

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – January 24, 2020

News & Notes

Medford-Malden Elks Makes Generous Donation to District 3rd Graders

The Benjamin G. Brown School hosted a special assembly on Friday, January 17. Thanks to the generosity of the Medford-Malden Elks organization, every third grade student at the Brown School received a dictionary on behalf of the more than 350 third grade students in the district. Brown School Principal Shawn Maguire hosted the gathering in the school library where several Medford-Malden Elks Lodge members distributed the reference books to students. The Elks have been a steadfast partner in supporting student literacy, having donated a dictionary to every third grade student in the district for many years. The dictionaries are intended for students to keep and use at school and at home. Other elementary schools across the district will receive their copies of the dictionaries early next week.



Capuano Students Learning All About Dinosaurs in Afterschool Program



Students in the Capuano Community Schools afterschool program have been spending time studying and learning about dinosaurs. Their exploration of these prehistoric animals has included a variety of hands-on projects. Students have studied different types of dinosaurs, what they ate, where they lived, their impact on the earth, and how we have learned about them. By reading books about dinosaurs, playing with plastic dinosaurs in the sandbox, or coloring, cutting and pasting dinosaurs, students have been having fun learning about these enormous creatures. They have also been learning about how fossils form and using shells, stones, and plastic dinosaurs to make imprints similar to real fossils.

Among the many engaging projects the students have participated in is pacing out the lengths of some of the mid-size and larger dinosaurs to understand just how enormous they were. Students are also studying how the world was different during the dinosaur era - the Earth was warmer and wetter and more of the Earth was covered by shallow seas, differences that are primarily due to increased volcanic activity.

Students' exploration of these prehistoric animals will continue with more hands-on projects, culminating in learning about some of the hypotheses regarding the extinction of the dinosaurs, with emphasis placed on the currently favored belief that a large asteroid impact disrupted life on Earth 65 million years ago.



Second Grade Students Learn about Pedestrian Safety

This week we kicked off our pedestrian safety training lessons for all second grade students across the district. The Somerville Public Schools, in partnership with Massachusetts Safe Routes to School (SRTS), Somerville Police Department and Shape Up Somerville will be visiting all 19 2nd grade classes in the upcoming weeks to talk about safe ways to walk to school, use a crosswalk and stay safe in a parking lot. These trainings will wrap up just in time for schools to celebrate Winter Walk and Roll to School Day on February 5th.

What's Happening

Somerville High School Open House – Thursday and Friday, February 6 & 7, 2020

Somerville High School invites you to get a first-hand look at the SHS teaching and learning experience by visiting the school during one of their upcoming Open House events. Guests will have an opportunity to visit classrooms, meet educators and other staff, and hear about the SHS experience from students. A morning (8:15-10:00am) and an afternoon (12:15-2:00pm) session will be offered each day on Thursday and Friday, February 6th and 7th. No advance registration is required.

Road to the Future Transition Fair – Thursday, February 6, 2020

Families of middle and high school age students with disabilities are invited to come and learn about: agencies and services that may be helpful to your college or workforce bound child; educational, employment, and independent living options and opportunities; and networking and family support possibilities. The [Road to the Future Transition Fair](#) will take place in the main cafeteria of Cambridge Rindge & Latin School (459 Broadway, Cambridge). This event is hosted by Cambridge Public Schools OSS Transition Services in collaboration with Somerville Public Schools. RSVP to Brittaney Courier, bcourier@k12.somerville.ma.us (617-625-6600 x6201) or Sandra Copman, scopman@k12.somerville.ma.us (617-625-6600 x6855).

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. To find out if you're eligible for tuition assistance for one of the partner centers and to apply, visit <https://somervillechildren.org/tuition-assistance/>. Explore www.somervillechildren.org to learn more about SPYC. Developed with the support of the Early Education and Care's CPPI grant, SPYC 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.

- **Monday, January 27, 8:30am: Winter Hill Community Innovation School PTA Student of the Month Awards** (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Monday, January 27, 9:00-9:45am: Argenziano 2nd Quarter Superintendent Awards** (290 Washington St.)

- **Tuesday, January 28, 1:30pm: East Somerville Community School Superintendent Awards** (50 Cross St.)
- **Wednesday, January 29, 4:00-6:00pm: SHS School Improvement Council Meeting** in Room 230 at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Thursday, January 30, 3:15-6:15pm: Kennedy School Parent/Teacher Conferences** (5 Cherry St.)
- **Thursday, January 30, 6:00-7:00pm: SHS Introduction to Course Selection Night for 8th Grade Students and Families**, in the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Friday, January 31, 9:15-10:30am: Argenziano School's Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration** (290 Washington St.)
- **Friday, January 31: West Somerville Neighborhood School 8th Grade Field Trip** to Frog Pond
- **Saturday, March 1: Somerville High School [Spring Sport Registration](#) opens**; Season starts March 16, 2020
- **Monday, February 3, 5:00-7:00pm: Kennedy School Parent/Teacher Conferences** (5 Cherry 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, January 27, 6:00-7:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee 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.)
- **Wednesday, January 29, 5:30-6:30pm: Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole** at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)
- **Monday, February 3, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
- **Monday, February 3, 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 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.
- **Course Planning Night for 8th Grade Families.** SPS 8th grade families are invited 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 Somerville High School Auditorium. Interpretation available. For more information about the transition to high school timeline, and for information about resources available for new SHS students, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/schools/somerville-high-school/welcome-somerville-high-school.

Looking Ahead:

- **Monday, February 3, 5:00-7:00pm: Kennedy School Parent/Teacher Conferences** (5 Cherry St.)
- **Tuesday, February 4, 3:00-5:00pm: Next Wave/Full Circle Parent/Teacher Conferences** (8 Bonair St.)
- **Tuesday, February 4, 5:30-7:00pm: Argenziano School Council Meeting** (290 Washington St.)
- **Wednesday, February 5, 5:30-8:00pm: Healey School Parent/Teacher Conferences** (5 Meacham St.)
- **Thursday, February 6, 8:15-10:00am: Somerville High School Open House** (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Thursday, February 6, 12:15-2:00pm: Somerville High School Open House** (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Thursday, February 6, 3:00-5:30pm: Somerville High School Parent/Teacher Conferences** (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Friday, February 7, 8:15-10:00am: Somerville High School Open House** (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Friday, February 7, 12:15-2:00pm: Somerville High School Open House** (81 Highland Ave.)

- **Friday, February 7, 7:00-10:00pm: SHS Thespian Inductions & Festival Performances** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Saturday, February 8: Somerville High School at MA Thespian Festival**, Acton-Boxborough Regional High School (36 Charter Rd., Acton MA)

Community News & Events

Somerville Media Center. Bored? Out of school early? Want to make cool media projects with your friends? Sign up for SMC's Media Exploration Adventures! Media Exploration Adventures are a brand new workshop series for youth in Somerville on Half Day Wednesdays. Each session includes targeted, hands-on, collaborative media production activities where youth develop their media skills in a fun, safe, supportive environment. The class also includes snack and a brief parent showcase with a light dinner from 5:30-6:00pm. Sign up for one or all of them! Program held at the Somerville Media Center (90 Union Square). Fees vary; scholarships available. Youth eligible for free or reduced lunch can attend for free. Visit www.somervillemedia.org/youth-media-2/media-exploration-workshops/?mc_cid=324a737c00&mc_eid=eb2a28602b for dates and to register. To learn more about Somerville Media Center and other great SMC programs, visit www.somervillemedia.org/.

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. 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. A full list of classes, clinics, events, youth and adult league sports, and activities, as well as cost 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.

Somerville Prevention's annual Community Game Show & Discussion event to review the results from the 2018-2019 Middle School Student Health Survey (YRBS) will take place on Thursday, January 30, 5:30p to 7:30p at Connexion. Food & refreshments will be served!

City & District Employment Opportunities

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

- [Crossing Guard](#), Police Department, City of Somerville
- [Public Space Planner](#), OSPCD – Public Space and Urban Forestry, City of Somerville
- [Heavy Motor Equipment Operators](#), DPW – Buildings and Grounds, City of Somerville
- [Program Coordinator](#), Parks & Recreation Dept., City of Somerville
- [Accounting Analyst](#), Auditing Dept., City of Somerville

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

- [Senior Clerk – Full Year](#), Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE), Somerville Public Schools
- [Boys Freshmen Baseball Coach](#), Athletics Department, Somerville Public Schools
- [Middle School Cross Country Coach](#), Athletics Department, 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."