

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – December 13, 2019

News & Notes

SHS Students Innovate to Solve Real-World Problems



SHS Senior Angie Mejia is using newly-acquired Library / Media district-wide technology to solve a problem. All seniors in Somerville High School must complete a Capstone Project in English that culminates in a well-researched presentation of a design that solves a real-world, local problem. In Angie's case, she is addressing the issues students of color and immigrant families face in the education system. She invited her friends to act as a case study group, trying out a 'virtual tour' of a college facility, college information, alumni information and curriculum, through Virtual Reality technology. The students were surprised to see that the college they 'visited' seemed to use a flipped classroom

for a lot of students. Flipped classroom models are used currently in some SHS classes. She envisions VR as one component of a program to support first-time college experiences for families. The Virtual Reality technology has been used in other ways during Hour of Code/Computer Science week in the temporary SHS Library space such as giving Career and Technical Education students glimpses into Day-in-the-Life VR of professionals at work. According to Librarian Kathleen Ross, students have even visited a Shakespeare theatrical set to learn about production, and art students went "20,000 Leagues under the Sea" using the VR goggles.

Cummings Foundation Grant Supports Valuable Off-site Learning Experiences

Thanks to a four-year Cummings Foundation (www.cummingsfoundation.org) \$100K for 100 grant award, Somerville students are enjoying a multiyear partnership between Somerville Public Schools (SPS) and Waypoint Adventure (www.waypointadventure.org). Now in the second of the grant program, Waypoint Adventure is supporting social-emotional and leadership development for targeted youth through outdoor adventures designed to help students transform their views about their own abilities. Whether rock climbing, hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, or participating in a ropes course, team-building and development of leadership skills are important components of the learning experience. The grant-funded partnership goes through the 2021-22 school year. Read this blog post to learn about a recent adventure that nine first- and second-graders from the Healey School took to the Middlesex Falls Reservation: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/cummings-foundation-grant-supports-valuable-offsite-learning-opportunities>.



Interactive Mural Beckons SHS Students to Be the “I” in KIND

Students in Ms. Lindsey Richard’s Calligraphy art class at Somerville High School recently completed an interactive wall mural that invites students to **BE THE “I” IN KIND**. The colorful mural is located at the end of a 3rd floor hallway at SHS and beckons students to stand on the “X” marked with duct tape on the floor just in front of where the “I” in the word KIND would go. Students are encouraged to interact with the mural by striking a pose and taking a pic. If students choose to share the photo on social media, they can do so using the hashtag **#KINDATSHS**.

What’s Happening

Next Wave/Full Circle Tree Lot

There’s still time! Purchase your holiday tree at the Next Wave/Full Circle Tree Lot and support a great cause – student learning. The tree lot is organized and run by students and staff at NWFC. Each year, this effort helps raise funds for a variety of school programs and activities. The Tree Lot is located at 35 Cross St. Learn more about Next Wave / Full Circle at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/nwfc. The Tree Lot is open through this Sunday, so don’t delay! Remaining Hours are:

- Saturday, December 14, 11am-6pm
- Sunday, December 15, 10am-5pm

Somerville High School “Topping Off” Ceremony – Thursday, December 19, 2019

Join us on December 19 for the final Somerville High School building project “Topping Off” Ceremony. The event will take place by the eastern wing of the project site, next to the Somerville Public Library. The celebration begins at 2:30pm and the ceremony begins at 3:00pm. Guests are encouraged to dress warmly and should wear boots, sneakers, or other rugged footwear. Refreshments will be served in the SHS Cafeteria immediately following the ceremony.

Somerville High School Class of 1970 Graduates Invited to Join Class Day Festivities

Are you a member of Somerville High School’s Class of 1970? The SHS Class of 2020 is looking for participants for this year’s Class Day festivities, which will take place on Friday, May 29, 2020 starting at 8:00 a.m. at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.). We are looking for 50 graduates from the Class of 1970 to participate. If you would like to take part in the celebration, please email Barbara Favaloro, SHS Main Office, Head Clerk at bfavaloro@k12.somerville.ma.us, or call (617) 625-6600 ext. 6110 to sign up. The first 35 to respond will receive a commemorative gift. The SHS Class of 2020 looks forward to seeing past graduates from the SHS Class of 1970!

Upcoming School & District Events:

Visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us and click on the “calendar” link at the top of the page for a list of upcoming activities in our schools and in our District this month.

- **Monday, December 16: WHCIS Grades 5-8 Chorus Caroling Field Trip**
- **Monday, December 16, 8:30am: WHCIS PTA Student of the Month Celebration** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore St.)

- **Tuesday, December 17, 9:00-11:00am: ESCS Winter Concert** at the East Somerville Community School Auditorium (50 Cross St.)
- **Tuesday, December 17, 10:30-11:30am: JAE's Dance Workshop for Grade 6** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Tuesday, December 17, 11:00am-2:30pm: East Somerville Community School Holiday Fair** (50 Cross St.)
- **Wednesday, December 18: WHCIS Grades 1-2 & AIM K-3 Field Trip** to the New England Aquarium
- **Wednesday, December 18: WHCIS Grade 8 Field Trip** to Boston
- **Wednesday, December 18, 11:00am-2:30pm: East Somerville Community School Holiday Fair** (50 Cross St.)
- **Wednesday, December 18, 6:00-8:00pm: SHS School Improvement Council Meeting** at Somerville High School, Room 230 (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Thursday, December 19: WHCIS Grade 5 Field Trip** to the New England Aquarium
- **Thursday, December 19, 11:00am-2:30pm: East Somerville Community School Holiday Fair** (50 Cross St.)
- **Thursday, December 19, 1:30pm: JAE's Dance Performance for Grades 6-8** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School Gymnasium (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Thursday, December 19, 2:40-3:10pm: WHCIS Grades PK-1 Beautiful Stuff Family Maker Project** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School Library (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Thursday, December 19, 5:00-7:00pm: WHCIS Citizen Schools WOW Event** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Thursday, December 19, 6:30-8:30pm: SHS Winter Concert** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Friday, December 20, 8:30-9:30am: WHCIS Principal Coffee Hour** (115 Sycamore St.)

Upcoming School Committee Meetings:

Find the complete School Committee schedule, agendas and meeting minutes (as approved) online at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/school-committee.

- **Monday, December 16, 5:30-6:30pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
- **Monday, December 16, 6:00-7:00pm: Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting** at the Central Office 3rd Floor Conference Room (8 Bonair St.)
- **Monday, December 16, 7:00-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Somerville Family Learning Collaborative Workshops, Events, and Resources:

Find a complete list of SFLC events and workshops at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families.

The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) enhances the capacity of families and schools to support children's learning and well-being by collaborating with community partners and promoting welcoming, responsive schools and programs. Take a look at the work and impact of the SFLC "by the numbers" in this [2018-2019 report](#).

- **IMPACT: Arts and Conversation Group.** IMPACT (Immigrant Multilingual Parents Art and Conversation Together) is a weekly arts and conversation group for immigrant families with children in the Somerville Public Schools looking to connect with other families in the community. IMPACT meets every Friday, 9:00-11:00am at the SFLC Center (42 Prescott St.). The group is offered in partnership with the Beautiful Stuff Project and with support from Cambridge Health Alliance.

Looking Ahead:

- **Monday, December 23: Winter Vacation** – NO SCHOOL; School and District offices open
- **Tuesday, December 24: Winter Vacation** – NO SCHOOL; All Schools and District offices CLOSED
- **Wednesday, December 25: Winter Vacation** – NO SCHOOL; All Schools and District offices CLOSED
- **Thursday, December 26: Winter Vacation** – NO SCHOOL; School and District offices open
- **Friday, December 27: Winter Vacation** – NO SCHOOL; School and District offices open
- **Monday, December 30: Winter Vacation** – NO SCHOOL; School and District offices open
- **Tuesday, December 31: Winter Vacation** – NO SCHOOL; School and District offices open until 1:00pm

- **Wednesday, January 1: Winter Vacation – NO SCHOOL; All Schools and District Offices CLOSED – Happy 2020!**

Community News & Events

5th Annual Union Square Holiday Stroll. Enjoy festive holiday decorations, strolling musicians, fun selfies, visits with Santa, and great offers and activities while supporting local businesses! The 5th Annual Union Square Holiday Stroll, presented by Union Square Main Streets, Inc. takes place Saturday, December 14th from 12:00-6:00pm. Visit <https://www.unionsquaremain.org/> for all the details.

The Duhamel Star. Is there someone in the Somerville Public Schools that you would like to celebrate? The Duhamel Education Initiative (DEI) invites you to recognize them with a Duhamel Star. The Duhamel Star is a certificate of appreciation given as a donation to DEI in the honoree's name. You can express your gratitude with a personal message and grow student engagement in SPS through your donation to DEI's grant fund. Duhamel Stars can be purchased at any time, and the honoree will receive it within one to two weeks of ordering. For more information and to order a Duhamel Star, visit www.duhamelsomerville.org/duhamel-star.html#.

Somerville Parks & Recreation's New Family-Friendly Field Trips. The Somerville Parks and Recreation Department invites you to enjoy family-friendly field trips to fun locations in and around the Boston area! Beginning December, Parks and Recreation will sponsor trips to places like the Stone Zoo, the Blue Man Group, Museum of Fine Arts, and more! Activities are appropriate for all ages, but children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. A full list of dates, activities and pricing is available at www.somerville.com. Participants must register at least two weeks prior to the field trip. Prices for each activity are per person, and include transportation.

City of Somerville Teen Snow Shoveling Program. Are you a Somerville teen 13 years or older? If so, the City of Somerville invites you to consider being part of the Teen Snow Shoveling Program. The program is a paid program for youth to provide seniors in the community with snow shoveling assistance after a snow storm. Teens and seniors are paired for the season, and after each storm, the senior contacts their assigned teen to request shoveling services. Visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/teen-snow-shoveling-program> for more information including details on how to apply. Questions? Contact Jennifer Mancia at (617) 625-6600, x2406.

Doctor Dolittle Scavenger Hunt. Have you ever wished that you could talk with other animals? Doctor Dolittle, the main character in the Hugh Lofting fictional book *The Story of Doctor Dolittle* could do just that! Doctor Dolittle learned animal languages and made animal friends all over the world. The Harvard Museum of Natural History (HMNH) invites you to use the clues to find six of Doctor Dolittle's animal friends in the museum and learn how that animal really communicates. The Doctor Dolittle Scavenger Hunt starts December 21st and runs through January 31st (please note that the museum is closed on December 25th and January 1st). *Regular museum admission rates apply.* Learn more at: <https://hmn.harvard.edu/doctor-dolittle-scavenger-hunt>

City & District Employment Opportunities

Consider joining a winning team! Current city and district opportunities include:

- [Public Space Planner](#), OSPCD – Public Space and Urban Forestry, City of Somerville
- [Director of Veteran Services](#), Health and Human Services Department, City of Somerville
- [2020 Census Complete Count Coord.](#), Communications and Community Engagement Dept., City of Somerville

Visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/jobs> for a complete listing of current open positions in the City of Somerville.

- [Intermittent Cafeteria Helper](#), Food and Nutrition Services Dept., Somerville Public Schools
- [Intermittent Lunch Attendant](#), Food and Nutrition Services Dept., Somerville Public Schools
- [FT Lead Teacher, Community Schools Afterschool Program](#), Brown School, Somerville Public Schools

Visit <https://www.schoolspring.com/jobs/?employer=16902> for a complete listing of current open positions in the Somerville Public Schools.

Our Commitment to the Whole Child

VISION: "We believe in developing the whole child — the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical potential of all students — by providing students with the skills, opportunities, and resources that will nurture innovative ideas, foster pride in diversity, inspire students to become lifelong learners and empower them to enrich their communities."