

Solomon Principal Newsletter

January 23, 2023

Dear Solomon Family--

I hope everyone enjoyed the snowy Sunday! A lot of updates this week below--the start of the Winter Session for after-school programming this week, LSC Student Representative elections, 8th grade graduation pictures and more. Excited for a fun week at Solomon!

In partnership,

Chris Gamble
Principal
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

News and Notes

- Be on the lookout for a newsletter later this week about the outside mural project on Solomon's campus and how you can be a part of the planning. Stay tuned!
- Sports Update:
 - Congratulations to our 5th/6th Boys Basketball team, as their season concluded with 2 wins this week. The team, coached by Coach Villanueva, finished the season with 4 wins and 2 losses. Check out their end-of-season picture attached in Snap!
 - Starting Monday, January 23, our 7th/8th Boys Basketball team will practice twice a week, Mondays and Wednesdays from 8-9am. For more information, as well as an updated game schedule for 7th/8th Boys Basketball, please read [this letter](#) that traveled home with students last Friday.
 - We are excited to announce a twice-a-week open gym for 7th/8th grade girls basketball players, coordinated by Bill Myatt (parent of a 7th grader) and starting this week. For more information, please click [here](#).
- After-school programming for our Winter Session begins Monday, January 23. For more information about the program (courses, days and times, etc.), please click [here](#). Please review the pick-up information if your child is participating, as well as the slight change of schedule for students participating in the MadScience STEM program. To sign up for a program, please complete [this form](#).
- Attention 8th graders: This Thursday, January 26, we will take our graduation photos first thing in the morning. We are excited to see you in your caps and gowns for the first time!
- We are excited for Ms. Neri to join us for the remainder of our school year as Solomon's English Language Program Teacher. In addition to providing English as a second language services for students, she coordinates our ACCESS testing. In her words:
 - Hello, My name is Alejandra Neri. I will be filling in for Ms Liz Jones as the English Language Program Teacher while she is on maternity leave. I have worked in schools for over 10 years, and I have always worked with English Language Learners. I have worked with students in high school and elementary schools. Most of the last ten plus years was spent with 5th graders as a dual language teacher. Personally, I live just a few minutes away with my husband, kids in 3rd and 5th grade, and our puppy Rizzo! I was born in Chile and moved to Chicago when I was three years old. I am excited and grateful to be at Solomon; the staff and students have all given me a very warm welcome. Thank you!
- Calling all 6th and 7th grade student leaders! Solomon is accepting applications for any 6th and 7th grade student interested in serving as a student representative on our Local School Council for a one-year term. Applications are due to the main office by Friday, February 3. We will hold our student candidate form the week of February 6, and the election will be held on Friday, February 10. For more information about the position, please click [here](#). To print a copy of the application packet, click [here](#). Application packets are also available in our main office. Please reach out to Principal Gamble with any questions.
- The public comment period for the district's proposed 2023-2024 academic calendar is open through January 25. To see a draft of the calendar and to submit your feedback, please click [here](#).
- Sign up for Gompers Park Athletic Association's baseball and softball 2023 leagues is now open. You can click [here](#) to register and/or check out the attached flier (in Snap!) to get more information.
- 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 event we sponsor is the annual Game Night on Thursday, February 2 from 5:30-7:00. The free event is an evening for parents and students in grades PK-5 to join us in our gymnasium for an evening of board and card games. You can bring your own game, or you can play games that the school has. Principal Gamble will work with a small number of 6th-8th grade students to serve as student ambassadors during the event, and he will visit classrooms this week to solicit some volunteers.
- 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, January 23:** First day of Solomon Winter Session for after-school (OST) programming
- **Thursday, January 26:** Solomon 8th Grade Graduation Photos
- **Thursday, February 2:** Game Night, 5:30 (gymnasium)
- **Friday, February 3:** No School for students (Professional Development Day)