

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – September 27, 2019

News & Notes



Thanks to Biogen and City Year, Kennedy School's Home of the Tigers Gets a Fresh, New Look

The Kennedy School's indoor and outdoor spaces were colorfully updated during the school day on Friday, September 20 during the second City Year/Biogen Care Deeply day of service in the district in as many weeks. Somerville Mayor Joe Curtatone, district Assistant Superintendent Chad Mazza, and several other Kennedy School and Somerville Public Schools staff offered words of appreciation to the City Year and Biogen team members during the opening ceremony. Then Biogen and City Year workers broke into work

teams. One group painted bright images of the Kennedy tiger on walls in the gym and outdoor lot. Another refreshed the four square and hopscotch games on the blacktop and repainted a world and U.S. map. Inside the building, a Biogen team assembled a new rowing machine for the Wellness Room, which also received a fresh coat of paint on the walls for meditation and relaxation, and a focus wall mural of blue mountains. Other teams worked on new coats of paint and murals in other areas of the school to provide a more calming feel, in line with the school's focus on wellness and mindfulness.

As Sharla Randazzo, director of the school's social emotional program, explains, "The Kennedy School benefitted from the hard work and dedication of an amazing team at Biogen and City Year who worked to make our social emotional wing more relaxing and welcoming. All of the calming areas have warm and cozy rugs to give students a much-needed space for a break and to encourage the use of self-regulation strategies." The feelings of gratitude ran both ways. At the closing ceremony, one Biogen colleague said of the Kennedy School, it was "amazing and inspiring to see education in action."



New Assistant Superintendent Chad Mazza Shares his Approach to his New Role

You probably recognize Assistant Superintendent Chad Mazza for his work as the Principal for the Winter Hill Community Innovation School. He's worked in Somerville Public Schools since 2012. He is an enthusiastic supporter of our teachers and staff and looks forward to bringing this energy to the district level. Read about his approach to his new role and how he plans to work with team members from across the district on important issues like equity and professional development, in the latest blog post: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/welcome-assistant-superintendent-chad-mazza>.



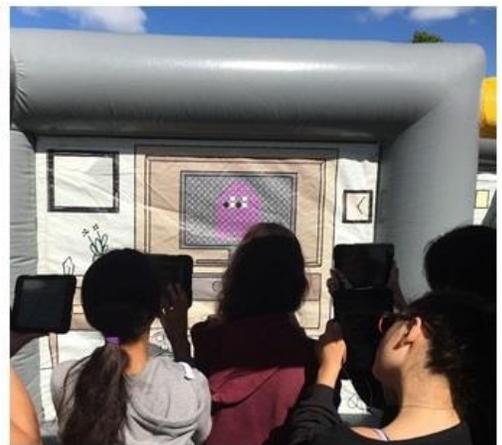
Brown School Fifth Graders Learn and Explore at Nature's Classroom

Brown School fifth grade students recently spent 3 nights and 4 days at [Nature's Classroom](#) in Groton, MA engaged in various academic and team-building activities. Nature's Classroom is a science-based hands-on adventure that offers students an opportunity to explore, connect, and experience learning outside the classroom walls in a vibrant outdoor setting. Students had an opportunity to select from a variety of classes including bottle rocket launching, forest camouflage, cow eye dissection, snake dissection, egg drop engineering, and others. The Nature's Classroom experience also included "field groups" in which the students took part in guided educational hikes and

participated in other cooperative games. During meal times, students learned about reducing food waste, composting, and other current environmental concerns.

ESCS Students go on Energy Quest to Learn about Energy Efficiency

Eversource recently returned to the East Somerville Community School with an inflatable home designed to help students learn about energy efficiency. ESCS middle grades students used iPads to explore rooms throughout the inflatable home and scanned different parts of the house where energy was being used. When students scanned a virtual appliance in the house, they learned about how that appliance can save on cost and energy. Students also had an opportunity to test their energy knowledge as they scanned energy-producing areas throughout the home, and earned points when answering questions correctly. Students enjoyed this interactive experience and left with some materials to take home with them that can help them make their own homes more energy efficient. Learn more about this and other 'Eversource in School' programs at: <https://www.eversourceinschool.com/>.



What's Happening

International Walk & Roll to School Day – Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Wednesday, October 2nd is International Walk & Roll to School Day. This MassDOT Safe Routes to Schools flagship event encourages students in communities across MA to participate in a healthy and active lifestyle by safely walking or 'rolling' to school. Connect with a friend or neighbor and be part of the movement.

Annual Corn Shucking Event – Thursday, October 3, 2019

In celebration of National Farm to School Month, Somerville Food & Nutrition Services will be hosting the district's annual Corn Shucking Day on Thursday, October 3, 7:30-8:00am. Students are invited to shuck local corn alongside school staff, community partners, and volunteers. Corn shucking will take place at all elementary schools and Capuano, and farm-fresh corn will be served with school lunch at every school in the district.

Somerville Parks & Recreation Free Boys Basketball Clinics

Somerville Parks & Recreation is offering FREE boys basketball clinics to 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. Clinics will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday, 10/2: Grades 4-6 from 6:00-7:30pm; Grades 7-9 from 7:30-9:00pm
- 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.somerville.com.

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, October 1: SHS Winter Sports Registration Opens @ Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)**
- **Wednesday, October 2: Half-Day** for PK-8 students (PK dismissed at 11:30am; K-8 dismissed at noon)
- **Wednesday, October 2: Walk to School Day @ the Brown School (201 Willow Ave.)**
- **Wednesday, October 2: Walk & Bike to School Day @ the Kennedy School (5 Cherry St.)**
- **Thursday, October 3, 7:30-8:00am: Corn Shucking Day @ Capuano and all SPS elementary schools**
- **Friday, October 4: Brown School Heritage Hoedown Potluck @ the Brown School (201 Willow 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, September 30, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting** at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)
- **Wednesday, October 2, 7:00-8:00pm: School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning** at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)
- **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 Central Office 3rd Floor Conference Room (8 Bonair St.)
- **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.)
- **Thursday, October 17, 6:00-7:00pm: Legal Services Clinic.** Meet representatives from the SFLC, Somerville Health and Human Services, and SomerViva for information and resources, and make an appointment for a free legal consultation with representatives from Greater Boston Legal Services and the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program. For an appointment, email freyes@k12.somerville.ma.us or call (617) 625-6600, x6994. The SFLC Community Clothing Closet, a resource for free clothing for families in need, will be open.
- **Thursday, October 17, 6:00-8:00pm: Serve and Inspire Volunteer Orientation.** New to volunteering in the Somerville Public Schools? Attend an orientation to learn about district schools and how SPS volunteers serve, inspire and support student learning. For more information, please contact your school-based Volunteer Coordinator or Jen Capuano at (617) 629-5475 or jcapuano@k12.somerville.ma.us.
- **Monday, October 21, 6:00-8:00pm: 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. Somerville Public Library – Central Branch (79 Highland Ave.)

Looking Ahead:

- **Monday, October 7: Picture Day @ Healey School** (5 Meacham St.)
- **Tuesday, October 8, 5:30-7:00pm: School Improvement Council Meeting** at the Argenziano School (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

Community News & Events

Somerville Growing Center. Mark your calendars for a weekend of fun at the Somerville Community Growing Center on September 28-29, 22 Vinal Ave. Learn about upcoming events at the Growing Center at www.thegrowingcenter.org.

- **A Gathering of Fairies: Saturday, September 28, 2:00-4:00 pm.** Build a fairy house, listen to a fairy story, decorate a magic fairy wand, face painting, a fairy-themed raffle and more. Donations encouraged to support the Growing Center - but not required.

- Harvest Festival: Sunday, September 29, 2:30-5:00 pm. Harvest activities and games, pumpkin decorating, and a celebration of nature's bounty. Free and open to all.

Citizen Schools National Teaching Fellowship. Citizen Schools is currently hiring for National Teaching Fellowship, a two-year service opportunity to work with Somerville middle school students, serve local communities and develop your leadership, communication and problem-solving skills. As a Teaching Fellow, you help Citizen Schools to provide students with access to hands-on learning, access to more caring adults (both during the day and after school), and opportunities to learn about themselves and others. **Are you ready to make a difference in your life and the lives of Somerville students?** Find out more and apply here: <https://www.citizenschools.org/national-teaching-fellowship>.

SPL's Girls Who Code Club. Calling all middle school girls! The fall session of the Somerville Public Library's Girls Who Code club gets underway next week starting October 1. Facilitated by volunteers from the tech community, girls join a sisterhood of supportive peers as they learn coding to create a project they care about. The Club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-8pm for 10 weeks at the Central Library (79 Highland Ave). For more information and to register, contact Karen Stevens at kstevens@minlib.net.

HONK! Festival. The 14th Annual HONK! Festival of activist street bands takes place October 11-13, 2019. Saturday in Davis Square, Sunday in Harvard Square. Visit <http://honkfest.org> to see the slate of bands coming in and to learn all about this annual event.

Somerville Arts Council LCC Grants. The Local Cultural Council (LCC) grant cycle for 2020 is now 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://somervilleartscouncil.org/grants>. A final workshop will be offered on Monday, September 23, 6:00-7:30pm at Mudflat Pottery School (81 Broadway).

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.somervilleyouthhockey.org.

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
- [Emergency 911 Call Taker/Dispatcher](#), Somerville Police Dept., City of Somerville
- [School Nurse](#), Health and Human Services Dept., City of Somerville

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

- [Kindergarten Paraprofessional - Temporary](#), Winter Hill Community Innovation School, SPS
- [Social Worker](#), Community Schools Afterschool Program, Somerville Public Schools
- [Part-time ELL Level 3 Teacher, Evenings](#), 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."