

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – January 10, 2020

News & Notes

Cross-Curricular Learning in Physical Education

By Corinne Genova, Physical Education Teacher

Lots of cross-curricular learning took place last month in Physical Education classes! First grade students worked on taking turns leading each other in the warm-up exercises and stretching. They counted and skip-counted in English, Spanish and Portuguese! Their favorite exercise was the “burpee,” which is a whole body exercise that combines a push-up and squat jump, and works on strengthening muscles and increasing cardio endurance. Ask them to show you at home and try it out yourself if you’d like.

Third graders completed a unit in cooperative skills recently and we focused on inquiry-based learning. Students worked on problem-solving, teamwork and collaboration with games that included challenges to solve as a team. How can we get the parachute to stay inflated? How can we get all students across the gym/hot lava without touching the floor? On one particular day, students designed their own learning with a dance activity – the Limbo. Student-driven learning yields a high level of motivation!



SHS CTE Students Medal at SkillsUSA Fall State Leadership Conference

Somerville High School was very well-represented at the SkillsUSA Fall State Leadership Conference in late November. Eleven SHS students earned several medals at the competition held in Marlborough, MA, bringing home four gold, a silver, and a bronze. Conference participants receive intensive training focused on the SkillsUSA Frameworks elements of personal, workplace, and technical skills, and have opportunities to earn the SkillsUSA Massachusetts Leader Award. Congratulations to the following SHS students for their outstanding performance!

- **Alex Albano, Suki Huang, & Jack Donovan** - Gold Medal in Community Construction
- **Carl Benjamin** - Gold Medal in Workplace Safety
- **Kyissa Almeida** - Gold Medal in Workplace Skills
- **Manal Khouti & Jarad Gorman** - Silver Medal in Personal Skills
- **Harrison Zorrilla-Romero** - Gold Medal in Framework Video Challenge
- **Alyssa Camara, Hiba Khouti, & Rajan Raut** - Bronze Medal in Technical Skills

Colorful Artistic Studies Brighten Healey School Hallway

Fourth grade students in Mikkel DellaCamera's art class at the Healey School studied the work of English artist, designer, and illustrator Eloise Renouf. They then interpreted her work and painted their own trees using watercolors. These panels now hang in the main hallway at the Healey School for everyone to enjoy.



West Somerville Students Collage their own Brown Bears

First graders at the West Somerville Neighborhood School learned about Eric Carle's classic, printed paper collage after reading "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" They created their own Brown Bear collages in class, in the style of Mr. Carle. They painted different shades of brown then used a fork to mimic a hair-like texture. Students then cut out and assembled their collages, and added details.



What's Happening

Somerville Goes Head to Head against Medford at 2020 Tufts Classic – Sunday, January 19

The Somerville High School boys and girls basketball teams will go head-to-head against the Medford Mustangs on Sunday, January 19th, at the 4th Annual Tufts Classic. The double-header takes place at the Cousens Gymnasium on the Tufts University campus. The girls' game tips off at 12:00pm, followed by the boys' game at 1:30pm. Game winners will receive a "Tufts Classic" trophy which will stay in their possession until the next Tufts Classic, and players from all four teams will receive Tufts Classic t-shirts to commemorate their participation in the double-header. Admission to the Tufts Classic is free. Donations for Project SOUP in Somerville and Community Cupboard in Medford will be accepted. Fans are asked to bring nonperishable food items and personal household and hygiene products to support those in need in both cities. A detailed list of preferred donation items can be found on the Tufts Classic's [Facebook event page](#).

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration – Monday, January 20

The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration event will take place Monday, January 20, 2020 at the East Somerville Community School. Festivities for this free family event will begin at 10:00 a.m. The celebration will be emceed by Marcus Santos and will feature musical performances by El Sistema Somerville and the Somerville High School World Percussion Ensemble, as well as readings by student essayists. A keynote address will be given by Aba Taylor, a social justice educator, facilitator and organizer. Following the speaking program, the Beautiful Stuff Project will facilitate the creation of a community mosaic. This year the Somerville Human Rights Commission will hold a drive during the event, to benefit Project SOUP. Attendees are invited to bring toiletries such as shampoo, toilet paper and soap. The event is organized in cooperation with the City of Somerville's Health and Human Services Department, Somerville Public Schools, and the Somerville Human Rights Commission.

Highlanders to Compete at Andrew Lawon Foundation Basketball Invitational on January 25

On Saturday, January 25th, the Somerville High School Boys Basketball team will participate in the **Andrew Lawon Foundation Basketball Invitational** at TD Garden. Somerville will take on Algonquin in the Garden at 3:30pm. Tickets are \$18.00 per person and includes admission to seven other marquee high school games. Head Coach Mark Antonelli and the Highlanders invite all Somerville students, faculty, alumni, and community members to come out, wear their red and blue, and rock the Garden in support of the Highlanders. Tickets are available through the Friends of Somerville Basketball Booster organization and can be purchased with cash, checks (made out to Friends of Somerville Basketball) or via Venmo @FriendsofSomervilleBasketball. Contact Head Coach Mark Antonelli at mantonelli@k12.somerville.ma.us or 617-584-7321 for ticket information.

Somerville Partnership for Young Children (SPYC) Offers Tuition Assistance

The Somerville Partnership for Young Children (SPYC) is accepting applications for 2020-2021 Preschool Tuition Assistance for 3 and 4 year olds through January 31, 2020. Income-eligible Somerville residents with a child who will be 3 years old by August 31, 2020 can apply for tuition assistance for preschool programs at partner centers. 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. Visit <https://somervillechildren.org/tuition-assistance/> to find out if you're eligible and to apply for tuition assistance to one of the SPYC partner centers. To learn more about SPYC, explore their new website: www.somervillechildren.org. SPYC 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.

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.

- **Tuesday, January 14, 5:30-7:00pm: Argenziano School Council Meeting** (290 Washington St.)
- **Tuesday, January 14, 5:30-7:00pm: ESCS School Improvement Council Meeting** at the East Somerville Community School library (50 Cross St.)
- **Wednesday, January 15, 8:00am-2:00pm: Argenziano 6th 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: West Somerville Neighborhood School Boosterthon Fun Run** (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Friday, January 17, 8:30-9:00am: WHCIS Principal Coffee Hour** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School Conference Room (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Saturday, January 18, 8:00am-2:30pm: Brown School Debate Team Tournament** at Suffolk University

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, January 13, 7:00-9:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
- **Wednesday, January 22, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting** at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)
- **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.

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](#).

- **SFLC January Drop-in Playgroups.** Drop-in *Discover & Learn* playgroups for families with children ages birth-5 years old: Wednesdays, 9:00-10:30am: January 8, 15, 22, 29; Thursdays, 3:00-4:30pm: January 9, 16, 23, 30. Session 2 playgroup registration begins January 7 and 8 and is ongoing until all groups are full. Register online at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/playgroups or call (617) 625-6600, ext. 6990.
- **SFLC Parent/Guardian English Classes.** Parents/guardians of Somerville students can practice and strengthen their English language skills while learning about and becoming more involved with their child's education. The SFLC works in collaboration with The Welcome Project to provide classes held in the morning and evening. The spring session runs from January 28 to May 14, 2020. Registration is ongoing. Parents/guardians can register by contacting Jennifer Ochoa, the SFLC/East Somerville Community School's Family and Community Liaison at jochoa@k12.somerville.ma.us or at (617) 625-6600, ext. 3706.
- **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 or call (617) 629-5475 for more information, accommodations needed to attend, and to RSVP.
- **Course Planning Night for 8th Grade Families.** All 8th grade families are invited to Somerville High School to learn about the high school course selection process and to meet their students' future high school counselors. The event is Thursday, January 30, 6:00-7:00pm at the SHS Auditorium. Interpretation will be provided. Please visit <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/schools/somerville-high-school/welcome-somerville-high-school> for more information about the transition from grade 8 to high school timeline and for answers to some of your SHS questions.

Looking Ahead:

- **Monday, January 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** – All Schools and District Offices CLOSED
- **Monday, January 20, 11:00am-3:00pm: Brown School PTA Open Skate** event at the Veterans Memorial Rink (570 Somerville Ave.) Brown School skaters only 11:00am-noon; public skate noon-3:00pm
- **Tuesday, January 21, 6:00-7:30pm: WHCIS Governing Board Meeting** (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Wednesday, January 22: Half-Day Wednesday for PK-8** (PK dismissed at 11:30am; K-8 dismissed at noon)
- **Wednesday, January 22: Spirit Day (Equation Day)** at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Wednesday, January 22, 5:00-6:30pm: WSNS School Council Meeting** in Room 205 at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Wednesday, January 22, 6:30pm: Brown School Winter Concert** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Thursday, January 23, 2:40-3:30pm: WHCIS Grades PK-1 Beautiful Stuff Family Maker Project** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School Library (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Friday, January 24, 8:45-10:15am: WSNS Winter Music Concert** at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Friday, January 24, 1:30pm: Brown School Superintendent Awards** (201 Willow Ave.)
- **Friday, January 24, 5:30-7:00pm: ESCS Maker Night** at the East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.)

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 – 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. For more information and to order a Duhamel Star, visit www.duhamelsomerville.org/duhamel-star.html#/.

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.

Somerville Parks & Recreation. It’s not too early to start planning for February vacation. Check out the Somerville Parks and Recreation Department website (www.somervillerec.com) for information about their February Vacation Floor Hockey program, and other programs and events available this winter. How about a field trip to a fun location in and around the Boston area? A full list of classes, clinics, events, youth and adult league sports, and activities, as well as pricing for each is available at <http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/default.aspx?type=activities>.

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) 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.

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! The Harvard Museum of Natural History invites you to use 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 runs through January 31st. *Regular museum admission rates apply.* Learn more at: <https://hmn.harvard.edu/doctor-dolittle-savenger-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
- [SomerStat Analyst](#), SomerStat Dept., City of Somerville
- [Program Coordinator](#), Parks & Recreation Dept., City of Somerville
- [Director of Veterans Services](#), Health & Human Services 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
- [Middle School Track & Field Coach](#), Athletics Dept., 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."