisa Howsam. We are so grateful to all of our students and families that have offered their positive thoughts as we grieve. We are also appreciative to our parents of students in rooms 117 and 122, as they support their child in their grieving. There will be some staffing and scheduling changes in the wake of this loss, and we will be communicating with impacted families within the week.

I also want to thank all of our families, staff, and students that joined us for Game Night on Thursday night. Like last year, it was well attended, organized, and a great opportunity to connect. As our counselor Mrs. Mulholland says, the night was a bucket filler.

Speaking of Mrs. Mulholland, I hope that everyone will join me in recognizing her important work with our students and staff as we enter National School Counselor Week (February 6-10). She is our social and emotional learning champion at Solomon, being there in the moment for crises as they arise and planning out our school-wide strategy for excellence in that field. Please be sure to share your gratitude with her this week. The theme for this year's National School Counselor Week is "School Counselors: Helping Students Dream Big". We will share with our community this week how Mrs. Mulholland helps our students dream big!

In partnership,

Chris Gamble
Principal
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

News and Notes

- Shared in the Snap! pictures below, we had lunch provided to staff by the Special Olympics of Chicago, as they recognized the role that Ms. Lisa Howsam played in promoting the Special Olympics at Solomon, serving as the lead coach and making it a year-round activity for our students.
- Memorial services for our beloved 3rd-5th grade cluster program diverse learner teacher, Ms. Lisa Howsam, have been announced and can be found at this [link](#).
- On February 6, we will host our final flu and COVID-19 vaccination event of the school year in our lobby between 9am-12pm. [Appointments](#) preferred. Walk-ins will be registered on-site by clinic staff for immediate, same-day vaccination administration as supplies last.
- On February 6 at 4pm, we are hosting a community meeting in our lobby to discuss the mural project at Solomon and solicit feedback on which artist to work with. This mural project is a result of the 2021 39th Ward Participatory Budget. The location of the finished project will be on the brick wall outside of Door #3, facing our playground. A copy of Chicago Public Art Catalog that lists the available projects and their prior work can be found [here](#). We are soliciting feedback from our community on which artists we would like to work with for this project. Please complete review the Chicago Public Art Catalog and complete [this survey](#) to have your voice heard. Please respond no later than Monday, February 6, at noon so that we can discuss the results at that night's meeting.
- After-school programming for our Winter Session continues this week. In addition to our Solomon staff-led programming, we will be bringing back the YMCA Art Club on Tuesdays, starting on February 7 and wrapping up March 7. For information on how to sign up for this fee-based program that we host in our student lunchroom, please click [here](#).
- Thank you to all students that turned in their applications for serving as a Solomon Local School Council Student Representative. Our student election will be on Friday, February 10.
- Week 25 Progress Reports will travel home with students on Friday, February 10.
- The week of February 13 Solomon will be hosting vision and hearing screenings for students. Please review [this document](#) to see who is eligible.
- The Albany Park branch (3401 W. Foster) of the Chicago Public Library hosts homework assistance for students every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 3-6pm. For more information on their programming, click [here](#).

- The Free Closet at Network 1's Parent University (3121 W. Byron) has school supplies, clothes, backpacks, hats, and more for students and families in need. Check out the attached flier for more information. It is open to the public on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10am-1pm, as well as by appointment.

Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization (FOSSPTO)

- You can find our monthly meeting dates in [this document](#).
- Our next monthly meeting is this Wednesday, February 8, at 6pm in our lobby or virtually. The Zoom link for the meeting is available in the document above.
- Two restaurant givebacks are on the calendar over the next month. These are great opportunities for you to get a delicious dinner, with a portion of the proceeds coming back to the Solomon FOSSPTO to support our mission. On February 13, [Panda Express](#) (6201 N. Lincoln) will donate 20% of its proceeds, and on March 3, [Oberweis](#) (6469 N. Lincoln) will donate 20% as well.
- For over 25 years, Box Tops for Education has given families an easy way to earn cash for schools — with products they already buy! Today, you can find hundreds of participating products throughout the store. Box Tops for Education has gone digital, so just scan your receipt with the Box Tops app and Solomon Elementary will automatically earn cash with every Box Tops product you buy. For more information on how to earn that credit for Solomon, please click [here](#).
- To learn more about the mission of the Solomon FOSSPTO, click [here](#).

Important Solomon Links

- Our Solomon [school organization chart](#), which has the contact information for all of our teachers and staff.
- The [opt-in form](#) for COVID testing for your child at Solomon weekly.
- Our Solomon [breakfast and lunch menus](#).
- Our Solomon [school assessment calendar](#) for the year.
- Our Solomon [merchandise link](#) from our partners at Squadlocker.
- The [volunteer registration form](#) for anyone interested in volunteering at Solomon this year.

Solomon Calendar

All Solomon community events can be found on our school Google Calendar, linked at the Solomon website, solomon.cps.edu. You can also view our year-long calendar of community events [here](#).

A few of the important upcoming dates:

- **Monday, February 6:** Solomon Mural Community meeting, 4:00 (lobby)
- **Wednesday, February 8:** Friends of Solomon School PTO meeting, 6:00 (lobby or virtual)
- **Friday, February 10:** Week 25 Progress Reports go home
- **Monday, February 13:** Restaurant Giveback at Panda Express, 10:30am-9pm (6201 N. Lincoln)
- **Tuesday, February 14:** Local School Council meeting, 5:30 (library or virtual)