

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – October 18, 2019

News & Notes

Coach Antonelli Earns Basketball D-II Coach of the Year Honors, SHS Varsity Golf Team Qualifies for D-II State Championship



Somerville High School Boys Basketball Coach Mark Antonelli was honored earlier this month during the [Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Association \(MBCA\)](#) Hall of Fame banquet, earning North Division II Coach of the Year honors for the 2018-2019 season. The SHS Boys Basketball team was the Northeastern Conference South Division Champions and advanced to the Division II North Semi-finals. They ended the 2018-2019 season with a 15-5 record.

Also earlier this month, the 2019 SHS Golf team clinched first place in the Greater Boston League with a win over Malden High. The team went on to win the GBL Golf Championship a week later. Varsity golfer Aidan O'Donovan took Greater Boston League

MVP honors. The team qualified for the MA Division II State Championship for the first time in school history and will vie for the state title on October 21st at Far Corners in Boxford, MA.

SHS Graduate Volunteers for Over a Decade in CTE Automotive Technology Program

A proud 2010 graduate of Somerville High School's Center for Career and Technical Education (CTE), Tony Dasilva has been volunteering for over a decade with CTE's Automotive shop. Tony organizes and stocks supplies, helps with engine assembly and repair, cleans equipment and spaces, and hangs with staff and students. Tony's smile and energy fill the room when he talks about his work with Automotive staff and helping out. Tony's mom Joan says "We tried another program (outside of SPS) but Tony didn't feel comfortable there. He knows and trusts staff here, and they truly make him one of the family."

Since 2010 CTE Automotive instructor Bob Puopolo has been Tony's primary connection to his volunteer work. Their special bond is evident as they share stories, inside jokes and bring up hilarious things they've done in the shop over the years and during field trips. "It's been great having Tony here," Bob shares. "He's always positive and livens us all up. When Tony started volunteering, I never thought we'd be working with Tony ten years later. He's a great guy. It's good for staff and students, and it's just what we do here."



Learn more about volunteering opportunities at Somerville Public Schools: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/volunteer.

Learn more about the Automotive Technology program at Somerville High School at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/automotive.

New Orleans Band Jams with SHS Music Students and Staff during Honk! Festival



The Young Fellaz Brass Band began their music making as part of the 14th annual Honk! Festival weekend with a rousing jazz set in the Somerville High School Auditorium on Friday afternoon, October 11. After their set, the Young Fellaz invited SHS students, teachers, and staff musicians to join them onstage for a jam session including songs such as “When the Saints Go Marching In.” Young Fellaz Brass Band members also visited with SHS band, jazz ensemble, and orchestra students for a master class.

This musical exchange is an essential part of students’ music education, as SHS Music Director Rick Saunders explains, “Our collaboration with the Young Fellaz gave our student musicians an authentic experience in listening to a culturally relevant performance and spending time

meeting and asking questions of musicians from New Orleans. The Young Fellaz were ambassadors of a century-old tradition of New Orleans jazz, and brought an authenticity that inspires students to examine our traditions of jazz and street band music.”

The SHS students’ and teachers’ chance to play with a mix of professional and amateur musicians continued all day Saturday and into Sunday as the Honk! Festival, a celebration of activist street bands from not only New Orleans but as far away as Brazil and Germany continued in several venues across Somerville. The Young Fellaz, SHS Band and Drumline, and the SHS World Percussion Ensemble participated in the Honk! Parade from Davis to Harvard squares on Sunday. As Saunders elaborates, the entire weekend “gives our students an opportunity to experience the joy of collective music making and the sense of community and celebration that the Honk! Parade embraces.” For more information about Somerville High School’s Music Program, please visit <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/music-theatre-arts>.

Middle Grades Writers Get a Write-up



Fifteen student writers from around Somerville meet weekly to share their personal writing projects and start new ones. Boston University Graduate Student, Sammie Purcell, turned the tables and wrote a piece about them recently. Read this well-researched and inspiring article about the students and the volunteers who make this free writing program happen.

<https://bunewsservice.com/local-writer-fosters-community-and-confidence-through-creative-writing-in-somerville/>.

Writers' Den meets every Wednesday evening, 6:00-8:00pm at the Healey School and is open to all students in grade 4-8 in Somerville.

Photo credit: BU Student Samantha Purcell.

What's Happening

Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meet & Greet – Tuesday, Oct. 22

The Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) will host a Meet & Greet event on Tuesday, October 22, 7:00-9:00pm at The Neighborhood Restaurant, 25 Bow Street, in Somerville. All parents and guardians are welcome.

Duhamel Education Initiative Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – Saturday, Oct. 26

The Duhamel Education Initiative (DEI) invites you to its annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser to support the good work of Somerville's teachers. The event takes place Saturday, October 26, starting at 6:00pm at the First Church Somerville, UCC 89 College Ave. in Somerville. Tickets are \$12-adult, \$9-senior, \$6-child, or \$30-family. Enjoy a fantastic spaghetti dinner and support Somerville youth!

Somerville Health and Human Services Offers Free Flu Vaccines

With cold and flu season quickly approaching, it's time for the annual flu vaccine clinics offered by the City of Somerville Health and Human Services (HHS). 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:

- Tuesday, October 22: Somerville Public Library – Central (79 Highland Ave.), 12:00pm-2:00pm
- Thursday, October 24: City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.), 4:00-7:00pm
- Thursday, October 31: Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), 10:00am-12:00pm
- 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 Hosts Fall Office Hours – October 22 to November 3

The Somerville School Committee invites you to share your thoughts about Somerville Public Schools with your elected officials during any of the office hours hosted throughout the city from October 22nd through November 3rd. Join the one that best fits your schedule.

- Tuesday, October 22, 8:15-9:15am: Laura Pitone with Ward 5 City Councilor Mark Niedergang at the Kennedy School Coffee Hour (5 Cherry St.)
- Thursday, October 24, 5:30-7:00pm: Carrie Normand at Angelina's Pizzeria (230 Holland St.)
- Friday, October 25, 9:00-11:00am: Emily Ackman with Representative Mike Connolly, Senator Pat Jehlen and Ward 1 City Councilor Matt McLaughlin at the Cross Street Senior Center (165 Broadway)
- Saturday, October 26, 12:30-2:00pm: Lee Erica Palmer (Spanish bilingual) with Senator Pat Jehlen and Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen at Forge Bakery (626 Somerville Ave.)
- Saturday, October 26, 3:30-5:00pm: Carrie Normand with Representative Christine Barber and Ward 7 City Councilor Katjana Ballantyne at Angelina's Pizzeria (230 Holland St.)
- Tuesday, October 29, 5:30-6:30pm: Ilana Krepchin and Carrie Normand at Bloc 11 Café (11 Bow St.)
- Friday, November 1, 8:00-10:00am: Ilana Krepchin with Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott at the home of J.T. Scott (269 Washington St.)
- 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.

- **Monday, October 21, 3:00-4:00pm: Kennedy School Improvement Council Meeting** (5 Cherry St.)
- **Monday, October 21, 3:00-5:30pm: 2nd Annual Women in STEM Summit** at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Tuesday, October 22: Winter Hill Community Innovation School Picture Day** (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Tuesday, October 22, 7:30-8:10am: East Somerville Community School PTA T-shirt & water bottle sales** (50 Cross St.)
- **Tuesday, October 22, 8:15-8:45am: ESCS Principal Roundtable** at the East Somerville Community School Cafeteria (50 Cross St.)
- **Tuesday, October 22, 8:30am: Kennedy Coffee Hour** (5 Cherry St.)
- **Tuesday, October 22, 9:00-11:00am: Healey Ms. Brown's Class Field Trip** to Somerville Public Library (79 Highland Ave.)
- **Tuesday, October 22, 7:00-9:00pm: Somerville SEPAC Meet & Greet** at The Neighborhood Restaurant (25 Bow St., Somerville)
- **Wednesday, October 23: WSNS PTA-Sponsored Author Visit**, all grades (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Wednesday, October 23, 5:00-6:30pm: WSNS Council Meeting** at the West Somerville Neighborhood School, Room 205 (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Wednesday, October 23, 5:30-7:00pm: Healey Literacy Night** at the Healey School Library (5 Meacham St.)
- **Thursday, October 24, 7:00-8:00am: SHS College Coffee Talk: Paying for College, Morning Session** at the College/Career Office, SHS Room 220 (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Thursday, October 24, 3:00-4:00pm: SHS College Coffee Talk: Paying for College, Afternoon Session** at the College/Career Office, SHS Room 220 (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Friday, October 25: West Somerville Neighborhood School Picture Day** (177 Powder House Blvd.)
- **Friday, October 25: ESCS Harvest Parade** starting at East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.)
- **Friday, October 25: Argenziano 3rd Grade Field Trip** to Plimoth Plantation
- **Friday, October 25, 8:30-9:30am: Argenziano Character Day Parade, K-2** at Argenziano School Yard (290 Washington St.)
- **Friday, October 25, 10:00am-12:00pm: Argenziano 2nd Grade Eversource Wattsville Game Show** (290 Washington St.)
- **Friday, October 25, 5:30-6:30pm: Argenziano PTA-sponsored Fall Ball, K-4** at the Argenziano School Cafeteria (177 Powder House Blvd.); students must be accompanied by an adult
- **Friday, October 25, 6:00-8:00pm: East Somerville Community School Fall Family Dance** (50 Cross St.)
- **Friday, October 25, 6:00-8:00pm: West Somerville Neighborhood October Family Fun Dance** (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.

- **Monday, October 21, 6:00-7:00pm: Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting** at the 3rd Floor Conference Room, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
- **Monday, October 21, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers – City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
- **Monday, October 21, 7:00-8:30pm: 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](#).

- **NEW! Register now for SFLC Playgroups at the Capuano Early Childhood Center** starting in October! To register, call (617) 625-6600, x6990, or register online at: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/playgroups.
- **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.
- **Tuesday, October 22, 7:00-9:00pm: Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC).** Join the Somerville SEPAC for a meet and greet. The Somerville SEPAC exists to support families, to advise the school district, to support a network of parents of children who have special needs, and to provide a forum to share information. Find out more by contacting the Special Education office at (617) 625-6600, x6851 or email somervilleparentstogether@gmail.com. The Neighborhood Restaurant (25 Bow St., Somerville)

Looking Ahead:

- **Wednesday, October 30, 6:00-8:00pm: SHS School Improvement Council Meeting** at Somerville High School, Room 230 (81 Highland Ave.)
- **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, 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.)

Community News & Events

October SomerStreets Festival. Join the City of Somerville & Somerville Arts Council for Monster Mashed-Up, the October (and final) installment of the City's SomerStreets festival, on Sunday, October 20th (rain date Oct. 27). The festival takes place from 2:00-6:00pm on Somerville Avenue from Union Square to Park Street. This event is FREE and open to the public! For more information, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/678500989314419>.

Somerville Parks & Recreation Free Boys Basketball Clinics. For students in grades 4-9. Clinics are held Wednesday evenings at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore), and are conducted by Somerville High School Boys Basketball staff and Somerville Tradition Basketball staff. Upcoming clinic dates are:

- Wednesday, 10/23: Grades 4-6 from 6:00-7:30pm; Grades 7-9 from 7:30-9:00pm
- Wednesday, 10/30: Grades 4-6 from 6:00-7:30pm; Grades 7-9 from 7:30-9:00pm

Learn more about the many Somerville Parks & Recreation programs at: 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 for middle grades students (grades 6-8) on Saturday, October 19th and November 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Suffolk University. 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 or need a ride or able to give a ride? Email: debatespacesboston@gmail.com

Somerville Youth Hockey. The **SYHA Learn to Skate / Learn to Play Hockey Clinic** begins October 19th, with rolling registration throughout the Fall / Winter. Details and registration at www.somervillyouthhockey.org.

Duhamel Education Initiative Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. The Duhamel Education Initiative (DEI) invites you to its annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser to support the good work of Somerville's teachers. The event takes place Saturday, October 26, starting at 6:00pm at the First Church Somerville, UCC 89 College Ave. in Somerville. Tickets are \$12-adult, \$9-senior, \$6-child, or \$30-family. Enjoy a fantastic spaghetti dinner and support Somerville youth!

Fabulous Fungus Fair. The Harvard Museum of Natural History invites you to explore the wondrous world of fungi! Join Harvard students for a closer look at the mushrooms, yeasts, and molds found in gardens, forests, and labs. Regular museum rates apply for this special family event. Free event parking at the 52 Oxford Street Garage. Learn more about this and other events at the Harvard Museum of Natural History at: <https://hmnh.harvard.edu/event>.

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 2019 full lineup includes:

- Sat., Oct. 26, 3:00-6:00pm – “Behind the Mask Theater Showcase” at the East Somerville Main Street Halloween Block Party
- Friday, Nov. 1, 6:30pm – Jim Napolitano of Nappy’s Puppets presents “Shadows Around the World”
- Thursday, Nov. 7, 6:30pm – The Brothers Āampur 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”

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
- [Archives Intern](#), Archives Dept., City of Somerville
- [Program Compliance Officer](#), Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD), 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
- [Assistive Technologist-SPED Alternative Learning Environments](#), Special Ed. Dept., Somerville Public Schools
- [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.”