



# THE MONARCH: SWS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 | SY 2022 - 2023 | JANUARY 12, 2023

## SWS FAMILY DAY OF SERVICE & COMMUNITY FOR MLK DAY

In the words of Coretta Scott King, "The greatest birthday gift my husband could receive is if people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds celebrated the holiday by performing individual acts of kindness through service to others." In honor of Dr. King's call to service and focus on justice, the Family IDEA Committee is organizing an SWS Family Day of Service and Community for MLK Day, Monday, January 16 from 10am-12pm in the multipurpose room.

For our service project, we will assemble care kits for Sasha Bruce Youthworks. Sasha Bruce ([www.sashabruce.org](http://www.sashabruce.org)) is an organization that provides support and services to DC's young people (18 years and younger) experiencing homelessness. There are several ways to get involved:

- 1) Join us to assemble kits on MLK Day: This activity will involve a kid-friendly discussion grounding us in Dr. King's principles of economic justice and social responsibility, kit assembly, and art activity.
- 2) Donate items for the kits: Visit the sign-up form or our Amazon Wishlist (see link below). If ordering from the wishlist, please make sure the items will be delivered by 1/15. After Friday, financial contributions would be most helpful in contributing to the kits.
- 3) Contribute funds: The IDEA Committee will use these funds to purchase kit supplies. Monetary donations can be given at drop-off or sent via PayPal.
- 4) Send love: Ask your student to draw a picture and/or write a note to let the kit recipient know that you care.

Thank you to the Family IDEA Committee for organizing this event and to the 5th grade class who are collecting notes, donations, and items during drop-off this week. Check out [www.swsidea.org/swsmk2023](http://www.swsidea.org/swsmk2023) to RSVP for Monday and/or find information for donations.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### JANUARY

- 13 - History at Lincoln Event @ Lincoln Memorial 10:30am-12:30pm
- 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day/No School & MLK Family Day of Service at SWS
- 20 - Parent Coffee in the Discovery Commons 8:35am+
- 24 - LSAT Meeting at 6:30 - 7:30pm (via zoom) - All are welcome!
- 25 - No School for Students/Professional Development Day
- 30 - Family Committees Meeting at 8pm (via zoom) - All are welcome!

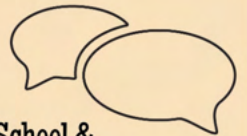
### FEBRUARY

- 20 - President's Day/No School
- 21 - 24 February Break/No School

For more events info, check out [freshschools.com](http://freshschools.com) & [dcps.dc.gov](http://dcps.dc.gov)



## CONNECT WITH SWS!



FACEBOOK: School Within School & School Within School - Parent Group  
INSTAGRAM: @schoolwithinschool  
TWITTER: @SWSatgoding  
[Freshschools.com](http://Freshschools.com)

Stay in touch this school year!!



Flip over for more SWS news!

# Continuation ...

## SWS PROM & AUCTION

Save the date for the 26th annual SWS Prom & Auction! This fun event is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th from 6-10pm. It will be held in the north hall at Eastern Market. There will be dinner, drinks, and dancing - everything you need for a great night out!

The auction serves as our primary fundraiser to raise the nearly \$200,000 that is used to supplement the budget that SWS receives from DCPS. The money funds FoodPrints, staff assistants, classroom and custodial supplies, teacher training, the Kindred anti-racism program, technology/equipment, books, and more. We have big goals for 2023, and we are going to need everyone's help to reach them!

Please consider how you will get involved this year:

- Plan to attend
- Become a sponsor for the event
- Donate items for the auction
- Volunteer to solicit sponsorships and donations from local businesses
- Volunteer during the event (many hands make light work!)

Reach out to the auction committee (Jaime Arora, Risa Gerber, Esther Leibfarth & Liz Puloka) at [auctionsws@gmail.com](mailto:auctionsws@gmail.com) with questions or to get involved. Look for lots more information to follow in the coming weeks.

We are excited for this event and hope that you will join us! Check out more event info via the code or site - [fsws.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/SWSPromAuction2023](https://fsws.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/SWSPromAuction2023)



## JANUARY BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH

The Family IDEA Book Group has worked to present two Books-of-the-Month to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and a thoughtful companion book guide. For January, PreK-1st grade students are encouraged to reflect on Belle, the Last Mule at Gee's Bend and 2nd-5th grade students will be focusing on Let the Children March. Both books inspire students to reflect on how their own actions can continue Dr. King's legacy to craft a better world. Digital and print copies of the book guide were sent home on 1/10. The SWS IDEA website ([www.swsidea.org](http://www.swsidea.org)) includes all previous book guides from this school year.

We hope you've been finding each month's guide helpful in starting meaningful conversations around the shared texts. If you are interested in getting involved in the book guide work or in the Parent IDEA group more broadly, please reach out to get connected to the group.

## DAY OFF CAMP

Polite Piggy's will be hosting a day off camp on Wednesday, 1/25 for PK3 - 5th grade students at Maury ES. Full or half days are available. Spots are filling up quickly! Register at [EZChildTrack.com](http://EZChildTrack.com)

## HISTORY AT LINCOLN

DCPS in-kind collaboration with the National Park Service presents History at Lincoln: From the Civil War to the Civil Rights to the Present this Friday, January 13 from 10:30am - 12:30pm at the Lincoln Memorial. DCPS students from five schools, including SWS, will be reciting speeches and singing. The SWS 5th graders have the amazing opportunity to recite Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. DCPS students will also be sharing President Obama's "Let Freedom Ring" speech, President Lincoln's "A House Divided" speech, singing We Shall Overcome, and much more. The event is open to the public. Please join us!



Turn the page for more SWS news!



## Continuation ...

### SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024

The My School DC lottery is open! If families are interested in enrolling siblings at SWS, they must fill out a DC lottery application at [myschooldc.org](http://myschooldc.org) The lottery site also includes middle school info, including Eliot-Hine MS, SWS's feeder school (next open house on 1/25 at 1pm). If you have questions about the lottery for SWS enrollment, please contact Ms. Shawna at 202.727.7377 or [shawna.friedman@k12.dc.gov](mailto:shawna.friedman@k12.dc.gov) The lottery deadline is March 1, 2023.

SWS will be hosting its own open houses for prospective families on 1/21 (10am - 12pm), 2/2 (6-7pm), and 2/27 (10-11:15am). Please email our Recruitment Co-Chairs if you're interested in helping out with the tours - [danikamontague@gmail.com](mailto:danikamontague@gmail.com) and [kyo.freeman@gmail.com](mailto:kyo.freeman@gmail.com)



### SWS MID-YEAR FAMILY SURVEY

Every year, SWS develops a Comprehensive School Plan, setting goals in the areas of Academics, Family & Community Engagement, School Culture, and Shared Leadership. This mid-year survey is designed to help SWS track our progress towards, and better meet, our CSP goals. Please take a moment to complete one survey for each student you have enrolled at SWS: [bit.ly/swssurvey2023](http://bit.ly/swssurvey2023) The school will earn fun spirit days based on how many families complete the survey!

### DCPS STRATEGIC PLAN

Chancellor Ferebee recently shared that DCPS is halfway through its strategic planning process, which began in August. This past fall, DCPS hosted an engagement listening series and circulated a survey that allowed staff, students, families, and community members in all eight wards to reflect on DCPS' strengths and where it must grow. You can read the resulting report at [dcpsstrong.com/strategic-plan](http://dcpsstrong.com/strategic-plan)

The importance of equity and inclusion was top of mind across all stakeholder groups, and DCPS is excited to continue identifying and analyzing themes within the feedback to help inform the next phase of this work, which includes drafting DCPS's next five-year strategic plan.

### EMPLOYER MATCH DONATIONS



Way to go on helping our kids with all the Fall Campaign contributions! For everyone who contributed, Friends of SWS is a non-profit organization, so it's eligible for employer matches. If you've donated and have an employer match available to you, please submit your donation for matching funds now. If you're not sure if your employer matches donations, The Humane Society keeps a database of which major employers do, so check there. If you work at a smaller employer and aren't sure, just ask them. When you submit, you'll need a point of contact to verify the donation, and it's Ms. Shawna. You'll also need the EIN for Friends of SWS, which is 45-5306104. That's all! This is a great way to help Friends of SWS raise additional funds to support our kids. If you could use help submitting your donation for an employer match, email SWS Parent Alex Horowitz at [abhorowitz@gmail.com](mailto:abhorowitz@gmail.com) for assistance.

### FAMILY PARTNER PROGRAM

The SWS Family Partner Program is part of the Family IDEA Committee's larger goal to ensure that all families feel welcome and supported in the SWS community. Pairs will consist of a family that has deep experience in the school and a family seeking specialized guidance and connection. Pairings will be based on the needs expressed by each family and may be based on racial or ethnic identity, shared language or culture, or other identities and experiences. If you are interested in being partnered, sign up here: [bit.ly/swspartner](http://bit.ly/swspartner)



### CHESS CLUB

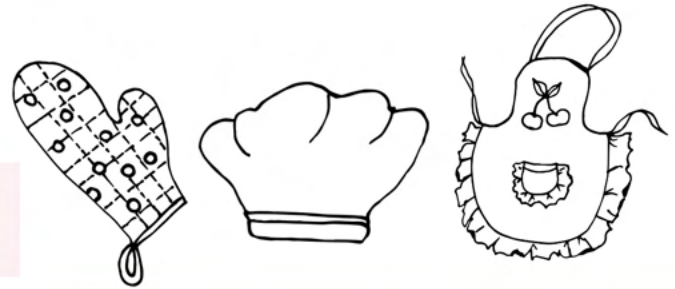
The US Chess Center will be hosting a Chess Club at SWS for 2nd-5th grade students on Wednesdays from 3:15-4:45pm, starting in February. The 16-week program has a \$120 fee per student. Scholarships will be available for financial assistance. A small snack is included. Register here: [chessctr.org/sws](http://chessctr.org/sws)

Flip the page to read about FoodPrints!



Continuation ...

## MS. FINERAN'S FOODPRINTS UPDATE!



Happy New Year! Hope you all had a wonderful, restful holiday season and winter break. As 2023 begins, there are so many exciting things to look forward to in our FoodPrints program! Our school garden is a top priority. The students and I will work in tandem to make sure that our school is once again home to a beautiful green garden, overflowing with herbs and plants for everyone to nurture and enjoy. As many of you know it was a heart wrenching experience watching years of hard work and loving attention dismantled when our previous garden was ripped out and paved over. But like the best things in nature, we're nothing if not resilient. Therefore, now is the time for the fun, creative planning to begin. I'm excited about the opportunity to work collaboratively with the students, and resurrect our SWS garden (pictured below in 2020).



Many thanks to the Capitol Hill Community Foundation for granting us funds to purchase more garden beds, which will increase our available growing space. The Capitol Hill Community Foundation has been a big supporter of the FoodPrints program at SWS for many years. The recent support came in two grants – one grant to support the overall garden transformation, and a second grant to support the cost of our programming. We're very grateful to the Capitol Hill Community Foundation, and to all of the wonderful SWS parents who support them, and FoodPrints!

With the guidance of Ms. Wertheimer, last year's 5th graders wrote, applied for and won an EcoRise grant, student-driven grants that focus on environmental and/or sustainability issues ([www.ecorise.org/our-work/grants](http://www.ecorise.org/our-work/grants)). To apply, the students were required to take a survey of their school environment, discuss what changes could make it better, and write a proposal detailing how they might implement those changes. Last year's 5th graders focused their application on composting. They understood the value of composting while recognizing the challenges for families to compost at home. The students proposed an easy, accessible composting service at SWS, allowing every family to help the environment. Starting next week, our current 5th graders will use the grant funds to direct a Composting Pilot Program with Veterans Compost of Aberdeen MD. I'm so proud of both classes!

Another partner with which I'll be working again this year is the local Boy Scouts/Eagle Scouts program. My plan this semester is to offer them a project in which they will build a pergola in the garden area. The goal is for the pergola to provide some much-needed shade for the communal table in the garden.



In the next month, classes will sample the the following recipes found on [www.freshfarm.org](http://www.freshfarm.org) - Upper Grades: prosperity peas with collard greens & buttermilk cornbread and Lower Grades: irishoatmeal muffins & slow cooker oatmeal.

Class Schedule:

1/12 2nd/Leavitt (9:15am) & 1st/Jenny (1:30pm)  
1/13 2nd/Tome (9:15am) & 1st/Duelley (1:30pm)  
1/17 3rd/Davis (9:15am) & Bonhomme (1:30pm)  
1/18 PK3 & PK4/Krista  
1/19 PK4/Hannah  
1/20 4th/Meehan (9:30am) & W-V (1:30pm)  
1/27 5th/Wertheimer

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