

Important Dates:

- ☺ November 4—SFC Meeting 6:30 pm.
- ☺ November 6—Classes 8:30 am—12:00 n. Service Learning 12:00—2:00 pm
- ☺ November 9 — Strategic Planning Meeting 5:00-7:00pm
- ☺ November 10—School Pictures (Groups & Retakes)
- ☺ **November 11—Veteran’s Day Holiday, no school.**
- ☺ November 13—Student/Faculty Soccer Game
- ☺ November 13— Middle School Dance 6:00-9:00pm
- ☺ November 17—Board of Trustees Meeting, 5:30
- ☺ November 19—PAC Meeting 6:30pm
- ☺ November 20—Service Learning—Full Day
- ☺ **November 25—Half Day Dismissal at 12pm**
- ☺ **November 26-27—Thanksgiving Holiday, no school**
- ☺ December 4—Service Learning— Full day
- ☺ December 7—Strategic Planning Meeting 5-7pm
- ☺ December 9—SACS Shakespeare Competition
- ☺ December 9—Admission Info Session
- ☺ December 15—Board of Trustees Meeting 5:30pm
- ☺ **December 21-January 4—Winter Break, No School**

Salem Academy Students’ MCAS Growth Ranks in Top 25% Statewide

The median or “typical” student at Salem Academy Charter School grew at the 66th percentile in English Language Arts and at the 64th percentile in mathematics, according to the state’s new growth model released on Tuesday that compares students with similar MCAS score histories. Only 21% of school districts state-wide achieved high growth in English Language Arts, and only 23% in math. Salem Academy ranked at the 89th percentile in the state in ELA and at the 83rd percentile in math.

Among Massachusetts charter schools, Salem Academy ranked in the top 20% of schools in English Language Arts scores and in the top 50% of schools in Math scores. Eighth grade ELA scores were at the 90th percentile with only three charter schools showing higher scores. Tenth grade ELA scores were at the 90th percentile with only one charter school showing higher scores. Sixth grade math scores were at the 86th percentile with only four charter schools showing higher scores.

In addition, seven of Salem Academy Charter School’s fifteen seniors qualified this fall, on the basis of their MCAS exam achievement, for John and Abigail Adams Scholarships. Adams Scholarships entitle these students to four years of free tuition at the University of Massachusetts or any participating Massachusetts state college or community college. Salem Academy also achieved AYP, the Adequate Yearly Progress designation in all subjects, at all grades, in all sub-groups.

School and district growth reports are developed by aggregating the student growth percentiles for all students in the school or district to determine the median student growth percentile. Results are calculated only for students in grades 4–8 who have two or more consecutive years of MCAS results and students in grade 10 with MCAS results from grade 8.

According to the growth model results, high growth is defined as growth in a subject at or above the 60th percentile, typical growth is between the 40th and 60th percentile, and low growth is below the 40th percentile.

This year's growth report includes results for student in grades 4–8 and grade 10 in English language arts and mathematics. The data is calculated using historical MCAS results going back at least two years.

This is the first time Massachusetts has used a growth model to evaluate student performance. The results measure individual student progress on the state's assessment test by tracking the scores from one year to the next. Whereas basic test results reflect how a student performed on a particular assessment, growth reports detail how much the student's performance has changed from year to year compared to students with similar test score histories.

Growth data alone does not create a full picture of school, district or student performance; the reports are meant to be used in conjunction with MCAS achievement level results.

Growth for individual students is measured by comparing the change in his or her MCAS performance from one year to the next to that of their "academic peers," other students in the state with a similar MCAS performance history. This "student growth percentile" (SGP) indicates how high or low a student's growth was as compared to their academic peers.

Thank You from SACS

Salem Academy would like to thank all of the families who contributed to the Reach the Beach connections class mile fundraiser! It was very generous of everyone to contribute to this cause. Ms. Granniss’ and Ms. Hansen’s connections classes were so close in amounts raised that they both earned a pizza party which was celebrated last Friday in their respective connections classes. Great job, Great Spirit, great cause! Thank you!!

Scholastic Book Fair



SACS students Faith Witkos, Ashley Barry, and Alexander Pasquale pick up perennial favorites at the Scholastic book fair.

The SACS cafeteria was transformed for the week as students enjoyed book browsing at the Scholastic Book Fair. Taking inspiration from the season, Halloween themed titles sold well with lots of interest in *Pride, Prejudice and Zombies* and a sell-out for *New Moon* from the *Twilight* series. Thanks to all the volunteers who staffed the book fair and especially to Annette Louizos who coordinated all the volunteers as well.

News and Notes

Middle School Student Government will be selling breakfast beginning Monday, November 2 and will continue through Wednesday, November 4. Breakfast will be sold from 7:45—8:15 in the cafeteria. Help support Student Government by purchasing hot chocolate (\$.50), donuts (\$.50), and breakfast bars (\$1.00).

Any 10th – 12th graders interested in volunteering at the Middle School Dance should talk with Mrs. Walsh. **The dance will take place on November 13 from 6—9pm.**

High School Student Government will be having a **Movie Night** on Friday, November 6 from 6—10:30pm. Tickets will be sold during Connections!

ATTN GIRLS AGES 15 and UP: The Salem YMCA is offering a FREE girls only group called “Girls Today!” It is held at the Salem YMCA Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30-6 pm until November 19th. The sessions will include discussions, journaling, group work, and guest speakers! A great opportunity! See Mrs. Schulte for more details.

The Salem Mission is serving more people than ever and is asking especially for donations of non-perishable protein such as canned tuna, chicken and beans. If you care to make a donation, have students drop it off at the front desk for Mrs. Graniss. Thanks for your help!

The Foundation for Salem Public Education’s “Food for Thought” raffle will be completed this week. Mayor Kim Driscoll will draw the winning entry this Saturday at 4pm on the Fountain Stage downtown.

H1N1 and Flu Protection Habits (reposted from the fall 2009 edition of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care’s *Your Health*)

A new flu virus—H1N1—began spreading throughout the U.S. earlier this year. The H1N1 flue is not the same as the seasonal flu, which is caused by other viruses that have been around for many years. But both illnesses are spread from person-to-person, usually through sneezing and coughing. Touching infected surfaces can also spread the flue.

H1N1 flue symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. Diarrhea and vomiting have also been reported. Like seasonal flu, severe illness and even death have occurred in some cases due to other complications that can result from being ill with the flu. The best way to protect you and your family against these flue viruses is to get a flu vaccine.

To help prevent the transmission of flu viruses, be sure to:

- *Cough or sneeze only into a tissue or into your elbow, not into your hands.
- *Throw away any used tissues.
- *Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze (Alcohol-based cleansers are also effective).
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth (you’re just helping germs gain entry!).
- *Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

Most importantly...

If you are sick with flu-like symptoms, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone. The CDC recommends this practice to avoid the spread of infection.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has additional information on precautions against contracting H1N1 as well as tips on how to care for loved ones at home. Please visit www.cdc.gov/flu or you may call the CDC hotline at 800-232-4636.