

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – November 1, 2019

News & Notes

Healey School Literacy Night Celebrates Folktales from Around the World

More than 140 students, their families, teachers, and staff filled the Healey School Library for the second annual Literacy Night last week. This year's event, organized by the group Healey Families, focused on folktales from around the world. There were several craft stations run by eighth grade student volunteers, such as the chance to decorate a paper pumpkin or receive a temporary tattoo like the one from the folktale *Anasi the Spider*. There were also fun activities like a scavenger hunt for book characters' pictures hidden in the library, and several guest readers who took turns reading aloud from their favorite folktales. Guest readers included eighth grade students, physical education teacher Selam Woldemariam who read *Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein, and Principal Cobbs who read *Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion* by Alex T. Smith.

The literacy event was also the start of a Healey community mandala project. With help from Emily Bhargava of the Beautiful Stuff Project, the first of several planned mandalas was begun with students and families gluing paper collage pieces onto a circular frame. By the end of the school year, the hope is that several different mandalas made by members of the Healey community will hang together in the school's main entryway alongside the woven mandala made by Healey students a decade ago. When asked about her favorite part of the evening, librarian Emily Rocha said it was "seeing so many students and families at school enjoying time together around great books. I also love how eighth grade students successfully run the entire event from welcoming families at the front door, to helping with crafts, to reading aloud to students."

As students and their families headed home for the evening, each of the children who attended the event received a book donated by Candlewick Press. Principal Cobbs said, "Having each child leave with a copy of *Pattan's Pumpkin: A Traditional Flood Story from Southern India* by Chitra Soundar and Frane Lessac, affords our children a common text that they can continue to share with their families." Students were also pleased to receive delicious pumpkin-themed sugar cookies that were baked and donated by Somerville High School students in the CTE's Culinary Arts program. Principal Cobbs was thrilled to be a part of her first Healey Literacy Night. As she explained, "As educators, we strive to teach children the importance of reading and the impact a shared reading experience can have on themselves and those around them. Events like Literacy Night allow our students to share oral tradition, art, and community expression."



State-of-the-Art Virtual Welding Simulators Expand Access to CTE Program



Earlier this week, teacher Clay Cochran was busy assembling the new welding simulators for the Somerville High School Metal Fabrication/Welding program. The 10 Lincoln VRTEX Welding Simulators were purchased through a Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant award. The virtual welders provide more equitable access to the metal fabrication/welding programming. Students can safely learn and practice welding skills in any space and at any skill level using this new equipment. Visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/cte to learn more about the Career and Technical Education programs offered at SHS. Read about the grant that made this state-of-the-art equipment possible: www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-awards-12-million-in-skills-capital-grants.

SFLC Celebrates Family Literacy with StoryWalk™

The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative invites you to enjoy a StoryWalk™ in Somerville, November 1st-30th at parks across the city. Gather the family for a stroll and enjoy a good children's story at the following parks all month:

- Nuestro Autobus @ Foss Park Playground (intersection of Broadway and McGrath Hwy.)
- My Mother's Sari @ Capuano Early Childhood Center (150 Glen St.)
- Feast for 10 @ the SFLC Center, Cummings School Building (42 Prescott St.)
- This is the Way We Go to School @ the Capuano Early Childhood Center (150 Glen St.)
- Wild about Books @ Lincoln Park (Perry St.)
- Whoever You Are @ Hodgkins-Curtin Park (Holland St.)

Dressed in Favorite Book Character Costumes, ESCS Students Parade to Capuano

They picked their favorite book characters, prepared their costumes all week, and practiced their songs for a month. So last Friday afternoon, the East Somerville Community School's Kindergarten through 4th grade students were ready and excited for their annual character parade. This year their destination was the Capuano Early Childhood Center.

Some students dressed alike, so there were classrooms of elephants and pigs from Mo Willems' Elephant and Piggie series, crayons from Drew Daywalt's *The Day the Crayons Quit*, and a flock of penguins from Helen Lester's Tacky the Penguin books. There were also several princesses, action heroes, and Harry Potters, and even a miniature third grader dressed as Burt Dow from *Burt Dow, Deep-Water Man* by Robert McCloskey.

Once they arrived at the Capuano gym, each ESCS grade sang a song to the younger students that they had rehearsed with music teachers Adam Epstein and Kendall Driscoll's guidance. Favorite tunes included "Harvest Time Is Coming," a tune adapted from a Hungarian canon set to seasonal lyrics; "Paw Paw Patch," "Old Brass Wagons," and Epstein's own creation, "Pumpkin Vine." The parade then returned the few blocks back to ESCS in time for dismissal.



What's Happening

Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 3rd

Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour on Sunday morning. Daylight savings time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 3rd.

School PTA Election Day Fundraisers, November 5th

School Parent-Teacher Associations in the district will be holding Election Day fundraisers to support student programming. Healey PTA will hold a bake sale from 7:00-10:00am and from 4:00-7:00pm at the Mystic Learning Center. Argenziano, Brown School, Capuano, East Somerville Community School, Kennedy, and Winter Hill Community Innovation School PTAs will also be holding bake sales at their respective schools during election day. Support your local PTA on November 5th and help raise funds to support a variety of school enrichment programs.

Math Information Workshops for SPS Parents/Guardians (K-5)

Somerville Public Schools parents/guardians of students in grades K-5 are invited to attend an upcoming Math Information Workshop to learn how math is taught in grades K-5 and strategies parents can use to help support their child's success. Presented by Somerville Public Schools' Math Coaches and Uri Harel, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator. Open to all SPS K-5 parents and guardians. Join us at either of the following sessions:

- Wednesday, November 6th, 8:30-10:00am @ the Healey School (5 Meacham St.)
- Wednesday, November 13, 6:00-7:30pm @ the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Somerville Health and Human Services Offers Free Flu Vaccines

With cold and flu season upon us, it's time for the annual flu vaccine clinics offered by the City of Somerville Health and Human Services. All clinics offer free flu vaccines for Somerville residents ages 3 and older (children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian). Due to limited availability, vaccines will be offered during official flu clinic hours only. Clinics will be held at various times and locations in the community until the City's supply of vaccines is exhausted. While there is no charge for vaccinations, attendees are asked to bring an insurance card if available, including Medicaid cards. Upcoming Flu Clinics include:

- Sunday, November 3: St. Anthony's Church (12 Properzi Way), 10:00am-2:00pm
- Tuesday, November 5: East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.), 7:00am-9:00am and 3:00pm-6:00pm
- Thursday, November 7: City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.), 10:00am-12:00pm and 3:00pm-6:00pm
- Thursday, November 21: Council on Aging / project Soup (165 Broadway), 4:30pm-6:30pm
- Thursday, December 5: Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), 5:00pm-7:00pm

School Committee Fall Office Hours Wrap Up This Weekend

The Somerville School Committee invites you to share your thoughts about Somerville Public Schools with your elected officials during fall office hours, which wrap up Sunday, November 3rd. Remaining fall office hours include:

- Saturday, November 2, 9:00-11:00am: Andre Green with Representative Christine Barber at Winter Hill Brewing Company (328 Broadway)
- Saturday, November 2, 1:00-3:00pm: Paula O'Sullivan and Carrie Normand at Diesel Café (257 Elm St.)
- Sunday, November 3, 10:00-11:30am: Laura Pitone with Ward 5 City Councilor Mark Niedergang at the Armory Café, 191 Highland Ave.

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, November 5: No School for Students** – Election Day
- **Tuesday, November 5, 8:00am-12:00pm: Professional Development** at all SPS schools
- **Tuesday, November 5, 12:30-2:30pm: Parent-Teacher Conferences** at all SPS schools
- **Tuesday, November 5, 3:00-5:30pm: Somerville High School Parent-Teacher Conferences** (81 Highland Ave.)

- **Wednesday, November 6, 8:30-10:00am: Math Information Workshop** for SPS parents/guardians of students in grades K-5, at the Healey School (5 Meacham St.)
- **Wednesday, November 6, 5:00-7:30pm: Winter Hill Community Innovation School Parent-Teacher Conferences** (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Thursday, November 7: East Somerville Community School Picture Day** (50 Cross St.)
- **Thursday, November 7, 5:00-7:30pm: Capuano Parent-Teacher Conferences** (150 Glen St.)
- **Thursday, November 7, 5:30-8:00pm: Next Wave/Full Circle Parent-Teacher Conferences** (8 Bonair St.)
- **Thursday, November 7, 7:00-8:30pm: SHS Introduction to College Basics** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

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, November 4, 6:00-7:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting** at Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)
- **Monday, November 4, 7:00-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)
- **Wednesday, November 13, 7:00-8:00pm: School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning** at Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)
- **Monday, November 18, 6:00-7:00pm: Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting** at City Hall, 3rd floor Conference Room (93 Highland Ave.)
- **Monday, November 18, 7:00-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the City Hall Chambers (93 Highland Ave.)
- **Wednesday, November 20, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting** at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

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 Playgroups – Session 1, October 7-December 13, 2019.** Somerville parents and caregivers with infants, toddlers and preschool children meet and play in age and language-based groups that gather weekly at the SFLC Center (42 Prescott St.) and the Capuano (150 Glen St.). Drop-in groups are available.
- **Math Information Workshops for K-5 Parents/Guardians.** Parents and guardians of SPS students in grades K-5 are invited to learn about how math is taught in grades K-5 and strategies you can use to help support your child's success. Workshops are open to K-5 parents throughout the district and will be presented by SPS' Math Coaches and Uri Harel, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator. Attend the session that best fits your schedule:
 - Wed., Nov. 6, 8:30-10:00am at the Healey School (5 Meacham St.)
 - Wed., Nov. 13, 6:00-7:30pm at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **PreK and Kindergarten Registration Information Sessions.** Prospective pre-K and Kindergarten families are invited to learn about registration for the 2020-2021 school year. Sessions will include information about: (1) Open House events in the Somerville Public Schools; (2) required documents and the process to register for PreK and K in the district; (3) notification dates for school or program assignments; and (4) afterschool programs and the afterschool enrollment process. The following two information sessions will be offered:
 - Tuesday, November 12, 5:30-6:30pm at the Capuano Early Childhood Center (150 Glen St.)
 - Wednesday, November 13, 9:00-10:00am at the Capuano Early Childhood Center (150 Glen St.)
- **SFLC Playgroup Family Talk Story Time.** Celebrate Family Literacy Month at the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) drop-in Playgroup with a special story time featuring children's author Ellen Mayer on Wednesdays, November 13th and 20th, 10:00-10:30am each day at the SFLC Center (42 Prescott St.). Join the

SFLC Family Talk Campaign – learn how to make reading fun and ways that you can engage your child in conversations about books.

- **Serve and Inspire Volunteer Orientation.** New to volunteering with the Somerville Public Schools? Join us for a volunteer orientation on Thursday, November 14, 6:00-8:00pm at the Cummings Building, Room 13 (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.
- **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, November 11: Veteran's Day** – All Schools and District Offices CLOSED
- **Tuesday, November 12, 3:00-5:00pm: SHS Winter Sports Medical Screening & Clearance** – Boys' Basketball @ 3:00pm; Ice Hockey @ 4:00pm (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Tuesday, November 12, 5:30-7:00pm: ESCS School Council Meeting** at the East Somerville Community School Library (50 Cross St.)
- **Tuesday, November 12, 5:30-7:00pm: Argenziano School Council Meeting** at the Argenziano School (290 Washington St.)
- **Tuesday, November 12, 6:00-7:30pm: WHCIS Governing Board Meeting** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore)
- **Wednesday, November 13, 1:30pm: ESCS Superintendent Awards** at the East Somerville Community School Auditorium (50 Cross St.)
- **Wednesday, November 13, 2:45-5:15pm: Healey School Parent-Teacher Conferences** (5 Meacham St.)
- **Wednesday, November 13, 3:00-5:00pm: SHS Winter Sports Medical Screening & Clearance** – Boys' Track & Field @ 3:00pm; Girls' Track & Field @ 4:00pm (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Wednesday, November 13, 5:00-6:30pm: WSNS School Council Meeting** at the West Somerville Neighborhood School, Room 205 (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Wednesday, November 13, 6:00pm: ESCS PTA Board Meeting** at the East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.)
- **Thursday, November 14, 3:00-6:00pm: SHS Winter Sports Medical Screening & Clearance** – Swimming @ 3:00pm; Girls' Basketball @ 4:00; Cheer @ 5:00pm (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Thursday, November 14, 3:15-6:15pm: Kennedy School Parent-Teacher Conferences** (5 Cherry St.)
- **Thursday, November 14, 5:00-7:30pm: Argenziano School Parent-Teacher Conferences** (290 Washington St.)
- **Thursday, November 14, 6:00-8:00pm: Serve and Inspire Volunteer Orientation** at the Cummings Building, Room 13 (42 Prescott St.)

Community News & Events

Puppet Palooza. The Somerville Arts Council (www.somervilleartscouncil.org) invites you to take one last adventure with Puppet Palooza 2019: Tales from Around the World! Stories have always been a connective thread that brings cultures together. For this series, featured performers bring those stories to life. Audiences are whisked away on journeys to far-away lands featuring global tales from Africa, Persia, Indonesia, and more. Puppet Palooza 2019 is a series for free puppet performances in East Somerville, showcasing local, national, and international performing companies. Great for kids and adults and 100% free. The following events will take place at Connexion (149 Broadway in East Somerville).

- Friday, Nov. 1, 6:30pm – Jim Napolitano of Nappy's Puppets presents "Shadows Around the World"
- Thursday, Nov. 7, 6:30pm – The Brothers Čampur presents "An Evening of Indonesian Shadow Puppet Theater"
- Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6:30pm – Maggie Whalen of Magpie Puppets presents "Leopard Learns a Lesson"
- Wednesday, Nov. 20, 6:30pm – Tanglewood Marionettes presents "An Arabian Adventure"

Somerville Community Growing Center Benefit Event at Flatbread Pizza. The Somerville Community Growing Center invites you to a benefit fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza in Davis Square (45 Day Street in Somerville). A portion of all pizza sales on Tuesday, November 19 between 5:00 and 9:00pm will be donated to the Somerville Community Growing Center. Eat in or take it to go! Learn more about this and other upcoming Community Growing Center events at www.thegrowingcenter.org.

Somerville Parks & Recreation. Whether you're interested in figure skating lessons, learning about the movements and music of Capoeira Angola (an Afro Brazilian martial art disguised as a dance), a fitness or sports program or clinic, or finding out about swim programs and times, Somerville Parks & Recreation has you covered. Register and learn more about the many Somerville Parks & Recreation programs at: www.somerville.com.

City & District Employment Opportunities

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

- [LGBTQ Liaison](#), Health and Human Services Dept., City of Somerville
- [Director of Finance and Administration for DPW](#), Dept. of Public Works, City of Somerville
- [Special Heavy Motor Equipment Operators](#), Water and Sewer Dept., City of Somerville
- [Traffic Engineer](#), Engineering Dept., City of Somerville

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

- [Special Education ECIP Autism Paraprofessional](#), Capuano Early Childhood Center, Somerville Public Schools
- [Academic Tutors-Afterschool Tutorial Program](#), District K-8 Schools, Somerville Public Schools
- [Full-time Lead Teacher](#), Community Schools Afterschool Program – Capuano Early Childhood Center, SPS
- [Part-time Evening ELL and Education and Career Advisor](#), Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE), 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."