

Important Dates:

- ☺ September 25—Sixth Grade Halloween Game and Movie Night 6:00—9:00 pm.
- ☺ September 29—Introduction to College Admission, grades 10-12 student and parent workshop, 7:00 pm.
- ☺ October 1—Haunted Happenings Parade, all invited, 5:30 pm.
- ☺ October 2—Classes 8:30 am—12:00 n. Service Learning 12:00—2:00 pm.
- ☺ October 5—Strategic Planning Committee Meeting 5:00 pm.
- ☺ October 6—Coffee and Conversation with administration 8:00—9:00 am. All parents welcome.
- ☺ **October 12—Columbus Day Holiday, no school.**
- ☺ October 14—PSAT Grades 10 and 11
- ☺ October 14— Finance Committee Meeting, 5:30 pm.
- ☺ October 16—Classes 8:30 am—12:00 n. Service Learning 12:00—2:00 pm.
- ☺ October 17—Macy's Shopping Day
- ☺ October 20—Board Meeting, 5:30 pm.
- ☺ October 21—PTS Conferences 5:00—8:00 pm.
- ☺ October 22—College Field Trip Grades 11 and 12
- ☺ October 23—PTS Conferences 2:15—4:00pm.

Team Salem Academy Completes “Reach The Beach,” 208-Mile Relay

Salem Charter School Team Runs Across New Hampshire to Support Health, Wellness and Physical Education at School

To inspire its students and to promote the importance of regular exercise and healthy lifestyle, a Salem Academy Charter School team of 12 staff, trustees, parents and community members completed the 11th annual Reach the Beach Relay, a 208-mile run from Franconia Notch to Hampton Beach, NH on September 18-19th. The event doubled as a fundraiser for wellness and physical education programs for the charter school, which is located at the Shetland Park complex on Congress Street.

The Salem Academy team, which included teachers Pat Hansen, Sarah Jamo, Tom Bergeron, Ana Brea, Greg Cate and Andy St. Pierre, school trustee and parent Mark Meche, parents Chip Tuttle and Jeanne Vural, and Salem residents Mark Tuttle, Tim Clarke and Colin Maclay, finished the race in a little over 29 hours and were met by a crowd of students, families and staff at the finish line Saturday afternoon.

“This was a true community event in support of our school and it was very gratifying to see the way the children and the Salem Academy family responded to the amazing effort displayed by our team,” said Rachel Hunt, Salem Academy’s Head of School. The staff at B & S Fitness trained the team for the event, and students were able to follow the race in real time on Facebook and Twitter.

Starting Friday morning, each runner ran three legs of the race, each leg ranging from two to nearly 10 miles, while three parent volunteers, Jennifer Lussier, Jon Vural and John Jermyn, took turns driving two vans to support the runners. Salem Academy students sent them off Thursday with a spirited pep rally, and The Grapevine restaurant donated a delicious pre-race dinner. Followers kept track of the progress through constant Twitter and Facebook updates, and are looking forward to a multi-media presentation.

Salem Academy trustee Mark Meche, a principal of Winter Street Architects and an accomplished distance runner who has completed the Boston Marathon twice, conceived of the team as a way to promote good health and fitness, as a community builder, and as a fundraiser. He and Hunt served as co-chairs of the event, and Lussier spearheaded the fundraising efforts. Several local businesses including Beverly Cooperative Bank, Waters and Brown, and Conover Tuttle Pace provided support, while Salem Academy students used a team approach to seek sponsorships. The effort has raised over \$8,000 to date and is ongoing.

“We wanted to create something where the adults could provide a modeling experience for the students that would inspire them to do something themselves,” said Meche. “The point is not to run 208 miles, but for kids to do something every day to stay active and healthy.”

Hansen, a 65-year-old math teacher at the school who trained diligently for the event, was the team’s inspirational leader. A non-runner who started from scratch, she completed three legs totaling 12.37 miles.

“When I first heard about the race, I was motivated to improve my level of fitness, which was pretty low when I started, and to have Salem Academy more visible in the community,” said Hansen. “I never thought that I could be part of this team but thanks to the support I received, including from the students, I was part of this amazing experience which I will never forget.”

St. Pierre, Salem Academy’s cross country coach, suffered a severe right ankle sprain running through Laconia during his midnight leg on Friday forcing him out of the race. Math teacher Greg Cate picked up extra miles, and Mark Tuttle picked up the final leg crossing the finish line to a cheering crowd of students, families, and friends at Hampton Beach State Park.



Mark Tuttle carries the baton to the finish line flanked left by Mark Meche, rear Tom Bergeron, right rear Ana Brea, right forward Sarah Jamo.

The Geography Game Show Captivates Sixth Grade

Cape Cod artist Neal Nichols carries the world in his head and brought it to the Sixth Grade here last Monday. A world traveler with a photographic memory, Nichols produced a whirlwind game show demonstration by drawing a map of the world in a few minutes by memory on the cafeteria wall. In a game show format, students showed their knowledge of the map by filling in details of various countries, cities, and geographical features.



Neil Nichols standing next to his finished drawing of a map of the world which he drew from memory.

First Annual Mountain Day A Great Success

In the spirit fitness and community building inspired by the Reach the Beach Relay Race, Salem Academy students had a special day last Friday as well. The Third and Final Forms (Grades 9 through 12) traveled to Jaffrey, NH and climbed Mt. Monadnock, a 3,000 foot peak reputed to be the most often climbed mountain in the world other than Mt. Fuji. A lunch of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, and sliced oranges greeted the climbers when they returned to the mountain base, tired and hungry from their climb.



Chloe Brewster, Maya Vural, and Caitlin Valle reached the top of Mount Wachusett



6th Graders break for lunch at Crane's Beach

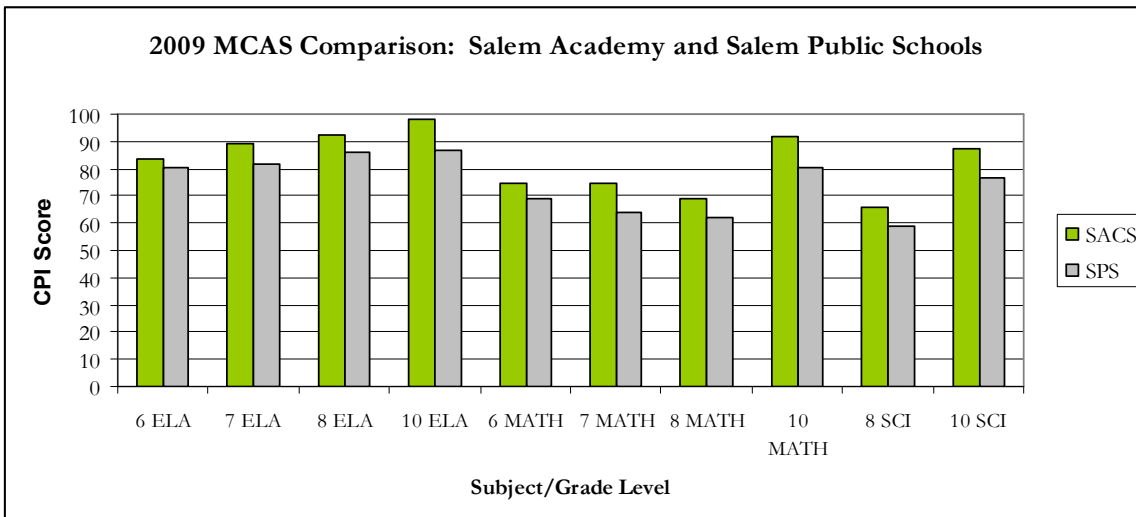
The Second Form (Grades 7 and 8) climbed Mt. Wachusett, a 2,000 foot mountain in Princeton MA. And the First Form (Grade 6) enjoyed a day apple picking at Russell Orchard and then hiked through the dunes at Crane's Beach in Ipswich, MA.

MCAS Scores Improved

School Reaches AYP in All Categories

Salem Academy's spring 2009 MCAS scores, released last week, show significant improvement over previous years and exceed the District scores by 3 to 12 points in all grades and all subjects.

Salem Academy achieved AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in all categories as well. AYP is defined by state determined targets that measure a school's progress toward a national goal of proficiency by all students in all subjects by 2014.



Last Turn
In Day
for
SFC Fund
Raising
Friday,
October 2