

CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter from the Somerville Public Schools – August 30, 2018

News & Notes

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Welcome back! Students in grades 1-12 started their school year yesterday and are quickly settling into their new routines. Schools will be closed on Friday, August 31st and Monday, September 3rd (Labor Day), but we are back in full swing on Tuesday, September 4th, the first day of school for pre-K and Kindergarten students. Visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/district-school-year-calendar-2018-2019 for the complete school-year calendar. We look forward to an inspiring year of teaching and learning in our district.

SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT WELL UNDER WAY



With the demolition of the 1929 “C” wing this summer, the Somerville High School building project is entering a new phase of work in the next few weeks. Modular classrooms will continue to be utilized throughout the entirety of the building project to accommodate classes that are being displaced during the phasing of this project. With the “C” wing gone – and with it the connection between the school’s main entrance and the school library and atrium – new entrances and emergency egresses have been established in the new school configuration. Although students will be exiting the building to travel between the A/B wings, modular classrooms, and the D/E wings (library/atrium/CTE shops)

throughout the day, Somerville High School remains a closed campus and students are expected to stay on campus during the school day. White painted demarcations along the Highland side perimeter of the project indicate the flow of pedestrian traffic as students move from class to class. Guests should continue to enter and check in at the main entrance during school hours. Site preparation from the demolition of the 1929 wing continues along the Medford side of the school with foundations for new Phase 1 areas to the West of the gymnasium slated to begin mid-October. Visit www.somervillema.gov/highschool to stay up-to-date on this project. The site includes a live construction camera feed so you can watch the progress as it unfolds.

SUMMER ADVENTURES KEEP STUDENTS CONNECTED

More than 1,500 Somerville students continued their learning this summer, participating in one or more of the many summer programs available to help students stay mentally and physically active. Thanks to a great team of partners, students of all ages were able to stay connected with friends and make some new ones, prevent summer learning loss, explore a new interest, get ready for the school year, and have fun in the process! A special shout-out to the Somerville Education Foundation and the 50 SEF 2018 Summer Learning Campaign sponsors for raising in excess of \$27,000 to support youth summer learning experiences across the city!



What's Happening

September Back to School Nights

Schools are ready to welcome students and families back to school. Upcoming Back to School nights include:

- Argenziano School: Wednesday, Sept. 5, 6:00-7:30pm
- Brown School: Thursday, Sept. 6, 6:00-7:30pm
- Capuano Early Childhood Center: Thursday, Sept. 27, 6:00-7:30pm
- East Somerville Community School: Thursday, Sept. 6, 6:00-7:30pm
- Healey School: Thursday, Sept. 27, 6:00-7:30pm
- Kennedy School: Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:00-7:30pm
- Next Wave/Full Circle School: Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:00-7:30pm
- Somerville High School: Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:00-7:30pm
- West Somerville Neighborhood School: Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:00-7:00pm
- Winter Hill Community Innovation School: Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:00-7:30pm

Join the fun! Free Yoga Classes in September

Some.Yoga.Studio is partnering with Shape Up Somerville and the School Wellness Committee to offer FREE yoga classes every Tuesday in September. Join the fun from 4:00-5:00pm at Somerville Junction Park (2 Woodbine Street). Bring a mat or towel to use. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/yoga-at-somerville-junction-park-tickets-49382963774>. Classes will be cancelled in case of rain. (Check out Shape Up Twitter, @shapeupsville, for cancellations.)

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.

Friday, Aug. 31: Schools CLOSED; all district offices open

Monday, Sept. 3: Labor Day Holiday – all schools and district offices CLOSED

Tuesday, Sept. 4, 8:30-9:30am: Parent/Guardian Coffee Hour at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Tuesday, Sept. 4, 5:00pm: Healey School PTA Fundraiser at Flatbread Company in Davis Square

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 6:00-7:30pm: Argenziano Back to School Night (290 Washington St.)

Thursday, Sept. 6, 5:30pm: Brown School PTA Business Meeting (201 Willow Ave.)

Thursday, Sept. 6, 6:00-7:30pm: Brown School Back to School Night (201 Willow Ave.)

Thursday, Sept. 6, 5:30pm: East Somerville Community School PTA Meeting (50 Cross St.)

Thursday, Sept. 6, 6:00-7:30pm: East Somerville Community School Back to School Night (50 Cross St.)

Thursday, Sept. 6, 6:00-8:00pm: Serve & Inspire Volunteer Orientation, Cummings School (42 Prescott St.)

Friday, Sept. 7, 7:45-9:00am: Brown School New Family Breakfast (201 Willow Ave.)

Friday, Sept. 7, 8:00am: Cramer Coffee Collab at the Healey School Library (5 Meacham St.)

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.

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 6:30pm: Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St.)

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 6:30-7:30pm: School Committee Long Range Planning at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St.)

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7:30pm: School Committee Meeting for Executive Session at the Central Office Conference Room (8 Bonair St.)

Monday, Sept. 17, 6:00-7:00pm: Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Monday, Sept. 17, 7:00pm: Regular School Committee Meeting at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Monday, Sept. 24, 6:00-7:00pm: Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Monday, Sept. 24, 7:00-9:00pm: Regular School Committee Meeting at the Board of Aldermen Chambers, Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

Upcoming Somerville Family Learning Collaborative Workshops and Events:

Find a complete list of SFLC events and workshops at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families.

Thursday, Sept. 6, 6:00-8:00pm: Serve & Inspire Volunteer Orientation @ the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.).

Volunteer Orientation for individuals new to Somerville Public Schools and interested in serving regularly with an SPS school, program or after school program. Volunteers will learn about specific academic and enrichment opportunities in schools, review guidelines and procedures, and submit their CORI (required background check) for approval. All welcomed. Interpreters provided with prior request and as can be accommodated.

Basic Needs Resource and Referral. Clothing and food resources are available at the SFLC offices for families in need. The SFLC Clothing Closet is open weekly, Thursdays, 12:00 - 3:00 pm and also once a month during SFLC Community Clinics, 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Food resources and referrals available by request.

SFLC Parent/Guardian English Classes. Parents/guardians of Somerville students can practice and strengthen their English language skills while learning about and becoming more involved with their child's education. SFLC works in collaboration with The Welcome Project to provide classes held in the morning, afternoon and evening. Parents/Guardians can register for classes by calling 617-625-6600 ext. 6702.

SFLC Playgroups. Parents and caregivers with infants, toddlers and preschool children in Somerville meet and play in age and language-based groups that gather weekly at the Cummings School. Registration is ongoing throughout each session. Drop-in groups are also available. For more information, contact Michelle Laskey, Playgroup Coordinator, at sfn@k12.somerville.ma.us or (617) 625-6600, x6990.

Looking Ahead:

Tuesday, Sept. 11: Mass Insight Kick-off Assembly during X-Block at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 3:00-6:00pm: Highlander Theatre Company Auditions for RENT at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 3:00-8:00pm: Instrument Rental Night (district-wide) at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

Wednesday, September 12: Half-Day Wednesday for students in PK-8 (PK students dismissed at 11:30am; K-8 students dismissed at noon)

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 12:00pm: Brown School PTA 'Popsicles in the Schoolyard' (201 Willow Ave.)

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 3:00-6:00pm: Highlander Theatre Company Auditions for RENT at the Somerville High School Auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 5:00-6:30pm: WSNS School Council Meeting (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Thursday, Sept. 13, 3:00-8:00pm: Instrument Loan Night (for eligible students district-wide) at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:00-7:30pm: Kennedy Back to School Night (5 Cherry St.)

Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:00-7:30pm: Next Wave/Full Circle Back to School Night (8 Bonair St.)

Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:00-7:30pm: Somerville High School Back to School Night (81 Highland Ave.)

Community News & Events

Somerville Parks & Recreation. Visit <http://www.somervillerec.com/info/activities/default.aspx?type=activities> to learn all about current programming offered by Somerville Parks & Recreation.

Puppet Palooza 2018 – New Works. The Somerville Arts Council & Puppet Showplace Theater with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, present Puppet Palooza 2018! Puppet Palooza is a collaborative event series designed to bring the art of puppetry to East Somerville in unexpected places. This year's lineup includes the following original new works designed for outdoor settings. FREE!

Tuesday, September 11, 6:00pm (rain date 9/12) @ Chuckie Harris Park, 3-17 Cross Street E:

Judy Punches Back! By Sarah Nolen – After being pushed around for over 200 years, Judy has had enough! Now, audiences can cheer on this hilarious hand puppet hero as she goes on a quest for respect, justice, and a well-deserved nap. This feisty, modern, feminist adaptation of the traditional *Punch and Judy* puppet show is appropriate for all ages.

The Swishy Fishies by Honey Goodenough, Good Hearted Entertainment – The enchantment of the sea swims to life on a summer landscape in this spectacular aquatic pageant. Audiences of all ages will enjoy bubble kisses from a school of swishy fishies!

Thursday, September 13, 6:00pm (rain date 9/14) @ Chuckie Harris Park, 3-17 Cross Street E

The Magnificent Monster Circus by CactusHead Puppets – CactusHead Puppets presents a Circus like no other. Enjoy the Thrills of Clarissa the Crested Cannon! Experience the Chills of Eustace the Uni-Browed, Uni-cycling, Uni-monster as he tackles the Sinister Snake Slack rope! All this and more.

Mama Light Fisher by Faye Dupras, Foreign Landscapes – Mama Light Fisher is renowned for conjuring up enchanting tales. By using objects she fishes out of a magical stream, bits of her traveling cart that come to life with help from the audience, Mama Light weaves together fantastical stories about love and loss. Told through live music, puppetry, and a sprinkle of magic.

SomerStreets Festival: Strike Up the Band. Join the fun at the SomerStreets Festival on Sunday, September 16, 2:00-6:00pm on Highland Avenue between School St. and Lowell St. Through SomerStreets, the City and its community partners aim to promote and encourage easy access to physical activity, and reconnecting with the neighborhoods and business and their unique cultural elements in a thriving urban environment. Learn more about this event at <https://www.somervillema.gov/events/2018/09/16/strike-band-somerstreets>.

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."