

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – April 9, 2019

News & Notes

Teacher-Led Professional Development Modules Help Educators Learn Alongside and From Each Other

Educator-led professional development modules offer teachers an opportunity to learn alongside and from each other. Through these modules, educators can share their expertise in an area, and share best practices with colleagues from across the district. Read all about a recent professional development module focused on developing and sharing lesson plans that address immigration and social justice, in this blog post:

<http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/curriculum-development-sanctuary-schools>.



Kennedy, Healey MA History Day Student Competitors Move on to State Competition; One Team Advances to Nationals



Students from both the Kennedy and Healey Schools recently placed in the regional division and moved on to the Massachusetts History Day state competition, which was held this past Saturday, April 6 at Winchester High School. Massachusetts History Day is an interdisciplinary research program for students in grades 6 to 12, and each year a theme is chosen for the student work. This year the theme is “Triumph and Tragedy in History.”

For the regional competition, Kennedy 8th grader Sara Wessland created a [website](#) detailing how slaves were counted in the Articles of Confederation. Kennedy students Susanna Connolly, Cleo Grosser, and Natasha Maher presented research on teenagers living under Nazi occupation. 7th grade students Nora Donovan,

Esther Platt, and Anna Siebler moved on to the state competition with a group performance about the fight for child labor rights, focusing on labor and community organizer Mary Harris Jones, also known as Mother Jones. Megan Brady, Kennedy School’s grade 7/8 social studies teacher, was their faculty advisor.

The Healey student group---7th graders Avery Cole, Ruthanna Kern, and Lily Thompson---also moved on to the state competition. They wrote a script for and gave a dramatic performance of “Friendship Between the Pages: The Story of

Abigail Adams and Mercy Otis Warren,” about these women’s lives and their involvement in the American Revolution. Their work won the Healey team first place in the junior group performance category on Saturday and now they will advance to the national competition at the University of Maryland at College Park in June. Healey School’s grade 5/6 social studies teacher Dayshawn Simmons worked as their faculty advisor.

For more information on Massachusetts History Day, see <http://www.masshistoryday.com/>.

East Somerville Community School Supports “Pennies for Patients”

The East Somerville Community School has been raising funds to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). Through their Pennies for Patients campaign, the ESCS community raised close to \$2,000, helping to fund important cancer research and local patient services, both of which are vital to the fight against blood cancers. Pennies for Patients is part of the LLS’s Student Series and is a science-based, service learning program designed to help students see the impact they can make in others’ lives through their service and support. Learn more about the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Pennies for Patients campaign at: <https://www.studentseries.org/>.

Annual Kennedy Engineering Event Sparks Creativity and Teamwork

Kennedy School 7th and 8th grade student teams recently showcased their catapult projects at the school’s annual 7th and 8th Grade Engineering Event. Students spent weeks working in teams to conceptualize, design, and build their catapults, then displayed them to their schoolmates during Catapult Day. Read all about this innovative and much-anticipated project in this recent blog post: <http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/catapults-kennedy>.

What’s Happening

2019 Week of the Young Child Celebration – Wednesday, April 10 @ City Hall

Celebrate Somerville’s youngest learners with Mayor Joe Curtatone, Somerville’s Early Education and Care community, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Hear this year’s social story: *I Live Here in Somerville!*, and continue to explore what it means to be kind and fair in our community. To read the SFCL social story, *Somerville, A Kind and Fair City*, visit “Resources for Parents/Guardians” at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families. For more information about the Somerville Week of the Young Child Celebration, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/woyc.

All-City Middle School Musical Informational Meeting, April 12 @ SHS Auditorium

The Department of Music and Theatre Arts is thrilled to announce the very first All-City Middle School Musical Production. This year’s production will be *Shrek, Jr.* Open to all students in grades 6-8, the All-City musical will offer two ways to participate: The **performance track** for students who wish to be onstage, and the **production track** for students who wish to be backstage. Rehearsals will take place after school on Wednesdays and Fridays at Somerville High School after April vacation. For more information, students should attend the Audition/Informational Meeting on April 12th from 3:30-5:30 in the SHS Auditorium. The All-city musical is an all-inclusive, no-cut program. While auditions will be used to make specific casting decisions, all students who wish to perform will get to perform. Performances will be Friday, June 7th at 7:00pm and Saturday, June 8th at 2:00pm. Students and teachers may also write to Mr. Jabour at cjabour@k12.somerville.ma.us.

Somerville Patriots Day – Monday, April 15 @ Foss Park

Monday, April 15, 10:00-11:30am @ Foss Park at Broadway and Fellsway West. Rain or shine! Paul Revere rides again from Lexington to Boston, through Somerville. Greet Paul Revere – and his horse! Come to the Colonial Fair and play games. Complete a Colonial Passport. Enjoy colonial refreshments. Music by the SHS band. Join us in Colonial clothing. For clothing ideas or other information about this event, please contact: Somerville Historic Preservation Commission, Director Brandon Wilson, bwilson@somervillema.gov or (617) 625-6600, x2532, OR Historic Somerville, President Eileen Scofield, (917) 572-8780, info@historicsomerville.org. Learn more about the Somerville Historic Preservation at

www.somervillema.gov/HistoricPreservation. Brought to you by Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission, and members of Historic Somerville Inc. and the Somerville Museum.

Earth Day Celebration – April 12-26

Earth Day is April 22nd this year and Sustainability Champions at our schools will be promoting recycling and sustainable practices throughout the week. Through a Department of Environmental Protection grant, we have expanded classroom recycling efforts over the last two years and Earth Day will be a fun way to reinforce these efforts across the district. Schools will be showing short videos and reading stories about recycling, asking trivia questions over the morning announcements, and dressing in green to celebrate. Some schools will be participating in recycling electronic gadgets through [Eco-Cell](#), while the Energy Wizard may be making an appearance at other schools to check out who is leaving lights on and who is turning them off. For local events, check out the schedule for [SustainaVille Week](#) which starts on Saturday, April 27th.

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, April 9, 5:30-7:00pm: Argenziano School Site Council Meeting (290 Washington St.)

Tuesday, April 9, 6:00-7:30pm: Next Wave/Full Circle Parent-Teacher Conferences (8 Bonair St.)

Wednesday, April 10, 4:00-5:30pm: Healey School Site Council Meeting at the Healey School Library (5 Meacham St.)

Wednesday, April 10, 10:00-11:00am: Week of the Young Child Celebration at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Wednesday, April 10, 6:00-7:30pm: Healey Parent-Teacher Conferences (5 Meacham St.)

Thursday, April 11, 6:00-7:30pm: Winter Hill Parent-Teacher Conferences (115 Sycamore St.)

Thursday, April 11, 6:30-9:00pm: Somerville High School Spring Concert at the SHS Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

Thursday, April 11, 7:00-8:30pm: SFLC Sharing our Stories meeting at the Cummings Bldg. (42 Prescott St.)

Friday, April 12, 9:30-11:30am: 6th Annual Band Festival at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

Friday, April 12: West Somerville Neighborhood School Middle Grades Band Trip to Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

Monday-Friday, April 15-19: April Vacation (includes Patriots Day and Good Friday)

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.

Wednesday, April 10, 7:00-8:00pm: Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Monday, April 22, 6:00-7:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Monday, April 22, 7:00-8:30pm: Regular School Committee Meeting at the City Council Chambers, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Wednesday, April 24, 6:00-7:00pm: Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Wednesday, April 24, 7:00-8:00pm: School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning at the Central Office Main Conference Room (8 Bonair St., 2nd floor)

Thursday, April 25, 6:00-7:00pm: FY20 City Council and School Committee Joint Budget 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.

Week of the Young Child Celebration – Wednesday, April 10, 10:00-11:00am @ Somerville City Hall

Celebrate Somerville’s youngest learners during the Week of the Young Child with a special event at Somerville City Hall on Wednesday, April 10, 10:00-11:00am. Join us as we hear from young members of our community what it means to be kind and fair in our community. Visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/woyc to learn more about this event.

Sharing Our Stories – Thursday, April 11, 7:00-8:30pm @ Cummings School building (42 Prescott St.)

Join SFLC staff and fellow Somerville parents for a support group for families with young children who have special needs. Raising a child who does not always fit in can be challenging. This free, open-ended group will offer adults the opportunity to share joys, concerns, frustrations, questions and resources about their experiences. Facilitated by Amy Bamforth, LICSW.

SFLC Community Resource and Legal Services Clinic – Thursday, April 25, 5:00-7:00pm @ ESCS Library (50 Cross St.)

Do you have questions about community resources? Are you interested in legal consultation around immigration issues? Meet representatives from the SFLC, City of Somerville Health and Human Services, and SomerViva for information and resources, and make an appointment for a free legal consultation with representatives from the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program (HIRC). For a legal consultation appointment, please call (617) 625-6600, x6994 or email freyes@k12.somerville.ma.us.

***Celling Your Soul: Raising Kids in a Digital Age* – Thursday, April 25, 5:30-7:30pm @ Connexion (149 Broadway)**

Get ready for Screen-Free Week by hearing from the first “digitally socialized” generation in the film *Celling Your Soul*, an examination of our love/hate relationship with our digital devices. Hear from the students themselves about how a digital lifestyle has changed how we connect with each other. For more information, visit

www.noappforlife.com. Event co-sponsored by Shape Up Somerville, Cambridge Health Alliance, and the SFLC.

Film Screening: *No Small Matter* – Wednesday, May 1, 6:00-8:00pm @ Lesley’s University Hall, 2nd floor auditorium

Join us for a reception, screening and panel discussion of the documentary film *No Small Matter*, which explores the power of early childhood education and the challenges of families and early childhood educators in finding and providing high quality care for our children. Screening takes place at Lesley University, University Hall, 2nd floor auditorium (1815 Mass. Ave., Cambridge). This event is sponsored by the Somerville Partnership for Young Children, Cambridge B-3rd Grade, and Lesley University.

Looking Ahead:

Monday-Friday, April 15-19: April Vacation (includes Patriots Day and Good Friday)

Tuesday, April 23: WSNS K and 1st Grade Trip to Wheelock Family Theatre

Tuesday, April 23, 5:30-7:00pm: ESCS School Council Meeting (50 Cross St.)

Tuesday, April 23, 6:00-8:00pm: Serve & Inspire Volunteer Orientation at the Cummings School bldg. (42 Prescott St.)

Wednesday, April 24, 6:00-8:00pm: SHS School Improvement Council Meeting at the Somerville High School Library (81 Highland Ave.)

Thursday, April 25, 6:00-7:30pm: Somerville High School Parent-Teacher Conferences (81 Highland Ave.)

Thursday, April 25, 6:00-7:30pm: Argenziano Parent-Teacher Conferences (290 Washington St.)

Monday, April 29, 5:00-7:00pm: WSNS PTA Book Fair, Ice Cream Social, and PTA Meeting (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Tuesday, April 30, 6:00-7:30pm: East Somerville Community School Parent-Teacher Conferences (50 Cross St.)

Community News & Events

Somerville’s 19th Annual Rabies Clinic. The Health & Human Services Department and Somerville's Animal Control are pleased to announce the 19th Annual Rabies Clinic for your cats and dogs at a reduced rate of \$10. You will also have a chance to license your dog with the city's Clerks Department onsite. Saturday, April 27th, 10:00am-12:00pm at the Department of Public Works (One Franey Rd.). Please contact Kathy Teixeira at 617-625-6600 ext. 4324 if you have any questions.

Somerville Parks & Recreation. Visit <http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/default.aspx?type=activities> to learn all about the Somerville Parks & Recreation Department’s current programming. Register today for a variety of programs including:

- Toddler Yoga Program. Children ages 1-5 years old will be taken on a “yoga adventure” using their imaginations to take them to faraway lands as they’re guided through poses to represent all they encounter on their journeys – a lion, a bear, a scarecrow, a storm, a shark, a big boat! Program will take place on Tuesday, April 2-May 21 at the Cummings building. To learn more and register for this program, visit: http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29991
- Somerville NFL Flag Football League. Season runs April 7th through June 16th and games are played Sundays at Dilboy Stadium. Open to boys and girls in Grades 1-8. Cost is \$75 for Somerville residents and \$100 for non-residents. Four divisions are available: Freshman Division, Grades 1-2, 1:00-2:30pm; Jr. Varsity Division,

Grades 3-4, 1:00-2:30pm; Varsity Division, Grades 5-6, 2:30-4:00pm; NCAA Division, Grades 7-8, 2:30-4:00pm. Register at http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30072.

- April Vacation Program. This fun-filled program will fill up FAST, so register today! Kids ages 5-13 years old will enjoy a wide range of sports games, board games, arts and crafts, and field trips. Program takes place at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.), Tue.-Fri., April 16-19, 8:30am-4:30pm. Register at: http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30071.
- Girls' Spring Basketball Clinic. Work on fundamentals and skill development including dribbling, shooting, passing, and more. Runs Thursdays, May 2-June 6 for girls in grades 3-8. Summer Basketball League to follow! Register at: https://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30073.

Cambridge Science Festival. Enjoy more than 200 STEAM programs at locations in and around Cambridge during the annual Cambridge Science Festival, coming up April 12 -21. Learn about Urban Agriculture at the Museum of Science, enjoy planetary exploration at MIT's Infinite Solar System event, participate in a Science of Local Food Scavenger Hunt, and much more! Exploration and fun for all ages; many events are FREE. To learn more, visit www.cambridgesciencefestival.org.

Debate Spaces, a local non-profit that provides mentorship and training to debate teams at public middle schools, will be running a day-long debate academy for 6th-8th graders on Saturday, April 27th, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Suffolk University, 20 Somerset St, Room 265. Attend and you'll find out what debate is all about. Through debate activities, students become more confident public speakers and learn to make powerful arguments. Pizza is included. Students will have fun and get to know kids from all over the Boston area. To enroll, sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/y29yu2s9> \$20/day (www.paypal.me/debatespaces), scholarships available. Have questions or need a ride or able to give a ride? Email: debatespacesboston@gmail.com

City & District Employment Opportunities

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

- [Housing Compliance Program Coordinator](#), OSPCD-Housing, City of Somerville
- [Kitchen Manager](#), Arts Council, City of Somerville
- [Pool Manager](#), Parks & Recreation Department, City of Somerville
- [Senior Planner of Transportation & Infrastructure](#), OSPCD-Transportation and Infrastructure, City of Somerville

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

- [School-based Family & Community Liaison](#), Argenziano School, Somerville Public Schools
- [Payroll Manager](#), District Administrative Office, Somerville Public Schools
- [Assistant Administrator](#), Community Schools Afterschool Program, Somerville Public Schools
- [Early Childhood Instructional Coach](#), Early Education Department, Somerville Public Schools

Visit <https://www.schoolspring.com/jobs/?employer=16902> for a complete listing of current open positions in the Somerville Public Schools.

Have something to share with the community? Send information to connections@k12.somerville.ma.us to share an event. Please note that we look for events and programs that support youth development. Include date, time and name of event, along with any additional pertinent information. Or, submit your event to <http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/calendar/submit>.

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."