

# CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – October 25, 2019

## News & Notes

### Award-winning Author Lesa Cline-Ransome Shares her Journey with West Somerville Neighborhood School Students



With excitement and even gasps of “there’s the author!” and “wow, she’s here!” as they came into the school cafeteria, every student at West Somerville Neighborhood School had the opportunity to hear Lesa Cline-Ransome, author of more than a dozen children’s and young-adult books, speak on Wednesday morning, October 23. In three separate presentations arranged by grade, Cline-Ransome read a passage from one of her books. For the youngest students, it was *Germs: Fact and Fiction, Friends and Foes*. For third through fifth graders, it was *Before She Was Harriet*, a picture book biography of Harriet Tubman, and for the middle graders it was her young-adult novel *Finding Langston*.

In each talk, Cline-Ransome provided students with a glimpse of her journey to becoming a writer and author. She showed pictures of herself from early childhood, talked about her regular trips to the Malden Public Library with her mother when she was young, and showed photos of her writing studio, and her husband and frequent collaborator James E. Ransome’s art studio. She also explained her writing process, and described the many steps, work, and people involved in turning her ideas into final, published books.

After each presentation and reading, Cline-Ransome then answered students’ questions. They ranged from how long she has been writing books (25 years), to how many times she usually rewrites a book before it’s ready to publish (10-15 times), to what the scariest part of writing is (submitting the first draft to her editor, which Cline-Ransome described as “sending out your heart”).

Library and Media Specialist Meagan Ross helped to organize Cline-Ransome’s event with funds made available from the WSNS Parent-Teacher Association. In anticipation of Cline-Ransome’s visit, Ross has been regularly reading Cline-Ransome’s books to students, making the books available for students to check out, and even playing music associated with several of the stories, such as Louis Armstrong’s work and that of Benny Goodman and Teddy Wilson. Ross also had students write about what they think it means to be an author, or illustrate a favorite part from one of Cline-Ransome’s books. For more information about Lesa Cline-Ransome, visit <https://lesaclineransome.com/index.html>.

## SCALE Launches CISCO-IT Networking Academy Program

On Wednesday, October 23rd, an official ribbon-cutting event and celebration marked the start of an exciting new partnership between the Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE), CISCO-IT, Somerville Community Corporation (SCC), MassHire, and Tufts University. Massachusetts Lt. Governor Karyn Polito was the featured speaker at the day's event, which also recognized the first cohort of students enrolled in this new innovative program who will be working toward their CISCO certification and preparing for a career in Information Technology.

With the ribbon-cutting event, SCALE formally announced the launch of the CISCO IT Networking Academy, which offers free classes to adult learners that will lead to CISCO certification in computer networking. Students must be 17 years old and be a high school graduate or earn a diploma/certificate by spring 2020 to enroll in the program, with priority given to Somerville residents. SCALE is piloting Introduction to Networking, Routing and Switching this fall and will be offering more training opportunities in 2020.

The first 70-hour course will be offered in two semesters: Part 1 – Introduction to Networking (October 17-December 19, 2019, 12-2:30pm on Tuesday and Thursdays), and Part 2 – Networking Skills and Beyond (January 21-April 9, 2019, 12:30-2:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays). This initial 2-part course is the first of four courses in the CISCO CCNA Routing and Switching curriculum. The CISCO IT Networking Academy is funded by the City of Somerville and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Adult and Community Learning Services.



## Students Welcome Dr. Albert F. Argenziano to Namesake School

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, the superintendent of Somerville Public Schools from 1993 to 2005, visited the school that bares his name on Thursday morning, October 24. He was invited by Principal Glenda Soto under the guise that he would be receiving a simple school tour. To his surprise, Dr. Argenziano was greeted at an assembly by all students from Kindergarten to grade 5 as well as faculty and staff. Several classes performed songs in his honor. Dr. Argenziano also was presented with three pieces of artwork that students had designed. These canvases had words such as "happy," "welcoming," "fun," and "home" painted on them surrounded by bright flowers. Students chose words that they felt best represented the spirit of their school. After the assembly, Dr. Argenziano met with the Kindergarten and preschool classes during lunch, and visited with middle grades students in the afternoon to round out his tour.



## ESCS Debate Team has Impressive Performance at Kickoff Event

East Somerville Community School debaters had an impressive performance at the Boston Debate League's kickoff middle school tournament held at Suffolk University earlier this month. An estimated 170 new and returning students from more than 15 middle schools participated in the event including 19 ESCS students, who competed in the novice division under the guidance of team coaches Mr. Scott Weaver and Mrs. Valquiria Gouvea. ESCS students Anna Mateo and Yarenis Valdivieso placed 3rd in the novice division, while Ethan Faria and Emil Tull placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the novice division. Faria also earned the 10<sup>th</sup> place speaker trophy. Next up for the ESCS Debate team is a tournament at McCormack Middle School on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Visit <https://www.bostondebate.org/asdl/> to learn more about the Boston Debate League's flagship program and their monthly 2019-2020 tournament calendar.

# What's Happening

## 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!

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

Somerville Public Schools parents/guardians of students in grades K-5 are invited to learn how math is taught in grades K-5 in the Somerville Public Schools, and strategies you can use to help support your 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 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:

- 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 22<sup>nd</sup> through November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Join the one that best fits your schedule.

- 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](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.

- **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.)
- **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, 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](http://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., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)
- **Monday, November 4, 7:00-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)
- **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](#).

- **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](http://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.
- **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.)

### 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, 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.)
- **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

**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).

**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!

**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. 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 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”

## 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
- [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.

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### 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.”