

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – October 4, 2019

News & Notes

SPS Celebrates National Farm to School Month with Annual Corn Shucking Event



Did you know that the average ear of corn has more than 500 kernels? This and other facts about how corn is grown, harvested, and eaten were shared as part of Corn Shucking Day on Thursday, October 3. During breakfast, teams of students, staff, parents, and volunteers across Somerville Public Schools pulled the silks and husks off fresh ears of corn sourced from Massachusetts farms. Then they loaded the freshly shucked corn onto trays so Food Service staff could cook and serve that same corn for lunch across the district.

Through the coordinated efforts of Food and Nutrition Services Director Lauren Mancini, Assistant Director Pauline Uccello, and Nutrition and Sustainability Coordinator Karyn Novakowski, more than 3,180 ears of corn were shucked Thursday morning. The corn was delivered to Somerville from Calabrese Farm in Southwick and Dickinson Farm in

Granby, both in Massachusetts. Corn Shucking Day is a part of October's National Farm to School Month, which celebrates food education and the importance of eating healthy, fresh, and local ingredients. For more information about their work, please visit <http://www.farmtoschool.org/our-work/farm-to-school-month>.

All-City Marimba Ensemble

By, Adam Epstein, Music Teacher

On most Fridays after school, nearly 30 students in Grades 6-8 from around the city come to the East Somerville Community School to rehearse for the All-City Marimba Ensemble. Similar to xylophones, the 15 marimbas we have at ESCS are modeled after Shona-style instruments from Zimbabwe, Africa. Without the use of notation, students learn interlocking parts that form a groove. Students are encouraged to contribute their own ideas for arranging the music, and many students step up to improvise solos, too. We perform at least twice a year at the All-City Middle School Ensembles Concerts, the first of which will be on December 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the ESCS auditorium. We hope many people in the community will join us then to hear our joyful marimba music!



SHS Restorative Justice Club Provides Community Service Support

Four Somerville High School student members of the SHS Restorative Justice Club and their club mentor Mario Sousa recently participated in a community service project at the Brown School. During the events of the day, the club members worked together to design and paint a sensory path for the school's outdoor playground. Their teamwork and dedication to the project resulted in a beautiful final product that the students should be proud of and which will provide Brown School students with a unique and creative outdoor learning activity! The Restorative Justice Club offers students an opportunity to give back to the community as a way to restore trust and rebuild self-esteem instead of serving punitive consequences in or out of school. Students help develop specific goals that are tailored to their needs and areas that they need to work on during the event. All students earn community service hours and are encouraged to become Restorative Justice Leaders. As Leaders, students will be able to assist in identifying areas of need throughout the community for other projects and become project leaders for future events. Restorative Justice Community Outreach Mentor Mario Sousa, Event Management Mentor Rob Day, and Club Coordinator Meghan Grosskopf Sousa are all actively involved in supporting the students' work and continuing progress.



Healey Students Have Joyful Offsite Learning Experience at Parlee Farms

On Tuesday, October 1, 190 Healey School students from pre-K to grade 2, their teachers, and parent volunteers visited Parlee Farms in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts. Students spent the day exploring the Farms, getting to know their schoolmates, and learning about farm fresh fruits and vegetables. They also learned about and interacted with the local farm animals at Annie's Animal Barns, which has more than 90 young farm animals. They fed goats, visited an enormous pumpkin patch, and walked through a hay bale maze. One highlight was the tractor ride to the orchard, where students had the chance to pick their own fruit off of apple trees. Each student took home a quarter peck of apples and a pumpkin. Everyone ate lunch together in the picnic area before heading back on the school buses to Somerville. When asked to sum up the day, Lori Brown, Healey School grade 1 to 3 teacher who helped to organize the trip explains, "As educators, we always hope this trip unifies the students to believe we all belong together, experiencing learning and making fun memories together."



What's Happening

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 17: Council on Aging (167 Holland St.), 10:00am-1:00pm
- Thursday, October 17: City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.), 4:00pm-7:00pm
- 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

2nd Annual Women in STEM Summit – October 21

Somerville High School will host the 2nd annual Women in STEM Summit on Monday, October 21st, 3:00-5:30pm at the SHS Auditorium. All Somerville Public Schools high school and grade 7 and 8 students are invited to participate in the Summit and spark their interest in STEM! The Women in STEM Summit aims to create an empowering space that encourages young women to explore their interest in pursuing a profession in STEM. Student participants will gain insights from women in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields about their educational and occupational goals and experiences. Small group discussions allow students share their own goals and how they're doing in their STEM classes, ask questions, and help generate ideas and plans for post-secondary career and education. Keynote speaker for the event is Tufts Researcher Rachael Bonoan, Ph.D., TEDxTufts Speaker: Embracing Science as a Verb, www.rachaelebonoan.com. For more information about the event, contact SHS Science Department Chair, Marianna Hosking at mhosking@k12.somerville.ma.us or (617) 625-6600, x6285 or SHS Science Teacher and FIRST Robotics Mentor, Michael Friedman at mfriedman@k12.somerville.ma.us.

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.

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 7: Picture Day @ Healey School (5 Meacham St.)**
- **Tuesday, October 8, 5:30pm: ESCS School Council Meeting** at the East Somerville Community School Library (50 Cross St.)
- **Tuesday, October 8, 5:30-7:00pm: Argenziano School Improvement Council Meeting** (290 Washington St.)
- **Wednesday, October 9: WSNS PTA-Sponsored Author Visit, all grades (177 Powder House Blvd.)**
- **Friday, October 11, 10:40am: SHS HONK! Performance** at the Somerville High Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)
- **Monday, October 14: No School – Indigenous People's Day; All Schools and District Offices closed**

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 7, 6:00-7:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers – City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
- **Monday, October 7, 7:00-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting** at the City Council Chambers – City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

- **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.
- **Thursday, October 10, 7:00-8:30pm: Sharing Our Stories Support Group.** Monthly support group for families with young children who have special needs. Raising a child who does not always fit in can be challenging. This open-ended group offers adults the opportunity to share joys, concerns, frustrations, questions and resources. Facilitated by Amy Bamforth, LICSW. SFLC Center, Room 14 (42 Prescott St.)
- **Friday, October 11, 12:00-1:00pm: English Learner Parent Advisory Council (EL PAC).** Parents/guardians of students identified as English Learners are invited to join EL PAC. The EL PAC exists to advise the district and participate in planning and development of programs to increase English Learner opportunities and support student success. For more information about monthly meetings, please contact Sarah Davila at sdavila@k12.somerville.ma.us or (617) 625-6600, x6097. SFLC Center, Room 12 (42 Prescott St.)

Looking Ahead:

- **Monday, October 14: No School – Indigenous People's Day;** All Schools and District Offices closed
- **Tuesday, October 15, 8:10am: ESCS PTA Board Meeting** (50 Cross St.)
- **Tuesday, October 15: Kennedy Picture Day** (5 Cherry St.)
- **Tuesday, October 15, 6:00-7:30pm: WHCIS Governing Board Meeting** at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (115 Sycamore St.)
- **Wednesday, October 16: Half-Day Wednesday for PK-8 Students** (PK students dismissed at 11:30am; K-8 students dismissed at noon)
- **Thursday, October 17, 5:00-7:00pm: Kennedy School Open House / Curriculum Night** (5 Cherry St.)
- **Thursday, October 17, 6:00-8:00pm: Serve & Inspire Volunteer Orientation** at the SFLC Center (42 Prescott St.)

Community News & Events

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, 10/9: Grades 4-6 from 6:00-7:30pm; Grades 7-9 from 7:30-9:00pm
- Wednesday, 10/16: Grades 4-6 from 6:00-7:30pm; Grades 7-9 from 7:30-9:00pm
- 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.

Somerville Arts Council LCC Grants. The Local Cultural Council (LCC) grant cycle for 2020 is open! Funding is available for individuals, schools, community groups, and non-profit organizations in the fields of dance, film/video, literature, theater, music, visual arts, interrelated media, and cultural heritage. Grants can be used for youth programs, arts

events, exhibitions, public concerts, and more. Application deadline is October 15. To learn more about the LCC application process, review the guidelines at: <https://somerilleartscouncil.org/grants>.

Somerville Youth Hockey. The **SYHA Learn to Skate / Learn to Play Hockey Clinic** begins on Saturday morning, October 19th, with rolling registration throughout the Fall / Winter. Clinic details and registration information can be found at www.somerilleyouthhockey.org.

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>.

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

Writer's Den. Writers' Den is a free weekly evening 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. With Co-Directors Alan Ball, Cara Feinberg, and Allyson Sherlock, as well as guest writers and authors. All welcome, parent/guardian permission required. Wednesdays starting September 18 (except vacation weeks or if inclement weather closes schools), 6:00-8:00pm at the Arthur D. Healey School.

City & District Employment Opportunities

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

- [Assistant Purchasing Director](#), Purchasing Dept., City of Somerville
- [Door Monitor](#), OSPCD-Economic Development, City of Somerville
- [Archives Intern](#), Archives Dept., City of Somerville
- [Senior Substitute](#), Somerville Public Libraries, City of Somerville

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

- [Full-time Lead Teacher](#), Community Schools Afterschool Program, West Somerville Neighborhood School, SPS
- [SPED ASD PreK Paraprofessional](#), Winter Hill Community Innovation School, Somerville Public Schools
- [Girls Lacrosse Coach](#), Somerville High School, Somerville Public Schools
- [El Sistema Symphonic Ensemble Conductor](#), East Somerville Community School, SPS

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."