

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – December 6, 2019

## News & Notes

### Next Wave/Full Circle Tree Lot Now Open

Participate in a 25-year Somerville tradition by purchasing your holiday tree at the Next Wave and Full Circle Schools' Tree Lot. NWFC students and staff worked hard early last week, filling their Cross Street tree lot with dozens of trees of different sizes in preparation for this important annual fundraising event. The tree lot officially opened on November 30<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled to be open through December 15<sup>th</sup>. The tree lot is organized and run by NWFC staff and students. Each year it raises funds for student field trips and other school activities. Next Wave Junior High School and Full Circle High School make up a tight-knit community for students who need a more personalized approach to learning, with an academic emphasis on project work and small class sizes. Learn more about Next Wave / Full Circle at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/nwfc](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/nwfc). Visit the Tree Lot webpage at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/treelot](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/treelot). Stop by to purchase your holiday tree, and support student learning with your purchase!

Tree Lot Location: 35 Cross Street <https://goo.gl/maps/hiz7xaxbL4Vjnk6L6>

Remaining Tree Lot Dates and Hours: Open through December 15, 2019

- Mondays-Fridays, 4pm – 8pm
- Saturday, 12/7, 9am – 7pm
- Saturday, 12/14, 11am – 6pm
- Sundays, 10am – 5pm



### What makes us Thankful? A Wonderful, Caring Community

As a diverse and vibrant community, we have families who struggle to put healthy holiday meals on their tables. Three local organizations worked with staff, teachers, liaisons, and school secretaries to make sure families that needed celebratory meals received them. The Ryan Harrington Foundation donated 44 complete meals to families of SPS students, the John Welch Productions Fund donated 37 meals to our families, and the Boston Rescue Mission donated a dozen meals. Each of these organizations has a special meaning to Somerville Public Schools.

The Ryan Harrington Foundation supports struggling youth and is rooted in memory of a community member who lost his life to opioid addiction. ([www.ryanharringtonfoundation.org/](http://www.ryanharringtonfoundation.org/)) John Welch spent his entire career teaching at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School. ([www.johnwelchproductions.com/](http://www.johnwelchproductions.com/)) Next Wave and Full Circle students, along with teacher David Aronofsky, volunteer on Fridays after school at the Boston Rescue Mission and this year the Mission helped some of our NWFC student families with meal donations! ([www.brm.org/](http://www.brm.org/)) Meals included a turkey and all the sides. Thank you to our wonderful community partners for helping make sure that Somerville families in need had a joyful Thanksgiving weekend.



## Groundwork Somerville Fall Garden Education Program Connects Students to School Gardens

Students across the district were able to learn about seeds, planting, harvesting, and much more by connecting to their school gardens, working in partnership with [Groundwork Somerville](http://GroundworkSomerville.org). This year's Fall Garden Education programming with Groundwork Somerville was full of activity. Dozens of classrooms visited the school gardens at Argenziano, Brown, Capuano, ESCS, Healey, Kennedy, Next Wave/Full Circle, WSNS, and Winter Hill during October and November for garden education days. Students talked about the changing seasons, observed the environment, and learned about plant life cycles and ecosystems through hands-on activities, like planting bulbs and seed saving. Here are a few of the highlights from the Fall Garden Education Program:

- **Seed Saving & Sorting:** Students collected and examined seeds from dried crops that grew earlier.
- **Planting Bulbs:** Students planted garlic and flower bulbs that will stay dormant in the ground during the winter, and sprout next spring.
- **Harvesting:** Students harvested tomatoes, peppers, dill, kale, tomatillos, herbs, and more from their productive edible gardens.
- **Sensory Exploration:** Students practiced using their 5 senses to observe the garden. There were exciting herbs to smell, organic matter to touch, and sometimes even vegetables to taste!
- **Seed Bomb-making:** Students made their own wildflower seed bomb with clay and soil, which can be kept dry during the winter, and planted in the Spring.
- **Changing Seasons:** Students discussed and observed signs of fall, and learned about preparing the garden for winter. Most of the garden plants finish their life cycles and it becomes time to clean up the garden beds, protect the soil from weathering, and save seeds from the past year of growing.

Groundwork Somerville hopes students are able to observe changes in their school garden throughout the year, and come out again for spring garden lessons! Students will be able to plant crops & flowers, learn about pollinators, and more once spring rolls around.

## Brown School Debate Club Scores Two Top 10 Finishes at First Competition





The Brown School Debate Club competed in their first Boston Debate League tournament last month, scoring two team wins against more seasoned competitors. The Brown School contingent competed with four teams of 5<sup>th</sup> graders against more experienced schools whose teams were comprised of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Brown School had two teams scoring in the top 10 out of 18 schools and more than 150 students. Kershaw Nukolls-Walsh and Oliver Chihade came in 5<sup>th</sup> place, while Miles Marable and Alec Liu came in 6<sup>th</sup>. Alessandra Coles, Rainer Wise Ball, Bavika Kalia, and Lincoln Marra also performed well in the competition. Congratulations to the entire team and their club advisors Jane Wilde and Nalia Funk for an outstanding performance!

## Winter Hill Girls on the Run Club Preparing for Upcoming 5K Run

Members of the Winter Hill Community Innovation Schools' Girls on the Run club have been busy preparing for an upcoming 5K Run. Club members recently completed a practice 5K on November 21<sup>st</sup>, running 3.1 miles around the school in preparation for the big race. Stay tuned for updates after the race.



# What's Happening

## El Sistema Somerville Winter Bash – Tuesday, December 10, 2019

El Sistema Somerville hosts its 2019 Winter Bash concert on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the East Somerville Community School auditorium (50 Cross St.). The concert begins at 6:30pm. Admission to the concert is FREE; donations are welcome and appreciated. Join us for a musical celebration by this outstanding musical group comprised of students from across the district in grades 3-8. The Concert will be preceded by a potluck dinner at 5:00pm.

## All-City Middle School Winter Concert – Thursday, December 12, 2019

The 2019 All-City Middle School Winter Concert will take place Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the East Somerville Community School auditorium (50 Cross St.). Join us in celebrating our middle grades musicians from across the district as they showcase their music-making skills and the work they have been doing throughout the school year. The concert begins at 6:30pm. Admission is FREE.

## 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!

## "Share the Warmth" Winter Coat Drive

Through the end of December, the Clothing Closet of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) will be collecting donations of new and gently used winter clothing. With the colder weather, there is an urgent need for winter coats, snow pants, gloves, warm socks, and winter boots. Donations of children's garments 5T-16 and boots sizes 5-13, and adult garments S-XXL and boots sizes 6-12 would be most appreciated. Drop-off locations are at all SPS schools during regular school hours and at the SFLC Center located at 42 Prescott Street. Please contact Francina Reyes at (617) 625-6600, x6994 or [freyes@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:freyes@k12.somerville.ma.us) with any questions.

## 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.

- **Friday, December 6, 6:30-8:30pm: Argenziano School PTA Holiday Craft Fair** (290 Washington St.)
- **Monday-Friday, December 9-13: Hour of Code Week** at all schools in the district
- **Monday, December 9: WSNS Book Fair** at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Tuesday, December 10: WHCIS Grade 8 Field Trip** to Frog Pond
- **Tuesday, December 10, 8:30am-2:00pm: Holiday Shop!** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Tuesday, December 10, 9:00-10:00am: Kennedy K-3 Winter Concert** at the Kennedy Cafetorium (5 Cherry St.)
- **Tuesday, December 10, 5:30-7:00pm: ESCS School Council Meeting** at the East Somerville Community School Library (50 Cross St.)
- **Tuesday, December 10, 6:00-7:30pm: WHCIS Governing Board Meeting** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Tuesday, December 10, 6:30-8:30pm: El Sistema Somerville Winter Bash!** at the East Somerville Community School Auditorium (50 Cross St.)
- **Wednesday, December 11: Half-Day Wednesday for PK-8** (pre-K dismissed at 11:30am; K-8 dismissed at noon)
- **Wednesday, December 11: Winter Hill \$1 Popcorn Sale** to benefit 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving Forward Ceremony
- **Wednesday, December 11, 8:30am-1:00pm: Holiday Shop!** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Wednesday, December 11, 9:00-10:30am: Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert** at the Kennedy School Cafetorium (5 Cherry St.)
- **Wednesday, December 11, 12:30-2:30pm: WHCIS Open PTA Meeting** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School Cafeteria (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Wednesday, December 11, 5:00-6:30pm: WSNS School Council Meeting** in Room 205 at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Thursday, December 12, 9:30-11:15am: WHCIS Winter Concert** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Thursday, December 12, 5:00-6:30pm: East Somerville Community School Evening Open House** (50 Cross St.)
- **Thursday, December 12, 6:00-8:00pm: Somerville SEPAC Business Meeting and Officer Nominations** at the West Somerville Neighborhood School Cafeteria (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Thursday, December 12, 6:30-8:00pm: All-City Middle School Winter Concert** at the East Somerville Community School Auditorium (50 Cross St.)
- **Thursday, December 12, 7:00-8:30pm: Sharing Our Stories Support Group** at the SFLC Center, Cummings School Building (42 Prescott St., Room 14)
- **Friday, December 13: East Somerville Community School Picture Retakes** (50 Cross St.)

- **Friday, December 13, 8:15-9:00am: WSNS PTA-Sponsored Coffee Hour** in Room 222 at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)

## 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).

- **Wednesday, December 11, 5:30-6:00pm: Rescheduled Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting** at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)
- **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (SFLC) 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 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.

- **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 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: Somerville High School Winter Concert** (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Friday, December 20, 8:30-9:30am: WHCIS Principal Coffee Hour** (115 Sycamore St.)
- **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

**Somerville Parks & Recreation’s New Family-Friendly Field Trips.** Somerville Parks and Recreation is launching a new program: family-friendly field trips to fun locations in and around the Boston area! Beginning in December 2019, 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.

**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 services 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? Call (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. Then, like Doctor Dolittle, tell the museum what you think that animal is saying by drawing or writing on the sheet provided. When you are finished, take your sheet to The Shop at HMNH and receive a small gift! Talk back and tag the museum with your answers, photos, and drawings using the hashtag #HarvardAnimalTalk. The Doctor Dolittle Scavenger Hunt starts December 21<sup>st</sup> 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.* <https://hmn.harvard.edu/doctor-dolittle-scavenger-hunt>

## City & District Employment Opportunities

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

- [Highway Superintendent](#), Department of Public Works-Highway, City of Somerville
- [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
- [Technology Specialist/Trainer](#), Technology Department, 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."