

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – December 20, 2019

## News & Notes



### Full Circle Student Reflects on Inspiring Summer ‘Mystic Mural Project’ Experience

For Zaria, a senior at Full Circle High School, this past summer was transformative. She and several other peers had the opportunity to work with professional muralist David Fichter on a community art project on Mystic Avenue that has been blossoming for years. Zaria got to pursue her passion for art, and be part of a stunning community project that combines art with environmental education. Zaria wrote about her summer experience in the latest [Next Wave/Full Circle newsletter](#). You can find the article on page 3.

Supported by the City of Somerville, the Somerville Arts Council, and the Somerville Housing Authority, the Mystic Mural Project gives high school students in Somerville the opportunity to share what they learn through their summer experience with the community and passers-by, in a beautiful and vibrant way. Visit <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/mysticmural> to find out more about this project. Read this September article in the Boston Globe to learn

about the evolution of this project: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/globalocal/2019/09/11/stuck-traffic-try-spotting-fox-mystic-river-mural/lm0CHgFNzvcYbDuPstIrdJ/story.html>. Learn more about David Fichter and his work at <http://www.davidfichter.com/>.

### Generous Donations from “Share the Warmth” Winter Coat Drive Put to Immediate Use

The “Share the Warmth” winter coat drive coordinated by the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative’s (SFLC) Community Clothing Closet will end on Friday, December 20. The Clothing Pantry will not be accepting any additional donations until further notice. Throughout the months of November and December, the SFLC Center and school-based teams have distributed hundreds of winter coats and other winter items to those in need in the Somerville Public Schools community. The SFLC Center team wishes to thank the community partners and the community at large for their many generous donations. As Francia Reyes, the SFLC Basic Needs and Homeless Services Liaison, explains, “Share the Warmth” was a success “thanks to the generosity of the community. It wouldn’t be possible without the support from so many people.” For more information about the SFLC Center and its resources, please visit [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families).

### Winter Hill Sixth Graders Move, Laugh, Perform During Dance Workshop

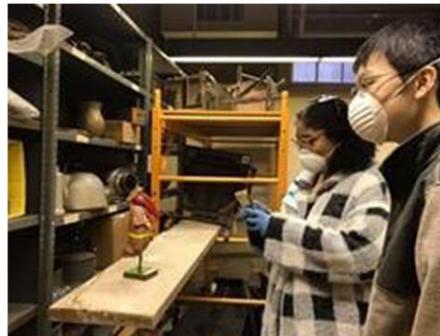
By the time a recent dance workshop wrapped up, every 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School had danced, moved and laughed. Students walked into the gym not knowing what to expect. Dancer Jean Appolon brought two of his JAE Dance Company ([www.jeanappolonexpressions.org](http://www.jeanappolonexpressions.org)) dancers with the goal to “get everyone moving.” He used a mix of contemporary dance and traditional Haitian folk dance moves to engage students on this rainy and snowy day. Students learned a structured dance routine then performed the routine in groups in front

of the rest of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the room. Some students were thrilled to perform, others had been enthusiastic dancers but needed encouragement to perform. Students then broke into teams of students plus a teacher or JAE dancer and choreographed their own original dance numbers, which they also performed. On Friday, December 20th the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will share what they learned during a performance for other WHCIS middle grades students.



## Local History Club Students work with Primary Source Materials

Somerville High School Local History Club kicked off a local history exhibition project on December 7th with a guided visit to the Somerville Historical Society. Guided by Barbara Mangum from the Somerville Historical Society, students explored a large collection of fascinating artifacts stored in the basement of the Somerville Museum, such as antique tea sets, old yearbooks, a Civil War army canteen, and a dress from the roaring 1920's. Students also learned about proper handling and storage for artifacts. Club members will choose an artifact they want to research and give a presentation later in the year. Thank you to Local History Club teacher Ms. Adda Santos for providing this incredible out-of-school learning experience. Ms. Santos is part of our Social Studies teaching team. Learn more about our Social Studies and History teaching team: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/shshistory](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/shshistory). Learn more about the wide array of after school clubs available to our high school students at: [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/shsclubs](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/shsclubs).



## Mastering the #Highlander Habits

Each month, Somerville High School is highlighting one of the habits from the new graduate profile with faculty, staff, and students to increase awareness about the #HighlanderHabits, and build student capacity in that skill. At the end of the month, teachers nominate students whom they feel have exemplified the habit, and those students are then recognized for their achievement.

The Highlander Habit of the Month for November was **Collaboration**, which includes demonstrating the ability to:

- Share responsibility for collaborative work
- Value individual contributions made by each team member
- Work effectively in diverse teams
- Build consensus while making decisions

Congratulations to the November Highlander Habit of the Month award winners:

- Dayleri Garcia Vargas
- Jaime Marroquin Zacarias
- Gabriela Morales
- Oscar Alvarez Campos
- Emily Lana
- Karen Reyes Pena
- The cast and crew of the Highlander Theater Company and the SHS Dance Team for their collaboration on the production of *In The Heights*



## What's Happening

### Explore! Somerville Partnership for Young Children Launches New Website

The Somerville Partnership for Young Children (SPYC) is excited to announce the launch of their new website: [www.somervillechildren.org](http://www.somervillechildren.org). The website provides information about the SPYC early education partners and enables families to see if they may be eligible for tuition assistance funds and fill out an application online. The goal of SPYC, a collaboration between Somerville Public Schools, Head Start, and participating child care and preschool partners, is to expand access to high quality early education for Somerville children and families. The SPYC website was developed with the support of the Early Education and Care's Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) grant, and is part of Somerville's commitment to developing a coordinated early education system through a mixed delivery model that expands access to high quality programs for all children.

### 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 Favalaro, SHS Main Office, Head Clerk at [bfavaloro@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto: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](http://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 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!**

### 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](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/school-committee).

- **Monday, January 6, 5:30pm: 2020 Inaugural Ceremony** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave). Public reception immediately following at the Row Hotel at Assembly Row (360 Foley St.)

- **Monday, January 13, 7:00-9:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
- **Monday, January 27, 7:00-9:30pm: 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](http://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](#).

- **Sharing Our Stories Support Group.** Raising a child who does not always fit in can be challenging. Sharing our Stories is a free, open-ended support group for families with young children who have special needs. The group offers adults the opportunity to share joys, concerns, frustrations, questions and resources about their experiences. Join us on Thursday, January 9, 7:00-8:30pm at the SFLC Center @ the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.). Interpretation available upon request; please call (617) 629-5476.
- **Serve and Inspire SPS Volunteer Orientation.** Are you new to volunteering with the Somerville Public Schools? We invite you to attend an orientation on Thursday, January 16, 6:00-8:00pm at the Cummings Building (42 Prescott St.) to learn about district schools and how SPS volunteers serve, inspire, and support student learning. Contact SPS Volunteer Coordinator Jen Capuano at [jcapuano@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:jcapuano@k12.somerville.ma.us) or call (617) 629-5475 for more information, accommodations needed to attend, and to RSVP.

## Looking Ahead:

- **Tuesday, January 7, 6:00-8:00pm: Somerville SEPAC Business Meeting and Officer Elections @** the VNA, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Community Room, 259 Lowell Street
- **Wednesday, January 8: Half Day Wednesday for PK-8** (PK dismissed at 11:30 a.m.; K-8 dismissed at noon)
- **Wednesday, January 8: WSNS PTA-Sponsored Spirit Day – Pep Rally Theme,** at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Thursday, January 9, 7:00-8:30pm: Sharing Our Stories Support Group** at the SFLC Center @ the Cummings Building (42 Prescott St.)
- **Friday, January 10: WSNS 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip** to the Museum of Science
- **Tuesday, January 14, 5:30-7:00pm: Argenziano School Council Meeting** (290 Washington St.)
- **Tuesday, January 14, 6:00-7:30pm: WHCIS Governing Board Meeting** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Wednesday, January 15, 8:00am-2:00pm: Argenziano 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip** to Biogen
- **Thursday, January 16, 6:00-8:00pm: Serve and Inspire SPS Volunteer Orientation** at the SFLC Center @ the Cummings Building (42 Prescott St.)
- **Thursday, January 16, 6:30-8:30pm: Beginners' Instrumental Concert** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Thursday, January 16, 7:00-8:00pm: Healey Families Community Meeting** at the Healey Library (5 Meacham St.)
- **Friday, January 17, time tbd: WSNS Boosterthon Fun Run** at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)

## Community News & Events

**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#](http://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](http://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.

**Middle Grades Writer's Den.** Writer's Den is a free weekly evening creative writing workshop open to all Somerville students in grades 4-8. Creative weekly activities and fun writing prompts, storytelling, script writing and more keep students eager to write and share their writing. Publishing opportunities and snacks. Co-Directors Alan Ball, Cara Feinberg, and Allyson Sherlock invite all students in grades 4-8 to join the fun. Parent/guardian permission required. Writer's Den takes place Wednesdays and some Mondays (except vacation weeks or if schools close due to inclement weather). Visit the district website ([www.somerville.k12.ma.us/events/calendar](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/events/calendar)) for Writer's Den meeting dates for the rest of the school year. The workshops take place at the Healey School Library, 5 Meacham St.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> and runs through January 31<sup>st</sup> (please note that the museum is closed on December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>). *Regular museum admission rates apply.* Learn more at: <https://hmn.harvard.edu/doctor-dolittle-scavenger-hunt>

**Girls Who Code Club at the Somerville Public Library.** Calling all middle school girls! The winter session of the Somerville Public Library's Girls Who Code club gets underway January 28. Facilitated by volunteers from the tech community, girls join a sisterhood of supportive peers as they learn coding to create a project they care about. The Club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-8pm for 10 weeks at the Central Library (79 Highland Ave). For more information and to register, contact Karen Stevens at [kstevens@minlib.net](mailto:kstevens@minlib.net).

## 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
- [SomerStat Analyst](#), SomerStat Dept., City of Somerville
- [Program Coordinator](#), Parks & Recreation Dept., City of Somerville

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

- [Intermittent Lunch Attendant](#), Food and Nutrition Services Dept., Somerville Public Schools
- [FT Lead Teacher, Community Schools Afterschool Program](#), Brown School, Somerville Public Schools
- [Early Childhood Intern – Somerville Partnership for Young Children](#), Early Education Department, 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."