

Solomon Principal Newsletter

October 31, 2022

Dear Solomon Family--

What a blast we had on Friday for our first Solomon Fall Fest! We couldn't have done it without our Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization and volunteers. Thank you all for bringing our community together for a wonderful evening.

Our Friends of Solomon School PTO has a lot more fun, community-building events this year, including our Holiday Shop on December 6-8. For more information about these events and to learn how you can contribute, join us for our next FOSSPTO meeting this Thursday, November 3, at 6pm. You can join us in-person or virtually, which you can find at this [link](#).

In partnership,

Chris Gamble
Principal
Hannah G. Solomon Elementary School

Halloween Updates

Halloween will be celebrated at Solomon on Monday, October 31, 2022. 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 12:50. Students will travel internally from Door #3 to Door #6, and then exit via Door #6, travel south on Avers to head off on their walking field trip to the convent. 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.
- 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, 2022. 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.

Solomon Community Ofrenda

The intermediate team is excited to organize a *Solomon Community Ofrenda* / Altar for Día de los Muertos / Day of the Dead. This is a holiday traditionally celebrated on November 1st and 2nd to honor and commemorate the lives of loved ones who have passed. The *ofrenda* will be set up in the main hallway near the office for the community to enjoy from October 31st through Report Card Pick-Up on November 21st.

We will provide brightly colored tablecloths, tea lights, paper marigolds, papel picado, and sugar skulls. **We invite you to participate by sending in a photo of a loved one who has passed to be added to our Solomon Community Ofrenda.**

Details:

- Photos should not be larger than 5x7. If possible, please send your photo in a frame.
- Please attach a small taped note on the back with your child's name and room number, so we can safely return these special photos to you once the *ofrenda* is taken down.
- Students may start bringing framed photos to their classroom teacher on Monday!

As always, thank you for your support! We look forward to commemorating our loved ones together.

Mrs. Gleeson (3rd)

Mrs. Luciano (4th)

Mrs. Bakula (5th)

News and Notes

In the school pictures shared in Snap!, you'll see our pumpkin decorating contest, scenes from the Fall Fest, and our 5th/6th Grade Girls Volleyball team playing their last game of the year against Sauganash.

Solomon will send all 1st Quarter Report Cards home with students the week of November 7, with the exact date depending on when we receive the district materials that will go home with report cards. Also coming home will be Fall 2022 assessment data. We will update you with the date so that you know to look in your child's backpack.

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 21, between 9am-12:00 and 12:45-4:00. Teachers who are not present on November 21 will have times available during the week of November 14 to conference. Staff will share those conference days and times with the community by the end of this week. Parents and guardians have the option of in-person or virtual conferences.

I'm excited to announce that after a 2 year hiatus due to the pandemic, our annual [Veterans Celebration Day](#) is returning on November 16, organized by our one and only Mrs. Reis. To participate, please see this note from Mrs. Reis:

- *It is that time of the year again where we are organizing our beautiful celebration for our veterans. We would like to ask the following from you: Please send me a list of any names of personal veterans from our military that you may know (living or deceased) to be honored. Please send it to my email. Please send me their full name and rank and force (Marines, Army, Air Force, Navy, National Guard, etc). Please include a picture if you can! Digital is best! If you have family members who have served or are serving in our military, please send this information to Mrs. Reis at amreis@cps.edu. Thank you for your support, Ann Reis*

We are hosting our next Scholastic Book Fair the week of November 14-18, and we can use your assistance. If you are available to volunteer, please click [this link](#) to provide your information.

After-school updates: Click [here](#) for more information on our Solomon Art Club, hosted by the YMCA for grades K-2 and 3-5, starting this week. Also, sign-up is now live for 5/6 and 7/8 Boys and Girls Basketball. Students should sign up on the bulletin board outside the lunchroom and return the completed applications as soon as possible. The 5/6 seasons will start in the next week or two if we have enough students sign up.

We are excited to announce that our annual musical performed by Solomon students in grades 4 through 8 this year will be...*Annie Jr.!* *Frozen Jr.* was a smashing success last year, and I know that I'm excited to see our young performers on stage again. Paper copies of this sign-up sheet traveled home in the backpacks of 4th-8th graders today, and you can find another copy [here](#). Please sign up in advance so that we know who we will expect to see during tryouts the week of November 28. Those who sign up will get updates from our director (and Solomon parent), Mrs. Kristen Williams Smith.

The [GoCPS application portal](#) is open for our 8th graders applying for CPS high schools, as well as families who live outside of our attendance boundary and are looking to have their child join Solomon in grades K-8 for the 2023-2024 school year. [High school open houses](#) are ongoing throughout the fall.

If you haven't ordered your child's Lifetouch pictures yet, they have shared a code for free shipping on orders of over \$29.99. Enter the code "SHIPFREEF22" at checkout, and click this [link](#) to access your child's order.

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, click [here](#).

Friends of Solomon School Parent Teacher Organization (FOSSPTO)

We are looking for you to join the Friends of Solomon School PTO! By returning [this document](#) to the main office, we will add you to our email list and keep you updated on all of the great Solomon community events.

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:

- **Thursday, November 3:** FOSSPTO, 6pm (virtual/lobby)
- **Tuesday, November 8:** No School (Election Day)
- **Monday, November 14 to Friday, November 18:** Solomon Scholastic Book Fair
- **Tuesday, November 15:** Local School Council, 5:30 (virtual/library)
- **Wednesday, November 16:** Veterans Celebration Day
- **Thursday, November 17:** Picture Day Retakes
- **Monday, November 21:** Parent-Teacher Conferences