

Dear SPS Families,

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of riding the elementary bus on its afternoon run. The children were very welcoming and shared lots about their days. A common theme was how excited they are for you to see their classrooms and meet their teachers at Back-to-School nights. Back-to-School nights as well as **Early Release Days (our next is this Wednesday, September 21st)**, and **School Holidays (our first is next Monday, September 29th, Rosh Hashanah)** can be found on the district [calendar](#).



BUS

I wanted to share a couple of observations in hopes of enlisting your support.



- It's a long ride with a lot of traffic at points. Having a fidget, handheld game, paper and colored pencils, paper games such as mazes or word searches, or modeling magic type putty really helps. The children are generous in their sharing but we would like everyone to have their own distraction as feelings get hurt when a toy is broken or not returned as promptly as desired.
- The road is bumpy. Staying seated is essential for safety as is keeping the aisle clear.
- Playdates (even rolling playdates) are fun and it is natural to get excited and loud. When playing on a bus, however, it is essential that voices stay at an indoor level. Some children sleep and the driver needs to be able to hear the surrounding traffic noises.
- Children have a lot of stuff. Label, label, label. It is the only way to make sure that stuffed hedgehog or sweatshirt makes it home.

Our monitor, Ms. Justine Acosta, is working very hard to establish a positive bus culture and to get to know each child individually. A hello, goodbye or thank you goes a long way in creating a respectful culture and acknowledging that her day starts very, very early and ends only when everyone is home safe and sound. We have been actively recruiting additional monitors and I am hoping to make an announcement soon. It is helpful to have a partner and to be able to minimize the need to move about a swaying bus to support students.

MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR – Ms. Leslie Smart

On Thursday, October 6th we will hold a Meet and Greet at METCO, Inc. (11 Roxbury Street, Roxbury) from 6-7:30 pm. There is no set agenda so feel free to drop by as you are able. We will have members from our Technology Team present to help families complete the Back-to-School online packet and retrieve log-in information for the ASPEN Family Portal.



Elementary students will have a chance to meet Ms. Smart this coming Thursday, September 22 when she joins the Assistant Principals, me, the monitor and the driver for a brief community building exercise. We will be scheduling a designated time for middle school students to meet Ms. Smart after her official start on October 3rd.

APPLE PICKING WITH METCO Directors Association



The METCO Directors Association is sponsoring an apple-picking outing for families. Families are responsible for their own tickets to the farm and any apple purchases. Transportation is available through the METCO Social Activities Committee. Pre-registration is required. A flier with a scannable QR code is attached. Families can also use the linked registration form.

When: **Saturday, October 8, 2022**

Where: Honey Pot Hill Orchard, Stow, MA

Time: Bus pick up at 9 am, Farm arrival 10 am. Depart from farm at 2 pm

Click [HERE](#) to register!

[FLIER](#)

Happy Fall,

Kim Swain, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning