

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – January 11, 2021

News & Notes

Highlander Theatre Company Presents Live Steaming Performances of “Clue”

The Highlander Theatre Company presents three live streaming performances of “Clue,” Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, January 15-17. All shows begin at 7 pm and ticket price is “pay what you can.” Based on the 1985 movie, which itself was based on the classic Hasbro board game, “Clue” is a farce-meets-murder mystery. Each performance is followed by a fun and interactive post-show activity. For more information, please visit <https://www.highlandertheatre.org/live>.

Enjoy a “Groove-Inspired” Student Marimba Concert

East Somerville Community School Music Teacher Adam McLean directs the Somerville All-City Middle School Marimba Ensemble. Normally, this group meets at the East Somerville but this year they worked together remotely. Enjoy this fun “groove-inspired” concert with student performances! <https://youtu.be/p3YtAhzWHzA>

Somerville Math Fund Holds Virtual Game Jam Contest

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Somerville Mathematics Fund was not able to host its much-anticipated annual Scrapheap Showdown. However, the fun continued with the Math Fund’s first-ever Game Jam, an innovative virtual event that challenged student teams of 3 to collaborate online, each working from their own home, to design a board or card game for 3 or more players with the assumption that each of the players could be in a different location. Seven teams signed up for the challenge. Read all about this fantastic event in the Somerville Mathematics Funds’ latest blog post: <https://somervillemathematics.blogspot.com/2021/01/scrapheap-move-over-here-comes-game-jam.html>

What’s Happening

January Somerville SEPAC Meeting and Workshop

Tuesday, January 12th from 6:00-6:45 pm: Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SSEPAC) business meeting. All are welcome. For the Zoom link and more information, please e-mail: somervilleparentstogether@gmail.com

Tuesday, January 12th from 7-8pm: Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SSEPAC) hosts Linda K. Murphy for a presentation about her new book, "Declarative Language Handbook: Using a Thoughtful Language Style to Help Kids with Social Learning Challenges Feel Competent, Connected, and Understood". For the Zoom link, please e-mail: somervilleparentstogether@gmail.com

About the presentation:

Each time we speak, we have the opportunity to choose our words. Speaking in a mindful way can mean that we are purposefully choosing words that will invite and empower children to think critically. When we pause to think about what we say and how we say it, kids in turn stop to think about what they say or do in response. In this presentation,

participants will be given an overview of The Declarative Language Handbook along with some takeaways to try at home. Declarative language is a speaking style that can be naturally used within social interactions to encourage connection and learning across areas of perspective taking, flexible thinking, problem solving and experience sharing.

About Linda Murphy:

Linda Murphy MS, CCC-SLP is a speech language pathologist and RDI® Consultant working at her private practice, Peer Projects Therapy From the Heart, in Beverly, MA. Linda has a special interest in social learning differences and uses writing to share information near and dear to her heart on this topic. She is the author of Declarative Language Handbook, and co-authored Social Thinking and Me with Michelle Garcia Winner. Her goal is to help adults understand the mindset of struggling learners so that they can communicate with patience, create meaningful exchanges, and help the child feel competent, calm and confident.

P-EBT Benefits Extended through the end of the 2020-21 School Year

The Pandemic – Electronic Transfer (P-EBT) Program created spring 2020 to provide eligible families funds to purchase food while schools were closed during the Covid-19 pandemic has been extended through the end of the 2020-21 school year. Please see below for key details, and visit <https://www.map-ebt.org/home/#ihdtab> for additional information.

- The federal government has extended P-EBT benefits through the entire 2020-21 school year.
- More P-EBT funds were scheduled to be issued starting at the end of December for eligible families.
- Funds will come in one issuance for October and November school days.
- Eligible students in remote learning situations will receive \$117.20 per month.
- Using P-EBT does NOT impact you or your students' immigration status. The public charge rule does NOT apply to P-EBT funds.
- If you have lost or misplaced your card, visit here: <https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/pebt>
- To update the Department of Transitional Assistance on an address change, please call the DTA Assistance Line at 877-382-2363.
- If you don't have the letter with your child's case number on it in order to activate your card, visit here: <https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/PEBT>

SFLC to Host Online Meet & Greet for Somerville Parents

The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) invites parents to meet and connect with other Somerville parents at a Zoom Meet & Greet Thursday, January 21st from 7:00-8:00pm. To register, please email sfn@k12.somerville.ma.us with your name, address, and age(s) of your child(ren).

Community News

SomerSocial offers free, fun, online afterschool classes and activities for Somerville youth in grades K-8. From local community partners like Somerville Media Center, Parts and Crafts, the Beautiful Stuff Project, Farrington Nature Linc, and more. Classes are free but you must register to attend.

Somerville Media Center. SMC offers a set of **Free Digital Literacy Workshops** aimed at expanding digital inclusion with expert guidance on savvy smartphone use, better internet research, media production skills, graphic design, building a user friendly website, becoming a community journalist, deepening media literacy and critical consumption. The SMC 2021 Digital Literacy program in partnership with Somerville Public Library is a grant funded project of “**Skill Up Somerville.**” All students will be eligible to receive digital badging credentials through the Skill Up Somerville program. SMC will also offer 10% off annual membership for attending 3 SMC “Skill Up Badge” classes and if students take all of the classes, they are eligible for a one year free SMC membership.

Just for Fun

Take [a virtual tour of Frida Kahlo's art studio and home, Casa Azul](#). For more great #JustforFun activities, visit: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/justforfun>.

City & District Employment Opportunities

www.somerville.k12.ma.us/connections

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

- [Four \(4\) Contact Tracing Team Members](#), Health & Human Services, City of Somerville
- [Lifeguards](#), Parks & Recreation, City of Somerville
- [Housing Programs Coordinator](#), OSPCD-Housing, City of Somerville
- [Charter Review Project Manager](#), Mayor's Office, City of Somerville

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

- [PT Chief Examiner](#), Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE), Somerville Public Schools
- [Temporary Right Math Substitute Teacher – Grade 8](#), Kennedy School, Somerville Public Schools
- [Temporary Special Education Clerk](#), Edgerly Center, Somerville Public Schools
- [Speech and Language Pathologists](#), Various Schools, 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."