

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – November 8, 2019

## News & Notes

### The Brothers Ćampur Perform Indonesian Shadow-Puppetry, Offer Master Class

Somerville Arts Council grant recipient Ian Coss, puppeteer Putu Rekeyasa, and arts scholar Panji Wilimantara, three of the four artists who perform together as **The Brothers Ćampur**, visited Somerville High School on Monday, November 4th. The trio gave a short performance for SHS music and arts students who have been studying the multidisciplinary art form *wayang kulit*. *Wayang kulit* is a traditional form of shadow-puppetry from Bali, Indonesia, where all members of The Brothers Ćampur met and learned their craft.

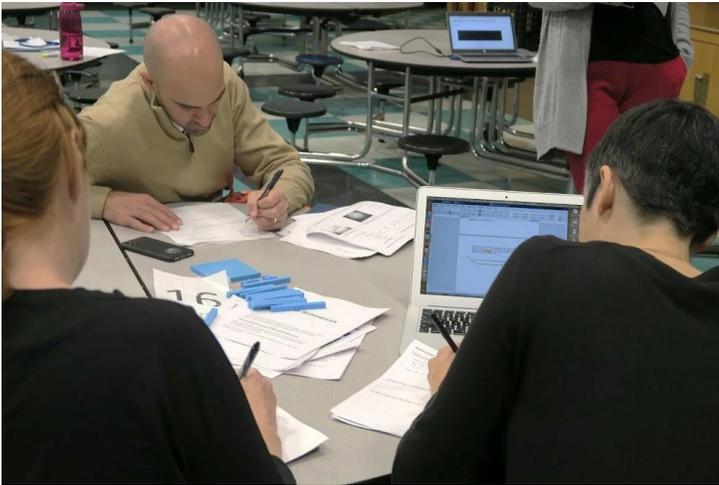


Panji Wilimantara talked with students in theater teacher Charles Jabour's "Introduction to Theater" course after the performance in the auditorium. They discussed character development, narrative arc, and the art and music history of *wayang kulit*. As Jabour explains, "We spent some time discussing the physical choices that are made during a performance to highlight the specific characteristics of each puppet, such as voice, gesture, and tempo."

While the theater class discussed craft, art teacher Jessica Howard's "Portfolio" course students met with Ian Coss and Putu Rekeyasa in their studio space. The men explained the detailed process of creating their puppets out of rawhide, and how about 20 different chisels are used to create the various openings in each puppet that the light passes through. Students then had the opportunity to workshop their own puppets with the professionals who provided feedback on how the puppets could move or be built in different ways to more effectively tell their story. For more information about The Brothers Ćampur's further performances and Somerville Arts Council's PuppetPalooza 2019, please visit <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/puppet/2019>.



## Math Information Workshop for Parents/Guardians Supports Student Success



Math coaches Matt Burch, Andrea Palmer, and Katie Starbuck, along with Uri Harel, the district's K-8 Curriculum Coordinator, presented the first of two Math Information Workshops for parents and guardians of students in elementary grades. The workshop was held at the Healey School on Wednesday morning, November 6. In the workshop, parents and guardians were, among other activities, encouraged to use base ten manipulatives and other visual models to better understand how math is taught in Somerville Public Schools' kindergarten through grade 5 classrooms, and how math learning at school can be encouraged and enhanced at home.

The math coaches emphasized the importance of helping students to understand the larger math concepts behind what they learn at each grade level, and how to build on those concepts to improve math fluency and accuracy. Parents and guardians were also encouraged to see how different students learn differently, and were walked through several strategies for getting to the same answer. Tips and resources for how to put math into daily interactions with kids were also discussed, such as when cooking or baking, telling time, or calculating a grocery bill.

One of the most important suggestions, Ms. Starbuck reminded parents, is that all the adults keep a positive attitude toward math and develop a growth mindset, where "I just can't do Math" becomes "I'm going to train my brain in Math." The next Math Information Workshop for Parents and Guardians will be at the West Somerville Neighborhood School on Wednesday, November 13, 6:00-7:30 pm, and is open to all parents/guardians of SPS students in grades K-5. For more information about the mathematics curriculum in Somerville Public Schools, please visit <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/central-administration/curriculum-instruction-and-assessment/math-somerville>.

## Capuano Afterschool Students Enjoy Building, Creating, Learning, and Making

The maker mentality has been the name of the game at the Capuano afterschool program the last several weeks, with students participating in a variety of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) activities to keep their minds active and their creative juices flowing. Some of the recent activities have included making paper robots using construction paper and various other materials, and making structures using playdough, marshmallows, and toothpicks. Students learned how to measure both wet and dry materials using measuring cups, and tapped into their creative and engineering skills as they worked on constructing different structures. As the weather gets colder, students are also learning about seasonal changes, learning about animals that hibernate and migrate, and enjoying reading seasonal and other stories.



# What's Happening

## Math Information Workshop for SPS Parents/Guardians (K-5) – November 13

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 the following session:

- Wednesday, November 13, 6:00-7:30pm @ the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)

## Somerville SEPAC Hosts Presentation on the 14-year Transition Training – November 18

The Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) invites you to a presentation by Mass Advocates for Children on the 14-year Transition Training. The presentation takes place Monday, November 18, 6:00-8:00pm at the West Somerville Neighborhood School cafeteria (177 Powder House Blvd.), and will address the transition planning and services required for youth with disabilities ages 14-22. The training will focus on both the transition special education services that prepare youth for employment, independent living and further education and discuss mechanisms to plan for services students may require when they exit special education as well as transition to the adult human service system. Using case examples, parents and professionals will learn strategies that may help students receive important transition services mandated by special education laws. Parents and professionals will also gain an understanding on Chapter 688, the federal law that helps plan for youth with disabilities after they leave school.

## PreK and Kindergarten Registration Information Nights – November 12 & 13

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.)

## Tickets for "In the Heights" Highlander Theatre Company Musical Production on Sale Now

The Highlander Theatre Company kicks off its 2019-2020 season with its biggest production of the year, *IN THE HEIGHTS*. "In the Heights" is a universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood – a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It is a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams and pressures, where the biggest struggles can be deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind. *IN THE HEIGHTS* is the winner of the 2008 Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score, Best Choreography and Best Orchestrations, and is presented through special arrangement with R & H Theatricals: [www.rnh.com](http://www.rnh.com). Tickets are on sale now for four upcoming performances. You can read all about this upcoming production in this recent article: <https://somerville.wickedlocal.com/news/20191108/somerville-students-sing-about-gentrification-and-immigration-in-heights>.

- Thursday, Nov. 21 @ 7PM
- Friday, Nov. 22 @ 7PM
- Saturday, Nov. 23 @ 2PM and 7PM

Purchase tickets for any of the upcoming productions of *IN THE HEIGHTS* online and learn more about the 2019-2020 Highlander Theatre season at: [www.highlandertheatre.org](http://www.highlandertheatre.org).

## Next Wave/Full Circle Holiday Wreath Fundraiser

With the winter season at our doorstep, it's that time of the year again! Next Wave/Full Circle is holding its annual Holiday Wreath fundraiser. The purchase of a beautiful 14" balsam wreath with a red velvet bow for \$18.00 apiece will not only brighten up your décor, but will also help fund student activities, field trips, and incentives for the school's

reward system. Wreaths will be delivered to schools the first week in December. To place an order, contact Agnes Gallant at [agallant@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:agallant@k12.somerville.ma.us).

## 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, 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.)

## 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, November 13, 7:00-8:00pm: School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning** at Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)
- **Monday, November 18, 6:00-7:00pm: Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting** at City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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., 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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](#).

- **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.

- **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 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 18: Make-up Picture Day** at the Healey School (5 Meacham St.)
- **Monday, November 18, 6:30-8:00pm: Brown Schoolyard Design Meeting** at the Brown School (201 Willow Ave.)
- **Monday-Wednesday, November 18-20: WSNS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Nature’s Classroom Trip**
- **Wednesday, November 20, 6:00-8:00pm: SHS School Improvement Council Meeting** at Somerville High School, Room 230 (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Thursday, November 21, 5:00-7:30pm: East Somerville Community School Parent-Teacher Conferences** (50 Cross St.)
- **Thursday, November 21, 5:00-7:30pm: West Somerville Neighborhood School Parent-Teacher Conferences** (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Thursday, November 21, 7:00-10:00pm: Highlander Theatre Company Musical Production of “In the Heights”** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Friday, November 22, 6:00-8:00pm: WSNS PTA-Sponsored Movie Night** at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Friday, November 22, 7:00-10:00pm: Highlander Theatre Company Musical Production of “In the Heights”** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Saturday, November 23, 2:00-5:00pm: Highlander Theatre Company Musical Production of “In the Heights”** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Saturday, November 23, 7:00-10:00pm: Highlander Theatre Company Musical Production of “In the Heights”** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

## Community News & Events

**Puppet Palooza.** The Somerville Arts Council ([www.somervilleartscouncil.org](http://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. 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).

- 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”

**Boston International Kids Film Festival.** The Boston International Kids Film Festival (BIKFF) invites you to enjoy a series of short films, screenings, and workshops in Somerville this month. Highlights include:

- Saturday, Nov. 16, 10:00am – short films for ages 10 and under at the Somerville Theatre
- Saturday, Nov. 15, 3:30pm – short films for middle schoolers at the Somerville Theatre
- Sunday, Nov. 17, 10:00am – FREE screenings of animated films for ages 10 and under at Lesley University College of Art and Design in Cambridge

- Sunday, Nov. 17, noon – FREE workshops in storyboarding where children can learn how to draw pictures that will ultimately tell a story that becomes a film
- Sunday, Nov. 17, 1:30pm – The Somerville Theatre we will be showing [MICROPLASTIC MADNESS](#), an inspiring documentary on the local and global plastic pollution public health crisis as told through the point of view of 5th graders from Brooklyn, NY. Students from the film will be at the theatre to speak after the screening.

Visit [www.bikff.org](http://www.bikff.org) to learn more about these and other events.

**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](http://www.thegrowingcenter.org).

**Somerville Health and Human Services Flu Vaccines.** With cold and flu season upon us, the City of Somerville Health and Human Services is offering free flu vaccines for Somerville residents ages 3 and older (children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian). While there is no charge for vaccinations, attendees are asked to bring an insurance card if available, including Medicaid cards. Upcoming Flu Clinics include:

- 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

**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.somervillerec.com](http://www.somervillerec.com).

**Debate Spaces**, a local non-profit that teaches students public speaking and debate skills while helping them build their leadership potential, will be running a debate academy again for middle schoolers (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders) on Saturday, November 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Suffolk University. Some SPS students attended their last academy in October. Attend and you'll find out what debate is all about through fun and interactive activities. The Academy is taught by the former #1 debater in the U.S. Pizza is included. Students will have fun and get to know kids from all over the Boston area. To enroll, sign up at <https://www.debatespaces.org>. The Academy is \$20/day, though scholarships are available. Have questions? Email: [debatespacesboston@gmail.com](mailto:debatespacesboston@gmail.com)

## City & District Employment Opportunities

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

- [Planner](#), Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD), City of Somerville
- [Director of Veterans Services](#), Health and Human Services Department, City of Somerville
- [DPW Director of Operations](#), Department of Public Works, 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.

- [Special Education ECIP Autism Paraprofessional](#), Capuano Early Childhood Center, Somerville Public Schools
- [Special Education Lead Teacher](#), Community Schools Afterschool Program, West Somerville Neighborhood School, Somerville Public Schools
- [Middle School Athletic Trainer](#), Athletics Dept., Somerville Public Schools
- [Temporary ELL Specialist Teacher](#), Healey 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."